

# O N W A R D

MORAVIAN MISSIONS PUBLISHED BY THE MISSION SOCIETY, SOUTHERN PROVINCE

December 2008—January 2009

Volume XXVIII Issue 10

## World Mission Lovefeast 2008

The annual World Mission Lovefeast, held Sunday—November 2nd at Kernersville Moravian truly celebrated Moravian Mission Outreach around the world. The celebration began with band and organ preludes and the music continued to ascend to the rafters throughout the service. The Kernersville Moravian choir and musicians, under the direction of Mr. Jeremy Truhel, participated during our sharing of the Lovefeast along with Provincial musicians, coordinated by Bishop Sam Gray, bringing intergenerational and intercultural music in inspiring and invigorating ways.

Guest speaker, Dusty Harrison, shared touching stories of an aspect of college environments and how the Holy Spirit works in powerful ways within the young adults, male and female.

A reception followed in the fellowship hall.

## Elementary English School Teacher Opportunity

*Ahuas, Honduras, Central America*

We are looking for elementary teachers to teach 3-5 children from kindergarten to 6th grade. We are in need of an English-speaking teacher or teachers for the period January to June 2009. The school supports children of missionaries serving a rural and underserved area of eastern Honduras. The children are Miskitu (indigenous), Latin, and Norwegian. Their parents serve the area as doctors, pilots, and youth ministers. With the exception of 5 year-old Sara, the children are fluent in English. Classes are taught in English. The older students are using K12 curriculum.

Even though the number of students is small, you are an important part of the team. Your service allows the doctors, for instance, to focus on providing better patient care. Benefits include but are not limited to:

- 1) Teacher works with mission to raise support for his/her stipend, travel, benefits.
- 2) Donations made toward support are tax-deductible.
- 3) Housing is provided.
- 4) Health insurance is provided, including services the mission hospital can provide.

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## Generosity, Prayers, Time, Love

*Thanks from Moravian Disaster Response*

To our dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, We are writing to you to share what we have witnessed you, His Church, accomplish over 2008. We want to start by thanking God for His faithfulness to us as we remain obedient to His call for our lives. May He receive all glory and honor for what has been done by bringing or restoring Hope to those that are in need, not only in material ways, but especially with the Good News of the Savior. May He be ever praised, Amen!

We began 2008 by continuing to serve to help in the rebuilding in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Our presence there continues to be a blessing to those that are still working to reestablish a more normal life. Teams continue to flow at a fairly decent pace from all over our denomination. We have also had teams that have been made up of other denominations as well; it has truly been an ecumenical effort. Our work there is in no way finished: many houses still remain uninhabitable and many

incomplete. We are also working towards building another Habitat for Humanity house to add to the three we have already completed.

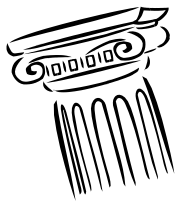
At their last meeting, the Board of World Mission decided that our work in Mississippi needs to continue at least until 2012 and approved funding to support our Mission House there until then. With this support we will be able to keep our Mission House filled with volunteers to bring hope that is so desperately needed. This funding does not include the need for funds to help with rebuilding of these homes: funds for materials are still desperately needed! The Board of World Mission also discussed that we should pray and ask the Savior if He would have us plant a church there. This is something I ask you to join us in, to pray and seek our Saviors heart and see if it His will for us to reach out to the unchurched in and around our community there. As you hear His voice, I would love to hear from you

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# A Message From Our President— **“Let it shine!”**



Reflecting for a moment on the greatest gift ever given, the birth of Jesus Christ, enables us to look at our many gifts and how we may use these gifts to help those who are not as fortunate. Explore your spiritual gifts by looking within because we all possess God-given gifts. Gifts come in many different wrappings; no one gift is more valuable than another. Possession of gifts gives you an innate ability and responsibility to use these gifts to uplift the lives of those in need. The gift of giving is a deep commitment to provide whatever resources are needed to support God’s purpose. Those with the gift of communication help build bridges across cultural, generational, and language divides, especially in spreading the word. Those who possess the gift of giving have the uncanny ability to discover and channel new sources of money, time, and energy to various needs. Skills such as money management,

grant writing abilities, the knack of asking for donations and cultivating donors are among common skills of gifted givers.

Reflect on the following questions:

- \* In what ways do you use your gift at home, at work or in relationships with friends?
- \* What other gifts best complement giving and enable you to increase the value and impact of your gift?
- \* In what ways can you improve your use and knowledge of your gifts?
- \* Where do other people see evidence of this gift in your life?

Now that you have had a chance to reflect, as we approach this season of gift giving, let’s explore the many gifts that we have and how we may best use these gifts to improve the lives of others. Such skills will be an awesome blessing to us all. For each of our gifts is just one piece of a larger

puzzle, together we make up the whole.

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16. Light your candle and ask a friend to join you in singing.

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!”

“Hide it under a bushel? No, I’m gonna let it shine.”

“Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine”

I trust that you will let your light shine!

Amen.

*Evon Crooks, President of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province, is a member of New Philadelphia Moravian Church of Winston-Salem, NC.*

## Ray of Hope is Growing . . . Again! Children Update

We have several exciting projects happening at Ray of Hope. We have four new children living with us. They are Eva-2, Issac 5, Bahati 7, and Charo 10. They have been living with distant family and have no immediate family. They are all living in the dorms except Eva. She is staying with Ceci and me. The first week she would have nothing to do with me, and she cried a lot. This week things have improved. She is sitting on my lap and playing. She had never seen a white person, and she had to adjust to me.



We have hired a new staff to help with these younger children. By the second week in November we will have three more children. God has blessed us with these special children. We are getting some good experience with the younger children as we prepare for our baby to arrive. We had another baby Alima. She is 11 months old, but the grandmother is having a hard time giving her up. The grandmother is old and can not care for her.

