



# ONWARD

The Newsletter of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province

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## MUSINGS FROM THE MISSION SOCIETY —

## Blessings in Disguise



This has become a way of life at Sunnyside Ministry. It will come as no surprise that when our world changed in March, we were not sure what we could or would do. We know that the need for our help in a neighborhood that is home to poverty would be profoundly affected.

Within a couple of weeks, Sunnyside Ministry saw requests for food increase and not just a small increase, but 70% over the same period last year. This increase raised concerns about where we would get the needed food. Then we faced the stress of our local suppliers not getting the food we relied on them to provide. The answer came in the form of a drive-through

food drive. The idea started with Konnoak Hills Moravian and Rev. John D. Rights and spread. More than a half dozen churches have had a drive-thru food drive, with more planned. These food drives have provided us the food we needed so that our neighbors would be able to have food to survive.



*The Rev. John D. Rights, pastor of Konnoak Hills Moravian Church in W-S, shared this illustration of how his congregation responded during the deepest days of the stay-at-home orders surrounding COVID-19*

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# BWM SUPPORTS DISASTER AND COVID-19 RELIEF

The BWM would like to thank Moravian congregations and their members from across the Northern and Southern Provinces who continue to support our work through prayers, financial support, and in providing willing souls to do work in God's kingdom where needs are significant.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact many different regions of the Moravian world. In North America, we continue with various restrictions causing congregations to modify much of how they do their ministry. While some congregations are beginning limited in-person services, most are continuing with an online format using Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube, or some other streaming service to broadcast worship services. The BWM has provided grants to over 55 congregations and agencies to help with expenses in making these transitions.

Covid-19 is now impacting our Moravian brothers and sisters in Latin America as case counts are rapidly rising in a part of the world that does not have the health care infrastructure that we take for granted in North America. We have already sent aid packages to Honduras, Peru, and Cuba, and the BWM is now evaluating several larger grant requests for medical and protective equipment, hygiene kits, and food. The pandemic will continue to require us to be attentive to needs and respond with aid for some time to come.

California has been hit with wild-fires again. Most recently, the "Apple Fire" came within five miles of our Moravian congregation on the Morongo Reservation. Pastor Gregg Schafer and his family were evacuated for a brief time but are now back home thanks to a shift in the winds that moved the fire to the north. While this was good news for them, the fire continues to impact others and remains mostly uncontained. The Morongo Congregation has allowed fire companies to store their vehicles on their campus, invited them to use their facilities, and provided them water and food.

On the east coast, Hurricane Isaias came ashore just south of Wilmington, NC, on August 3. This is the third year in a row for Wilmington residents to be dealing with these storms as Hurricane Florence hit in 2018, Dorian, in 2019, and now Isaias. We are happy to report that there was only minor water damage at the Covenant Moravian Church. We will continue to work with this congregation in its effort to help area residents who are still recovering from previous storms. They have hosted a number of Moravian work-teams from both the Northern and Southern Provinces. Other locations up the east coast were impacted by heavy rains, flooding, and high winds as the storm system marched north.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has caused us to put a hold on sending work-teams into areas such as this, we continue to provide monetary support through our Disaster Response Fund.

You can help to support this and all Moravian disaster relief efforts by sending your donations marked for "MDR" to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Those living in Canada may send gifts to: Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8. You may also make donations online at [www.moravianmission.org/give/](http://www.moravianmission.org/give/) and click on the green "Donate Now" link at the top of the page (this online option is not tax-deductible for Canadians). Your support changes lives.



**For more information, including a video about our Covid-19 appeal as well as other resources, please visit our website at [www.moravianmission.org](http://www.moravianmission.org).**

**Attempt to transport a body home from the Ahuas Clinic was unsuccessful during Covid-19 restrictions. A newborn was left behind**



# COUNTING BLESSINGS INSTEAD OF SHEEP



Sunnyside Ministry from the very beginning has been a volunteer-driven organization, and will again be that. But when the Governor asked people to stay at home, we made the difficult decision to ask our volunteers to stay home as well. But how would our small staff be able to do all that needed to be done? The answer came in the form of four of the Sunnyside Ministry Scholarship Students. For more than 20 years, Sunnyside Ministry has provided college scholarships to students in our neighborhood. We have received funding to hire two or three of those students each summer. We asked them to start early, having faith, we would have the funds to pay them. The blessing of two grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County through the Winston-Salem Foundation provided the funds for that and assistance to our clients.

Other blessings happen like that here at Sunnyside Ministry. We began almost a year ago having issues with our security system and a rash of false alarms. A conversation about this with a volunteer led to this response, "My brother does that type of work, you should call him." We called, and we have a new system, including security cameras at a far less cost than anything we were told would be possible. This is just one example of a business that has made improvements possible at Sunnyside Ministry through their generosity.

Even when you don't expect it, blessings happen. We were having problems finding masks for our staff; they were on backorder and so forth. Then one afternoon, a package arrived at our door. I knew we were not expecting a package, but it had our name on it. So we opened it to see what it was. To our surprise, it contained reusable, washable cloth masks. They were donated to help us maintain our community service by a local, large textile manufacturer.

We have also been blessed by many donors, seeing our need during this time, given to Sunnyside Ministry, so that those less fortunate will have food and safe housing. The types of blessings that have sustained this ministry for 41 years.

There is a lyric for a song in the movie *White Christmas* that I think about often, and it is how we at Sunnyside Ministry live. "When I'm worried, And I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep, And I fall asleep, Counting my blessings."

During these different and challenging times, Sunnyside Ministry is sustained by blessings. The blessings we most appreciate are being included in the prayers of all those who support our work.

# EXPERIENCING JOY INEXPRESSIBLE IN MAGI LAND

A friend has been coming over twice a week for a language exchange with me. For her part, we study English from a book because she's just beginning to learn. By our second week of meeting, I started incorporating Bible stories into my local language study so that she would be exposed to the Truth, and I would grow in language ability, too. The third week, she asked if we could begin spending some of our language time studying the Bible together. One day, we were talking about the Jesus Film, and she asked if we could skip language next time and just watch the film, so we did!

That night, she had a fight with a loved one, and she was distraught. She felt like she'd lost all hope in that relationship and that there was even nothing for her in life. She was so low that she refused to eat anything that day or the next. She was weak, and her family was worried. After her family ate lunch the next day, everyone laid down for naps. Our friend got up while they were sleeping and went out into the yard. She prayed the most faith-filled, heart-felt prayer she's ever prayed: "God, I'm going to follow the way of Jesus. Please, show me this is right." Within a few minutes, her feelings of despair were gone, and instead her heart was completely filled with joy inexpressible. She said she'd never experienced anything like that before and never even heard of anything like it before. She remarked, "It was truly a miracle."

When she came over to our house a couple days later, we followed up a bit. We encouraged her to read Romans 10:9-10, and she exclaimed, "I've done both of these!" We talked much more about faith and salvation and rejoiced together. She asked if we could set aside a day each week to study the Bible together, so I asked Angie from our house church to join us, and we've been meeting together weekly. Our friend shows great understanding as we look at the Word, and she's so eager to grow in her faith. Praise the Lord!!

## ***On a Sad Note***

June 30th ended the fiscal year, and in our efforts to report back to the main office, we found that our safe was not reconciling with our financial system (the safe was missing thousands). Many extra hours were spent trying to find out where and how we went wrong, with no solution. Perhaps we made mistakes that we haven't caught, or perhaps someone has been stealing from us, but regardless, we have now put in new processes to make sure that we do a better job of stewarding and protecting the ministry's money.

Please pray for us in this, especially for our local accountant, who has been so worried she made herself sick. Also, we have started training the staff three days a week. Since I was asked to help with the training, I have started teaching the staff the "Lessons for Growing" that we use. One staff guy sent me a message afterward that he is going to start using them with a new believer in a refugee camp! Praise God!

## **Missionaries in Magi-Land**

# ARMF CONTAINER ARRIVES IN CUBA



**Rev. Tania Sanchez, President and  
Bishop Armando Rusindo**

As you know, we were fortunate enough to share some container space with United Servants Abroad some several weeks ago. After arriving in Habana and clearing customs, the container was delivered to a secure location some couple hours from Habana. From there our two pallets (some 1,500 lbs) were delivered to Jaguey Grande, a town some 2.5 hours east of Habana. There it was stored in a warehouse until we could find a good time to distribute to all the Moravian Churches in Cuba.

Travel restrictions have been a burden on us to be a part of the distributions. Knowing that we may not even have the opportunity to travel this year, we made the decision to allow our friends in Cuba to do the distributing.

So yesterday, pastor Aldo and his family traveled some 5-6 hours from their home in Camaguey to meet up with President Tania Sanchez, pastors Obed, Alay and members of their church in Jaguey. Spending most of the day sorting all the materials in the hot, humid Cuban climate must have been tiresome. But, by day's end all was sorted to be delivered to the designated churches.

Just to mention a few items—7 sewing machines (paid for by Women's Conf.), 6 Bicycles, Moravian Stars, Christian Ed Supplies, Musical Instruments, Hospital Supplies, and much more. Below is an email I would like to share from Rev. Tania Sanchez (Pres. Moravian Church in Cuba)

Cuba is currently having a severe food shortage that has been exacerbated by COVID-19 concerns. People have been camping out at markets only to find the next morning little or no food available. The ARMF Foundation is working as closely as possible with the churches to provide ways to assist them with produce and meat from the farms to feed the community.

Please keep them in your daily prayers.

I have asked each pastor of the Moravian Churches in Cuba to submit a brief report for their congregations. Refer to "Updates" to read these reports in full on our website [www.armfcuba.org](http://www.armfcuba.org)

∞ THANK YOU FROM REV. TANIA SANCHEZ

Dear brothers,

We are very grateful to God for having us in your hearts, for what you support us in our work in Cuba, a thousand thanks.

Today was a nice day, despite a lot of work. We were able to comply with the distribution of the items in the container.

I want to give my special thanks to our brothers from the ARMF Foundation. To our brothers, Obed Martínez, Alay González, Bárbara, Keny, Rodolfo, Yayito, Yiián, Aldo, Arisbel, in short, to all the brothers who supported the distribution, and His servant.

Thank you brothers, the purpose was fulfilled and we glorify God.

A brotherly hug, Rev. Tania Sánchez

Thanks to you, our donors, for without you this would not have been possible.  
GOD IS WORKING IN CUBA!!!!

Joe Jarvis, President & Founder  
Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation  
[www.armfcuba.org](http://www.armfcuba.org)

# EXTRAORDINARY TIMES INSPIRE LOCAL OUTREACH



When it was evident that Laurel Ridge Mission Camp would not resume this summer, Hope Moravian Mission Team came up with a plan. Why not do a socially distanced, safe, local alternative this year? As an idea, it needed to grow and develop... and it did!

During the first week of August we were able to work with a local Ministry in WS called City Lights. This ministry focuses on bringing food, clothing, school supplies, VBS alternatives, and the Good News to people where they are. Instead of children and youth coming to them, they bring the resources to them. In addition, they provide beds complete with mattresses and bed clothes to children who need a safe harbor in their homes.

Hope's Mission Team tackled several tasks during a two day blitz. Local team leader Bradd Craver, along with Bishop Sam Gray and Pastor David provided the theme of Reconciliation and being One in Christ, our Peace and our Unity. We cleaned, arranged shelving, moved supplies, organized the kitchen area, mowed, and provided much needed energy to this vital ministry. We also assisted staff in the delivery of food and furniture in WS, where needs often outweigh resources.

Even though we were unable to travel to our Mission Camp at Laurel Ridge, we brought a little of that mountain spirit to WS. This is our eleventh year of sharing the love of Christ through our Love in Action as those who see service as more than a catch phrase.

Even though these are extraordinary times we find hope in bridging the gap between people by our acts of charity, a listening ear and through the simple truth of living one's faith. Thanks to the support of our church, our families and our community, Hope Moravian Mission Team looks forward to our ongoing mission either at Laurel Ridge or at home here in the Piedmont of North Carolina.

PS. We spent one morning purchasing over 300 pounds of food for Sunnyside Ministry in WS. Over the spring and summer we have donated close to 4,000 pounds of food items along with fresh produce and household items.

# PRAY EVERY DAY SEPTEMBER 2020

1. On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to the people. Pray for Safiatu Braima.
2. You are worthy oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and praise. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
3. Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
4. From His fullness, we have received grace upon grace. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
5. I know your affliction and your poverty. Pray for the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras.
6. Sunday. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation.
7. We have our hope set on the living God. Pray for Justin Rabbach( BWM).
8. He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
9. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mt, Palestine).
10. We who have found safety in Him are greatly encouraged. Pray for Steve & Ann Marx.
11. Hear my prayer, Oh Lord and give ear to my cry. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek University.
12. Be careful how you live, not as unwise people. Pray for Unity Women's Desk.
13. Sunday. Bless the Lord Oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
14. Rejoice in the Lord ; Glory in the Holy One of Israel. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx (MAF).
15. Those who have faith are children of Abraham. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
16. Honor the Lord with your wealth. Pray for Alan and DeeDee lobst in France.
17. I, the Lord your God hold you, Do not fear. Pray for K and C in the Middle East.
18. No one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. Pray for Charlie & Vickie Brent-Texas.
19. God is wise in heart and mighty in spirit. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx.
20. Sunday. Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you. Pray for Moravian volunteers.
21. Every day I call on you. Help me, oh Lord. Pray for Adopt A Village in TZ.
22. How long will you hide your face O Lord ? Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.
23. He will swallow up death forever. Pray for Moravian ministers bringing the word to their congregations.
24. The good person out of the heart produces good. Pray for food programs providing nutrition to the needy.
25. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Pray that our country will turn back to God.
26. I am with you to save you, says the Lord. Pray for all those suffering from the COVID-19 virus.
27. Sunday. Let the same mind be in you as in Christ. Pray for the leaders of our churches and our country.
28. Come and see that the Lord is good. Pray for medical personnel serving in the war against Covid-19.
29. Love truth and peace. Pray for PEC members and other church leaders.
30. Blessed are those who endure temptation. Pray for Police and Fire fighters everywhere.

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## THE DWELLING MINISTRY OPEN IN WINSTON-SALEM

On August 13th, often known as the “spiritual birthday” of the Moravian Church, a new fully federated mission began among the Moravians and Lutherans. The Moravian Church in America, Southern Province and the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) entered into a fully federated mission by officially signing the Federation document. This new mission is known as *The Dwelling*. This ministry and their focus will be upon helping those experiencing homelessness in the Winston-Salem community.



The Rev. David Guthrie, President of the Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Southern Province and Bishop Tim Smith of the NC Lutheran Synod gathered together to sign the document in Winston-Salem.

Pictured on left are Rev. Guthrie, Bishop Smith and the founding pastor of The Dwelling, Emily Norris. To learn more about this exciting new ministry please refer to the link below.

[Thedwellingws.org](https://thedwellingws.org)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED