



# A Special Relationship: The Northern Province and the Moravian Church in Peru

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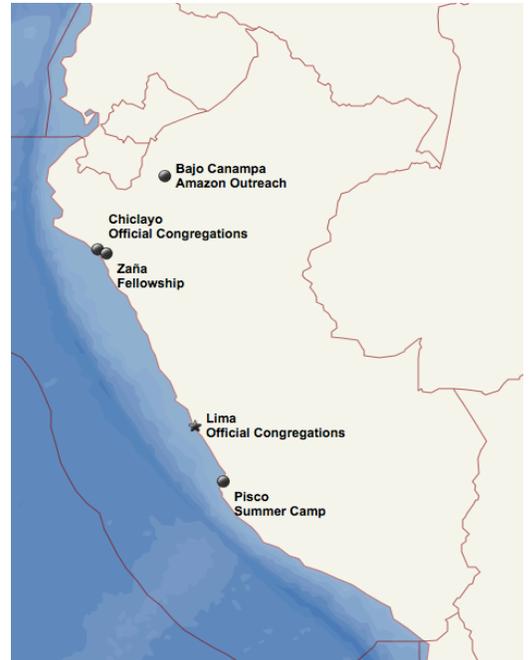
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# A Brief History and Overview of the Moravian “Mission Area” of Peru

Peru is a “mission area” of the Worldwide Moravian Unity under the supervision of the Northern Province. A mission area comes to be when a group of people shows a desire to join the Moravian Church and is ready to join congregations through baptism or confirmation. The mission area defines its own goals, strategies, and rules that are consistent with the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum. Then, the mission area works together with the supervising Unity Province (in this case, the Northern Province) to define the relationship and expectations they have for each other concerning financial support, pastoral training, etc. The relationship between a mission area and its supervising Unity Province should be a partnership, with both areas working together to meet the mission area’s goals.



**History:** The Moravian Church in Peru was founded in August of 2011 in the city of Chiclayo. Since then, the church in Chiclayo has grown to include two congregations as well as a number of other ministries. The Moravian Church has also reached the capital city of Lima, where there are now two congregations and the ministries they run. The newest additions to the church in Peru include a fellowship in Zaña (a village about an hour away from Chiclayo), an outreach program in Bajo Canampa in the Amazon Jungle region, and a summer camp in Pisco.

## Some faces of the church in Peru:



**Christopher Valencia Alcantara** is the pastor of Rhemanente Moravian Church in Chiclayo and the president of the National Board of the Moravian Church in Peru.



**Ana María Huaman Davila** is the pastor of the El Rey de Gloria (“King of Glory”) Moravian Church in Lima.



**Walter Calle Peralta** is the pastor of the Misión al Mundo, Cruz de la Esperanza (“Mission to the World, Cross of Hope”) Moravian Church in Chiclayo.



**Manuel Augusto Verástegui Horna** is the pastor of the Somos Uno (“We are One”) Moravian Church in Lima.

# Complete View of the Congregations, Ministries, and Mission Efforts in Peru

## General Mission Efforts

- Meeting space for groups in Lima and Chiclayo
- Self-sustainability and leadership development
- Progress toward becoming a Mission Province
- Legal recognition and registration of the Moravian Church in Peru
- Development of requirements and guidelines for ordination and reception as leaders

### Lima

#### Congregations

- Rey de Gloria (led by Pastor Ana María)
- Somos Uno (led by Pastor Manuel)

**Fellowship Groups** (unofficial groups that meet together to worship and have fellowship) – Mosha, Mangamarca, and Zarate

#### Ministries of Rey de Gloria

- English Academy – a school run by the church that charges low prices so that children in the community can learn English and have better opportunities
- Chocolate production – a ministry which provides supplies and training on how to make chocolate to women in the church so that they can support themselves financially
- Summer camp – a Christian retreat center in Pisco, which held its first camp in July 2018

#### Ministries of Somos Uno

- Moravian Bubbles Laundromat – a laundromat to support the congregation economically
- Casa de Adoración – Manuel and the congregation assist another local church called “House of Adoration”

### Chiclayo

#### Congregations

- Rhemanente (led by Pastor Christopher)
- Misión al Mundo, Cruz de la Esperanza (led by Pastor Walter)

#### Ministries of Rhemanente

- Ciudad de Dios – an outreach ministry in a poor village outside of Chiclayo, mostly for youth to gather and have fellowship and Bible School
- Moravian Mariachi Band – a mariachi band led by two of Pastor Christopher’s sons, who are professional musicians, to help sustain their congregation economically.

#### Ministries of Misión al Mundo, Cruz de la Esperanza

- Wilmer Fernandez Malca – an outreach ministry in a poor village outside of Chiclayo, mostly for youth to gather and have fellowship and Bible School
- Food sales – sales of dairy products and other basic food products in order to make the church economically sustainable

#### Ministries of the National Board of the Moravian Church in Peru:

- Amazon outreach – an outreach ministry in Bajo Canampa in the Amazon Jungle region of Peru. Currently, the Moravian churches in Peru are distributing information using workshops, literature, etc. to help around a dozen new Moravian fellowships get started.

# How Can You Get Involved?

The Moravian Church in Peru has two main needs: connections with the Moravian Church elsewhere and financial support. This page lists a few ways to help with these needs, but we encourage your congregation or agency to pursue ideas not listed here if they are more applicable to your passions and/or abilities.

**1. Become a sister congregation** – If your congregation feels called to build a long-lasting and personal connection with a Peruvian congregation, one way to make that happen is by becoming a sister congregation. If you would like to explore this option, contact the Board of World Mission. The BWM can help to discern whether this is a good fit for both your congregation and the potential congregation in Peru. The BWM will work with the National Board in Peru to make sure that they are aware of these relationships and that one church is not more heavily supported than others. Potential outcomes of these relationships may include visits (by both countries to each other), pen pals, shared prayer concerns, and opportunities to support new and ongoing ministries.

*My congregation already has a connection with a Peruvian congregation. Great! The next step is to get in touch with the Board of World Mission so that that relationship can be formalized.*

*My congregation is hoping to form a brand new connection to a congregation in Peru. Great! The next step is to get in touch with the Board of World Mission so that we can suggest a path forward.*

**2. Fundraise** – If your congregation or agency feels called to financially support any of the mission efforts, congregations, or ministries of the Moravian Church in Peru, there are many ways to make that happen. Fundraising efforts can be carried out over almost any length of time and can be tailored to any financial ability (ex. purchasing art supplies for youth programming vs. raising funds for a new meeting space).

The first step is to think about what the passions of your congregation/agency are and what your group might be motivated to fundraise for. Next, we strongly encourage you to reach out to the Board of World Mission to talk about your ideas and learn about what the most pressing needs are. Funds can be designated for specific uses or can be undesignated, in which case the Board of World Mission will decide what it will be used for. Once the funds have been raised, money can be donated through the Board of World Mission with a note designating what the cause is (this can be as general as “Peru” or as specific as “youth programming at Somos Uno”).

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**3. Send supplies** – This option may be applicable for youth groups who are more motivated to donate tangible items than monetary funds. If your congregation or agency feels called to send pre-purchased supplies to a congregation or ministry in Peru, the first step is reaching out to the Board of World Mission so that we can communicate needs and suggest a path forward.

**4. Form a team and visit** – If your congregation is interested in forming a mission team and going out into the Moravian world, this could be a great opportunity to build relationships between Peru and the Northern Province. Trips may be light construction, youth programming, or other types of relationship-building. It will depend on the needs and opportunities at the time the team is able to travel. The first step is to contact the Board of World Mission to talk about what kind of opportunities are available based on your timeline, group size, and more.

**5. Become a pen pal** – This option may be most applicable to individuals, but can also be used to build relationships between youth groups, worship teams, congregations, or other groups. This can also be a great option for someone who is interested in improving their Spanish or for someone who would like to help a Peruvian improve their English. This is the only scenario in which the Board of World Mission does not need to be involved, although we are happy to suggest pen pals if someone without a connection to anyone in Peru is interested.

A few tips for pen pals:

- Do not make any promises you cannot keep. For example, do not promise that you will send money/supplies if you are not certain that you will be able to do so. Also, do not promise that you will visit your pen pal until you are sure that you are able to.
- Do not speak on behalf of any body of the Moravian Church (for example: your home congregation or the Board of World Mission) unless you have their permission. Your feelings and ideas should be expressed as your own.
- If a young child in your congregation is a pen pal, please have an adult read their letters before sending them to make sure that the relationship is healthy and safe.

**6. Pray** – The Moravian Church in Peru greatly appreciates the prayers of their fellow Moravians. Please contact the Board of World Mission to sign up to receive prayer requests from the ministries in Peru and share them with your congregations to lift up during prayer time.

# Full Resolution on Peru from the 2018 Northern Province Synod

Third Partial Report: Missional Engagement Around the World

Re: Partnership with the Moravian Church in the Mission Area of Peru

- Whereas, the Moravian Church in Peru is one of the newest Mission Areas of the Worldwide Moravian Church, and
- Whereas, in 2007 the Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church designated the San Juan de Lurigancho area of Lima, Peru, as a Mission Area of the Moravian Church under the supervision of the Board of World Mission in North America, and
- Whereas, the Moravian work in Peru is one of three areas of new and emerging work assigned by the Worldwide Unity to the care of the Board of World Mission, with the Moravian Church Southern Province serving as the supervising province of the other two areas (Cuba and Sierra Leone), and
- Whereas, in 2015, the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church, Northern Province accepted the invitation of the Board of World Mission to enter into a special relationship with the Moravian Church in Peru, by serving as the supervising province of the Mission Area, and
- Whereas, our sisters and brothers in the Moravian Church in Peru can serve as an inspiration to Moravian Christians throughout the Northern Province, through their passion for Jesus Christ, their practical and joy-filled faith, and their active and fruitful witness to Christ's saving work both in local communities and in new mission work among unreached peoples in the Amazon Jungle, and
- Whereas, the members, congregations, agencies, and leadership of the Moravian Church Northern Province have access to resources (including but not limited to financial resources and knowledge and expertise) that could greatly assist the Moravian Church in Peru in its continued growth, and in its expanding efforts to fruitfully witness the gospel of Jesus Christ, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: (5) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms and embraces the special relationship established between the Moravian Church Northern Province and the Mission Area of Peru through MCNP's role as a supervising province, and be it further

**“...affirms and embraces the special relationship established between the Moravian Church Northern Province and the Mission Area of Peru”**

**...continued**

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RESOLVED: (6) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites the members, congregations, districts, and agencies of the Moravian Church Northern Province to consider adopting a Moravian congregation, ministry, or mission effort within the Mission Area of Peru, with a focus on:

- establishing meaningful peer-relationships,
- providing resource support in a manner consistent with *The Favored Practices* of the Board of World Mission in North America, and/or
- an openness to receive and be blessed by the unique gifts and spiritual vibrancy of our Peruvian sisters and brothers,

and be it further

RESOLVED: (7) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Board of World Mission in North America to develop a variety of clearly defined opportunities to facilitate members, churches, districts and agencies of the Northern Province in meaningfully partnering with the Moravian work in the Mission Area of Peru, and be it further

RESOLVED: (8) The Provincial Elders' Conference, in collaboration with the Board of World Mission in North America, shall pursue effective means to increase awareness among the members, congregations, districts and agencies of the Northern Province regarding the nature of the special relationship between the Moravian Church Northern Province and the Mission Area of Peru, and opportunities for meaningful partnerships.

*The Favored Practices* of the Board of World Mission:

1. Spirit/Faith – centered on Christ and open to others
2. Mutuality – affirming all voices at the table
3. Network and Oversight – providing for effective accountability
4. Sustainability – promoting self-reliance and long-term viability

A mission endeavor that follows *The Favored Practices* will be one in which all approaches stem from the needs and abilities expressed by the local partners. The mission team will be patient, understanding, and encouraging, recognizing that their endeavor is just one small part of the larger work of Christ. A more thorough explanation of *The Favored Practices* is available at [moravianmission.org/favored-practices/](http://moravianmission.org/favored-practices/).

Respectfully Submitted

David Geyer, chair

Katie Van Der Linden, secretary

June 24, 2018