

Summer 2016

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!

JMA secretaries'
news inside!



The Methodist Church





Cover image: Two boys playing in a puddle of water at the local market – Batuna, Solomon Islands village.

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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 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*! In this issue you can read about the growing Church in Cuba, an update from the Nepal earthquake last year, and news from Lesotho and the Solomon Islands.

We hope that you enjoy this issue. Have a very happy summer!



“Our prayer is that you will know the love of God”

Lesotho (pronounced “li-soo-too”) is a country in southern Africa that is completely surrounded by South Africa. A country that is completely surrounded by another country is called an enclave.

The capital city, Maseru, is in a valley at the bottom of the foothills of the Maloti Mountains. Behind the foothills, in a very remote part of Lesotho, there is a Methodist nursery and preschool.

The preschool has nine children and there are two toddlers in the nursery. The nursery has a small play area and a small kitchen where the staff can cook hot meals for the children.

This is the only childcare facility in this remote area and it is so important, helping parents to be able to work. The local police officer is just one of the people who use the nursery to look after their babies. It is so remote and hard to reach that sometimes the local minister has to ride a horse to get there from Maseru!

The nursery team would like to start a vegetable garden with the children, so that they can learn about growing food, and add to their meals.



The children receiving Christmas presents.

Lesotho is experiencing drought at the moment, and so is the whole of southern Africa. Please pray that God will send the rain, so that food will grow and he will be glorified.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11 (NRSV)

A prayer for Africa

Bunmi Olayisade, who works as the Africa Partnership Coordinator at the Methodist Church wrote this prayer that we can all use to pray.

Dear God, we cry to you on behalf of our African brothers and sisters affected by the ongoing drought in central and southern Africa.

You are almighty and you promised that if we call upon you in times of trouble, you will answer us and show us great and mighty things.

We pray for the return of the rain in the affected areas as Elijah did in his days. We pray for showers of blessing upon your children. We pray for wisdom to use our water wisely to grow food, produce electricity, and share with all your creation.

Thank you Father for your faithfulness right through the ages and we know you do answer us when we call. These we ask in Jesus' name!
Amen.



Mediterranean Hope

You may remember reading about the refugees travelling to Europe from other parts of the world. Refugees from Tunisia, Libya, Eritrea, Somalia and other African countries often travel across the sea from Libya towards Italy. People are often fleeing from danger in their own country, such as war and persecution. The journey across the sea can also be dangerous and many people have died on their journey.

Casa Delle Culture (house of culture) is in Scicli in south Sicily. It is a 'guesting centre' where refugees and migrants are sent by the Italian authorities when they arrive in the islands of Italy. After just two or three days, they are sent on to other places in Italy to find new homes.

The house is run by a group of Churches, including the Methodist Church in Italy. In the short time that people stay there they long to love and care for them, and show them how precious and honoured they are in God's sight.



Father God, thank you that all people are precious and honoured in your sight. We pray that the love and care shown to all refugees by your Church throughout the world will draw them closer to you, that they might know you as their loving Father in heaven. Amen.



**Prayer
focus**



Stories from the Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean consist of almost 1,000 islands. Most people live around the coasts of six of these islands. Small communities also live on the remote islands, also known as atolls. These islands are very low-lying, which means they are only just above sea level. As sea levels rise, their communities are experiencing change. At a recent gathering, people from the islands shared their stories.

Rosalyn from Sikaiana Island said that some of their vegetables won't grow anymore. This is because salty sea water is getting into the soil and making it infertile. People are seeing new illnesses caused by the lack of nutrients from not having enough vegetables.

Patrick from Ontong Java shared that his community is also finding it harder to grow food, and they have to buy more food, which is very expensive.

On other islands, land is being flooded and soil washed away around the coasts, reducing the land available for people to live on and cultivate. People have to move further and further inland, always having to rebuild their homes and re-establish their livelihoods.



In 1568, the Spanish explorer Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira discovered gold on the Solomon Islands. He thought that he had found the source of King Solomon's fabled wealth, and so he named the islands after Solomon.

Over the past 100 years, the Church in the Solomon Islands has grown from around 30% of the population to over 95%, serving as a unifying factor for the nation, as well as providing many services to the people.

The islanders asked us to pray for them.

- Pray for families who have to move to new islands. Pray that they will receive a warm welcome and will soon feel at home.
- Pray for people who live in low-lying communities and all the ways that rising sea levels affect them.
- Pray that governments will have wisdom in responding to the needs of communities.



Nepal earthquake: 12 months on

Monday 25 April 2016 was the one-year anniversary of the massive earthquake in Nepal that left 9,000 people dead, 23,000 people injured and a million people homeless. One year on, thousands of families are still living in temporary shelters.

It may take up to five years for the government to fund and give planning permission for all of the new houses people need. Some people are starting to rebuild their own houses, especially those living in the most remote hills, who worry that they may never receive the government grants.

Two of our mission partners, Finlay and Rachel Hodge, have been working with Dhading Disaster Response Program (DDRP). To help communities “build back better”, they have trained 500 stonemasons in earthquake-resistant building techniques to ensure that the new homes will not be destroyed by earthquakes in the future.

The stonemasons are helping people to build their houses, and also helping with building schools, bridges and making micro-hydro repairs to restore electricity.

In addition DDRP is supporting the building or repair of:

- ◆ 59 schools
- ◆ 45 community drinking water systems
- ◆ 18 km of trail repairs linking communities to each other and to markets.

They are also helping people to restart their farming businesses by providing livestock, sheds, tools and seeds.



Women receiving new goats, which will provide milk and meat for their families and to sell at market.

Local people starting to rebuild their own houses using earthquake-resistant techniques.



Prayer focus

A particular problem in Nepal this year is a blockade between India and Nepal. This means that trade between India and Nepal is stopped. This is a big problem for people in Nepal because Nepal buys a lot of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) from India. LPG is an important cooking fuel in Nepal. Without it, people have to burn a lot more wood, which is bad for the environment and very bad for people's health. Without fuel from India, transport is also becoming more difficult and more expensive.



Please pray for the rebuilding programme, for its funding, and for trade to start up again with India.

The Church in Cuba

Cuba is the biggest island in the Caribbean. For nearly 60 years it has been ruled by a government which has not really wanted people to go to church or believe in Jesus. However, there are Methodist churches in Cuba and the number of Christians is growing very fast!

More people are going to church in Cuba because the people who do believe in Jesus are telling more and more of their friends about God and all the stories in the Bible. They also tell them about the music and songs they sing at church – and the dancing!

When a new person goes to a church, they are made to feel very welcome and they start to attend a sort of 'Sunday school' – even the grownups! Their classes are not always on a Sunday. Sometimes they meet in the evening during the week to learn, pray and worship together.

Unlike some churches in other countries, the Methodist Church in Cuba is not allowed to run schools or hospitals. But as Methodists, they do care for their neighbours and those who live close to them. If someone is unwell, they will go and visit them and help the family. In that way they can show those people how much God loves them.



This is Ruth who is 18 years old. Her friends had told her about going to church and she started to go with them.

She has just been baptised and soon she will become a full member of the Methodist Church. She said she had learned that she could talk to God through her prayers and that he was there to help her every day.



This is Ruth and other church members worshipping God in singing and dancing.



The island of Cuba looks like a crocodile from the air, and so Cuba is often referred to in Spanish as “El Cocodrilo” or “El Caimá”.



Cuba is the largest of all islands in the Caribbean. The country also includes more than 4,000 other much smaller islands.



The capital and largest city of Cuba is Havana or “La Habana” in Spanish.

Cuba is well known for its music, bands play everywhere in the capital Havana. The main musical form is called *son cubano*, which is a combination of upbeat rhythms with classical guitar. You could listen to some Cuban music on YouTube.



Prayer focus

Thank you Lord for growing your Church in Cuba. Thank you for each person who comes to know you. Draw them closer to

you every day as they learn to talk with you, and walk in all your ways. Thank you for building a Church that cares for each other. Help us to show your love to the people we meet each day. In Jesus name, Amen.



Dear JMA secretaries,

Welcome to the summer issue of *Rainbow*. Thank you for all your work this year to help children learn more about mission. It matters so much. We wish you a restful and refreshing summer and look forward to connecting up with you in September.

Please do contact us with any resource needs that you have. We want to support your work as much as we can. Also please do share with us your stories of what you have learned this year, and your most successful activities. We are keen to share your stories with other secretaries, so that we can all learn from each other.

You can email us at childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or write to us at the address below:

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

To order more copies of *Rainbow* and all other JMA resources, please visit www.methodistpublishing.org.uk or phone 0845 017 8220.

To keep up to date with JMA news please visit our websites: www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker and www.methodist.org.uk/mission.



Ten-year-old Victoria is Joint JMA Secretary of Nantwich Methodist Church. Here she is in front of the JMA notice board. Victoria collects all the weekly subscriptions from church members and friends and keeps the notice board updated and with the other Joint Secretary, counts the money and passes it to their church treasurer for banking and submission.



Ashbourne Methodist Church hosted a fundraiser on Saturday 18 June. Two of their JMA members (Joy and Christian) hosted this event assisted by others. Family and friends enjoyed a fun evening playing the game *Catchphrase* with drinks, nibbles and homemade cakes. £84.85 has been given to JMA.



To keep up to date with JMA news, please visit our website: [www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-\(jma\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-(jma))

One Mission Matters

Have you received the latest edition of *One Mission Matters* yet?

This issue thanks all Methodists who have prayed, given and acted in aid of our mission funds over the past connexional year. It highlights projects ranging from caring for disabled orphans in China to distributing food for the poor in Blackpool. A special centre spread presents the income and expenditure of the connexional funds. You could use this to report back to church members who have given so generously over the past year.

Product code: DL535-MM-16



Cool new wristbands

A set of seven multi-coloured wristbands reflecting the holiness and justice theme of this year's Conference. Carrying the Methodist Church logo, it is a reminder of our key text from Micah 6:8. Colours included: red, yellow, pink, green, purple, orange, blue.

Product code: WB001-CT-16

Price: £2.99 inc VAT (for set of 7)

Cute teddy bears

Miniature teddy bears in either dark or light brown, wearing a white bandana printed with the red Methodist



logo. An ideal gift or memento. (Height: 105mm)

Product code: Light Brown TB001-CT-16

Dark Brown TB002-CT-16

Price: £5.99 inc VAT

1,000 Facts about the Bible

By Robin Currie and Jill Rubalcaba

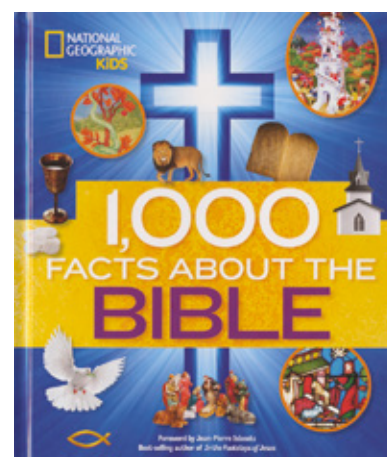
This beautifully illustrated, easy to follow reference book inspires children to discover more about the Bible, with its unique presentation of historical stories

and facts. Packed with interesting features and lists of facts covering many aspects of life during biblical times. An engaging and child-friendly take on the history, archaeological discoveries, and stories of the Bible.

Full Colour Hardback: 276 x 229 mm, 96pp

ISBN: 9781426318658

Price: £4.99



To order, please visit

www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

or telephone 0845 017 8220.

JMA Big Summer Wordsearch

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

Can you find these words?

As you find them remember the stories that they came from and offer them to God in prayer.

Nepal

Earthquake

Cuba

Children

JMA

Rainbow

Mission

Fundraising

Refugees

Sicily

Solomon

Sea

Salty

Music

Prayer

Drought

