

O N W A R D

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Could This BEE Your Call to Mission?

For the last few years my students at Moravian Theological Seminary and I have been reading an important new book by Philip Jenkins entitled *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2002). Jenkins argues that at the beginning of the third millennium, the Christian world has been turned upside down. The majority of Christian believers no longer live in Europe and North America but rather in the rapidly growing areas of Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The 175,000 new Christians are baptized every day, most of them in the southern hemisphere. This shift in the center of gravity is bringing about dramatic changes in Christian theology, mission, life and worship. It is also creating a demand for Christian edu-

cation and for many more Christian leaders. How will these new believers learn the content of the faith? Who will be the pastors and teachers, the elders and counselors and evangelists for the rising church in the Global South?

Biblical Education by Extension (BEE) may provide one answer. Traditional training courses in congregations, denominations, and theological seminaries cannot meet the growing need, at least in the shorter term. BEE was developed during the 1970s as a way to teach Christianity in the closed countries on the other side of the Iron Curtain. It is based on a carefully prepared curricu-

lum, a course in basic Christianity, which can be translated into various languages. In the 21st century there is less need for such a ministry in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, but there still are places, many of them in the Global South, where access to the Gospel is restricted. BEE World, a federation of groups which use the BEE curriculum, is now at work in a variety of countries throughout Central and East Asia as well as other countries in the Near East and on the African continent. Typically, the facilitator of a BEE course (the title "teacher" is usually not used, because the process is more of a shared



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Costa Rica School of Music and Worship Update



On Friday, January 19th, Sam Gray met with pastors from two Ecumenical Associations in Limón, Costa Rica, to lay out the vision for the School of Music and Worship. The response was exciting!

On Tuesday, February 13th, a second meeting was called by brother Leo Pixley (Moravian PEC President in Costa Rica). Pastors from both Ecumenical Associations (Evangelical and Historic) attended. They are asking churches in Limón to formalize their commitment to the school and to give an idea of how many students each denomination might send. As in Kathmandu, Nepal, the Moravian Church would be part of the ecumenical team that administers the school. The BWM, drawing on many resources from the Moravian Music Foundation and Board of Christian Education (Youth and College Ministries), and utilizing the commitment of many Moravian "Youth in Mission," is pledging its full support of this new and exciting ministry.

The next meeting of the planning group will be held on March 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the Anglican Church of Limón. Please pray that God would guide everyone involved in this effort. As Brother Leo said in his report of the meeting, "I think we have something going on here, Sam!"

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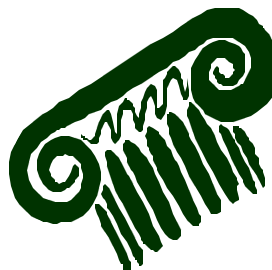
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Printing Correction . . . Sorry for the confusion in February's Pray Every Day. All 28 days were present and accounted for as the Chiddies can attest to.

A Message From Our President

Two weeks ago I had the pleasure of listening to Michael and Cecilia Tesh's presentation to the NPMC Missions Committee on the missionary outreach work that they were called to do in Mombasa, Kenya. Michael was called to the mission field of Kenya in 2004 where he started an orphanage for the kids of the region. His commitment to the mission field is a good

reminder of how the early Moravian Missionaries set out across the Atlantic to spread the word of Jesus Christ. They went out on faith to unknown lands. In 2005 Michael married his wife Cecilia who is a teacher in the orphanage. Today the orphanage consists of 15 kids. They also operate a pre-school with approximately 73 kids with a teaching staff of three.



They provide one meal of porridge per day to these kids. Michael and Cecilia are visionaries, they are making plans to start a "Baby Ministry" with two babies and grow as the

Pray For Burma

We pray for people and situations as we become aware of them. During a trip to Copenhagen, Count Zinzendorf met a young man named Anthony. This helped him become aware of the horrible reality of slavery. The encounter shaped his prayer life and even his mission!

Sometimes, even with our advanced technology, our world can still be too small. We are not always aware of the many people and situations who need our prayers. Last year Brother Bob Sawyer helped to awaken us to the tragedies and horrors of Darfur and the millions who are suffering there. So we prayed for them and, hopefully, our prayers led us to take some sort of action.

Last week I met some folks from Myanmar (Burma). They asked us to pray for them. March 12th is the International Day of Prayer for Burma. That date may have come and gone when you receive this newsletter. But I


believe we still need to pray!

When asked what their country needed prayer for, young ethnic leaders in Burma responded with many prayer requests, including prayer for the following:

- That God's love would light fires of faith and service all over Burma
- Freedom and peace in Burma. The dictators and their army to start caring for their country and people
- Political and other prisoners wrongly jailed to be freed
- Unity among and between all ethnic groups and people in Burma
- Genuine dialogue which leads to reconciliation and forgiveness
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Burma

If your prayers lead you to want to take more action, please contact:

Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB)
 ccb@pobox.com
 www.prayforburma.org



Goal!

"The true test, . . . is not how we respond when others agree with us and when it's easy, but how we respond when faced with beliefs grossly different from




... to get to Labrador Fund-raiser for travel to Labrador

3 X 3 Soccer Tournament

Saturday - May 12th
9-12N

All Ages!

Cost: \$15./person
Or

A Little Closer To The Fulfillment Of “Missio Dei”

Two of us were asked by the Board of World Mission to participate in a January term conference course for seminarians organized by the Lutheran Church. The title of the course was "Ecumenism in the Globalized World." Canada, The Netherlands, and the U.S.A. were represented, as well as several branches of the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the Old Catholic Church, and the Moravian Church. The following are just a few reflections on the topics we heard about and discussed.

Before participating in the Ecumenism Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, I didn't even fully know what the word “ecumenism” meant. I am learning, however, that God is calling us to look outside of our own congregations and our own denominations to the rest of his family – *our* family – and celebrate our unity in Christ. We are

called to do this not only when it's easy and everyone agrees on every issue or doctrine, but also when it's difficult, when it's painful, when beliefs collide. The fact is that we are all part of the family of God, no matter how one person or one denomination feels about one issue or another. It's okay when everyone doesn't agree – that's called diversity! Part of ecumenism is embracing that diversity, embracing and respecting those who have different opinions from your own, which doesn't necessarily mean letting go of your own personal beliefs. The true test, like many things in life, of whether or not we are living out ecumenism in our daily lives is not how we respond when others agree with us and when it's easy, but how we respond when faced with beliefs grossly different from

ones we hold dear. How will we, as individuals and as a denomination, respond when these times come?

After two weeks of intense discussion, study, and introspection, I am learning that ecumenism, in the truest sense of the word, is an integral part of being a Christian and of what the Moravian Church calls “Missio Dei” – God's Mission. God is calling our denomination to seek unity with others in his family – regardless of differing beliefs. One way to do this is through mission and service work. For example, a little known fact amongst many Moravians and Lutherans is that the South African Moravian Province is a member of the Lutheran World Federation – an organization that keeps all the different branches of Lutheranism connected and networked with one another.

One might ask, what on earth is a *Moravian* province doing being a member of a *Lutheran* church organization? Well, it's historical and it's natural. From the get-go, the Moravians and Lutherans in South Africa have worked together to reach out to their communities.

So it makes sense for them to be members of the same organization and share the same resources. They don't do the service and mission work God calls them to separately – cut off from the rest of the body of Christ – they do it together.

Not that we have to be members of the same organization in order to serve God together. Lately, I've found myself wondering, why is it

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The Ecumenism Conference

God's overwhelming beauty was evident in the Swiss Alps with the endless snowcapped, jagged peaks cast upon a clear, bright, blue sky and the gathering of diverse individuals seeking spiritual growth and wisdom for how to be effective ambassadors of Jesus's love. The Geneva, Switzerland ecumenism conference enabled me to rediscover what it means to be a Christian in a globalized world.

From my experience conversing with Lutheran seminary students and engaging in dialogue with guest speakers all who were engaged in a variety of global missional platforms or service, I was caused to question the definition of world mission. I foresee a mission embracing all of God's creation- working closely with other Christian denominations, faiths, and spiritualities for the common mission to address the needs of vulnerable, poor, and marginalized communities- composed of both people and the rest of the non-human environment. A mission where there is an equal exchange of learning and sharing. A mission that incorporates ecological consideration into all aspects of community development.

