

2004 Order Form included!

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RAINBOW

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April 2004

Dear Rainbow Users,

The theme of this Rainbow is welcome and respect.

Jesus made a point of welcoming and showing respect to people who were on the margins, including children, that's why I've chosen a picture of Jesus and the children for Rainbow's front cover. The picture itself comes from China. Tom Quenet says he met Jesus when he encountered the children in Uruguay (see page 3); I think this is what Jesus meant when he said children are a way of learning about the Kingdom of God.

I was in Dublin recently and visited the Central Mission, where people from many nations are welcomed and their cultures respected. In the worship there the Irish harp and traditional Zimbabwean songs have been heard this year as well as Wesley's hymns; the Lord's Prayer may be spoken in several languages at once; in the nativity play at Christmas the baby came from Zimbabwe, his mother was Irish and Joseph came from Africa too.

The welcome that awaits young people in Blackrock near Dublin is also a warm one. That church's commitment to young people is a striking example. It's clear that you have to take risks to be this welcoming!

*We saw a stranger yesterday:
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And, with the sacred name of the triune God,
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.*

Celtic rune of hospitality

Best wishes,

Steve Pearce



JMA News

Fun Day

Bicester held a Fun Day. Bianca Leach tells me, "There was a good turnout. We made friendship bracelets, balancing rain birds, hanging snakes and tiger puppets. We also played games from different countries."

I recognise some of the activities as being from the JMA pack of ideas from Latin America 'Hola', available from the office for £3. (As are Caribbean Capers, Surfing South Pacific, African Adventures and Indian Ideas.)

Flying with the Eagle Service

Thank you for all the letters of appreciation and stories about this year's JMA Service 'Eagles' Wings'. It was wonderful to hear how the service inspired you. Carole Trigger wrote from Bromsgrove to tell me, "...it was very useful...we painted an eagle poster. We have gained several new members as a result of our service and I have run out of yellow boxes, could I have some more! "

A minister told me about eagles flying on wires from the balcony and I have seen great models and wonderful prayer eagles.

JMA Tea Towels

The JMA tea towel produced by Wilmslow JMA is available from Janet Hull, 5 Blenheim Close Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2DN, tel. 01625 532772, e-mail janethull2@btinternet.com Janet will send you them for £1.50 (including p&tp) you can sell them at your summer fair for any price you like!

Writers

Roots wants to hear from children's workers who might consider writing material for them. If you are interested, please get in touch with me, Steve Pearce, in the JMA Office, tel. 020 7467 5122.



Apologies

I'm sorry for muddling captions on the January Members' Pages, special apologies to Ebenezer Chapel in Caernarfon, Ashbourne and Blidworth.

Knutsford

Sara Waters, JMA Secretary at Knutsford Methodist Church, based a 'JMA Fun and Learning Evening' on the topic of Fair Trade (especially bananas) after reading about it in Rainbow. She writes, "There were lots of games and stories of unfair trade and loads of encouragement to buy Fair Trade – every little helps. You can see that all the children made a 'quality' banana from material. Then the 'big powerful banana buyers' negotiated a price with the 'small powerless producers', though some bananas were totally discarded by the buyers! The producers discovered how hard it is to make enough money to live. The children really seemed to grasp the difficulties and went home very enthusiastic after a fun evening. We even tasted some Fair Trade products blindfolded to see which everyone preferred and the Fair Trade chocolate came out well!"

Richmond

Trail blazers followed up the information on the banana trade and dressed up bananas. They also took action in support of banana farmers by writing to Tony Blair.



Children from Richmond with their bananas

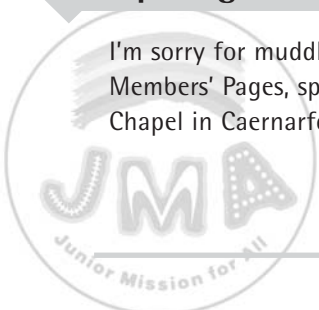
Argentina

Sue Jansen our Mission Partner in Mendoza has a distinctive ministry among the city's homeless people. The family on page 6 went to Mendoza to be near the father when he was sent to prison there. Life on the street is hard and dangerous. You can imagine in your groups what sorts of difficulties you might have. The

pushchair was only recently donated to the family.



Some of Argentina's homeless citizens in the park





5 Minutes a Month 5

World Links

Share a little about the welcoming that is going on at Dublin City Mission. See who in your congregation has links around the world. Use a prayer or song from a different part of the world. (Hymns and Psalms has several including 3, 145, 215 & 45)



Hunger in the World

Share this news and ask "What can this church do to increase the political will?"

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently released its findings on world hunger, as part of an effort to gauge progress toward the World Food Summit (WFS) target, set in 1996, of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015 from its level of over 800 million. The good news from the findings, in short, is that in 19 countries, the number of people facing chronic hunger dropped by more than 80 million between 1990-1992 and 1999-2001. The bad news is that most other countries are not sharing this success. In the developing world, it is estimated that 798 million people were undernourished in 1999-2001, only 19 million fewer than the WFS baseline period of 1990-1992. Clearly, this pace is not sufficient to achieve the WFS goal. Sadly, it also appears that the number of undernourished people in the world is now climbing after several years of decline during the early half of the 1990's. The FAO explains that the problem is not a lack of food. There is enough food on the earth to comfortably feed every man, woman and child. The issue seems to be a lack of political will. Most of the world's hungry live in rural areas, cut off from political influence, out of the view of the media and the public in developed countries.

Events

25-27 February 2005 The Consultation

Our annual consultation for JMA and Children's Secretaries was much more of a training event this year and a great success. Next year we will tackle Inclusive Worship, led by Rosemary Johnston, Children's Advocate for the URC.

Her resource material for developing worship in local churches 'Wholly Worship' is £15.95 (£2.50 p&tp) from URC Bookshop, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, tel. 020 7916 2020.

9 May Christian Aid Week begins

9-11 July Breakout in Blackpool

The National Youth Event with visitors from Ghana and Kenya.

4-6 June World Mission Conference

Latin America: Chaos, Cross, Celebration
- Discovering a Spirituality for Life.

A conference is for all ages, details from Meg Bailey, 4 Brompton Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport SK4 3HH, tel. 0161 432 3854

17-24 October One World Week

Your move! Action Kit (8.50), Worship Anthology (£1.50) and other resources from One World Week, PO Box 2555 Reading RG1 4XW, tel. 0118 9394933

4-6 February 2005 Mission Adventure

For all involved in mission led by Mvume Dandale, Hilary Faith-Jones and members of the Connexional Team.

The children's teeth are in a terrible state, they drink mate (a traditional herbal tea) with sugar because it suppresses the appetite.

The pictures were taken in the park in the square by the church as they all wait one Tuesday for the church drop-in to open. It is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 until 6, tea is served at 4 o'clock.

As well as a shower and washing facilities some basic medical care is also available. A house for a hostel is badly needed in Mendoza. The church has plans but needs to raise a great deal of money to realise them.

The Church where the homeless in Argentina meet to be fed

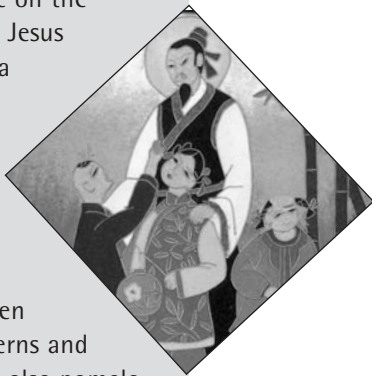
Children attending the Sunday School at Patron Santiago Church finishing their breakfast



W E L C O M E & R E S P E C T



The Chinese picture on the front cover shows Jesus and the children, a familiar scene of welcome. Here Jesus may be mixing with the children during the Zhong Qiu Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn or Mooncake festival, a time when children traditionally play with lanterns and have mooncakes to eat and also pomelo (a large fruit, green outside and like a grapefruit inside).



**TO
DO**

LEARN CHINESE GREETINGS

Nearly a quarter of the people in the world speak Chinese of one sort or another, but as you know it looks and sounds very different from English. Here is what you say when you meet someone:

Ni hao ma?

It sounds like *nee how ma?*

And it means,

'How are you?'

Hen hao, xie xie

The reply sounds like *hern how, shay shay* and means

'fine thanks.'

Zai jian

This sounds like *dzai jien* and means,

'Goodbye.'

**TO
DO**

BAKE MOON CAKES

550g self-raising flour
1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
100g dried milk powder
3 eggs
300g brown sugar (muscovado)
200mls corn oil
1/2 tsp salt
egg yolk or milk for glazing
Filling:
1 sml jar of grape jam (or bean paste)

Mix the flour, bicarbonate of soda, and milk powder in a large bowl.

Beat the eggs and sugar for a few minutes to dissolve the sugar, then add the oil and salt and mix well.

Add the flour mixture stirring as you add it until you have a dough.

Take a piece of dough (about 50g) and lightly form it into a 10cm circle. Place a ball of filling in the centre and gather up the edges of the dough, squeeze them together so that the filling is completely enclosed and roll it gently into a ball.

Flatten the balls slightly in your hands and place onto a lightly floured baking sheet.

Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C until golden brown.

**TO
DO**

MAKE LANTERNS

Take an A4 sheet of coloured paper and fold it lengthways.

With a pair of scissors make about ten cuts across the paper, starting from the fold, but stopping before you reach the edge.

Unfold the paper and glue the two shorter edges of the paper together.

Attach a handle and hang from a string across the room.





Once upon a time the colours of the world started to quarrel: all claimed that they were the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite.

GREEN said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, leaves, trees—without me, all animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

BLUE interrupted: "You only think about the Earth, but consider the sky and sea. It is the water that is the basis of life and drawn up by the clouds from the deep sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace, you would all be nothing."

YELLOW chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety, and warmth to the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the whole world starts to smile. Without me, there would be no fun."

ORANGE started next to blow her temper. "I am the colour of health and strength. I may be scarce but I am precious for I serve the needs of human life. I carry the most important vitamins. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, mangos, and papaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you".

RED could stand it no longer. He shouted out: "I am the ruler of all of you! I am blood! Life's blood! I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire to the blood! I am the colour of passion and of love, the red rose, the poppy and the poinsettia. Without me, the earth would be as empty as the moon!"

PURPLE rose up to his full height. He was very tall and spoke with great pomp: "I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me, they listen and obey".

INDIGO finally, spoke, much more quietly than all the others, but with just as much determination: "Think of me. I am the colour of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

And so all the colours went on boasting and quarrelling, each convinced of their own superiority. Soon, their quarrelling became louder and louder. Suddenly there was a startling flash of bright lightening! Thunder rolled and boomed! Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours crouched down in fear drawing close to one another for comfort.

In the midst of the clamour, RAIN began to speak: "You foolish colours, fighting amongst yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Don't you know you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me."

Doing as they were told, the colours united and joined hands. The RAIN continued: "From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of colours as a reminder that you can all live in peace. The rainbow is a sign of hope for tomorrow".

And so, whenever a good rain washes the world, and a rainbow appears in the sky, let us remember to appreciate one another.



IRELAND

Dublin City Mission

The Methodist Church on Abbey Street dates from 1820. It is right in the city centre, just off O'Connell Street and seeking to minister to a thriving, rapidly-changing city and its ever-changing population. As the economy has grown over recent years workers have been invited from many parts of the world (including South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Argentina, Nigeria, Liberia and the Philippines) into the Irish health and social work systems as well as the private sector. The minister, the Revd John Stephens, is keen for the church, "to respond to the blessings and the challenges" and it is easy to see that this is happening.

Marlene Skuce, formerly a Mission Partner in Sri Lanka, has been appointed by the church to make sure that people from overseas find a real welcome in the church and to visit them and see what help they need to settle into their new life.

TO DO

SEND GREETINGS



The Hicks family were Rainbow contributors while Mission Partners in Jamaica and I was delighted to meet them in Ireland recently. Conrad and Sonia are circuit ministers in Dublin now and we hope to hear from Nathan, Olivia and Nyasha about their cool new home in Ireland soon.



