



# BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

Christmas 2015 - *Comfort, comfort ye my people*



As I enjoy a beautiful day in Cuba following the conclusion of a meaningful second Women's Conference, I am reminded of the hope that we celebrate during this season of Advent—a hope that we are to claim despite the difficulties and mounting fears in the world in which we live. In Cuba that means that being a Moravian results in sharing food with those in the community who have little. E.g. in Jaguey Grande, the church women get up early on New Year's eve and each of four churches prepare food and bring the noon meal to between 25 and 40 persons in each of their communities. Then they prepare the same meal for themselves for the evening. Pastor Obed says that he returns home at peace because so many in his community were able to eat the same meal that he had, as they brought in the New Year. Providing food and resources to those outside of the church is a common ministry of hope for the church in Cuba. They also have weekly gatherings in a poorer area of Havana for around 70 disadvantaged children (above) to teach them about Christ and provide basic values for them to live by.

Hope in the midst of darkness is something that Moravians throughout the world claim and live. Examples are the Rev. Mohamed and Safie Braima who rejoice that after much waiting a hope has been realized in government approval for their Secondary School in Sierra Leone. The Pradhans in Nepal are seeing continued growth for their primary school, despite the economic struggles the country is facing. Rick Nelson walks with the staff at the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras as they continue to bring hope through a ministry of health care. Michael and Ceci Tesh provide for orphans in Kenya as they seek the hope of further education that will provide them future opportunity. At Christmastime, Moravians in Peru offer hope, love, joy and hot cocoa to children in marginalized areas of Lima and Chiclayo.

As we celebrate the gift of Christ in our lives, may we, as the Moravian Church, stand firm in the hope that God brings us, even when we cannot fully see it. On behalf of the staff and members of the North American Board of World Mission I wish to thank all of you who partner with us in sharing God's hope with the world. We wish you a most blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with God's grace.

Judy Ganz, Executive Director

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