

September 2023 Newsletter from Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman

[Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Over the weekend I had the privilege of visiting one of the many rural circuits in the district. Some of our churches have up to 300 people. The worship is vibrant and much to my surprise, at only 41, I am often among the older members of the congregation. What has been most encouraging however is that many people come to the church not because it has material resources but because they are being delivered from all manner of ills. Last month a man, whose son was very sick, came asking for prayer. His child was healed, and he started coming to the church. He has asked the circuit to go and



start another church in his home village so that more people can know the power of God.

The church is growing here without any financial resources whatsoever. Ministers often receive no salary (what they do receive has largely come from a specific MCB grant which will soon come to an end).

Many people are subsistence farmers and there is simply no money to build structures or pay circuit assessments. Of the nine churches in the circuit (soon to be ten) many meet out in the open.

This has often had a positive aspect in that it has made the church services open to passersby. Nevertheless, we pray that as more people come to know Christ, there will be a way to build more churches.

On Sunday, I was asked if I could help finance one of the churches. Being from outside, having come here on a plane, people understandably believe I might be able to help. Indeed, as we were about to leave, a lady got down on her knees and asked if we could do something to help them roof the church. They were willing to use clay bricks (dug from the soil themselves), raise the building to roof level (themselves), even finding timbers (themselves) but the tin for the roofs is truly difficult for them to find or purchase. Nevertheless, I was really overwhelmed by the situation. I don't know what came over me but, spontaneously, I also found myself kneeling in front of the whole congregation. I said *"Brothers and sisters, I am so sorry I do not have money with me to help you today to roof this church. I am really a nobody. Apart from the grace of God I was supposed to be a school drop-out from a small village. It is only God's abounding mercy that has brought me to this point in life. I do not pretend to know the answers to all the problems that you face. However, one thing I do know is this. You do not need a foreigner to do what God has called you to do. You are a great people and you are able to do so much, not by power not by might but by God's spirit. I try always to know nothing except this: God is powerful, and he will build His church."* We cried and prayed together, and I promised to try and bring help. Part of me however felt that the less I do personally the more the people will be empowered. That's not to say I won't try to do something. I would have taken off my shirt and given them all I had if I could have roofed the building they're and then. But I know that I am not the solution to the problem and could even create more problems by assuming so.

Please pray for us, that we will be able to work well as partners and support the good ministry and work that people are doing.

Please pray for our protection and safety as there are many challenges here.

Please pray that God will continue to grow his church in this and all other lands.