



World Church Relationships News Bulletin

12 March 2010

Psalm 103:13-14 "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust" (NRSV)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Methodist Church in Chile

On 27th February an earthquake and tsunami left a trail of devastation in Chile, causing over 700 fatalities, many injuries and destroyed homes. Reports from the Methodist Church in Chile show however that the Church sustained substantial structural damage to property but very few human casualties. Bishop Mario Martinez, President of the Methodist Church in Chile said the following: *"Until now, we have not heard of fatalities or injuries to the any members of the Methodist family. Nevertheless, churches, pastoral houses, institutions, houses of church members, equipment and furniture, have been greatly affected."*

Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator of Latin America and the Caribbean has been in regular contact with Bishop Martinez since the day of the earthquake and tsunami, and is awaiting confirmation from the Church as to how the MCB can best offer its resources in solidarity and assistance to its Chilean brothers and sisters.

To keep abreast of the latest developments from the Methodist Church in Chile, please look at their blog in Spanish at www.iglesiametodistachile.blogspot.com/

For more information on the current situation in Chile, please contact the Revd Thomas Quenet at wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk

The Methodist Church Haiti

The Revd Thomas Quenet visited the Methodist Church in Haiti between 23 and 28 February. While he was there he met with the District's Emergency and Disaster Committee, and can report that the initial solidarity grant of **£20,000 from the World Mission Fund** sent to the Methodist Church in Haiti had been used to meet people's basic needs of shelter, water and food, financially support six of the most affected circuits, provide emergency basic infrastructure protection work to New College Bird and restore the district office to operation. The Committee also spoke about the Church's priorities for the futures, which include education, reconstruction, health, reinstating the Community Development Office and evangelism. The funds raised from the joint MRDF/World Mission Fund will be sent to assist the Church in meeting these priorities on a long-term basis.

To see a slide-show of Revd Quenet's visit to Haiti, please go to www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1493



AFRICA

The Protestant Methodist Church in Benin

The Protestant Methodist Church in Benin (EPMB) celebrated its Annual Synod between 20 and 28 February, after which a new Head of Church was elected. The Methodist Church in Britain welcomes Rev Dr Nicodème Alagbada as the new President of the EPMB.

The former President of the EPMB, Revd Simon Dossou, has been appointed as Director of the Department of Theology, Ecumenical and Inter Faith Relations at the All African Conference of Churches (AACC) in Kenya.

For more information on the EPMB, please contact Dr Olubunmi Olayisade on wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Mission Partners in Sierra Leone: Peter and Janice Clark

Peter and Janice Clark have been Mission Partners in Sierra Leone since 2009. In February, they welcomed their close friends Barry and Jan Eldred to Salone, and shared their experiences of serving AT the Theological College and Methodist Church in Sierra Leone.



“We had accompanied Janice and Peter on their discernment visit to Sierra Leone in November 2008 and now we were able to see how well they were settling into their new home and work. Janice and Peter are living and teaching at the Theological College and working with and alongside the Methodist Church, as well

as other faith communities, to have the greatest possible influence on change. We were impressed by how they have created a welcoming home, with good food, laughter and their inimitable hospitality, in spite of wate supply shortages and intermittent power supplies, endless dust, unremitting heat and the nightly calls of the dogs and the goats which roam the compound. They are relaxed, energised and clearly in their ‘zone’.”

Revd Ken Todd from the Methodist Church Ireland will be representing the British and Irish churches at the Methodist Church Sierra Leone Conference in April.

To read Janice and Peter Clark’s latest newsletters, please go to www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1897 .

For more information on Mission Partners in Africa, please contact Dr Olubunmi Olayisade on 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.

ASIA-PACIFIC

The United Church in Papua New Guinea

The President designate, Revd Alison Tomlin was joined by the Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, Steve Pearce, in a visit to the United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG) between 24 February and 5 March. Below is an extract from a report by Steve Pearce on some of his impressions.

MCB has had a good partnership with UCPNG since its beginning. Mission Partners have served there, a National in Mission Appointment is in its first year, and its charismatic moderator, Revd Samson Lowa, is known to many in the Pacific and in the UK through his Methodist and Church World Mission activities. A UCPNG minister also serves in North Lancashire on the World Church in Britain Programme, developing a link between that District and the UCPNG, and one of the UCPNG Bishops was an overseas representative at the Wolverhampton Conference last year.



“One of the highlights of visiting a partner Church is the opportunity to worship together. On Sunday, the second day of our visit, we joined a congregation of 2,000 and enjoyed worship along with an inspiring worship band and a traditional choir. This was one of several occasions when both the visit of the President Designate from the Methodist Church in

Britain itself and the fact that she is a woman were the cause of deep pleasure for church members. Later in the day we joined the congregation at George Brown Memorial Church who are mostly from New Britain, an island in the north of Papua New Guinea, with a strong Methodist heritage and congregations devoted to the unaccompanied singing of old Methodist hymns. We sang many hymns in rich Pacific harmony in the open air as the sun set and the moon rose”

(Photo: Revd Alison Tomlin with a UCPNG Minister)

For more information on this visit, please contact Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, Steve Pearce, at wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk.

The Amity Foundation

The Amity Foundation is an ecumenical partner of the MCB and was created in 1985 in the aim of promoting education, social services, health and rural development. It also encourages cross-cultural exchange between English speakers and Chinese people, in the shape of various teaching programmes. This summer, there are opportunities for English speakers to volunteer in the Summer English Programme (SEP), where they will volunteer to work with rural middle school Chinese teachers of English, helping them develop their listening and speaking skills. This cultural and linguistic exchange will mean that Chinese teachers will see the volunteers actively benefiting the community and the volunteers will gain a greater and more realistic understanding of China and of its position in the world today.

