



Moravian Missions

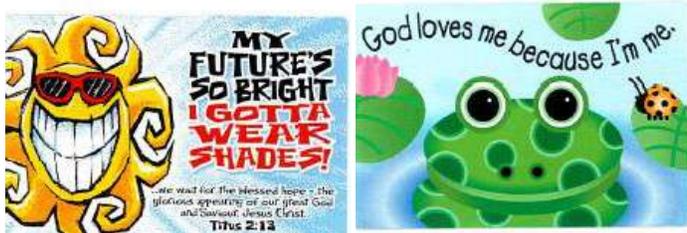
A VBS Resource Guide





Vacation Bible School Mission Stations with Moravian Emphasis

Each day, when the children come to the mission station, they will receive a boarding pass for the country they will visit that day. Have a world map or globe so they can identify where the country is. Read *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox. Each country has information about the Moravian involvement in that country, a craft, a game, a children's story, and a mission project. You can use as much or as little of the material as you are able depending on your time constraints. The mission project for each day (after day one) involves collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste and attaching a message card to them. You can create your own cards! Here are a couple of samples of the message cards:



Bibliography of Resources

(Available at the Resource Center or online at <https://resource.moravian.org>)

- *God Calls Us: VBS Looks at Wonderful Word of Mission*. PCUSA
- *Around The World Moravian Unity Cookbook*. C. Daniel Crews. Moravian Archives. 2008.
- *Fun Around The World*
- *Kidsmission*
- *The Bossy Gallito*. Lucia Gonzalez. Scholastic. 2004.
- *Child of the Sun*. Sandra Arnold. Troll. 2005.
- *The Children of Sierra Leone*. Arama Christiana. Richard Owen Publishers. 1996.
- *The Good Garden*. Katie Smith Milway. CitizenKid.
- *Up and Down the Andes*. Laurie Krebs and Aurelia Fronty. Barefoot Books. 2008.
- *We All Went On Safari*. Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns. Barefoot Books. 2003.
- *Whoever You Are*. Mem Fox. Harcourt and Brace. 1997.

DAY ONE: Sierra Leone



Sierra Leone is on the west coast of Africa and is bordered by Guinea, Liberia, and the Atlantic Ocean. In 1460, Pedro de Cintra, a Portuguese sailor, named it for its beautiful lion-shaped mountains. In 1878 Sierra Leone became a British colony and a portion of its land became the new home of freed slaves. This land was named Freetown. It later became Sierra Leone's capital city. There are two seasons: a dry season and a rainy season. Its foods

are rice and cassava. Sierra Leone is very rich in diamonds and other minerals. The official language is English but the dialect widely spoken is Krio.

Moravians in Sierra Leone

Mohammed and Safiatu Braima came to the US thirty years ago with the goal of returning to their village to tell their people about the love of Jesus. After years of hard work, Mohammed graduated from seminary. A Moravian church in Charlotte, Little Church on the Lane, formed a committee to coordinate efforts of Mohammed and Safiatu with those interested in supporting their ministry to the people of Luawa Yiehun. Much work has been done in this area. The website www.sierraleonemission.org has good information about Moravian mission work there, including blogs about people who have visited and short videos.

Read: *The Children of Sierra Leone* by Arama Christiana. It is available for loan from the BCM Resource Center or can be purchased from Amazon. At the end of the book is a song they sing at bedtime complete with the music that could easily be taught.

Mission Project: The Salisbury Road Regional Conference of Churches has adopted this as a mission project and send barrels of supplies from time to time. Jenna Nodine, a member of Peace Moravian and student at Salem College, is a wonderful contact person for information about the barrel ministry. She would love to come and do a presentation at

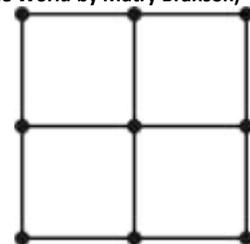


Jarabadach

What You Will Need: Two players, three small markers of one color and three of another color (coins also work). Paper, pencil, or stick to draw in sand or dirt.

What You Do: Draw a square on paper or in sand. Divide the square into four smaller squares.

To Play: Give one player three of same marker and the other the other markers. Players take turns placing their markers on any of nine points on the square. They try to place three markers in a row or diagonally. After all six markers are on points of the square; players take turns moving markers one space at a time until one player gets his or her markers in a row and wins! (*Fun Around the World* by Matry Branson)



churches. Consider contributing to the collection barrels at Peace Moravian that go to Sierra Leone. One of the big needs is for baby aspirin and Children's Tylenol along with baby blankets. Talk with the children about the importance of thinking about children that live there and ask children to collect simple items. You can get the items to Peace Moravian in Charlotte or the BCM offices will take care of getting them there. It costs \$250 to ship a barrel of supplies, so a monetary love offering to defray some of this cost would be a welcome option.

Resources for more information about Sierra Leone:

- Mohammed Braima (Contact through Claire Wilson - cwilsoncpa@gmail.com)
- Board of World Mission: Judy Ganz (judy@mcnp.org; 610-868-1732) or Sheila Beaman (sbeaman@mcsp.org; 336-736-1893)
- Jenna Nodine (jennifer.nodine@salem.edu)

Flag of Sierra Leone:



DAY TWO: Peru



Peru is famous for several festivals. The one you'll read about is Inti Raymi or Festival of the Sun, a majestic Inca festival held each year on June 24 to honor the Sun God. Inti Raymi takes place in the city of Cusco, on the winter solstice when the sun is farthest from the Earth. Long ago, the Inca people gathered to pray for the sun's return so crops would grow and they would not go hungry. Today, Inti Raymi recreates the ancient ceremony as thousands of actors bring the past alive for Cusco's many visitors. The pageantry unfolds in the city quarter, and then everyone processes out of town to the ancient fortress, Sacsayhuaman. High priests, nobles and officials of the court in

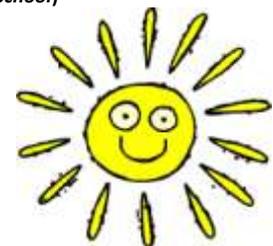
elaborate robes lead the parade. Women in colorful, traditional costumes follow carrying offerings to honor the gods. The Sun King, resplendent in gold clothing, is carried to the site on a royal litter. After performing age old rituals, the Sun King climbs to the sacred altar and speaks to the crowd in their native language, Quechua. At sunset, the ceremony ends and everyone returns to Cusco to celebrate the New Year.

Moravian Church in Peru: God is doing amazing new things through Moravian men and women, and it's especially exciting to see that sometimes those women and men are married to each other. God has called Segundo and Hilda Regalado to be part of a new Mission area of the Moravian Church. Bishop Sam Gray and the Rigalados were praying for this mission for a long time and those prayers were answered in God's time. Segundo served in Peru for more than 20 years and traveled to establish contacts with Peruvian ministers and leaders. Bishop Sam Gray and Hilda arrived on August 13, 2012, and were welcomed by many. There was a great need for a church that might minister to people who find themselves in a place between the extremes of Roman Catholicism and the new Independent Pentecostalism. Might the Moravian Church offer a way of bringing them together so that they, in turn, might minister to the unreached people in their area? They visited two churches and one group, where there was much congregational prayer, songs of praise and worship led by young musicians, studying of the Word of God and being in



Trapping the Sun for God Calls Us

Directions: Two children are chosen – one to be the sun and the other “it.” Everyone else joins hands to form a semicircle. The object is to trap the sun but not “it.” To begin “it” chases the sun outside the semicircle. When “it” catches the sun, “it” pulls the sun into the semicircle. The Sun tries to escape. The semicircle tries to join ends and form a circle around the sun but they must not capture “it” inside. All the while “it” is trying to cooperate to so the players can trap the sun. For safety, only hands and arms may be used by “it” in the capture and the sun must remain on his or her feet. (*Vacation Bible Games: School*)

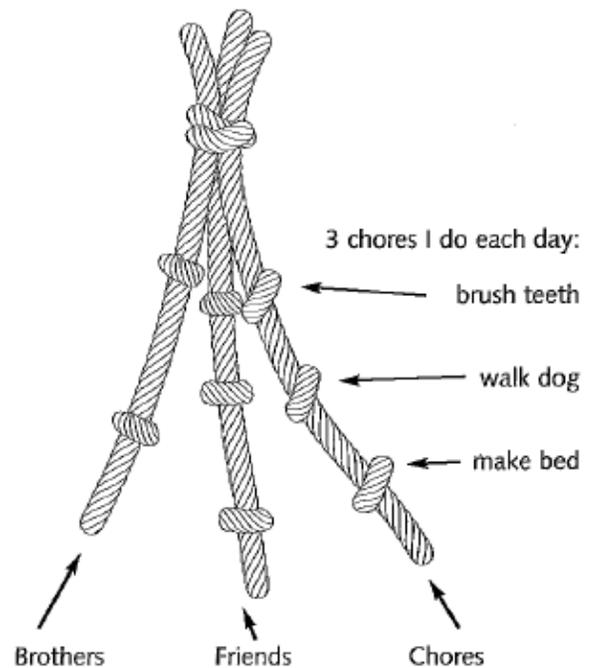


joyful fellowship together. Representatives from seven different ministries signed a foundational charter, agreeing to call themselves the “Unity of Brothers and Sisters in Peru - A Mission of the Worldwide Moravian Church.” More can be read on the www.moravian.org website. Search for the article “Bringing the Moravian Church to Peru.”

Craft: Quipu Cords

The ancient Inca Indians of Peru kept track of things by using a quipu. Cords of different colors were tied across main cords. The colored cords were for counting things by tying knots in the cords. There might be one for your cows, one for your bowls, and one for your children. If one of your cows had a calf, you would tie another knot on your cow cord. If you broke a bowl, you’d untie one knot in your bowl cord. Make a quipu to help you keep track of things too. Maybe something you collect, or good deeds, or prayers.

Take several strands of yarn and knot them together at one end. Decide which yarn will represent what: chores, family, friends, etc. Tie a knot in each cord accordingly.



Read: *Up and Down the Andes: A Peruvian Festival Tale* by Laurie Krebs. It is available for loan from the BCM Resource Center or purchase from Amazon.

Mission Project: Bishop Sam came back from his last visit talking about the children in the streets of Peru and their fascination with silly bands. They were begging for more. As a project, collect toothbrushes, travel toothpaste, and silly bands to send to Peru.

Resources for more information about Peru:

- Board of World Mission: Judy Ganz (judy@mcnp.org; 610-868-1732) or Sheila Beaman (sbeaman@mcsp.org; 336-736-1893)
- Hilda Regalado (hildareg@hotmail.com)

Flag of Peru:



DAY THREE: Tanzania

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa. It is more than twice as big as California. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is 19,340 feet high. Lake Victoria, in the north is the second largest lake in the world. Before 1961, the country was called Tanganyika. One of the big lakes still bears that name. Now Tanzania is made up of Tanganyika and the island of Zanzibar. More than 100 tribes live in Tanzania. The name Serengeti means “endless plain” Ngorongoro Crater is a collapsed volcano. Once it stood taller than Mount Kilimanjaro. Now it is shaped like a deep bowl. Olduvai Gorge is sometimes called the cradle of mankind. The bones of ancient man were found there.



Moravians in Tanzania: The first Moravian mission station was established at Rungwe in Southern Tanzania in 1891. Another station in western Tanzania was handed over to the Moravians in 1897 from England.

As a result of active evangelism work, these two sister stations grew and became big churches extending over large areas in the southern and western parts of Tanzania. Each one constituted a province of its own. The founding missionaries had established communication through correspondence as early as 1899.

Later, they started meeting and exchanging experiences and the two provinces established cooperation on various matters. In 1968 it was agreed to establish formally a joint board to discuss and agree on matters common to both provinces. In 1968 the two provinces decided to establish a Moravian theological college as a joint venture for the training of ministers. In 1976 the Southern Province was divided into two and the same was done with the western province in 1986. Since then the Moravian Church in Tanzania has four provinces.

The church in Tanzania is growing and membership is increasing rapidly. Each province has a specific area for evangelization. Each province is also engaged in outreach work beyond the borders of the country in Malawi and Zambia.



Crocodile (Mamba)

Directions: Crocodile is a form of tug of war played by two teams, while a third team, called the crocodile, waits to play the winner. A long rope has a loop at each end. Each team tries to pull its end of the rope past a wood stake in the ground behind them and place their loop over the stake. The crocodile (third team) then plays the winning team, while the losing team becomes the crocodile. (www.eHow.com)



Craft: African Rattle *from The Great KidMission*

What you will need: Colorful construction paper, dried beans or pebbles, masking tape, markers, scissors, glue, sandpaper, a one liter plastic soda bottle for each child, a 12-inch dowel or stick.

What to do: Tell your children: “In Africa, many people make rattles out of gourds. People in Africa and all over the world grow gourds in their gardens. They use gourds to make bottles, bowls, dishes and toys. How many of you have seen a gourd? We are going to make rattles that may look like they’re made from gourds.”

Use the soda bottles for your gourds. Begin by sanding sticks to remove rough edges. Decorate soda bottles by drawing designs on sheets of construction paper and gluing paper around bottles. Or apply glue to an area of the bottle, then add cut or torn paper pieces to bottle to create a design and let dry. Drop a small handful of dried beans or pebbles into bottle opening. Apply glue around inside of bottle opening and insert dowel into opening. Tap dowel in firmly. Let glue dry and secure handle by wrapping the area with masking tape.

Read: *We All Went On Safari* by Laurie Krebs. It is available for loan from the BCM Resource Center or can be purchased from Amazon.

Mission Project- Collect toothbrushes and toothpaste and attach gospel cards to them.

Resources for more information about Tanzania:

- Board of World Mission: Judy Ganz (judy@mcnp.org; 610-868-1732) or Sheila Beaman (sbeaman@mcsp.org; 336-736-1893)
- Patty Garner (pfgarner@triad.rr.com), Charlotte Disher (unitychar@windstream.net). Both have traveled to Tanzania.

Flag of Tanzania:

DAY FOUR: Cuba



In 1492 Columbus landed in Cuba and claimed the island for Spain. Cuba is a beautiful island with its great plain, rolling hills and mountains. The Sierra Maestra is a range of steep mountains located in the southeastern part of the island. Cuba's coast has many deep safe harbors. In 1511 the Spanish settled the Island and Cuba became one of the richest colonies in the West Indies. Sugar and Tobacco grew on large plantations.

Native Americans were forced

to work the plantations and died of mistreatment and disease. Spain began importing African slaves. Today three fourths of the ten million are of Spanish descent. Language and customs are Spanish.

Moravians in Cuba: Traveling to Cuba is like stepping back in time with the streets full of pre-1960 American automobiles and grand buildings of the past untouched by renovation or repair. 90 miles from Key West is a country that feels untouched by the culture of fast food and shopping malls. In fact, after the old cars, the first thing you notice about Cuba was what was missing in advertising. Can you imagine how it feels to ride through a city and never see a sign enticing you to buy? For Cubans, filling daily needs appears to be much harder.

Often, the life of a Cuban mother includes trekking daily from place to place to purchase something to feed the family. Whatever scarcity one encounters in this puzzling, beautiful country - whose people love it like a mother, there is never a lack of hospitality. Some of the Cuban women rode 14 hours, excited to be Moravians. The connection between Moravians in Cuba and America and around the world is organic. The Moravian Church in Cuba is part of a living organism - a new shoot surprisingly sprung from ancient roots. It seems that old roots hold the potential to produce new blossoms.

Cuba's church is a church created by the power of the Holy Spirit to push new shoots out of the soil where growth might be least anticipated. What grows in Cuba might not look or



Cuban Dominoes

Directions: The game uses a double nine domino set. The game is played by four people, in two partnerships. Each player draws ten tiles. The remaining 15 tiles are not used during the round. The player holding the highest double makes the first play of the first hand. If nobody holds a double, players turn in their hands and it is redealt. This is very unlikely, since there are ten doubles in the set and forty tiles in play. In subsequent games, the winner of the previous hand makes the first play and may play any tile. After the first domino has been played, play continues to the right (counter-clockwise), as in most South American card games. The play continues, each player adding a tile that matches one of the two open ends or passing. Count the number of pips on the tiles left in each hand. The lowest number is the winner.

sound like traditional Moravian churches. Music, prayer, praise, and preaching will all be different drawing nourishment from their native soil. But isn't that the best part? The opportunity to see what new sights and sounds are born in a truly new Moravian church. (Notes on Moravians in Cuba adapted from a blog written by Ginny Tobiassen, associate pastor at Home Moravian, after a visit to Cuba to a Women's Conference.)

Read: *Child of the Sun: A Cuban Legend* by Sandra Arnold or *The Bossy Gallito* by Lucia Gonzalez.

Mission Project: collect toothbrushes and toothpaste and attach Gospel Cards to them.

Resources for more information about Cuba:

- Board of World Mission: Judy Ganz (judy@mcnp.org; 610-868-1732) or Sheila Beaman (sbeaman@mcsp.org; 336-736-1893)
- Ginny Tobiassen (virginiai1@bellsouth.net)

Flag of Cuba:



DAY FIVE: Honduras



Honduras is a vibrant country, brimming with clear turquoise waters, pristine beaches, lush jungles, breathtaking mountains, challenging rivers, and fascinating ancient ruins.

The country of Honduras is home to people of various ancestries. The Garifuna communities (known in Europe as the Black Caribs) are found on the Bay Island of Roatan, on Cayos Cochinos (the Hog Islands), and along the coastal towns. The ancient Mayans left the Copan Ruins archaeological site (considered one of the most artistically advanced and detailed of all Mayan cities), where nearby the modern Maya, known as the Chortí Indians, can still be found. The Miskito Indians' most popular habitat became famous after it was introduced in Paul Theroux's novel, "The Mosquito Coast" which depicted the La Moskitia area.

Other ethnic groups include the Lenca, Pech, Tolupan (Jicaque), and Tawahka Indians.

Moravians in Honduras:

A people who sing! That is how Moravians describe the Miskitu people of Honduras. A Miskitu worship service is a celebration of joyful praise. Miskitu people have always expressed themselves through their songs, and their faith in Jesus Christ gives them a new song to sing. The Moravian Church began sharing the "song of Songs" the Good News of Jesus Christ, with the Honduran people in November 1930 in the village of Cauqira on the north coast. Now there are close to 100 Moravian congregations proclaiming and singing the "old, old story of Jesus and his love." Worship is in the Miskitu language, into which missionaries translated many hymns written originally in German or English. Increasingly, however, one will hear lively Spanish choruses being sung in Moravian Churches. Most of the Moravian churches are in the area known as La Mosquitia which is a beautiful land of tropical rainforests and savannas between the central mountains and the Caribbean coastline. It has no health or educational infrastructure when the Moravians arrived. Schools and medical work have been important ministries from the beginning.

Read *The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough* by Katie Smith Milway. It is rather long but you can choose sections and condense but is a wonderful story about a family in Honduras.

Craft: Bake a Cake of Three Milks from *Around the World Moravian Unity Cookbook*.

Make your favorite yellow cake batter. Pour into a 9X13 baking pan and bake according to recipe. When done, remove from oven and allow it to cool. With a large fork, make holes all over the surface of the cake and down into it. Mix one cup each of whole milk, evaporated milk, and sweetened condensed milk. Pour slowly all over the cake, allowing it to seep in. Cover and refrigerate for several hours to allow cake to absorb milks. Cut and serve. You can put some tropical fruit over it for added excitement.



Mission Project: Collect toothbrushes and toothpaste and attach gospel cards to them.



Clapping Game

Directions: If two people are playing, they should stand a little way apart, facing each other and clap each other's hands in time to a song, chant or rhyme. You can make the clapping pattern up as you go along and try different actions, such as patting your shoulders, hands or thighs. You can try clapping with one or two hands at a time, hitting the backs of hands, palms or double claps.

Try and get faster and faster, both singing and clapping. Carry on for as long as possible without making a mistake.



Resources for more information about Honduras:

- Board of World Mission: Judy Ganz (judy@mcnp.org; 610-868-1732) or Sheila Beaman (sbeaman@mcsp.org; 336-736-1893)
- The Rt. Rev. Sam Gray (sgray@mcsp.org) or Sandra Gray (skgray0608@hotmail.com)

Flag of Honduras:

