

Moravian Women's Association
Home and Overseas Paper – November 2020

Some overseas news – our Sisters across the Unity are certainly feeling far worse effects of the Covid virus than in the UK

Some members already receive emails from the Moravian “Unity Women’s Voices”, (formerly the Unity Women’s Desk), here is some information they sent out in September, which is worth distributing more widely. With apologies for the formatting this month, I am on holiday and without my laptop!

Naomi Hancock

Ministering to Body and Soul During Covid-19

The International Council of Nurses has declared 2020 the [Year of the Nurse and Midwife](#) and the UWD joins this celebration by sharing the voices of some of our Sisters who are currently studying to become nurses or earn advanced nursing credentials. Many provinces of the Unity also offer critical healthcare services in remote areas through clinics and nursing schools, supported by Sisters and Brothers globally. Pray for the safe arrival of a shipment of medical equipment the Board of World Mission is sending to help provide care for COVID-19 patients.

Health for women and children is a key Focus Areas of the Unity Women. Pray for our ministry in this area, which includes providing nursing scholarships, supporting conferences focused on health issues such as COVID-19, HIV Aids, and diabetes, and providing birthing kits to women in several provinces. We have a large number of kits ready to send with teams when possible. One shipment will be sent to Honduras next week, with funds donated by Raleigh Moravian Church.

As you read the words of our Sister below, remember also thousands of other Sisters caring for the sick as trained nurses, mid-wives, doctors or nutritionists or as mothers, daughters, sisters and friends. Remember those who have died from COVID-19 or lost loved ones directly to COVID-19 or because of medical care limited by the pandemic. Sisters in Jamaica, East West Indies, South Africa, Suriname, Honduras and Peru ask us to remember them now as COVID causes much suffering now, especially the remote communities in the interior of Suriname, the Amazon region of Peru, and remote villages in Honduras.



- *Rev Lupindo, above, shares the challenges of ministering to families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. Pastors and nurses share similar experiences as they serve patients and families during this time.*

"I am Rev. Khayakazi D. Lupindo, Minister of the Moravian Church in South Africa, serving the rural areas of Baziya and Mthatha Districts in the Eastern Cape... You have to tell [families who have lost loved ones to COVID] that God loves You even in this pain. Do You think this is easy? No, it is not. Mind You, you have your own family which you have to protect against this disease and you have to protect yourself also. Honestly this is not easy for us as ministers, as it also not easy to all front-line workers. The other thing that I notice is that people are scared of this pandemic, others don't understand you as a minister when you are scare of the disease. We are only human. We have to teach the community what they must do to protect themselves from the disease but you will find that others don't care, until they or one of their family members are infected. The painful part is when people put stigma in the disease and stigmatize those infected. I don't want to lie; I was so scared of the disease and anxiety almost took its toll. This is the time we as ministers are put to the test. People took this disease for granted and did not comply, even now you can see that they are still arrogant. One of the things that made me the most scared is to die far away from home, leaving my kids and helping people due to my calling. Other families became so selfish and don't tell the minister of the situation of the deceased.

I really thank God our creator for being with us, because in our church so we far we don't have a COVID-19 death of a minister. I am continuing to pray for Him to keep on protecting Us. All Honour and Glory to Him.

Rev. Khayakazi D. Lupindo, Provincial Board Representative for Mthatha District and portfolio holder for the Moravian Women's Association in South Africa (MWASA).