

O N W A R D

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Renewal of God's Presence, Together, For A New Tomorrow

The following are excerpts from the Hurricane Felix Damage Assessment Report as given by Mark Ebert and Kevin Frack on September 17th, 2007 after their visit to the disaster areas, and the September 21st update.

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who calls us to proclaim Good News to all the earth! We give all praise and thanks to God, whose Sovereign power is greater than the storm, and whose mercy and love reach beneath the depths of the woes and circumstances of

those in despair .

Mark Ebert, Director of Moravian Disaster Relief for North America and Kevin Frack traveled to Nicaragua September 10 – 16, 2007 to demonstrate the love of Christ with our presence as a message of solidarity in their time of crisis, and to make an assessment of damage from Hurricane Felix.

In addition to assessment of damage, we hoped to identify the key points of coordination and communications among relief efforts.

Since there is a certain amount of confusion with so much aid pouring in, it was our hope to ensure that the main players work together to avoid duplication of efforts and that no village would go unattended.

We were very impressed with the measure of organization at the Puerto Cabezas airfield. As planes loaded with relief supplies arrived, teams of local residents and Nicaraguan army personnel unloaded supplies onto trucks which were immediately transferred either to awaiting US Navy and Nicaraguan helicopter crews for distribution to communities unreachable by road, or to warehouses in Puerto Cabezas

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Moravian 550th Anniversary

Mission Celebration Lovefeast

November 4, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Wait Chapel—Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC

BAND PRELUDE - 2:30 p.m. on the quad

Hundreds of Provincial Band Members

SPEAKER - The Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon
 Downey, CA

and a lot of music

Friedberg Steel Drum Band, Nepalese Musicians, Central American Ensemble, New Philadelphia Handbells, Moravian Choirs, and Instrumentalists

Mission Society



Southern Province

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Next issue:

the Antioch Project



A Message From Our President

The Power of Prayer

We pray for our loved ones, friends, country, material things, Gods love etc., but what is prayer.

UN-UTTERED OR EXPRESSED;

THE MOTION OF A HIDDEN FIRE

THAT TREMBLES IN THE BREAST

PRAYER IS THE SIMPLEST FORM OF SPEECH

THAT INFANT LIPS CAN TRY:

PRAYER, IS THE SUBLIMEST STRAINS THAT REACH

THE MAJESTY ON HIGH

O THOU BY WHOM WE COME TO GOD,

THE LIFE, THE TRUTH, THE WAY!

THE PATH OF PRAYER THYSELF HAST TROD:

LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY.

Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire
[456, Red Hymnal]

The Psalms provide us with lots of prayers. For example Psalm 54:2 Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

In Luke 18:1 Jesus told them a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

In James 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Sing songs of praise.

Let's pray for all our missionaries. Let's pray for Mohamed and Safiatu Braima; after living in the US for 30 years they are currently building a church in their native country Sierra Leone. This will be the first Moravian church in Sierra Leone. In a country

where the average life expectancy is only 35 years, let's all pray for the people of Sierra Leone.

Let's pray for the people of Nicaragua who were victims of hurricane Dean a few weeks ago. Let's pray that they will come together and help each other and that the rest of the world will continue to help them rebuild.

Let's pray for a successful mission

Lovefeast and 550 Celebration on November 4th that our entire community will come together in the celebration of Gods Love. We have an opportunity to change lives in a positive way. The offering from the Lovefeast will be used to support local mission projects. Let's pray for each other.

Lord hear our prayers.

Evon Crooks, President,
Mission Society, Southern Province

The Gray Family and Friends Benefit Concert

in support of the following ministries:

New Strength for Nicaragua and Friends of Antioch

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Concert / Worship

Saturday, November 10

New Philadelphia Moravian Fellowship Hall

A special love offering will support our young people as they go "out from Antioch" to minister to our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua... and beyond!

and then please stay for the

Coffee House and Oldies Dance!

(8:30 – 11:00)

An evening of fun, fellowship and sharing!



Youth Column—Jessica Jelinski, Ebenezer Moravian Church, Wisconsin

Coming Up Short for Words

After spending a month in Tanzania on my first international mission trip and returning to life in Wisconsin, I realize how much these two worlds don't know about one another and how much we have to gain if we can bridge the gap geographically and culturally. In my attempt to do that for my congregation, I still feel that I come up short trying to explain to people what it is like to live in Tanzania and what effect doing so for a short time has had on my life and my faith. I hate the old cliché "you have to see for yourself to understand" but sometimes simple language is all we have to explain profound spiritual and emotional experiences in our

"My experience in Tanzania showed me how valuable I really am and how much I am needed in this world."

lives. However simple it may sound, there is no better way to understand what I mean than by immersing yourself in another culture. You will trust God, hate him, and cry out for him as you are twisted and stretched out of your comfort zone, and then you will be thankful you put yourself in the hands of a God who loves you and takes care of you. My experience in Tanzania showed me how valuable I really am and how much I am needed in this world. While people in third world countries like Tanzania are struggling with disease and starvation, people in America have just as great a problem with feeling unloved and unimportant. In Tanzania, I met many people and

learned about their individual



struggles and kept coming up with the same response. I have something they can use and I know something they should know that could help them, and I can never feel useless again now that I know that. My first taste of mission work has given me a way to live with purpose and hope in a world that is sad and full of despair. There are many opportunities to participate in mission work through the Moravian Church, and so I encourage you to inquire so that you will know what I mean when I say you will just have to see for yourself to understand.

Jessica works as a welder in Wisconsin and was present at the 2007 FEET FIRST Youth In Mission Summit.

S.O.S.....Onward Needs Your Help !

To those who faithfully read their monthly copy of Onward that comes in their mailbox, they are probably aware of the immense amount of prayerful work that goes into not only each issue, but into the individual copies themselves. The process begins, again prayerfully, with the editing of incoming information from around the Unity, getting the Onward to the printer on time, and then ends up in the faithful hands of a computer tech, and then a folding coordinator, who joyfully brings a lot of people together and they spend a happy hour folding, stamping, and collating by zip code over one-thousand

copies of the Onward..... each month.

One can't thank these faithful coordinators and folders enough for what they do to get the BWM and Mission Society Southern Province news to the doorstep of that many people for the past 50+ years.

Our current Folding Coordinator, the Rev. George Chiddie, is retiring from active service come January 2008, and Onward will need the assistance of a new 'someone' to assume this coveted position. Some of the tasks of the Folding Coordinator include, but are not limited to:



- picking up the collated Onward at the printer,
- separating mailing labels,
- buying stamps,
- sending copies to Moravian Seminary,

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Mission Project for Clean Water In Honduras—Pt. 3-3



This is the third in a series of articles describing a clean water project. The previous articles discussed the need for clean water in many parts of La Mosquitia, Honduras and described the plan to educate people about clean water needs, drill wells, and teach recipients how to keep the well functioning. This article discusses a

The intent of this project is for the Mission Society to team with Ray Griggs to provide clean water in Honduras. However, the recent destruction in many villages in the area of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua has created a need to widen the project's focus. Felix swept into northeast Nicaragua, destroying homes and contaminating over 5000 wells. Most of the contaminated wells are dug, open pit wells such as the ones shown here. These wells, which collect surface water and can easily become contaminated, need to be replaced by a sealed well such as the one in the third picture.

At the present time the Miskito people living in the area devastated by Hurricane Felix have the greatest need for uncontaminated wells and clean water. In addition,



Brother Griggs spends a good part of his time in Nicaragua these days, working to get saw mills operating so that lumber can be made available for rebuilding homes. He is also available to assist in drilling wells.



The sooner we can get the rig to him, the sooner he can begin drilling wells. To date we have raised half of the \$11,000 needed for the equipment and supplies. We will order and ship all materials as funds become available to cover costs. At the time the project was planned, Brother Griggs identified workers that he would hire and teach to drill the wells. Getting the clean water project going in Honduras is still a major goal of this project. However, because of so many contaminated wells in Nicaragua, we anticipate that the project will begin in Nicaragua rather than Honduras. One drilled well may serve an entire village,

reducing the need for many of the dug wells. We would like Brother Griggs to begin drilling wells where the greatest need exists.

Your support will still be needed after the equipment and materials are shipped. Since the people in many Nicaraguan villages where wells are needed have lost their homes and most everything else, we anticipate that the full cost of drilling wells in these villages will need to be borne by this

project. The average cost of a well is about \$1100. This includes the supplies used in drilling, a hand-pump (purchased locally) installed on a cement pad, as well as labor costs for drilling the well and educating the recipient. Although, adaptations will be made as



needed, education about clean water, and teaching those who receive a well how to maintain it, remain important parts of this project. When the project is able to move into Honduras

and areas not devastated by the hurricane, the need for subsidy money will remain. Although the villagers will be expected to pay partial cost of a drilled well, many villages will still need help in the form of a subsidy.

Contributions, identified as 'Clean Water Project', should be sent to the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, PO Drawer Y Salem Station, Winston-Salem, 27108. Please note that 100% of all funds given for the Clean Water Project go to this mission effort. For further information contact Charles Nienow and Esther Tesh, Project Coordinators, at 336-764-0151 or email NienowTesh@aol.com

Coordinator: Helen Gulledge

Pray Everyday Day

November 2007

1. Dear Merciful God, it is so difficult for us to try to understand the extreme loss and devastation suffered by our Moravian brothers and sisters in Nicaragua. Shower them with your healing mercy and call forth many volunteers to aid in their reconstruction.
2. Father, we lift the children of Nicaragua (and other areas) who are so traumatized by the results of the hurricane. Surround them with your loving arms and give them a true sense of your peace.
3. As the great physician, we lift Hal Cole, Norwood Green, Sam Propson and David Guthrie, each of whom need a touch of your healing mercy. We also lift all those that we know and love who need healing.
4. SUNDAY—We praise you Father for the leadership in Bethel Alaska. Bless the students in this and all other seminaries who are devoting their lives to serving your kingdom. May we all enjoy your presence as we worship today
5. Lord of all life, God of all detail, we lift up to you the leaders of our mission efforts. Give Will Sibert, Sam Gray and Mark Ebert the gift of administration and discernment that they would be alert to their own needs and families. We praise you and thank you for them. Keep them safe and in good health.
6. Jesus, you said to let the children come unto you. We know that you love the children and it is in that love that we ask you to call and protect the children in Hooper Bay, Alaska. Provide a welcoming place for them in the new Teen Center where they will meet you.
7. Bless Samaritan's Purse and all of its staff and volunteers serving all over the world. Continue to use them to reach those in need with help and the good news. Call many others to volunteer to serve you through this and other organizations.
8. As the Penn-Mar Mission Society corresponds with and provides scholarship money to the students of the John Amos Comenius Moravian High School, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, we request prayers of support for the students and teachers of the high school. Ten classrooms were destroyed by the devastating Hurricane Felix disrupting the school year educational process. The need for prayer is great.
9. Pray for the Morees (Neil and Anita, Elijah and Ana) in France with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Pray for their health, encouragement, understanding of language, monetary system, missing their family in the US.
10. Lord, help America to turn back to You. (II Chron. 7:14) "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land.
11. SUNDAY—Father, may the good works of our global missionary teams become familiar to those who sit in routine, comfortable worship services this week. Inspire each of us to join those who offer themselves to you in service to others. May you be blessed by our worship today.
12. Gracious Lord God, Holy One, This is Monday. We kneel before You asking for strength, wisdom and a path before us that we can follow this week. Bless all those in ministry for You, we humbly pray.
13. Pray for international bible studies; i.e., Bible Study Fellowship, and Community Bible Study, and for the leaders and students who attend these studies.
14. Father, in remembrance of prayer and intercessory efforts of our forefathers, pioneers in faith, help us to carry on those traditions of caring for others that they established. We pray for our President and his advisers, that they may hear Your voice, Lord.
15. Heavenly Father, bless all who stand in prayerful, emotional, and physical support of those serving faithfully in all corners of the earth.
16. Father, bless the mid-week programs, services, and activities of our church congregations. Bless the choirs, Bible study groups, fellowship groups, and other small group efforts that seek to nurture your people.
17. Thank you Lord, for Moravian music. Music based upon your Bible and of high quality. Lord, We especially give thanks for Peace Moravian's presentation of J Frederick Peter's "*Psalms of Joy*".
18. SUNDAY—"*Psalms of Joy*" reminded all those who attended that we must continue to pray that weapons be stored and that our national history reminds us that our Constitution gives us the right to find our different paths to follow Jesus Christ.
19. Lord, guide our families to attend your church weekly so that future generations will know that religious rights are a gift from You!
20. Give supporters of the Moravian Mission Society continued support to youth who willingly seek opportunities to work with camp programs during summers, and around the world.
21. Thank you Father for the doors you have opened for Safiatu and Mohammed Braima as they serve you in Sierra Leone. Make it possible for them to visit many churches to share their witness and their vision of dedicated service to you.
22. Bless those who serve as directors on the BWM as well as the Mission Societies of the Moravian Church around the World. Give them vision and discernment and many opportunities to reach others for you.
23. Thank you for those who use their gifts and talents to lead and witness to young people in your name. Help all of us to reach out to the youth around us and to share our lives and our witness with them. Praise you for them and their witness to us.
24. Lord Jesus Christ, I need Thee every hour; temptations lose their power when you are in my thoughts. Today is the birthday of Park Road and Christ the King churches.
25. SUNDAY—Dear God, thank you for our day of worship. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight this day. Today is the birthday of Mt. Bethel Moravian Church.
26. Jesus Christ, keep me from sin today. Guide my eyes, my words, my thoughts today.
27. Today continue to pray for the people of Nicaragua whose homes and churches and schools were destroyed by Hurricane Felix.
28. Nearer my God to Thee. Day by day draw me nearer to Thee. [Pray the whole hymn].
29. Pray for pastor and people of Mayodan Moravian Church. Today is the church's birthday—1896.
30. Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, Savior, guide all thy chures; keep ministers, teachers and all church servants sound in doctrine and holy in life.

Contributors to the November Pray Every Day were Carolyn Gaylord, Francis Snyder, Suzanne Sewell, and Robert Jobst, To contribute to the PED next month, contact Helen Gulledge at helngull@aol.com.

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for later shipment by road. This was truly a miraculous testimony to how well quite disparate groups can work together for the common good when the proper motivation exists.

The worst of the hurricane damage seems to have been confined to a corridor north of Puerto Cabezas and south of the Rio Coco River, running diagonally southwesterly for at least 60 miles inland. There was not evidence of much water damage from tidal surge, but most cement structures in this zone lost their roofs, and nearly all wooden structures were rendered uninhabitable. Within this strip 40 miles wide, most large trees both in towns and in the jungle were flattened, trees stripped of all leaves by the 160 plus mile/hour winds. This means the complete destruction of farm crops and fruit trees. Many food animals have been killed by wind and falling timber, raising concerns for impending health danger as they are still buried under piles of brush. The number of downed trees, while on the front end is catastrophic, during recovery, may provide a valuable resource in reconstruction. The villages surrounding Sandy Bay along the coast, the villages around Sisin and Santa Marta along the highway to Waspam, and the villages around the mining region seemed to be the hardest hit. Some villages had still not been heard from at the end of the second week.

Crews Prepare for Nicaragua

In the wake of Hurricane Felix

there are approximately 150,000 people in Nicaragua left with no roof over their heads and little to no hope of having one anytime soon. Tarps are being supplied as fast as they can but it will take many more days to reach everyone in such a vast area. Food and water are being dropped to the villages by helicopter as soon as it reaches the airport in Puerto Cabezas. We are currently working to deliver portable saw mills and chainsaws to Nicaragua in hope to start cutting the trees that have been blown

over by the storm. This lumber will be used to rebuild and repair homes, schools and churches. We will work with our sisters and brothers to train and support them as they learn to use this equipment.

This is where we will need to step up and send as many volunteers from North America as we can, to work in partnership with our sisters and brothers. This will be no easy job; it will be hard, dirty work, with no luxuries! You will *Continued on Page 8*

Likewise Ministries—September

Truly exciting developments are taking place in the Moravian Church BWM HIV-Aids Ministry; Likewise Ministries. Here is the scoop.....



Collaboration taking place:

On the home front, this past month *Likewise* has begun to pursue a formal relationship between the Board of World Mission, the Moravian Theological Seminary and Moravian College School of Nursing. We met on September 26 to discuss ways we could partner and enhance each other's mission.

I was invited to participate in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Consultation on HIV and AIDS. I participated in group discussions on issues affecting the ELCA's understanding and response to a Church living with HIV and AIDS. I was able to meet people in the Global Mission office of the ELCA and be-

gin discussions on ways to work together in Africa and the Latin America.

Trip Wrap-ups and Trip Planning:

I met with and/or communicated with members of the Tanzania Team that returned July 31st. I have had several meetings with Mary Kategile and Cynthia Rader-Geyer. Anne Fagge, Melissa Cox and Jessica Jelinski have been in phone and email contact. The team is working on their report.

Meanwhile, I have been planning for Likewise Ministries South African trip. Alice Sears, Carol Armstrong, Marion Perrin and I will travel to South Africa the last two weeks of November. We plan to meet with leaders of the South African church and develop partnerships that will provide opportunities for the North American Moravian Church to work side by side with those living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

Kim Bartholomew is the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the Board of World Mission Moravian Church of North America

Mission Principles: Part III

Mission Principles: Part III

Who IS the Miracle, the Minister, the Hands & Heart?

In this Mission Bible Study, we have been looking at some principles that our Lord Jesus has given us for being his hands and heart in the world. We have seen how these principles were lived out in the early church in Jerusalem, how they were applied by the apostle Paul, and how they have been incorporated into the Ground of the Unity of the Moravian Church. In the first installment, we saw that Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world. Then, we saw that, according to Jesus, we are called *in* to be sent *out* into the world to serve – both steps are important!

Now we turn to **Matthew 14:13-21**, the story that we call the “Jesus Feeds the 5,000.” But, if you read carefully, you will see that there were many more than 5,000 [the women and children were not included in this number, even though, much like today, they would have been an important presence!]. Also, technically, it wasn’t Jesus who fed the crowd; no, he said to his disciples, “you give them something to eat!”

How did the miracle happen?

- The disciples saw a need [hunger].
- They brought the need to Jesus [they said they had no resources].
- He asked them to bring what they did have [5 loaves and 2 fishes].
- He blessed it and gave it back to

them.

- *They* went out and ministered.

Now go to **Acts 4:1-7**. Evidently, the early Christians understood that this kind of ministry is for all believers and not just “the ministers” [who are *they*, anyway?]. Jesus had to make sure that the disciples understood this. In Mark 9:38-41 they saw someone *else* doing ministry and they asked Jesus to tell him to stop. Why? They said he was not “one of us!” These passages help us to ask important questions in mission and ministry: who is *they*? Who is *us*? Who are *we*?

In **I Corinthians 12:4-11**, Paul understands that the whole body of Christ [“us” or “we”] is given gifts in order to be in ministry together. There is no “*they*!” Every part is important and every gift is useful for the building up of the body.

The **Ground of the Unity** confirms this for the Moravian Church. In the “Essential Features of the Unity,” Paragraphs 4 – 6, we read that the church is given “special gifts and tasks” for ministry. In this model, individuals, congregations and even provinces are “living stones” in this wonderful building that our Lord himself is constructing!

So, what are the needs around *us*? How can *we* bring them to Jesus? What resources and special gifts has God given us for responding to these needs in mission and

A 4-Part Series

ministry? Might Jesus be blessing these gifts, giving them back to us and saying, “*You* must be the miracle. *You* must be the missionaries and the ministers. *You* must be my hands and heart!”

Rt. Rev. Samuel J. Gray, Director of Intercultural Ministries and Communication, Moravian Board of World Mission, North America

S.O.S Onward

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- contacting the ‘folding group’ (folding currently done at Ardmore Moravian), and
- getting the finished, folded Onwards to the post office.

The new Coordinator will have the freedom to ‘work’ the process as they find necessary to continue getting the mailing of the Onward out in the most efficient way possible.

The Coordinator and the Folding Committee not only run a pretty ‘tight ship’, but they do it prayerfully and joyfully. One leaves that hour of folding refreshed from coffee and fellowship.

If you are interested in taking on the position of Folding Coordinator for the Onward aka Mission Society, please contact either George Chiddie, or Sheila Beaman at the BWM office, 773-1732. All inquiries are welcome.



Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South,

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Winston-Salem NC 27108

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Renewal of God’s Presence, Together

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be asked to live as they are living until housing can be built to accommodate volunteers, tents at best. I understand that these conditions are not for everyone, but I know that a number of you are up to the task! If you feel that you are ready for such a call, please pray and ask God for His will to be done in your life and join us to help restore hope to those we will serve. If you do not have a passport, start the process, don’t wait. If you do have your passport and can go within the next 6 to 8 weeks, please contact us. Email would be the best way to contact our offices and please give some history of your skills and past service. The need for chainsaw operators is a priority at this time!

Please understand that all of the details are not final as yet, and the first few

teams will most likely lay the ground work for teams in the future as we work out the “ how things” will proceed. Just know that these people need help now! !

All for now, I will be waiting to hear from you and may our Lord bless you to be a blessing as you step out in faith to serve Him and Humanity, In His service together,

Kevin Frack

Mark Ebert, Director of Volunteer Ministries

Update to the Update..... The prospect of long-term assistance is being examined, including a youth response ministry. Kevin Frack will be returning to Nicaragua this month to facilitate communication for the BWM.

BWM Office 336-773-1732

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