

Winter 2014/2015

# RAINBOW

Free  
for all  
children!

JMA secretaries'  
news inside!



The Methodist Church





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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](mailto: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.



# Happy Christmas!

How well do you know the Christmas story? See if you can answer all these questions, and then quiz your family too.

**Q.1** Who told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus?

- The angel Michael
- The angel Gabriel
- Joseph

**Q.2** What town was Jesus born in?

- Jerusalem
- Bethlehem
- Nazareth

**Q.3** Why was Jesus born in a stable?

- There was no room at the inn.
- Mary loved animals.
- Mary and Joseph were farmers.



Annunciation is a long word that describes when the angel gave Mary the news that she would be the mother of Jesus.

**Q.4** What three gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?

- Gold, diamonds and rubies.
- A blanket, a teddy and a book.
- Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Answers: 1b, 2b, 3a, 4c

# Healthcare and handwashing in Mozambique

Malcolm and Gina Oliver and their two children Chipo and Luyando live in Maxixe in Mozambique. Gina and Malcolm both work at the local hospital. Gina is a nurse, and Malcolm is a chaplain. The Methodist Church and the government work as a team to lead the hospital.

When Gina started work in the surgical ward she was worried that there was only one basin for people to wash their hands. She has bought some extra plastic water bowls and soap to make life easier. Sometimes little things can make a big difference. Keeping clean is very important for keeping healthy!

Gina also started a mobile clinic. Gina and a team of doctors and nurses drive to see patients who cannot travel to the hospital in town. They spend a lot of time with babies and young children. They help their mummies to look after them, feed them well and take care of them when they are ill.

## Country facts: Mozambique

- People only expect to live until they are about 52 years old.
- Only about half of the people have a chance to learn to read and write.
- The capital city is Maputo.
- People speak Portuguese.
- Farmers grow cotton, cashew nuts, sugarcane, tea, cassava, corn and tropical fruits.



One of the mobile health clinics – because the weather is warm they meet outside under a mango tree.



Gina at work in the hospital.

Malcolm asked Chipo and Luyando if they had a message for the Rainbow readers.



They asked him to tell you about their Portuguese-speaking nursery where they have learnt to speak Portuguese as easily as they speak English. Their favourite thing about living in Mozambique is going to play on the beach by the sea. They don't like the big lorry that passes by their house, which is next to the main road that goes between the north and south of Mozambique.

Heavenly Father, thank you for Gina, Malcolm, Chipo and Luyando. Thank you that small things can make a big difference. We pray that the nurses and patients will keep washing their hands. Please help them see how important this is. We ask that you will bless the mobile clinic in reaching those who cannot travel to hospital.



**Prayer focus**

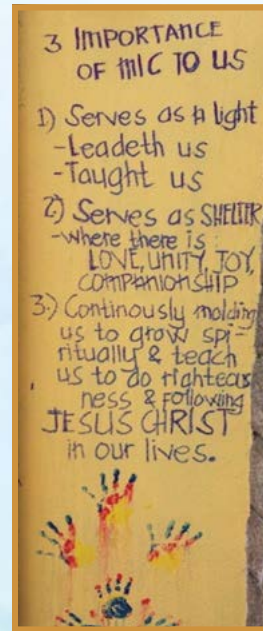
# Hong Kong: A church on the move!

In 1851 God called a lay preacher, George Piercey, to Hong Kong. He obeyed this call, and travelled to Hong Kong. He started a fellowship group for soliders and sailors, and the Methodist Church in Hong Kong was begun.

More than 150 years later, the Methodist International Church (MIC) in Hong Kong is too big for its building. The church holds seven services on a Sunday, in five different languages. And so the church is on the move!

In the autumn they said goodbye to their old building. During the goodbye parties they wrote prayers on huge fabric sheets. This one tells the story of why this is a fabulous church to be part of.

The new building will be 22 storeys high. It will cost \$400 million to build, and will take two years to build. It will be home to the MIC and also to the leadership of the whole Methodist Church in Hong Kong. At the heart of this redevelopment will be a Methodist Church with multiple congregations using at least five different languages.



## MIC have written a special prayer for this adventure:

Generous God, out of your goodness you have given your people vision and skill to prepare this house of prayer for mission and ministry. Empower and bless us all at this time of pledge dedication as we offer our gifts and tithes in your service and to your glory. Sanctify this venture of faith, inspire our planning, enable vision to be shaped into a building which, from its foundation and in its covering, from wall to wall, from

roof to floor will be a beacon of your love and grace to all who seek your presence. **Amen.**

## JMA challenge

Can you make a prayer sheet? Find an old sheet, or even just a pillowcase or tea-towel. Write or draw your own prayers for each of the projects in this issue. Put it up on a wall in your bedroom, or dining room and pray for the projects when you eat, or before you go to bed.



## Country facts: Hong Kong

Hong Kong has the most skyscrapers in the world: 8,000 buildings have more than 14 floors.

Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. There are 6,557 people per square kilometre. (For comparison, in the UK there are 262 people per square kilometre; in Australia there are only 3.)





# Volcanic explosion in Papua New Guinea

Before dawn on 29 August, Tavurvur – a volcano on the island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea – awoke spectacularly after almost 10 years of being quiet. The eruption shot lava hundreds of metres into the air. The ash cloud reached 18 km; this is almost twice as high as most aircraft fly.

Wande Ebofin is a mission partner in Papua New Guinea. She lives in a house near the beach and teaches at the George Brown High School and at the Rarongo Theological College. Wande wrote this about the volcano:



Wande Ebofin

“I woke up to a series of rumbling sounds, which I thought were thunderstorms. There was the plan to take the Grade 10 prefects for a picnic as a farewell and thanks for work done throughout the school year. While stretching on my bed, I prayed for the thunderstorms to go away.

“On getting up at about 6am, I noticed new messages on my phone from a friend and also a member of staff at Rarongo. On reading the messages, I discovered that Mt Tavurvur had erupted – and realised that the rumblings I’d heard were not thunder but volcanic eruptions. On looking out of the windows, everywhere was misty and there were no signs of activity. Not knowing what the next step was, I dressed up and walked about 200 metres to the principal’s house.

I saw the dark cloud of ash coming over and felt sandy particles on me.

“The rumblings went on for a while with ash continuing to be spewed our way.

You could see the eruptions and hear the bangs as the volcano spewed out rocks. I was able to drive to a village just across the sea from the volcano to witness one of the loud bangs.”



Mt Tavurvur still erupting (Wande’s picture taken at around 4pm)



Wow! How would you feel if you woke up to hear a volcano rumbling? Volcanoes are dangerous when they erupt. What do you think they do that is harmful?

The ash is sulphuric, which is an acid. It burns the vegetation and destroys food crops in fields and gardens. Some of the acid fell in water tanks and so these cannot be used until they are all cleaned out.



Loving Father, thank you people stayed safe during the eruption. Thank you that the creek offered a source of clean water, and tinned food is enough to last until vegetation grows again. Protect the people of Papua New Guinea and give them your peace that surpasses all understanding. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.





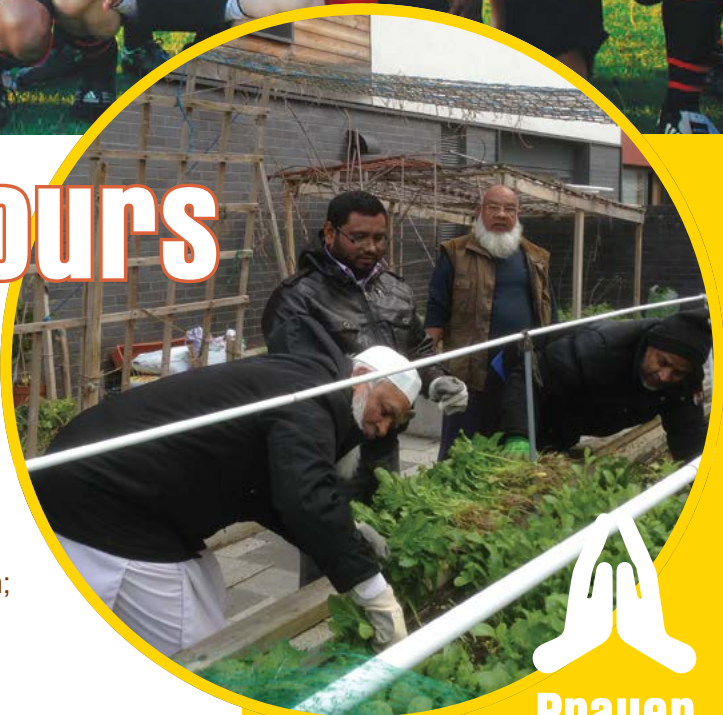
# Island neighbours

Did you know that there is an island in London? It's called the Isle of Dogs and it is home to a very special project that is supported by the Mission in Britain Fund.

Poplar Methodist Church works with groups of people who are most in need. Some are poor; some are suffering because people nearby are being mean to them; others find it hard to make friends because they do not speak English or the same language as their neighbours.

The church started a football team for young men aged 18-25. Before the team started, many of them were lonely and often did wrong things. Being in the team has helped them to make friends, and to see better ways to live. Now they want to live well and be a good part of where they live. Many of them have gone back to school or college and found jobs or voluntary work.

A men's group has started lots of healthy activities including gardening, swimming and badminton. The church also started a special club for older people. They go on visits to special places, and do craft, music and exercise activities.



**Prayer  
focus**

**Thank you Lord for the Mission in Britain Fund and everyone who gives to the Fund. Thank you for inspiring the people at Poplar Methodist Church to help their community. Please bless their work and keep giving them new ideas to grow this project even bigger.**







How did the isle get its name?

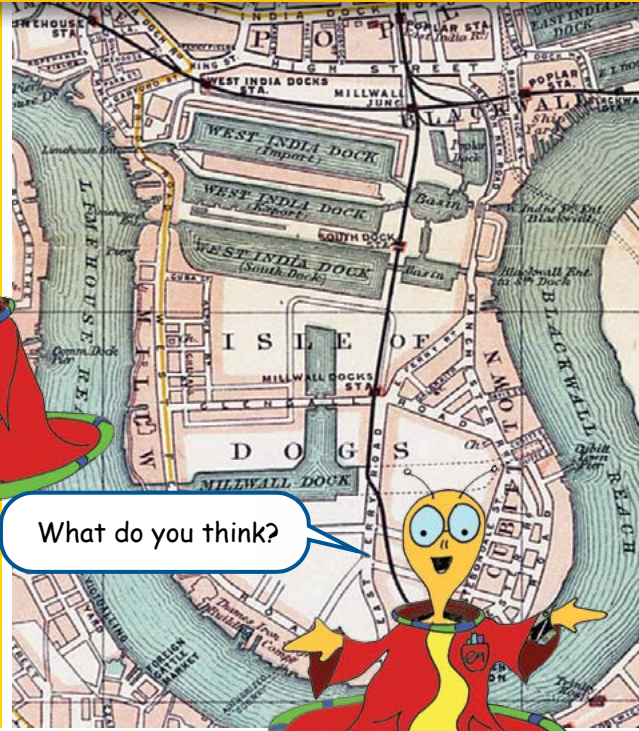
One theory is that Henry VIII kept his dogs there, and sent boats to fetch them to his palace at Greenwich when he wanted to go hunting.

Is it really an island?

Some people say that it is an island because it is completely surrounded by water. Other people argue that it is a peninsula because it is only man-made waterways (instead of natural rivers and seas) that make it completely surrounded by water.



What do you think?



## Grow your own salad!

Even though it's winter you can still grow some food indoors. Salad is a great thing to grow in winter. Keep it on your windowsill and prepare a little bowlful to eat with your dinner.

1. First find a sunny windowsill. Is there one that faces south?
2. Next find some containers. You can use an old yoghurt pot, egg boxes, or even an old squash bottle, if you cut the top off.
3. Poke a few holes in the bottom so that the water can drain out. You might need an adult to help you. Be careful!
4. You'll need some seeds. Go to a garden centre or a supermarket and choose some lettuce seeds.
5. Add soil to the container. Leave a couple of inches at the top.
6. Sprinkle the seeds thinly on top and then cover with a thin layer of soil.
7. Water the soil gently and then cover the container with cling film or keep them in a plastic bag. This helps keep everything moist and warm.
8. After 5-10 days, when you can see the seedlings growing, remove the plastic. Keep the lettuce watered and snip the leaves whenever you are hungry!



## Carrot tops

You can't eat them but another fun thing to grow is carrot tops. When you have carrots for tea, keep the tops that are cut off. Place them in a shallow dish of water and watch them grow. If you have enough tops for everyone in your family have a competition to see whose grow the tallest!

If you send *Rainbow* a photo of your carrot tops we will print them in the next issue.



# High tide in FIJI!



Mission Partner Julia Edwards (pictured) works in Fiji. There are 322 islands in Fiji and over 500 small islets. People live on 110 of these islands. The islands are spread over 194,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which just 10% is land and the rest is sea.

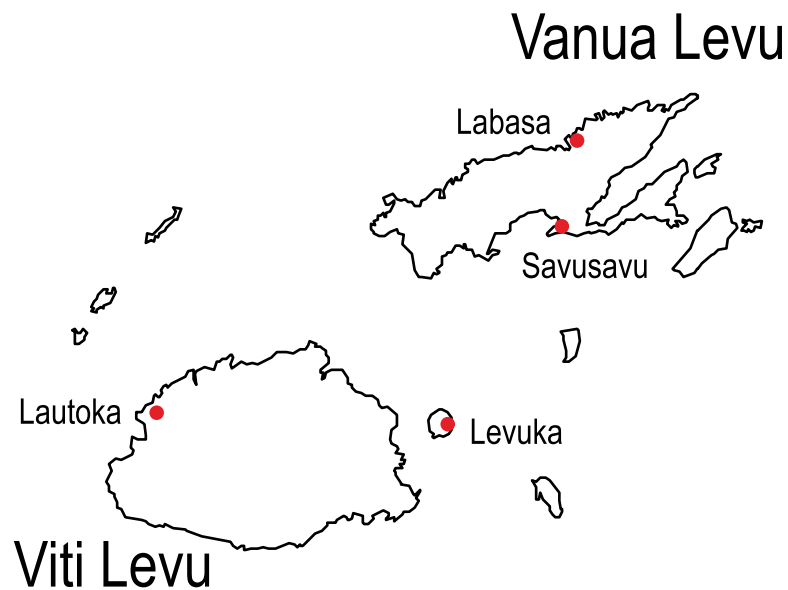
These small islands are only just above the sea level, so when sea levels rise it makes a big difference to life there. Rising sea level means that beaches become smaller, fresh water for drinking is harder to find and some crops no longer grow. On the smallest islands, it means that people have to leave their homes. They have to move to another, larger, higher island.

This can be very upsetting. Leaving your land is a big change to make. Julia Edwards listens to people who have had to move. She tries to learn from their stories. Then she can help to make it easier for people who have to move in the future.



## Can you colour in this map?

- Colour the sea blue and the islands in your favourite colours.
- As you colour in, pray for the people who live on these islands.







# A pop-up monastery

Do you have a pop up tent that you play in?  
Perhaps it is like a castle?

Some women in Europe had an idea for a pop-up monastery. They wanted to make a space where women from different Christian faiths can meet to share their traditions. Some would be Methodists, some Anglicans, others Baptists or Catholics. They all love Jesus and want to know him better.

What is a monastery?

A monastery is a place where groups of men or women live together and worship God.



## Make your own mini-monastery

Can you create a cosy place at home to pray? It doesn't have to be big, it can just be a special corner of one room. Perhaps you would put a cushion there or a chair. And some pictures or books that help you come close to God. You could spend some time there looking at and praying with the postcards in this issue, and praying for the mission projects. Remember to be quiet some of the time in case God has something to say to you.

Here are some prayers that you might like to say each day.

### Morning prayer from Psalm 143

*Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust.  
Make me know the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.*

### Prayer at mealtime

*Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for everything.  
Author unknown*

### Bedtime prayer

*Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep:  
May God guard me through the night  
And wake me with the morning light.  
Amen.  
-- Traditional*

## In this issue



# Dear JMA secretaries,

Thank you for inspiring the children and young people in your church, and sharing your passion for mission. It is an amazing ministry. We hope that you enjoy the stories in this issue and find some activities that you would like to do with the children or encourage them to share with their parents at home.

## Postcards

We will be sharing three scripture postcards in each issue this year. You can use them with the children to explore the three JMA themes: *Think-Pray-Live*. There will be one Bible verse about each word in each issue. You could use one in a Sunday School session and then encourage children and their families to talk about the other two at home. The next issue of *Rainbow* will be published just before Easter.



## Tell us your ideas...

Do you have ideas that we could use in *Rainbow*? If there is something new that you think we should include, do please tell us!

## ...and your news

Please send in details of your fundraising events. If you take 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 here:

[childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk)

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

If you want to know more about JMA please visit our websites:

[www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/Worker](http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/Worker) and  
[www.methodist.org.uk/WorldMission](http://www.methodist.org.uk/WorldMission)

You might also be interested in the One Mission Report conference paper which recommended that the Church should bring together mission which has both a local and a global focus, and so promote One Mission. The report is available online at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk), just search for the term 'One Mission Report'.





**In this issue we would like to say a special thank you to Edna Handley who has been JMA Secretary at Solihull Methodist Church for 17 years!**

One of her JMA colleagues, Jane, shared one of her memories with us:

“Edna has been a very efficient, organised and effective JMA secretary over the 17 years. She created the JMA game *Smile* with JMA collectors at Solihull church a number of years back, which I believe was published in *Rainbow* for all churches to use with their young people. We still use it in our church today. In fact we played it with our young children (6-11 year olds) only last week and through it recruited 2 new children to be JMA collectors. Edna has also played a significant role in the circuit JMA walk each summer which has raised a substantial amount of money for JMA.”

## Details about each of the Funds that JMA supports

### 80% of the funds raised through JMA go to the World Mission Fund.

We always work through our partners around the world, asking them what their needs are and responding accordingly. The World Mission Fund supports the following programmes, which are administered through World Church Relationships:

- **Mission Partners** from the UK who are funded to work with Partner Churches abroad.
- **Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT)** grants are made to students from overseas partners who wish to study in the UK or another country in the southern hemisphere.
- **National in Mission Appointment Grants** fund posts of a national of the Partner Church to undertake an agreed strategic mission project for the Church for five years.

- **Annual Grants** support the general functioning of the Church or partner in countries where extra financial help is needed.
- **General Grants** are made to churches or partner organisations to meet an unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment etc.

The **Mission in Britain Fund** supports a wide spectrum of mission including:

- mission alongside the poor
- chaplaincy
- sharing the gospel with all ages
- enabling ministering opportunities at Methodist Heritage sites
- making best use of our church properties to serve local communities.



# ¡Feliz Navidad!

That's "Merry Christmas" in Spanish.

You can learn to sing Away in a Manger in Spanish too.

## Jesús en Pesebre/Away in a Manger

Jesús en **pesebre**, sin **cuna**, nació;  
Su tierna cabeza en **heno** durmió.  
Los astros, brillando, prestaban su luz  
al niño dormido, pequeño Jesús.

- You can probably guess that **pesebre** means "manger", and **cuna** is "crib"

- **Heno** means "hay"

Los **bueyes** bramaron y Él despertó,  
mas Cristo fue bueno y nunca lloró.  
Te amo, oh Cristo, y **mírame**, sí,  
aquí en mi cuna, pensando en ti.

- **Bueyes** means "ox"

- **Mírame** is a combination of two words, *mira* (watch over) and *me* (me).

Te pido, Jesús, que me guardes a mí,  
**amándome** siempre, como te amo a ti.  
A todos los niños **da tu bendición**,  
y haznos más dignos de tu gran **mansión**.

- **Amándome** is a combination of two words, *amando* (loving) and *me* (me).

- **Da tu bendición** means "give your blessing" or simply "bless".

- **Mansión** means home, but in this context, *tu gran mansión* refers to heaven.

