

MORAVIAN MOMENT #71
The Moravian Church in Nicaragua- Diverse and dynamic

The Moravian Church Regional Conference (MCRC) is presently meeting in Nicaragua. The leaders of the Provinces of Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica, Eastern West Indies, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua. The meeting will receive reports from each Province and see how together they can help each other and chart the course for the future of our Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Moravian Church in Nicaragua was started on March 14, 1849, one hundred and fifty nine (159) years ago, by the Rev. Danary Downs, a native of Nicaragua. The Church has grown exponentially over the years and is touching lives throughout the length and breath of Nicaragua.

The Church is multi-lingual, that is, it ministers in three (3) languages: Miskito, Spanish and English, with 90% Miskito speaking Churches. It has a total of 208 congregations, with a total membership of 82, 969 members. There are presently 84 ordained Pastors, 131 Lay Pastors, in 65 Parishes. While it took some time for the Province to have accepted female Pastors, there are now 6 Ordained female Pastors, of which the Chairman of the PEC, Rev. Cora Antonio is one. The Province has 3 Bishops; one in the north, one in the south and the third, who lives in Miami at present.

The Moravian Church in Nicaragua is very dynamic and diverse, with a tremendous amount of young, dedicated members. It is reported that 45% of the membership are young people on a mission for God. There are almost one hundred (100) students preparing themselves for the Ministry of Jesus Christ in the Moravian Church.

It is to the dynamism and mission focus of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua that the Moravian Church in Honduras was planted seventy five (75) years ago, and even though there are many challenges in the Honduran Church, it is reported that there are 160 congregations. There is however, a serious rift or division between the Traditionalist and the Charismatic groups in the Church. Much is being done to bring healing and restoration among them. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua and Honduras that they will continue to be a light to those sit in darkness in their respective country.

The Moravian Church is very well known in Nicaragua and has a school at almost every Church in such a vast country. There is a University and Theological Seminary in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, as the Church seeks to educate and empower the populace. It is on a crusade to see lives transformed and emancipated in every sense of the word; spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, healing broken lives and broken families, and pointing men and women to Jesus.

May 25, 2008