



ONWARD

The Newsletter of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province

April 2020

Volume XL—Issue 3

MUSINGS FROM THE MISSION SOCIETY

BOARD OF WORLD MISSION AND MISSION SOCIETY EXCHANGE IDEAS



The Board of World Mission met at Friedberg Moravian Church on March 6 and 7, 2020. Directors from the Northern Province joined the Staff in their bi-annual meeting. The delegate from Canada attended but delegates from Alaska, Unity of the Brethren, EWI, and Jamaica were not able to come.

The BWM builds relationships through Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement to be faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. It provides strong financial oversight and stewardship of funds, distributes resources to support goals, and manage administrative tasks and reporting. It also supports creative, passionate, and engaged leaders already present locally through our global partners.

Through Mission Engagement, BWM provides education on the current mission work of the church, offers opportunities for service, locally and globally, and creates avenues for mission support. Through the Moravian Disaster Response Program, volunteers are sent to Moravian areas that are recovering from a devastating disaster. Currently, BWM is offering grants of \$200 to congregations to assist them with additional costs involved with preparing for providing connections with their members through technology.



Alina Ricardo & Lisa Pampe Tour Trailer

Through Mission Outreach, the BWM works with global partners, supervising and accompanying them in mission work. We also help other Moravian Unity Provinces support their ongoing mission efforts. Grants are made to support locally-driven projects to increase the effectiveness of their ministries. Some of the most recent grants have been to build a science lab at the Moravian Kisanji Girls' School in Tanzania, provide theological scholarships for pastors in Honduras, and to establish sustainable businesses, like a laundromat and a photography studio, to help create jobs to support their ministries in spreading the gospel.

For the first time in recent years, MS Directors and BWM Directors and Staff met together to exchange ideas.

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BWM/MS EXCHANGE IDEAS AT BOARD MEETING

On the second day of the meeting, approximately 9 Mission Society Directors, in addition to two already serving on the BWM, joined the BWM Meeting for a sharing time. Each director or staff member explained their area of responsibility. The Rev. Bob Peterson gave a brief presentation on the work of the Mission Society.

Each year the Mission Society sponsors the Mission Awareness Dinner and the annual Lovefeast. Speakers at these events share their mission experiences as volunteers or persons serving in fulltime ministry. Often, they are members of the Board of World Mission or Mission Society. Music is usually provided by members of the Board of World Mission, the host church, the Moravian Provincial Band, and other talented musicians..

The Mission Society supports the work of the Board of World Mission through their regularly budgeted funds. They also support other special mission causes often requested by the BWM. Eleven Moravians serving full-time in mission throughout the world receive support each year from the MS as well.

The MS supports its many outreach ministries through funds from endowments and its annual fundraiser from its members in November. There are also fundraising campaigns when special needs arise.



Rev. Dan Nelson shared updates from the Friedberg Ahuas Mission Trip at 2016 Awareness Dinner

The discussion time together ended with a question answer time. Each agency had opportunity to explain in more detail their mission involvement.

BWM and MS members continued to enjoy fellowship over a lunch of international food provided by members of the BWM. Our chefs were Sam Gray, Hilda Regalado, Alina Ricardo, and Sheila Beaman, A pastry chef prepared a delicious tres leche (3 milk) cake and Sheila prepared mango pies for dessert. Special guests for lunch on Friday and/or Saturday were Rev. Dan Nelson, Rev Jimmy Newsome, and Joe Landreth.



Sheila Beaman

With Excerpts from the 2020 BWM Brochure

WOODSHOP PROVIDES WORSHIPFUL EXPERIENCE



We have been here before: wide spread disruption. This is nothing new for the people of God. Christians have historically needed to learn how to live into who they are amidst disruption. Since some of these past disruptions were issues of life or death, the question of how we can currently be the church despite not physically being in church seems like just another distraction to figure out. One of the legacies that all of our forbearers, from Christians to people in the Bible, leave us is the ability to figure out how to be a person of faith amidst challenges.

While we have considered livestreaming at Macedonia, and we are starting to work towards that capacity, we also feel like simply livestreaming the service might not be the most appropriate response. We have been told that we shouldn't be close to people and that we shouldn't gather in groups larger than 10, so instead of recreating the same type of worship which depends on the things the restrictions prohibit, why not try to figure out how to be worshipful in the situation we are in?

The thought came up to encourage people to participate in life-giving activities, or things which connect them to God or bring glory and honor to God.

For me, that space is in my woodshop. I make guitars. I get to see God's creative power at work in the different woods I use. I build instruments which will hopefully be used in a worshipful way, and I am participating in an activity which helps me understand just a little bit more about God's creation. Each week, we send out a message that tells about ways to be intentional in life-giving activities and we share accounts of what people have done in order to encourage others. I also share the same information in a video that is sent out to different platforms. Our hope is that through shifting a little while we have to, that this time will be meaningful to the spirituality of all who participate. Rev. Zach Dease

A CALL TO PRAYER FROM BWM AND WORLDWIDE UNITY

As directors and staff members of the North American Board of World Mission, we are called to serve and be part of a worldwide family. We are all very aware that our family is facing a global crisis. In times like these, we look to God for guidance and we find comfort and direction in Scripture. When Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy he began by acknowledging some challenging situations that Timothy was facing. And he began the second chapter by saying, "The first thing I want you to do is pray" (1 Timothy 2:1, The Message Version).

Paul asks Timothy to lift up supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings for everyone. I believe God is calling us to do the same. So we ask for prayers for our

BWM Members: Alaska, America North, America South, Unity of the Brethren; and for our

Unity Provinces: Costa Rica, Eastern West Indies, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Western Tanzania; and for our

Mission Provinces: Cuba, Labrador; and for our

Mission Areas: Peru, Sierra Leone; and for our Affiliate Jamaica

And in response to a Moravian Worldwide Unity request for prayer, we add the following petitions:

- For all who are fighting against the spreading of the virus.—Especially for all victims of the virus, for the sick, and for all nurses, doctors and other medical staff working in the hospitals.—For the scientists working on finding vaccines and other medical solutions to the virus.—For peace and stability in all countries.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Rt. Rev. Sam Gray

GOD'S WORK CONTINUES DURING CRISIS

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"
- Jeremiah 32:17

Throughout the world plans are disrupted. Norms are changing. Futures are hazy. Heightened tensions are felt. What began as an interesting situation to watch has become a globally-impacting reality. We watch the news because it affects people we care about on the other side of the world. We watch the news because it impacts the WEC missionaries we care about serving around the world. We watch the news because it affects carefully established plans which most likely will have to change.

We watch the news but in truth we aren't made fearful by the news. We watch knowing there is certainty in the midst of uncertainty - the God we know and serve is sovereign, wise and loving. The earth belongs to him and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). As we watch, we pray. We're praying for you as we value your prayers for us.

Some of you are asking how covid19 affects WEC as a global mission. During another global crisis in the last century, many were wondering if the work of missions could continue. In 1939 at the outbreak of WWII, WEC leadership at that time wrote a letter that contained these words:

"He has taught us these years to keep our eyes fixed on Him and see Him working out His own glorious purposes through the greatest apparent disaster...He reaffirmed to us that we were to stand 100 percent devoted to this one cause to which He has called us, worldwide evangelisation...the Lord is leading us to go right on with the work as usual..."

The covid19 outbreak is not a war between countries. But it is a global crisis that impacts us all. We also keep moving forward for the sake of God's calling and for the world he loves. God is never put 'on pause'. His redeeming work continues.

News from our fields reports the impact on our workers.

- Many of our workers serve in countries with a poor health care system.
 - Travel bans and restrictions affect long-term and short-term workers who now face an uncertainty of travel plans.
 - When the virus broke out, one entire team was outside their ministry country for a conference. Months later they are still waiting to return.
 - Another team in another country can't leave for a planned break or furlough or visa renewal, because the government has declared that anyone who leaves won't be able to return.
- Some of our members experience increased hostility when in public, not because they're missionaries but because they are Asian, and at this time being Asian, no matter what nationality, is associated negatively (and wrongly) with the virus.

Our own plans are affected since we often travel. A speaking ministry in Australia next month has just been cancelled. We wonder if we'll need to cancel a series of strategic leadership meetings planned for May (see the prayer request below).

At the same time, we hear only responses of faith from our WECers around the world:

Travel plans are cancelled: *"God must have other plans. Lord, what do you want us to do with this unexpected time?"*

Established plans need to change: *"Lord, show us creative ways to do what we need to do."*

New ways to minister are being tried: *"We're getting involved where we are and finding ways to reach out to those who are isolated."*

New uncertainties and life in a 'new norm': *"Thanks Father that he always is faithful to us and provides everything we need."*

Many of you are asking about life in Singapore at this time. Our main answer is that life goes on - in some ways 'as usual' and in some ways as a 'new norm'. Singapore has passed the early stage of panic and increasing fear (seen mainly in the forlorn look of empty shelves and the ominous look of face masks). Now we see less face masks and store supplies are back to normal, although at any moment this news could be different.

On the other hand, signs of a 'new norm' are evident. Public spaces are less crowded, in some places eerily so. (If not for travel bans, this is a great time to visit Singapore). Temperatures are taken as you enter buildings of all kinds - offices, churches, libraries, schools. Some schools are closed but not all. Restaurants remain open but we see evidence of less patronage. Our hearts go out to the owners and employees who are affected economically by this 'new norm'. Having said this, there seems to be no drop in numbers at local coffee shops. People who now work from home could be desperate to get out once in a while!

We have a small team in our office but have decided to work from home for the next two weeks and then re-assess. As many of you, we are learning to work and even pray together virtually.

As we watch the global situation and move forward with WEC goals, ministry in Singapore continues:

Involvement at Church of Singapore—a Q&A session after speaking to church leaders on serving together as a couple and as a family.
In the office—hearing a first-hand report of what God is doing in North India from a visiting WECer.
Susan—ministry with women, through mentoring conversations at local coffee shops and developing spiritual retreats for small groups
New norm for the moment - working from home

Our mailing address is:

Singapore: 303 Shunfu Road #04-55 Singapore 570303
USA: 710 Sam Snead Drive Mebane, North Carolina 27302

MINISTRY IN SINGAPORE DURING A CRISIS

At Church of Singapore—a Q&A session after speaking to church leaders on serving together as a couple and as a family. In the office—hearing a first-hand report of what God is doing in North India from a visiting WECer.



Susan—ministry with women, through mentoring conversations at local coffee shops and developing spiritual retreats for small groups
New norm for the moment - working from home



Please pray with us:

May 10-28 is set aside for a significant series of meetings to be held one after another in Turkey:

These days include strategic decision-making as well as training key leaders. They are significant meetings and not easily cancelled. We're watching the world situation and will make the decision soon whether or not to cancel. Of course, the decision may be made for us if the Turkish government bans incoming travel.

If these meetings are cancelled 'on location', we will develop an alternative plan including virtual meetings with participants from nearly every time zone. Pray with us as we determine what elements are essential and how to ensure they happen virtually.

We pray for you as we pray for what's happening in other countries. We know from the news we receive from you, through texts or emails or your own newsletters - that many details of your lives are impacted.

Thank you for praying *for* us - as we seek to lead well at a time like this - and *with* us for God's faithful servants scattered around the world.

In all we do, in all the ways we respond, may we live as God's people, reflecting his character, trusting in his sovereignty, living for his glory "as shining lights in the universe, offering them the words of eternal life." (Phil. 2:15-16)

Together with our eyes fixed on Christ,
Louis and Susan

MINISTRY AT CLEMSON DURING CRISIS

"The LORD gives strength to his people. The LORD blesses his people with peace." -Psalm 29:11



What a difference a couple of weeks can make! Since my [recent ministry update](#), we are now experiencing a global pandemic with the spread of COVID-19. I want to update you on Greek InterVarsity's response and invite you to continue to pray with us. Along with other closings, many colleges and universities have decided to send students home, moving classes online and shutting down campus for at least the next few weeks - possibly longer.

Campus ministers are feeling the impact of this pandemic in multiple ways: it changes our ministry and our ability to engage new students with the Gospel. Our students experience more isolation and fear of the unknown. More broadly, the absence of students can have ripple effects on the economy, including so many who serve students daily in food and housing services.

Yet in the face of unprecedented challenges, we also sense a great opportunity to respond by continuing to minister to students with the love and hope of Christ. Last week, I attended our annual Greek IV Staff Conference with colleagues from around the country. Thank you to those who prayed for this time. While staff are experiencing a wide range of emotions, our sense of calling remains strong. I am encouraged by our staff team's response to call out to the Lord together in prayer, to adapt and move toward more online ministry (virtual Bible studies, video prayer calls, etc.), and to partner together with all of InterVarsity and the Body of Christ during this time. Already, I am hearing of new students joining virtual Bible studies, including one IV student who recently decided to follow Jesus...praise God!

With all of this in mind, would you join me in praying over the next few weeks:

- Health of students and staff and the prevention of the spread of COVID-19
- God to replace fear and anxiety with a deep sense of His presence and peace
- God to open new doors (even virtual ones) to engage students with the Gospel & for staff to respond with boldness and holy creativity

As always and especially now, I thank God for each of you and your partnership in ministry. I will continue to keep you updated in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out if you have questions, words of encouragement, or prayer requests. I would love to pray for you too!

With love and gratitude, Dusty and Christin Harrison



Greek IV Staff Conference
In Orlando

PRAY EVERY DAY—APRIL 2020

1. I will delight in my people; no more will the sound of crying be heard. Pray for those afflicted with the Coronavirus and medical workers.
2. From my youth you have taught me and I proclaim your wonderful works. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
3. The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
4. Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Pray for the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras.
5. Palm Sunday - Bless God in the great congregation. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
6. Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to my voice. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation.
7. Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? Pray for Justin Rabbach (BWM).
8. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
9. Maundy Thursday- When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mt).
10. Good Friday - By His wounds, you are healed. Pray for Steve & Ann Marx, MAF.
11. Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek University.
12. Easter - If you have been raised with Christ, seek things above where Christ is. Pray for Unity Womens Desk.
13. The angel told the woman to go quickly and tell His disciples, "He is risen." Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
14. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx (MAF).
15. The Lord your God has been with you; You have lacked nothing. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
16. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes. Pray for Allan and DeeDee lobst in France.
17. Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
18. Jesus Christ gave himself for us that He might redeem us. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Texas.
19. Sunday. He guarded His people as the apple of His eye. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx.
20. Now you have been set free from sin and are slaves of God. Pray for Moravian volunteers.
21. Keep alert, stand firm in your faith .Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
22. In Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith. Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.
23. I formed you, you are my servants. Pray for Moravian ministers and for churches needing them to bring God's word.
24. Remember and do not break your covenant with us. Pray for Safiatu Braima in Sierra Leone.
25. The Lord will again rejoice over you as He rejoiced over your fathers. Pray for Sunnyside Ministry and food to fill very high demand.
26. Sunday. I called out to the Lord in my distress and He answered me. Pray for churches preparing online services and other communication with their congregations.
27. The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of God. Pray for the food programs taking care of children without good nutrition.
28. Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Pray for Hayley Geis and Veterinary Missions.
29. Be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Pray that our government will turn back to God.
30. God is good to those who are pure in heart. Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.

Helen Gullledge1090@gmail.com

HOME CHURCH FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS RAY OF HOPE

The World Mission Ministry Team of Home Moravian Church held a Soup/ Chili Luncheon on February 16, 2020. Net proceeds will be used to assist Ray of Hope Academy in Kenya with educational opportunities. We will be supporting a young woman with the purchase of a sewing machine and sewing education. Donations will fund 3 terms for her to take Sewing/Fashion Design classes at a trade school in a neighboring village. Another young woman will continue another term at the University in Mombasa in Early Childhood Education. Both will benefit the academy.



We are grateful that we are able to support these educational opportunities for our sisters in Kenya.

Sarah Jennings
Mission Society Director

ONWARD
500 S. Church St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-773-1732

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED