

September 2004

RAINBOW



Inside



Sierra Leone



Nepal



Ghana

The Methodist Church





Dear JMA

Let's celebrate!

Which do you celebrate most, Christmas? Your birthday? Summer holidays? Olympic Gold?

What do you wear for celebrations?

What do you like to eat?

Nepal celebrates 50 years of Christian mission on page 6 and there is also mention for Portugal who won Euro 2004! Football gets a mention in our Bulgaria and Sierra Leone stories too.

So what is your JMA going to celebrate next?

Make sure it's fun and send me a photo!

Steve

Rainbow was written and edited by Steve Pearce.

Thanks for photos to Rowan Butler (Nepal), Pete & Sam Taylor (Bulgaria) Colin Ride (Portugal) Chris Bold (Sierra Leone) and to Richard Duszczak for Ronnie.

Special thanks to JMA members for their contributions and apologies to those whose work couldn't be included. Pictures, puzzles, photos, jokes and reports are always welcomed at the JMA Office, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Telephone 020 7467 5119.

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Design by Audrey Facey Production by the Methodist Church Communication Office.

Bulgaria

Pete & Sam Taylor are Mission Partners in Shumen and wrote to JMA to tell us about a trip with their young people's group:

This weekend we had a young peoples day out at a local beauty spot called Madara, it is famous for a horse and rider carved into the rock in the 8th Century.



Can you see the horse and its rider in the cliff?

We played football, volleyball, badminton, Frisbee and we tried to teach them 'rounders'. They thought it was a crazy English game!

There was a BBQ, with traditional Bulgaria foods like Kebabchi (a bit like a sausage) and feta cheese.



On the Sunday we had a 'Euro 2004' theme during the morning service. Here is a picture of some of the young people and Pete, with the Bulgarian flag painted on their faces or arms.

Portugal

Did you enjoy Euro 2004? The people of Portugal did, until the very last game!

We have been helping the Methodist Church in Portugal. The Methodists in Lisbon are helping people arriving from Africa. The church in Porto runs this group for children in their church and helps children from Ukraine, Brazil and Bangladesh, whose families have recently moved to Portugal.



Sierra Leone

Football is big in Sierra Leone! The African Cup of Nations was popular (Tunisia won), so was Euro 2004 and everyone has a favourite team in the English Premiership.

Very few people have televisions but some small video shops have a satellite dish, and you can watch a game for 10p (that's a lot of money in Sierra Leone).



Chris Bold has gone to work at the Methodist Youth Centre in Sierra Leone's second biggest city, Bo. He soon found himself helping with the local 'Nations Cup'!

It was organised as a way of teaching people about AIDS. All the teams named themselves after African countries.

This team was called 'Zambia' and they brought a banner about HIV/AIDS.



Comedians and health workers helped everyone to learn about AIDS and staying healthy.



Liverpool FC donated some kit, worn here by the team called 'Ghana', but check out the footwear!

'Zambia' won the trophy!



Nepal

50 years in Mission

Nepal is a beautiful country with the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, and the deepest gorge, Kali-Gandaki.

22 million people live there, most follow the Hindu religion.

Christianity was not allowed in Nepal until 50 years ago. Christians over the border in India could see that there was work to do there and when the King said Christians could enter the country to help his people, they agreed to work together in one organisation. That was how the United Mission to Nepal began.

JMA supports UMN, so do 39 other groups from 16 countries.



Writing is an important skill. Many adults can only sign their names with a thumbprint. UMN is helping them to learn to write.

All our Mission Partners in Nepal work for UMN. Pray for them:

- Paul and Sarah Wright and their children Jack and Asha,
- Maureen and Michael Hawksworth,
- Allan and Andrea Smith.

They ask us also to pray for peace and an end to fighting in Nepal.



These boys are selling chickens in the market. Many children in Nepal die before they are one and UMN helps many health projects to help mothers and babies.

Farmers in Nepal are very skilful at growing traditional crops like rice. UMN is helping them make the most of modern knowledge so they can feed the growing population.



Skills in Ghana



Rahab has just had her hair done by one of the students.

Some children have to leave their homes and families. Often it's because the family doesn't have enough money and can't afford to feed everyone.

If their family couldn't pay for them to finish school, girls can't really earn anything, so they are the ones who leave and become 'street children'.

Now there is some good news for girls like this in Tamale in Northern Ghana. A place called Common Ground offers them a place to learn some skills and then they can find a job and earn some money so that they can have somewhere to live.

Common Ground was set up by the local Methodist Church and has received some support from JMA.

Instead of living on dangerous city streets, girls are learning sewing, weaving, hairdressing, batik, tie-dyeing, soap making, bakery, carpentry, plumbing and more.

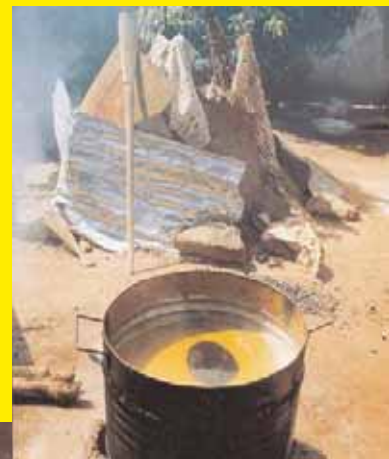
Kande and Millicent made this batik cloth and I bought it for the JMA office!



You need to use your fingers and your toes for weaving!

This is how you make soap....

.... and here is the soap ready to be cut up.





नयाँ बाली

Your prayer will go here, that's if it's not too long. If it is too long I'm going to have to mess around with the layout a bit. So if you could make it not too long that would be great. If you don't want to do a prayer for this page that's ok too as it still looks good without anything here.



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UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL