

Summer 2015

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!

JMA secretaries'
news inside!

NEWS FROM GERMANY



NEWS FROM NEPAL



The Methodist Church 

Contents

Have you ever wondered how JMA began?	3
News after the Nepal earthquake	4
World Mission Fund response	4
79 prison libraries for Nepal	5
The story of Mary	6
Sierra Leone	7
Building an INSPIREd community in Chemnitz ...	8
Germany	9
Dear JMA secretaries 10-11	
The JMA Nepal Challenge	12

Rainbow Editor: Victoria Ireland

Use of photographs

We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

All photographs should include written confirmation that written parental consent has been obtained (and the date it was obtained) for the image to be used in *Rainbow*. We are unable to use any images that do not confirm you hold parental consent.



Welcome to the summer issue of *Rainbow*! We are sharing news from the recent earthquake in Nepal, and the rescue efforts that your JMA fundraising is supporting. On the back cover are some ideas for a JMA challenge in support of Nepal. There are also stories about the history of JMA, and about work in Germany and Sierra Leone.



You'll also find the last set of three scripture postcards inside. We'd love to hear from you if you have liked the postcards this year; write and tell us how you have used them, and which was your favourite.

Enjoy this issue!

JMA challenge

Can you learn about the history of JMA at your church?

- When did the first JMA group start?
- Who were the first leaders?
- Interview some adults who grew up in your church and explore their memories of JMA.

Make a poster, play, model, poem or other way to share what you have learned with other people.



Have you ever wondered how JMA began?

JMA was founded by Joseph Blake, who was from Wandsworth in Surrey. In 1812, Joseph heard a very inspiring sermon about missionary work. Back at his home church, he shared his excitement with the children in his Sunday school class. He told stories of missions and missionaries and invited the children to give half a penny a week for this work. Soon other teachers copied the idea and started Juvenile Missionary Societies in London, Leeds, Hull and Halifax.

As interest in supporting mission grew, Joseph was asked to write a plan for teaching children about missionary work. In his plan he said that what children learned would be just as important as how much money they raised. This is the same today: Learn, Pray and Serve are still the three equal strands of JMA.



In 1841, JMA became an essential part of the Methodist Church throughout Britain. The proportions of the money raised to support work 'at home' and 'overseas' varied from place to place, until in 1932 the Methodist Uniting Conference agreed that:

"In every Circuit of Great Britain, and where possible, in every local church, there should be a Juvenile Missionary Association (later changed to Junior Mission for All), the members of which shall be taught to regard the missionary activity of the Church, as one whole, irrespective of geographical position. They shall collect for mission ... and the amounts so collected ... shall be divided between the Methodist Missionary Society and the Home Mission Fund in the proportion of 4/5 and 1/5 respectively."

News after the Nepal earthquake

You may have heard in April about the terrible earthquake that struck Nepal. Soon after the earthquake we heard from Dinesh at the Prison Fellowship that everyone who works there was safe, with only minor damage to their building.

Rokaya who works for the National Council of Churches wrote to us one week after the earthquake: "In the whole of Kathmandu and I believe in many other districts people are living in tents and plastic covers outside their houses. One church in Kathmandu collapsed killing at least 26 during Saturday worship service."

World Mission Fund response

The World Mission Fund has supported Paul Wright, a former disaster management advisor with the United Mission to Nepal, to return to Nepal to help. Paul and his wife Sarah were mission partners in Nepal from 1998 until April last year. They lived there with their two children.

Paul will be working with Nepal Christian Relief Services, a small charity that helps churches to help their communities rebuild after disasters. Their work might include:

- rebuilding and repairing houses
- supply of household goods, food and clothing to families
- support for the children who might have lost one or both parents
- rebuilding of water supply system, sewage system, schools, and health centres.

Malcolm and Cati Ramsay are two current mission partners, who you may remember reading about in *Rainbow* last year. They are supporting the rescue efforts in Kathmandu with pastoral work, providing a listening ear and support to people who need someone to talk to about their heartbreaking loss and frightening experiences.



About the earthquake

Nepal sits at the meeting point of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. The Indian plate pushes north towards Asia. Pressure builds up between the plates until eventually they rupture.

It was the largest earthquake to strike Nepal since 1934. It caused buildings to collapse and triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain.



The earthquake was felt in parts of India, Bangladesh, Tibet and Pakistan.

Prayer for Nepal



Loving Father, thank you that you are close to the people of Nepal. I pray that they will feel your loving presence guiding them. May it bring them hope each day. Bless those working for recovery with wisdom and strength. Comfort everyone who has lost loved ones, especially children who have lost their parents. Help them to know and trust in your promise to set the lonely in families. In Jesus name, amen.



Please consider raising funds for Nepal. You can find some ideas on the back cover!

79 prison libraries for Nepal

Life in prison is hard for us to imagine. It can be very boring, and most prisoners in Nepal often spend their time just sleeping or sitting with other prisoners.

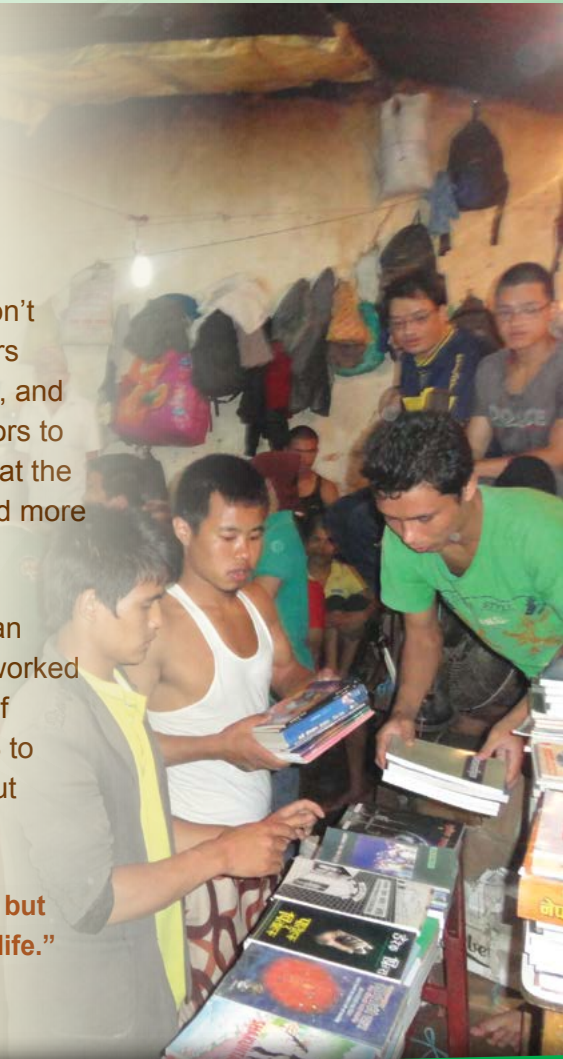
It is very boring. What are some of the things you like to do when you feel bored? Perhaps you enjoy reading non-fiction books and learning new things. Do you enjoy reading or listening to stories and imagining all the people and places?

During the last 10 years the Prison Fellowship Nepal has set up 79 libraries in prisons all over Nepal. Now there are only two

prisons left in Nepal that don't have a library! The prisoners enjoy having books to read, and the prison guards and visitors to the prisons have noticed that the prisoners seem happier and more positive.

Henry Ward Beecher was an American clergyman who worked in support of the abolition of slavery. He lived from 1813 to 1887, and he said this about libraries:

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."



The story of Mary – a big sister affected by Ebola



Four-year-old Abel woke up with a headache. He asked where mum was. I drew him close; it was still early in the morning and I did not want our little sister Sarah to wake up.

How do I explain to my sister that mum died a few weeks ago? Mum had cared for a very sick neighbour who was thought to have malaria, but unfortunately it was a deadly disease caused by the Ebola virus. Mother helped the woman into a vehicle that took her to the hospital, and then died few days later. I was in school preparing for my examinations

when I heard the news. The school closed down later anyway due to the Ebola outbreak in Kailahun. I still do not know when it will reopen and I doubt if I can go back as I need to care for my siblings.

I miss my mum but have good memories of her hard work, determination and kindness to share with my siblings when they grow older. We are grateful for the gifts and support we have had from neighbours and agencies, since we do not have much. However, I remember mum used to tell me to cast my cares on Jesus, for he cares for us! She encouraged me to pray instead of worry. Even though I cannot explain why bad things happen, I know I have a God that cares

about us and I hope to meet with mum someday in heaven.

As we sang and praised God into the new year, I prayed for God's provision and protection. I prayed he blesses our neighbours, keeps us together as a family and ends this horrible Ebola crisis in my country. I am thankful to be alive to see 2015 but I hope I can better explain the situation to my brother and sister Abel some time.

Now I need to get up and take care of Abel and Sarah the way mum did. What can Abel eat this morning? I hope his headache is gone when he gets up and pray it is a good day for us all.

(Adapted from a true online story)



*“Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.”*

1 Peter 5:7



Sierra Leone is on the west coast of Africa, next to the Atlantic Ocean. Mangrove swamps lie along the coast; wooded hills are inland and the eastern region is mountainous.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to explore the land and gave Sierra Leone its name, which means ‘lion mountain’.

There was a long civil war in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. This left the country very poor, and it is slowly recovering.

**Sierra
Leone**

Praying



We remember friends and loved ones living in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

We pray they are comforted by God’s Spirit and reassured of his love and compassion.

We thank God for those who gave time, money, resources, prayers and goodwill. May the good Lord shower them with kindness and tender mercies.

We pray for front-line workers during the Ebola crisis.

May the good Lord protect and strengthen them as they consider the welfare of others before theirs.

We pray for orphans, widows, widowers and the poor. May they be better resourced to cope with the challenges of life.

May God give us a generous heart to give cheerfully and appreciate every blessing God has given each of us. In Jesus name we pray.

Building an INSPIRED community in Chemnitz



team of young people from the Irish Methodist Church. They planted flowers and got to know local people. You can watch a short video about the week online at www.irishmethodist.org/imycd/video/team-chemnitz-bruhl

they moved into rooms on the Brühl. Collecting materials from the rubbish tip and other throwaway items they re-upholstered old chairs, built sofas and a serving counter out of old wooden pallets, and even made tables out of old sewing machines! In January, they celebrated a grand opening with 100 people.

One month later, after many prayers and negotiations with the city council,

Local people come to the centre to learn English, enjoy a kids' club, join the teens' group, eat breakfast together, and worship at the Soul Sunday house group.

Barry Sloan, from Northern Ireland, is a mission partner in Chemnitz in Germany. He leads INSPIRE with his wife Gillian and six other people. Their vision is to help build a loving community on the Brühl, an area of high unemployment. They want to be good neighbours, and be a blessing to others.



INSPIRE ran a street festival in Brühl last year, together with a


Prayer focus

Please give thanks for all who give time and money to the project. Pray that God will bless their vision, and draw all those who visit INSPIRE closer to him. Pray that the light of Jesus will shine brightly.



Germany shares borders with nine countries: Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands.
Germany is an interesting place to visit.

In Berlin, you can learn about German history and reunification.
Visit beautiful cathedrals in Cologne and the Rhine Valley.
The Black Forest is a treat for nature lovers.
Rothenburg ob der Tauber is a medieval town with huge Christmas shops.
The German Alps are beautiful and great for skiing and hiking.
There are more than 25,000 castles in Germany, for history lovers.

