

MISSION MESSAGE

Official Newsletter of the Board of World Mission



Engage with the Board of World Mission This Year!

We have lots of plans for this new year... Here are just a few dates for your calendar:



Learn more about these opportunities at MoravianMission.org/Events/



BWM Hiring Summer Intern



The Board of World Mission is seeking applicants for our summer internship program. This is a 12-15 week, paid internship position. Interns have the opportunity to engage deeply with the ministries of the BWM and the wider church throughout the course of the summer. Opportunities for engagement are flexible based on the intern's interests and availability, but may include supporting other BWM staff members at in-person events like Convo, mission camps, summer camps, and more, as well as projects that can be completed remotely, like creating content for our social media pages and website to help tell the stories of our global partners, supporting the sustainability of our work by assisting with grant applications, creating new resources for congregations and mission teams, or diving into the administrative side of nonprofit work through data entry. The position may include international travel if our BWM summer calendar allows and the intern has interest.

Please reach out to Director of Communications and Development Sylvie Hauser at sylvie@moravianmission.org or (920)495-8995 with any questions about the position or the hiring process... and help us to share this posting with anyone you feel would be a good fit for the role!

Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Learn more and apply at MoravianMission.org (scan QR code).



March 4th: Moravian Day of Giving

The Moravian Ministries Foundation is hosting the fifth annual Moravian Day of Giving on Tuesday, March 4th. **Make a contribution to the Board of World Mission on that day at the MMFA Giving Portal** (at MMFA.com) and you will help us to unlock an additional \$2,500 for global ministry!

May 14-20: Mt. Morris Service Camp

The BWM, together with the staff of Mt. Morris Camp in Wautoma, Wisconsin, invites volunteers to join together in preparation for our 2025 Moravian camping ministries and other summer programming. Service camp will be held May 14-20, 2025; you are invited to come and go as you are able!

There is no cost to attend service camp; meals and lodging will be provided for the volunteers. More info will follow regarding project details. In past years, groups have done everything from staining cabins, repairing the deck on Arrowhead, cleaning cabins, clearing brush, and more. Contact Dan Miller to register (dan@moravianmission.org).

July 2-7: Youth Convo

Convo is a tradition that youth and young adults in the Moravian Church have enjoyed since 1957. **The 2025 Youth Convo will be hosted by the BWM in Miami, Florida, for high schoolers (anyone completing grades 9-12 in 2025).** Program will be led by the Rev. Dan Miller, BWM Director of Mission Service. Registration is OPEN! More information can be found at MoravianMission.org/Convo/.

Theme: MIA (Mission in Action): Come and see how the Moravian Church has been a church with an active mission. Find out where the Church might be MIA or missing in action today. Discover how we, individually and together, can put God's Mission into Action today.

Two more dates for your calendar:

- **March 3 (7pm ET):** Convo info session via Zoom (link at MoravianMission.org/Convo/).
- **May 23: Final day to register for Convo!**

September 7th: Door County Century Ride



You are invited to join the Board of World Mission in showing the world that **we're in it for the long haul!** As we consider the good work that has been made possible by forward-thinking Moravians' past investment in ministries around the world, we seek to show that same commitment. So, for one day and one day only, the Board of World Mission is raising funds for the ministries that will be happening a CENTURY from now! And you can be part of it by spending a day of fun in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin, at the Door County Century Ride on September 7th, 2025! Train for a 30-, 50-, 70-, or 100-mile bike ride and raise funds for the Board of World Mission along the way... Together we'll pedal toward a future of lasting ministry and global outreach!

September 14th: Moravian Day of Service

Save the date! This annual Day of Service raises awareness of the importance of mission work in our Moravian faith, encourages congregations to think of new ways to make a difference in their communities, and demonstrates our desire to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Congregations serve in a variety of ways each year.

Receive a Daily Prayer from Amy!

BWM Director of Mission Engagement the Rt. Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman will be sending daily prayers via email. To receive them in your inbox, email amy@moravianmission.org.

2025 Synod of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua

In late January, BWM Executive Director Justin Rabbach and Unity Board Administrator Rev. Jørgen Bøytler attended the Synod of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua. This gathering marked the culmination of several years of hard work by a commission focused on bringing reconciliation to the church after a period of division.

The Synod took a huge step forward in the reconciliation process as it elected a single unified board to bring the previously divided groups together. Rev. Alfredo Joiner was elected as President and Rev. Fredimil Muller Urbina as Vice-President, and their commitment to reconciliation will be important as the church looks to the future.

The new Provincial Board shared this message following the Synod: "On behalf of the Moravians of Nicaragua, we trust that the Lord Jesus Christ, the elder of our Church, will always be our guide and that his grace will accompany us in this new historical stage, as well as the accompaniment of all our brothers and sisters who always support us, share their blessings and prayers." This moment marks a new chapter for the Moravian Church in Nicaragua, built on reconciliation and shared hope.



The newly elected Provincial Board of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua.

Mission Grants

In 2024, the BWM disbursed over \$140,000 (more than ever before!!) in support of worthy projects throughout the Unity. Thank you for your support of our mission grants program! Here are just a few of the projects funded in 2024:

Speech & Occupational Therapy in Palestine

Through our mission grants program, the Board of World Mission has sponsored the speech therapy program at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center annually since 2021, and began sponsoring the occupational therapy program in 2023. These programs are more important than ever, as Star Mountain provides a calm and caring environment for people with intellectual disabilities to learn and grow even as conflict continues in the region. While the war has not directly threatened Star Mountain, the families they serve have been impacted by job loss and transportation challenges related to the ongoing conflict.

Ovens in Honduras

A bakery project in Ahuas came about when church leaders recognized that, without any local bakery, families in the village have relied on



processed versions of daily staples. There are many women throughout the village who have significant knowledge in baking but they lack economic support, technical instruments, and the other resources that they would need to develop their skills and financially support themselves. The Provincial Board has coordinated with representatives of the women's associations in local Moravian congregations to establish a board of directors, which monitors the cleanliness of the facility and ensures that the bakery is meeting the needs of the community. This self-sustaining "Manna Ministry" began with a mission grant in 2023, and an additional grant in 2024 provided ovens to expand the project into several churches.

Teacher Scholarships in Sierra Leone

A mission grant for the Moravian education ministries in Sierra Leone provide funds for a principal and a teacher to complete a three-year certification program. The Moravian Secondary School in Ngiehun serves over 600 students and achieves among the highest National Board Examinations scores in the country. One significant blessing from this ministry is that it is one of the only schools in the area teaching female students, so they can live at home and attend school in their own community instead of traveling away to live with a host family as they attend school in another town.

The Rev. Dan Miller Joins the BWM Staff

The Board of World Mission is excited to welcome the Rev. Dan Miller to our staff in February as the Director of Mission Service. Dan grew up in Lake Mills, Wisconsin and from early on was active in his local church and other Moravian ministries. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and his Masters of Divinity from Moravian Theological Seminary. Dan's first career was as a junior high and high school math teacher in the Wisconsin public school system. He moved out to Pennsylvania to attend seminary while also serving as the student pastor for College Hill Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and a chaplain intern for the Reading Health System in Reading, Pennsylvania. Dan has served as the pastor of Edgeboro Moravian Church since 2016. He has been involved in the ministry of the Board of World Mission for many years, serving on our board of directors since 2019 and as the vice chair since 2022. Both he and his wife, Beth, currently reside in Bethlehem. In his spare time, Dan can be found playing his bass guitar or following his favorite (Wisconsin) sports teams.



As Director of Mission Service, Dan will be responsible for facilitating mission service opportunities to empower individuals to take part in mission both locally and globally. He will coordinate youth and young adult Convos, resource Moravian youth ministries with mission-related programming, and develop intentional leadership training for Moravian clergy, lay leaders, adult members, and youth. Dan is passionate about equipping others to know and live out their faith, love, and hope and making known the stories that come as a result. Dan will begin his work with the Board of World Mission on February 18th, serving from the BWM office in Bethlehem (and wherever our global ministry takes him!). His BWM email address will be dan@moravianmission.org. Welcome, Dan!