

MISSION MESSAGE

Official Newsletter of the Board of World Mission



A Note From the Executive Director

I write this as I reflect on the fact that BWM staff and directors are BUSY this summer engaging in very intentional ways with as many folks as possible both from our constituent congregations and our global partners. Here is a list of most of the things we are up to this summer (events where at least one BWM staff member or director has been, is, or will be present) and I am sure I am missing some:



- Northern Province Synod
- Service Camps at Mt. Morris and Camp Hope
- Young Adult Convo
- National Conference of the Mission Area of Perú
- On staff at our Senior High Camps in at least 3 states
- Taking part in the youth Camp in Cuba
- Guiding a young adult gathering in the Czech Republic
- Visiting the Ray of Hope orphanage and new churches in Kenya
- Following up on the distribution of water filters in Honduras

And that is all before Unity Synod kicks off a slew of global partner visits this fall!

As has been stated several times in this newsletter over various issues, the Purpose of the BWM is to "build relationships". Each of the events listed above is a great chance for important connections to be made where seeds are planted.

It was at a Senior High camp where I claimed my faith as my own, and on the Young Adult Convo trip to the Czech Republic and Germany in 2007 where I was invited to consider ways I could be a part of the mission work of the Moravian Church. So, I may be biased as to the importance of these different events, but if you want to build relationships, you have to be present, you have to listen, and then you have to be ready to make an invitation.

So, whether you were at one of these events this summer, or not, know that the invitation to join the BWM in its work is always open, and please reach out to us... especially if we haven't had a chance to reach a place where you are yet!

Join us...

The Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World

Based on our biblical call to care for the sick and our belief that healthcare is a fundamental human right, we are working together with several Moravian agencies to offer grace and hope through the forgiveness of medical debt. This project aims to provide an opportunity for more Moravians to join in the freeing and life-changing debt relief initiative begun by congregations like Trinity in Winston Salem.

Because our call is to our siblings in Christ here in North America and throughout the world, 75% of your contribution will support the elimination of medical debt in the United States and 25% of your contribution will buy debt owed by patients at the Moravian medical ministry of the Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras. Both in the U.S. and Honduras, the individuals and families who owe the medical debt purchased will receive notice informing them that their debt is forgiven. Jubilee!

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in 50 days with the project concluding on August 13th. As of July 31st, generous donors have already given over \$40,000!

Learn more at
www.moravian.org/debtjubilee/
or scan the QR code below.

**DEBT
JUBILEE
PROJECT**
FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD



Blessings Flow in La Mosquitia, Honduras

Waterborne illnesses are a persistent issue in many of our global partner areas, due to contamination of local water sources. In some areas, like La Mosquitia, this issue has been exacerbated by a recent increase of heavy rains and flooding. The Board of World Mission, in collaboration with church leaders in Honduras and a clean water organization called One Atta Time, is seeking to address the need for clean drinking water through our new Blessings Flow project, which was launched this spring in the villages of Tumtum Tara and Warunta, Honduras.

This project is particularly meaningful because, in an area where the church has been divided for nearly 25 years, this effort is intentionally led in collaboration with both sets of leadership of the Moravian Church in Honduras. They are working together to provide life-giving water to EVERY family in these communities, no matter what their connection is to the Moravian Church.

As of this summer, we have distributed 159 filters in Tumtum Tara with 44 additional filters en route. We have completed the census and initial clinic in Warunta with plans to distribute water filters there in the fall. We hope to expand to five total communities in La Mosquitia in the first stage of the project while working to identify and equip local leaders to administer future expansion. There are roughly 100 villages in La Mosquitia, all of which have a need for a clean water intervention like the Blessings Flow project.



The first step of the intervention in each community is to take an initial census of the population, assess water quality and determine the prevalence of waterborne illnesses. (In Tumtum Tara, 100% of families reported symptoms of waterborne illness within the past two weeks and 20% of families had missed school or work due to their illness). We then offer a clinic to address any existing waterborne illnesses, before distributing water filters (a five-gallon bucket and a simple filtration system) to each household and training community members on how to use the filters effectively. Finally, we conduct a post-intervention assessment of the project.

We are extremely grateful to the Moravian Ministries Foundation for walking alongside the Blessings Flow project through a generous grant of \$25,000, which will allow us to provide filters for about 500 families, or 2-3 villages! We are also grateful to our senior high campers at Mt. Morris, Tar Hollow, and Camp Hope for assembling 750 water filters, which are now ready for distribution in Honduras. This effort is truly made possible through the joint efforts of Moravians worldwide. THANK YOU!

Coming Up... The 2023 Moravian Day of Service

The 2023 Moravian Day of Service will be on Sunday, September 17th. This celebratory day raises awareness of the importance of mission work in our Moravian faith, encourages congregations to think of new ways to make a difference in their communities, and demonstrates our desire to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. For your congregation, this can be a day to celebrate the service that you do all year long and highlight ways more of your members can get involved. We also encourage you to plan a special service opportunity that might invite a sense of community engagement and excitement among your members. In previous years, Moravian congregations have served their communities in a variety of ways. Some examples include:

- Making sandwiches for a local soup kitchen
- Picking up trash in their neighborhood
- Writing notes of appreciation and encouragement to community members
- Making blankets for the humane society
- Organizing donations at a local clothing bank
- Building a blessings box to provide needed food items to their neighbors

How can your congregation come together to meet the needs of your community on this Moravian Day of Service? If you are looking for ideas, you are welcome to contact the Board of World Mission's Director of Mission Engagement, Chris Giesler, at chris@moravianmission.org.