

MISSIONS HISTORY



Count Zinzendorf sounds like a name from a scary late night movie and the Moravian refugees that settled on his castle property in Eastern Germany don't sound like they would have much significance in world history. Yet it was there, at the place called Herrnhut, that the modern mission movement began. The Moravians, who had been influenced by Martin Luther's teaching, began meeting with Count Zinzendorf and he called them to unity and spiritual life.

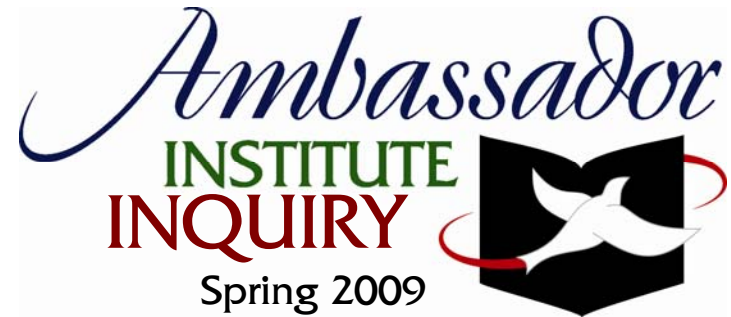
They began a prayer movement that was truly a work of the Lord. They began praying every hour of every day and continued praying 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 100 years. They were known for their

devotional worship times and great number of songs.

Their missions began sixty years before William Carey set out for India. It was from this little community that 2158 people went out as missionaries. They went to Greenland, St. Thomas, Arctic peoples, Algiers, Ceylon, Sri Lanka, China, Persia, South America, and America.

The above really cause them to stand out, but Colin Grant highlights several other characteristics of the Moravians.

1. The Missionary obedience of the Moravian was essentially glad and spontaneous, the response of a health organism to the law of its life.
2. This surging zeal had as its prime motivation a deep, on going passion and love for Christ, something that found expression in the life of Zinzendorf himself.
3. They faced the most incredible of difficulties and dangers with remarkable courage. They accepted hardships as a part of the identification with the people to whom the Lord had called them.
4. Many Moravian missionaries showed a tenacity of purpose that was of a very high order.



Yesu Padam is a 70 year old pastor in India. He has known Jesus for 50 years and he has a son that is a pastor. Who could blame him for being skeptical of some new training? Who would expect him to be ready for a change in how he preaches, especially if it is telling stories.

The first day of training Yesu Padam did not want to be at the training, but it was required for all of the pastors and he had no choice. The first story taught was of the leper that came to Jesus. The application was made very personal regarding their own sin and

need for healing. The second story was the temptation of Jesus and the tests that are faced regarding the battle over our body, mind and our eyes.

The Word of God began to come alive to Yesu Padam in a new way and what seemed at first to be children's stories was having a very deep impact and changing him from the inside out.

The third day there was a testimony time and He was the first to stand up. With a spirit that overflowed with joy, he said that he had rededicated his life to Christ and that he realized that he needed to preach the Word of God into his own life first. Others gave similar testimonies and it was evident that the Lord had been using His Word to turn the hearts of these pastors back to Him.



Prayer Requests

- **A couple to work with the training in India.**
- Pastoral training in India that can hopefully begin this summer. This will mean a trip for Pastor Kevin to make sure that everything starts correctly.
- Future discussions with the Indian pastors about reaching the unreached people groups all around them. They could be strategic in the World Missions effort to expand their ministry beyond the existing churches in India.
- The need for someone to fill in for Nate and Rhoda when they come back to the U.S. on furlough. Pray for the short term assistants to fill that role as well as the training that needs to take place in their absence.
- Both the Ugandan and Indian church bodies need a great deal of prayer. The pastors are struggling with things on personal levels as well as the organization in both countries.
- Please pray for the support raising that needs to happen for the Ambassador Institute budget. Especially in tough economic times we need to be creative on how to balance the budget.

Praises for God's Provision

- The training in India went fabulous with 40 pastors attending. The pastors have begun using the story telling method in their **sermons** in a way that matches their oral culture. The **pastoral training** courses will begin this June and the church in India is going to begin using this new oral tool to reach out to **unreached people groups**. There are many unreached people groups in the state of Andra Pradesh with over 30 of them speaking Telugu.
- In Uganda, the training had gotten stuck last September, but we are praising the Lord for the new doors that He has opened. In February, Nate began teaching one group of 20 pastors and another group of 10 solid biblical and theological education through the story telling method. He has already covered 6 lessons and every student is required to teach the story 10 times before the next week's lesson. That means that every week 30 pastors are being trained and each one retells the story 10 more times. The word of God is being repeated 300 times a week to multiple people.



**To hear more about
the Ambassador Institute,
or to schedule a congregational visit contact:**

Pastor Kevin Olson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441
763-412-2029 Ambassador@afic.org