

Moravian Women's Association - Home and Overseas Paper – October 2014 MWA Projects – by Naomi Hancock

The 3 organisations or individuals described below are examples of how the Central Committee decides each year to spend both the money it has already raised, and the money it hopes to raise over the following year. The Central Committee tries to balance its funding of good causes between Moravian, non-Moravian, overseas and the UK.

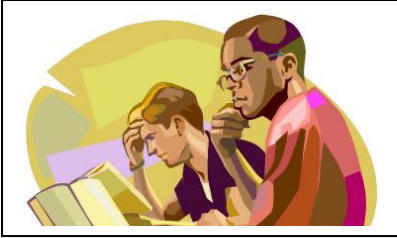
1 New Delhi - a new Moravian Congregation needs to pay rent for premises, and buy Bibles

In May 2014, the MWA Central Committee agreed to send **£500** immediately to Br Ebenezer Gangmei. Br Ebenezer trained as a Minister with the help of MWA funding, and has been called by the British Mission Board (BMB) to see whether he can organise a new Moravian Congregation in New Delhi. A reasonably large number of ex-pupils from Moravian schools in Rajpur, Leh and Assam are now working in Delhi, and Ebenezer, since September 2013, has been gathering them together for services and the work is progressing nicely. Essentially there are between 15 and 20 people already gathering for worship and he has started a Bible study group too. He needs help in funding the rent for the Church room as they meet in his flat at the moment, and this will cost between £1,500 and £1,800 a year. In addition they are short of Bibles and while some of them could buy their own, it would be useful if more can be provided for them to use (they cost £10 each).



2 Funding two Haitian students in Jamaica

The MWA Central Committee also agreed in May 2014 to send **£1,000** immediately to two students from Haiti who are studying theology in Jamaica over the next 3 years. The BMB pays for tuition and accommodation (costing \$10,000 per student per year) but we were told that one of them in particular was finding it very difficult to afford to pay for books and extras, so the grant of **£500** each that we sent to them would be much appreciated. The BMB works directly through the Jamaican Province who look after the students and they will take care of the pocket money.



3 The Central Committee also committed £1,000 to the Poppy Project from the MWA Project money to be raised during the year from May 2014

The Poppy Project was set up in 2003 to provide high-quality support, advocacy and accommodation to trafficked women; that is, women who have been brought into England or Wales to be exploited in some way. This could include but is not limited to sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced illicit activities and organ harvesting.

Support workers work with women to create individual support plans for them, which can include financial help, support accessing health services and treatment, specialist counselling, criminal and immigration-related legal advice, education and employment opportunities and other support as needed. The Poppy Project has nine bed spaces for women who need accommodation as part of their support, and can work on an outreach basis with women who don't need accommodation. Their workers are all experts in supporting trafficked women, and within the team they also have the following expertise:

- A Young Women's worker, who specialises in supporting trafficked women between 16-24 years old;
- A Family Reunification worker, who specialises in working with trafficked women who have children; and
- A Detention Centres and Prisons worker, who can provide advocacy and support to women in those hard-to-reach situations.

The Poppy Project can accept women who are over 16 years of age and were trafficked into the UK, into the following areas of exploitation:

- Prostitution and/or sexual exploitation;
- Forced labour, including domestic servitude;
- Forced illicit activities, such as cannabis farming, begging or pick pocketing; or
- Organ harvesting.

What is trafficking?

'Trafficking' is the movement of a person from one place to another for the purposes of exploitation. Women may have been forced, coerced or deceived into coming, or may have come willingly but been deceived about the nature or conditions of work they would experience on their arrival.

Victims of trafficking are often subject to high levels of physical, sexual and psychological violence. For this reason, and because they may be afraid of the police, it may take women time to disclose the full extent of their experiences.

Women do not have to have entered the country illegally to have been trafficked; however, they may have done so either knowingly or without their knowledge. They may also have had their passport or other forms of identification taken from them.

