



ONWARD

The Newsletter of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province

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MUSINGS FROM THE MISSION SOCIETY — DRIVE-IN WORSHIP BEGINS AT MACEDONIA



The week prior to June 21, 2020 was a very tension-filled week for me. I try to be a pretty go-with-the-flow sort of person, but when I have no clue what the flow of things is going to look like or feel like, I tense up. On June 21 at 10 am, we had our first-ever drive-in service at Macedonia Moravian. We got to the point where we needed a break from our online worship, which has been going on for 13 weeks.

There were all sorts of questions rolling around in my mind. Will the radio transmitter work? Will the audio work? Will the people putting on the service be able to maintain a social distance while leading worship? Will people actually go along with what we are doing? All of those questions were there, and nothing short of actually going through the service and experiencing it would answer those questions and set my mind at ease. And yet, another question arose. When in these types of situations, where and what do we put our faith in? We should put our

faith in God obviously, but what does that faith in God look like in this particular situation?



Rev. Zach Dease brings message

The service went off without a hitch. It was great. After the service was over, I had time to sit and think without tension and it became apparent to me just how many people were a part of that service. We had our sound person, music director, Facebook administrator, and three church board members leading worship in some capacity during that service. Considering all of that effort from others showed me where faith was: in the God-given abilities of other people.

The success of pulling off something new is a reminder of what we are told in Ecclesiastes: that God gives us the ability to figure out how to live in the season we are in.

Sure, it might take effort and it might be tricky to figure things out, but when we have faith in ourselves and in others around us, we figure out how to do things which are meaningful and special, as well as appropriate to the season we are in.

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BISHOP GRAY ACCEPTS CALL TO NEW PHILADELPHIA



We welcome the Rt. Rev. Sam Gray as New Philadelphia's pastor at the installation service on Sunday, June 28, and the drive-through welcome from 11:30-noon at New Philadelphia. Sam's first day as our pastor is July 1.

Bishop Gray was born in Winston-Salem and grew up in a missionary family with his parents, the Rev. Joe and Lahoma Gray and four siblings, and lived in Nicaragua for 11 years. He graduated from the Stony Brook School (Long Island, NY), attended Moravian College, worked for a year in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, completed studies in Elementary Education at Moravian College, and took additional coursework at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. For more than 13 years he was a missionary in Honduras as a high school teacher, Director of the Bible Institute, Christian Education Director, as well as organizing pastor of Israel Moravian Church in Tegucigalpa.

Sam returned to Moravian Theological Seminary in 1993, earned the Master of Divinity degree in 1996, was ordained and served as the Assistant Pastor of Emmaus Moravian Church and Director of Youth Ministries with the Eastern District of the Moravian Church, Northern Province. He was pastor of the New Hope Moravian Church, Miami, FL from 1998 until joining the staff of the Board of World Mission in 2004. Sam was elected a Bishop of our worldwide Unity by our 2006 Southern Province Synod.

Sam and his wife, Lorena, have three sons: Luke, Tim, and Christian David, as well as two grand-daughters, Rachel and Gabriella Marie. - From New Philadelphia Website

“For Just Such a Time As This” June 21, 2020

The Rev. Joe Moore's Farewell Sermon at New Philadelphia

Today is my last Sunday serving as your pastor. And it is not an easy day for me, for my family, and for many of you. Change is never easy. Over the last month, knowing that my ministry with you was drawing to a close, I have appreciated hearing from you, whether in an email, a text message, a card or letter, or making time to spend a few minutes together, to actually be able to SEE each other. Your words and your presence have been invaluable to me as I have spent time remembering and reflecting on all of the ups and the downs of the last three and a half years.

There is a certain amount of irony in the fact that it is so difficult for me to leave you now. A few weeks ago, I wrote in the weekly newsletter about how difficult it had been for me to accept the call to come to New Philadelphia in the first place. Four years ago, I wasn't sure if I wanted to come and join you. And now, I know that I don't want to leave you.

God's call is like that. It can be so challenging to hear God's call. It often comes to us as a voice from an unexpected place in an unexpected time, just as it came to the young Samuel in the middle of the night. He didn't have trouble hearing the voice calling his name, but at first he didn't know that it was God who was calling. He only knew it was God calling after 3 times of hearing that voice and assuming it was someone else because Samuel didn't think that God would be calling him. And even then, he had to rely on Eli to help him realize that it was God who was calling him.

