

Prayer List for the Unity Women's Desk

March 2019

Watchword for Friday, March 1, 2019: The Lord makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters. Isaiah 43:16. God has opened many paths for the Moravian Church since its founding. Pray that we have faith to recognize new paths as God continues to open them for us today.

As March begins, we celebrate the founding of the Moravian Church in 1457 in Bohemia. In 1735, Erdmuth Dorothea von Zinzendorf reflected on how God guided us through our first 300 years. She wrote a hymn about the Spirit of the Unity: "When I think about our miraculous pilgrimage through so many centuries, I find every step worthy of remembering with gratitude. You, precious Shepherd! You took care of me when I was still tender, and you mercifully protected me from many dangers."

Pray for Moravians around the globe facing many conflicts and dangers. Pray particularly for internal conflicts in the Moravian Church in Nicaragua and the United States.

Pray for God's blessing on celebrations of International Women's Day, March 8. The celebration this year focuses on how entire communities are lifted up when women are free to contribute their skills and leadership. <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/IWD2019>.

Pray for women who have received business loans through the Unity Women's Desk and are strengthening their families and communities. New ventures include a cafeteria and a secretarial school in Honduras, and a taxi business in Tanzania.

Pray for girls and women who have received scholarships through the UWD including several new university scholarships in Tanzania and a nursing scholarship in Jamaica, and scholarships for secondary school and theology students in Albania, Nicaragua, Uganda, and other countries. Pray that those who have been blessed with an education will use it to bless others.

Pray especially for the new Moravian Girls' secondary school in Ifakara, Tanzania and for the three girls the Unity Women's Desk is honored to support there.

Join us in prayer for the Unity Women's Desk Coordinators working in all regions. We depend on them to help girls and women apply for scholarships and loans and to help distribute funds to the institutions. We are so grateful for the commitment of these Coordinators.

Pray for the women of the N. American Provincial Women's Boards planning the Women's Conference to be held in Winston-Salem in June. Many international Sisters are waiting to hear about visas and finalizing travel plans. <https://moravianwomen.wordpress.com/registration/>

We invite all Brothers and Sisters to join us in praying the following Creed written by our pastors in Cuba. You can download Spanish, German or English words on our website.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Unity Women's Desk, and let us know how we can support women in your province!

WOMEN'S CREED

Written by Rev. Alay González and Rev. Obed Martínez

Translation by Sandra Gray

I believe in God, who created men and women in his image, who created the world and entrusted to men and women reproduction, care of the earth and everything else created by his hands.

I believe in Jesus, son of God, of one substance with the Father, born of a woman, Mary, who with utmost attention listened to women and held them in high esteem, and sat in Martha and Mary's house and spoke with them about the Kingdom. Moreover, he had women disciples who followed him and helped him in all of his ministry.

I believe in Jesus, a Jew who spoke of popular theology with a Samaritan woman by Jacob's well and confided for the first time that he was the Messiah. He inspired in her the desire to go into the city and tell the marvelous good news of the water of life.

I believe in Jesus, on whom a woman poured perfume in Simon Peter's house, and who reprimanded the male guests who criticized her. I believe in Jesus, who said he would remember that woman for what she had done, bowing her head and serving the Lord who inspired her in her life.

I believe in Jesus, who cured a woman on the Sabbath day and restored her health because she was a human being, and she could see that, for the Lord, it was more important to preserve a life than to follow a law.

I believe in Jesus, who compared God to a woman who searched for a lost coin and intensely searched for that coin and finally found it, and this was the answer: that the coin represented the value of each person in the Kingdom of God.

I believe in Jesus, who considered pregnancy and birth to be something marvelous, not a punishment, but rather a heartrending event, a metaphor of transformation, a new birth from agony to joy.

I believe in Jesus, who compared himself to a hen who shelters her chicks under her wings.

I believe in Jesus, who appeared first to Mary Magdalene and sent her to spread the amazing message, "Go and tell the Good News of Resurrection and Salvation to the people."

I believe in the universality of the Savior, in whom there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female because we are all one people in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves over the waters of creation and over the earth.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the maternal spirit of God who created us and gave us birth and like a mother enfolds us with her maternal arms to care for her children.

I believe in that second moment in which the King of Kings will return to look for men and women who are sanctified by the blood of the Divine Lamb.

I believe in a church composed of men and women who, in spite of our weaknesses, are incorporated by the love of the Lord, by divine grace, and who lovingly work to build up the Kingdom of God until he returns.

Amen.

Please visit our website to see a video of Sister Alay reading this beautiful creed!

www.unitywomen.org