



The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

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Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." (NRSV)

ASIA-PACIFIC

Following the devastating tsunami in Samoa which took place in September, the Methodist Church in Britain has responded with a solidarity grant of over £40,000 from the World Mission Fund to help our Partner Church there rebuild the community. Over 170 people lost their lives and many more lost their homes, schools, livelihoods and churches. The President of the Church, Reverend Afereti Samuels recently wrote to Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific saying, *"We are deeply encouraged and blessed with the support we have received. May the Lord's name be praised. The Methodist Church of Samoa is now engaged with rebuilding efforts for the affected Methodist congregations. A temporary shelter for the pastor and a worship center for the village of Satitoa which was completely destroyed by the tsunami is underway. Assistance will also go to the parish of Utulaelae where the pastor's house was damaged. Funds collected by means of gifts from partners across the world will go directly to rebuilding permanent buildings, as we await final decisions by affected communities of new locations and new structural codes that will be applied to new buildings".*

For more information please contact Steve Pearce at wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurchjh.org.uk

Mission Partner News:

Graham and Jenny Longbottom are Mission Partners in the Solomon Islands. They are serving God and our Partner Church there with their medical skills at Helena Goldie Hospital. In their blog they write:

"Another busy week at Helena Goldie Hospital. General ward is nearly full at present. The work is very varied with lots of infection (abscesses which need draining & then dressing), trauma & medical conditions. Thyrotoxicosis with exophthalmos (bulging eyes) gives a startling appearance in a Solomon Island face. Quite often in the evenings & at night the ward is looked after by one nurse aide. Last night some local people under the influence of alcohol turned up at the O.P.D. This was quite a challenge for us to manage with such a skeleton staff looking after a number of ill patients. The hospital struggles financially, relying on some government support & donations from charities & churches in New Zealand & Australia. The government recently cut the medical budget by 35%, as a direct result of the global financial crisis. Outside financial support remains invaluable."

To read extracts of Graham and Jenny's blog, please go to:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1457>

AFRICA

Mission Partner News:

Janice and Peter Clark are Mission Partners who recently travelled to Sierra Leone to begin their period of service for the Methodist Church. Here is an extract from a recent letter:

'I am sitting on a small veranda of our home facing east over the centre of Freetown. We are living on a Methodist Compound on Old Railway Line Road, which is also the place where Francis Nabieu, the President of the Conference lives.

Electricity is spasmodic. It was necessary for us to lend to church the money to buy a fridge but it has probably been off more than it is on. Cooking is done by gas, and water is brought into the house, each day, from another source. There is the hope that the compound will have water delivered to fill the new tank that has been installed, which would mean a shower, rather than the bucket and cup method we are use at present. We knew that this was probably going to be the case, and so adjustments are quickly made. Time begins to change in significance for so many simple domestic activities.'

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.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brazil: The Little Hummingbird

The Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean and Christine Elliott, Secretary for External Relations, are currently visiting our Partner Church in Brazil, as well as a Partner Organisation, the Methodist University in Sau Paulo. During the visit, Tom and Christine encountered a young Brazilian man told them a very moving story of his experience of working with Street Children, after having been one himself. Tom writes, "Yesterday, Chris and I visited a street children's project in Sao Paulo that was started by the Faculty of theology of the Methodist University. There we met Marcos Marquillo - he is in his thirties and the project's coordinator. He was a street child himself and so he speaks with a passion and understanding of the issues that come from experience. Chris asked him whether he felt that he had made a difference to the needs of street children. After initially stumbling a little, he responded with this story... 'A forest caught fire and all the large animals of the forest fled away - all except a little humming bird who kept darting back and forth putting drops of water on the flames'...A sad story in a way but a very moving one from a person who knew what he was talking about".

For more information on the way the World Mission Fund is supporting these partners in Brazil, please contact the Revd. Thomas Quenet at wcr.amercascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk.

AMIPASTOR: Global warming affects the lives of the Ingahuasi community

AMIPASTOR (The Christian Association for Pastoral Ministry and Service) is a Partner Organisation of the Methodist Church in Britain working in Chile. It is an ecumenical organisation who aims to promote sustainable human development. Based in Peru, It has been active since 1990. In the 2008/2009 Connexional year, the Methodist Church in Britain donated £3,500 to support AMIPASTOR's work. One of the beneficiaries to this support is the Ingahuasi community who live in very arduous climatic conditions because of their geographical location (4,200 metres above sea level) but also due to global warming.



Living Conditions in Ingahuasi, Peru



The village of Ingahuasi

For more information on the work of AMIPASTOR and how we are supporting its work please contact Reverend Thomas Quenet. If you understand Spanish, you can also look at AMIASTOR's website, www.amipastor.com.

Prayer Points:

- Please continue to pray for the people of Samoa, and in particular for our Partner Church. Pray that God will give them wisdom through his Holy Spirit to know how best to support the work of emotional and physical restoration to the nation
- Please pray that the Lord will bless the work of the Longbottoms and that they will continue to bless and heal the lives of many at the Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands, and that God will send more workers to the hospital.
- Pray for Peter and Janice Clark, that they will continue to settle into their new home well, and have a great first Christmas in Sierra Leone.
- Pray for people like Marcos Marquinhos of the University in Sao Paulo, who have a heart for serving God through ministering to others. Pray that God will reassure all those who work with street children in Sao Paulo that a large tree always starts life off as a small seed, and in the same way, changing the life of one street child through the love of God can have a huge impact in their lives and in the lives of others.
- Pray that the Lord will greatly bless the Ingahuasi community in Peru through AMIPASTOR, and that their support, care and love will make their quality of life better despite the harsh conditions they live in.