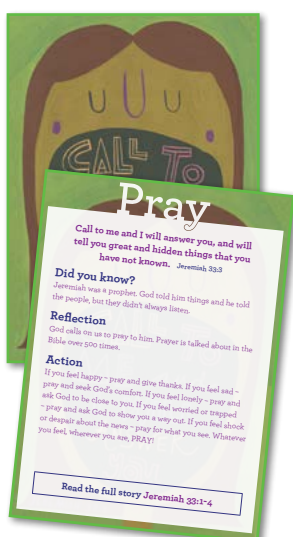
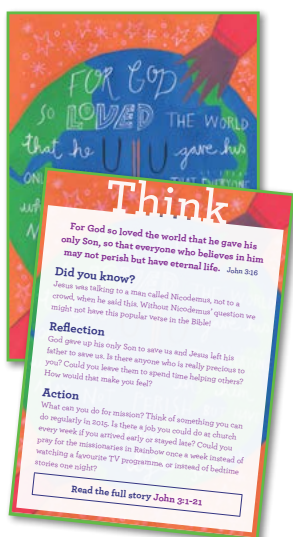
Junk remodelling:

Do you like junk modelling? Have you ever made furniture from junk? Maybe you could have a go at making a simple bird table, bookshelf, or something else that you need? Local tip-shops are a great place to find materials for less than a pound!



Germany

In this issue



Dear JMA secretaries,

Welcome to the summer issue of *Rainbow*. We hope you have had a great year with your JMA groups. Thank you for all that you have done, and all that you will be planning for the year ahead.

Please consider supporting your young people to raise funds for the Nepal earthquake recovery. You can read about the earthquake on pages 4-5, and the JMA challenge overleaf on the back cover.

If you hold an event please send in details. If you include photographs please make sure that you have the consent of the parents and guardians and confirm this when you send them in. Then we will be able to publish them in *Rainbow*. You can write to us at the address below. We'd also love to hear from you if you find interesting stories about the history of JMA in your church, as suggested on Page 3.

childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk

JMA, The Children & Youth Team, The Methodist Church,
25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Scripture postcards

In this issue we are sharing the final set of three scripture postcards. You can use them with the children to explore the three JMA themes: *Think-Pray-Live*. You could use one in a Sunday School session and then encourage children and their families to talk about the other two at home. Perhaps you would like to learn one or more of the verses as a group. If you have found the postcards useful this year, please do write to us at the address above and let us know.

2015/16 JMA resources now in stock!

New target charts, prayer cards, certificates, and commissioning services are now in stock at Norwich Books. To order go to www.methodistpublishing.org.uk or phone 0845 017 8220.

New JMA resources pack!

As we go to press we are finalising a new JMA resources pack for 2015/16. The pack will include everything you need as a JMA leader. Inside you will find an annual planner, six small group session guides, a game and much more. You can order the pack from Norwich Books, who can also send you all the other JMA resources that you need for next year, including badges and certificates. To order go to www.methodistpublishing.org.uk or phone 0845 017 8220.



JMA Nepal challenge

Our mission partners in Nepal, who you can read about on pages 4-5, will be working hard over the summer to help communities recover from the devastating earthquake on 25 April.

The JMA Nepal challenge invites you and your JMA group to support them!

Live

Can you hold a fundraising event to support the reconstruction work in Nepal? The emergency response will be finished, but the reconstruction phase will last several years. If the weather is nice you could run an ice cream stall after church; or create a wet-themed play space for children.



Think

Work on a project and share what you learn or make with your church group. Here are a few ideas, and you may have other thoughts about what most interests you:

- Learn more about earthquakes and build a model to show how they happen.
- Find out more about the people of Nepal. You might learn about their language, dress and customs.
- Keep reading and watching news of the earthquake recovery and make a timeline in words, pictures, or using newspaper cuttings.
- Ask your parents/guardians if you can do some jobs for them around the home to raise more money for the earthquake appeal.

नमस्कार

Pray

Keep praying for Nepal. Prayer flags are a common sight in Nepal; write, draw and colour on these flags as you pray. You can keep praying even when you run out of words, by just thinking about the people of Nepal as you doodle.

