

# The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

8 DECEMBER 2009



1 Corinthians 12.:4-6 “ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;<sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;<sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” (NRSV).

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### National in Mission Appointments and Scholarship and Leadership Training Programme: Indonesia

The photos following this page are of Reverend Tumiar Simatupang, who is a National in Missions Appointment for the Methodist Church in Indonesia. She is a Training Coordinator, training the poor, rural communities of different faiths in the North of Medan in farming techniques that she acquired expertise in when she was a Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT) student in 2005 with the Asian Rural Institute (ARI). The Fund for World Mission sponsored her studies at ARI through the SALT programme, and she has gone on to bless many in the area on behalf of the Gereja Methodist Indonesia.



This photo is of one of the current SALT students at the ARI, Reverend Edo Agbodo from The Methodist Church in Togo. His learning focus has also been on farming techniques, especially in livestock, concentrating in particular on fish and duck rearing. When he returns to Togo, Reverend Agbodo will also use his training at ARI to bless his community on behalf of the Methodist Church in Togo.

***For more information on how the Fund for World Mission supports SALT students from our Partner Churches around the world, please contact the World Church Relationships office.***

# Tumiar at ARI - 2005



Community Building Day

Rice Harvest



Rice Transplanting



Opening Ceremony



Corn Harvest



First time to see Snow

## INDIA

On Nov 29 2010, The Church of North India will be 40 years old. In preparation of this celebration, the Church spent three days in meeting from 27 November to 29 November, and issued a **Delhi Commitment**, which outlines the commitment it has made as a body of Christ working in very a very difficult context of “globalization, ongoing ethnic conflicts, civil wars, communal and political violence, unjust governance, failure of judicial systems, state terrorism and counter terrorism, religious fundamentalism and fanaticism, gross and systematic violation of human rights, growing authoritarianism, the menace of human trafficking, climate change and subversive economic interests”. The commitments are as follows;

- Engage actively in prophetic ministry by being the voice of the voiceless.
- Share God’s love to heal and restore broken lives.
- Work towards affirming life in its fullness for the vulnerable.
- Share the pain and agony of the victims of injustice and identify with them in their struggle.
- Oppose the trend of free market, consumerism, materialism and commodification.
- Rediscover the meaning of unity by sharing in the struggles of the common people.
- Empower minority communities to serve and stand for justice.
- Relive a contextually pro-active spirituality that is faithful to the Word of God and equips us for meaningful involvement in society.
- Initiate spiritual revival of our educational institutions so as to make them agents of transformation.
- Recommit towards social justice through educational excellence as priority.

The violence in Orissa last year lead to communities such as Phulbani being burnt down, and even now, the reconstruction process is still taking place. For more information on the current situation of these communities and on the work of the Church in North India, please contact Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific on [WCR.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:WCR.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk).

## AFRICA

### Mission Partner News: Sierra Leone

Michael and Joanne Tettey, are Mission Partners in Sierra Leone, and have recently been featured in an article in the WalesOnline.co.uk news website. The article describes how they gave up their lives in the UK two years ago to serve at Nixon Memorial Hospital run by the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone.

To access the full article please click on the following link: [Cardiff nurse helps to save mothers' lives in Africa](#)

To read the latest newsletter from the Tettey’s, please go to;  
<http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1897>.

**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.**

## **SALT (Scholarship and Leadership Training Programme) NEWS**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend David Gamble, was an honorary guest at The Queens Foundation in Birmingham. He spent the afternoon meeting and speaking with the 8 SOCM, (Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies), students who are in their first term studying MA in Applied Theology as part of the Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT) Programme. The SALT Programme provides cross-cultural support for our Overseas Partner Churches' training and Church leadership development needs. The students this year come from The Gambia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Jamaica, Fiji and India. Rev David Gamble took part in a seminar discussion with the SOCM SALT students and in his blog wrote the following:

“We listened to each other's stories and considered some of the challenges facing the Church in Britain and throughout the world. This was a fascinating session and I wonder how more people could get the chance to meet and talk with this group of church leaders from around the world. We have so much to learn from each other.”

The Evening Eucharist took place at The Queens Foundation's full chapel with the congregation drawn from different churches, cultures and continents. It was a highlight of the Presidential visit with David Gamble preaching powerfully on being 'not far' from the Kingdom as he explored what it means to live by the summary of the law - Love God and love your neighbour. The Worship evening was an opportunity for David, on behalf of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, to formally welcome our Overseas SALT students and a small presentation was made by himself, Christina Hedderly, (SALT Coordinator), and Deaconess Dr Evie Vernon, (Director of the Selly Oak centre for Mission Studies).

Revd Helen Cameron, (Co-Director of Centre for Ministerial Formation), devised an inspiring and multicultural evening where Bible readings were read in different languages by volunteer SALT students, The Lord's prayer was said in the person's own language and music from the Caribbean and other countries was enthusiastically sung by the congregation and choir.



***For information on the Scholarship and Leadership Training Programme and how the Fund for World Mission is being used to train Leaders from Partner Churches and Organisations, please contact the WCR office.***

## **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **CIEMAL (The Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean): Youth in Mission Conference**

CIEMAL is one of the British Methodist Church's World Church Partners that is supported through the Fund for World Mission. In 2008 £7,500 was sent as a financial contribution towards their various programmes. CIEMAL is an organisation that unites the Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean in the aim of expressing the connexional unity, witness and common action of Methodist Churches at the service of the Latin American and Caribbean people. One of the programmes of common action is the Youth in Mission, who meet a few times a year in different locations in the region and gathers youth from participating Methodist Churches to be trained, to carry out mission and to learn from one another's mission experiences. One of the last youth gatherings was held in Guatemala, and attracted youth from Costa Rica, El Salvador Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

The mission work was carried out in the indigenous communities of Chontala, Camanchaj and Chichicastenango. Indigenous communities tend to be very poor. Gustavo Ali, Coordinator of the Youth in Mission project, confirms, that although they do not believe they can solve all their problems, they hope "at least to give them hope and relief, by helping our brothers and sisters see better days".

For more information on the work of CIEMAL, please contact the Latin American and Caribbean desk at [WCR.AmericasCaribb:methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:WCR.AmericasCaribb:methodistchurch.org.uk). If you speak Spanish, please go to the CIEMAL website: [www.ciemal.org/web](http://www.ciemal.org/web).

#### **Prayer Points:**

- Please pray for Reverend Tumiar Simatupang. Pray that God will use the gifts and talents He has given her to bless her community in Indonesia and share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with them through her work.
- Please pray for the remaining studies of Reverend Edo Agbodo at ARI. Pray that he will complete his studies well and that he too will go on to bless his community in Togo.
- Please pray for the Church of North India and the communities it works with. Pray that God will continue his work of spiritual, emotional and material healing and restoration in those communities.
- Please pray for the excellent work that the Tettey's are carrying out at the Nixon Memorial Hospital. Pray that God will continue to use their medical knowledge and administrative gifts to bless and help those in need to God's healing power and love.
- Please pray for this year's SALT students at the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies. Pray that God will help them acquire and consolidate new leadership skills that will greatly bless their Churches when they return from the UK. Pray that their time in the UK will also be enriching and fruitful for them in a personal way, and that they will come to know our Father in Heaven even more through their experiences here.
- Please pray for the excellent work of CIEMAL and its Youth in Mission programme. Please pray that God will continue to train the next generation of Church leaders, missionaries and pastors through these programmes, and that the communities they serve will indeed find relief in the love and comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ that is shown to them.