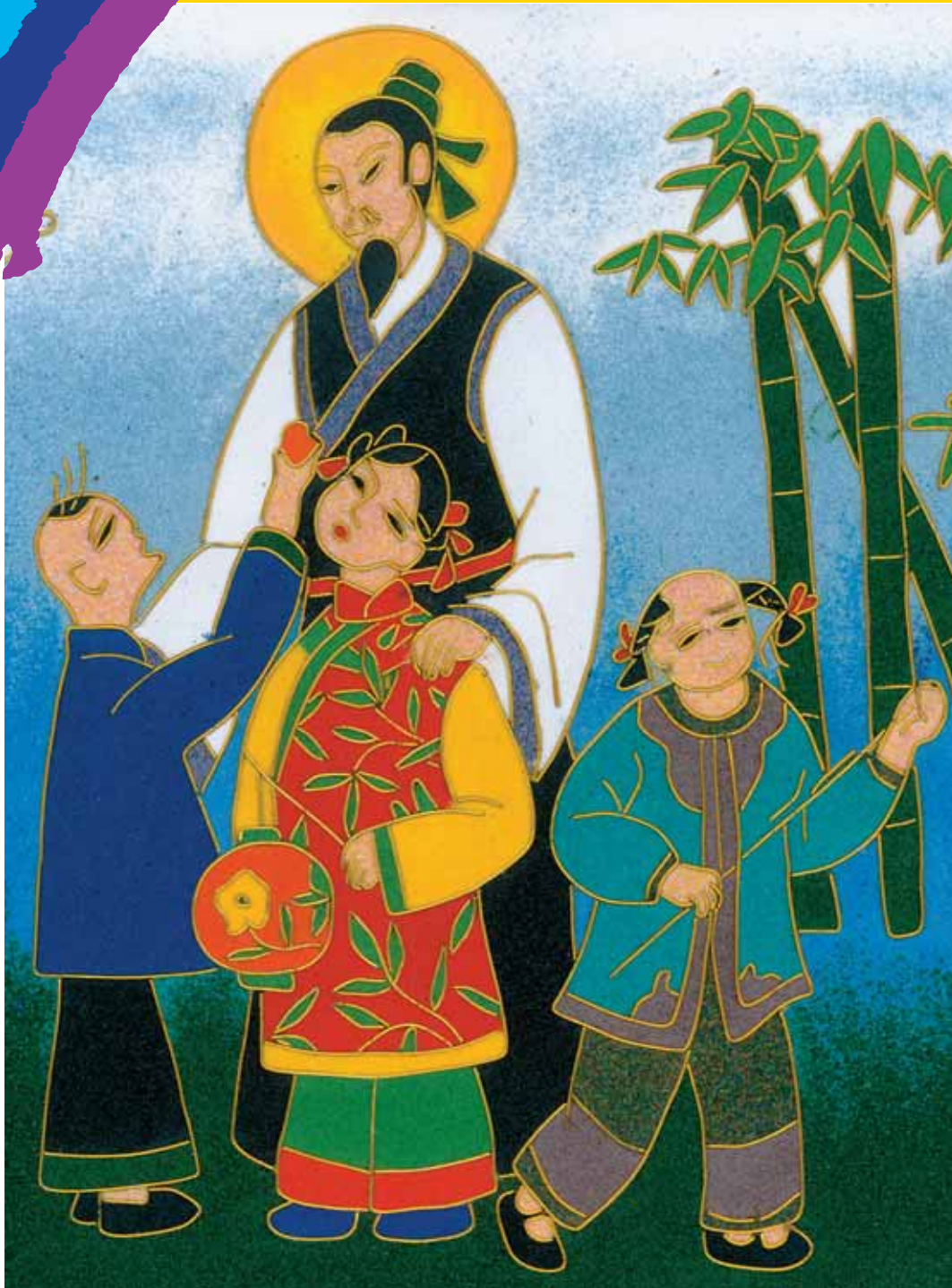


April 2004

# RAINBOW



Inside



Ireland



Argentina



India

Welcome

The **Methodist** Church





## Dear JMA

Have you ever been to a new place and felt a bit worried?

Then it's a great feeling when someone welcomes you and tries to make you feel at home.

Perhaps you are one of those special friendly people who likes to welcome people.

I love going to new places but it makes it even better when there is a friendly face and a warm welcome from someone who can explain things.

In this Rainbow there are different sorts of welcome in Uruguay, India, Argentina and Ireland, where one Irish church has gone a long way to make young people feel welcome.

What happens in your school or church to make new people feel welcome? Please write and tell me.

*Steve*

Rainbow was written and edited by Steve Pearce.

Thanks to the Revd Tom Quenet (Area Secretary for the Americas and the Caribbean), Chris Elliott-Hall (Area Secretary for Asia and the Pacific), Sue Jansen (Mission Partner, Iglesia Metodista Argentina) for photos and stories 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.

E-mail [jma@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:jma@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Visit our website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) (Site Ref: JM110903)

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

© Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

# Melissa welcomes Tom

Tom Quenet visited one of the poorest parts of Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. The Methodist Church gives about 80 local children their main meal on one day each week. Here are Irma, Raul, Emilia and Melissa with their meal of hot milk (with sugar) and freshly baked bread.



Tom remembers how Melissa noticed that he didn't have anything to eat and although this was her only meal of the day she broke her bread and gave half to him – a very special welcome.



# Mendoza, Argentina

## Friends of the Street



This is Florencia she is 8 months old and is very pleased with this pushchair she has just been given. She lives on the streets of

Mendoza with her mum, her brother

Rodrigo who is 4 and her sister Fresia who is 3 and likes the swings.

Their mum is here in the park too sitting with some friends who also have no homes and live on the streets.



They are waiting for three o'clock when the church will open.



The Methodist Church in Mendoza opens on Tuesday and Friday afternoons especially for people who live on the streets of the city.

Sue Jansen, a Mission Partner from Britain, had the idea. Now she and other church members invite their 'Friends of the Street' to come to church for tea and a chat. If they want to they can wash their clothes and have a shower or a hair cut.

## Welcome to Breakfast

The Sunday School at Patron Santiago Church meets on Saturday! They start with breakfast because lots of the children are hungry and because eating together is important to Christians.

Starting at the left, meet Rodrigo, Pablo, Alejandra, Brian, Aldana, and Gisela.



# Religions together in India

All religions believe you should treat other people as well as you would like to be treated. But in many countries there are problems between people of different religions.

Chris Elliott-Hall visited several places in India and Sri Lanka to meet Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians who are trying to help people learn about each other's religions and get on better.

She met these children at a Children's day in the Diocese of Gujarat where more than a thousand children came to play games, have fun, eat and pray in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



Welcome to Punjab! The pictures on this sign tell you what Punjab is famous for and the symbols tell you what religions the people follow. Can you work them all out?



Holidays! Aren't they fantastic? While I was in India there was a special holiday. In the south its called Pongol and even the cows join in and have their horns painted.



In the north it is Sankranti and children were flying kites everywhere. Unfortunately the breeze wasn't as good as usual and it seemed as if kites were caught in every tree in Ahmedabad!

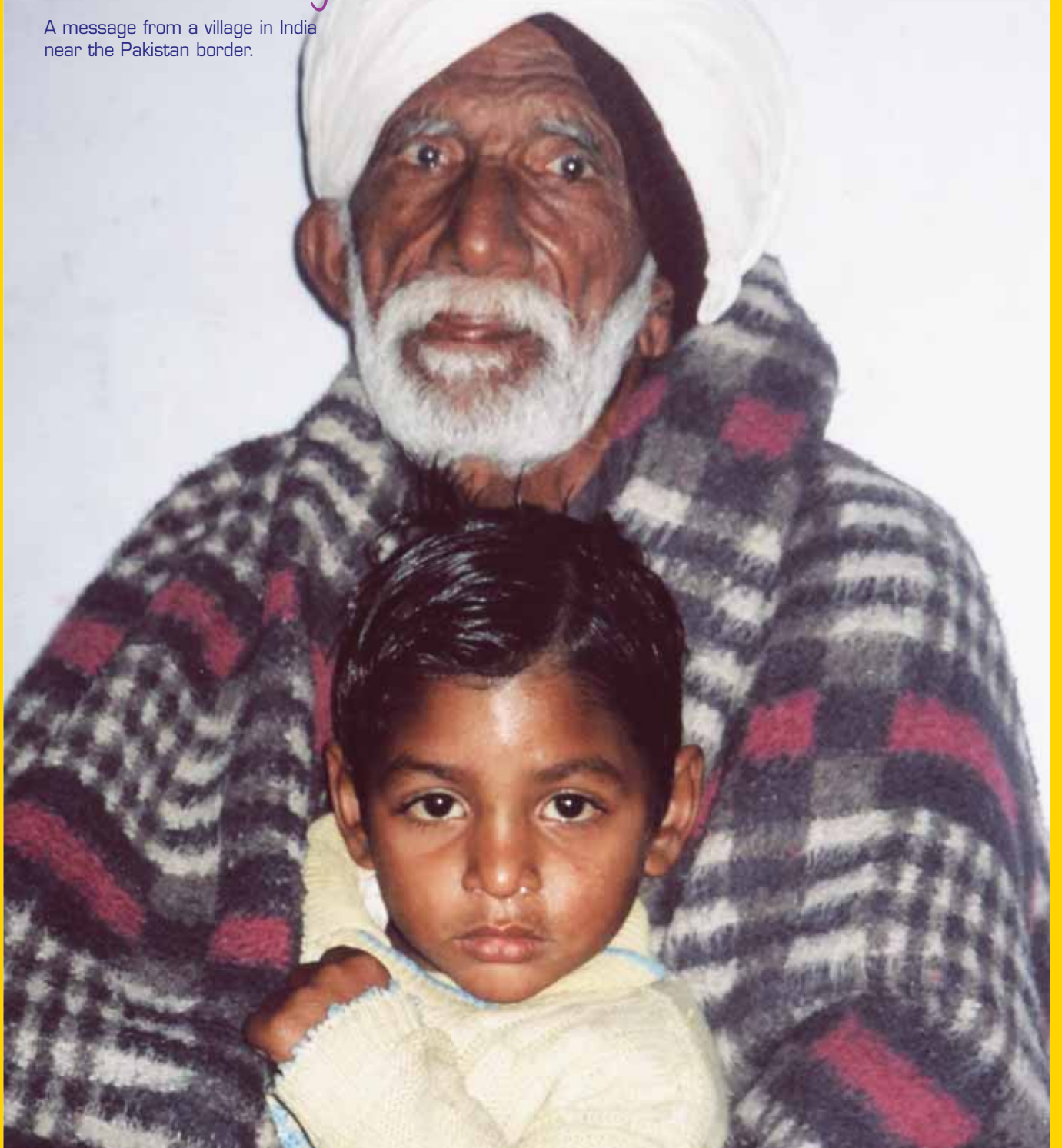
I visited a centre where children meet to play, Hindus, Muslims and Christians all together. It is called *Saarth*, which means 'together'. Their kites said things like, 'We are **Indian** not different races' and 'Youth for Peace.'



These are important signs in a place where fighting between the different religious groups has been a real problem.

*Our wish is for you to  
live as harmoniously as  
we do in our village.*

A message from a village in India  
near the Pakistan border.



**Loving God, You care for all people;  
Help us to live well together  
And always to have a welcome for new people,  
who might become new friends.**