

MISSION MESSAGE

Official Newsletter of the Board of World Mission



The BWM's Summer in Review...

- 198 Moravian summer campers served by BWM staff members
- 1st BWM Convo in the books
- 40 exchange camper experiences funded & coordinated
- 1360 miles biked in the Door County Century Ride
- \$265,426.69 worth of medical supplies shipped to Ahuas, Honduras
- 1st Provincial Synod for our partners in Zambia

Building Friendships Across Borders: A Summer of Exchange Camping

This summer, the Board of World Mission supported 40 exchange campers and leaders as they traveled across six Unity Provinces and nine states and countries to attend Moravian youth gatherings in North America. These journeys helped youth and young adults experience the global Moravian Unity in a tangible way. At Camp Chetek in Wisconsin, exchange campers included groups from Germany, Jamaica, Pennsylvania, and Florida (pictured below). Youth Convo in Miami brought youth and leaders from Antigua, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Thomas, and Barbados to join youth from across North America. Finally, a group of youth and leaders from Labrador had the opportunity to attend a week of camp at Van Es Camp in Alberta.

At each camp, the energy of these exchanges was palpable. Campers shared songs, traditions, and stories, often finding that even minor differences—like the motions to familiar songs—opened the door to new understanding. This doesn't happen by accident. The BWM plays a crucial role in coordinating travel, fostering partnerships across provinces, and providing financial support that enables international participation. By pairing sending and hosting camps, helping leaders prepare groups for cross-cultural exchange, and covering some of the costs of flights and visas, BWM ensures that distance and expense are not barriers for young people to encounter the wider Moravian Unity.

For many youth participating in the exchange camping program, it is their first time visiting a new state or country and experiencing the travel process, but these experiences don't only impact the campers who travel. Local campers and staff are equally enriched by getting to know peers from other places. The program builds on generations of Moravian camping, which has always been central to faith formation and leadership development. The BWM extends our gratitude to the donors and partners who make these opportunities possible, as well as to the campers and leaders who step out of their comfort zones to embrace new experiences.



Shipping Container of Medical Supplies Reaches Ahuas Clinic

In September, the Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras, received a long-awaited shipment of medical equipment and supplies that will strengthen its ability to care for thousands of patients each year. The container, donated by Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, arrived in the remote region of La Moskitia after months of coordination, preparation, and prayer.

Getting these supplies to Ahuas was no small feat. After crossing the country and clearing customs, the shipment still had to be ferried across a lagoon—a process that required four trips and three boatloads. The final load arrived around midnight and was unloaded by flashlight into the clinic.

Among the donations were dozens of hospital beds and thousands of syringes and other essential items that will significantly reduce costs for the clinic. Each piece of equipment represents life-saving potential and renewed comfort for patients.

This effort was made possible through many hands and hearts. Deep thanks to Rick Nelson, who coordinated the shipment on behalf of the BWM and traveled to Honduras to support its delivery in person; to Hospital Sisters for their continued ministry of sharing medical resources worldwide; and to all of the people who donated to make the transportation of these supplies possible.



Convo 2025... MIA: Mission in Action

With the blessing of the Northern and Southern Provincial Elders' Conferences, the Board of World Mission hosted Convo for the first time this year. The 23rd Moravian Youth Convo took place July 2–7 at Florida International University in Miami, under the theme "Mission in Action." Twenty youth and thirteen adult leaders from four Unity Provinces—spanning the U.S., Caribbean, and beyond—gathered for a week of fellowship, learning, worship, and fun.

With gratitude for those who had led and participated in previous Convos, this group embraced the inherited purposes for Convo:

- To give young people of the denomination from all over the world an opportunity to meet.
- To give young people a wider vision of our denomination, not just as the little church on the corner, but as a church serving the world.
- To encourage young people to consider their life's work in Christian service.
- To provide a pilgrimage for young adult Moravians.
- To examine the spiritual motivations that empowered our Moravian foremothers and fathers to start the Moravian Church, withstand adversity, and to take the Gospel message to all the world.
- To experience this pilgrimage in a group, to share it with others treating each person with respect and care.
- To build community as we share the spiritual pilgrimage, experience Moravians in a different culture, and serve the community we find ourselves in through mission and outreach.

Throughout the week, every experience connected to these purposes. Outings like Everglades airboat tours, a Major League Baseball game, and time at Dolphin Mall, Miami Beach, and on campus fostered relationships. Singing together, teaching each other regional prayers and songs, and worshipping with New Hope and Prince of Peace Moravian Churches built community. Learning Moravian history from the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber, improvisation and spiritual listening with the Rev. Brian Dixon, and leadership development with BWM staff deepened participants' understanding of their gifts and how God might be calling them to serve back home.

"Convo reminded us that the Moravian Church is one with a rich history and a mission being carried out with deep intentionality," shared Michelle Flemming-Daley of Jamaica. Participant Marsha Peart from Florida added, "This experience brought us closer as a group and reminded us of the joy that comes from fellowship." We give thanks to all who planned, hosted, and supported this meaningful gathering of young Moravians putting mission into action.



Crossing the Finish Line: The BWM Rides the Door County Century Ride

Between camps and Convos, several BWM staff members, board members, volunteers, and supporters spent the summer training to take on a new challenge: a century ride! Our purpose at the Board of World Mission is to build relationships, and this event was a shining example of that. From the 21 people who rode their bikes with us... to the 8 people who cooked and served the spaghetti dinner that fueled our ride... to the 5 people who manned our Moravian cheering section... to the 150 people who made donations... this was truly a team effort.

Now that our legs have recovered and the final numbers are in, we are thrilled to report that our team **rode 1,360 miles** – if we had ridden this distance as a relay, we could have made it all the way from Sturgeon Bay, WI, to Winston Salem, NC... and then to Bethlehem, PA, too! – and **raised \$15,246**, far exceeding our \$10,000 goal. Most importantly, we had fun doing it!

What will these funds support? Our work today is made possible by the investments made by forward-thinking Moravians dating back to the 1700s. We are, in turn, investing the funds raised from this Century Ride for the next 100 years in an Until He Comes Fund to grow and bless the good ministry that will be happening a century from now. Thanks to all who participated for helping us to show that we're "in it for the long haul!"



Zambia Gathers for First Provincial Synod

In August, the Moravian Church in Zambia (MCZ) celebrated their first Provincial Synod! Delegates gathered in Lusaka, where they elected their first Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Sichilima (pictured right) and a new Provincial Chairperson, the Rev. Benjamin Siwanzi, as well as other Provincial Board members.

The BWM welcomed the Zambian Province as a covenant partner earlier this year and rejoices with them as they take this step in their shared ministry. Please join us in prayer for the newly-elected leadership of MCZ.

