

The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

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Psalm 1:1-3 *"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ²but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."* (NRSV)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Haiti update

The response of the Methodist people in Britain to the earthquake disaster in Haiti has been phenomenal. The joint World Mission Fund and MRDF appeals have so far raised more than £400,000. Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean, is due to visit Haiti in the following weeks. In the 204th Annual District Meeting of the Leeward Islands Conference at the Ebenezer Chapel in Antigua in January, 2010, Revd George Mulrain, MCCA Connexional President, said the following concerning the MCCA's support of Haiti, *"Our contribution to Haiti does not wait until a disaster strikes. It is ongoing. Various agencies and organizations are contributing to relief in Haiti, which is commendable. But soon the dust will settle and the media folk will turn to another "breaking news story" as the saga of Haiti recedes into the background. Not so with us as Methodists. We are there to stay, because, our motive is not to make the news headlines. The love of Christ constrains us and we stay. Years ago in the wake of the volcano, when the first massive exodus took place in Montserrat, the Methodist Church stayed behind to be with the people to minister among them. We are simply doing the work that God has called us to do"*.

To read the latest article on Haiti, please refer to the Methodist web site:

www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=416.

To donate to the World Mission Fund, please visit www.justgiving.com/Methodist-Church-Haiti-Appeal, or send a cheque payable to the World Mission Fund to Dave Bennett, Fundraising Coordinator, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR. Postal donations should be labelled 'Haiti Appeal'. For further information visit www.methodist.org.uk or contact Revd Tom Quenet on 020 7467 5160.

There is also more up to date information on Haiti on the United Methodist Church's website: www.umc.org.

The Methodist Church in Chile



The Methodist Church in Chile has recently elected a new Head of Church, Bishop Mario Martinez Tapia. Upon accepting his new mandate, he said *"I accept this humbly and with gratitude, but at the same time with trepidation. I had tried to resist such a responsibility, but what can one do when faced with the grace of God? The voice of the Church has spoken and although the bar has been raised, (in relation to the outgoing Bishop Neftali Aravena), I hope to be able to serve in this task and I know that I will not be serving alone. I happily and joyfully accept this calling"*.

(Esteban Leal, Mario Martinez Tapia: New Bishop of the Methodist Church in Chile, tr Sandra Lopez, The Methodist Church in Chile, January 2010).

ASIA-PACIFIC

Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan: Developing Contemporary Leadership Skills Course 2010.

Pakistan is traditionally a place of authoritarian, male leadership. By way of counter-balancing this tradition, the diocese of Raiwind of the Church of Pakistan has developed a small-scale, pilot training course to develop a new team-based pattern of leadership which tackles head-on the traditional assumptions of top-down management and leadership and challenges the ingrained gender assumptions. The pilot has been very successful, its success lying partly in the in-house development of materials and the cooperative style of working. The diocese is ready to run a full-scale course in 2010 with a clear aim of radically changing the ways of working across the diocese. As the Bishop of the Diocese is also the Moderator of the Church of Pakistan, there are reasonable hopes of wider outcomes.

It was agreed that £12,806 from the World Mission Fund would be granted to the Diocese of Raiwind to contribute towards the funding of this Contemporary Leadership Skills Course.

Pacific Theological College Education by Extension (PTCEE)

The Pacific Theological College Education by Extension based in Fiji and is a postgraduate ecumenical institution, welcoming students from across cultures, ethnicities and Christian denominations, especially from Churches in the Pacific region. The aim of the colleges is to train students to become “pastor-scholars”, who are able to respond to situations pastorally but also analytically, thus developing leadership and teaching skills for their future ministries. The following is a comment extract from one of PTCEE’s current female students, Rachel Uhila, from the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga:

“So far I have completed seven courses. The contents have been very interesting: long but very rewarding after completing all required assignments. I have gained so much eye-opening knowledge about the history of Christianity, mission in Pacific, biblical exegesis and the list continues. The 100-level is quite challenging, but I count it a blessing to have gone through with assistance from lecturers, mentors, library resources and the internet...My vision is to major in Ministry—pastoral counselling—to help me work alongside as partner with my husband in the church/ society wherever we are sent” (Conch Shell, Newsletter of Pacific Theological College Education by Extension (PTCEE), November 2009)

To read the rest of Rachel’s story as well as others, please refer to the PTCEE’s website pages:
www.ptc.ac.fj/fastpage/fpengine.php/link/1/templateid/203/tempidx/1/menuid/1 .

In this Connexional year, the World Mission Fund has supported the PTCEE with a general grant of £5,000.

For more information on the Churches or Ecumenical organisations in Asia/Pacific included in this bulletin issue, please contact the Steve Pearce at the Asia-Pacific desk through Wcr.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk.

AFRICA: Mission Partner News

Rosalind Colwill

Rosalind Colwell has been a Mission Partner serving the Church in Nigeria since 1981. One area of her vast ministry in Nigeria has been the setting up and running of the 'Ozuzu Oke Centre for Spirituality'. This centre was established in the aim of serving the Methodist Church in Nigeria, as well as others in the community by providing a place of retreat, where ministers could spend time being refreshed in the presence of the Lord. The need arose from the observation that many ministers and people serving the church often became 'burnt out' from serving, with little opportunity for retreat, rest and refreshing during their annual leave. The idea for the Centre arose therefore from the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who often went to a solitary place to rest in the presence of God and in prayer during his ministry.

Many have benefited from the 'Ozuzu Oke Centre for Spirituality'. A deacon who attended the centre gave the following testimony on the time spent at Ozuzu Oke. *"To God be the glory for the establishment of Ozuzu-oke Centre for Spiritual Direction, through sister Rosalind F.N Colwill. I joined this programme since 2008. Sister has been my Spiritual Director. She acts as a moderator to my spiritual life. Before I joined this programme, my spiritual life was dry. I was struggling to live a righteous life, but through this programme I was able to see my spiritual stand and emptiness. Ozuzu-oke Spiritual Direction has helped me in these areas: To see God's wonderful acts of love in my life, my faith and trust in God is richer and stronger now, it has helped me to love people with a pure heart and It has improved my humility in life and love for God's work.*

I thank God for the opportunity to participate in the Ozuzu-Oke".

For more information on the work Rosalind Colwill is doing with the Methodist Church in Nigeria, please contact the Africa desk through Wcr.Africa@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.

EUROPE

Experience Exchange Partner in Serbia: Kate Elizabeth Abbott

Kate Abbott served as an Experience Exchange Volunteer (EEP) in Serbia between February 2009 and August 2009, and then between September 2009 and December 2009. She worked with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO) in the city of Novi Sad. The EHO was established by the minority churches in the area after the crisis of the 1990's. It is used as a 'base' for several NGOs in the area, which run their projects from there. The following is an extract from Kate's report on her experience in Novi Sad.

"Serbia gives a great opportunity to simply turn up and do. EHO requested I found my own niche and did a project of my own while there. This sounds daunting and I found most volunteers did not rise to this challenge, or simply chose to teach a skill they already possessed. I managed to run a detached youth work project in the centre of the city, happening during 5 evenings over 2 and a half weeks."

For the full article on Kate's work, please refer to

www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1475

For more information on becoming an EEP volunteer, please consult the Methodist web site:

www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1495

NATIONAL IN MISSION APPOINTMENTS

District Youth Director in the Lithuania United Methodist Church

Mrs Egle Chomyiene is District Youth Director for the Lithuania United Methodist Church. She was appointed by her church to participate in the Methodist Church in Britain's National in Mission Appointments (NMA) programme two years ago. The NMA programme exists to support the ministries of local church workers during a maximum period of 5 years, especially in key areas of mission significance which can include evangelism, youth work, women's ministries, communication, health care, community development, etc.



One of the key areas of work that Egle Chomyiene undertakes is to organise District wide events for young people. One such event was the 'Baltic Chrysalis' camping programme for young men. On the left is a photo of a group of young men who attended that programme.

In the NMA report that was submitted to the Methodist Church in Britain this year, Egle wrote the following:

"I will share this story because it is recent and fresh. Sometimes we don't know what impact we have on youth when we are working with them. They aren't always easy to read. Recently at a Chrysalis retreat one of the other

adult leaders commented to me half way through the three days that she thought some of the youth were bored with the talks and sharing that was being done by leaders" This concerned me but the Chrysalis program is very specific and so we continued, On the final day of the program the youth and young adults who came as participants had an opportunity to share what the time had meant for them. When I heard what they shared, how some of them had found God for the first time and what a meaningful experience it was that they had, all I could say was Amen! God works in ways that we can't even imagine and what we were seeing on the outside of these young people didn't tell the story of what was going on inside of them. It was a good reminder that the work I do is important. I can't always see the direct results but it seems that God continues to be at work"

For the 2009-2010 Connexional year, the Lithuania United Methodist Church (Central Conferences Northern Europe) received £5,140 in support for their NMA from the World Mission Fund.

For more information on the National in Mission Appointments programme, please contact the World Church Relationships office at Methodist Church House, or refer to the following web page:

www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=131.

SALT NEWS

Estonia

The Rev Maire Ivanova (pictured on the right) is a Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT), Student in her 4th year of a PhD in Theology: Pastoral Counselling in Local Churches. She is a member of the United Methodist Church in Estonia and she is currently studying at the University of Tartu, Estonia. As part of her PhD she has expanded her research of theological literature and undertaken research visits to the Library of Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky U.S.A and the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. Maire Ivanova is an active person in the United Methodist Church, being involved both in Youth Board and Board of Discipleship. She was ordained as Elder in 2005 and has worked for the Estonian Student Movement of International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. Her SALT studies will bring benefit to the Methodist Church, as well as Lutheran, Baptist and Pentecostal churches as the research aims to point out the most important needs in pastoral counselling and provide working schemes for improvement of the pastoral counselling in local Estonian church settings.



For more information on the SALT programme and how it is continuing to help many people such as Revd Maire Ivanova develop leadership skills around the world, please contact the Salt Coordinator, Christina Hedderly, though Wcr.SALT@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Prayer points

- Please continue to pray for the continued relief effort in Haiti. Pray that the Lord will guide Reverend Gesner Paul and Revd George Mulrain in their efforts to bring physical, mental and emotional relief and support to the many who need it. Please also pray that the upcoming visit from representatives of the Methodist Church in Britain will be a source of support and comfort for the Methodist Church in Haiti.
- Please pray for Mario Martinez Tapia of the Methodist Church in Chile and his new ministry. Pray that God will bestow upon him a spirit of wisdom and revelation as he undertakes his calling.
- Please pray for the Developing Contemporary Leadership Skills Course which has been started by the Church of Pakistan, Diocese of Raiwind. Pray that it will indeed help in changing traditional male leadership mindsets and empower more women to become church leaders.
- Please pray for the continued work of the PTCEE in Fiji. Pray that the teaching will continue to bless and empower many more students to fulfil the ministry God is calling them to.
- Please pray for Rosalind Colwill and the '*Ozuzu Oke Centre for Spirituality*'. Pray that God will bless all those who seek refuge and rest in Him, and pray that God will continue to bless Rosalind Colwell's ministry as she continues to serve the Methodist Church in Nigeria.
- Please pray for Kate Abbott and thank God for the experience she had in Serbia as an EEP. Pray for all Christians who are currently doing God's work there, including the EHO which supports different ecumenical projects in the area of Novi Sad.
- Please pray for Mrs Egle Chomyiene and her NMA work as she continues to serve her church in Lithuania. Please pray that young people from the area will continue to find God through the events that she organises and through the way in which the church in Lithuania cares for and shows the surrounding communities the love of Jesus Christ.
- Please pray for Revd Maire Ivanova, that God will help her successfully complete her PhD. Please pray that as she continues serving her church, the skills she has acquired during the SALT programme will bless her church and the wider community.