This conference rejuvenated my yearning to actively participate in God's continued restorative power through global missions. *Elyse Jurgen of Lititz, Moravian (Pa.) and is a Senior at Moravian*

New! Bay Area Mission Society

Seven Moravian churches in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Northeastern Wisconsin came together at a meeting of laypersons in January to form the Bay Area Mission Society. The member churches includes one in Michigan (Daggett) and six in Wisconsin: Sister Bay, Ephraim, Sturgeon Bay, Green Bay West, Green Bay East, and Freedom. The new council was sanctioned by the Northern Province in February.

The council is dedicated to encouraging, promoting, and actively pursuing mission outreach

in the seven churches, and as working as an aid and resource to the pastors of the seven churches through a board of representatives.

On September 7 - 9, the new council, together with the Southern Wisconsin council and a similar group in Central Wisconsin, will host a mission workshop at Mt. Morris dedicated to the task of equipping the saints to build up the body of Christ by enlivening mission programs in the seven churches. *Save that weekend!*

The congregational representatives are: Stephanie Bruno (Daggett); Bob Winn, Janet

Schrader, and Dave Schrader (Sister Bay); Hugh Mulliken (Ephraim); Rick Nelson, Jill Kolodziej, and Chris Evenson (Sturgeon Bay); Jayne Baumgart and Tim Baumgart (Green Bay West); Paul Nelson (Green Bay East); and Louisa Schwalbach (Freedom). Dave is chair, Rick is sec.-treas., and Chris is Regional Volunteer Coordinator, Western District.

For more information, write to david.schrader@marquette.edu.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH OF KATHMANDU

Dear Praying Friends,

We would like to thank you for all the prayers for our church here in Nepal. My computer did not have the phone connection for two days because we were moving the church and the residence. The area is called Gurans Tole (Rhododendron area). It is a big house with a big lawn. We were looking for a suitable place for months together. The landlord is the former additional Inspector General of Police. He has also given us the permission to build a hall outside the house.

The whole church came for three days to move the church and the residence. Sunday school children also helped us till 10pm. They worked like ants. People came from Khokona, Lubu to help. People walked 9 kilometers yesterday to help us move, because there was a transport strike yesterday. The women's group stayed for the whole day and took in-charge of the kitchen to cook for the people. It snowed after 62 years in the valley!

It rained and snowed day before yesterday and stopped the moving. It snowed after 62 years in the valley. The whole surrounding hills are all covered with snow. It is very cold outside but it looks beautiful. People are going to Nagarkot and other places to play with the snow. Few people have died because of the snow outside the valley. We heard that it snowed at



A building has been secured, just in time. And you can see the happy faces of the worshippers at their first service in their new building. Praise God!

Darjeeling also. The power lines are all down and they are without electricity and water. Four feet of snow around Taplejung area (eastern Nepal).

Thank you once again for all of your prayer support and other supports.

Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, Moravian Upasana Church

Prayer Focus

Greetings from "Ray Of Hope"

Michael Tesh is a 26-year-old member of Christ Moravian Church in Winston Salem, NC who approached the Board of World Mission several years ago with a desire to serve on a mission trip. He was connected with YWAM and went to Africa for a short term. Making a wonderful story about "being sold out to God" very short, Michael went back to Kenya with YWAM and opened an orphanage in Shimba Hills in Mombassa Kenya. Hemet and married his wife Cecilia there.



God is filling our village with love and hope. The children send their love. Our 15 children are doing well in school. They are spreading the word of God

throughout their school.

We now have a preschool at Ray Of Hope. We started with 6 children last May. As of this week we have 73 children. There are three teachers. Their job is to teach them English and prepare them for school.

Cecilia and I are staying very busy. Cecilia is teaching preschool and our 15 teenagers are keeping us on our toes. We are praying our village will grow as we seek out more children. We also hope to start a baby ministry soon. We will start with two babies from the abandoned nursery at the local hospital.

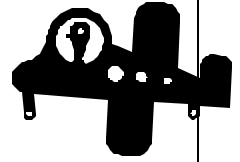
God bless everyone.

Michael and Cecilia Tesh

For further information, contact Donna Tesh, 1012-K Falcon Pointe, Winston-Salem, NC 27127

Will's Travels

This past month I was in Thailand with Otto Dreydoppel, Professor of Church History at Moravian Theological Seminary along with Sam Gray. I took Otto to Thailand to expose him to BEE World, an extension Leadership training program that we are looking to utilize in partnership with the Seminary. At some future point in time, the BWM and MTS will look to roll out BEE Moravian, its own uniquely Moravian Leadership training program to use in partnership with our sister provinces as well as help give more pastors and seminarians the opportunity to experience the Church in other parts of the world. Sam and I will be in Barbados at the invitation of the Barbados Conference to lead a mission conference titled there celebrating the Moravian Church's 550th Anniversary. *Will Sibert, Executive Director, Board Of World Mission*



More News from Dusty Harrison . . . *Serving in campus ministry at William and Mary. He reports on his Greek Ministry; ministry with students in fraternities and sororities.*

So Greek Conference 2007 has come and gone...and let me say that my first

Greek Conference on staff was one to remember... Just to give you a few highlights from the weekend (Feb. 16-18, 2007):

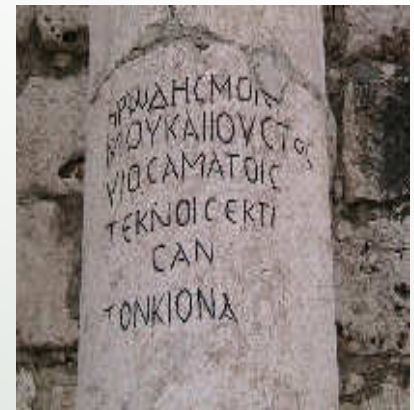
- 250 students attended (16 from William & Mary)
- 17 decisions for Christ
- 137 committed to actively sharing their faith
- 77 committed to getting involved in their campus fellowship
- 113 committed to prayer and

Bible study

- students raised nearly \$2,000 to provide running water to 23 homes in a poor Haitian village (a team of students and staff will travel to Haiti this summer to help install the running water)

A quote from one William & Mary student:

"The Lord taught me that I have the tools and knowledge from God to reach out to my sisters on campus...and that Greeks can still be Christian! He is asking me to start/lead a GIG (Greeks Investigating God) for our chapter at William & Mary."



1. **PALM SUNDAY.** HOSANNA, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.! May we find a Bethany, a peaceful habitation.
2. May we live the great commandment. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart; you shall love your neighbor as yourself." We pray for Sr.Swart, chair of the Moravian Unity Board.
3. Pray that you will be prepared and ready for the coming of the Lord. We pray for all pastors and leaders as they prepare for Mission Camps to the Mississippi Hurricane damaged area and Laurel Ridge.
4. Pray in thanksgiving for the work of the Rev. Nagendra Pradhan to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Nepal. They need a permanent church meeting place.
5. Holy Communion. "O what an act of majesty! O what a love beyond degree! O what a hallowed hour of blessing! Here soul and body are supplied, and we show forth that Jesus died, When in this feast our Lord confessing." We pray for our brothers and sisters in India led by The Rev. Kundan and the Rev. Gergen.
- 6 "The cross, the cross, O, that's my gain, because on that the Lamb was slain; 'twas there my Lord was crucified, 'twas there my Savior for me died." Pray for the new Worship and Music School being established in Costa Rica.
7. Great Sabbath - "The grave today is holding our Lord, our life, our love; within its depths enfolding the heights of heav'n above. In death, most gracious Savior, you proved our dearest Friend, the only path which leads us to life which knows no end."
8. **EASTER SUNDAY.** The Lord has risen. He has risen indeed! Pray to be risen with Christ with love and joy in your heart for the gift of eternal life. (Col 3:1-3)
9. (Ps 9:1-2) " I will thank the Lord with all my heart, I will declare all his wonderful works." I will rejoice will sing about Your name. "His Name Is Wonderful".
10. Praise Him! Praise Him for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima who have begun the building of the first church building in their village, Luawa-Yiehun Community Church in Sierre Leone, West Africa. Pray aloud (Ps.63:3-5) Pray for those who do not have freedom to worship Him.
11. (DT) "Sing praises to God...for God is the King of all the earth." Pray for Wycliff translators who are making it possible for people around the world to have Gods Word in their language.
12. Pray for our nation, our president, congress and our world. (DT) May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...that you may abound in hope.
13. Thank Jesus for dying for you, that you have forgiveness and eternal life. "I will bless the Lord at all times. Pray for those who are working with aides orphans to give them hope.
14. Prepare your heart for ACTS of worship. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Lift up the school of praise and worship in Nepal.
15. **Sunday** Pray for an opportunity today where you may be able to plant fertile and effective seed in the heart of some un-

believing person whom God brings to you.

16. Pray for the grace and zeal of those who have been led to cross the ocean to bring the Word of God to lost souls in this country.
17. Lord, may you soften the hearts of societies and political regimes that resist the propagation of the gospel and persecute your seed bearers.
18. Drive either to or from work today with the radio off and the cell phone tucked away somewhere, and meditate on the suffering and hardship endured for the sake of Christ by many in our world today, and ask the Lord to sustain and strengthen these saints.
19. Pray for those faced with the physical and/or mental deterioration of loved ones, whether from advanced age or disease, and ask the Lord to cover them with a spirit of grace, peace and long-suffering.
20. Lord, use me this day to bring encouragement to someone who may be witnessing to a hard-hearted friend and praying fervently for his or her salvation.
21. Lord, keep me eager to learn your teachings and come to know you better each day, and to live a life consistently reflective of your commands so that others may see you in me and come to know you as savior and Lord.
22. **Sunday** Talk to God a lot today. Count your blessings one by one and tell God "thank you" for each one.
23. Pray for the Nepalese students and the volunteers who are providing the food for the Mission Awareness Dinner to be held at New Philadelphia . Hear what God is doing.
24. "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Eph.6:18). Pray for your congregation to receive a new vision for mission involvement.
25. Ask God to show you how to teach children to give themselves to Christ. Name them to God. Pray for mercy for those without families.
26. Pray for your nation. Mention a many leaders by name as you can remember to God. Pray for His will to reign in our government and our churches and our lives.
27. Praise God for groups like the Kernersville Prayer Group who have been meeting weekly for fifty years to intercede for missionaries and others. Consider forming your own prayer group. Pray for those who do not have the freedom to do that.
28. Today use Ps. 8 in your morning prayer time and Ps. 16 in your evening prayer time. Pray the Lord's Prayer too. Pray for the people being persecuted in Burma.
29. **Sunday.** Before the service begins, take time to pray the beautiful prayers in The Litany. { Blue hymnal P 5, Red hymnal P.1) Thank God for your pastor.
30. "Thank you Lord Jesus, for paying the price for my sins on the cross .I am standing on your promises." Sing a hymn of praise to Him. Pray for Will Sibert and the directors of the Board of World Mission.



A Little Closer To The Fulfillment Of “Missio Dei” *continued from Page 3*

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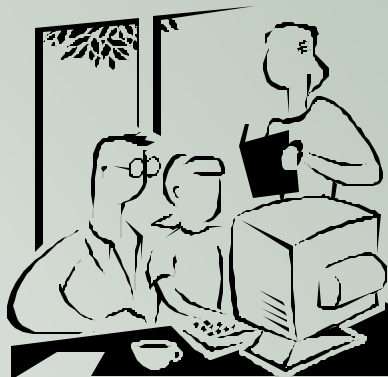
that Methodists do missions with other Methodists, Moravians with other Moravians, Baptists with other Baptists, Lutherans with other Lutherans, and so on? Is it because it's easier this way? Perhaps. But I think God is calling us to live out his vision for his family by going above and beyond what's easy. I believe he is calling us to serve him and live out his mission alongside those who may not agree with all our beliefs, those who may not hold the same reverence for what we hold dear. Can you imagine what might get accomplished for his kingdom if his children were to work together – Protestants and Catholics, liberals and conservatives, fundamentalists and mainline churches, Lutherans and Moravians – all working together, on the same side, to further the

vision of Missio Dei. Though it may require more planning, adjustments in the way we think or do things, or some extra emotional effort, I believe this is what God is calling us to.

Finally, it's important to keep in mind that seeking ecumenism, like going through life, is more about the journey than it is about the final goal. Will all Christians, worldwide, ever be able to take communion together – as one body, at the same time, in the same place? Perhaps, but if it does happen, I think that's a long way off. Though that may be the goal many have in mind when talking about

ecumenism, I think that it's the journey that will teach us, change us, and grow us into more perfect images of Christ on this earth. My hope is that our denomination will

look outside of itself to join others in the family of God, in daily life as well as in local and global missions, thus living out ecumenism and getting a little closer to the fulfillment of “Missio Dei.”



Tammy Byerly is a member of Grace Moravian (Mt. Airy, NC) and works as a Field Producer for Simple Living TV

Could This BEE Your Call To Mission? *continued from Page 1*

encounter with the Christian faith than a formal classroom session) will visit the host country for about a week. During that time he or she will meet with a group of individuals who have been gathered by the local Christian community, often a house church. Together, facilitator and learners work through the course materials. The first course is usually a study of Romans and Galatians. Later courses in the sequence include How to Study the Bible, Christian Discipleship, Christian Life and Family, and A Survey of Christian Doctrine, in addition to intensive study of other books of the Bible. At present, the BEE curriculum is made up of 27 courses (www.beeworld.org). The hope and expectation is that those who have completed the courses will turn around and facilitate the

program for others. In the future, BEE courses will also be available online (www.internetseminary.org).

From February Will Sibert and Sam Gray of the Board of World Mission and I attended the BEE World Family Conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Dr. Jody Dillow, president of BEE World led a study of Philippians 3, followed by reports from missionaries and local Christian leaders who are using the BEE program in various parts of the world. We met some deeply committed Christians who are involved in the expansion of God's Realm in our world, we forged new friendships and learned some things about the work of the Gospel in today's world. Our purpose in attending this ecumeni-

cal mission conference was to explore ways and means that Moravians might be a part of BEE World. It is possible that the BEE method can be adapted to meet the needs for theological education and leadership development in the provinces of the Moravian Unity. It is also possible that in the near future Moravian laity, seminarians, and clergy might serve as facilitators of BEE courses in restricted access settings.

Could this “BEE” a part of your own Christian calling? If it might BEE, please contact the Board of World Mission.

Otto Dreydoppel, Jr. teaches church history & mission studies at Moravian Theological Seminary.



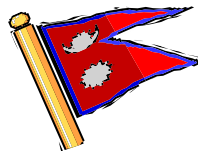
Coming May 6th Mission Awareness Dinner



The Mission Society's annual Mission Awareness Dinner will be like no other. Mark your calendars for Sunday evening—May 6th—6:00 p.m. at New Philadelphia Moravian Church. The theme of this year's Mission Awareness Dinner is entitled:
“The Nepal—Costa Rica Connection”

The evening will feature:

- Δ Nepalese and Central American food
- Δ Nepalese and Central American music
- Δ A report by the Nepal Music Team
- Δ A presentation on the vision for the School of Music and Worship in Limon, Costa Rica
- Δ An opportunity to support the “Antioch Project” of the BWM, which will send young people from our provinces to work with the Schools of Music and Worship in Kathmandu, Nepal and Limon, Costa Rica
- Δ A time of guided prayer
- Δ Other reports and presentations on what God is doing in our midst!



Plan now to attend this exciting time together. Bring a friend.

Bring your entire Mission Committee!

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Mission Society

PO Drawer Y Salem Station
Winston-Salem NC 27108

News submissions to Editor:
Glenna J. Tasedan at

moravianonward@yahoo.com
or sent to: 2515 LakeSpring Ct.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

Pray Every Day ministry I
nquiries to Helen Gulledge at
helngull@aol.com. ONWARD
is on the world wide web at

www.bethabara.org/ONWARD.htm