

O N W A R D

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Labrador Camp: God Transcends All Barriers

*God in my living, therein my breathing,
God in my waking, God in my sleeping,
God in my resting. There in my working,
God in my thinking, God in my speaking.
Be my everything, Be my everything, Be
my everything, Be my everything.*

By Tim Hughes

Having worked in Christian Education for almost 20 years, it is a precious moment to see the a-ha! moment in the face of child or a youth when they catch the first glimpse of their own personal value to Jesus and the world. Our trip to Happy Valley, Labrador was much like that....., times 28. The mission: to plan and implement a camping experience for the youth of several remote communities of Labra-

dor including Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Makkovik, Hopedale, and Nain. The team from the states was George Tasedan, myself, Tim Byerly, and two youth from Calvary Moravian; Hannah Biggam and Mircea Radu, led by Russell Winfield, a retired stockbroker-turned-missionary from the British Province who had spent the past year working in the coastal communities.

Of the 16 days spent, the first week was about preparing supplies for the camp and gathering all resources together. Amongst all that, George, with Mircea's assistance, conducted six hours of soccer clinic for the community youth. Over 150 kids were reached with the Gospel over two days through the game of soccer!



The stunning beauty of the campgrounds of Gosling Lake provided the setting, barely providing a glimpse of the true harshness of the environment. Although we didn't see much of the caribou, wolves, and loon, or even Canadian geese (I guess they were vacationing in N.C.), one couldn't miss the impeccable

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Mission Project To Provide Clean Water In Honduras

Most of us seldom stop to think about our abundant supply of clean water. Yet for many people in La Mosquitia, Honduras, much of the water available for their use comes from contaminated sources. The Mission Society is partnering with Ray Griggs in Honduras to develop a clean water small business which will provide education about clean water, drill wells, teach well maintenance, and share God's love. In addition to knowing the language and having some understanding of the culture of the Mosquito people, Ray has a mission calling to find ways to improve the lives of these people.

The following is the written proposal for the Clean Water Project coordinated by Charles Nienow and Esther Tesh. This is Part One of Two.

Purpose and Description

This proposal is for a well-drilling mission project to make clean water more readily available to the people of La Mosquitia, Honduras. The purpose of this Clean Water Project is to educate people regarding the need for clean water, to drill wells for people who lack a source for clean water, to teach the recipients of a new well about maintenance of the well and the pump, and to share God's love. The Mission Society of the

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Next Issue:
Due to the volume of exciting mission news this summer, Mission Principles: Part II will be in the October issue of **Onward**. Hang on to your hats... the Youth In Mission Summit Report will also be included.

A Message From Our President: A Laurel Ridge Experience

*It's raining all around me . . . I can feel it, it's the latter rain . . . Ride on Jesus,
Please send more rain . . . Until we are wet, until we are soaked . . . In the latter rain*



Anyone who has been at Senior High camp at Laurel Ridge from 2005 to 2007 can share the impact of this chorus, introduced by the counselors from Jamaica. In fact, it has probably been the most popular chorus during this period, so much so that it was the closing song for camp in 2006, and got the most enthusiastic reception of any song performed in 2007.

This was just one of the many ways that Maxine and Aaron Panther, O'Neal Clarke, Simone Stewart and Rajesh Crawford have made a positive impact on the Laurel Ridge camp experience. The vision of having an exchange program with the Jamaica Province started six years ago with M-Staffer, councilors and campers coming to Laurel Ridge. Over the past six years work teams (youth and adults) have been going down to Jamaica to

help with the restoration of Camp Hope (Jamaica equivalent of Laurel Ridge). It is envisioned that the real exchange will start next year when Camp Hope is expected to reopen. The spiritual impact of these cross cultural exchanges has changed many lives.

In the small groups that Maxine and Aaron have led, several campers have made commitments to serve the Lord by attending Seminary. The Panthers feel that God has given them this opportunity to spread His love and joy among the young people at camp. This is their mission field.

God's love is raining all around us, sometimes it takes diversity to open our eyes to what God want us to do. In June a group of twenty-five youth and adults from Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin went down to Camp Hope to help in its restoration. This was one

of their most inspiring mission trips because the young people were exposed to cultural differences that allowed them to see that we are all Gods children with a common bond. Those who are missioned will be future missionaries.

Coming Events:

- Sept. 1st—Feet First Youth In Mission Summit-Laurel Springs, NC
- 550th August 13th Festival Communion and Lovefeast – Bethabara Moravian on August 13, 2007
- 550 Celebration – Mission Lovefeast. Will be held at Wait Chapel at Wake Forest University on November 4th, 2007

*Evon Crooks, President,
Mission Society, Southern Province*

Ten Hours of Dirt Roads; the ends justify the means

Africa is so beautiful. The weather has been just perfect, about 75 to 80 degrees each day with a light breeze. We have traveled quite a bit in the last week. First we went to Mwanza. Mwanza is an urban center located on the coast of Lake Victoria. To reach Mwanza we drove 10 hours over dirt roads. The trip was long, hot and dusty. However, the ends justified the means.

Mwanza is beautiful. While in the city we took day trips to several villages. I was struck by the number of small groups of people coming together to live in a village in the middle of nowhere. Most of the outlying villages have no electricity, running water, or means of travel except by foot of course. Each day that we returned to our hotel, I found myself feeling sad for the people we

left behind. Poverty, hunger, HIV/AIDS, and death are dealt with everyday. With that said, the people are warm and welcoming. They share their faith through music and hospitality. God can be seen and felt here.

"Although we are tired, being with the people energizes us, and we draw strength from one another."

We returned to Tabora for one night and then traveled to Sikonge. Sikonge is so very beautiful, a paradise if it were not for the many orphans (2800) and HIV/AIDS

infected. We arrived in Sigonke during a food distribution. The food was little and the need so great. I can hardly believe that a family of six or seven can survive on the small amount of corn given. We were treated royally. Great food and a lot of it, every bit was difficult for us to each knowing that so many are going hungry. Again the people have such

strong faith. Worship is full of joy and hospitality. There is so much need and yet there is so much warmth.

We returned to Tabora today and will leave for Mbeya tomorrow. I'll be there for just one day while the rest of the team will stay until the end of the month. I'm looking forward to seeing you all when I return. Please keep praying. Our team knows that our time has been successful here because of all the prayers being prayed on our behalf. Although we are tired, being with the people energizes us, and we draw strength from one another. Anne, Jessie, Mary and I get along so well, God gave each of us different personalities and gifts that all fit together. We thank God each day for one another and for all of you who are praying for us.

Cynthia Rader Geyer pastors College Hill Moravian Bethlehem, Pa., with her husband, David Geyer.

Labrador Camp: God Transcends All Barriers *Continued from Page 1*

hospitality, the Inuksuk, the influence of the Moravians, and the absorbing culture of the Inuit. In conversations with Zipora Tuttu Hunter, mother of our host, her church and her family, a great respect for the life of the Inuit ancestor began to take shape for us.

With the prayers for good weather of many congregations behind them (weather is crucial in their lives), twenty-eight youth left their communities to come to camp; each child with a healthy dose of energy, their individual culture, their own image of God, and a

“wall” of some sort.

My journal reads, “Thank you Lord Jesus for each one here today for camp. You have each one here for a purpose - may it be to bring them closer to You.” It goes on..., “Father-I feel unprepared for this-almost unqualified to be here ministering to these children. They all have special needs-are special & unique in your eyes. Help me Lord to open Your light to them.”

God systematically did just that. The camp experience brought Bible study, worship, reflection, and a host of recreational opportunities, a lot of them “first-times”, to the kids. By Day 2 of camp (Monday), the journal reads..., “Praise the Lord Jesus! Wow-what a day. We opened in worship; kids reluctant, but curious!” The day

focused on who God is: awesome, beautiful, “wicked”, wow.” As I shared with the youth that day being in awe of their “snow” stories, ... as each snowflake is uniquely created (for which they have their annual share of), they are each more-specially hand-made, designed for a grand purpose.

By Day 3, the journal reflects a change. It was a joy to see the kids show “the child” in themselves; an openness and vulnerability that wasn’t there two days ago. It was clear that the leaders and God had their attention and HE was totally

in control. Praise God we have five more days with these adolescents. We thoughtfully gave out cross necklaces to the kids, and much to our joy, they wore them

throughout the remainder of the week, including volleyball, and swimming. Our youth, Hannah and Mircea, noted that they felt little if any obstacles in relating and communicating with the Labradoran youth despite crucial differences in their cultures.

By the evening of Day 7, the “plan” was for leaders to give out gifts and share our special moments of the week about the kids, and then later, party with a musical picture presentation of the week, hot chocolate and popcorn. The plan that prevailed was most of that coupled with literally sometimes sobbing tears by almost everyone. My final journal entry reads, “I wanted to sob as giving these children up was going to be difficult. They are in your beautiful hands Lord.” Although solid relationships had been formed throughout the week, it was clear the kids found God in an entirely new way; a way that would carry them for the rest of their lives.

... it was clear the kids found God in an entirely new way; a way that would carry them for the rest of their lives.



It was our feeling as a team that they had needed to witness and experience love in a new way; free from some of the darkness that looms in any society, although they experience a great deal of isolation living in Labrador; especially in the coastal communities.

In praying for these youth, as they are “the NOW of the church”, we can pray for:

- God’s continued movement in their lives,
- Moravians willing to continue assisting the Labrador church wherever needed, and
- God to raise up Labradoran leadership in the church.



Glenna Tasedan is an M.Div. student of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Intern to the Board of World Mission. Her husband George, is a Soccer Director of Coaches and carpenter.



Prayer Focus

Luawa-Yiehun Community Church



A Church Out-grown Before It Is Completed—Sierra Leone

Safiatu and Mohamed Braima came to the United States over 30 years ago. They were Muslims when they came here. They became believers in Jesus and members of the Little Church on the Lane. They worked, studied and Mohamed completed 4 years of seminary training to become a pastor while working two jobs. All this preparation was in planning to return to their village in Sierra Leone to evangelize their friends and family and to serve the people there in the name of Jesus.

This was not a decision made lightly or easily. They enjoyed their family here, their church family and the many modern conveniences we take for granted. Mohamed felt a great deal of conflict about how he would be received if he witnessed to older Muslims with the truth of Jesus with-

out offending their historical religion. They had started a Bible study /church group in Freetown when they were there two years before. That group continues to grow and to support the church in Luawa-Yiehun. The marvelous part of this story is in how God opened doors of support and hearts of people who have become involved in the building and supporting a library which is better equipped than any other in the country and a church which may be out grown before it is completed.

People here have been praying for this ministry while people there were praying for someone to bring revival to their lifeless churches. It has been amazing to hear the stories of the response to the simple love of Jesus.

Safiatu and Mohamed are back in the United States because they need to raise enough money to build a school so that

the children do not have to walk as much as 10-15 miles to school. They already have as many as 100 children attending

Sunday school. The people are so glad to have this rapidly growing ministry that the village has contributed the land for all of the buildings including a parsonage, when they get around to thinking of themselves for once.

There is so much more to tell about this ministry. Please invite them to come and speak to your church or mission organization. A more complete report can be mailed if you will send me a SASE. (Helen Gullede, 3945 Langhorne Ave, Charlotte, NC 28205).

The Braimas will be speaking at Fairview Moravian Church in Winston Salem on September 23. For more info, contact the Little Church on the Lane.

