

# The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

22 JANUARY 2010



Psalm 104: 31-34 *"May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. <sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. <sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD."* (NRSV)

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Haiti

At 16:56 local time, on Tuesday 12 January 2010, the island of Haiti was struck by a scale 7 earthquake. This caused the destruction of means of communication, infrastructure, hospitals, school, churches and homes. As we all know, many lives have been lost. Reverend Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean, was finally able to establish contact with the Reverend Gesner Paul, MCCA District President, on 21 January. He told Revd Thomas Quenet that although many churches, manses and mission buildings had been damaged or completely destroyed, the church is continuing to minister and care for the people of Haiti. Reverend Gesner Paul is grateful for the prayers, support and solidarity expressed by their partners thus far. "Please come and visit us..." said Reverend Gesner Paul, "... we will welcome and care for you and what is more, it will be a very important expression of your solidarity with us." A delegation of three people, Revd Lesley Griffiths, Revd Thomas Quenet and Revd Marcus Torchon, hope to make a solidarity visit to Haiti in late February.

In Port-au-Prince, the Methodist Church Haiti is caring for a growing number of people and providing food, water and medical help where possible. The aim is to put together as many kits as possible, consisting of basic medicines, antibiotics, vitamins, soap, tooth paste, brushes and other items. Each kit will cost approximately £4 and it is hoped to urgently make 10,000 kits available. An emergency solidarity grant of £20,000, sent last week from the World Mission Fund, will be used to fund these types of emergency responses. To date, another £30,000 more has been raised for the Haiti Appeal from the generosity of Methodists around the UK, and will be sent shortly to the Church in Haiti.

*Please refer to the news pages of the Methodist Website ([www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)) for news updates of the situation in Haiti.*

*To donate to the Haiti Appeal, please go through the following internet link; [www.justgiving.com/Methodist-Church-Haiti-Appeal](http://www.justgiving.com/Methodist-Church-Haiti-Appeal), or send a cheque payable to the **Methodist Church, World Mission Fund**, with the words 'Haiti Appeal' written on the reverse of the cheque and a brief covering letter or note to specify that it is for the Haiti Appeal. Please send the cheque to David Bennett, Fundraising Coordinator, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.*

*If you wish to contact the World Church Relationships office, please contact Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean on [wcr.AmericasCaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.AmericasCaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk).*

## Chile

Our Partner Church in Chile runs a programme called the 'Obra Rural Metodista' (Rural Methodist Work), working with the indigenous Mapuche tribe, whom the Church has been supporting for over 80 years. The work of the Church is to help meet their needs by providing health care, education, community development and to share the Gospel with them. They support over 200 Mapuche people, and their main objective in 2010 is to provide a better quality of life for the children of the Methodist School in Rulo, as well as for the Mapuche women in the 'Nueva Imperial' and 'Chol Chol' Communities.

*In 2009, a grant of £23,000.00 from the World Mission Fund was sent to help support the Methodist Church in Chile's Rural Mission work.*

*For more information on this ministry, please contact Reverend Thomas Quenet using the aforementioned details*

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### MISSION PARTNER NEWS

#### The Solomon Islands

At the beginning of January, The Solomon Islands were struck by earthquakes, the largest measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, and produced a wave 105metres high at Rendova Island. Jenny and Graham, Longbottom, Mission Partners in the Solomon Islands, wrote the following on their blog:

The Longbottoms recently provided photos with captured the way in which they and their community are coping with the aftermath of the earthquake. They have written the following:



“One consequence of the earthquake is the fear that local people feel. This photograph shows the hospital pharmacist & his wife (a nurse on general ward) packing up to live in the bush for a few days. The hospital staff remembers the tsunami of 2nd April 2007 when many people were injured & some died. They know that the hospital has no general anaesthetic facilities, no ambulance, no cutting equipment, no stretchers & no collars or leg splints for fractures. They are now all back at the hospital, which is now back to normal.”

“On Friday the Ministry of Health contacted us with details of a meeting in Munda on Saturday. The National Disaster Committee met on Saturday evening, requesting that we send a medical team to Rendova. This photograph shows Dr. Jenny planning the route around the island with the team.”





“Part of the team in the hospital boat-house, ready to depart”

For up to date news on the Longbottoms, please go to:

[www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1457](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1457).

To speak to someone about Jenny and Graham’s work in the Solomon Islands, please contact Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific at [wcr.asispacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.asispacific@methodistchurch.org.uk)

*It costs approximately £20,000 per year for Mission Partners to serve in different parts of the world. Thank you for your giving to the World Mission Fund which enables this essential work to continue.*

## SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING (SALT) NEWS

### The Boris Trajkovski Scholarship

Christina Hedderly, Salt Coordinator in the World Church Relationships Office, has written the below explanation on a new type of Scholarship that will be funded by the World Mission Fund.



“The SALT Programme is pleased to announce the creation of a new Scholarship financed by World Mission Fund. It will be an annual Scholarship, (for the next 3 years), run in conjunction with The Irish School of Ecumenics Trust (I.S.E). It honours the memory of the former President of Macedonia the Hon. Boris Trajkovski, who in 2002 was awarded the World Methodist Peace Award on the basis of his significant

contributions to peace, reconciliation and justice. The scholarship will be awarded to a student from the Balkans region, (Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovia, Croatia (Eastern), Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria), to undertake a taught Masters programme in either ecumenical studies, international peace studies, or reconciliation studies. It is open to Christians of all denominations who can demonstrate a commitment to the vision and mission of the Methodist Church World Mission Fund. It is intended to support the ongoing work of reconciliation in the region by providing the opportunity for individuals who have been involved in ecumenical, inter-faith, reconciliation or peace work to undertake a 1-year, full-time, taught Masters degree in the Irish School of Ecumenics. The Boris Trajkovski Scholarship is worth a total of €30,000 from which university fees and a stipend will be paid.

The Irish School of Ecumenics is a multi-disciplinary, all-Ireland graduate school within Trinity College Dublin committed to teaching and research at the intersection of theology and religions, politics and social research. Ecumenics in its root-meaning refers to the whole inhabited earth. Thus as defined by the ISE, ecumenics is a multi-disciplinary field of study concerned with dialogue, peace and reconciliation. Through its research, teaching and outreach the School promotes dialogue between religions, and works for peace and justice globally”

For further details of the Boris Trajkovski Scholarship, including application details, please visit [www.tcd.ie/ise](http://www.tcd.ie/ise) (right hand side 'News' section). Please note that for September 2010 entry the deadline for applications is 16 April 2010.

For any further information you require on the SALT programme, please write to [wcr.salt@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.salt@methodistchurch.org.uk).

## AFRICA

### Mission Partner News from Sierra Leone

Peter and Janice Clark have been serving the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone as Mission Partners since the November 2009. In their latest newsletter, they write about age, gender and cultural change in Salone. The following is an extract from this newsletter:

*"Alex Maada Kainpum , who in his late 20s, is the youngest ever paramount chief in Sierra Leone is a member of the Grace Brethren Methodist Church, in the City Mission Circuit of Freetown. During the Covenant Service, the Rev Samuel Kanu asked that the paramount chief and his family receive the blessing of the church and its continuing prayers for this prestigious and crucial role in the cultural and political life of Sierra Leone. Shortly before Christmas, there was a huge controversy when Elizabeth Simbiwa Sogbo-Tortu was barred from standing for election to become a Paramount Chief, because she is a woman. Both her father and grandfather had been paramount chiefs in the Niminyama chiefdom, close to the town of Kono, to which she was seeking election. With support from Women's groups and the Human Rights' Commission she has challenged this decision in court, claiming it is unconstitutional, as it discriminates against her on the grounds of gender. Female Paramount Chiefs have been elected in other parts of the country, but not, to date, in the Kono area, where the Poro Secret Society objects the possibility of a female paramount chief. The election has now been delayed until early 2010, in the hope that the "cultural" conflict can be resolved".*

For the full newsletter, please go to [www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1897](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1897). For more information on Mission Partners in Africa please contact the Partnership Coordinator for Africa, Olubunmi Olayisade, at [wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk).

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### Prayer Points

- Pray that God will make a way for the aid to reach those who most need it in Haiti, and that God will mightily use the MCCA District of Haiti to bless and comfort those who have suffered so much. Please pray for Reverend Gesner Paul, that the Lord will continue to give him wisdom in this difficult situation.
- Please pray for the Rural Methodist Work in Chile. Pray that many indigenous Mapuche people will be blessed from hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and from having their health, education and development needs met.
- Please pray for Jenny and Graham Longbottom in the Solomon Islands. Pray that God will use them to continue blessing the community there and to participate in the physical and emotional reconstruction of a shaken community.
- Please pray for all the SALT students around the world and in the UK. Please pray that the skills and knowledge they are acquiring will be a blessing to their churches when they return to their country of origin. Please pray that there will be interest in The Boris Trajkovski Scholarship and that those who undertake the Masters course will be truly passionate about ecumenical, inter-faith, reconciliation or peace work.

- Please continue to pray for Peter and Janice as they continue to serve the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone. Please pray that God will continue using the experience they are gaining to bless the community there, but also that they will be personally fulfilled by serving God with their particular ministry gifts.