The deadline for applying for this programme is 1st April 2010. To apply, please apply through the Amity Foundation web site:

www.amityfoundation.org/wordpress/?page_id=278

For more information on the Amity Foundation, please contact Steve Pearce as before.

EUROPE

National in Mission Appointments in the Slovak Republic

The National in Mission Appointments programme aims to empower MCB's partner churches by funding a post of strategic significance within the Partner Church for a maximum five year period. These posts are related to appointments in areas of mission, evangelism, health care, and community development, among others. After the five year period of funding, it is hoped that the post will continue and be funded by the Partner Church.

The World Mission Fund currently supports a National in Mission Appointment (NMA) in the Slovak Church in the Central and Southern Europe Conference. Stefan Rendos is in his third year of appointment as Missionary for Church Development in Kosice. He works mainly with young people, organising Sunday worship, mid-week meetings with school children, indoor or outdoor weekend clubs and weekly youth meetings. In the following extract, Stephan describes what happened during one of the events he organised last summer:

"During our three day summer club for school children, we had a very special experience. On the first day, only one child turned up. What a disappointment this was for all of us! Nevertheless, we decided to persevere the next day. To our surprise, the number of the children who turned up to participate in the club kept growing every hour, and on the second day we had 20 children. Some children came for the morning programme and the same number arrived for the afternoon programme to be with their friends. On the third day, there were so many children taking part in the activities, that we stopped counting. They were so numerous, that even the police come to observe us. This experience drew us all closer together and made us even more thankful to the Lord Jesus".

Stefan Rendos' post of Missionary for Church Development in Kosice is in its 4th year of the NMA programme. During this current Connexional year, his post was awarded £1,680 from the World Mission Fund.

For more information on this NMA post or other NMA's in Europe, please contact Partnership Coordinator for Europe, Roy Crowder at wcr.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk

There are currently 14 NMA posts being funded through the World Mission Fund in Europe. For current lists of all NMA posts around the world please go to www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openworld.content&cmid=131 and select the region you wish to view.

MISSION PARTNERS ON MISSION PARTNER LEAVE IN 2010

This is an update on the Mission Partners expected home on leave in 2010.

If you would like to invite anyone on this list to speak at your church, please contact **Jan Deakin at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR, Tel: 020 7467 5109, email: deakinj@methodistchurch.org.uk**

Name	Country Serving	UK Base	Time Expected/Available for speaking engagements in 2010
Ros Colwill	Nigeria	South-East London	June-mid-July
Jenny Featherstone	Zambia	Teddington, Taunton, Nottingham, Cleveland, Scotland	April-mid-May
Rosemary Fletcher & James Rowley	Sri Lanka	Based in Reading	Very limited availability in July
Claudia Freund	Kenya	London, Nottingham, Wales	28 May-13 June
Jane Gray	Kenya	Denbighshire, Wales; Bishop's Castle, Shropshire	May-July
Norman Grigg	The Gambia	Orpington, Kent	July-August
Jonathan and Isabel Hill	Zimbabwe	Burton-on-Trent	Available most of August and 1-11 September
Maggie Mudalige	Sri Lanka	Exeter	April-June
David and Rhoda Nixon	Zambia	Speaking engagements co-ordinated by MMS (Ireland)	October to December
Sheila Norris	Japan	Luton, Nottingham and Derby District	Available August and from 1 to 8 September
James and Linda Pender	Bangladesh	Epsom, Surrey; CMS is their lead agency	October-December
Claire Smithson	Kenya	Manchester	September to early November
Eddie Sykes	Bahamas	Shropshire, also Liverpool District	May and July
Hans and Mary Van den Corput	Nigeria	The Netherlands	End-July-August
Keith and Ida Waddell	Zambia	Scotland and Northern England	July-early August
Paul and Sarah Wright	Nepal	North Rigton, Yorkshire	Mid-July-September

Prayer Points

- ⊗ Pray for the leaders of the Methodist Church in Chile, that God may grant them the wisdom they need to best meet the needs of Methodists in Chile and the wider Chilean community. Pray for all those who mourn their loved ones, that the Holy Spirit may comfort them during this distressing time.
- ⊗ Continue to pray for our partner church in Haiti. Pray that the Lord will give them wisdom and revelation as they use the assistance and aid they receive to fulfil their priorities and meet the needs of the Haitian community.
- ⊗ Pray for Rev Dr Nicodème Alagbada as he begins his new post as Head of Church of the EPMB, that God may grant him wisdom to lead and serve the church and that he may be blessed in the process. Pray also for Revd Simon Dossou as he begins his new post with the AACC.
- ⊗ Pray for Peter and Janice Clark. Pray that the Lord will continue to use them mightily in Sierra Leone for God's plans and purposes.
- ⊗ Pray for Revd Alison Tomlin as she prepares to take up Presidency in a few months time. Also, pray for the continued strengthening of the partnership between the United Church in Papua New Guinea and MCB, that both churches may continue to learn from one another, challenge and bless one another.
- ⊗ Pray for the Amity Foundation in China and for the Summer English Programme. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead the right people to apply for these posts and that the cultural exchange that takes place will glorify God.
- ⊗ Pray for Stefan Rendos as he continues in the NMA post in the Slovak Republic. Pray that the Lord will help the church financially sustain this post after the five year programme period comes to an end. Pray that many more children and young people will continue to encounter Christ Jesus through the love, commitment and care shown by these church workers.
- ⊗ Pray for all Mission Partners who are on leave in 2010. Pray that God will give them rest, as well as the opportunity to speak at different churches around the British Connexion.