

O N W A R D

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Moravian Church in South Africa: Faith & Hope!

The Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA) is a story of faith, hope and contrasts. As invited guests of Sister Angelene Swart and the Provincial Elders' Conference, Sam Gray, Will Sibert and I were blessed to experience the richness of the church in South Africa. Our purpose there was to share with pastors and leaders about leadership in the missional church and to learn ways that the Board of World Mission might partner with the church to support the Masangane work with HIV/AIDS and other ministries. Our visit was timed to coincide with the festival celebrations marking the 550th anniversary of the Unitas Fratrum. It is also the 270th anniversary of the Moravian Church in South Africa. Their slogan is "550/270: Mustard Seeds for the Lord."

We stayed one week in the Cape Town area and a second week in the Port Elizabeth area. We visited with pastors, toured various mission stations in the regions and held three workshops on leadership and the missional church. We were encouraged by the spirit of partnership and desire to share common ideas about the work of God in the church.

The Moravian Church South Africa faces many of the same issues that our churches face: how to involve more young people, and how to reach out into the community to share the Good News in word and deed. While areas of the cities are as cosmopolitan as any major city in North America, there

are "informal settlements" that are shockingly poor and depressing. Despite the struggles to overcome



apartheid and economic disparity, the faith of the people is inspiring and courageous.

The Moravian work in South Africa began in 1737 when George Schmidt founded the community of

Gnadendal, which means "Valley of Grace". Before Schmidt left Gnadendal, he planted a pear tree and gave his Bible to Magdalena, a young convert. Magdalena kept the faith and read her Bible until the next missionaries arrived from Germany nearly 40 years later. They found Magdalena, by then an old woman, with her Bible. Magdalena had kept the faith and trusted that the seeds God had planted would once again bear fruit. The church grew over the next centuries in many regions of this beautiful country.

Apartheid became a huge challenge for the Moravians in

Continued on Page 7

Moravians in Suriname: Dual Perspective

A group of twenty four Moravians recently went on a life changing experience to Suriname. Here, and Page 4, are the enlightening stories from John and Barbara Geisler.

A group of twenty four Moravians recently went on a life changing experience to Suriname in NE South America. Our leader was Br. Ray Revales, an export/import merchant from Suriname, but now an active member of Prince of Peace Moravian Church in Miami. We gathered at the Prince of Peace Church for morning worship, with lots of prayers and good wishes for our 10 day trip. We flew to Trinidad, and on to Paramaribo, the capital.

We had traditional Surinamese

breakfasts and were taken several times downtown at a hotel which is in the huge Moravian owned C. Kersten Co. Department store. We window shopped and were pleased to find everything up to date. We had plenty of good food and several real banquet feasts. We enjoyed many unique fruits, some we knew from Nicaragua. We learned to look right at street corners as the traffic drives on the left, very fast in modern US, European and Asian vehicles. We bought souvenirs and maps like any tourists.

We saw many Moravian buildings (Called Evangelische Broedergemeente, or EBG and well

Continued on Page 7

A Message From Our President

As we celebrate our history we want to give honor and glory to our Lord for his faithfulness and inspiration.

Change and time creates history. As most of you are aware the mission residence at 433 South Main Street in Old Salem was donated to the Mission Society by the Pfohl family in

1958. Since then, the Mission Residence has been home for missionaries on furlough, missionaries passing through, college students and fellow Moravians in town. The up-keep of the residence has always exceeded its income. However, we kept it going.

In 2005 it was determined that the roof was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. The

residence was built with a “standing seam” metal roof and because it is located in historic Old Salem, the replacement must be similar material. It was estimated that a replacement roof would cost \$45,000. The Society does not have the financial means to cover such cost.



Earlier this year, after much prayerful consideration by the board, the Mission Society decided on the sale of the residence. As a result the residence will be sold to Old Salem Inc. effective May 17, 2007.

Our prayers have been answered, we have engaged in a missionary housing relationship with Hope Church where Hope’s

parsonage will be the new home for our visiting missionaries.

Hope women’s fellowship has graciously agreed to assist in the care of our residence. Our relationship with Hope can only be a positive experience for our missionaries and an enhancement of Hope’s long term commitment to missions. Thank you Hope, and may God continue to bless your congregation.

