

# BWM NEWS

*As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” John 20:21b*

## New BWM Executive Director

This month we welcome Justin Rabbach to the position of Executive Director of the Board of World Mission. Justin is no stranger to Moravian mission, having worked since 2014 as the BWM Director of Mission Engagement, equipping and resourcing our churches in mission. He has participated in and led teams in global mission and has spent time in Tegucigalpa, Honduras as part of his



University studies in International Public Affairs. In his current position, Justin has also been instrumental in re-designing the BWM (continued, p. 2)



## Meetings in Labrador

In October, BWM Executive Director, Judy Ganz, and Director of Intercultural Ministries and New Work, Sam Gray, traveled to the village of Nain, on the north coast of Labrador, to meet with representatives of the Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador (MCNL). The town is named after the New Testament village where Jesus performed his first life-giving miracle, and the name means (in Hebrew) “green pastures” or “lovely.” It was a blessing to spend time in this lovely town meeting with many lovely people!

At the Board Meeting of the MCNL Mission Province, chaired by Sister Sarah Jensen, Judy and Sam heard reports of the work of the church in Happy Valley, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain. Information concerning finances and statistics as well as the joys and struggles of each congregation were shared.

The Moravian Church in Labrador faces some of the same challenges that faced by other churches throughout North America: declining attendance and membership, the need for deeper commitment, the loss of many older “pillars” of the congregations, the need to reach out to more youth and young adults, etc. The church also seeks to find ways to maintain the balance between, on the one hand, honoring and celebrating its

**Executive Director (cont)**

response for disaster relief that has been invaluable for our efforts in the recent hurricanes, especially in Texas and the Virgin Islands. He developed a summer intern program for building young adult leadership in our congregations, with periodic mission gatherings for learning together and sharing of mission experiences.

Justin will be training with Judy Ganz through December and take the full reins in January. He can be reached at: [justin@moravianmission.org](mailto:justin@moravianmission.org)

Please keep the BWM in your prayers during this transition.

**Nepal**

The school in Nepal needs to add a Grade 3 class room estimated to cost \$5,000, with the goal to complete the project by March 2018 as the new academic session begins in May. The class room would be constructed above the green stair case and terrace below.



Support for this project can be sent to the Board of World Mission, Bethlehem office.

heritage and, on the other hand, remaining relevant in its current cultural context.

In the midst of discussions concerning our mutual challenges, there were some “lovely” signs of hope. One of these signs of hope is, of course... the Rev. Beatrice Hope! (pictured) The Labrador Mission Province has identified “leadership training” and “leadership development” as a high priority. There are numerous church leaders identified as Chapel Servants, Elders, Lay Ministers and Acolytes. It is a blessing for the church to have the leadership of Sister Hope, who is serving the Happy Valley congregation.



Sister Linda Saunders-McLean is also pursuing studies to prepare her for continued ministry in the church.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that an important role that BWM can play in its partnership with Labrador is to facilitate retreats and workshops for pastoral and ministerial training and development. Bishop Paul Graf visits annually to provide spiritual guidance. Sam Gray will serve as the liaison between MCNL and Labrador as plans move forward.

There are more signs of hope:

- One is the church’s willingness to look beyond itself. A Hurricane Relief Fund was set up in response to the recent storms in the Caribbean and the U.S., and some of the proceeds from Harvest Sales and other activities have been designated to help people in other parts of the world.
- Sister Beatrice Hope reaches out beyond the church to people in Happy Valley through a ministry at the Long-Term Care and Correctional Centers. Her ministry and music are a blessing!
- Conversations are beginning with Moravians in Calgary, Alberta, concerning the possibility of partnering to present a Bible School in the summer of 2018.
- Sam and Judy met three young women who are excited about helping with children’s ministry in Nain. The MCNL Board is very pleased with their willingness to serve and will look for ways to be supportive of their ministry.

**Labrador (cont)**

Carl and Laura Sonnichsen (Baptist missionaries in Happy Valley) expressed their gratitude for the ministry of the Moravian Church in Labrador. Laura said that when they have the opportunity to attend worship services at the Moravian Church in Happy Valley, she always feels a sense of peace and comfort – the presence of God's Spirit. God continues to work through faithful women and men, not only in the "lovely" village of Nain, but throughout all of Labrador. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers.

*Bishop Sam Gray*

**Sierra Leone**

Mohamed and Safie Braima are extremely grateful for the provision of a new Toyota "built-for-African-roads" truck that they will take them between Freetown and their village. Some of the roads en route can have mud that is thigh-high and very difficult to traverse. They will now have safe and dependable travel not only to Freetown, but between all of the villages where five churches/ fellowships have been started. The Sierra Leone Mission would welcome any donations to help replace some of the \$45k needed for this vehicle.

The Sierra Leone Mission also has the goal of having a radio station in place for better sharing the gospel. The tower has already been built. They still need:

1. a solar system to power the station;
2. a special air conditioner system to cool the transmitters;
3. a small building to house the studio and equipment;
4. people with radio or radio equipment experience to provide additional guidance for this exciting project.

Anyone interested in helping with these needs can send donations designated for Sierra Leone directly to Little Church on the Lane, 522 Moravian Lane, Charlotte, NC 28207. Persons with radio experience can contact Jeff Fulp at [jeffreypulp@msn.com](mailto:jeffreypulp@msn.com). He would welcome your expertise!



Representing the Northern, Southern, & Alaska Provinces,  
& the Unity of Brethren in Texas

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