

Fund for Home Mission

Mission in
Britain Report
2009



Methodist Church 

EXTRACTS OF THE ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE BY REVD. STEPHEN POXON, PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE 2008



Over the past years there has been a growing theme within the church – of our need to re-engage with society, of needing to listen to the world, to be aware that we are on the edge of God doing something new, a new Pentecost, a renewal.

Yet where does all this come from? No simple answer but one word which keeps coming back to me again and again may be a key... that powerful yet gentle word 'grace'. We are people of grace... and I invite you to begin to grapple with how this wonderful grace of God might transform the world.

There are countless stories in the Old Testament where hospitality is seen as the normal attitude of welcoming strangers. They are treated as honoured guests and there is real surprise when hospitality is not offered. The prophet

Isaiah sees hospitality to the needy as a mark of true religion.

This theme of hospitality also runs through the New Testament. In the parable of the final judgment in Matthew 25, people are judged according to the hospitality they have offered. Jesus is welcomed at Bethany, Lydia offers to accommodate Paul and his companions, and later Paul urges the Christians in Rome to: "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12:13) and elsewhere he tells the Church that it should be given in the spirit of love and without complaining. Christian hospitality then should not be done grudgingly, nor as a duty, but the glad and determined act of a cheerful giver – it is grace personified!

Mission shaped spectacles

What does mission mean to you? In the context of the world at large, it's reasonably easy to picture. Sending relief in the wake of natural disasters? Helping children orphaned by HIV/AIDS? Supporting refugees from violent regimes? Education or work creation schemes? Developing new churches or outreach programmes? Any or all of these represent mission in the world, but at home it's not so easy.

It's difficult to imagine someone starving to death in the house next door. It's hard to envisage someone being beaten to within an inch of their lives by rampaging mobs on your street. How about someone who has lost everything in an earthquake in your town? But if we look around with 'mission shaped spectacles', what do we see here, at home?

We see a single young mum struggling to pay the heating bill. Then, there's the homeless man crawling into a cardboard box

against the winter rain, children sitting alone on park benches because they're afraid to go home; the desperately lonely elderly widow. These are people on our doorstep without help or hope.

The second of Christ's greatest commands was: 'to love our neighbour as ourselves' (Matthew 22:39). In our featured stories, we see how members of the Methodist Church have put on their 'mission shaped spectacles' and looked around their home community, letting God show them how to be Jesus to the least, the lost and the last. How they are bringing help and hope to their neighbours – people who need a little touch of God in their lives.

By supporting Home Mission, you will be helping us to make every life worth living.

David Bennett
Fundraising Coordinator

Mighty Oaks from little acorns grow

In almost every case, the story of work supported by the Fund for Home Mission has been one of nurture and investment in the future. Often a vision has been taken up by a circuit or local church that doesn't simply need 'seed money' to get it going – it needs us to come alongside for sometimes quite long periods to help it grow and blossom into the work we see today. Many of the projects, begun under the banner of Fresh Expressions, Missing Generation or Youth Participation Strategy, have become exciting and rich contributions to the mission of the Church in Britain.

That means that many of these projects have lost their gloss of 'newness'. The reality of the long, hard slog of growth has set in. That is the time when funding is most needed, yet paradoxically it's the time when interest can wane in supporting the project. This is why you'll see that the Fund for Home Mission has been 'topped up' by transfers from other funds, both this year and last year. Our long term 'Home Mission' projects are simply too important to let them fail for lack of finance, so please consider prayerfully whether you are being called to support Home Mission.

Mission in Britain gives hope to Morecambe pensioners

Pensioners in Morecambe have more than just the bay to enjoy now that the Fund for Home Mission is donating cash to improve their lives.

A generous grant of £10,000 is helping a charity called CHIPS (Christian Help in Partnership), in the Morecambe and Heysham Circuit, to provide a much needed visiting and befriending scheme for 160 elderly people.

Many have reached the ripe old age of 80 and 90 and would be lonely and isolated if it were not for the visits they get from one of the charity's 75 befrienders, who generously give up their time to add a bit of colour to the pensioner's lives.

One of the scheme's big success stories is 102-year-old Winifred, who is still able to live on her own because she knows that she will see a friendly face every week, have someone to talk to over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Her CHIPS volunteer, 73-year-old Rod Baker, pops round every Monday to take the one-time Morecambe Bay lifeguard out.

“Rod brings sunshine into my life,” says Winifred. “I was lonely before I met him. Now I know I have friends and I have people to think about.”

CHIPS was started 11 years ago by former social worker Pauline Elder, and it has been able to go from strength to

strength with the cash injection it receives from the Fund for Home Mission amongst other donors.

Pauline says, “The financial support from the Methodist Church has shown very clearly that ‘The Church’ not only supports CHIPS prayerfully, but practically too!”

The Morecambe-based charity also runs a social afternoon every Tuesday called T@2 which gives its elderly charges the opportunity to make friends, share memories and enjoy treats such as luxurious massage and pampering sessions.

Its dedicated staff also offer advice about benefits, accompany people on hospital visits and even help them to choose whether or not to move to a retirement home.

A 2008 survey by elderlyparents.org.uk – an organisation which supports children coping with the demands of ageing parents – found that nearly half of elderly people questioned said being lonely was their main concern in the future.

But with the support of the Fund for Home Mission, Chips is going some way to ensuring that this loneliness is a thing of the past for the pensioners of Morecambe.



KICKSTART

REVITALISING CHILDREN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH

It all started when Revd Alistair Sharp had a vision to see children's work in the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit revitalised.

Many of the Circuit's churches were struggling to attract children and families but, in September 2008, a grant from the Fund for Home Mission changed all that. Kickstart, an innovative project aimed at five to 11-year-olds and, with children's work at its heart, was born.

'Children's work' is a way of giving youngsters the opportunity to learn, enjoy themselves and achieve their full potential within a safe environment. It encourages them to be confident participants in church and community life.

Kickstart began by taking on an inspiring new project manager, 40-year-old Nicki Goodwin. She started to send volunteers into primary schools to help

with assemblies and religious studies lessons. It proved to be a fantastic way of building up trust with both pupils and staff.

Buoyed by its success, Kickstart then set up an after-school club, where kids could play, do crafts and study, at the local church – Ryecroft Methodist Church. The kids loved the club so much that they named it Wonderzone.

"It is working tremendously well," says Nicki. "We began working with three schools in the Ryecroft area of the circuit," she says, "and a few weeks later started encouraging the pupils to come to a brand new after-school club... From a standing start, there are 60 children on the register with 30 attending regularly."



Nicki is also helping churches to expand their children's work, advising them on an array of issues from practical to legal including the all important area of safeguarding. She has even roped in her husband, Neal, as a volunteer as "it gives children of the Christian man a fantastic role model," she says. The pair are currently working to develop a training scheme so that churches can run their own children's programmes based on the Kickstart schools' partnership. They want all the children's projects in the churches

to become completely sustainable. "Our aim is to make Kickstart redundant!" Nicki quips.

Nicki is "passionate about sharing Jesus" with young children and has found real interest amongst teachers.

"I'm amazed at how open the schools are to this – when teaching about the crucifixion the class teacher, who wasn't even a Christian, helped me to explain to the children why Jesus died on the cross," she says.

The Kickstart project aims to have eight after-school clubs in place by August 2011. With such eager and committed staff on board, how could they fail?





Mission promotes cohesion in Bradford

A flagship project in West Yorkshire, supported by the Fund for Home Mission, is blazing a trail for interfaith relations and diversity.

Set up in 1989, Touchstone is a Bradford-based resource centre which offers services to people of different faiths across Bradford and West Yorkshire.

With a sizeable grant this year of over £84,000 from the Fund for Home Mission, the flourishing project is going from strength to strength.

The innovative scheme which, since 2008 has been designated 'a District project of Connexional significance', is now able to employ five staff and has ten keen volunteers who offer support to the myriad of people who come through its doors.

Bradford is home to a large immigrant population and, to reflect this, Touchstone offers an impressive range of services to asylum seekers. They include a dedicated one-to-one worker who is there to give advice and support. The human rights organisation McKenzie Friends is also on hand to help people who have to go to court.

The committed staff, led by Team Leader, Geoff Reid, also play a vital role in actively campaigning for the rights of these disadvantaged people, many of whom have fled oppressive regimes.

Geoff says: "We work hard to tackle deprivation amongst these groups. We also campaign on their behalf. We hold protests, lobby MPs and file petitions about issues such as dawn raids on asylum seekers and their families."

Geoff is committed to his role within the city to promote interfaith work. He is chair of Beacon (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) where he works tirelessly with the Bishop of Bradford to promote multifaith cohesion. He is hugely grateful to Mission in Britain for supporting him and his staff to continue their valuable work.

"Because of the sort of organisation we are, we could not exist without the church centrally. Because we've had their support we've been able to make a significant difference to people's lives," Geoff says.

Mind the Gap

AN UNFOLDING STORY OF FRESH GROWTH

As young people are increasingly drawn away from the Church, a flourishing project supported by the Fund for Home Mission is helping to buck the trend.

Mind the Gap is a thriving scheme focussing on friendship and evangelism in the Jarrow and Gateshead Circuit in the North East of England. It's aimed at the 'missing generation' of 20-40-year-olds. It has been so successful that, after six fruitful years of putting on a range of popular social and theological events, it has spawned a brand new church – a church plant. A church plant is a new church which has sprung up from an existing church community.

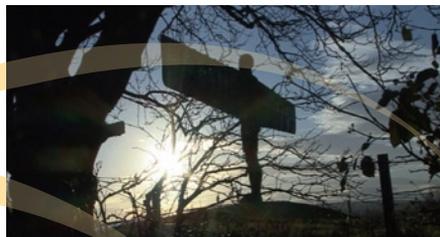
The innovative 'plant' based at the Sheriff Hill Methodist Church has proved a great way of creating 'fresh expressions of church' – a more modern way for people to experience church life – designed to co-exist alongside traditional congregations.

Its enthusiastic co-founder, District Evangelism Enabler Steve Lindridge, says, "Our mission was to reach the 20-40 age group that seemed to be missing from churches in our circuit. The Fund for Home Mission has helped Mind the Gap to develop massively into its latest and most exciting stage – a church plant."

At the heart of the exciting project is a monthly contemporary worship service called 'Theophany' – meaning appearance/showing of God. There are weekday cell (house) groups where members enjoy fellowship and are

disciplined and pastored; regular 'Alpha' Courses; and 'Seeker Events' – for people who are interested to know more such as 'Curious?'. They offer a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere into which people are encouraged to bring friends.

Steve Murray, an experienced local preacher, who has been involved with the circuit for a number of years and who now runs the 'plant', said that it had "made church accessible to the community.



"There are stories of lives rebuilt and of supporting people in need. Then there's the recovering alcoholic who found faith and new life in Jesus and now helps people with addiction problems," he says.

The blend of informal cafe-style meetings, modern worship, discipling and social evangelism has attracted interest from members of neighbouring churches in this urban area famed for its Angel of the North sculpture. Excited by what they have seen, they have been spurred on to make big changes in their own churches.

The Fund for Home Mission has supported Mind the Gap from the start, showing what can be achieved when you give new projects the tools to sustain themselves.

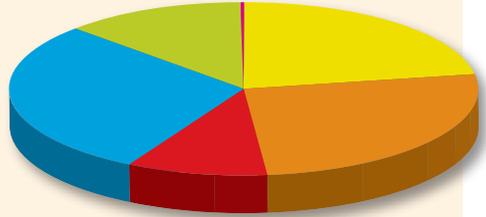
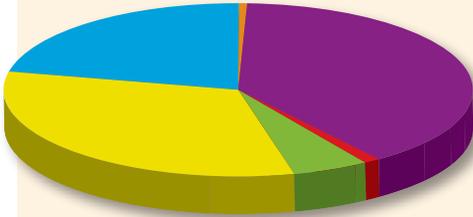
Provisional Financial Information

The Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission 2007–2008

INCOME £000s	2007/2008	2006/2007
Direct Individual Donations	10.00	9.00
Circuit Income	618.00	643.90
Legacy Income	19.00	209.30
Investment Income	85.00	28.60
Other Income	506.20	892.70
Transfers from other restricted funds	342.00	341.70
TOTAL INCOME	1580.20	2125.20
EXPENDITURE £000s	2007/2008	2006/2007
Resourcing Mission Grants		
Local Resourcing Mission Grants	357.30	660.80
Support Costs	227.30	153.20
Mission and Evangelism		
Evangelism	136.80	20.10
Urban and Rural Mission	58.60	72.00
Cliff College	189.60	58.30
Mission Education	39.80	35.30
Support Costs	264.40	59.80
Education and Advocacy		
Further Education	63.90	30.20
Educational Affairs	44.00	43.40
Higher Education	44.70	33.90
Support Costs	97.00	26.80
Public Life and Social Justice		
Business and Economic Affairs	186.90	200.50
Prison Chaplaincy	35.20	32.60
Political and Parliamentary Affairs	199.40	188.80
Relationships with Other Faiths	48.10	76.60
Support Costs	298.70	115.60
Youth and Childrens Work		
Childrens Work	119.20	68.70
Youth Work Support	83.60	45.00
Support Costs	129.00	26.40
Media and Creative Arts		
IT	0.40	0.70
Support Costs	0.20	0.20
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2624.20	1948.90
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1044.00)	176.30

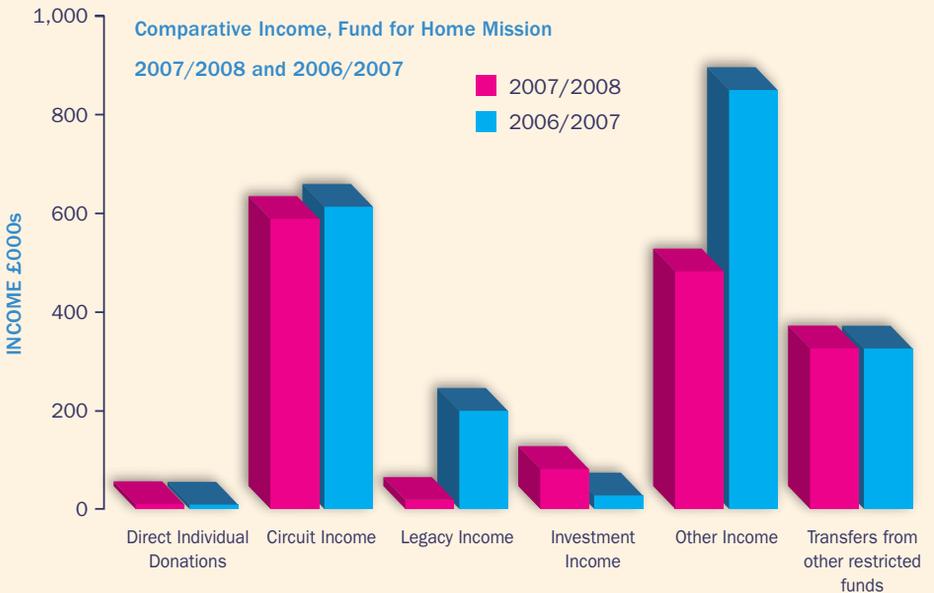
**Fund For Home Mission
2007/2008 Income**

**Fund For Home Mission
2007/2008 Expenditure**



- Direct Individual Donations
- Circuit Income
- Legacy Income
- Investment Income
- Other Income
- Transfers from other restricted funds

- Resourcing Mission Grants
- Mission and Evangelism
- Education and Advocacy
- Public Life and Social Justice
- Youth and Childrens Work
- Media and Creative Arts





Title Name
Address

Postcode Tel

I WOULD LIKE:

- further information about the activities of the Mission in Britain Fund/World Mission Fund (delete if applicable)
- information about serving overseas
- information about leaving a gift in my will to one of the funds
- to send a cheque to support the work of one of the funds (please make it out to the relevant fund eg 'the Mission in Britain Fund'). Gifts can also be made through the appropriate circuit treasurer who has facilities for banking them locally.

Amount enclosed: £

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INCREASE YOUR DONATION WITH GIFT AID

Please tick if you would like us to reclaim the tax that you have paid on your donation, at no extra cost to you. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate year.

Date:

Ref No (for Office Use):

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

I would like to make the following gift(s) every month to:

MISSION IN BRITAIN FUND	£	<input type="text"/>
WORLD MISSION FUND	£	<input type="text"/>
METHODIST CHURCH FUND	£	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL	£	<input type="text"/>

Starting on 20 and continuing until I give written notice.

This is in addition to or replaces any existing standing order in favour of the fund(s) indicated.

Signature:

Date:

Name(s) of account holder:

Sort code:

Account No:

To: The Manager

Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

The Methodist Church Funds – Tax Recovery,
Acct no. 80950599 HSBC (Sort code 40-02-06)



THANK YOU

For supporting the Methodist
Church Fund for Home Mission



Please give generously to support the work of the Fund for Home Mission which will be renamed the Mission in Britain Fund from September 2009.

For more information contact:

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Tel: 020 7486 5502 Email: missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk