

Moravian Moment # 03....
Zinzendorf at Herrnhut

The Moravians, having found refuge on the estate of Zinzendorf at Herrnhut began to band themselves together as a community. Zinzendorf did not really know the background of these Moravians until 1727, when he was in the library at Zittau he came across a copy of Bishop Comenius' *Ratio Disciplinae, a Moravian manual of Church Discipline. Reading this manual of discipline led him to a deeper understanding of the Moravians and their faith and he found that he shared a similar outlook on matters of faith and Christian living.* There and then he decided to do all in his power to revive the Church. In Herrnhut he began to organize the Moravians until Herrnhut became an ordered religious community, *in which every member was trained to be a witness for Jesus Christ and was prepared to go anywhere to witness for him.*

By his example and pastoral care Zinzendorf quickened their Christian fellowship and united them for communal life under the statutes of Herrnhut (May 12, 1727). *Through earnest and continued prayer they realized more and more the power of the cross of Christ in reconciling them one to another.* A profound and decisive experience of this unity was given them in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at a celebration of the Holy Communion on Wednesday August 13, 1727.

From this experience of conscious unity came zeal and strength to share this fellowship in Christ with other branches of the Church Universal, and joy to serve wherever they found an open door.

It seemed as if these Moravians, who had suffered 300 years of persecution for the Gospel, were being prepared for some great purpose of God. Here is where the story of the Moravian Mission to the West Indies really begins, for these Moravians in Herrnhut were the men and women destined to begin the modern missionary movement of the Protestant Church as they went out to neglected and oppressed persons with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, beginning with the Danish West Indies (U.S Virgin Islands) in 1732.

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