

The Methodist Church



Tynwald Day

**Janet Corlett, Mission Partner, Honduras,
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News From Furlough

Partnership in the Gospel

During June and July I have been in the British Isles on furlough. Some of you may ask: 'what is furlough?' and I know that most of the folks in Honduras are wondering why I had to take such a long holiday...so this newsletter is an attempt to answer both questions – and I will be distributing it in Honduras as well as in Britain and the rest of the world!

Being a 'Mission Partner' is really a job for every Christian – because we are all called by God to be partners with God and with each other in God's mission. I am working in Honduras as an expression of our unity in mission and the partnership between the Methodist Churches in Britain and in the Caribbean. Furlough is an opportunity to strengthen that unity and partnership by helping those in Britain to understand more about the life and witness of their Christian sisters and brothers across the world.

Island to Island

The Isle of Man isn't quite as small as Utila – but there is a common understanding of what it means to be an islander. Both islands have a history of fishermen and farmers, pirates, smugglers and tourists. Life is dominated by the sea and there is a strong distinction between islander and in-comer. An interesting difference is that many Utilians would like their island to be still part of the British colonies while Manx people are generally very proud of their autonomy.

In the Isle of Man I spoke at a District 'World Church' event, was interviewed by Manx Radio, prepared a



Assumptions and surprises

In England I visited friends in Evesham and Stratford-upon-Avon, Nottingham, Birmingham, Sheffield and London. My final preaching engagements were in East London – at Leytonstone and Cann Hall. People there were surprised to know that I have mostly been working with English speaking people in Honduras – and in churches that are very traditional in style and still using the Methodist Hymn Book (1933). I was surprised to find a drum kit, keyboards and mixing desk at Leytonstone – and so pleased to find the congregation accepting and enjoying the young people's excellent leading of the worship. We did a 'walk up' offering too which became a 'dance-up' offering.



display for the island's Flower Festival, preached at the church where I grew up, attended a Network garden-party and led the Sunday School Anniversary in a tiny country chapel. Out of the 40+ people who squeezed into the chapel at Kerrowkeil, I counted 18 close relatives – and was introduced to some I didn't know! I taught them some of the songs the young people sing in Utila and they taught me some of their favourites.

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Annex) – which we demolished in April ahead of rebuilding work.

MEANWHILE – BACK IN HONDURAS:

Revd Jim Killen

Thanks to Revd Jim who was in Utila during June and July to minister in my place. Unfortunately Jim fell ill with dengue fever while in Utila and had to leave early and return to the USA. Please pray for Jim – for a full recovery.

Medical and Work Teams

We have had three teams on Utila this summer – starting with a medical team from Florida at the end of May which was led by Revd Bob Wood. The team spent a day on the Cays and two days on Utila offering free medical attention specifically for children and young people. They were also able to donate medicines to the government-run clinic on Utila. Two construction teams visited in June to work on the Annex. I will report on their work once am back in Utila. THANK YOU TEAMS for all your help – and THANK YOU UTILA for welcoming them and looking after them.

New colleague – new job!

The work I am looking forward to in my new appointment as Superintendent for the Utila/North Coast Circuit has been looking rather daunting. However, in God's grace, we are being showered with some special blessings. From 1st September we will have a new Presbyterian in the Circuit: Revd Antonio Trotman. Antonio comes from Panama – and will be particularly ministering among the Spanish-speaking congregations.

We are also continually grateful for the help, encouragement and resources which we receive from the North Georgia/North Coast Mission Initiative. This summer, among other things, they have renovated a church in La Ceiba called 'The Upper Room' – where we hope to plant a new Spanish-speaking congregation. They have also built some 'motel style' rooms at El Pino for the use of visitors – and one will become my home-from-home when I am visiting the churches on the mainland.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11: 1)

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Floods

In five weeks spent on the Isle of Man we had no real summer weather. Most days were grey with wind and showers. On a trip with Mum and Dad to Derbyshire – we saw first-hand the beginnings of the floods in the north-east of England. In July we watched the TV in shock as flooding spread and troops were called in to help in dramatic rescues and to distribute food and water to stranded people. My friends in Evesham saw water reaching the ceiling of ground-floor rooms at their church – and forcing the minister and many members to be evacuated from their homes. We are not used to seeing such 'natural' disasters so close to home. I wonder if this awareness of vulnerability will lead to any significant changes in life-style and behaviour in order to better care for our planet.



Sheila Bryant

In London I was blessed to meet Mrs Sheila Bryant who, with her husband Revd Eric Bryant, was a missionary in Utila from 1960 to 1970. Their work provided the beginnings of both the Community Clinic and the Utila Methodist Community College. She showed me many black and white pictures, including one showing the building of the school rooms (latterly the Methodist