

# JMA Award Order Form

For money collected during the year September 2004 to August 2005

Your name	<input type="text"/>
Your address	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>

Church	<input type="text"/>
Circuit	<input type="text"/>

Date of Presentation	<input type="text"/>
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(Please give at least three weeks' notice when sending in this order form)

## AWARDS

2005 Annual Award badge	<input type="text"/>
Certificates (for all collectors)	<input type="text"/>
Membership Badge with Ribbon (for new collectors)	<input type="text"/>
Long Service Certificate	<input type="text"/>

## Old badges (subject to availability)

Indigo	<input type="text"/>	Silver	<input type="text"/>
Violet	<input type="text"/>	Gold	<input type="text"/>
Bronze	<input type="text"/>		

## Other JMA Items

The Target Chart and a copy of this year's JMA service will be included with your order. Is there anything else you need?

Secretary's Account Book	<input type="text"/>
Collector's Record Book	<input type="text"/>
Collecting Boxes	<input type="text"/>
JMA is ...	<input type="text"/>
Other JMA Resources:	<input type="text"/>
China CD	<input type="text"/>
Donation for badges	<input type="text"/>

(Donations to pay for the JMA Membership Badges are optional but welcome. Please make cheques payable to M.C.F.W.M.)

Please complete your address label clearly to speed up your order

To:

From: JMA, Methodist Church House,  
25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

For Office use only:

Date despatched:



2005 Order Form included!

Follow

Up

Notes

# RAINBOW

April 2005

Dear Rainbow Users

As you will see I recently went at short notice to visit South India.

The Church of South India (CSI) invited representatives of the British Methodist Church to visit them in February to see some of the work that was being done to help individuals and communities recover from the devastating effects of the Boxing Day tsunami.

I spent a week visiting villages on the coast and talking to staff at the CSI headquarters in Chennai. I listened and learnt a great deal and was able to tell people about the concern and prayers that have been expressed by people in Britain and Ireland and the great amounts of money that had been raised.

Chennai itself, formerly known as Madras, is a large and busy city with many reminders of its long history, these include the ancient Hindu temples, the oldest Anglican church east of Suez (St Mary's built in 1680), and the oldest Methodist Church in Asia-Pacific (the 'Upper Room Church').

But the villages I visited were quite different. Strung out along a 300km stretch of coastline south of Chennai, many are right on the beach. I spent a little time at several, including Singararhoppu in Cudalore, part of the Madras Diocese, and Thirumullaivasal and Nagapattinam in the Trichy-Tanjore Diocese.

I have so much to say about what I saw and heard, I offer you in these pages just a little of it. I hope it will help you give background and some explanation of the issues behind what you can see in Rainbow.

I trust it is enough to spur you and your church to prayer.

Best wishes



Steve Pearce  
JMA and Children's Secretary

Don't think of India as just poor villages, though. Its universities produce 1.29 million graduates a year and the country has the second largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world and it is one of the six countries with the knowledge to build and launch satellites.



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# South India and the Tsunami

Although less publicity has been given to the effects of the tsunami on the east coast of India, there was considerable loss of life and damage to land, houses and property.

The coastline is long and altogether nine dioceses in South India were affected.

Fishing communities are suffering particular hardship as many boats and nets were lost, but the economic effects are being felt by all those who used to supply goods and services to those formerly involved in fishing. There is a widespread loss of livelihood and food security is a problem due to the lack of family incomes and because much agricultural land is still unusable due to the salt contamination left behind by the sea.



CSI has built up considerable expertise over the years in the development of income-generation and women's

projects. The Church, having been involved in the initial relief effort is now looking to establish new projects in the coastal areas to help families replace lost income. At the moment CSI is concentrating on identifying gaps in what is being offered by a host of (mainly Indian) Non-Governmental Organisations, religious groups and the government.

The fishing industry was decimated by the disaster and the government as well as giving all affected families an initial grant of food and cash, is slowly responding further by giving fishermen help to get loans to replace the lost boats, nets and other equipment. It is important to realise that there are groups of fishing workers, many of them dalits, who work on the boats and on the shore, who were never wealthy enough to own a boat or a share in one, who now have nothing. Help is reaching all the villages eventually, but the dalits are still discriminated against and often excluded from help.

Dalits are the 'untouchables' outside the caste system. Traditionally they do the 'dirty' jobs in the community and therefore live outside or on the edge of the village, using different wells and having very few rights in society. They used to be called 'untouchables', but prefer now to be known as the dalits, the 'persecuted'. (Find more at [www.dalits.org](http://www.dalits.org))

## Singalatopu

This dalit village of fishing workers is on the coast of Culladore state in south-east India, on what is almost an island, connected to the town where all the non-dalit people live by a bridge. The tsunami destroyed almost the entire village, exposed as it was to the wave on three sides, 38 lives were lost and the remaining 1700 families spent the next 5-10 days in a relief camp set up by the Madras Diocese.

Revd Jacob Belly, the CSI Diaconal Ministry area co-ordinator, realised little was being done here and joined the people in the remains of their village to be alongside them and 'strengthen their minds and hopes'. While relief agencies' lorries came and went, he helped the young men found and register the Tsunami Affected Fisherfolk Rehabilitation Organisation to represent the villagers to the government and other agencies 'to make sure everyone should get everything', as Rama (the organisation's chair) put it. 'For the first time, we are in control of what is offered to us.' Now instead of there being a stampede every time a lorry from an NGO arrives and the strongest getting whatever is on offer, the village representatives find out what the relief organisation can give and ensures there is enough for everyone or gives tokens to those who are most in need of what is on offer.



The women have organised themselves into 20 self-help groups. One of their tasks is to explore the possibility of earning income other than from fishing. The Church has given each group 5,000 rupees to put their ideas into practice.

### In your groups

- Ask yourselves what it might be like to lose everything you own.
  - If you could request help, and not just wait for whatever came, what would you want?
  - Imagine your family had no income. How would you use £75 to start earning money?
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One of the early activities of the village committee was a celebration of the Hindu festival of Pongol. To start with no one felt like a celebration but the CSI workers encouraged them and festivities - dancing, cricket, badminton and food - were organised on the beach. A surprising development was the chance for people to worship the goddess of the sea and express some of their feelings and questions about what the sea had done, then the dancing continued well into the night.



The children have been especially traumatised by the disaster, many were lost for days and injured. They are back at school now and the village has organised extra classes for them in the evening where they can catch up on work and talk together, as well as arranging for them to receive new books, pens, school bags, lunch boxes and water bottles. The team from CSI diaconal ministry would dearly love to put up a playground for them, as very many have lost the will or confidence to play.

The government gave everyone in the affected areas 50kg of rice and 4,000 rupees (£50) soon after the disaster and then each bereaved family received 100,000 rupees (£1,250). Because the new representative organisation is a

registered body it can act for those who have not received their grants or pensions.

Traditionally the livelihoods of everyone in the village depend on fishing. They are not wealthy enough to own their own boats and earn a living by processing, icing and packing the fish for delivery to markets elsewhere in India. Many are tied into this work by employers who have paid them an 'advance' on their wages, so they have to work until that money (and the interest on it) is repaid. As they contemplate their future they have realised that if they were enabled now to buy small catamarans and do their own fishing they could gain control over their livelihoods and escape the traditional dalit roles. Such a boat and nets would cost around £300 and could be shared by three families. They have decided this is an idea worth putting to organisations like the Church.

The villagers have told Jacob and his team of four – who are working in this and four other similar villages – that it is not always money that they need, it is information about where resources might exist and 'someone to journey with them, especially when approaching other organisations'. They wanted to know how long CSI was prepared to journey with them and Jacob promised them five years.

There is much uncertainty. Reports speak of an imminent government restriction on building within 200m, or maybe 500m, of the sea; this would mean the whole village moving. Where fishing has resumed it is reported that the types of fish being caught are new and not conforming to the previous seasonal pattern; the seabed has changed its shape; the coastline has changed; all these changes undermine the experience of those who have been fishing for many years.

## Thirumulaivasal

Here I met Nisha, who was nine months pregnant when the tsunami hit her village. Her husband Malininy was out on the shore and saw the water coming 'like a cobra ready to strike'. He ran shouting at people to get away. 'The wave kept coming, but did not break... not until it had broken everything in its way.' Fortunately many just ran whatever they were doing. Nisha survived a harrowing experience and has safely given birth to a son she has named Tsunami Mano, like everyone else he will always remember what the sea did that day.

They now live with three other families in a disused classroom at a local school, where CSI is providing basic rations for the dalits from the village and trying to restore a sense of community by encouraging the families to take control and plan their future. Meanwhile relief lorries come and go. While I was there, one came with plastic buckets, gave some out to the people who got nearest and left.

Visiting their destroyed village, where 300 had died in and around their homes, it was easy to see the demarcation line between the main fishing village and the



part where the dalit workers lived: it was where the electricity cable stopped, it was where there were no relief workers, it was where almost all the houses had vanished without trace. Here as elsewhere the villagers had united to make sure that relief was given out at the 'front' of the village and did not get through to the 'back' where the dalits lived.

This community was far more despondent than Singalatopu and I was painfully aware of the enormous task the people faced, not only that of rebuilding their lives and their homes, but of rebuilding their hope too.

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## Girl Child Campaign

The picture on the back page of Rainbow was painted by an Indian Christian artist called Susheila in response to the campaign being run by both the Church of South India and the Church of North India in support of girl children.

'Daughters are perceived as an economic and social burden on the family' according to a recent CSI dossier on children's rights. If families can find out a baby's sex before birth, female foetuses are often aborted and many girl children are murdered soon after birth. Several factors have given rise to this desperate situation:

In order to achieve a good marriage for a daughter the family will have to pay a dowry to the prospective husband's family, after marriage the daughter will not contribute to her parents' income nor be there to support them in old age. A son on the other hand will continue the family line, support his parents as well as his own wife and children and be there to perform the funeral ceremonies. Paradoxically the international momentum towards smaller families has made the situation worse in some places; because of the need to have male children even first-born girl children are now at risk.

The Church campaign is focussed on a solution to this problem that lies in actions to alleviate poverty and to improve the status and independence of women.

## Activities

### In your group

Make two collages of words and pictures from magazines, one about boys and men and one about girls and women. Decide if you should do this in mixed or single sex groups. Do the two collages look different? Should they?

### Prayer

- Use a map, or make a new one, to show these affected areas in South India.
- Use candles or plant seeds to represent your prayers.
- Write or draw prayers on post-its and stick them on the map.
- As interest fades in the media find new ways to hear about how people are rebuilding their lives.
- Support the Church of South India with money by giving to JMA.

## Five minutes a month

- Ask yourselves what it might be like to lose everything you own.
- If you could request help, and not just wait for whatever came, what would you want?
- Imagine your family had no income at all. How would you use £75 to start earning money?
- Talk about the way dalits have been discriminated against. Compare it to the discrimination that takes place here. Is there anything you can do as a church to stand up to discrimination wherever you see it?

# Children's Ministry Resources

## JMA Website

Visit JMA at the Methodist website  
[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

You'll find an order form there (as well as in these pages), JMA services from previous years, back copies of FUN and information about new resources from the Children's Section including Footprints.

## Footprints

We have worked with our European Methodist colleagues to bring you Footprints.

It is an exciting new resource with worship, learning and prayer material that takes you on a journey through the Easter story to discover something new about resurrection, communion and prayer. It also has some very useful information about our Methodist friends in some European countries. Find it at [www.methodist.org.uk/static/footprints](http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/footprints) or just look for the children's pages!

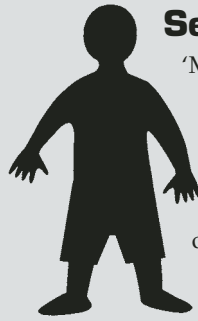
## Children's Work Development Officer

We have a new member in the Children's Section team! Doug Swanney comes to us from the charity '4Children' and before that was responsible for children's ministry in the Church of Scotland. His work will concentrate on supporting new initiatives, new ideas and new ways of working with children in churches and communities.

## Make Poverty History

Make Poverty History is the name of a campaign, of which The Methodist Church is a member, to get the G8 to make the world a fairer place for people in poor countries. People who support this campaign are asked to wear a white band. For more information go to [www.makepovertyhistory.org.uk](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org.uk)

The G8 Summit is in Edinburgh this year; many of us will be there on July 2 to make our voices heard.



## Send my friend to school

'Millions of parents, teachers and children around the world are calling on their governments to provide free, good quality basic education for all the world's children. They are part of the Global Campaign for Education; we add our voice to their call.'

Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel

100 million children receive no education. Two-thirds of them are girls. Join the campaign to send them all to school. Go to [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org) for info on how to make a buddy, register your school, get lesson plans, etc. Register before 31 May at Send My Friend to School, ActionAid, Leach Road, Chard TA20 1FR.

## One World Week 23-30 October 2005

The theme this year is 'Promises, promises!' There will be many promises this year. The UK will have a general election and hold the presidencies of the EU and the G8. OWW helps you to do what you can to make sure promises are kept and to make promises of your own.

Get great resources from [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org) or  
Tel: 0118 939 4933 or  
PO Box 2555 Reading RG1 4XW.



## China CDrom **NEW**

We are producing a fabulous new educational and prayer resource about China. Together with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and USPG, Children's Section has drawn together all you could possibly want to learn and pray about China and its Churches

- learn about China in your children's, youth or adult study group
- focus on China with worship ideas
- see pictures
- find out about the Church in China
- meet Chinese Christians
- puzzles and quizzes
- prayers and Bible study

Available 30 June – order one with your badges on the attached order form!

# News from JMA Groups



## Water Work

*Adam and Louis Rothwell write from Southport:*

We have just had our JMA Service. This year we collected £757. After the Faith Lunch (I had pizza) and some games, we heard how many people have to go a long way to collect their water in a bucket. Margaret filled two buckets and we took it in turns to carry them several yards with our hands and even on our heads! It was very difficult; it helped me to understand how hard people have to work to carry out a simple task. I really appreciate turning on my tap and making myself a drink. I think we are very lucky.

I am going to collect even more money next year to help people.

## Breakfast Club

'An opportunity for young and old to get to know each other,' is how Janet Bettacini describes the Breakfast Club organised by the 'Jesus Kids' at Northolt Methodist Church on the first Sunday of the month. There's no charge for the tea, coffee and toast, but a JMA box is on the table!

## Campaign for Non-violence

There was a lobby of MPs as part of the campaign to get children equal protection from assault under the law. Eleanor and Megan Conway took part in the service that was part of the day. 'We had the experience of a lifetime' said Megan. Eleanor told me about the chapel underneath Parliament, 'there were paintings all over the walls, which were beautiful.' 'A bunch of boys did a rap. Then it was our turn,' writes Eleanor. 'Susan read out the passage about Jesus saying that children are very important. Then Susan got Mummy, Megan, some MPs and the Bishop to stand up because they are important people. They all looked very serious. Then I went and gave Mummy a cuddle, Megan some sweets, made my dog wave at the MPs and played pat-a-cake with the Bishop. Then they all smiled and weren't so serious.'

Megan said, 'It was an extremely enjoyable day and one I'll never forget.'

# NEW DIRECTIONS

Thinking and doing in ministry amongst children



A chance for everyone involved in children's work and ministry to share in the cutting edge of thinking and doing with colleagues from many denominations across the UK and Ireland. Enjoy worship, lively speakers, workshops, time to chat, multi-publishers' market and a creative 'after hours' programme, in a comfortable environment with excellent food.

Our guest for the weekend will be **Jerome Berryman** whose pioneering programme, *Godly Play*, is exciting many around the globe. The conference will see the UK launch of Jerome's new work on the theology of childhood.

Organised by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children, a network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.



**Dates:** 9-11 September 2005

**Venue:** Nottingham University

**Cost:** £160 (£150 before 30 June)

### Booking details:

[admin@congregational.org.uk](mailto:admin@congregational.org.uk)

0115 9111 452

Rev. Stephen Haward

Youth and Children's Officer

8 Castle Gate

Nottingham NG1 7AS

Overleaf you  
will find this  
year's order  
form

# JMA Awards 2005

Thank you for taking on the task of ordering JMA awards and arranging the presentation, we are very grateful to you.

## JMA Envelopes

These are a new idea, if you feel it appropriate, order them to give out at JMA services (or similar occasion), to enable members of the congregation to make a one-off donation to JMA.

## Just to recap

You should be ordering a certificate and a 2005 award badge for each JMA member. Any new member who has begun collecting during the last year will need a membership badge.

## Long Service Certificates

These are available for you to award to anyone who you feel has reached a particular milestone, either a number of years, a particular achievement or the end of a JMA collecting career.

## The Old Badges

If you have some members who are still trying to complete their collection of old badges you may order old badges instead of new ones (while stocks last) on the order form. (Long service medals, red, orange, yellow, green and blue badges are no longer available.)

## What else?

We send a Target Chart, and this year's JMA Service with each order.

If your JMA presentation service would be a good time to advertise JMA or recruit new members please order copies of the leaflet 'JMA is...' for children, parents and interested members of the congregation.

## Collecting Boxes

These are becoming more popular and we want to encourage people to use them, so order what you need, but they do cost us 80p, so if it is possible to re-use them, please do. We don't feel it is economical to do special JMA labels for the bottom of boxes, those who do use them may like to know that labels designed for the adult boxes are available from Methodist Publishing House.

## Administration

We try to fulfil your order within three weeks of receiving your form but we ask you to fill in the date of presentation, because if there is a backlog we use this to prioritise.

Donations for badges are optional but welcome (they cost about 50p each). Please make cheques out to M.C.F.W.M.

## Send the order to...

We will begin despatching orders in early July, send the form as early as you can!

For England, Wales and Scotland, return the form to:

JMA, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

For Ireland return the form to:

JMA, Mission Office, Aldersgate House, 13 University Road, Belfast BT7 1NA