Wisconsin Mission Workshop

Do you have good ideas for mission outreach? Then you have a gift to share. Are you looking for some good ideas? You can find some. On September 7th-9th, 2007, the Southern Wisconsin Moravians for Mission (SWMM) and the Bay Area Mission Society (BAMS) are sponsoring a workshop at the Mount Morris Moravian Camp and Conference Center of Wautoma, WI . for building mission programs. All congregations and provinces are welcome to attend.

Special guest, Loren Jendro, will be participating. All pastors and lay persons interested in energizing their existing missions program, developing their own personal ministry, looking for new ideas, hearing challenges, and gathering information should attend. Contact Dave Schrader at 920-854-5218 david.schrader@marquette.edu

Clean Water Project *Continued from Page 1*

Moravian Church, South is the project sponsor. It will handle project funds and it will partner with Ray Griggs, who will manage this project as a well-drilling small business venture.

A strong emphasis will be placed on the continued functioning of the wells drilled. Every effort will be made to promote feelings of ownership among the recipients of a new well. Individuals need to request to have a well drilled and must pay for its installation. If an individual can afford to pay the full cost of the well and pump, he or she will be expected to do so. In addition, groups of families or an entire village in need may request to have a group well drilled. When such a well is drilled, if the families are unable to pay the full cost of the well, up to 50% of the cost of a group well may be funded by this project. Individuals who receive a well, or select individuals in the case of a group well, must learn about well and pump maintenance. Such an investment of money

and time should lead to stronger feelings of ownership and to a greater likelihood that the recipient will successfully maintain the well over time.

Rationale for Clean Water Project

For those of us with an abundant source of clean water, it is easy to take such a precious commodity for granted. However, as Christians we are encouraged to reach outside our comfort zone and to minister to individuals in need by sharing our resources. We read Jesus words in Matthew 25:35, I was "thirsty and you gave me a drink." And in Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, "Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." Funding a Clean Water Project provides a concrete, practical way to share our resources to help our brothers and our sisters in La Mosquitia while sharing God's love. By partner

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Coordinator: Helen Gulledge

Pray Everyday Day

September 2007

1. Father, We pray for the youth from around the global Unity attending the Feet First Youth In Mission Summit. Bring them closer to you and bless the existing and emerging ministries of these young people.

2. **Sunday**-Father, thank you for the many gifted and talented men and women who shepherd your sheep as they serve as pastors in our churches. Strengthen them, renew them, and encourage them to continue in the work of their calling.

3. Loving Father, speak words of encouragement to those lost, lonely, and hurting. Send to them those who can address their needs. Use us, your people, to assist you direct.

4. Father, may each one of us come to realize that "missions work" is a responsibility for all gathered in Christ. As we look into mirrored-images, may we see clearly the face of the one Christ is calling to do His work.

5. Father, bless richly those taking part in the newly established Heart-to-Heart Ministries. May the work of their mission and purpose touch the hearts of those to whom you send them.

6. Master, we are thankful for the gift of music that is so much a part of our rich heritage. May the love of Christ be alive as witness in the music we share with others.

7. Father, although Christian first, we thank you for the rich heritage of our Moravian faith. As Christians, as Moravians, let us be about the work of serving others as you call us to do.

8. Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings upon those who serve as Stephen Ministers in congregations. Bless those who have accepted this "hands and feet", "cup of cold water" ministry.

9. **Sunday**-bless those who will gather this morning to worship you, praise you, and seek your guidance for their lives. May your spirit fall upon them, enrich them, and challenge them to go forward in greater service.

10. Father, this day of great celebration for the Moravian Unity, bless all who serve you in Christ's name. May the works of this great faith group continue to serve those you call us to.

11. Merciful Father, bless the efforts of those who are working together to overcome the damaging effects of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. Bless medical and missionary personnel as they seek to bring aid and comfort to these, your people.

12. Father, challenge our hearts to give more of ourselves to those who are hurting. Across the street, or across the ocean, let us be ever mindful of those in need.

13. Father, Thank you for missionaries near and far, trained and untrained, professional and lay-member, past and present, etc. May your richest blessings be upon those who so dutifully answer your call to spread the Gospel.

14. Father, bless those who lead the Moravian faith denomination to be about the work we are called to do. Bless our bishops, leaders, and pastors as they dutifully serve as called.

15. Father, there are those who are physically unable to attend regular worship services. Help us not to neglect these faithful followers. Help us to carry the message to them.

16. **Sunday**-Master, our rich heritage of music has spoken mag-

nificently to others over the years, and has been effective in sharing your love with them. May the music of our worship services today continue in that tradition.

17. Father, speak to our hearts the quiet personal challenge to go forward, beyond our zones of comfort, to serve as you call us to serve. May each one hear your soft voice.

18. Father, on this most special day of remembrance for those first Moravian missionaries, let us vow to continue in the work they established. Challenge us to go forth with the same faith they exhibited.

19. Master Teacher, richly bless those of the 2007 Seminary graduating class who are now going forth to put their skills and faith into action.

20. Magnificent Healer, be ever-present with those who do front-line battle with HIV/AIDS. Through research, education, and your guiding hand, may this horrible disease soon come to be known as a conquered foe.

21. Father, thank you for Christian parents who treasure their young ones. Encourage, strengthen and guide them as they provide comfort and care to these...your priceless treasures.

22. Father, the call to missions work falls upon each one of us and begins as closely as with the neighbor next door. Whether going forth with a casserole, cup of cold water, or word of encouragement, let us be about the work you call us to.

23. **Sunday**-We praise you for the collaboration between Hope Moravian and the Mission Society to provide housing for visiting missionaries.

24. Pray for the Bulgares natives (only a few are Christian) and the Wycliffe Bible Translators who are working to translate the Bible for them in their remote area of Panama.

25. Happy Birthday Oak Grove Moravian Church (1887). Pray that Rev. Matthew Allen and the congregation will be blessed and will continue to be a blessing in this world.

26. On this day in 1765, the first Moravian missionaries arrived in Barbados. Today, pray that God will bless the many Moravians who live on that beautiful Caribbean island and will make them soul winners for the Lamb.

27. Pray for Charity, Kevin, Charlie & Vickie Brent, and Michael & Brenda Brent who are serving with Campus Crusade. Ask God to bring many young people into their ministries.

28. Pray for George Goff who flies a mission plane into the deepest areas of Honduras to take people to the Moravian hospital. Praise God for George's loving pastoral care.

29. Pray for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima's missionary efforts in Sierra Leone. Praise God for the many open doors he has provided and for the lives that have been added to the lamb's Book of Life through their loving ministry.

30. **Sunday**-Father, as we draw this calendar month to a close, may we express our thanks and gratefulness to you for the many wonderful blessings bestowed upon us. "Thank you" for loving us!

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Next Month: Report on Feet First Youth In Mission Summit

Clean Water Project *Continued from Page 4*

ing with Ray Griggs to develop a well-drilling small business project, we not only make available the means to supply clean water to people in need, we also create another avenue for Brother Griggs to reach people spiritually as he talks with them. Just as the medical missionary who provides for the health care of people is given a wonderful opening to share God's love with those who seek care, so this project can provide an opening for Brother Griggs and others to share God's word with persons who are led to ask to have a well drilled.

If you talk with Brother Griggs, he will readily tell you that a lack of good, clean drinking water is still "one of the major limiting factors to health, good education, and even a positive economic situation in the Mosquitia of Honduras". A Fact Sheet provided by WaterPartners International, which builds

water system and sewer projects in developing countries (including Honduras), makes similar points. WaterPartners says that in rural areas of the developing world, approximately 60-70% of the population has neither access to safe and convenient sources of water nor a satisfactory means of waste disposal. With the lack of such amenities, WaterPartners finds that better than 60% of major diseases in these areas are water and sanitation related.

In a number of instances, whole villages in La Mosquitia lack clean water. Many villagers still use a river or a nearby stream as their primary source of water. These water sources are often polluted and they may carry organisms which cause

End of Part 1. Part 2 next month.

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