Missionaries wishing to use our new residence may continue to contact Sheila Beaman at 336-773-1732. Financial return on the proceeds of the sale will be used to offset some of the cost in the maintenance of the parsonage. *Evon Crooks, President, Mission Society, Southern Province and a member of New Philadelphia Moravian Church.*

Moravian HIV/AIDS Ministry: Breaking Down Walls—Tanzania

In 2001, the Prevention of Mother-To-Child-Transmission (PMTCT) was begun at the Sikonge Moravian Hospital by Drs. Bill and Peggy Hoffman. The following year the program was expanded to the Moravian dispensaries. Using a grant received from Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in 2003, government and NGO dispensaries are now included in the program. Starting in 2005, there has been full treatment of AIDS with antiretroviral medication.

All Moravian pastors in the Western and Lake Provinces of Tanzania have attended HIV/AIDS training courses held



in 2001 and 2002. Due to the importance of women in Tanzania, all pastors’ wives participated in similar seminars. Advanced pastoral training in HIV counseling is planned for the future.

Beginning with 34 orphans in 2002, the program has rapidly expanded to include 28 villages in the

Sikonge District and 5 parishes in the city of Tabora. 2,500 orphans are now receiving assistance. Women from the local Moravian churches register the orphans and assess their needs. The children are then provided school supplies and uniforms, sleeping mats and sheets, free medical care, supplemental food, and personal items such as skin oil and soap. Full secondary school scholarships are available to orphans who pass the government exam. Program funding is sought through individuals, congregations, foundations, and *Adopt A Village* program.

For further information, contact Kim Bartholomew, MPH, at 610-868-1732 or kim@mncp.org



Some Spiritual Challenges in the Youth Years

It has been said by countless people that adolescence is not an easy time. I am not here to disagree, but rather to relate the reasons why this time in one's life is a hard one. When I was in my early teens, I was usually more concerned with pleasing my friends than with pleasing the Lord, even though I might never have admitted it. I would ask friends over for the weekend, and instead of inviting them to church, I would skip the service altogether. I found that I rarely prayed to God to ask him for help. In fact, for a time, the only instance when I did pray was before bed, and even then, the prayer was spit

out the same way every night, as though rehearsed. I had unknowingly forgotten God, and my idleness towards his kingdom had put me at a point where retrieving my relationship with my God

would be very difficult.

Then, at the beginning of my senior year in high school, I

enrolled in a Bible History class, expecting nothing more than an easy A. However, even though my teacher stressed that the bible would be taught and not preached, new doors were open for me. I read parts of the bible that I had only really read in chil-

dren's storybooks. I analyzed Scripture and found connections between its stories. I, who had been a Christian all my life, met people in the bible that I had never heard of. In the end, I was rewarded a new understanding of the fullness of God's covenant and the magnitude of what Jesus Christ did when he reconciled humankind to God. I learned to be more patient, I prayed every day from my heart, and I applied the Word to every possible aspect of my life. So even though my life still has problems now, it is a lot better than it was. I am experiencing my religion as all true Christians should. I am trying to live the Word, not just read it.

Jonathan Sapp is a graduating Senior at Reynolds High School and a member of Calvary Moravian.

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Announcing the 2nd Moravian



Youth In Mission Summit

for

All Youth & Young Adults

August 31st - September 3rd, 2007
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Laurel Springs, NC

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the Board of World Mission, 336-773-1732, 610-868-1732

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www.bethabara.org/ONWARD.htm

The Moravians of Suriname: Dual Perspectives II

In the year 1735 in response to Zinzendorf's commitment to spread the Gospel Message throughout the world, missionaries were sent to the northeastern coast of South America to the country now known as Suriname. Here the missionaries attempted to minister to the slaves brought to this coast by Dutch slavers to work the sugar plantations which Dutch owners had established to supply this important commodity to European life.

The mortality rate of the first missionaries was very high but a strong impact was made. Interestingly in the first of the 19th century, the missionary Otto Tank from Norway spent time there traveling widely to serve the diverse population and to study the nature of this tropical land. When he left there, he went to Green Bay, Wisconsin where he was instrumental in establishing the Moravian Church there. Search "Nils Otto Tank" on the internet to find out more about this interesting person.

In April, 2007 a small group of Moravians had the opportunity to make a brief visit to Suriname. The group leader was Ray Revalles, a Surinamer who is a member of the Prince of Peace Church in

Miami. We were able to visit the Grote Stadt Kerk in downtown Paramaribo for Sunday morning worship.

This wooden building has been a landmark there since 1778. The white interior gleams. The opening



verses of Psalm 103 (in Dutch) are prominently displayed on the balustrade on three sides of the large sanctuary. We also visited a youth center which hosts many activities for the youth of that city. We joined them in singing "camp" songs which enhanced their *Dare 2 Be Different* campaign.

The Moravian Church, known there as Evangelisches Broedergermeente, is well known in this racially diverse country with many churches and schools. A large commercial establishment,

C. Kersten & Co., in downtown Paramaribo is another facet of the Moravian work there. We wish we could have had more time to explore the work of the church but time was short.

A trip south from the capital gave us a chance to experience the countryside. We visited a bauxite refinery and a gold mine as well as a lake created in the 1960's to provide hydroelectricity. In the rural village of Klaaskreek we visited the large Moravian presence, both church and school. We were told of many similar situations throughout the country serving in various languages. We had a chance to hike in the jungle and to hear and see monkeys in the

canopy and learning of the diversity of tropical plant and animal life there.

Prayer is requested for the provincial leadership as they deal with problems in meeting the needs of their members, especially in the area of trained pastors and other church leaders.

Shared by Sister Barbara Geisler, Member of Bethabre Moravian

Link to Operation World Suriname for fascinating facts about the country:

http://www.24-7prayer.com/ow/country.php?country_id=200

Prayer Focus

Dusty Harrison Serving with Greek InterVarsity

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus from the campus of The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. I have spent the past year working as an intern at William & Mary with Greek InterVarsity, a ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that reaches out specifically to college fraternity and sorority students. InterVarsity is an interdenominational campus ministry that has been reaching college students with the Gospel since 1941.



My internship is a one-year program designed to help transition recent graduates into life after college and to train potential campus ministers for full-time ministry. Words can hardly describe the growth and affirmation I've received from working with Greek InterVarsity, all of which has led me to accept a full-time position to plant a brand new ministry at Clemson University beginning this fall. Here is a brief overview of the ministry:

The Need:

- There are approximately 750,000 Fraternity and Sorority students on college campuses across the United States.
 - 9 million members (current and alums)

- 750,000 undergraduate
- 12,000 chapters
- 800 campuses
- Though fraternity and sorority students make up less than 3% of the U.S. population, Greek alumni make up:
 - 48% of all U.S. Presidents
 - 42% of U.S. Senate which is 30% of Congress
 - 40% of all U.S. Supreme Court Justices
 - 30% of Fortune 500 executives

Our Response:

Our mission is to reach this entirely unique culture of fraternity and sorority students, which has historically been closed off as pagan, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

How do we do this?

- By leading and training them in evangelism and missions (relational).
- By training them in in-depth personal and group Bible studies.
- By disciplining them one-on-one and in small groups.
- By training them in biblical leadership and then encouraging

them to lead their peers.

How can you help?

I cannot do this ministry alone. I need a team of people behind me to whom God has given the gift of giving and support. That can take many forms—perhaps you are able to serve through:

- Prayer—I will send you regular prayer letters or e-mail updates throughout the year, or both if you'd like.
- Finances—Like many overseas missionaries, I am responsible for raising my ministry budget and salary myself. You can help by giving monthly, quarterly or yearly financial gifts.

If you would like more information about how you or your congregation can support this ministry, you can contact Dusty Harrison at (336)403-8609 or through e-mail: dustyharrison@gmail.com.

Coordinator: Helen Gulledge

Pray Everyday Day

May 2007

1. Father, today, in Jesus name, we lift our government, church and business leaders to you to be led by Your will for the good of our nation and the world. May your name be praised and may we ever be reminded "In God We trust".
2. This is the day the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Ps 118* Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift of His Precious Son who covers us with His "Robe of Righteousness."
3. **SUNDAY** Father, please give us this day a magnificent obsession to glorify your name as we go forward as missionaries to spread your word of love and reconciliation at home and around the world. *Acts 1:10-11*
4. Today, Father, we lift Jacqueline and Doug Wilson to you for continued endurance and strength as they labor for your Kingdom among the people of Uganda, ministering to their physical and spiritual needs. Shower them with your guidance and discernment.
5. Father of our Lord Jesus and our Father, we pray for Safi atu and Mohamed Braima's request to keep their focus as they serve the people in their village in Sierra Leone. We praise you for the government's recognition of the official opening of the library they have built and for the progress they have made in starting the building of a church. We thank you for the child you have brought into their lives. Praise you Lord for 120 people who attended the first worship service (held in the library).
6. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit: apart from me he can do nothing. Help us Father, to become vine ripened in order to bear good fruit. *Jn 15:5*
7. May we be filled with a fresh anointing of the precious Holy Spirit in response to your calling us to love you and to love one another as you have loved us. Be with students on all campuses and give them your protection.
8. Pray for the bishops of our province. James C. Hughes, Robert A. Iobst, Lane Sapp, Wayne Burkette, Sam Gray.
9. Pray for pastors and wives in Charlotte and Huntersville: Rev. Steve Wilson and Claire, Rev. Billy Flippin and Shannon, Rev. Chris Thore and Charlotte, Rev. Jim Doss and Susan.
10. **SUNDAY** We pray for protection, guidance and support for the Wilsons in Lampura, Uganda; the Braimas in Sierra Leone; Neil, Anita, Elijah and Ana Moree leaving for France to study North African languages with Wycliffe. Meet their every need and keep them in your perfect love.
11. We lift up all retired ministers and their wives. Keep them active in your service and keep us involved in their lives. Continue to bless us with their gifts and knowledge.
12. Pray today for the widows of ministers who have served in partnership with saintly men who have completed their task here and have been promoted to a higher service. Remind them today how valuable they are to you and to us. Fill them with a sense of your joy.
13. Pray for those you know and for others living in retirement homes, nursing facilities or are homebound. Ask God to bless them and those who take care of them. Pray for more people to take time to visit and acknowledge their importance in our lives.
14. Father, Your Son prayed, before His death on the cross, that all may be one, as He and the Father are one. Let this be our prayer, too.
15. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together. *Ps 34:3 NIV*
16. Pray for the preparations of the Moravian Women's Consultation that is scheduled for June 19-25, 2008 in Herrnhut.
17. **SUNDAY** "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." *James 5:16* Prayer is communication that connects us with our Lord. It knows no boundaries of distance or time.
18. "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." *Luke 5:16* Solitude with God restores our soul. Dear Lord, thank you for your presence with us. Help us to set aside Sabbath time to bask in your love every day.
19. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." *Psalms 119:105* Dear Lord, thank you for caring enough to speak to us through the scriptures. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your message. Make us disciples who share your word and bless others.
20. "There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." *1 Corinthians 12:6* When we accept our differences our churches can be a blessing for the world. Dear Lord, make us aware of the beauty in each other. Help us to value one another's gifts and talents.
21. "The measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you." *Mark 4:24* Dear Lord, who is ever willing to forgive us, grant us a gentle spirit and a forgiving heart, that we may extend to others the mercy you show us.
22. "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" *Hebrews 1:14* Where do we see opportunities to be an angel to some one in need? Dear Lord, thank you for sending your angels to help us in times of need. Teach us to offer compassion and kindness to everyone around us.
23. Today, pray to God to guide you and all of us to help make peace on earth, in our homes, schools, churches and work places. Jesus, help us.
24. **SUNDAY** Pray for members of your congregation to start neighborhood weekday Bible study and prayer meetings.
25. One generation ago, there were no Christian churches in the nation of Mongolia (North of China) Today churches are growing and spreading there. Pray for the people of Mongolia. Pray for people who are attending Bible studies in Moravian Churches, for God to move and strengthen people's faith in our savior, Jesus Christ.
26. Ask God to guide many people to talk about the Savior to Islamic people who have moved to our country
27. Pray the Lord's Prayer and read the 23rd Psalm often. Teach them to children.
28. Ask God to keep you from seeing, thinking or doing anything that might weaken your faith in Him today (and every day).
29. Make a special effort to do all that you do today to the honor of God the Father, especially those things you do not like to do that are difficult. Ask God to help you.
30. Pray for all those who are going on mission trips. Ask God to bring them to your mind frequently and pray that His message of love and mercy are conveyed by every person on those trips.

Contributors to the Pray Every Day this month were Dorothy Maxwell, Carolyn Gaylord, Tamara Thomas and Bishop Robert Iobst. To contribute to the PrayEvery Day, contact Helen Gulledge at helngull@aol.com.

Moravian Church in South Africa *Continued from Page 1*

South Africa. While Moravians were being forcibly relocated from their homes and churches, people like Sister Moorman prayed for “the sinking ship”. She kept the faith alive until, as an old woman, she could return to worship in her beloved Moravian Hill church.

Sister Moorman and her people trusted in God’s promise and faithfulness, and their faith has blossomed. Now the church faces new challenges as they minister to people with HIV/AIDS. Once again, the faith of the people has blossomed as they trust in

God to provide opportunities for ministry. We visited the iThemba Labantu Center, a hospice and care facility run jointly by the Moravians and Lutherans. This center which just opened in February, is located in the midst of a huge informal settlement of thousands of people living in desperately poor and unsani-

tary conditions. The center’s mission is to care for people who are dying of AIDS, but even more, to educate people and administer medication to treat people so that they may return to their homes. The name of the center means “hope for the people” and they certainly live out their name!

In the Eastern Cape region, we were saddened to visit an area of the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country.

The cemetery, filled with fresh graves, bears silent testimony to the nearly 100 victims per week. Despite these grim statistics, Moravians today continue to trust in God’s providence and faithfulness. They pray that, like mustard seeds, they might be planted to participate in God’s mission to the world for the next 550 years. They live out these seeds of faith through beautiful music, in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa. Their congregational brass bands rival metropolitan ensembles! They live out their faith through ministries of ser-

vice throughout their communities.

Throughout our trip, we have been blessed to visit with pastors and lay people, as we share our common faith, visit churches and mission stations, and discover the good news – that our faith transcends geography, culture, race and economics. Throughout the worldwide Unity, there is one language – based on our love for one another and our common faith in Jesus Christ. Now it is our turn to join our sisters and brothers in South Africa, to pray

for the church, to ask God to plant us all as mustard seeds, so that faith might blossom throughout the world and lives might be filled with hope and joy in Jesus Christ.

Betsy Miller is the Director of Congregational Leadership and Resources, Moravian Church Northern Province, Western District

“Throughout the worldwide Unity, there is one language – based on our love for one another and our common faith in Jesus Christ.”

Moravians in Suriname: Dual Perspective *Continued from Page 1*

marked with the Moravian Seal), churches, business offices, grave yards, and low income homes. The economy is flourishing after a civil war in the 1990’s and in spite of many rundown buildings, most are well kept. We had a very interesting meeting with officers of the church in their spacious and busy offices in downtown. We met with a youth fellowship of about 80 youth and leaders in their Youth Center, a huge complex of sports facilities, and well equipped meeting rooms serving 16 downtown Moravian congregations. They are led by well trained leaders. They all spoke English. We worshiped on Sunday in the huge Grote Stadt Kerk (built 1788)

with two complete balconies around three sides of the sanctuary. The preacher was a professor from South Africa who was finishing two years in the Suriname Theological Seminary. He preached in Dutch, but translated each paragraph into English for us.

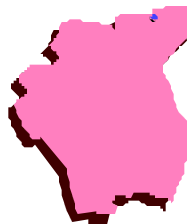
The 450,000 people of Suriname are very diverse. The original people are two groups of Amerindians who make up about 2% of the population. Then the former slaves, called Creoles make up 31%. The Maroons were brought from Africa as slaves, but they ran away to live in the “Bush” as they did in Africa. They live as six distinct linguistic tribes

numbering about 10%. Then indentured servants were brought from India, now 37%, as well as Javanese, 15%. The remainder are Dutch, Chinese, Jewish and others.

Three days we went into the “bush” or rainforest and saw the great beauty of the country most tourists do not see.

The roads into the bush are unbelievable rough. Our leader arranged for tours of the huge Alcoa aluminum complex where they process bauxite and produce alumina, which is shipped out to be refined into aluminum. We also

Continued on Page 8



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Moravians in Suriname: Dual Perspective

Continued from Page 7

had a wonderful tour of Iamgold, a Canadian mining company. We stayed in a complex near the huge Afobaka Dam which produces power for Alcoa and the rest of the country. We had an hour long boat trip across the lake from Brokopondo to Tonka Island , a former hill top, but now an island in the huge lake. We hiked to a beautiful waterfall, and enjoyed seeing large numbers of black monkeys and huge red howler monkeys at play in the large jungle trees. They are well protected from hunters.

We enjoyed a visit to a large Moravian Church in a Maroon village called Klaaskreek. About one thousand are out each Sunday. The choir music is on many 5x8' blackboards with the chalk notations in 4 part solfeggio with numbers. The church members were having a clean up day for special services on Sunday. We gave them a large cake we had leftover from our rations. They loved it. It was a wonderful experience to see a unique part of the worldwide Unity. We will never forget it.

Written by the retired Rev. John H Geisler, Member of Bethabre Moravian Church.

Covering

the Morees' in prayer . . .

as they embark for Marsailles, France with Wycliffe Bible Translators

- For the family to weather the culture shock
- For the kids to adapt to the city
- In locating a local church and friends
- For our kid as they miss their other family & friends
- For understanding the euro and exchange rate and

- Managing our finances
- For diligence in prayer
- That we would remember to find our contentment in Christ

- For us to find an apartment that suits our family
- For us to find a car in Aix

- That the Holy Spirit would do greater & greater work through us