Hicks Family now living in Dublin

Blackrock

The Methodist Church in the town of Blackrock, a little way out of Dublin, has thrown itself completely into work with children and young people. The traditional chapel building is now a Montessori playgroup upstairs and a Kids' Club/Youth Drop-in/Dance Club downstairs.

"The important questions are, 'What do young people want?' and 'How do the young people think it should develop?'" says Andrew Smith, the youth worker.

Christina is from Denmark and is one of four young people spending a year in Blackrock to help run the various groups. She is impressed with the way the young people are being provided with activities and a safe place; they can ask questions when they are ready, there is no pressure from 'Christianity'. Please pray for their work.

Use this Celtic border to make a card for someone who has moved to your school or church or is going to move away.



Young girls from all over Gujarat attending the fun day to mark Christian Unity week



India

Chris Elliott-Hall spent a month making an inter-faith exploration through India and Sri Lanka with the Inter-Faith Secretary, Elizabeth Harris.

At Saarth, Liz asked the group why they thought she'd come to see them, one boy called out, 'because we are Hindus, Muslims and Christians all together'. This is indeed an important sign in a place where fighting between the different religious groups has been a real problem. Did these children refuse to play with another who observed a different faith? They certainly did not! They just enjoyed the chess and other board games and, of course, who managed to fly his or her kite the highest!

Another important occasion was the beginning of the week for Christian Unity. The Bishop of Gujarat in the Church of North India thought the best way to begin the week was to have a big fun day for children. More than a 1000 children from all over Gujarat turned up at the huge Roman Catholic school to play games and eat and have fun as well as pray together. I was delighted to be able to join in and the girls in the picture wanted to know all about children in Britain and Ireland as much as they wanted to tell me about themselves - they won one of the competitions!

Near the border of India and Pakistan are several villages. Elizabeth and I visited three, in one we had time with a group to talk about how they live together in the village as people who follow different faiths. They told us they work together, celebrate each other's holy festivals, pray together and play together. They asked us if we do the same. Then they said they wanted to send a message back with us - 'Our wish is for you to live as harmoniously as we do in our village'. And all the time we were talking, a little boy looked at me while sitting snugly on his grandpa's lap; you can see them on the back page of Rainbow.



One of the villages near the border of India & Pakistan

TO DO Make a Welcome Display

The welcome board uses many languages and there is a display of symbols around the church that reflects the different countries that are now represented in the congregation, so that people see at least one word in their native language and an object or symbol from their native country. Very few Methodist congregations include no one who comes from or has a background/interest in a different country, so these may be interesting projects to make several parts of the World Church visible in your church.

Natalia Plov is another new appointment at DCM. She arrived in Dublin from Argentina a year ago and knows how important it is to receive a warm welcome and offers of help with finding your way through the school system, making friends and coping with a new culture and maybe a new language too. Asylum seekers are often dispersed around the country soon after arriving, Natalia tries to make sure someone in their new place is expecting them. She is also setting up drop-in opportunities and

a women's group as well as offering advice on all sorts of topics.



Welcome Display board in Dublin

Answers to the welcome words puzzle:

Croeso (Welsh), Karibuni (Ki Swahili), Mabuhay (Tagalog), Welkom (Afrikaans), Bienvenidos (Spanish), Bemvindo (Portuguese), Akwaaba (Ghana), Welcome (English), Failte (Irish).

“Always treat others as you would like them to treat you”

Matthew 7:12

This has been called the 'Golden Rule' or the 'ethic of reciprocity' and is found in the scriptures of all the major religions.

It might be interesting to discuss which one appeals to you most or you may like to muddle the statements up into a puzzle, varying the number you use according to age and ability.

Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.

Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

Two words sum up the basis of all good conduct: *loving kindness*. Do not do to others what you would not want done to yourself.

This is your duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole of the law; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it.

We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive

I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.

Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain and your neighbour's loss as your loss.

Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself.

Baha'i

Buddhism

Christianity

Confucianism

Hinduism

Islam

Jainism

Judaism

Native American

Sikhism

Taoism

Zoroastrian

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