

Winter 2013

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!



The Methodist Church



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Use of photographs

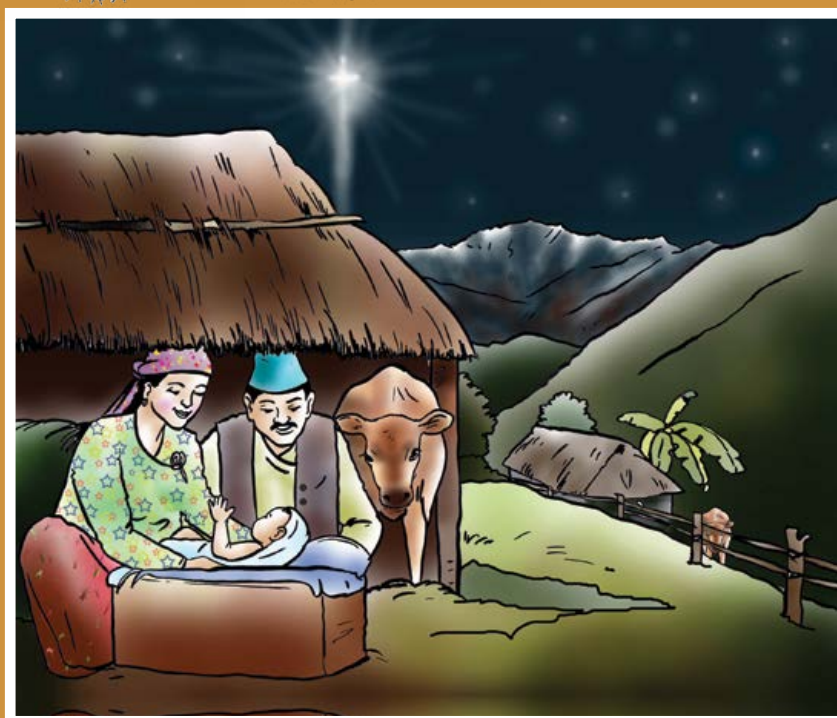
We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

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.



Happy Christmas!

This Christmas card above was painted in Nepal. We've made a few changes; can you spot the eight differences?



Prison Fellowship Nepal

In Nepal, some children whose parents are in prison have to live in prison too. To help these children, the Prison Fellowship Nepal set up three children's homes. Now 50 children live there and are really well cared for. They can go to school, celebrate birthdays and play outside. They can visit their parents too.

There isn't enough room for all the children and some still live in prison, where it isn't very nice. The charity takes them presents at Christmas. The children really enjoy this and get very excited to see their gifts.



**Prayer
focus**

**Give thanks for the
Prison Fellowship.**

**Pray for the
children they care
for to know how
much they are
loved by God, who
has good plans for
them to give them
hope and a future.**



Nepali flag



The mountainous north of Nepal has eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, including the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest.

Nepal is 147,181 square kilometres and 27 million people live there.



Hinduism is practiced by about 81.3% of Nepalis, making it the country with the highest percentage of Hindus. Only 1.4% of population are Christians.

What a thank you letter!

After Christmas, it's time for thank you letters! This one is from China; it feels like a really big thank you from the heart!

In April 2013 the Amity Foundation helped the people after an earthquake in China.

The earthquake measured 7.0 on the Richter Scale, which means most buildings were damaged. The earthquake was in Ya'an.

Nearly 200 people died and many were injured. Tianquan School has 2,600 pupils, including 800 who live at the school. After the quake, students had to live in tents on the playground. Arriving with the first relief truck was bottled water, sausages, instant noodles

and 15 tents big enough for 35 people.

Other trucks brought 500 quilts, 15 tons of rice and 1,000 buckets of cooking oil. The villages wrote this beautiful thank you letter.

Tong Su, who delivered some of the food, told us about a little boy who he met that day: "I heard a small voice say 'thank you' as I was helping a woman carry a bed to her home. I saw

an eight-year-old boy with twinkling eyes.

"It suddenly occurred to me that it was the same boy I had seen following everyone in a red Amity vest that afternoon. He must have been saying the same thing to every one of us."



What would you like to say thank you for? Why not write a thank you letter to God for all the things you have done this year. You could also tell God about your hopes for 2014.

A large sheet of yellow lined paper with two punch holes on the left side, intended for writing a thank you letter to God. The paper is placed on a background of watercolor washes in shades of green and blue.

Mission in Britain Advent Offering

Did you know that a fifth of the money that you collect for JMA is given to the Mission in Britain Fund? We thought you'd like to know about some of the work this helps here in Britain.

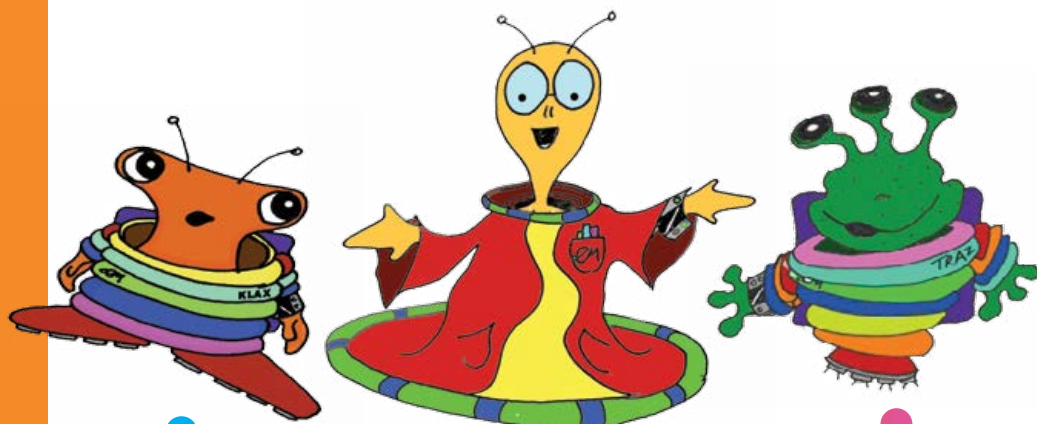
On the first Sunday in December, Methodist churches will be collecting money for the Mission in Britain Fund. In church you might see the film about the Plymouth Foodbank, which is one of the projects supported.

It is very sad that some families in the UK are hungry at meal times. Perhaps their mum or dad has lost their job, or a big bill came in the post. Foodbanks can give people three days' worth of emergency food to help them while they wait for more help.

A food bag includes tinned fish or meat, a sponge pudding, a carton of fruit juice, milk, cereal, tinned fruit, pasta and pasta sauce, and mashed potato.

This year the Plymouth Foodbank has helped more than 6,000 people – including families with babies as young as 5 months old, and older people aged up to 97!

The aliens have got tangled up. Can you help them find their food?



JMA challenges

Could you have a cake sale at church to raise money for the Mission in Britain Fund? Here are some recipes you might like to try.

Fairy cakes

- Preheat the oven to **180°C/350°F/Gas 4** and line 2 x 12-hole fairy cake tins with paper cases.
- Beat together **110g butter** and **110g caster sugar** until pale.
- Beat in **2 eggs**, a little at a time, and stir in **1 tsp vanilla extract**.
- Fold in **110g self-raising flour** using a large metal spoon. Add **1 tbsp milk**.
- Spoon the mixture into the paper cases until they are half full.
- Bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes, or until golden-brown on top and a skewer inserted



into one of the cakes comes out clean. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin and cool on a wire rack.

For the icing

- Sift **300g icing sugar** into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water (2-3 tbsp) to create a smooth mixture.
- Drizzle the icing over the cakes, sprinkle with decorations and set aside until the icing hardens.

Chocolate fridge cake



- Grease your cake tin.
- Put **250g chocolate digestive biscuits** into a plastic bag and bash them into pieces using a rolling pin.
- Melt **200g chocolate**, **100g butter** and **150g golden syrup** over a low heat.
- Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the broken biscuits, and **150g sultanas**.
- Spoon the mixture into the tin.
- Leave to cool, then put the cake into the fridge for two hours to set.
- Drizzle melted **white chocolate** over the top to decorate.

Praying for Mission

Cut out each of these prayers and put them in a jar or bowl on your dining table and pull out one a day to pray. You could add more prayers for your friends and family too.

Nepal: Give thanks for the Prison Fellowship. Pray for the children they care for to know how much they are loved by God, who has good plans for them to give them hope and a future.

China: May the Amity teams be safe from all danger and their families not worried. May the injured recover soon. May all glory for this work be given to God.

Britain: Please pray for people who do not have enough to eat. Ask God to bring them friends and help. Thank God for people who work in foodbanks, and all those who donate food and money.

Your town: Can you find out about how your church helps in your town? You might not have a foodbank, but perhaps there is a toddler group or a lunch club for older people. Write your own prayer for these activities in this box.

Your family: Write the name of someone in your family who does not live with you.

Your friends: Choose some friends to pray for this month.



Christmas in Mexico

In Britain we often see red poinsettias at Christmas. This is the story about why it is the flower of Christmas in Mexico too.

It is believed that a young boy walking to church to see the nativity scene realised on the way that he had no gift to offer to the Christ child, so he picked up some plain green branches on his way. As he walked into the church some people laughed, but when he put the branches down next to the manger they started to bloom and a bright red **poinsettia** flower appeared on each branch.

After New Year's Day, Mexican families still have a very special day to enjoy. On 6 January, they celebrate 'el Dia de los Reyes', the Epiphany, remembering the day when the wise men arrived carrying their treasured gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for Jesus. Before they go to bed the night before, the children add the three wise men to their nativity scene.



About Mexico

- Methodist work in Mexico began in 1871 when a young Mexican was converted to Methodism in the USA and went home to Mexico to share his new faith.
- Mexico hosted the World Cup in 1970 and 1986.
- Spanish is the main language of Mexico.



Christmas Craft from Mexico to try at home

Lots of art has been made with tin in Mexico for over 800 years. Paintings in Mexico were often made on sheets of tin, because it was cheaper than canvas.

You can make a picture on a sheet of tinfoil.

- Wrap the tin foil around a piece of card. A piece of a cereal box works well.
- Draw your picture or pattern using the wooden end of a paintbrush, or a biro that has run out.





Meet Sandra Lopez, the new Latin America & Caribbean world church relationships coordinator

¡Hola! Raphi! Bon dia!
Laphi! Salut! Whaa
gwaan! Bom dia!
Mary mary
wenu!
Bom dia!
Hello!

These are just some of the languages spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean.

You can use them to

learn to say hello to someone if you ever visit the region. As part of my job as the new partnership coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, I am able to speak to 21 partner Churches and 10 partner organisations in the region in Spanish, French or English. I started my new job in July, and I so far have visited Methodist churches in Ecuador and Bolivia.

The Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia has been in Bolivia for over 100 years and Methodism was introduced to the country by American missionaries. Bolivia has a population of about 10 million people, and has the largest group of indigenous peoples after Mexico and Peru.

The Methodist Church in Bolivia runs many primary schools and high schools in different areas of the country. The schools are open to children who go to different types of churches, not just Methodist ones, and teachers are also from different types of churches. But the schools love to teach their pupils about their Methodist history. Here is a photo of the John Wesley Methodist High School celebrating Wesley Day in May.

Methodist schools in Bolivia love to encourage students to learn traditional Bolivian dances and music. We saw performances at every school we went to!

The students I spoke to in Bolivia were all keen to have friends in the UK, so if you would like to find a friend in Bolivia to write to in one of these schools, please let me know! Email: wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk

About Bolivia

Indigenous population:
just under 4 million

Currency: Boliviano

President: Evo Morales

Capital city: La Paz, the highest capital city in the world at 3,600 metres above sea level

Main religion: Catholicism

Methodism in Bolivia: Since 1906

Methodist Church president:

Bishop Javier Rojas



Dear JMA Secretaries

Thank you for your ministry with children, encouraging them to learn about the worldwide Church, and to grow in prayer and service.

In this issue we have a particular JMA challenge that you might like to help the children to work on – to hold a cake sale in support of the Mission in Britain Fund. On page 6 we shared stories from the Plymouth Foodbank, and you might be able to show them the film about it that is on our website www.methodist.org.uk/mission/mission-in-britain. We have also included two recipes (page 7), and I'm sure you will have your own to share too. Perhaps you could bake together as a group.

Share your memories

We've recently heard some wonderful stories from our JMA collectors, including a lady who is 96, and has been collecting for us since she was 8!



Here are the children from Catshill Methodist Sunday Club at their awards service in September.



Another report came in from Ruth Mallard in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. She recently held a special event learning

about Nepal. The JMA collectors and secretaries sang a song from Nepal, learnt to write their names in Nepali, made flags and handled some everyday objects from the country, whilst Mr and Mrs Odell shared their experiences of living and working there. This is a lovely way to engage with the children and bring these countries to life. If you're not lucky enough to have people in your congregation with tales of overseas life, perhaps you could find some short video clips to share.



Here are the collectors at Starbeck Methodist Church in Harrogate.



Here is a photo of some of the collectors at Harrowby Lane Methodist Church, Grantham.



Mrs Barbara Evans has been JMA secretary at Acocks Green Methodist Church in Birmingham for nearly 40 years! She remembers taking coachloads of children and parents to JMA events at Central Hall in London to share stories with JMA collectors from all over the country. More recently her JMA collectors raised £3,167.65 for a sponsored walk, which they celebrated at their recent Harvest Sunday service.



Pat Ayers from Southwell Methodist Church leads a group of JMA collectors who raise £2,000 every year for mission. They are great at coming up with new creative ideas and keep busy holding barbecues, concerts, promise auctions, and quizzes. They enjoy reading *Rainbow* and praying for the projects, and have had special services and events in church and in the circuit to meet mission partners from the Solomon Islands, South Africa and Sierra Leone. They always remember and take encouragement from a message they received from a church in Maputo, Mozambique, after the floods there:

“Your prayers span the flood waters like the JMA rainbow, thank you for fundraising. Keep praying and continue working and do it with a colourful smile of love.”



GLOBAL JUSTICE • WAGE JUSTICE • LIVING JUSTICE

JUSTICE FOR BANGLADESH GARMENT WORKERS

When the eight-storey Rana Plaza collapsed in Savar, Bangladesh, it was the worst garment factory accident in history. At least 1,127 people died and 2,500 were injured, including some children.

The Church of Bangladesh supported the rescue teams and mobilised help for the injured workers and families. They have also developed an advocacy programme to press for basic labour conditions.

The Church is inviting its partners in the UK to stand with them and support their campaign. Perhaps you can find ways of involving the children in this through prayer and action. You can download an information pack including case studies, prayers, podcasts and

pictures from the Methodist Church website, www.methodist.org.uk.

If you are buying clothes make sure there is not a hidden price paid by the garment workers. There is a model letter here that you can cut out and send to the stores where

you shop. If possible copy it to the customer relations officer at the company's head office too, and also to the Chair of the Church of Bangladesh Group, rachelp@weareus.org.uk. If you receive a reply we would love to see a copy!

TO THE MANAGER

STORE:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

FROM:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

.....

Dear Colleague,

I recently bought some clothes at your store.

It made me think back to the loss of at least 1,127 lives of garment workers and others when the eight-storey Rana Plaza collapsed in Savar, Bangladesh. So, before I buy more clothes from you, I wanted to ask you about where your clothes are manufactured and what conditions are like for people working in those factories.

Please let me know:

- 1 Does your company import clothing made in Bangladesh or other developing countries?
- 2 Do you set minimum workplace standards for your suppliers?
- 3 Do you ensure they pay their workers a fair wage?
- 4 Does your company support the international Accord on Fire and Building Safety?
- 5 What assessments have you made recently of your supply chain to ensure significant and sustained improvements in the working conditions of garment workers?

I look forward to your reply and being able to share it with my friends and colleagues, many of whom have similar concerns about the working conditions of people who are making our clothes.

Signed



"I look forward to Brazil in 2014 when street children from around the world will play football and represent the millions of children who still live or work on our streets."

David Beckham



STREET CHILD WORLD CUP

THIS IS MORE THAN A GAME

If you believe that street children should have a future free from fear, neglect and abuse, join us on the Road to Rio 2014.

Methodist children and young people in Britain have pledged to support two Nicaraguan teams – a girls' football team and a boys' football team – in partnership with the Methodist Church in Nicaragua and the Methodist Church in Brazil.



Partnering with the Nicaraguan Teams 2014

childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk