



Unity Information Newsletter

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Newsletter from Mbozi, Tanzania by Jens Marcus Albrecht

Since the summer of 2019, Br. Jens Marcus Albrecht, a trauma surgeon from Niesky in Germany, has been working in the "Mbozi Mission Hospital" of the Moravian Church in Tanzania (South Western Province). He now he has written his first newsletter. He reports about his Swahili language course in Zanzibar, about his first operation on August 16, 2019, about the compilation of 15 different trauma sets needed for operations, about further operations (elbow, kneecap, thigh, tibial plateau) and about the instructions for local staff members how to do a good preparation of the operations. In September 2019 he travelled to Germany once again to bring his wife Katharina and his son Noah to Mbozi.

1st Sunday of Advent on the Star Mountain (Rehabilitation Center in Palestine)

On December 2, 2019, the first Advent celebration ~~of this year~~ took place at the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center. Although such celebrations have been taking place for some years now, they are by no means routine for the children and young people with disabilities. Everyone – from kindergarten children to graduates of vocational training – gathered in the assembly hall to begin the Advent season with the Lutheran pastor Imad Haddad. Singing, praying and a short address filled the worship part of the celebration. Afterwards there were presentations and joyful dances to Christmas carols. This year, for the first time, local representatives were invited to this joyful event.

First Large Nativity Scene on Star Mountain, Palestine

Integrated into the sloping terrain of Star Mountain (Arabic: "Dschebel Enischmi"), which is criss-crossed by long terraces, a large nativity scene was built for the first time in December 2019. It goes without saying that a yellow Moravian Advent Star shines above the crib. The nativity scene is an attraction for the children and young people with disabilities who are cared for in the "Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center" of the worldwide Moravian Church. Perhaps it will also develop into an attraction for people from the surrounding area, whether they are of Christian or Muslim faith. The fields of Bethlehem, the site of the depicted event, are only about 45 kilometers away from the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre.

Seminar Day for One-parent Women in Nzovwe, Tanzania

Sis. Mary L. Kategile, the Chairperson of the Women's Department of the Moravian South Western Province is a committed and inspiring person for women and girls in Tanzania and - through her involvement in events in the worldwide Moravian Church – far beyond. Recently she turned her attention to a group of people who receive little public attention and support in their home country: single young mothers. A seminar for this target group, held in the Nzovwe Moravian Church in a district of Mbeya, focused on personal self-realization, ways of securing a livelihood (entrepreneurship) and finding ways to follow Jesus Christ.

Nicaragua in the collections of the of the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany

The first missionary venture of the 19th century was the start of the missionary work on the Miskito Coast, the eastern coast of today's Nicaragua. The impulse for this did not come from within the

Moravian Church, but from the Saxon Prince Otto Victor I of Schönburg-Waldenburg. In 1848, the first three missionaries, Heinrich Gottlob Pfeiffer, Johannes Eugen Lundberg and Ernst Kandler, travelled from Jamaica to Bluefields and began there with the work. The 24th Newsletter of the Unity Archive of December 5, 2019, provides information about its holdings on Nicaragua. In addition to some files from the early days of the mission work, the holdings mainly contain serial files: diaries, minutes, correspondence, annual reports and accounts.

European Continental Province: Allocation for Carbon Offset Payments

Climate compensations payments for necessary official flight of staff members of the European Continental Province in the period from November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019 amount to 360 Euro (400 US\$). The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province decided to allocate this sum to the reforestation project of the Moravian Church in Sumbawanga (Tanzania, Rukwa province). During the same period climate compensations payments for the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe (Moravian Mission Society in Germany) added up to 840 (930 US\$). The board of the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe was recommended to invest this amount in the management and conservation of the forest around Star Mountain in Palestine, which is extraordinarily valuable in terms of nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

Report from the Work in Malawi

The agricultural expert Sis. Claudia Zeising has arrived in Germany for her Christmas vacation after three months of service in the Malawi Province. During a short meeting in Bad Boll, she told about her work, which mainly consists of setting up and accompanying women's groups. She also initiated a training program for women and gathered some multipliers around her. Besides the work with and for women, health work is also very important. In Malawi HIV/AIDS is still a taboo topic and therefore a great danger for the families. Helpful for the first contact with the women's groups was the fact that Claudia Zeising was partly accompanied by the Tanzanian HIV/AIDS activist Sis. Melania Mrema Kyando.

Children in Sumbawanga, Tanzania Appreciate Volunteers

The orphans as well as the children from difficult social backgrounds, who are usually cared for for several years in the "Peter's House" on the outskirts of Sumbawanga (Tanzania, Rukwa province), are happy to have young volunteers with whom they can romp and play, but who also ensure order and discipline and pass on their knowledge. At the same time the children make the young people from Europe familiar with their way of life in Africa. Mutual learning is the aim of the volunteer programme of Danish Moravian Mission. For two decades now, the organisation has sent five or six volunteers to Tanzania twice a year.

Confirmation at Spring Gardens Moravian Church, Antigua, EWI

A post from the service on November 24, 2019 in the Springgarden Moravian Church in Antigua reads: "Today, we witnessed our confirmands make their commitments publically to Christ. We also celebrated Sis. Ernestine Terry a confirmation class teacher since 1981. She has touched so many lives and generations. It's amazing how much of an impact one person can make." "It was also a pleasure to have JCI Antigua – Jaycees (JCI: Junior Chamber International is non-political and non-sectarian youth service organization) with us as well for our confirmation Sunday."

Boat Accident in the Lagoon of Sandy Bay / Nicaragua

In the lagoon of Sandy Bay at the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, a boat accident occurred some time back, on November 19, 2019, in which a Moravian family of Uskira was involved. Sis. Malinda Martínez Band (48), the wife of the boat captain, could only be recovered dead from the waters by a search party the day after the accident. The family was looking for driftwood, which was needed for the preparation of a meal for the congregation following a service in the church of Sandy Bay. The disaster

was triggered by a storm during the passage of a cold front. The drowned couple's husband, Rubén Salta Flores (50), and son-in-law, Walestka Knighth Coll (32), survived the accident.

"Moravian Women's Union of Ladakh" Registered, North India

Br. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Board Administrator and Sr. Roberta Hoey, Chair person of the British Mission Board, can report a pleasing development. At the end of October 2019 they were guests with the Moravians in Leh, Shey and Khalatse and in the small new school in Chiktan with mainly Sunni Muslims students. In 2017 the sisters from these communities joined together to form the "Moravian Women's Union in Ladakh". Now they registered them with the state. Their objections to this were dispelled by the Buddhist Women's Union. Now the Moravian women meet regularly with the Buddhist and Muslim women for exchange.

North American "Board of World Mission" Focusses on Projects

The North American "Board of World Mission is changing its system of support. The partners' large budget subsidies are being reduced, instead investments are being made in sustainable small projects with so-called "Mission Grants". Several success stories from Honduras, Peru, Sierra Leone and Western Tanzania show the positive effects of such an investment. The main focus in the allocation of "Mission Grants" is on promoting leadership, strengthening the economic basis of the work and activities to further expand the mission work in the country concerned. The new system also enables very targeted fundraising.

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