



The **Methodist** Church 

WORLD MISSION FUND

METHODIST MISSIONARY
SOCIETY REPORT

2010

An introduction from Stephen Poxon, secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society

I am writing this report with a huge sense of anticipation and excitement. I really believe that the British Methodist Church is about to embark on a significant new adventure in mission with Churches from all over the world. In 2009 I was privileged to be involved in the autonomy celebrations of the Methodist Church in The Gambia, an event which laid a significant marker in the Methodist Church in Britain's (MCB) relationships with other Churches. This is because The Gambia was the last 'overseas district' and the event has provided the impetus for MCB to reassess, with all our Partner Churches, what our relationships are all about, what they could become, and where God is leading us together.

This is why, in June, there will be a meeting in London to which representatives of all MCB's Partner Churches are invited and, by the time most of you read this report, this 'All Partners Consultation' will have recommended ways forward together in mission. Methodists in Britain realise that times have both changed and are changing, and are aware too that MMS itself needs to be transformed into a more dynamic movement; while also still cherishing the principle that every Methodist is by definition inextricably linked to a world Methodist Connexion involved in God's missionary activity. So the excitement is all about 'What next has God got in mind for us to do together?'

In the meantime, there is so much to celebrate in this MMS report. Bare figures so often mask the huge number of people whose

lives have been transformed by your generous giving to what is now called the World Mission Fund. Throughout the structural and staffing changes that have happened at Methodist Church House in recent years, World Church Relationships staff have continued to oversee programmes which prioritise capacity building in Partner Churches, alongside grants to transform people's lives by the sharing of God's good news.

In 2008/09 funds supported:

- 60 mission partners in different countries
- over 80 nationals in mission appointments for a five-year period in over 40 countries
- 25 individual scholarships for emerging Church leaders in Partner Churches to study in the UK and other countries
- group training grants for Nigeria and Guyana, involving hundreds of participants
- a grants programme that seeks to enable Partner Churches to fulfil their own priorities in ministry and mission.

Thank you for your continued support of MMS and the World Mission Fund. You will see from the following good news stories just how important your contributions continue to be.

So much to be excited about already and even more to anticipate! I am looking forward with confidence to the new things God has in store for MCB and our Partner Churches in the years ahead.

Stephen Poxon



A word from the Connexional Team's fundraising coordinator, David Bennett

Not just another charity - we're the Church!

Listening to recent news of disaster upon disaster, we could be forgiven for sometimes wondering how we can help from so far away. Yet we are the Church, members of one worldwide body, being Christ to the suffering orphan in Haiti as much as the person sitting next to us in the pew. As a part of the Church, you are there, with us.

You were there with us in Haiti after the terrible earthquake, so that within hours of the news breaking the World Mission Fund was able to be one of the first to send funds for immediate aid and relief work.

Why were we able to do this? Over the years we have worked tirelessly to develop partnerships with Churches in the area - with local people who are best placed to coordinate the relief efforts and know how to get things done quickly and effectively. But just as importantly, many of the donations you so generously make are for the general work of world mission. If all our donations were earmarked for specific projects then we would not have been able to 'dip into the pot', so to speak, and send this money so quickly. We would have to make an appeal and wait for the funds to come in, delaying the relief effort where every second counts. We therefore request that, if at all possible, your giving is not restricted only to certain projects, but your donations are made generally to the World Mission Fund. Please continue to give

generously to the Fund - often your gifts make all the difference between life and death itself.

Haiti, Chile, China... As the devastation from yet more natural disasters filters through to our newspapers and TV screens we see all too clearly that the needs of the world - the starving, the destitute, the orphaned - don't get any less, so why should we give less? And the fact is that we in the Church are not giving any less. The Methodist Church's joint Haiti earthquake appeal raised more than £850,000. This is a stunning amount and I joyfully praise God that so many of us were called to give so generously. As a result, staff in our World Church Relationships Office are working harder than ever with our partners across the globe to feed the starving, to house and clothe the destitute, to be family to the orphan - and you can read some of these amazing stories of hope in this report.

This is something we should thank God for - and even more so at a time when the economy has plunged into recession and most major charities have seen a significant downturn in giving. Yet the World Mission Fund has bucked the trend and giving has held up remarkably well, more or less at the previous year's level. The figures for giving to the fund and the amount so generously given to the people of Haiti demonstrate clearly that we are all as committed as ever to the vision of world mission. Thank you for continuing to give.



Healing and reconciliation in Sri Lanka

The bloody 26-year-long Sri Lankan civil war left more than 270,000 people hungry and homeless. Despite the end of hostilities between government forces and the 'Tamil Tigers', rebuilding the worst-affected areas in the north and east of the country will take years.

Education has been severely affected by the war, with children (such as the younger ones pictured here) forced to study for their exams in the many camps for displaced people. Even though the war is over, there are still tens of thousands living in these camps. What you can't see in the picture is the barbed wire fence surrounding the camp. It's not the most ideal atmosphere for children to learn in – but since it's compulsory for Sri Lankan children to take their exams, they carry on. The Methodist Church of Sri Lanka (MCSL) is currently running a programme to help displaced children catch up on their education.

The Sri Lanka appeal was launched in June 2009 and raised £35,000. The Church was able to send public health physician Jenny Bywaters to a Methodist hospital in the far north of the country, to offer her expertise to the mental health services in the Jaffna region. Jenny recently returned to the UK, having spent six months working alongside the MCSL, assessing the needs of the traumatised population and helping mental health experts respond to the crisis.

"The mental health services have been seeing a lot of people who've been deeply traumatised," says Jenny, "and a lot of the church people have been through this repeated traumatising."

"All of the churches were involved to a greater or lesser extent in counselling services. There was a lot of counselling, of variable



degrees of expertise and training. The Methodist superintendent in Jaffna is a trained counsellor and has a counselling centre where a lot of work is done. There are a lot of counselling services available, and a great willingness within the culture to talk. And that in itself can be a huge relief to people; a lot of people simply need to be listened to."

MCSL president, the Revd Ebenezer Joseph, was eager to thank those who gave so generously. "This is one of the most challenging periods in my ministry," he said. "Nevertheless, we, as a Church, need always to affirm hope for the people and work towards healing and reconciliation in the hearts of the people. The willingness of the Methodist people in Britain and Ireland really strengthens us. Please continue to pray. It's God's grace alone that enables us to continue with what could be done without just giving up."

Albanian Church grows despite brain drain

How do you build up an effective church in a country that everybody seems to be trying to leave? That's the challenge facing the Revd Wilfried Nausner. Wilfried leads the pastoral team for the United Methodist Church of Central and Southern Europe, Albania.

"Everywhere we meet people and get involved in discussions we meet a harsh reality," says Wilfried. "Everybody wants to leave the country! People continue to say that future perspectives are better anywhere else in Europe; wages are higher and the public issues are organized. 'Brain Drain' is what you call this effect; those who are well educated leave their country, and are no hope for the future. This is Albania's greatest problem."

Despite such a huge challenge, Wilfried and his team have seen much progress in their work. New churches have been founded in Tirana, the Albanian capital, and in Pogradec. A songbook and a liturgy for Sunday worship, creeds, prayers and liturgical texts for special occasions have been translated into the Albanian language. Youth and children's camps have been organised, and new people attend Sunday worship and Bible study groups.

"The vision of the church has changed since the beginning of our work in autumn 2008," says Wilfried. "We believe now that a transformation is necessary; to change from a receiving to a sharing church. We are now in this process and there are signs of hope."

"Europe represents a much wider community than only its economic member countries. Our work of mission in countries such as Albania, on the doorstep of much richer neighbours, need our help just as much as our traditional Partner Churches".

Indian Church fights human trafficking

Young Christians in one of India's poorest states have been using drama as a means of raising awareness about human trafficking.

"Street theatre has always been an effective tool of communication in building awareness among the people in rural India," says Kasta Dip, coordinator of Dalit & Adivasi concern for the Church of North India. "Both church and society need young and dynamic leaders with commitment and perseverance to fight the sting of trafficking."

In November 2008, 60 young people attended a Youth Leadership Development & Anti-Trafficking training programme in Patna, capital of Bihar state. This was followed by a nine-day campaign in which they set up stage in various parts of Bihar, using their newly acquired acting skills to warn locals not to let themselves get trapped into bonded slavery or prostitution.

"We were able to convey the messages through street plays to the people who were displaced due to floods in different districts and villages of Bihar," says Kasta. "As church youth, we have a spiritual obligation to defend the rights of people to live with dignity."



Breaking the language barrier in Bangladesh

Imagine a little child turning up for their first day of nursery or primary school, only to discover that neither their teacher nor any of their classmates spoke the language their parents, family and community spoke with them!

In Bangladesh, this is not just a dreamed-up nightmare but a situation many children face when they start school for the first time. Although the vast majority of people in the country are ethnic Bengalis, some two million people belong to one of over 70 minority language communities. These communities – such as the Garo, Santal and Oroan – usually consist of fairly tight-knit villages and very frequently contain only one ethnic group. A child born into one of them may never hear the national language Bengali spoken at all during their first few years of life – until that fateful first day at school...

The Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP) in Rajshahi was originally founded with these communities in mind. CBSDP has been working to develop a system of Multi-Lingual Education (MLE): a phased-in approach whereby students start learning in their mother tongue and the national language (and later other languages such as English) is introduced gradually.

Mission partner James Pender and his wife Linda have both been very involved in facilitating this process, along with Sarah Hall, another mission partner. The Methodist Church of Great Britain pays a share of the salary and other costs of the four Mission Partners based in Bangladesh (a share because they are sent jointly by CMS, USPG, CWM and the Methodist Church to the united Church of Bangladesh). We give the Church of Bangladesh a grant of

£15,600 per annum; we also fund a National in Mission Appointment which costs £3,000 per annum.

MLE is just one aspect of our Mission Partners' work in Bangladesh. They are also involved in climate change adaptation, anti-human trafficking work and project management with the CBSDP.

"Even when we are not aware of it, we can look back and see God giving us strength, ideas, and success in many of the initiatives we have helped to pioneer," says James Pender.

"By God's grace the projects have been strengthened, poor communities empowered, previously trafficked women given a new start, villages given safe water to drink, medical treatment given to the sick, and the environment enriched through tree planting."





Guatemala

COMPANIONS

Offering a hand of support to the World Church

Initiated at the 2008 Methodist Conference, the Companion project is now in its pilot phase. The aim of companions is to offer extra time and support at a relational level to a Partner Church, for a three-year period. The Companion role is intended to bring extra capacity to the work Partnership Coordinators do in relating to Partner Churches.

There are currently three companions, spread across three continents: Ward Jones (Korea), Conrad Hicks (Guatemala) and Jennifer Potter (Zimbabwe).

“Korea’s Methodist Church is very enthusiastic about discovering its Methodist roots and looks to us as its ‘grandparent’ to help it in this,” says Ward Jones. “The Methodist Church of Great Britain has a real opportunity to draw strength and inspiration from a thriving and growing Methodist community. Together we have much to offer each other.”

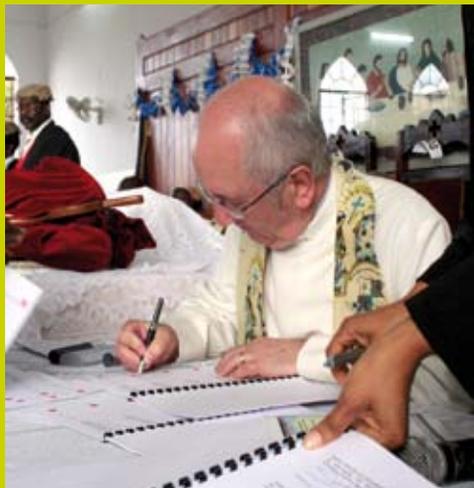
Conrad Hicks visited Guatemala in October, together with partnerships coordinator Tom Quenet. Conrad and Tom visited a number of churches over a two-week period. “We visited two very isolated churches, where

the purpose of our visit was to encourage the congregations,” he recalls. “Although the journey to reach them took about six hours, it was deeply moving to see people crying because they had received a visit from overseas guests for the first time.”

“In the midst of such great need, realistically I might not be able to achieve a great deal as a companion,” says Jennifer Potter, who attended the Zimbabwe Methodist Conference last August in her Companion role. “I have a full time job as a minister; my Zimbabwe role is an ‘extra’. I can keep myself informed of developments and act as an additional resource for people in Britain who want to know about and pray for Zimbabwe. I can try to keep in touch with people in Zimbabwe, to let them know that we are praying for them and are concerned about them. I can visit each year and try to be with ordinary Methodists and their ministers to better understand their situation – and, if necessary, be their spokesperson here. As I have been moved by the faith and courage of Zimbabwean Methodists, I can endeavour to transmit that positive message to people in Britain.”

Korea





World Church supports newly independent Gambian Methodists

The Methodist Church of The Gambia began as a mission of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society in 1821, and the tiny West African state was the British Methodist Church's first 'overseas district' in sub-Saharan Africa. That era ended on 24 May 2009, when after 188 years as a district of the Methodist Church in Britain, the MCTG became autonomous.

Methodist Conference president David Gamble was present at the signing of the Deed of Foundation. David met the Gambian vice-president, Aja Dr. Isatou Njie-Saidy, who had nothing but praise for the contribution that Methodists have made to the quality of Gambian life. Given how relatively small the actual number of Methodists in The Gambia is (about one in every 1,500 people), the impact of Methodism in the country is huge. Concentrating its efforts on educating the young, healing the sick and preserving the land, the MCTG has helped change lives and transform whole communities.

"The Methodist Church acts far above its weight and people recognise it," says David. "When we went to see the vice-president she told us all these things the Methodist Church did, that she knew about. It was a very long list! There are Muslim government ministers who were educated in Methodist schools. The government there sees the churches – and faith communities in general – as a very significant player."

It's easy to see why. Take a look at The Gambia's school results tables and you will find Methodist schools listed amongst the highest performing ones. Meanwhile in the medical field, the support of the British Methodist Church has helped the medical mission services to expand – amongst other things, providing affordable dental care in the country's rural areas.

Becoming autonomous brings a whole new set of challenges for the MCTG. But David is positive that the Church will overcome whatever challenges come its way. "It's quite difficult because there isn't a lot of money there and we have committed ourselves to ongoing grants on a partnership basis," he says. "But on the other hand they are doing a lot of work to look at ways of improving their own income."

"They are very conscious of being like the youngest child – well, a very old child actually, but a small old child. But they know they've come of age; they've been talking about this for some time."





Overcoming the stigma of HIV/AIDS in Nepal

The Methodist Church has been part of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) since its inception over 50 years ago. This year, UMN are giving £5,000 of the £7,500 annual grant it receives from the World Mission Fund to Nawa Jeewan Samaj Sewa (NJSS) for its HIV/AIDS project.

NJSS was established by a joint group of 16 churches and Christian fellowships in Nepal's Itahari municipality. Its executive board provides overall leadership to NJSS and is comprised of leaders of these churches.

"Church leaders used to avoid discussing HIV/AIDS issues in the church community as they thought that it was against biblical teachings," said an NJSS spokesperson.

"However, they're now more open to discuss these issues in their congregations. In fact, there are now some pastors providing training on HIV/AIDS related issues. Christian youths are being developed as trainers on HIV/AIDS, STIs and life skills."

Six years ago, Jamuna Shrestha (a mother of three) moved to India when her husband found a job there. All was well for a while, but after 18 months Jamuna became seriously ill and discovered she was HIV positive. "My husband also tested his blood and found HIV,"

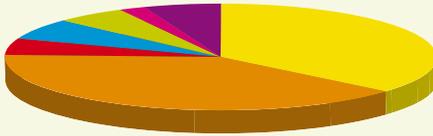
she recalls. "We wept a lot and felt guilty and hopeless. We came back home."

Jamuna now works in an organization for HIV-positive women, following a six-day training course organised by NJSS and UMN. "I learnt many things," she says. "That training became very useful to me and my husband because we were not aware about HIV/AIDS and its implications for individuals, families and society. After training, I became confident. I now feel it's my duty to provide education to those who are unaware about HIV and AIDS. Now I don't feel guilty. We both discuss it openly with others."

"We chose NJSS because it is a Christian partner organisation whose work has brought a lot of change in the thinking and practice of Christian leaders of that area," says Mark Galpin, UMN's executive director. "Issues such as HIV/AIDS, adolescent sexual and reproductive health – which were never talked about in churches – are now openly being discussed and many Christian youths are being mobilised for peer education on these subjects, and for providing home-based care for HIV-infected people. The changes that are becoming evident in their churches and communities are very encouraging for us and we wanted you to be part of this transformational change."

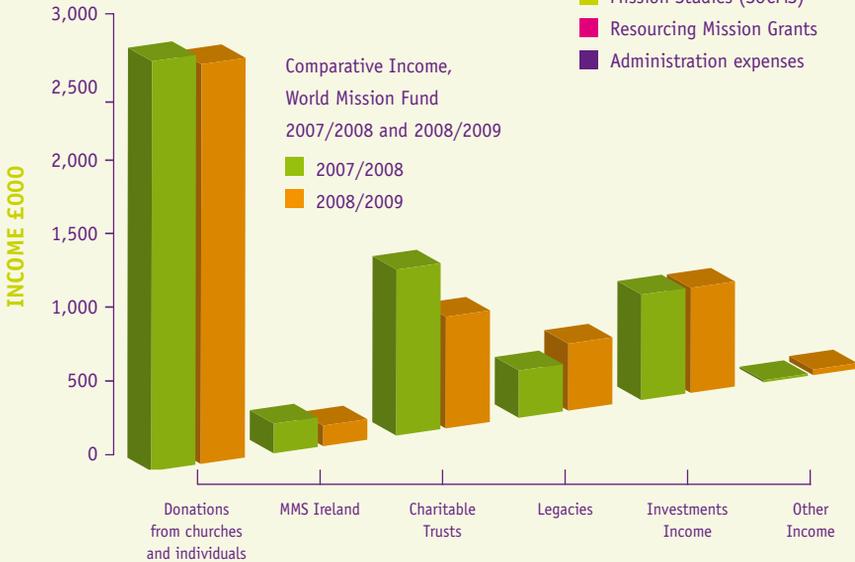
Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 August 2009

	2008-9	2007-8	
	£000	£000	
Income			Notes
Donations from churches and individuals	2,625	2,692	1. The Conference decided in 2009 that a charge of 9% would be taken from WMF income to cover the costs of administration and that a further supplement of 6% should be charged to support the staff work necessary to ensure the relationship with Partner Churches can be properly nourished. This will apply for 2009-10 and until the Conference sets different levels.
MMS Ireland	135	195	
Charitable Trusts – William Leech	733	1,090	
Legacies	440	311	
Investments income	690	693	
Other income	37	14	
Total Income	4,660	4,995	
Expenditure	4,815	6,023	
Drawdown of Reserves	(155)	(1,028)	2. During the past year extensive work has been done on the formal commitments within the WMF accounts relating to possible future expenditure. This has resulted in a change in accounting practice which increases the balance in the Fund substantially. However the balance of £11.362m recorded for August 2009 includes money informally earmarked for future expenditure. Much less than half this amount is 'free' money.
Reassessment of Commitments (see note 2)	4,954	(525)	
Revaluation of Investments	(21)	(733)	
Balance at year end	11,362	6,584	
In 2008-9 the main areas of expenditure were:			
	£000		
Mission Partners	1,751		
Overseas Grants/Projects	1,887		
Scholarship Programme (SALT)	241		
World Church in Britain	309		
Mission Studies (SOCMS)	253		
Resourcing Mission Grants	97		
Administration (see note 1)	277		
	4,815		



World Mission Fund 2008/2009 Expenditure

- Mission Partners
- Overseas Grants/Projects
- Scholarship Programme (SALT)
- World Church In Britain
- Mission Studies (SOCMS)
- Resourcing Mission Grants
- Administration expenses



Taking up the slack - what the figures mean for world mission

At first glance, voluntary giving to the World Mission Fund seems to show a picture of gradual decline, although the decrease of 3% from last year's levels is somewhat better than the 7% decrease in the previous year. Nevertheless, the World Mission Fund still compares very favourably with similar charities who have suffered substantial drops in voluntary income.

Having said that, giving per adult this year (based on average annual attendance rates) has increased to £10.66 for each person attending a Methodist Church. In 2004/05 it was just £9.23 per attendee and the 2008/09 figures represent a 15.5% improvement. Even allowing for inflation

(14%) since then, giving per capita has risen. If attendance levels had remained the same, we would have seen voluntary income rise by more than £75,000 this year – enough for a new school building, church or hospital ward!

The challenge, of course, is evangelism. To bring more people into the Church, to disciple them and to encourage them to get involved in mission. In the short term, however, we still have to respond with God's love for a sick and needy world. So while we are encouraging more people to come, while we are disciplining them and helping them to get involved, we need you to take up the slack. Will you consider giving even more to world mission?

Your support for Mission

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 'World Mission Fund'). Gifts can also be made through the appropriate circuit treasurer who has facilities for banking them locally.

Amount enclosed: £

giftaid it

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 £

WORLD MISSION FUND £

METHODIST CHURCH FUND £

TOTAL £

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)

Return this form to: Fundraising Coordinator, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

The Methodist Church keeps names and addresses of its supporters in electronic form for purposes of keeping them up to date with the work and needs of the Church. Please tick here if you would prefer not to be contacted by the Methodist Church.
Your information will not be disclosed to any other organisation and will only be used by the Methodist Church.

GIVING TO THE WORLD MISSION FUND

The Methodist Church World Mission Fund (WMF) supports many programmes, administered through the World Church Relationships Office, and such continued support is only possible because of your generous giving and fundraising:

- **GRANTS FOR WORLD CHURCH PARTNERS** General grants given to Partner Churches enabling the Partner Church to help fund its own priorities for the work of the kingdom.
 - **SPECIAL PROJECTS:** These result from giving grants to help fund project requests from Partner Churches. These may range from educational projects to emergency relief and mission work.
 - **THE NATIONALS IN MISSION APPOINTMENTS PROGRAMME:** Salaries paid by WMF encourage and support local people in key mission projects in their own countries.
 - **EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME:** This is jointly administered by The Methodist Church and USPG: Anglicans in World Mission. It offers opportunities to spend six to twelve months sharing in mission in another part of the world, learning from a new culture and experiencing the Church there.
 - **MISSION PARTNERS:** After a period of training, Mission Partners are invited to serve for periods of time by Partner Churches in the Caribbean, South & Central America, Africa, the Pacific, Asia and Europe.
 - **SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING (SALT) PROGRAMME:** This funds future Partner Church leaders to study in a cross-cultural setting.
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