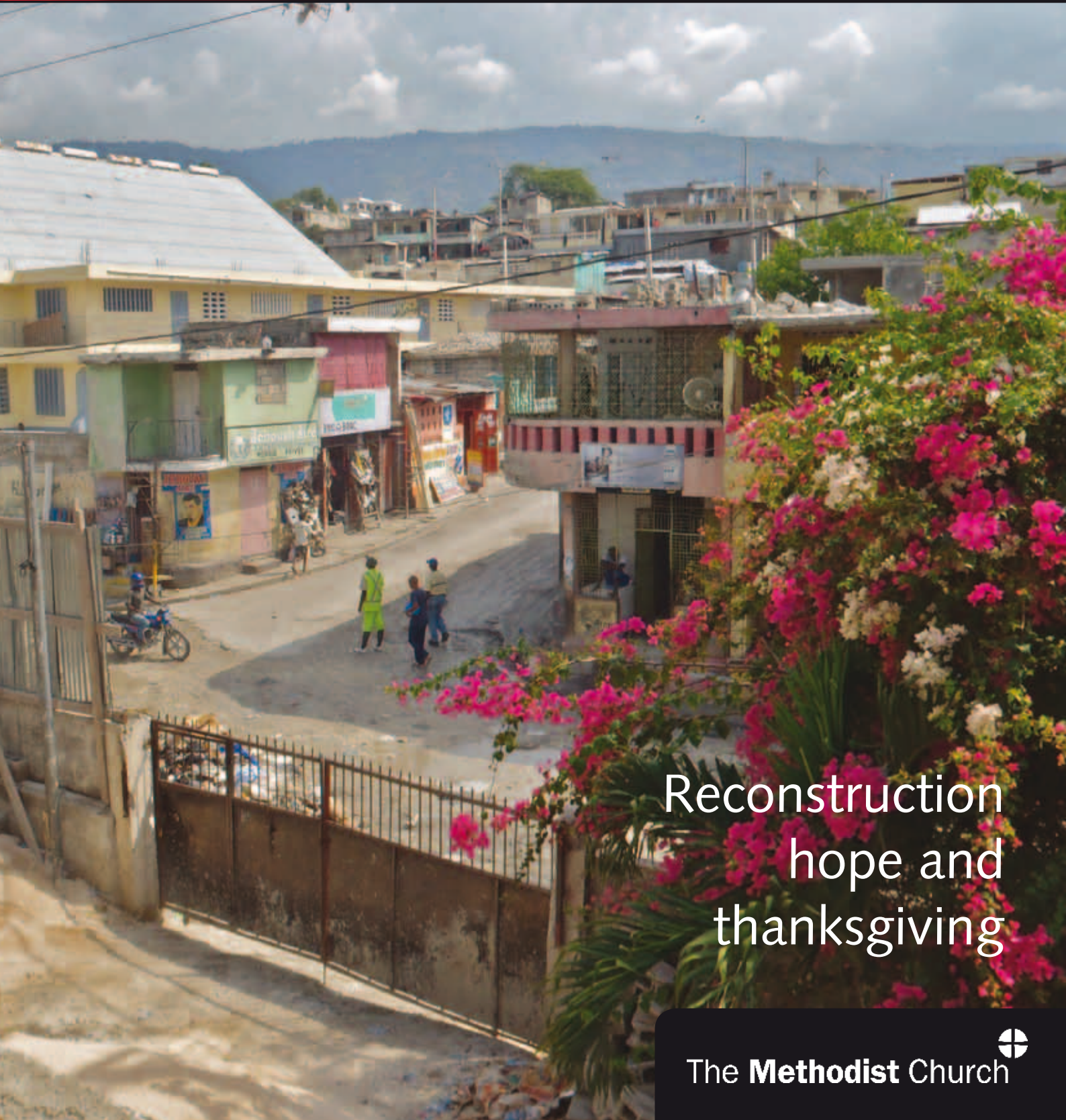


PRAY FOR MISSION - GIVE TO MISSION - SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION

Haiti

January 2013

Let us rise up and build



Reconstruction
hope and
thanksgiving

Dear friends,

The Methodist Church in Haiti has greatly valued our solidarity during the past two years since the earthquake of January 2010. Standing alongside the Haitian people with financial offerings, regular visits, and ongoing support has been very important in providing a strong sense that the churches in Haiti are not in this alone.

Together the United Methodist Church, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, the United Church of Canada, the World Church Relationships team and many churches, circuits and districts of the Methodist Church in Britain have shared prayers, technical support and funds to realise the transformation from disaster to recovery. We have rejoiced together at church openings, prayed at the groundbreaking for new schools and celebrated the formal opening of new homes.

This year, as the reconstruction process continues and Haiti also looks forward beyond physical rebuilding to re-establishing services such as community health, we've been able to appoint John and Sharon Harbottle as mission partners to Haiti. This is very important because it says that not only are the Methodist people in Britain involved and interested to raise money for Haiti, but as long term partners they are interested in being with the Haitian people, sharing resources and sending mission partners.

It has been a difficult journey, but it is amazing to see what the Haitians have accomplished. It is important that we have been with them; they value our links with them very much. Thank you for your support; your prayers and gifts that have enabled World Church Team at the Methodist Church to provide this support right from 'Day One'. We couldn't have done it without you.

"it is amazing to see what the Haitians have accomplished"

The Revd Tom Quenet,
partnership
coordinator,
Latin America
& the Caribbean



Message from the Haitian Church



*Above: The destruction: one of the schools that collapsed during the earthquake
Below: The reconstruction begins: rebuilding St Martin's School*

"By God's grace we have picked ourselves up and have been rebuilding. These photos retrace two events in the life of the Methodist Church: the destruction on 12 January 2010 and the reconstruction in the Christian faith with the precious support of our partners. We would like to specially thank them for their solidarity, support and their education to the Haitian cause. We

must face the challenge of working to raise Haiti from the ashes. We have been called to work in a difficult context, but as leaders, we must be the last ones to lose hope. Yes, let us maintain this hope that helps us triumph and believe that rebirth is still possible."

"We have been called to work in a difficult context, but as leaders, we must be the last ones to lose hope"



"As Nehemiah did, dear colleagues, co-workers, friends, members and partners, let us say together 'Let us rise up and build!' Let us not be afraid of the immense task before us. If we work diligently, instead of rubble there will be beautiful buildings, there will be beautiful flowers and plants and our hearts will be filled with peace."

The Revd Gesner Paul,
president of the
Conference, Methodist
Church of Haiti



Four stories of lives changed

Michelle

Michelle, aged 22, is a lifelong member of the Methodist Church in Mellier, Haiti.

Her family home was completely destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. A joint project between the Methodist Church in Britain, the United Methodist Church, and the United Church of Canada has been working with Haitians to rebuild this community, bringing relief and hope and rebuilding homes, churches and schools.

While her family lives in other parts of the world, Michelle remains in Haiti and though she says "the progress has been too slow" in rebuilding Haiti, she continues to be faithful in finding a solution.

Below: Michelle outside her new home



Pauline

Pauline Mars has participated in the microcredit programme since 2001, when she borrowed \$75.

Today she is an animatrice, or programme manager, and has a loan of \$2,500. Pauline buys and sells cosmetics and grain. "The community bank is my life," she says. "I have had many different experiences and made new friends. My attitude has changed, and I am more confident." Pauline invested her earnings in a small piece of land and has built a home.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has partnered with The Methodist Church of Haiti since the earthquake, to strengthen their long running microcredit programme which is needed now more than ever as people seek to get back on their own feet financially.*

Dana

Dana Joseph sells food products and began in the microcredit program in 2000. After her husband lost his job, Dana was able to continue to send her seven children to school and support the family. "I have learned important life-management skills through my business, which enables me to invest in my children's lives," she says.*

"I have learned important life-management skills through my business, which enables me to invest in my children's lives"

**Thanks to Lauren James, UMCOR's liaison with the Methodist Church of Haiti, for these stories.*

Sarah

In 2010 the Haiti appeal made a grant to the Methodist Church in Haiti to provide

scholarships for 30 young people to study at university. One of those was 20-year-old Sarah, who will complete her diploma in business administration next year. She will be able to secure a better paid job that will help her to rebuild the home she shares with her parents and younger brother. Sarah told us of her longer term plans to study medicine, and her belief that the key to the future of Haiti is education. "With education we can prepare a generation of parents that will provide the best standards and motivation for their children to help Haiti develop and grow well in the future," she says. The Methodist Church in Haiti echoes this thought, and is calling for more support of this kind that invests in a lasting and permanent effect on the future of Haiti.

"With education we can prepare a generation of parents that will provide the best standards and motivation for their children to help Haiti develop and grow well in the future"



Building back better

Leveque School



The newly opened Leveque school



Celebrating after the school blessing ceremony



One of the classrooms with furniture from the Methodist churches in Britain



Handing over of the keys from the Methodist Church in Haiti to the school Head Teacher

Tom Quenet visited the **Leveque School** in April 2010, three months after the earthquake had taken place. "There was only one wall left," he recalls. "The children were meeting in the church, which itself had been badly damaged. The entrance to the church had the words 'Il Est Ressuscité' (he is risen) written above it. Children were meeting outside, underneath a tree as their classroom.

"During my visit in September 2012, the school was reopened. This

is a very special project that showcases the wonderful partnerships within Methodism. The Wirral Circuit has led a tremendous district-wide fundraising effort to support the school, and together with other Methodist churches in Britain, in particular Trinity Church in Chelmsford, the classroom has been furnished, enabling the Methodist Church in Haiti to hand over a completed school ready for use. All the work on the school has been done by Haitians. It's a very powerful witness to the way the whole job has worked."

La Tremblay



La Tremblay church after the earthquake

La Tremblay is a small community near Croix-des-Bouquets on the road to the Dominican Republic. The 12 January, 2010 earthquake destroyed the Methodist chapel and severely damaged the school. The school building was repaired with the help of Rebuilding Haiti Now, while the chapel is now being rebuilt with the help of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams.



Well underway with the new church building

La Tremblay has a congregation of over 100 members and attendance at worship has significantly increased since the earthquake. They now worship in the Methodist School building and look forward to the completion of their new church building during the course of the year 2013. The Methodist Church in Haiti is studying the possibility of establishing a Methodist village in La Tremblay in order to provide housing to victims of the earthquake.

Please display this thank you poster on your church noticeboard. If you are responsible for more than one church you can request more copies from **missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk** or **020 7467 5117**



A message from Haiti

"We would like to specially thank our precious partners for their solidarity, support and their education to the Haitian cause. As Nehemiah did, dear colleagues, co-workers, friends, members and partners, let us say together 'Let us rise up and build!'".

The Revd Gesner Paul, president of the Conference, Methodist Church of Haiti

IN MEM
12 JANU

*Thank you for being a part of the reconstruction, hope and thanksgiving in Haiti. In total we raised **£500,000** to send support to the Methodist Church in Haiti*

MORIAM
IER 2010



How Haiti remembers

A Memorial Garden has been built and planted at the Hotel Montana, where two Americans from the United Methodist Church were killed during the earthquake. It's an important place for those who lost friends and family to go to continue to remember and find peace with all that they have suffered.

Above: The Memorial Garden at the Hotel Montana, Port-au-Prince; a peaceful place overlooking the city planted in remembrance of the many who died from Haiti and overseas in January 2010. The garden features a bell that is rung in memory of those who died, which is suspended in a concrete structure that represents the fragility of the structures destroyed in the earthquake.



A Prayer for Haiti

Gracious Heavenly Father, we continue to remember the people of Haiti, giving thanks for their strength of character and commitment to Jesus. We rejoice and give thanks for all that has been done and we pray for forgiveness for all that we have forgotten to do. We commit ourselves to working with the people of Haiti to end poverty and bring about justice in Haiti and throughout the world.

Rosny Desroches (pictured), executive director of Haiti's Initiative for Civil Society, recently visited Britain to address both the House of Lords and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Haiti.



During his trip, Rosny paid a visit to Methodist Church House and commended British Methodists for their support following the earthquake. "You have been very generous to Haiti," he said, "not only in donations, but also in sending people such as Leslie Griffiths to us. We do appreciate that."

Rosny explained that although much had been achieved in rebuilding Haiti after the earthquake, the effects of Hurricane Sandy in November had undone some of the good work.

"Sandy has had some effect, mainly on agriculture," he said. "We had a lot of floods and lost a lot of crops. That will have some economic effect. Now the estimate is that 50% of the population are under food and security threats. We lost many lives; some 50 people died. It also damaged some of the infrastructure – roads in particular. Thankfully, we didn't lose too many buildings this time. But there were a lot of damaged crops and some people lost their lives."

Rosny is a Methodist local preacher, and has been involved at a very high level in Haitian public life. "Rosny has managed to be influential in the life of Haiti without being tainted by politics," said Tom Quenet.

"We are proud to be part of the Methodist family."

"I have been very impressed by this my first visit to Methodist Church House," Rosny said. "There's a lot about its structure and organisation that we could learn from. We are proud to be part of the Methodist family."

Haiti looks forward

A report by the Revd Leslie Griffiths, superintendent of Wesley's Chapel and a former mission partner in Haiti

The governance of Haiti is still tentative and fragile but it is very encouraging to see the progress they are making in spite of being rocked by two hurricanes, a drought and street demonstrations all since the earthquake only two years ago. All these have underlined the need, above all, for political stability.

To this end, a great deal of work is being done by a wide range of organisations anxious to help Haiti build capacity and manage its own affairs. A number of initiatives to build relationships with Haiti and provide encouragement and capacity building to their governance have taken place. The British and Haitian governments are to re-open diplomatic relations for the first time since 1966 and moves are currently underway to establish ambassadors in both capitals.

This is further supported by the formation of an All Party Parliamentary Group for Haiti, and a recent visit of a group of parliamentarians (together with a trade delegation) on a joint visit to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



The Government received the Haitian Prime Minister when he was in London for the summer Olympic Games and enjoyed some significant conversations with him.

Altogether it has been a very active year, with much achieved and a great deal to look forward to. My work across all these fields is helped enormously by the support of Progressio, a UK based Catholic charity that works to help people in developing countries overcome poverty, and the hard and dedicated work of Lizzette Robleto-Gonzales, Progressio's policy and advocacy officer.



Haiti's new mission partners



Left: The Revd Edzaire Paul, Director of Education, Methodist Church of Haiti sharing some new church publications with John Harbottle. Below: Wendy Vencus, UMCOR, Sharon Harbottle, and Elwilne Laporte, Methodist Church of Haiti, all working in the Christian Education Office of the Church.



John and Sharon Harbottle are mission partners who arrived in Haiti at the end of August to work with the Methodist Church of Haiti. They are ideally equipped to stand alongside the Haitian church during the next phase of recovery: John is a medical doctor and Sharon is a teacher with a degree in theology.

Shortly after arriving and a few days before Tropical Storm Sandy hit Haiti, John was invited by one of the ministers, the Revd Dorcelly, newly appointed to the circuit of Petit Goave, to help members of his congregations who were suffering from cholera, malaria and dengue fever. This is a situation that has worsened still further since the flooding and crop destruction caused by Sandy and so the invitation for John could not have been timelier. He will introduce a community health programme that will equip the local community to tackle these problems with education and simple management techniques.



Understanding that health and well being are within the purposes of God for his people (saving lives as well as souls) is Sharon's passion as she writes Sunday School lessons for the Church and prepares training material in Creole and French for local preachers.

John and Sharon wrote to us recently: "We have already been welcomed by 5 circuits and have visited schools, churches and clinics in all these, some up to 200 miles away involving 8 hour journeys through the mountains and fording swollen rivers. It has been exciting to meet and work alongside volunteer mission teams from other countries, who come to help with re-building, education of adults and children, vacation Bible schools and

sewing classes, or supplying medical and nursing support.

"We look forward to visiting the other six circuits to assist them develop their health activities and to offer training in the church, in the coming year. Access to one circuit is only by boat, so that will be an adventure."

"At the heart is a committed church of worshipping people, singing strongly, praying fervently and meeting for mutual fellowship. Best of all it is a growing church."

Sharon & John Harbottle, mission partners, Haiti

Haiti tomorrow: projects in the coming year made possible by your gifts

Following Tom Quenet's visit this autumn, the Methodist Church in Britain was able to transfer the remaining balance of the appeal funds to the Church in Haiti. These funds will be used to reinforce the physical reconstruction with community development, with a particular focus on health and Christian education. Amongst other things, the money will go towards:



Down near the docks in Port au Prince is La Saline Clinic, which serves the poorest parts of the city. Over 300,000 people live nearby with virtually no sanitation, electricity, waste collection or clean water.

The clinic was damaged by the earthquake and still awaits repairs, and the pharmacy does not always have the drugs people need. However, patients are being seen and treated. Nurses attend every day and a doctor attends several days a week for about two hours a time.

The clinic will be repaired in 2013. John Harbottle, our mission partner who specialises in community health work, will be supporting the staff. The Methodist Central Hall Westminster has committed to raise £50,000 towards mission work as part of its centenary celebrations. Half of this sum will go towards the rebuilding and refurbishment work at La Saline.

The Revd Martin Turner, Superintendent Minister at Methodist Central Hall says, "When we consulted the Revd Tom Quenet, we were delighted to discover that the Connexion would add to our giving if we met the £25,000 for the '50% abroad' part of the appeal. We are thrilled to discover that so much work will be able to be done."



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR **Tel:** 020 7467 5117

Email: missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk

This newsletter is free. Further copies are available by emailing missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk

The printing and dispatch costs of this update have been covered by the fundraising budget, not by any of the donations received in response to the Haiti appeal. All the money raised has been used to support Haiti's recovery.

This is provided for the Methodist Church in Britain. Methodist churches and others in linked ecumenical projects may freely copy this resource for their own use.

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Who else in your church might find this useful? Write their names and get them to tick the box when they have received or seen a copy.

Members of your local mission committee

Local preachers

House group leaders