

# The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

25 FEBRUARY 2010



2 Corinthians 9:6-8: *“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”* (NRSV)

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Haiti and the General Board of Global Ministries

Approximately 230,000 people died and a million were left homeless following the earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January. The people of Haiti have been very much in the prayers and on the hearts of Methodists around the UK, who have so far raised a phenomenal ***half a million pounds for Haiti through the World Mission Fund and MRDF.*** Furthermore, in an act of solidarity and encouragement, the Reverend Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, is currently visiting the Methodist Church Haiti with a delegation from the Methodist Church in Britain, including Reverend Leslie Griffiths, Reverend Lesley Anderson and Reverend Marcus Torchon. They will be staying with the District President of Haiti, Reverend Gesner Paul.

Before Revd Quenet travelled to Haiti, he attended a memorial service for the Rev. Samuel W. Dixon, Jr., and Rev. Clinton C. Rabb, two GBGM Mission Leaders who died during the Haiti earthquake. The following is an extract of Revd Quenet’s reflections on the memorial service, lead by the Revd James Gulley, survivor of the earthquake and a consultant for GBGM.

*“James Gulley spoke of how a planned working dinner turned into a ‘roller coaster’ of spiritual struggle, pain and human solidarity by people whose lives had been thrown into turmoil in an instant...He spoke movingly of how the distinct personalities of his colleagues played out during the drama. How Sam, most seriously trapped, tried to assure all and present a supportive authority presence. How Clinton, though also trapped alongside Sam, tried to offer his friend physical comfort by propping him up. How they all spoke about what each would say to the family of the others if they survived and others not. Everyone present entered into the melting pot of emotions; they laughed, wept and comforted the other. James recalled how Clinton said, “you know what, when I get out of here, I am going to put together a row of coke zero bottles and finish them all off” – after a moment he corrected himself and continued “– better still, never mind coke zero, make it the real thing...”*

*Moments of laughter had given way to moments of comfort as the trapped group sang together “If I can help somebody” and when it was clear that they were going to be rescued how they all sang out the doxology. We heard how soon after this, it became clear that Sam Dixon had not made it, he would not be rescued...his voice could no longer be heard.”*

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.methodist.org.uk) or contact Revd Tom Quenet at [quenett@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:quenett@methodistchurch.org.uk).***

## **The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas: 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Methodism in the Caribbean**

2010 is being marked in the MCCA as the year in which Methodism began to establish itself in the region. Along with the United Methodist Church in the USA, the MCCA is one of the Methodist Church in Britain's oldest partners, and has key strategic significance in our world church relationships. From being a mission church of the Methodist Church in Britain, the MCCA has evolved into a key player in its own right within the global Methodist family, providing leadership, theological insight and maintenance of a Methodist understanding of discipleship. Throughout 2010, seven months of events have been organised. The MCCA website pages contain detailed information on these events: [www.mccalive.org/connexional\\_conference.php?mid=118](http://www.mccalive.org/connexional_conference.php?mid=118).

*In order to encourage and maintain the ongoing relationship with our Caribbean partners, the World Mission Fund has agreed to donate £12,500 to the MCCA to support the church and its members in its celebrations of 250 years of Methodism in the Caribbean.*

**If you would like further information on these commemorative celebrations, please contact Revd Thomas Quenet as on page one.**

## **AFRICA**

### **The United Church in Zambia: Historical Book Project**

In 1885, François Coillard, a French missionary working in Lesotho for the Paris Missionary Society (PMS) arrived on the Zambezi River, upwards of the Victoria Falls. The aim of the journey was to found a new mission field along the upper Zambezi, later called Barotseland, where the population spoke a language similar to that spoken in Lesotho. During the following 80 years, the PMS was at work in what was to become a British colony (Northern Rhodesia) until the church attained its autonomy in 1964. The following year, the independent "Church of Barotseland" together with other churches formed the United Church of Zambia.

In recent years, some members of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), asked retired missionaries about the history and mission of their church. These retired missionaries then decided three years ago to tackle the problem and see what could be done. Subsequently, a complete chronological and historical précis between 1885 and 1965 was written on the development of the Church. In conjunction with several other sponsors, the Methodist Church in Great Britain donated **£1,186 from the World Mission Fund** towards the costs of printing the complete chronological and historical précis. The books will be delivered to the UCZ for sale to members at a reasonable price in Zambia and distribution to Church workers and theological seminary students. It is hoped that the book will inspire a new generation of people interested in working with other in mission in Zambia.

**For more information on this project please contact the Partnership Coordinator for Africa, Olubunmi Olayisade at [Wcr.Africa@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Wcr.Africa@methodistchurch.org.uk).**

## MISSION PARTNER NEWS

### Zimbabwe

Jonathan and Isabel Hill are Mission Partners to the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. Jonathan has been teaching mathematics at a high school in the Thekwane Mission, in Matebeleland South for over 20 years. As part of his ministry there, he organizes food parcels to provide a daily snack of milk, bread and peanut butter for the school's youngest children. He is also responsible for a guidance and counselling service for Upper Sixth Form pupils.

Since 2007, Isabel Hill has been responsible for overseeing and developing the Child Care Department of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe in the Bulawayo East District. She oversees local rural Methodist communities who currently care for over two thousand orphans. Many of these children are AIDS orphans and are themselves HIV positive.

The following is an extract from their latest newsletter, detailing how they are working alongside the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe to support the local community work:



*“Immediately after Sunday morning service we set out on a trip to Mzinyathi Methodist Mission (about an hour's drive over mostly fairly good roads) to see what progress has been made with the building of the orphanage. Actually it is called*

*the "Children's Community Resource Centre" for "day care and residential services for orphaned and vulnerable children". We met other members of the Board there including our District Bishop. We found a remarkable change since we last went there and it will soon be finished as far as the building work goes. The roof is on, the ceilings are mostly fitted. Much of the plastering has been done. Fitting of conduits for the electrical connections has been done and piping for the water supply. Bath tubs are waiting to be fitted and other plumbing is yet to be finished. Light fittings and switches, and so on, are not yet in place and the windows are not yet glazed, and then there will be painting to be done, but they are confident that all of that will be completed in the next three weeks. Then we will hold an opening ceremony. All in all it is a much happier situation than last year when we wondered if we would manage to finish the building at all.”*

***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.***

***For more information on the work that Jonathan and Isabel are doing, please see their website: [www.isabeljonathan.org](http://www.isabeljonathan.org) or contact the Partnership Coordinator for Africa, Olumbunmi Olayisade as before.***

## EUROPE

### MISSION PARTNER NEWS



#### Germany

Revd Colin and Muriel Barrett are Mission Partners in Brand-Erbisdorf in Saxony in Germany, and have been there since 2005. The work they do in Germany is what they would call work that a 'normal' minister and wife would do, including preaching, pastoral work, administration, children's work, ecumenical relationships and travelling around the district talking about life and work in the British Methodist Church.

When recently asked to write about what had been the biggest surprise to them in their work as Mission Partners, they said, *"That in spite of some frustrations and difficulties we are gradually being accepted in our community - and we are making a difference. And the experience has been so enriching. This appointment has taken us to Austria, America, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. We have made friends as far apart as South Africa, India, Fiji and Antigua. The Bishop of the German Methodist Church has been to stay and we have picked up our out-of-work-neighbour who was beaten up on our doorstep. And the blessing has always been that we are accompanied by God who is out and about"*

*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.*

For more information on Revd Colin and Muriel Barrett's work in Germany, please contact Roy Crowder, Partnership Coordinator for Europe on [Wcr.Europe@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Wcr.Europe@methodistchurch.org.uk).

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### Chungking Mansions Service Centre in Hong Kong

The Chungking Mansions Service Centre (CKMSC) is a partner of the Methodist Church in Britain, working with refugees and asylum seekers. These are some of the most vulnerable social groups in Hong Kong, and the CKMSC is the only centre of its kind to provide essential services and a holistic support system to this impoverished and disadvantaged group of people.

*Last year, the World Mission Fund donated £3,000 to the work of the Chungking Mansions Service Centre.*

*To read more on the work of the CKMSC, you are invited to visit the blog of Cheung-Ang Siew Mei, Executive Director of CKMSC, [www.siewmei.cahk.org](http://www.siewmei.cahk.org). You can also contact Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, at [Wcr.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Wcr.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk) for more information.*

## The United Mission to Nepal

The Methodist Church in Britain has been in partnership with the United Mission to Nepal since its inception over 50 years ago. This year they are putting £5,000 of our annual grant in the next Connexional year from the World Mission Fund towards an HIV/AIDS project with one of their partners, Nawa Jeewan Samaj Sewa (NJSS). The UMN has sent us the following information on the NJSS:

*“NJSS is a faith based organization established under the initiative of a joint group of churches and Christian fellowships. Their main area of focus is HIV and AIDS, and they are undertaking a 3-year programme on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support. We chose NJSS for you because this is a Christian partner organization whose work has brought a lot of change in the thinking and practice of Christian leaders of that area. The issues such as HIV/AIDS, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) which were topics not to be discussed or talked in churches are now being openly discussed and many Christian youths are being mobilized for peer education on these subjects and also for providing home based care for HIV infected people. The changes that are becoming evident in their churches and communities are very encouraging for us and we wanted you to be part of this transformational change.”*

This is a testimony from someone who has benefited from the work of the NJSS:

### **No Regrets ...by Jamuna Shrestha, Peer Educator, NJSS**



*“I am Jamuna Shrestha. I live with my husband and 3 sons in Aitabare Itahari. My husband transmitted HIV to me. Six year ago my husband went to Mumbai (India) to work. Six months later, I also went to Mumbai to be with my husband. We were happy there. One and half years later I became seriously ill, and was admitted to hospital. Blood tests revealed that I was HIV positive. My husband was also tested and his results came back HIV positive. We wept, felt guilty and hopeless. We went back home.*

*Now I am working for Paryas Mahila Samuha (an organization for women who are HIV positive). I got the opportunity to participate in a six day peer education training, organized by Nawa Jiwan Samaj Sewa, which is supported by UMN. I learnt many things related to HIV/AIDS, STIs, sexual reproductive health, life skill, social stigma, VCT, treatment and support. That training became very useful to me and my husband because we were not very aware of HIV and AIDS and its implication on the individual, family and society. After training, I gained courage and emerged with new hope and confidence. I feel it's my duty to provide education to friends and neighbours, those who are unaware about HIV and AIDS. Now I do not feel guilty. We both openly discuss HIV and AIDS. We share our condition and past with others. Due to a lack of knowledge about HIV, we were infected. So I am now openly involved in providing education, especially to women who are illiterate and whose husbands are working outside of the country. I am currently seeking alternative options to generate income for a better future for my sons and family. I am very encouraged that my sons are not HIV positive, and continue to receive support from the NJSS.”*

***The World Mission Fund has agreed to donate £7,500 in the 2010-2011 Connexional year to the UMN. For more information on the work of the UMN and the NJSS, please contact Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, at [Wcr.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Wcr.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk).***

## MISSION PARTNER NEWS

### Mission partners on mission partner leave in 2010

The following serving Mission Partners are 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 5 JR, Tel: 020 7467 5109, email: [deakinj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto: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	Bishops Castle, Shropshire; Denbighshire, Wales	May-July
Norman Grigg	The Gambia	TBC	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	TBC	TBC
Keith and Ida Waddell	Zambia	TBC	Available 1 July-10 August
Paul and Sarah Wright	Nepal	North Rigton, Yorkshire	Mid-July-September

## ***Prayer Points***

- Pray for the families of the Rev. Samuel W. Dixon, Jr., and Rev. Clinton C. Rabb, as they mourn their loss. With thanksgiving to God, remember the way in which God used these men to do his work on earth, and how they are now in his loving care. Please continue to pray for the Methodist Church in Haiti and for all Haitians, and that the visit from the British Methodist delegation will be a great source of comfort and encouragement to all.
- Pray for the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Methodism in the Caribbean. Pray that these events will give Methodists in the Caribbean the opportunity to reflect upon their discipleship as followers of the Lord Jesus for the past 250 years, and to look towards the future that God has in store for them.
- Pray for the successful completion and printing of the historical account of mission and the United Church in Zambia. Pray that many people will purchase the book and that it will bless and encourage those who read about how the Spirit of God has been working in Zambia.
- Pray for Mission Partners Jonathan and Isabel in Zimbabwe. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work of their hands and sustain them as they do the Lord's work in their community. With thanksgiving, praise God for the way in which he has used Jonathan and Isabel to meet many needs.
- Pray for Colin and Muriel Barrett as they continue their work in Germany. Pray that the Lord will give them more and more opportunities to use their particular gifting as they continue to be accepted in the community.
- Pray for the Chungking Mansions Service Centre. Pray that God will continue to guide them as they seek to help and support refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong, and that through the love and care they show they will demonstrate the love of Christ for all.
- Pray for the partnership between the United Mission to Nepal and the Nawa Jeewan Samaj Sewa (NJSS). Pray that those with HIV/AIDS will continue to be encouraged, given hope, educated, feel accepted and loved by the work that the NJSS does in Nepal.
- Pray for all Mission Partners who are on leave in 2010. Pray that they will be able to rest and have time for reflection, as well as go to churches and communities around the UK who will be blessed and encouraged by hearing about the work they do in different communities around the world.