

Global Relationships and the World Mission Fund

The Global Relationships team works with Partner Churches and organisations across the world. You can learn more about The World Mission Fund at www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/support-our-work/about-our-funds/world-mission-fund/

Methodists have always shared God's love and their faith with those they meet and work alongside across the world. Today the Methodist Church in Britain continues to engage in the global mission movement in partnership with, and at the request of Partner Churches in other countries. Whilst the pandemic has meant the suspension of our short-term programmes, there is both an opportunity to pray for mission partners, to meet with Christians from Partner Churches online, and to make an expression of interest should you like to participate in one of the Global Relationships programmes.

- **Mission partners** usually live in another part of the world for at least three years, working with a Partner Church or organisation. New recruitment for this programme is currently on hold, although we are still taking applications to keep on file.
- **Encounter together** is a group visit programme of up to two weeks that enables groups to learn more about faith and life in another place. This programme is currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic and we continue to monitor the changing circumstances for partners.
- **Encounter worldwide** allows individuals to spend three to 12 months as a volunteer, living and working with a Partner Church or organisation. There are bursaries for Methodists aged 18-25. This programme is currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic and we continue to monitor the changing circumstances for partners.
- **Global Mission Fellows** is a programme for those aged 20-30. It is a great opportunity to serve in another country, to live out your faith and develop as a leader committed to justice and peace. The two-year programme is open to graduate-level (or equivalent) young adults from Britain, Ireland and around the world.
- Are you, or do you know a minister who can spend a minimum of a month of their **sabbatical** with a Partner Church or organisation? This programme is currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic and we continue to monitor the changing circumstances for partners.
- Do you, or someone you know have a **specialist skill** you could offer to a Partner Church or organisation through a short-term voluntary placement?

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The Your church, circuit and district can also get involved:

- **Twining** enables congregations, circuits or districts to commit to a partnership of mutual learning and support with Christians in another part of the globe.
- Is your circuit or district interested in receiving an **evangelist** to work with you for three years from a Partner Church?
- Is your circuit or district interested in receiving a **Global Mission Fellow** in a church-based community project for two years from a Partner Church?
- Would you like a member of the Global Relationships team or a mission partner on furlough or a recently returned volunteer to **speak at your** church, circuit, synod or Zoom call?

For more information visit www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/get-involved-globally/ or read about ongoing projects and news at www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/

Questions? Please email the Global Relationships team at gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk

How World Mission Fund supports Partner Churches

Your ongoing generosity to the WMF helps us support partner churches as they join in God's mission in their location. Here are a few examples of how your gifts were used last year in different places.

Nicaragua

An annual grant from the WMF has been crucial in supporting the National Evangelical Methodist Church in Nicaragua during the pandemic. The church has been able to distribute food packages to 23 communities linked to their local churches. In 2020 these communities were not only affected by the virus, but by rising levels of unemployment and severe flooding. The church was able to offer the love of God through hope and practical help.



Peru

Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon have little access to healthcare. Some are located up to six hours away

by car or boat from the nearest town, where health clinics

are underfunded. These indigenous communities have been severely affected by Covid-19, spread by visitors to the surrounding area and internal migrants who have returned from the cities after becoming unemployed. A General Grant from the WMF has enabled the Methodist Church in Peru to work with 43 indigenous communities to open nine community pharmacies, offering low cost medicine and basic health consultation services. Fifty thousand people will benefit from this vital piece of work.



Estonia

The leader of the Estonian United Methodist Church Youth Board is Ele Paju, a National in Mission Appointment supported by the World Mission Fund. Despite the restrictions during 2020 and 2021 she has overseen the development of a well-functioning Estonian Methodist Youth Team. With the devoted and wholehearted input of the youth team members they have started teenage youth ministry and a camp for teenagers. There has been increased cooperation between Russian- and Estonian-speaking youth. Ele has also overseen the training of youth leaders with a group of young people entering the school of mission on their own initiative.



Hungary

Zoltán Kurdi is a pastor of the United Methodist Church in Hungary, currently in the Pécs district. He lives with his wife of 37 years, Erika. Zoltán was a teacher for 15 years but then he had the impression that God was calling him to pastoral ministry. Trusting and confident, he set out on a new path – and experienced how God repeatedly turned the unexpected into a blessing. Much of this has been as the church has responded to and challenged the extreme right wing elements in the country that would ostracize Roma people. He has now been pastor of the UMC in Hungary for 21 years – and he also coordinates the nationwide work with members of the Roma minority. This work in Hungary is supported by the World Mission Fund, through the Fund for Mission in Europe.



Kenya

The Methodist Church and World Student Christian Fellowship (WSCF) developed a five-year relationship founded on Internship program 2017. The Intern Coordinator and Program Assistant is Jennifer Muthoki Mutua, a National in Mission Appointment.



The journey has brought about blessings and led to reactivation of the Student Christian Movement of Kenya. Planned activities for 2020 included a leadership Workshop in Yaounde-Cameroon, participation in planning and facilitation of WSCF's global General Assembly and various environmental networking initiatives. However Covid-19 meant a change of plans, with a Covid-19 Intervention Leadership Workshop and careful financial management of the work. Through the continuation of this program, during the pandemic, the WSCF has continued to see growth in the

Student Christian Movement of Kenya, which has been dormant for the last five years, and subsequent growth in the Student Christian Movement of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Zambia

United Church of Zambia Health Institutions have been supporting communities throughout the pandemic in Mwandi, Mbereshi, Chipembi, Njase, Arthur Wina and Kafue. Although sadly they have seen deaths, these have been numbered in tens, not hundreds or thousands. The third wave was predicted to bring a surge in cases expected to last for at least four months. In advance of this, £7034.66 was released as a general grant from the World Mission Fund for the purchase of medical and oxygen supplies to prepare at UCZ health centres.



India

Based in Hyderabad, The Henry Martyn Institute (HMI) supports diversity and inclusion. It facilitates interfaith dialogue and peace building, transforming conflict situations and promoting interfaith and multicultural harmony. It runs educational programmes for children and adults, including theological students. Its work extends to women's and community groups. As well as receiving an annual grant of £10,000 from the World Mission Fund to support this work, the HMI has received an additional £7500 General Grant from the WMF and £15000 from the joint MCB/All We Can Covid-19 response appeal. This is to support their work distributing PPE and emergency food supplies, as well as awareness-raising around health, wellbeing and vaccination access.



Junior Mission for All (JMA)

This was created so that children would be able to learn about and support the mission of the Church in a fun, creative and engaging way. It is also about sharing the insights of God's people all over the world with children in our churches.

JMA is part of the Methodist Church's mission programme. We thank the children and young people who raise funds for JMA to support the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund (see www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/support-our-work/about-our-funds/mission-in-britain-fund/). Eighty per cent of funds raised go to the World Mission Fund to help over one hundred Partner Churches and organisations in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. The other 20% supports Methodist mission projects across the UK.

Easter Offering

Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in our 100+ Partner Churches around the world.

In 2020, collections from Easter Offering services were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but raised over £38,000, thanks to the generosity of Methodist people.

We thank Methodist Women in Britain for running this appeal, and you for making a difference by contributing to God's mission in this way.



Giving to the World Mission Fund

If as an individual or as a church you would like to support the World Mission Fund, you can give online here www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate

You can also send a cheque (made payable to 'Methodist Church World Mission Fund') to:

Methodist Church World Mission Fund

Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5JR

Thank you very much – your generosity is greatly appreciated.