

Spring 2014

# RAINBOW

Free  
for all  
children!

NEWS FROM SRI LANKA



NEWS FROM NIGERIA



The Methodist Church





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## Use of photographs

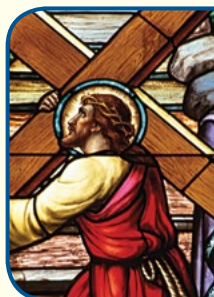
We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to [childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk) or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

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 EASTER!** We've learnt about some Easter traditions around the world.

In **Ethiopia**, the Easter Day service starts at 8pm on the Saturday night and goes on until 3am on Easter Sunday! After the service, people go home for a breakfast of sour-dough bread.



In **Mexico**, many towns perform Passion plays, which tell about the final week of Jesus' life. It is a great honour to play the part of Jesus. The person chosen has to prepare for a whole year - including training to carry the cross, which weighs 90kg.



Another famous Passion play is performed every ten years in the **German village of Oberammergau**. In 1633, the village feared that everyone would die from the Black Death (plague). The villagers promised God that they would put on a play praising God every ten years forever if the village was saved. God answered their prayers and saved the village, and the village now performs the Passion plays to honour their side of the promise.

The next play is due to be performed in 2020. It is very popular and people travel from all over the world to see it.

## Country facts: Sri Lanka

**Capital city:** Colombo

**Official languages:** Sinhala, Tamil

**Size:** 65,610 km<sup>2</sup> (UK is nearly 10 times larger)

70% of people are Buddhist

7% are Christian (mostly Catholic)

99% of Sri Lankans say that religion is an important part of their daily life.

The national sport is volleyball, and cricket is the most popular sport.

# Meet Tamara Wray!

Hello! My name is Tamara Wray and I am the current Methodist youth president! This means that I am here to represent you and your views! Things that you should know about me are that I love chocolate (my favourite by far is a Topic bar) and that my favourite colour is sky blue. Not just any sky blue though; mine is when it is the hottest day of the year and you look up to the sky and it's the deepest and darkest shade of blue. Unfortunately, because we don't have much of a summer here in the UK, I only get to see my favourite colour a couple of times during the year. Thank you and I hope that I get to meet you during my year as youth president! xxx



## In December, Tamara visited Sri Lanka. She wrote us a letter:



Hello from Sri Lanka! I am staying at the Theological College of Lanka (TCL). The college has students from different denominations (Baptists, Anglicans and Methodists) and from different parts of the country (Tamils from the north and Sinhalese from the south) who want to go further in spreading the word of God.

As well as their own studies, the students teach Maths, English and science to the children in the local community who can't afford to go to school. In December the children also learn to sing Christmas carols. I went with them to a village called Mahakanda, which is a very poor area, to share a Christmas carol service. The carol service included traditional Tamil dances, Christmas hymns (it was really interesting to hear 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' sung in Tamil!) and prayers said in English, Tamil and Sinhalese!

My time at TCL was amazing! The students who had very little gave a lot, and were very generous with everything that they had. My stay there has inspired me to be thankful for everything that I have, so thank you God!





# High honours

**H**ave you heard of the New Year's Honours? They are special awards, given by the Queen to people who have done very special things.

One of these honours is called an **MBE**, which stands for "Member of the Order of the British Empire".

Last year Peter Grubb was awarded an MBE for his work in Nigeria. Peter is a member of the Methodist Church in Britain. In 1992 he started the Nigeria Health Care Project. This has set up 15 health centres in Nigeria.



The health centres are very important. Life expectancy in Nigeria is only 50 years, and out of every 100 babies born 14 will die before they are aged 5. There is less than 1 doctor for every 2,200 people. In the UK there are more than 6 doctors for every 2,200 people.

The health centres look after people who are sick, and teach mothers how to help keep their babies strong and healthy.

JMA fundraising has paid for equipment including an ultrasound scanner to help doctors and nurses to look after women who are having babies.



Photo: MoDiMOD

## Country facts: Nigeria

**Capital city:** Abuja

**Official language:** English

**Size:** 923,768 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 174,507,539 (seventh largest in the world)

**Faith:** estimates vary but around 50% Christian, 50% Muslim

**World Cup:** Nigeria will play in Group F at the Football World Cup this year, alongside Argentina, Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina.



# JMA challenge:

## sharing honour with others

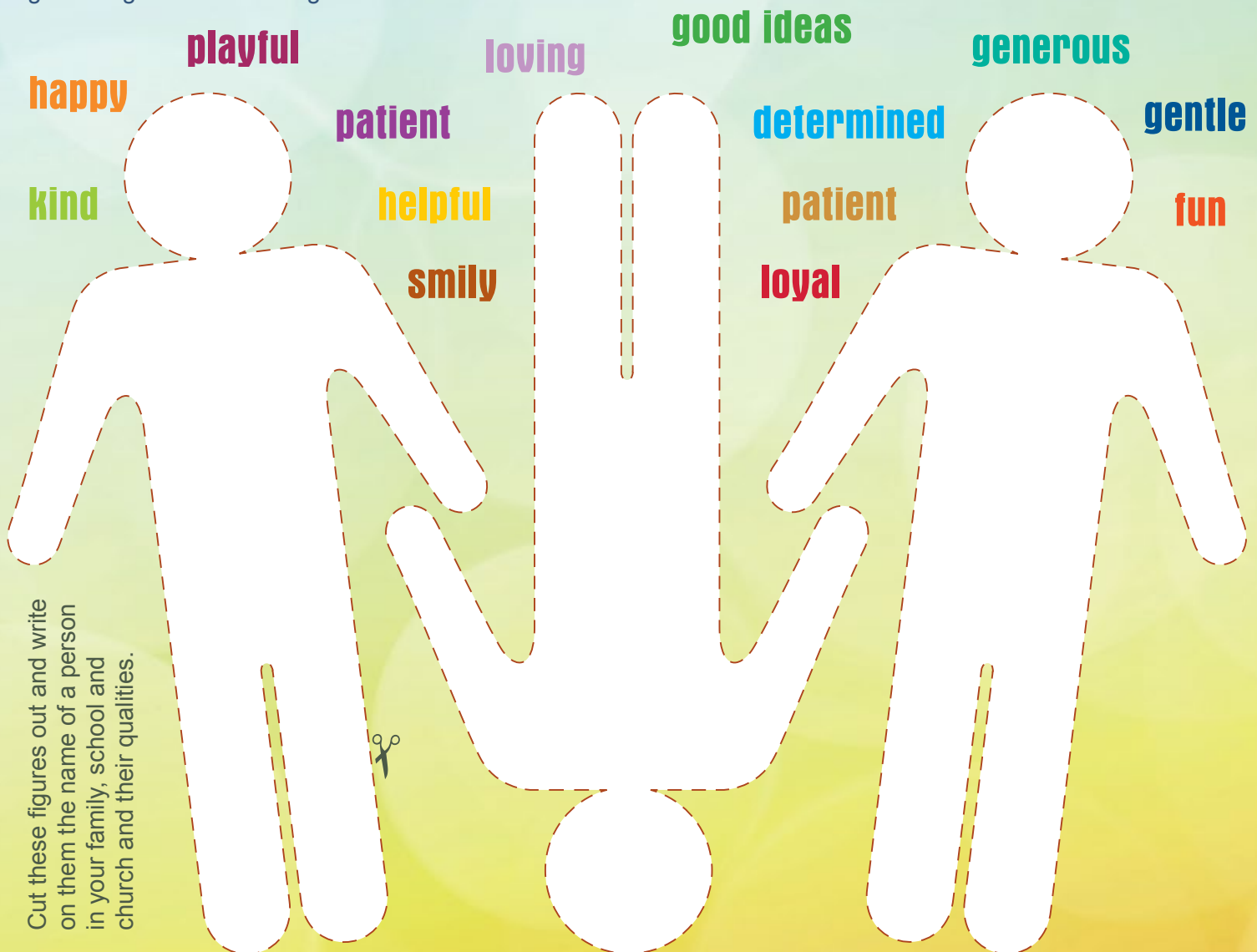
Dr Cundall from the Nigeria Health Care Project described Peter Grubb as “**compassionate**, **patient**, and **determined**”.

Using positive words to talk to and about other people is one of the greatest gifts that we can give as

Christians. It is a wonderful way to show Jesus’ love to people we meet.

Think of the people in your family, in school and at church. What is the nicest thing you can say about them? Can you tell them this?

In your family or church group you might like to make a list of all the people, and ask everyone to write down the best thing about each one. Then ask the person with the neatest handwriting to write all the things written about each person in a card for them to keep.



Cut these figures out and write on them the name of a person in your family, school and church and their qualities.



# Be inspired!

A great way to grow in your faith is by reading about Christian heroes. They were all ordinary people like you and me! The special thing about them is that they let God use them in amazing ways. They listened to God, learned from Jesus, and followed his path for their life one day at a time.

Maybe you could borrow one of these books from the library:

- *Christian Heroes: Then and Now* (book series). There are many to choose from – including Eric Liddell, Brother Andrew, CS Lewis and Corrie Ten Boom.
- *Hero Tales* (book series) by Dave & Neta Jackson. These books include chapters about John Wesley, David Livingstone, Amy Carmichael and other heroes of our faith.

*Friends and Heroes* is a fun DVD series about Maccy and his friends who live in Alexandria in the first century. Maccy and his friends fight for justice, and even survival, against the might of the Roman Empire.  
www.friendsandheroes.tv

If you like listening to books, *The Pilgrim's Progress in Words of One Syllable* by Lucy Akin is free at Librivox online (librivox.org).



One hero is **Florence Nightingale**, who was born in 1820. When Florence was 16 years old her life changed. God told her that she had a special job to care for the sick.

Her family was not so sure. They thought she should get married and have a family, not go out to work. A few years later when they saw Florence looking after her ill grandmother, they began to see the special gift that God had given her to care for others.

In 1854 during the Crimean war, Florence went to work at an army hospital in Turkey. It was a

disgusting place. There were many injured soldiers and the hospital was dirty and smelly. Florence and the other nurses cleaned the hospital and made it as hygienic as they could.

The soldiers called Florence 'the lady of the lamp' because she was always in the hospital day and night, and at night she needed the lamp. In 1855 Queen Victoria wrote to Florence to thank her for all that she had done.

In 1907, Florence (who was now blind) received the Order of Merit award. She died in 1910 at the age of 90, having followed God's call.

If you read about another hero of the faith, will you write to us and tell their story or send a picture? You can email [childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk) (write 'Rainbow' in the title of your message). Or you can post your story to *Rainbow* magazine, Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.



# Easter Offering 2014

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) hold a special gift day for the World Mission Fund at this time of year. Can you offer to help the women in your church? Here are some ideas:

- Could your group welcome everyone as they arrive to the Easter Offering service?
  - Could you bake cakes to sell after the service?
  - Could you make Easter cards or decorations to sell?

The women may have other ways that you could help during the service.



**RISK THE PATH  
HE TROD**

## Praying for mission

Will you pray for our featured projects this month? Cut out the bookmark below to keep in a book you're reading. On the back are some spaces to add more

things that you want to pray for – your family, friends, church... something you really care about.

**Saturday:** Thank God for 8,766 hours of prayer! Pray for all the people searching for God at Beacon House: pray that they will be drawn to the house and that nothing will stop them.

**Sunday:** Pray again today for your favourite project. Think of some more things you could pray for God to do in that place.

**Add your prayers here:**

**Monday:** Thank God for the theology students in Sri Lanka. Pray for them as they seek God's will for their work as they finish college.

**Tuesday:** Give thanks for Peter and all his work in Nigeria. Pray for everyone who works in the health centres, that God would guide and bless all the care that they give.

**Wednesday:** Thank God for the growth of Christianity in China. Pray for all new believers to grow strong in their faith and be closer to God every day.

**Thursday:** Give thanks for the farm at Kamatungu School in Kenya, and pray for God's blessing on all the schoolchildren and teachers.

**Friday:** Thank God for new babies! Pray for Ida and Keith to be safe and inspired in their work in Zambia. Ask God to watch over all the mums and babies, and to protect them from all harm.

Fold



Small things that make a

# big difference

We all know the saying  
“It’s the small things  
that matter”. It is the  
same in mission work!

In **Zambia** many mothers are too sick to breastfeed their babies. Mission partners Keith and Ida Waddell started a project to give them formula milk. They have seen



many babies who were sick and not growing be changed completely into happy, healthy babies who are growing fast!

In **Kenya**, at the Kamatungu School for children who can’t hear well, we have helped them to grow more food. They did not have enough to eat before, but now they have enough food – and food that is very good for them. They have

started to grow sweet potatoes and tomatoes, and to keep animals for meat.



In **China**, rural ministers work in very large areas of the country. It takes three hours to reach just one church. The World Mission Fund has bought 20 electric scooters for women preachers in Shaanxi province. It is now easier for them to travel, and they can spend more time with each church.

V	P	S	C	O	O	T	E	R	P	O	T
C	Z	C	I	W	O	L	O	J	B	X	H
H	D	O	R	A	R	S	C	H	I	N	A
E	E	G	T	M	A	M	E	B	G	I	P
A	Z	A	M	B	I	A	F	H	U	Q	P
R	J	S	L	I	M	L	U	B	Z	I	Y
T	O	M	A	T	O	W	K	Y	P	J	M
H	A	I	C	D	H	N	I	W	O	R	U
Y	Q	L	O	B	E	Y	T	U	T	K	S
P	M	L	M	A	E	D	S	M	A	L	L
O	X	K	E	B	D	N	L	V	T	S	I
N	K	E	N	Y	A	Y	Z	M	O	R	W

# Big difference word search

POTATO	HAPPY
MILK	HEALTHY
BABY	TOMATO
ZAMBIA	KENYA
CHINA	SMALL
SCOOTER	BIG



# Is this a record?

## 8,766 hours of prayer (and counting!)

Just over a year ago, on 31 December 2012, the Beacon House of Prayer in Stoke-on-Trent celebrated a whole year of non-stop prayer! In 2012 people had met together for every hour of every day to pray for their city, the UK and the whole world.

The House longs to help people to pray, and grow closer to God. They work in schools to help children spend special time with God. One day a class visited the House of Prayer and one child stopped by a large cross. He talked about his

dad who had died, and all the children talked about being able to give to God the big things that make us feel sad or afraid. They felt how much God cares for everything that we may be worried or sad about.

The Beacon House of Prayer in Stoke-on-Trent is helped by your JMA fundraising. Twenty pence of every pound that you raise is used for Mission in Britain.

## Helping you to pray

Can you find a quiet place to be with Jesus? Sit with him quietly for a few minutes, and then start to talk to him. Tell him about your day, what were the best things? What were the hardest things?

When you have finished spend a few more minutes quietly with Jesus so that he can respond to what you have shared. You might like to write down some words or make a drawing when you finish.

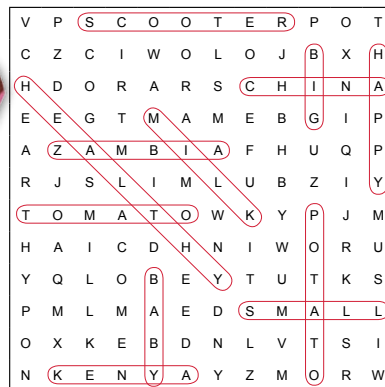
# Dear JMA Secretaries

**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 there are many stories that you might like to build on during your sessions with your children and young people. Perhaps you can find out more about a particular country, or being a Christian in that part of the world, praying using the bookmark on page 7, or leading them in the prayer activity on the previous page.

## Easter Offering

An area of active service that the children might join in with is Methodist Women in Britain's Easter Offering. Could the children make cakes for a cake sale, or make Easter cards or decorations to sell. What other ideas might they have?



Big difference wordsearch solution



## Expanding JMA

We are also keen to expand JMA to other areas of church life, so if you know other groups of children who meet at church please will you share your experiences of JMA with them and see whether they might like to join too? Perhaps there are Brownies and Cub groups who could get involved, or a Messy Church, or a mums and toddlers group that meets regularly in your church hall? Do order extra copies of *Rainbow* if you would like to share these with them. We will be pleased to send them to you.

**JMA** would like to say a really big thank you to the Mrs Joy Scoffield from Grantham who has been a JMA Secretary for thirty years and will be stepping down in September 2014. We thank Joy for her energy and passion for World Church and JMA and for the teaching and inspiration she has given to children.





# Mission Matters and the World Church bulletin

If you would like to receive more mission stories for your own reading, and to talk about with the children and adults at your church make sure you are signed up for the World Church email bulletin and *Mission Matters* magazine.

To join the mailing list for *Mission Matters* please contact the Helpdesk at Methodist Church House and ask for Diane Foster. Call 020 7486 5502 or email [helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk).

To register for the bulletin, email [wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk).

To keep up to date with even more news please visit our mission web pages at [www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church).



## Share your memories



Catshill Methodist Sunday Club

Here are the children at their awards service in September.



Harrowby Lane Methodist Church

Here are some of the collectors at their award service. They collected £1,112.08.



Chester le Street Methodist Church

Here are the JMA collectors at their award ceremony. They collected £523.79.



Ashbourne JMA event



Here are some photos from their recent JMA event. They learnt about Nepal. Mr & Mrs Odell kindly shared their experiences of living and working in Nepal.



Longbridge Methodist Church

Here are some of the JMA collectors at their JMA presentation service.



Acocks Green Methodist Church

Here are some of the JMA collectors at their award service.



Melbourne Methodist Church

Here are some of the JMA collectors from Melbourne Methodist Church in January. After the service several new children took collecting boxes home so our group photo should be even larger next year!



Glastonbury Methodist Church award service

Their town Mayor presented the awards, they raised £1,086. Their service was based on Love: learning, looking and listening to the needs of the world.



Al Maseeh qam! Haqqan qam!

ARABIC

Helisituosi fuhuole. Qeshi fuhuole.

CHINESE

Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!  
Exai' ab-her eokala!

ETHIOPIAN

Christ est ressuscite!  
En verite il est ressuscite!

FRENCH

Ha-Mashiah qom! Be-emet qom!

HEBREW

Kristo gesso! Buhar ha sho nay!

KOREAN

Christo ressuscitou!  
Em verdade ressuscitou!

PORTUGUESE

Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

LATIN

Christos a inviat! Adeverat a inviat!

ROMANIAN

Christos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

RUSSIAN

Kristos ame fu fuka!  
Kweli ame fu fuka!


SWAHILI

Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd in  
wir!

WELSH

Ukristu uvukile! Uvukile kuphela!

ZULU



This is the cry in many of our churches on Easter Sunday. The minister tells us, "Christ is risen" and we reply, "Indeed he is risen!"

What a joyful praise to ring out around the whole world on Easter Sunday!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