It is the same with us. Sometimes, not very often but sometimes, God's call comes loudly and clearly. But far more often it comes quietly and unexpectedly. So we have to be listening, we have to be aware, we have to be awake, to hear God's call. And even then we need to rely on others to help us to hear and know both who is calling us and what we are being called to do.



Visit New Philadelphia's website to read more of the sermon—newphilly.org

MACEDONIA BEGINS DRIVE-IN SERVICE



Sarah Durham leads music.



Bill Plyler operates sound equipment transmitting over a fm radio station for listening in cars.



Anna Beauchamp live-streams over facebook



Sharon Boger serves as pianist (Photo from

Traffic Directors—
John Sparks and
Larry Lanier



Nancy Miller collects offering



Rev. Dease provides solo

Photos provided by Charles Beaman
& Macedonia Facebook Page

Article by Rev. Zach Dease

EQUIPPING EQUIPPERS—CROATIA

Our Cru staff in Central and Eastern Europe strive to equip other believers with the resources and training they need to witness for Jesus and build up believers. Whether they are working with students or families or professionals, the vision of our staff is to enable Christian men and women to join in the mission of bearing fruit for Jesus.

Our vision is to equip the equippers. We desire to take staff deeper into the Bible to motivate their relationship with Jesus and enable continual growth in applying God's Word to life and ministry. Responses from my course on the Gospel of John last week with Slovenian staff gave me great joy in seeing the impact the course made on them. Thank you for being our support team, joining with us to equip the equippers!

These responses are from the course evaluation.:

> *I personally loved the times when you went into teaching about how it applies to us personally. Times when you talked about holding onto Jesus no matter what. Another thing I'm taking away is that we have to let Jesus define who Jesus is and who we are. If people try to do either one of those themselves, then everything is messed up and wrong. I just feel like boiling it down to those really simple terms that explain a lot of the problems that we see in the world, and I'm going to remember those things as I continue to share the gospel with people and enter into their hard and messy lives.*

> *I very much enjoy seeing passages of Scripture in their context. Too often we pluck a story that seems to fit our needs, and then miss the bigger picture of what is going on. Seeing the whole book of John taken together has been very helpful to me in better interpreting it, and using that pattern in general is helpful to me in ministering to students. I love interacting with students who are far from God, but questioning. Often times their questions need to be answered with bigger picture responses than simply proof-texting, and a class like this raises my ability to do that.*

> *There were several moments throughout the class when Michael would expound upon a passage or biblical idea where I actually found myself moved to tears in the middle of class.*

> *It's helped me have a better understanding of the Father's love for me, and how he has called me to himself and cares for me. It's also given me a chance to develop a more personal theology of the divinity of Christ and eternal security.*

> *The course has helped raise my view of Jesus, the gospel, and God's glory. To fall more in love with scripture, by discovering new elements of a familiar book. To be able to understand and better teach this book to students-- now knowing how the themes and structures of John not only show us Jesus but show us what true faith looks like, how to walk with Jesus, and how to witness.*

> *I have learned so much from this course and am excited to take some more time to process how it will continue to shape my view of Jesus, witness, and eternal security. Personally, the book of John has come alive to me again, after reading it so many times. I have felt drawn to Jesus in this book - more amazed by his divine nature, yet humility, as well as his wisdom and love.*

My dad, Scott Brent, underwent emergency heart surgery last Saturday. He has not yet regained consciousness. His heart seems to be working fine, which is no surprise since he has a wonderful heart. But his kidneys are struggling to recover. Julia and Ana are staying with my mom, Sarah, to help out. Brenda, Claire and I flew to North Carolina on Wednesday. My brother Bill and his wife Tiffany are also with my mom while we self-quarantine in their home in Concord, NC. We have to quarantine for two weeks before being allowed to visit the hospital. My brother Charlie is in Texas, having undergone shoulder replacement surgery last week.

For now, I am planning to teach summer IBS courses virtually from North Carolina, starting in July with a course on Grace in the Law, the Books of Moses.

Please pray for my dad to recover and for hard decisions being put on my mom. Pray for us to walk in the good plans God has for us no matter how hard those plans may be. Thank you for your partnership in the glorious gospel of Jesus.

Michael & Brenda Brent Zagreb, Croatia June 19, 2020

SCOTT BRENT CALLED HOME JUNE 23, 2020



Dad has gone ahead to be with the Father. He was never afraid of going somewhere he had never been before. We sure are going to miss him—his smile, his action, his love, his support. The most common question around our house was "Where's Scott?" We knew the answer. He was either helping somebody do something or out for a run. I'd like to share with you his obituary.

W. Scott Brent, Jr, 80, of Winston-Salem, NC was called home by the Lord Jesus Christ on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Fixing his eyes on Jesus, Scott Brent ran the race his heavenly Father set before him. He loved his family, cared for his neighbor, played with all children, ignored racial barriers, and served his church. Scott Brent lived according to the vision of his favorite verse, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

Scott was born and raised in Newton, Massachusetts. He moved down South to run track for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was the ACC in-door champion at 880 yards in 1962. While in college, Scott met and married Sarah Ebert. They settled in Winston-Salem and started their family. Scott began teaching in 1963 and retired in 1996. For 41 years, Coach Brent coached track at North Forsyth High School, 9 additional years after retiring from teaching. Retirement did not slow Scott down one bit. He drove an activity bus, yearly planted a garden, organized hurricane relief teams, volunteered weekly at Sunnyside Ministry, went on a mission trip to Kenya, journeyed to Croatia every year with Sarah, and in his down time helped anyone do anything they asked him to do.

Scott leaves behind his faithful wife Sarah of 56 years and his three sons and their families: Charlie and Vicki Brent of College Station, Texas and their children Joshua Scott, Ansley, Avonleigh, Aracelli, Jacob, and Amberly; Michael and Brenda Brent of Zagreb, Croatia with their children, Julia, Ana and Claire; and Bill and Tiffany Brent of Concord, North Carolina with their daughter Sarah; and Anh Ngheim whom Scott loved as one of his sons. Scott also leaves behind his sister and her husband, Sue and Emmanuel Hermes of Brewster, Massachusetts.

Due to corona virus restrictions, a private graveside service will be held Saturday, June 27 at Friedland Moravian Church. The family would love to hear your favorite Scott Brent story. Write a letter, record a video message on your phone, send an email, or send a photo. Please send to the email address scottbrentmemorial@gmail.com or send to the family home at 2807 Friedland Church Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27107. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to Friedland Moravian Church Mission Committee. Make checks out to Friedland Moravian Church with Scott Brent written on the memo line and mail to 2750 Friedland Moravian Church Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27107. Gifts may also be directed online to Sunnyside Ministry at sunnysideministry.org/donate.

MORAVIAN UNITY NEWS UPDATE—INDIA

Rev. Thsespal Kundan writes on the current situation in the Moravian Church in North India: On 20th April we began online lessons for our school pupils. It was a big challenge, but we arranged training of our teachers in the use of video conferencing platforms. Not knowing that a pandemic would cripple our traditional methods of teaching-learning, In March 2019 we had already started discussing ways of changing our methods and using technology and internet based resources. In December 2019 we already began getting resources ready for the changes we felt were necessary. When the pandemic struck, we were already half-prepared, and we simply had to accelerate our preparation, organization and delivery. I joined the other academic administrators in teaching online. The online lessons have been well received, although quite a few children are in homes without enough funds for a smartphone (let alone a tablet/computer/laptop). A significant number of boarders went back to their homes in the high mountains where there is no mobile/cell phone network (let alone Internet wifi). They are lagging behind the others, and we are thinking about bringing them back to the Institute campus, if the administration allows it and we can arrange transportation. In our neighborhood, it seems that word has spread about the good quality of our online lessons and a number of new pupils have joined us.

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WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND VIOLENCE ISSUES



Pray for Sisters working to lift communities out of poverty. The UWD supports women working for economic independence through micro-loans, congregational projects and workshops, and education.

Sister Tomasa in Honduras owns a Stationary Business, funded partially through a UWD Loan. At its last Advisory Board Meeting, the UWD approved a loan to expand an agricultural business run by women in the TEKU university community in Mbeya. Continue to pray for other women's businesses supported by the UWD, including piggeries in Uganda and Southwestern Tanzania, a women's crafting coop in South Africa. Pray that these businesses will be able to continue as economies start to re-open following shut-downs from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pray for Sisters fighting Violence Against Women (VAW)

Please continue to lift up our Sisters in all provinces of our Unity who face violence, as well as all children who suffer from domestic violence. The [World Health Organization](#) and [UN Women](#) report significant increases in violence which has been called a "shadow pandemic."

The UWD supports advocacy and education to fight against domestic and gender-based violence of all kinds. Consider joining the [Thursdays in Black Movement](#) in your country and possibly starting a local book/article discussion group to learn more about this critical issue and how we can make a difference.

Violence against Women Workshop in Cuba (2019)



Female Pastors in Tanzania marching against VAW (2019)



PRAY EVERY DAY—JULY

1. Anyone who loves God is known by Him. Pray for wrongs we have done and good deeds we have not.
2. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Pray for courage to change the things we need to change in our lives.
3. Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. Pray for wisdom to seek God's will.
4. Every one of God's promises is in Jesus Christ. Pray for peaceful July 4 celebrations.
5. Sunday. Be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God. Be thankful for all God's blessings.
6. Where sin increases, grace abounds even more. Pray for members of our families.
7. You hear my supplications when I call out to you. Pray for our friends and neighbors.
8. Once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder. Pray for those with whom we work, learn, and play.
9. Since we have such hope, we can act with boldness. Pray for the sick, frightened, and lonely.
10. One generation may laud your works to another. Pray for those who grieve.
11. The Lord will give strength to His people. Pray for those who are desperate and angry.
12. Sunday. By grace you have been saved through faith. Pray for those in prison.
13. It is time to seek the Lord. Pray for the homeless, hungry, and poor.
14. Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good. Pray for those we perceive as enemies.
15. Be serious and discipline yourselves in your prayers. Pray for our planet and the environment.
16. Those who drink of the water I give them, will never thirst. Pray for the end of war, ethnic conflict, and violence.
17. Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God. Pray to end racism, bigotry, and injustice.
18. All of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Pray for healing of body, mind, spirit and relationships.
19. Sunday. What are human beings that you are mindful of us? Pray for the end to all abuse.
20. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Pray that all may know the dignity of being a child of God, created in His image.
21. Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God. Pray for solutions to our common dilemmas.
22. God does great things beyond understanding. Pray for the leaders of our country, states, and cities.
23. Go into all the world and proclaim the good news. Pray for the leaders of our churches, fellowships, and congregations.
24. Rescue us from the evil one, O Lord. Pray for those putting their very lives in danger to protect us.
25. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Pray for those serving in missions around the world.
26. Sunday. Whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Pray for those working in Bible translation.
27. Any who lack wisdom, ask God who gives generously. Pray for those working in research for vaccine and treatment for COVID-19.
28. Thus far, the Lord has helped us. Pray to be filled with the love of Jesus.
29. We brought nothing into the world and will take nothing out of it. Pray that we will not be defeated by the evil around us.
30. Let anyone with ears to hear, listen. Pray for Safie and the church in Sierra Leone.
31. You shall not spread a false report. Pray that we will all soon be able to worship together.

MORAVIAN—UNITY NEWS UPDATE—INDIA



In May, our 16 College Students on campus did a free online course offered by Tata Consultancy Services. We hope that they will do more courses online in July. Four of them had gone to Chennai and 5 Bangalore for a 5-month Discipleship Training School. They were able to return to Dehradun on 7th June after the lockdown was partially lifted. Another Nursing student from Bangalore was able to return on 9th June. All have had to quarantine for at least 2 weeks before being allowed to interact with others. Community transmission of Covid19 is increasing day by day to alarming proportions, primarily due to low rates of tracing and random testing. However, by the grace of God the fatality rate is lower than quite a few other countries. However, hospital (and bed, ICU, and ventilator) capacity is limited. At Moravian Institute, even though some people on campus feel confined, we are trying to observe the necessary precautions as strictly as possible. Fortunately, we have a large enough campus with plenty of space and fresh air, with facilities for games and sports. Even with 80+ people, the campus feels rather empty sometimes. News in Brief The Executive Committee of the All Africa Conference of Churches

MORAVIAN—UNITY NEWS UPDATE—AHUAS CLINIC



Covid-19 and the "Ahuas Clinic" of Moravian Church in Honduras The Moravian Clinic in Ahuas (Honduras) on the Mosquito Coast, a structurally challenged region near the Atlantic, has been extremely busy during the Covid 19 pandemic. As early as March 2020, the government severely restricted the freedom of movement for the population. Although the virus has not yet reached the Mosquitia, travel restrictions meant that people who would otherwise have travelled to larger cities or clinics for treatment now went to the small "Ahuas Clinic." Therefore, the clinic needed emergency funding from March 2020 onwards, which was given by the North American Moravian Board of World Missions (BMW). This enabled the clinic to fully cover higher drug costs, additional costs for patient transport and increased treatment costs.

Moravian Unity Newsletter Jorgen Boytler

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED