



# ONWARD

The Newsletter of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province

June 2020

Volume XL—Issue 5

## MUSINGS FROM THE MISSION SOCIETY—



### FRIEDBERG SPONSORS DRIVE-BY AND DROP FOOD DRIVE

On May 3, Friedberg Moravian Church's Women's Fellowship sponsored a "drive-by and drop" food drive. We were celebrating our 247th anniversary that day, so we challenged the congregation to donate 2470 pounds of food. Sunnyside Ministries told us of the great need during this COVID19 pandemic

We have all felt so helpless during this time, so here was an easy way for us to help our fellow man. David Holston and Tommy Thomas and their volunteers were present representing Sunnyside. 5,316 pounds of food were collected and over \$1,000 in donations. Konnoak Moravian has collected 4,000 pounds of food in their drive-by food collections at worship times on Sundays.



In addition to the food for needy families, there was the opportunity to wave to our church family while we waited to drop off the food. There were brass band members playing during the drop-off also. It was just a wonderful day and we praise GOD for it.

Rev. Jim Newsome

By Marty Stanberry, Pres. Friedberg Women



Rev. Dan Nelson

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## CUBA UPDATE

I am taking great care of my health in this situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am every day in the apartment that, thanks to the generous help of my brothers from the United States, is leased until the last days of June. In this place I have the necessary conditions for a good stay; there are good conditions to take care of my health, prepare food, and rest and I have a lot of peace to pray and study and I can keep in communication with my family and the brothers of the church.

Thanks to the help of my brothers I have food and toiletries and all the things I need to stay in this place. The situation in Cuba is very difficult to get food and many people make long lines every day to buy food, but the help of my brothers has been very valuable to me. I can buy food for several days and this is very important to me because at my age I should not be waiting in long lines every day to buy food. Also with the help of my brothers I have been able to help my family buy food and that makes me very happy.

Thank you, thank you very much to all who have given me their help. God bless you; you are in my heart and in my prayers. A hug to all, Armando Rusindo

In the year 2018 and up to this date we have worked on the vision of multiplying ourselves making a reality in our lives the great commission of making disciples: Matthew 28:19

In the Belen congregation (church in Habana) the scheduled activities are worship on Sundays, breakfast each Friday and vigils three times a month. Additionally, the members make kitchen towels and do cake raffles, which are brought by members to raise funds to celebrate collective birthdays every three months. These activities are also carried out in Old Habana and Comenius Center, where now in addition to the children we have a recent congregation but one that is bearing fruits with 25 members. In Belen we used to have twice per month the older adult program but now we are only doing it once per month as we don't have enough funds. During these meetings there are biblical teachings and a doctor or nurse is invited who talk about ways to have a better lifestyle. This group not only consist of older adults from our congregation but also from the community who don't profess any religion, so this is from the church to the community. We have women's programs on the battle against domestic violence, and subjects such as how to restore self-worth. These workshops I hold every 2 or 3 months and the sisters from Habana Vieja and Habana participate according how we plan. We do dynamic returns and we hear testimony that are very uplifting to their lives. In these activities pastor Ezequiel's congregation (Mt. Zion) is also involved. In Comenius, the activity program with the children has been met. They get a ride there 2 times per week for worship. There is also collective and planned activities such as sports competitions in sports areas. There is also the purified water service to the community.

Thanks to the funds from the foundation the construction of the building in Comenius is done. The flooring, stairs, paint, concrete and all the rear is already done. Now we have a classroom in the back for the youngest children where they can enjoy in addition to the classes tasty snacks because we have space to store the food. Habana Vieja has grown in a great way, above all with the youth. We continue looking for a space because of the height of the current space many people cannot go up. These months due to the circumstances with the Coronavirus, our church has played an important role. Although in person worship services have been suspended, we are having virtual worship services with groups through WhatsApp. We do reflections and meditations. The districts of Matanzas, Santa Clara and Habana are reaching our members through this way. Those who don't have this technology are contacted by phone calls and messages. These pastors have called me, and we have been collaborating ideas and agreeing as of how to reach all our members. We have looked for initiatives to reach the most vulnerable and alone families. In Habana, Matanzas, and Santa Clara several sisters are making masks to serve the community and have given one to all the brothers and sisters who don't have one. In Belen we did a research with 13 senior adults and there are 3 people with disabilities, among them our dear Georgina who no longer can walk and is very weak. In Comenius we have 3 children whose parents have no resources. I got together with the administrative board in April, and I made a call to collaborate with our own resources so that we can take them lunch and dinner at least 2 times per week. Today I'm very happy with my people who have stepped up to serve. They all contribute. A sister and I cook and two brothers take the food to the homes, making our seniors very happy. The leaders have made visits and are praying. We have escaped with the masks because you have to remain home. We also had Pastor Ezequiel with a serious personal situation and the members of the Belen congregation raised 20 cuc and we gave him an offering to help him in this way. We glorify God because in the midst of crisis and needs our church serves what is needed with what we have and are never lacking in His protection. As far as Christian education: we have worked together with the Rev, Obed in the lectionary for first Sunday school for children, adolescents and youth as well as classes for adults and also materials for pastoral work.

Concerning the Coronavirus illness, I have not had information from anyone who is infected, but we have affectations due to the situation that we are going through with brothers and sisters who have children that have ended up with no resources. Obed reported of 14 brothers. Pastor Aned of Santa Clara has 10 brothers and 2 older adults with terminal cancer. Habana 13 more and 3 children of Comenius. Habana Vieja 5 senior adults. These mentioned pastors and I have remained in daily communication with these mentioned, and together we have looked for solutions with what we have. First prayer and then sharing and accompanying these brothers with what we can and the most essential, love and hope in the word of God, which must be the first thing in the life of believers.

Brother, I have done a summary of our activities and purpose. A thousand thanks for the accompaniment that you all have given us. May God bless you today and always, Rev. Tania Sanchez, President

# MAKING CONNECTIONS—GREEK IV

A lot has changed in the world in the past few months, including the world of campus ministry. Along with many local churches, Greek InterVarsity's ministry since March has moved online and we have all been adjusting. While none of us signed up for the challenges of virtual ministry, God is still at work!

One of the highlights of ministry for me since campuses closed has been coaching student-leaders to lead Bible study for their fraternity brothers and sorority sisters using Zoom. Here is what two sorority women from Elon University shared about their experience with ministry online this semester:

*Marjorie Anne (Senior): After Spring Break, we got news that Elon would not be returning to school in the Spring. As a senior, it was gut-wrenching, and for many in the small group, it sparked apathy, hopelessness, and a deep fear of the future. But, it was from that point on that the amount of girls that committed to weekly Bible studies doubled...We have had women who had never been to church joining our weekly Zoom calls and questioning what prayer was and how they could get involved. Conversations like this were what I had been praying for from the moment I stood up in chapter my sophomore year to invite my sisters to a Bible study.*

*Emma Scott (Junior): With what is going on in the world right now, I have really tried to reach out to as many girls as I can to check in on them and let them know I am praying for them. It was really cool when a girl who I have prayed over for almost a year decided to come to Bible study one day and then asked me a few days after if she could come to the next one!*

Praise God for answering prayers and working through student-leaders like these to reach out to friends who may be curious about faith right now...social distancing and all! A few other highlights during social distancing include:

- Weekly Zoom calls with staff to pray for students and each other
- Co-leading a virtual small group with Clemson and USC students
- Connecting with graduating seniors to discuss life after college
- Collaborating with staff to create needed resources (podcasts, devotionals, virtual gatherings, and more)

As I reflect on the past year of transition into a new regional role with Greek IV across the Carolinas, I am grateful to God for His timing and for this expanded calling. Though there are many lingering questions about students' college experience this fall, the need and opportunity for campus ministries like Greek IV remains great. Now as much as ever, students need mentors and communities of friends to help them explore and grow on their faith journey.

If you are interested, here are a few ways for you to partner with us:

**Pray** – We ask for your prayers now as much as ever: for wisdom, for open doors for ministry, more workers for the harvest fields, and for God's continued provision.

**Give** – I am grateful to God for the churches, missions organizations, and individuals – including many Moravians – who give generously to make this ministry possible. If you would like to learn more about partnering financially with Greek IV, please let me know.

**Connect** – Do you have connections to Greek life and/or colleges or universities in the Carolinas? Maybe you are an alumnus or a parent of a student or graduate? I would love to hear from you!

Chart at the left is color - coded to show current and desired Greek IV involvement as follows:

- Green: active ministry
- Yellow: contacts, but no active ministry
- Red: looking for contacts

Dusty Harrison

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# NEW RHYTHMS OF WORK IN SINGAPORE

Our International Leadership Team (ILT) meets weekly, for a different purpose each time. These are virtual meetings, of course. They span time zones and often last an hour or more. A few weeks ago we spent the full time in prayer. To prepare, each person was asked to bring something he or she sensed God is saying to us in this time of COVID19. As we shared, a theme emerged and we sensed God giving us two phrases:

## WAIT WELL—PREPARE WELL

Good counsel for this unique season. And not surprising since God is a very good Counselor. This is a period of waiting. It's an 'in-between zone' where we can't go back and feels like we can't go forward. How can we wait in Christ-honoring ways? At the same time, we know "this, too, shall pass." How do we keep things moving forward and how do we prepare for what's ahead? We want to pay attention. Lord, what do You want us to learn in this time?

This is a time of increased connection and communication with the full WEC fellowship - providing resources relevant to this unique time. Resources to help branch and team leaders reflect on ministries and strategies. Resources for encouragement and prayer. Checking in with leaders and praying for individuals as well as group situations affected by the crisis. At the same time, we continue moving projects and tasks forward in anticipation of things loosening up in the future.

This month we lead three strategic meetings "back to back." Previously scheduled for Turkey, they're now virtual. This means less days and less hours per day for each set of meetings. It means new ways of preparing and new ways of meeting. We're enjoying working with the wonders of modern technology as we plan break-out discussion groups, training sessions, and even 'coffee breaks' online.

You're familiar with the acronyms ILT (International Leadership Team) and IC (International Council). IC+ is an added conference once per triennium, meeting for two reasons: to elect a new IC and to provide training and resourcing of WEC's Area Directors.

Our Area Directors have responsibility over the geographical areas where WEC ministers: Europe, PanAmerica, Africa, Middle East/North Africa, SouthEast Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Central Asia, Oceania and Betel ministries. They are valued leaders and, as we know each one, good friends. We'll miss the synergy and fellowship that happens when we're together but we trust these days will be fruitful and effective for WEC.

God reminds us that He is beyond space and time. His presence and leading are with us in any way we meet. Pray we will be able to discuss and discern well in these days. Pray that we will move forward in strategic topics and planning as we look to the future. Pray for Louis, especially, as he with various members of our leadership team, plan and facilitate these meetings.

## God at work in the world:

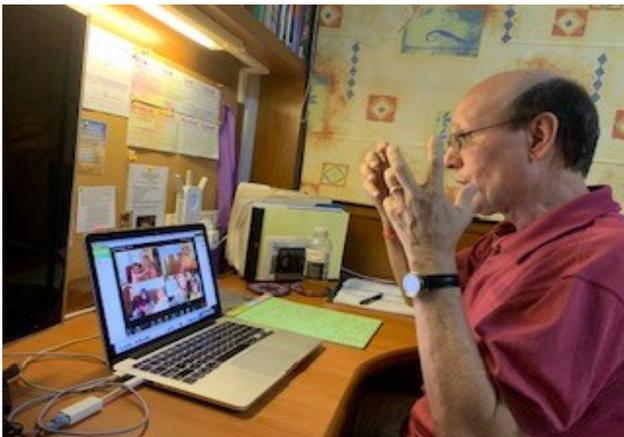
Spain - a [Betel](#) leader was hospitalized with COVID19. Even as he was struggling to recover, he shared the gospel with his hospital roommates. One is a well-known Spanish guitarist. This man came to Christ and also recovered. A new life in Christ during a time of crisis.

Italy - A WECer received a surprise text message from a neighbor. This neighbor isn't a Christian but had watched a church service online while in lockdown. She had a Bible in her home and couldn't find the verses mentioned in the service. She asked via text to be taught the Bible.

NE India - The team in this location reached out to several hundred families suffering in this time, providing a 3 day supply of rice, oil, salt, potatoes.

North Africa/Middle East - More and more people are logging into online Bible studies and Christian sites as they search for truth. Media is being used in creative ways to keep up with relationships.

We are privileged to hear these and many other stories of WECers sharing the hope we have in Christ



ZOOM Storytelling Time With

Granddad

# NEW RHYTHMS OF WORK IN SINGAPORE

Life in Singapore is very strict now as the government works diligently on 'circuit breaking.' Currently only one per household should venture outside the home (unless a parent with a child or someone needing assistance). One at a time we go to the store or leave the house for exercise. We wear masks in public except for exercise (and this means more than a walk - have to be sweating and huffing!). This current period is until the end of June.

Although we miss going for a walk together at the end of a work day, we sincerely respect Singapore's government leaders and their desire to manage the situation. We're doing fine and seeking to use these days well.

"Well" includes a lot of online meetings and conversations. If you've heard of the emerging phenomenon called Zoom fatigue, we can tell you - it's real. What was once mainly our connection with family is now a daily way of life with every connection we have going virtual - office meetings, team meetings, prayer meetings, mentoring, catching up with friends, church. Like all of you, we're learning new rhythms of work and rest in a new kind of life. In the midst of these days, the Lord reminds us:

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." Psalm 32:8*

Thank you for praying with us to "wait well", waiting in Christ-honoring ways until COVID19 ends, and to "prepare well", using our days purposefully and wisely for His kingdom purposes. Together for His glory, Lewis & Susan Sutton



The [Unity Information Newsletter](#) is back, and we are happy to send it. Due to several circumstances, including the pandemic, the Newsletter was not published for some months. We are very interested in receiving news from many Moravian Provinces and Churches. Please send it to [boytler@ebu.de](mailto:boytler@ebu.de)



The Moravian Rehabilitation Center on Star Mountain near Ramallah (Palestine) had to close down at the outbreak of the Corona crisis, a measure which had a very unfavorable impact on the children and young people. The staff in the integrative kindergarten, the vocational support centre and the outpatient village work, who are currently not allowed to carry out their work directly, asked the students and their parents to practice what they had learned, at home. They gave children and adults appropriate advice and visual online support.



New Youth Communication Platform Set Up On April 25, 2020, the Unity Youth Desk called upon the youth of the worldwide Moravian University to join a newly established Facebook group. Sis. Georgie Jiřina Čančíková, the Czech leader of the Unity Youth Desk, writes: First and foremost, we would like to invite the youth leaders in the individual congregations of the worldwide Moravian Church to join this group. There we can exchange ideas, ask each other questions, discuss and share good ideas". The "Unity Youth Desk", like the "Unity Youth Committee", was only established by the 43rd Unity Synod in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 2016. It is currently preparing the third "Moravian Youth Heritage Tour", which shall take place in Tanzania in 2022, where by far the largest number of members of the Unity of Moravians live.

*Continued on page 8*

# EXTENDING HOSPITALITY IN A PANDEMIC

Welcome and hospitality—two values that define and inform everything we do at City with Dwellings --- look a little different in this pandemic. But masks can't conceal smiles or silence kind words, as we continue to support and work with the most vulnerable in our community.

Following the CDC guidelines for disinfecting to prevent the spread of the virus, we do a lot of cleaning to keep guests, staff, and volunteers safe. Every computer, phone, and work area is cleaned after every use and high-touch surfaces are frequently cleaned throughout the day. We encourage regular hand-washing, and hand sanitizers are strategically placed throughout the CFC. Even with all the limitations and extra precautions, much is happening at the CFC. The numbers below give a snapshot of May at CWD.

Lea Thullbery continues her work, actively engaging and supporting individuals experiencing homelessness at the CFC each day, and continues to build our Street Outreach efforts. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the City, United Way, Bethesda Center for the Homeless, and Samaritan Ministries in the Medically Fragile Shelter work.

In addition to asking everyone to wear masks, we are limiting the number of individuals we invite inside the CFC in order to keep everyone socially distanced. Right now—our volunteer needs are minimal, but we do need a few volunteers who are tech-savvy and would enjoy helping guests access resources online during morning open hours at the CFC, as well as some individuals who could help with general needs.

If you can help, please email us at [cwgcommunityfirst@gmail.com](mailto:cwdcommunityfirst@gmail.com)

Now in the second month of our work at the Medically Fragile Shelter, we are incredibly encouraged by the immense progress of our guests. With the hard and diligent work of case managers from the Bethesda Center, the dedication of Wake Forest medical students who have helped to connect guests to medical and pharmaceutical care, the timely transport to appointments by CwD staff, the compassionate attention of gifted monitors and Peer Support Specialists, and the creative engagement and programming lead by CwD, guests have been wrapped in supportive and transformative community.

We're also immensely grateful for the generous donations of snacks, drinks, art supplies, and other in-room activities that have kept our guests well fed and entertained as they've sheltered in place these last five weeks. In addition to in-room activity, guests also have had the option to enjoy afternoon social engagement and weekly movie nights! While we could share many stories about the encouraging work happening with our neighbors, the stories are better told from our guests themselves!

Visit <https://Citywithdwellings.org> to view these videos.

We need volunteers who enjoy research and are comfortable with technology. We also need help with sanitizing and disinfecting spaces. We're open Tue/Wed/Thur from 9:30-11:30 am.

Be a part of a weekly shopping team to help fulfill orders from our guests sheltering in place.

email [emily@citywithdwellings.org](mailto:emily@citywithdwellings.org)

Donate snacks bags or drinks for our guests sheltering in place.

Bake 70 servings of a special snack to share with our guests at the hotel. Snacks should be individually packaged.

Contact [cwgcommunityfirst@gmail.com](mailto:cwdcommunityfirst@gmail.com) for more information

City with Dwellings Update—June 2020

# PRAY EVERY DAY—JUNE 2020

1. What is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roof. Pray for wisdom for our country and leaders in time of reopening transition.
2. My heart exults in the Lord. Pray for all suffering with Covid-19 virus and that all will use good judgment.
3. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
4. You come to me with sword and spear and javelin. I come to you in the name of the Lord. Pray for the Sutton's with WEC.
5. My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. Pray for Moravian outreach in Nepal.
6. How great are God's signs, how mighty His wonders. Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.
7. Sunday. The Lord is coming to judge the earth. Pray for those struggling to provide for their families.
8. Création will be set free from its bondage of decay. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx.
9. You shall not steal. Pray for Moravian ministers and for churches needing them to bring God's word.
10. The jar of meal did not fail nor did the jug of oil, according to the word of the Lord. Pray for Justin Rabbach and BWM Directors in making decisions for future mission endeavors.
11. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the Fowler's. Pray that our government leaders will lead the country back to God.
12. As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx with MAF in Indonesia.
13. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mt).
14. Sunday. The Lord is good, His steadfast love endures forever. Pray for Justin Rabbach ( BWM).
15. The one who raised Jesus will raise us also with Jesus. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
16. If you continue in my word, you are my disciples. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
17. Worship the Lord with gladness. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
18. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; The conviction of things not seen. Pray for Unity Womens Desk.
19. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek InterVarsity, Clemson.
20. Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, turn away from wickedness. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
21. Sunday. It is good to give thanks to the Lord ; to sing praises to Him. Pray for Allan and DeeDee lobst in France.
22. Every good gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. Pray for Steve &Ann Marx with MAF.
23. The word of God is not chained. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
24. A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Texas
25. Who will separate us from the love of Christ ? Pray for the Moravian Church in Honduras.
26. Blessed are those who maintain justice and do right. Pray for food programs caring for children without good nutrition.
27. You know the grace of the Lord Jesus, though He was rich, for your sake became poor. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation.
28. Sunday. No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom. Pray for Adopt A Village in TZ.
29. We are persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
30. O Lord,I will seek. Pray for Safiatu Braima and the church in Sierra Leone.

# UNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER



In Musawas, an important Moravian village in the Mayangna area in the north-east of Nicaragua, the shell of a new, simple church is now under construction. The reason for the new building is not that the old church and the manse had collapsed or been washed away by the floods, but were forcibly taken over in a two-day fight by a group that split from the Nicaraguan Province in 2019. Among others, one of the bishops of the Moravian Church was attacked and driven away: Br. Rogelio Juan Zacarias, the first and only bishop from out of the Mayangna people. After days of mourning, crying and fasting, the leaders decided to build a new church in the outskirts of the village. Until its completion, for which the local sisters and brothers want to contribute at least 40 percent themselves, the congregation will gather in the open under a large tree.

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