We are praying that the grandmother will make the best decision for the baby.

Ceci is growing everyday and things are going smoothly with her pregnancy. The doctors say she will be due at the end of December.

The other children are doing well and are helping also with new children. Continue to pray for Dickson, Faridah, and Bibi as they take their final exams to graduate from primary school.

We are still working on scholarships for them to go to high school. All the children send their love and they always pray for everyone.

The chickens are doing great. We are getting enough eggs to help with the ministry.

God Bless to everyone and keep praying. God is so good. Michael Tesh

**Partnership in Handchimes**  
 For: the Labrador Moravian youth  
 Purpose: teach & engage youth for Christ through Pastoral/Music ministry beginning January 09  
 Sponsorship: \$50./chime  
 Needed: 26 chimes  
 Contact: Glenna Tasedan, gjtas29@yahoo.com  
 Send: checks made out to “Bd. Of World Mission”, with ‘Labrador Chimes’ written on lower line. *tax deductible.*  
 For Christmas gifts, you will receive a gift card if requested.

*The Braimas are missionaries from Little Church on the Lane in Charlotte, NC.*

THE LUAWA-YIEHUN MORAVIAN CHURCH [WEST AFRICA] IS GROWING AT A RAPID PACE AS MOHAMED AND SAFIATU BRAIMA FAITHFULLY CONTINUE THEIR MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN SIERRA LEONE. ON OCTOBER 12, 2008, A DEDICATION OF THE LUAWA-YIEHUN MORAVIAN CHURCH WAS HELD, AND MORE THAN 400 ADULTS AND AN EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE IN ATTENDANCE. TOM DRESSLER AND JEFF FULP, MEMBERS AT LITTLE CHURCH ON THE LANE, THOMAS BAUCOM, AND BISHOP SAM GRAY WERE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO AFRICA FOR THE DEDICATION. THESE FOUR MEN CAME BACK EXCITED TO SHARE ALL THAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH THE BRAIMA'S AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SIERRA LEONE.

MOHAMED AND SAFIATU'S EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT A TREMENDOUS REVITALIZATION IN THE VILLAGE OF LUAWA-YIEHUN. IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR, THE BRAIMA'S HAVE EMPOWERED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH THE BUILDING OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, LIBRARY, AND MISSION HOUSE. ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP SERVICES IS OVER 200 ON SUNDAY'S, AND AT LEAST 20-30 INDIVIDUALS ATTEND SERVICES HELD EVERY MORNING AT 6:00 AM. ADULTS AND CHILDREN ARE BEING TAUGHT GOD'S WORD, AND MANY PEOPLE ARE BEING BAPTIZED. ALTHOUGH SIERRA LEONE IS STILL LARGELY A MUSLIM COUNTRY, OPEN DIALOGUES BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS ARE LEADING MANY MUSLIM INDIVIDUALS TO FAITH IN CHRIST.

THE BRAIMA'S HAVE BEGUN CONSTRUCTION ON WHAT WILL BE A CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT. IN ADDITION, THE BRAIMA'S ARE IN NEED OF A MORE EFFICIENT VEHICLE TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE VILLAGE SAFELY. PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE IN PRAYER FOR MOHAMED AND SAFIATU AS THEIR MINISTRY IN SIERRA LEONE CONTINUES TO EXPAND. MOHAMED ASKS SPECIFICALLY FOR PRAYERS THAT THEY WOULD "CONTINUE TO DO HIS WORK, WORK THAT WILL BRING GLORY TO HIS NAME." *Joanne Jemsek is Youth Director at Little Church on the Lane in Charlotte, NC.*

"YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE"

These are the words of frustration exchanged in an e-mail during attempts to nail down transportation from Charlotte to the village of Luawa Yiehun, in the district of Kailahun. So remote is the village, that transportation from Freetown (the bustling and dirty capital city of Sierra Leone) to the village is only achieved by car. Charter flights in helicopters may be available, but there is no assurance. So after a delayed flight and a joyous reunion with Safie and Mohamed at the airport, a late meal (of rice, cassava root, cassava leaves, and dried fish) discussion



*The Road Must Traveled*

of the latest happenings in the village, and an extra day's stay in order to pick up Bishop Sam Gray and Thomas Baucom, we were packed (literally) in the Trooper at 5 am and headed out across the country, 285 miles. By American highway system standards, this seems like an easy task. Yet 15 hours with 8 people and all luggage and provisions inside the vehicle, crossing half-existing asphalt, only makes for one moment of joy — the arrival when you can unfold your body and bask in the love of the reception by the villagers. The road in our last stretch of the trip between Kenema and the village was by far the worst. This was the end of the rainy season, and the last 72 miles presented washed-out dirt roads, some could only be described as swimming holes. The procedure for crossing was simple— everyone bailed out of the vehicle and walked across the mud while the driver plowed through ruts to (hopefully) make it to the opposite side of the obstruction.

Walking across the mud in the dark soon became skating, sinking, slipping, and splashing in it. Wearing a portion of the road we were trying to cross, we soon found ourselves in a small village about 7 miles from Mohamed's village. Some of these villagers walk the 7 miles to attend services and studies in Luawa Yiehun. We were amazed at the example of Jesus these villagers showed us. Bringing buckets of water, they washed our legs and feet to clean us up so that we could ride in the car again, to finish our journey.

ARRIVAL IN THE DARK.

There is no electricity in the village, only two generators that are used for showing videos or lighting the Church or Mission House when needed. The sound of the

Trooper coming up the dirt road toward the Mission House brought the people up the hill with great cheers, singing, and shouts of joy. They were excited about the highly-anticipated visit from the White Men ("Poom-wi", as we were known), and the celebration that was soon to happen.

The generator was cranked, the lights were turned on outside and inside the Church, and the welcome became nearly deafening! What a loving group - they had finally received brothers into their village that they had been desiring to see for such a long time.

WHO NEEDS AN ALARM CLOCK? WE HAVE DRUMS.

6 am. Better bolt out of bed! Morning Worship has been announced through the beating of the drums in the Luawa Yiehun Community Church (Moravian). Every morning, a short worship service of song, Scripture lesson, and prayer bring about 25-30 people from their homes to the church. The Pastor, Anthony Fabah, leads the faithful group, presenting the service in English and Mende (their regional language). His wife, Ishar Fabah, leads the music. Associate Pastor Momo assists. Except for Sunday, every day started with an early gathering at the church.

A VILLAGE WALK, OR AT LEAST, THE FIRST OF MANY.

It was time to visit the Library, and the Secondary School site. Mohamed, Safie, and the builders took us to the school site, where the foundation had already been poured, and construction on the piers for the first classroom building had started.

This is to be the first building of five (long-term plan) for educating secondary school students who currently travel miles away to school, returning only on the weekends. There are only elementary (Islamic and English) schools in the village, so there is a great need for a Christian-based school here in Luawa Yiehun. This first building will boast 6 classrooms, and 2 administrative offices. Each classroom will hold 50 students. Now that the rainy season is ending, concrete may be brought across the country from Freetown to continue the building process. The villagers make their own concrete blocks with sand from a river nearby, crushed rocks, and cement. We were able to see the concrete foundation/pier attachment process in

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# Sierra Leone — Mohamed and Safiatu Braima *Continued from Page 3*

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action. The recipe is simple: 1 bag of cement + 3 buckets of water + 5 big bowls of crushed rock = 1 large, blessed labor of love.

It has been officially recorded that the Library in Luawa Yiehun is the best in the country. Clean, bright, and well-maintained, the Library is home to one of the best book collections in Sierra Leone, and even includes a special children's area for activities or just sitting on the floor with a book. The Library, along with the Church, is a source of great pride for the villagers. The Library was the gathering point for the numerous Town/Section Officials when we four visitors were formally presented to the village.

This group of men and women were dressed in brightly-colored traditional garments and headgear. We were told by the head officials that we were most welcome anywhere in the village, that we were entrusted to Mohamed's care, and to stay out of trouble (he was joking).

### A MORNING WORKSHOP OF MUSIC; AN EVENING OF PICTURES AND VIDEO

Nothing transcends borders better than music. Bishop Sam Gray led a morning workshop of worship music, and activity songs. Safie singing, Tom on drums, Thomas on guitar, and Jeff dancing with the kids all had the crowd in high spirits. Safie and Sam lead a series of True/false questions concerning the Loaves and Fishes. The facial expressions of deep thought, were seen on many faces of the participants as they unravelled the riddles presented to them. Later in the evening, a crowd gathered for a presentation of the photographs we had taken thus far, and then watched *Passion of the Christ*. What an impact. The villagers, young and old, watched in amazement.

### LUAWA YIEHUN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MORAVIAN) IS DEDICATED.

Without any doubt, the Church Dedication was the highlight of the visit, as it was meant to be. The day started at 9 am with Praise music by a Praise team from Freetown, and well-known Sierra Leone singer Lady Felicia. The crowd was gathering — visitors and high officials from other villages and towns were making their way to Luawa Yiehun to take part in the long-awaited celebration. Did

we say music, and more music? With singing, clapping, hands-raising, drumming, piano - the celebration had begun!

By 10 am, most of the crowd had arrived - over 400 were in attendance. Extra benches were brought in, children crowded the youth classroom, and people were standing outside the church walls. Mohamed and Bishop Gray retreated to change their attire to begin the worship service and dedication.

"WITHOUT THE ONE THING THAT IS EVERYTHING, YOU HAVE NOTHING!"

The Dedication Service began with more music, scripture readings, and letters of greetings from Little Church on the Lane and Fairview Moravian.



*Prayer at the Dedication Service*

We followed Steve Wilson's letter with an explanation of LCOL's involvement in the village ministry. We explained the prayerful, material, financial, and communication support that had been provided, and stressed that it would continue in the future. We pray that

many will come to Christ, and we will continue our efforts on our side of the world because we share one God, one Savior, and one Holy Spirit that bind us as brothers.

Bishop Gray presented an astounding message that sealed the purpose for the entire ministry in Luawa Yiehun: if you have all, but are missing the One Thing that is Everything, you have nothing. Of course, the One Thing is Christ. Six young men were brought forward to represent the possessions of the Edomites (see Obadiah). They had everything it seemed - Size, Location, Riches, Friends, Wisdom, and Soldiers.

What was number 7 (an important number in the Bible)? To make them complete, and to make the Luawa Yiehun Community Church complete, they needed God and the Saviour. There can be no other alternative. In a motion for a final prayer of dedication of the church, Bishop Sam had ALL people in the church kneel deeply to pray that the ONE THING will be at Luawa Yiehun Community Church to make it complete, and to dedicate this house fully to God and His Son Jesus Christ. This was a moving

moment that truly cannot be put into words.

### SOME THINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD

Did you know? There are other churches in the village, or nearby. The New Apostolic Church has about 15 members. The Methodist Church has 5-10 members. The Roman Catholic Church has 10 members.

The Luawa Yiehun Community Church (Moravian) has 150+ members. How? Safie explained that they are very active in the community. They have "visit nights" that they walk the village and talk to people that are not in the church. They also shepherd the villagers - helping with medical problems, and even providing decent burials for villagers when no one else cares.

There is a literacy problem. This is a recent war-torn area. It is quite apparent in abandoned village homes with bullet holes across the edifices. Refugees from the village escaped to Freetown. Young individuals escaped in their very early years.

The education system could not take care of all of them, so there is a learning gap. Many 16-20 year olds cannot read or write. The church has been asked to help educate them, an honorable task, but not one that the church has been readied to provide. It is a goal for Safie to set a program in motion to correct this unfortunate situation.

The funds are about to run out, and there are two urgent needs. \$10,000 is needed to complete the first school building.

Funds are nearly depleted, and workers must be kept busy, so that completion of the much-needed secondary school can begin operation. The vehicle that Mohamed and Safie use to cross the country is in need of replacement. During our trip, the clutch burned out, brakes were broken, the engine overheated, there were three flat tires, and one of the 4WD bearings broke. They are in dire need of proper transportation, an automobile well-suited for the conditions. They repeatedly spent repair money to keep the Trooper in operation.



*the adventure*

WHY IS THIS MINISTRY SO SUCCESSFUL? Talk to Bishop Sam Gray about the reasons for the success of this ministry, and you can't help but agree (to paraphrase): "The thing that makes this project so

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**December**

# Pray Every Day

**2008**

1. May we not lose sight of the precious gift that Christmas brings. Let us not become caught up in the secular excitement of the season but continue to stand in the breach for those who need our prayers and intercessions.
2. Pray for Will Sibert, Exec. Dir., and for Bishop Sam Gray, Director of Intercultural Ministries and Communication, of the Board of World Mission. In addition to their calling of service to our Lord, may they also find time to share the joy of their families and worship during this special season.
3. Lift the pastors and music leaders of your church and pray that they will find exceeding joy in the preparation of the Christmas message.
4. Pray for Lisa Mixon, Dir. Administrative services and Sheila Beaman, Adm. Assistant, Board of World Mission, for Mark Ebert, Dir. Of Volunteer Ministries and Kim Bartholomew, HIV-Aids Coord.
5. Pray for Rebecca Craver, Assoc. Dir. Of Antioch Project, for Jill Kolodziej and Glenna Tasedan, Interns to the BWM. May their tireless work bring much fruit to the mission work around the world.
6. Pray for Leah Weatherman as she teaches English in Honduras.
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent—"He will feed His flock like a shepherd.." Enter into the fold of His Righteousness and revel in the joy of His presence. Can you thank Him enough?
8. If we confess our sins, He will forgive us and will remember them no more. Spend time today seeking the unconfessed things and allow the love of Jesus to sweep your heart clean. Praise Him for such wondrous love.
9. Whatever you do today, wherever you go, make a special effort to be aware of God's presence. We know He is always with us but are often not aware of it. Honor Him with your work and your witness.
10. Pray over the two aircraft for Alas de Socorro (George Goff's ministry), one being repaired in MI and the other due soon for engine change. Pray for enough money to repair both planes and that at least one will be in service at all times. Pray for George and his ministry.
11. Pray for Glenna Tasedan as she prepares for 6 months of pastoring in Labrador beginning in January. Pray for peace and wisdom and guidance. Pray that she will remain healthy and not be adversely affected by the extreme weather.
12. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx who have been accepted by MAF and assigned to the ministry in Indonesia, are in the process of making contacts and looking for Ministry Partners. Brian is a licensed pilot and Heather a Christian chalk artist.
13. Pray for Dusty Harrison, serving with Greek Intervarsity Campus Ministries at Clemson University. Praise God for the message Dusty shared at the annual Mission Lovefeast.
14. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent—Jesus lives to make intercession for you. How precious is the thought of God's only son pleading for us and making us acceptable to the Father. Praise Him and thank Him for such a wonderful gift.
15. Lift in prayer, the Moree family. Pray that they will know the faithfulness of God and His promise to meet their every need.
16. Morgan Smith and Roman Brady are in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica as missionaries to the School of Worship & Music. Lift them in prayer and the lives they are witnessing to. Ask Jesus to make their witness effective.
17. Pray that God would continue to bless Safiatu and Mohamed Braima in Sierra Leone. Thank Him for the wondrous work they have accomplished in His name there. Pray for continued financial support for their ministry.
18. Pray for the staff, students and faculty of Alaska Christian College and for Helen Gullede, member of the Little Church on the Lane, Charlotte, NC., who is in ministry there.
19. Pray for Michael and Cecilia Tesh and their love and support of the children at Ray of Hope orphanage in Kenya. Thank God for the growth and development of Ray of Hope.
20. Pray for the work of Samaritan's Purse as they reach out to millions of hurting people around the world. Pray for the message of salvation to go with each box and for blessings for the donors.
21. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent—Surely, the Lord is in this place. We come together today to celebrate His birth and his sacrifice for us. Make this a Holy day by your worship of Him. Fill the sanctuary with praise and adoration.
22. Thank God for church planters like Rob and Annie Thiessen in Mexico. Lift them up and pray for their continued strength and health. Pray for their children.
23. Pray for the many underground churches and small pockets of believers who worship in truth in spite of the danger and hardship they face. Pray for their protection and their peace.
24. Christmas Eve. Sanctuaries are aglow with the spirit of the Christmas season. As we share the tradition of lovefeasts with many who come into churches at this time of year to celebrate a season, may they return glorifying and praising God for all they have heard and seen.
25. Christmas Day—Praise Him, Praise Him, all you little children. He has given us the gift of love and eternal life. Give him your whole heart today. Acknowledge Him as the only Lord and God. Worship Him in truth and in sincerity.
26. Ask God to bless the aging population in our churches. Pray that they would continue to be able to worship and experience the fullness of their faith and that they would witness to many younger people by their faithfulness.
27. Pray for those who suffer from depression and chronic illnesses.
28. Sunday - Pray for the teachers of God's word. May they be a light to many who are walking in darkness, that they would come to the light of Jesus' glory.
29. Pray for doctors Bill and Peggy Hoffman from Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pa. who are serving through the HIV/AIDS ministry.
30. Slow me down and let me hear your voice. Give me the courage to follow your calling and to share the wonderful good news of your love with someone else today.
31. New Year's Eve.- Many believers gather this night in a Watch-night Service. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year by being in the house of the Lord. I pray that as we begin a new year that God will fill your heart with gladness, bless your home with the warmth of His love and keep you ever close to His throne of grace.

1. New Years Day-It is the God of heaven who grants us success in our endeavors. Servants of God, start building. Do not seek bigger barns but bring out of your abundance to share with those whom God has given you the privilege of helping.
2. Pray for the Woo family as they live and witness to people they serve. Pray for God's protection, peace and support.
3. Lift the seminarians and the leaders of the seminary in Bethel Alaska and in Bethlehem, Pa. Pray for those who teach God's word to be filled with His Holy Spirit and that they would follow His leading.
4. Sunday-Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust in Him for He is kind and He is able to preserve you from any wiles of the evil one.
5. Glenna Tasedan leaves today for Goose Bay, Labrador. Pray for the church in Labrador and for her as she ministers there for the next 6 months. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill the churches there.
6. Pray for missionaries around the world. Lift those by name that you know. Ask God to give them good health, personal safety, and freedom from anxiety and depression.
7. Pray for the members of your congregation. Pray for wise financial management and hearts of compassion. God is faithful and will sustain those who trust in Him.
8. Pray for the members of the Provincial Elders Boards of the Moravian Church. Pray that they would be led by the Holy Spirit in their dealings with the matters of the church.
9. Pray for the leaders and directors of the summer camps of the Moravian Church. Pray that many people would be available to lead and plan camp and missionary programs for the new year.
10. Ask a special blessing on our Bishops. Thank God for their years of service and dedication to the Moravian Church and to the furtherance of the Gospel. Pray for their health, strength, and personal security.
11. Sunday-If one member of the body suffers, the body as a whole suffers. Pray earnestly for those who are suffering. Pray for comfort and peace. Praise God for His blessings and His grace. Allow His joy to fill you with worship.
12. Please pray for Mountain Laurel Fellowship as they are being established in Laurel Springs, NC in the Laurel Ridge area.
13. Ask God's blessing and protection on the men and women serving in the armed forces. Pray that all conflict would be resolved and the need for deployment would cease. Pray for world peace and disarmament.
14. Look around for those who need a word of encouragement, a phone call, a short note or perhaps a ride to church. Ask God to put someone on your heart and listen for Him to do that.
15. Pray for Dr. Sam and Grace Marx. They have given so much of their lives, gifts, and talents in service of our Lord and the Moravian Church. They would welcome a note of appreciation, encouragement and blessings.
16. Pray for the members of the boards of the mission societies around the Unity. Supporting people and programs will be more difficult until the economy improves. Ask God to supply the financial strength needed to encourage those serving and to draw many new supporters of mission activities in the Moravian Church.
17. You, oh Lord, have promised to never leave nor forsake us. It is difficult for our human minds to comprehend the depth of such love, yet we trust you and your promise. Teach us to walk in that assurance.
18. Sunday-. Lord God, continue to provide opportunities for each of us to witness to your love and power to a lost and hurting world. Accept our praises this day as we gather to worship you.
19. We lift the Moravian Senior Living Communities of the American Moravian Provinces to you. There are many who have devoted most of their lives to your service now living in these communities.
20. Pray for those in December's Pray Everyday page who are serving in some area away from home. Lift them by name and ask God to bless them today.
21. There are many people suffering with addictions of various kinds. Many times they are the most unlovely of society. Pray against the hold of Satan on their lives. Pray God's peace on them and ask God to put someone in their lives to bring them His Holy word.
22. Pray a special prayer for Moravian ministers today. Pray for your own pastor, those who have served your church in the past, and for those who have retired from active ministry. Thank God for their loving service.
23. Pray for those who are already planning mission trips for this year. Pray for the financial support and for willing volunteers. Ask God to prepare the hearts for the volunteers and the recipients to be able to share His love and to accomplish great things for Him.
24. As you do your daily walk today, pray for each person/home you pass by. Ask God to protect them and to shine his glory on them.
25. Sunday- Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. He alone is God and He alone is worthy of praise. Praise Him in song, prayer and in meditation of your heart.
26. Praise God for the many lives that have been changed in Hooper Bay, AK. Through the church built by Samaritan's Purse volunteers. To God be the Glory.
27. Pray for the Moravian Clinic in Awass, Honduras. Pray for the Church in Honduras and for Dr. Norvelle and Gerard Rudy as they minister there. Pray for the patients and the clinic employees. Pray that God will always be honored there.
28. Put your trust in the strength of the Almighty and he will win the battle. He is just and having salvation.
29. God our Father counts the stars and calls them by name and knows every hair on our heads. How marvelous! How grand it is to be assured of such care and concern.
30. By faith Noah prepared an ark. Strengthen my faith, oh Lord, that I might walk more closely with you. Enable me to see the desires of your heart and to know the will of the Father.
31. Pray for the church in Uganda. Pray for God's people there. Pray for their protection. Thank Him for our precious freedom of religion.

*"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robber?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

## Likewise Aids Ministries

Likewise AIDS Ministries, the HIV Aids arm of the American Moravian Board of World Mission, is directed by Sister Kim Bartholomew and has been met head-on with opportunities around the world to not only educate American Moravians about the pandemic of HIV Aids in the world, but to also make a difference by accompanying the already existing efforts of countries, communities, and Moravian churches in their work to meet the devastation of the disease. The disease itself is on a rampage for which hard work, financial resources and deep compassion are needed to lead this fight in the eradication of a disease that doesn't seem to have many bounds.

Sister Bartholomew reports that Moravian churches in the devastated areas are doing a lot already and will continue the fight, but she and her team of volunteers, many of which are medical personnel, are there to augment *their* work by helping to build the "capacity" for these churches and agencies in resources, tools, and training. "Our goal", she goes on, "is to assist in their sustainability; for us to be an intentional 'accompaniment', at their invitation." The Onward will publish over the next 4 issues, some stories that came to light during the trip to Tanzania and the Women's Conference during Fall of 2008 by several Northern and Southern Province Moravian women. Here are their stories.....

### Great Gift Idea



This inviting book explores the Christmas celebrations of the Moravian Church in the South, whose members were marking the holiday as early as the 1780s in ways recognizable to modern Americans. The book can be purchased by calling UNC Press, 1-800-848-6224.

### DAR ES SALAAM

In Dar es Salaam we talked with Phoebe, a member of a Moravian Church that is now building a large church building in Dar. The pastors and the Women's Fellowship of her church help with care of several families with orphans. In Dar es Salaam one of the duties of the Moravian Church Evangelists is to work with the Women's Fellowships of their churches. As a leader in the Women's Fellowships, Phoebe asked the Southern Province PEC Chairman to allow the Women's Fellowships to use these ladies for help with identification and confirmation of orphans. A child identified as an orphan must then be confirmed by government officials as being orphaned.

The Women's Fellowships in 5 congregations in Dar es Salaam raise money to help with orphan care. Their orphan care project is for children, aged 7 years and under and serves children without regard to church or religious affiliation. Most children have lost both parents, however some have lost just one parent. Children are followed by home visits. This is especially important for Muslim families who will not come to a church for help. When we asked if the women who visited in the homes had had training on things to look for during a home visit, Phoebe said that had not yet occurred, but they were planning for



*Esther Tesh (1) and Dar Es Salaam grandmother who was the sole caregiver for 2 grandsons living in a 1 room apartment*

such a seminar to be held soon. Food supplements and personal care articles are provided for the children. Uniforms and school supplies are provided also. (Primary School in Tanzania is tuition free.) The congregations also work with Rotary Clubs from Germany for financing Children's Programs.

On Monday, September 2nd, we went with Phoebe to visit a grandmother who was the sole caregiver for her 7 year old and her 15 year old grandsons. We visited her in a small room where the family lived and slept. All their possessions were kept in this room. Food was cooked outside in the yard. The family was Muslim. Both parents had died and the boys became double orphans 5 years ago.

When we returned to Dar about a week and a half later after our visits to Mwanza and Tabora, Phoebe shared with us that the grandmother was killed in an accident 1 day after our visit. The boys were away from Dar for the funeral of the grandmother. We saw Phoebe again on October 13 before we began our trip home. She shared that the boys still had not returned home and she did not know what care arrangements were being made for them.

*Many thanks to Kim Bartholomew, Director of Likewise AIDS Ministries, and Esther Tesh, Southern Province.*

### Coming in February

The Bd. Of Directors of the Moravian Mission Society, South has begun plans on the *new* FIRST FRIDAY Prayer Gathering, set to begin on Friday—February 6th at 7:00 pm at Christ Moravian Church fellowship hall. The 90 minutes will provide the most up-to-date mission information, prayer, worship, music, and fellowship. Watch Onward February and online for additional info!

ONWARD is published by the Moravian Mission Society, South, Inc. Editor: Glenna J. Tasedan. Subscriptions: \$10./year. *Mission Society* membership is \$20./year for Seniors & Students, and \$25./year for all others and includes Onward each month. Checks are payable, and mailed to: Mission Society, 500 S. Church St., Winston-Salem NC 27108. Mission trip reports, upcoming mission programs, and general news submissions can be sent to: [moravianonward@yahoo.com](mailto:moravianonward@yahoo.com). Pray Every Day ministry participation to Helen Gullede at [helen@akcc.org](mailto:helen@akcc.org). ONWARD is on the world wide web at: [www.bethabara.org/ONWARD.htm](http://www.bethabara.org/ONWARD.htm)

# Love, Compassion, Mercy at the Ahuas Clinic

Visitors to Ahuas sometimes see how hard life is here. Sometimes they ask, in not so many words, “So why are you still here? Why not just give up and go home?”

In part, I am here because I enjoy the work. The work is rewarding and challenging. We hear the call to have love, compassion, and mercy. This is the heart of evangelism and the heart of service.

This is the story we are told in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus tells us that the road to eternal life starts with loving God and loving neighbor. He tells us how the Samaritan is moved to compassion. Compassion is a deeply felt sympathy for the suffering of another coupled with a desire to alleviate that suffering. He doesn’t tell us why the 1<sup>st</sup> two men “passed on the other side”. But we seem to understand that Jesus is not promoting that behavior. As the story ends we are told to practice mercy.

Where did the Samaritan learn his compassion? I don’t know. But I understand now, after 15 years of working in this isolated place where medical resources are in chronic short supply and specialist care is largely lacking. It comes with opportunities to feel personally inadequate. It comes with being outside my comfort zone. It comes from being with people as they live tragically foreshortened lives, understanding that they could have survived elsewhere. It means being with the mother whose 2 month old daughter dies of pneumonia for lack of oxygen and a respirator. It means being with the mother whose 30 week-old premature baby dies for lack of surfactant and intensive care. It means being with the mother whose only daughter dies after 30 hours in your care from eclampsia because she arrived too late or because your best judgment was wrong or because the team of people who would care for her in the United States couldn’t be assembled in that remote place.

All of these things are frustrating. But they are not enough to make me want to give up. On the contrary, they are reasons for staying.

The other reasons I stay are the reasons for celebrating, the reasons for wanting to run down the middle of the street screaming for joy. They are the kids with respiratory distress who get IV fluid and oxygen, and it is enough. And they live. They are the kids who are born low birth weight and very low birth weight, less than 3 or 4 lbs., and we can give them oxygen and a feeding tube and

show mothers and grandmothers how to keep those babies warm by keeping them right next to their skin, and it is enough. And they live. They are women who come to us with problems of pregnancy or childbirth with

- \* half their blood volume in their abdomens from ruptured ectopic pregnancy or
- \* seizing from an eclamptic fit or
- \* bleeding because no one could remove their placenta and it wouldn’t come out on its own, and we can intervene and it is enough, and they live.

I could tell you about “Thelma.” In her case, *many* have been merciful. She is a 21 year-old woman who suffered a vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) last fall. VVF

means there is a new exit for urine from the bladder. It means that Thelma leaks all the time. It means that she smells of urine. It means that she is always wet. It means that where she sits or stands or sleeps is also wet. It happened because she couldn’t deliver her baby on her own without help. Thelma was in a place where no one could perform a c-section or apply forceps. During her 30

hours of labor, her baby was stuck at “almost delivered” and he died. The constant pressure between the baby’s head and Thelma’s pelvis caused the VVF.

In an isolated place in a developing country, it takes lots of help to fix a special problem for someone. Thelma can’t just get in the car, go to the hospital, and

present her insurance card. There are lots of barriers to care—language, waiting lists, travel, communication, money. At least 10 people have been involved in her care. Her story is still unfolding. I’ve actually done little that might be considered “medicine”, with the exception of confirming the diagnosis. My contribution was to know what



needed to be done and who could do it—to coordinate. I pray that God would make it happen.

These are some reasons that we are here, in the isolated east end of Honduras committing time and money and talent. These are the reasons that we have chosen not to “pass by on the other side.”

We must not forget why we are here doing what we are called to do in partnership. This is what I have been moved by.

*Dr. Gerard Rudy, raised in Michigan, has served as Director of Medicine for 15 years in Ahuas Clinic of the La Mosquitia Region of Honduras. His wife, the Dr. Norvelle Rudy, serves in the clinic and directs the medical programs in La Mosquitia and supervises community health leaders among the Misquito Indian communities. They have a son Peter.*



## Focus On Prayer for Ahuas Clinic

Praise God for:

1. Dr. Freddy, Lic. Sara and the rest of the Staff who covered for us while we vacationed
2. Time to fish with Peter
3. Timely medical care here in the States
4. For Merle Vander Sluis, teacher, headed to Honduras in January to continue the Ahuas Mission-Kid School tradition. He replaces Diane who is there now.
5. A new monitor and suction for the operating room

Pray for:

1. Wisdom as we determine the best way to implement solar power in Ahuas at the Clinic. We are still raising funds.
2. Wisdom as we determine how to best help people in the wake of massive flooding, similar to that of Hurricane Mitch. Many lost their rice harvest.
3. Lic. Sara, as she is restored to health.
4. Quick and efficient delivery of our medication shipments for Ahuas and Cauquira. Our cupboards are bare.
5. Dr. Phil, coming to help us take better x-rays.
6. Wisdom as we continue to look for creative ways to provide care for economically poor people in the face of rising expenses.

# Generosity, Prayers, Time, Love

*Continued from Page 1*

with what He has revealed to you in this matter.

Another area that we have seen God at work is in Nicaragua. Since January we have been sawing lumber from trees knocked down from Hurricane Felix in August of 2007. This lumber is being used in the rebuilding of homes that were destroyed by this storm. Approximately 30 young Nicaraguan women and men have been trained and currently continue to operate these sawing operations, and over 500,000 board feet of lumber has been sawn. With this training it is our prayer that these sisters and brothers will be able to take what they have learned and provide income for themselves well into the future. Although only a few of us North

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“ . . . this effort has empowered these young Nicaraguans to take ownership of what God has provided.”

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American Moravians have traveled to Nicaragua to help in this effort, you and others have given generously of your prayers and money to help finance the training and support of the young Nicaraguans. PRAISE GOD! This effort has empowered these young Nicaraguans to take ownership of what God has provided. We again ask you to pray that many lives will continue to be touched and changed by this ongoing effort.

The year 2008 has also been another year of major disasters in the U.S. and around the world. Flooding in our Midwest has left many families temporarily without a home. Columbus, Indiana is one of these cities that have received extensive damage. Approximately 2200 homes are now in need of rebuilding. Located only 10 miles from Hope Moravian Church, Hope Moravian has heard the call from the Savior to establish and support a station to recruit and house volunteers to come and take the lead in the rebuilding of their neighbors homes and lives. From their service in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina, our Sisters and Brothers at Hope have taken what they have learned and will continue to be a blessing right in their own back yard. What a powerful message this sends to the rest of our Church. Again, PRAISE GOD!

Hurricane Ike has also left many in Texas in desperate need of help. A visit to the devastated area left memories of what Waveland Mississippi looked like days after Hurricane Katrina, with many living in tents, using generators for power and searching through

what was left of their homes and belongings. An effort to establish a volunteer station with our Sisters and Brothers of the Unity of the Brethren in Crosby Texas is underway. One of our Moravian Disaster Response tool trailers has been delivered to Crosby to help our sisters and brothers there start with the cleanup. We will continue to work with the Unity Church to help with the rebuilding and the recruitment of volunteers for this effort as well. **PRAY HARD!**

In conclusion, we want to share what we have witnessed God doing in the lives of His servants. Many of you have simply responded out of your love for Him. Others of you have responded out of your love for your fellow man not truly understanding that it is your love for the Savior all along. Others of you, by serving, are just now beginning to understand this love, the Sacrifice of your life for the life of another.

Either way, it is God at work in us all, revealing more of Himself to us as we continue to live out our lives as His children. He has set before us a choice. Shall we continue to seek more of Him and to bring the Good News of His sacrifice for us to a world desperately in need of the Savior?  
Romans 12:1-2.



*Devastation leaving homelessness from Hurricane Felix*

Our prayer is that your answer is yes Father, I want and need more of you; reveal more of yourself to me. Come and fill my heart with the love that you have, by sending your Son to suffer and die for me, that I too can share this love with others. Come, Lord Jesus and live your life thru me, in your name I pray, Amen. John 3:16.

If you feel God is calling you to share this love in a very tangible way, please respond by calling or writing us at the Board of World Mission, and we would be honored to help you identify your gifts and then help you find a way to use that gift. John 20:21

May the Grace of God and the Fellowship of His love be with you all,

Your sister and brother in Christ,  
Lisa Mixon and Mark Ebert

## Birthdays

### Remember our Missionaries December

- 4 Mrs. Harry J. Trodahl (R), 106 Comenius Ct., Watertown, WI 53098
- 4 Marie Morman (R), 6318 Fox Ct., Coopersburg, PA 18036-1435
- 19 Constance Sautebin (R), 1141 Hus Dr., Apt. 205, Watertown, WI 53098
- 19 Ned Wallace (R), 53 W. Church St., Bethlehem, PA 18018
- 21 Evelyn Shay (R), 3554 Chesterfield Ln., Bethlehem, PA 18017
- 26 Cecilia Schwanke (R), 12109 Brechman Ave., #2E Milwaukie, OR 97222
- 27 Warren D. Wenger (R), 85 Crimson Ave., Tarreytown, MD 21787-2171

### January

- 13 Jean Dreydoppel(R), 6003 St. Albion Way, Apt. H-208, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98048
  - 18 Gordon Sommers (R), 241 E. Wall St., Bethlehem, PA 18018
  - 19 Barbara Giesler (R), 1116 Tommy's Lake Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27150
  - 29 Jean Chiddie(R), 103 Oak Hill Cir, Fairview, NC 28730
  - 29 Wilfred L. Dreger (R), 175 W. North St., Apt. 210 B, Nazareth, PA 18064
  - 30 Faith Fliegel (R), 2000 15th Ave. SE, Apt. #103, St. Cloud MN 56304
- ® designates Retired

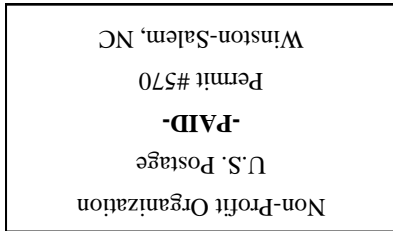
## Editor's Note

The Onward has published the names of missionaries past and present and their birthdays in an effort to not only remember their hard work in the field. To gather this information is an arduous task.

Although it is with joy that we all remember the birthdays of Moravian missionaries who have gone to be with Our Lord, we thank you for your patience as the list is developed and updated.

Sheila Beaman and Lisa Mixon welcome more complete information on current and retired missionary personnel, their birth dates in particular. They can be contacted at [sbeaman@mcp.org](mailto:sbeaman@mcp.org) and [lisa@mcnp.org](mailto:lisa@mcnp.org) respectively.

Mailing Address here



500 S. Church St.  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27108  
 336-773-1732  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc.**

## Elementary English School Teacher Opportunity

*Continued from Page 1*

5) One meal per day with parents of children. Teacher has his/her own kitchen for other meals.

### Requirements:

- 1) A 4-year degree in teaching.
- 2) Resume with references.
- 3) Ready to start in January 2009.
- 4) Current passport.
- 5) Good health. Teachers with some disabilities may succeed in this setting.
- 6) The ability to adapt to a new environment.
- 7) The ability to work within the context of Christian mission.

While the ability to speak Spanish is not required. Previous teachers have found it helpful for communicating with local people. Most local people speak Spanish as a 2nd language. The school is located in Ahuas, Gracias a Dios, Honduras. This is a remote area, with access by air and water. The countryside is beautiful. We can also facilitate communication with previous teachers who can provide teacher-to-teacher information about the job. To apply, contact Dr. Gerard Rudy, email [gerard@mcnp.org](mailto:gerard@mcnp.org) or phone 616 334 0289, or Jay Harsevoort at [JHarsevoort@rca.org](mailto:JHarsevoort@rca.org) or phone 800 968 3943.

*Dr. Gerard Rudy grew up in Michigan and has served at the Ahuas Clinic for 15 years with his wife, the Dr. Norvelle Rudy. They have an 11-year-old son Peter.*

## Sierra Leone *continued from Page 4*

different is ownership. Moravians did not decide that this was an area to be in, then send a group in to start a church, but the PEOPLE here, have ownership of the church, and it grows with outward support, but not from a foreign group that must maintain it. The people here in Luawa Yiehun make the church grow and prosper."

### WE WERE PROMISED AN ADVENTURE

No one that has seen pictures or video from the trip could deny that it was a promised-adventure delivered. It was mentioned in our recent presentation during worship that you repeatedly hear "phenomenal", or "out of my comfort zone" to describe mission trips, but we cannot express the ministry or experience better than these superlatives: "Blessed by God, protected through the love of Jesus Christ, enabled and energized by the Holy Spirit."

God bless these humble and simple people, worthy of a Savior; God bless you for your support. T

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as brothers to those in need of the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior. To see God's glorious work in action in this village is life-changing.

We'll be back in Luawa Yiehun. Go with us.

In Christ's love,

Jeff Fulp and Tom Dressler (Poom-wi)

*Jeff and Tom are members of Little Church on the Lane, Charlotte, N.C. Visit their website for grrreat pics of Sierra Leone.*

<http://www.littlechurchonthelane.com>