

Moravian Disaster Response 11/6/25 Updates

Plain Text for Newsletters and Other Formats

Board of World Mission Moravian Disaster Response Hurricane Melissa (Jamaica and the Caribbean) November 4, 2025

The Board of World Mission (BWM) has received a detailed report from the Provincial Board of the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province of the Moravian Church following Hurricane Melissa's devastating impact on the island. The report included photos and brief initial assessments of several church-owned properties, the vast majority of which are located in the western parishes of Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth, which experienced some of the most severe damage. While the report is extensive, it notes that some churches and church properties have not yet been assessed for potential damage.

According to the report, five church buildings have been destroyed: Carmel, Salem, Beaufort, Springfield, and Faith Moravian Church. In addition, 20 church-owned facilities – churches, as well as manses and schools – have sustained severe damage, with roofs torn away and major structural losses. Damage to homes and community buildings is also extensive. The report noted: "It is feared that most, if not all, of the 36 congregations at the Central and Western District Conferences have sustained some level of damage."

The Provincial Board has outlined a multi-step plan for the coming months, which includes addressing people's immediate needs, offering pastoral and psychological care, continuing to coordinate assessments across affected areas, mobilizing local volunteer groups for cleanup and repair, and establishing the Moravian Church Jamaica and Cayman Islands Disaster Response Fund. The BWM has contributed an initial \$10,000 to this fund. Additional support is greatly needed to meet the scale of destruction and to help our partners rebuild and build anew their places of worship, ministry, and community life.

We are aware of several fundraisers across the Worldwide Moravian Unity and ask that Moravians in North America respond to this disaster through BWM channels to help us facilitate a coordinated response. This also enables us to prepare for North American mission teams to assist with recovery efforts when the Moravian Church in Jamaica is ready to receive us.

We are also maintaining contact with partners and leaders in Cuba and Haiti, who were also impacted by this storm.

100% of donations to our MDR Fund go toward providing relief for these disasters. You can assist us with our disaster response efforts at MoravianMission.org/Give.

Please designate your gift to "MDR" to ensure funds are directed to the disaster relief efforts with the greatest need. Make checks payable to "Board of World Mission" and send to:

U.S. Donors: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Canadian Donors: Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8.

Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to treasurer@moravian.ca. Include name and address in the comments section to receive tax receipts.

**Board of World Mission Moravian Disaster Response
Typhoon Halong (Alaska)
November 6, 2025**

The Board of World Mission continues to closely monitor the situation in western Alaska following Typhoon Halong, which reached Alaska on October 12. The storm brought hurricane-force winds, widespread flooding, and severe damage to coastal villages across the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta region.

Several communities with Moravian congregations have been directly impacted and hundreds of people, including some Moravians, from villages in the region have been displaced. Displaced individuals are currently being housed in several Moravian facilities in Bethel including two parsonages, the Moravian Seminary, and possibly soon, the old seminary building. To help offset the cost of utilities for these buildings serving as temporary housing, the BWM's Moravian Disaster Response Fund has provided the Alaska Province with \$10,000 in additional support. This funding is in addition to the \$10,000 previously contributed to the Western Alaska Disaster Relief 2025 Fund, which is a collaboration of local community organizations and regional partners and was recommended by Moravian contacts.

We continue to hold all affected individuals, families, and communities in prayer, and we stand ready to offer additional support as we communicate with the Alaskan Moravian Province. Your gifts make it possible for us to respond quickly as needs change, to faithfully partner with our Alaskan siblings in the weeks and months ahead.

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