

Moravian Womens Association
Home & Overseas Paper - March 2021

The Unity Women's Desk (**UWD**) sent out information last November about Moravian educators in "covid times", I thought it was worth hearing this uplifting news about our "Sister Educators" who really are "wonder women" in their own countries. There is no room to include their full reports here - from Cuba, Tanzania, North America, South Africa, Germany, Star Mountain, and India, but I will put the full reports on our Facebook page.

The UWD writes - "Moravians were some of the first to see the value and necessity of educating women, a tradition that remains today. We know that it is one of the best ways for women to escape poverty. It is a means by which women and girls are empowered to stand up for themselves and justice. It fosters economic self-reliance and stability. And it is an investment in the community as a whole."

Education for girls and women is a top priority of the UWD. Currently over 90 girls and women are receiving UWD scholarships. Some are attending primary or secondary school; some are earning certificates or diplomas in everything from theology to accounting. Many are also working toward university degrees in law, theology, education, community development, nursing, environmental sustainability and criminal justice. Remember all these women in your prayers, as well as those who are not able to attend school and earn the education they desperately need.

Remember especially girls who are the victims of child-marriages. This takes place in numerous provinces of our Moravian Unity and requires our special prayers and strategy for responding. For these girls, scholarships to attend secondary school are the best option to avoid this violation of girls' human rights."

Sister Sambone of South Africa who is a teacher, says of her school children - *"The biggest challenge for me in [Covid] quarantine was wondering: how are they going to survive now? Where will they get food? Now staying at home and having something to put on your own table, you end up not even enjoying it, for you know there is a child crying to another helpless child."*

A report from Nepal, where the UWD has provided scholarships for three girls. Phoebe Maharjan, Grace, and Diya. *“They are all blessed to be able to be learning online and all of them are doing very well. We are also very thankful for the prayers and support from our Moravian brothers and sisters from around the world. Please continue to lift up the education ministry here in Nepal.”*

The Unity Women's Desk works to connect women and resources throughout the Unity and empower them to work for justice as God's hands and feet on earth! They are planning the next Unity Women's Consultation: Sept 2022 in North Carolina. They invite Sisters in all provinces to send in updates, needs, concerns, praise, and pictures.

The next deadlines for new scholarships, projects and loans are May 1, 2021, Aug 21, 2021, and November 2021.

Any ideas Sisters?

Naomi Hancock
February 2021