



World Church Relationships News Bulletin

29 April 2010

Matthew 28:20 "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (NRSV)

ASIA-PACIFIC

China

Christine Elliott, Secretary for External Relationships, travelled to China in March with a delegation from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The group met the membership of the China Christian Council (CCC) and the Catholic Church in China. The Methodist Church in Britain works ecumenically in China as there are no denominations in the Chinese Church. Christine is the newly appointed Chair of the CTBI China Forum.

She said: "The China Forum pulls together churches and mission agencies from the four nations in order to work effectively with the two Christian traditions in China. I am delighted to have this role as China continues to challenge us in many ways with its rapid growth of Christians within the country but also its economic growth and the way it offers support to struggling nations through building programmes and financial assistance. However, this phenomenal growth sometimes masks some dreadful poverty and poor infrastructure within its own borders."

The CTBI delegation also visited the Amity organisation, which is responsible for printing Bibles in China and has so far produced 70 million Bibles. Christine was presented with a commemorative edition of the Bible in Chinese and English which will be used at this year's Methodist Conference and then travel to the national assemblies of other denominations.



For more information on this, please contact Christine Elliott, Secretary for External Relationships, at ElliottC@methodistchurch.org.uk

The World Mission Fund has granted £10,000 to the Amity Foundation as a response to the earthquake in Qinghai.

The Amity Foundation

On 14 April a devastating earthquake struck the Qinghai province in China. By 19 April the reported death toll had risen to 1,944. Amity, a Chinese Christian NGO supported by China Christian council, is the only Christian organization that has been able to respond effectively by providing food, shelter, medical and psychological assistance.

Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, said: *“The weather is freezing cold and the altitude means only 60% oxygen density so that many rescue workers from different parts of the country have altitude sickness. Amity is organised and equipped to respond to such situations. At this moment, six Amity staff are already in Qinghai, and relief materials have been distributed in Cuosang Village and Cuomei Village. Cuosang Village is the most heavily damaged area in Longbao Township: 29 people died, nearly 800 people injured, of whom, 69 people are severely wounded. 300 quilts and bed sheets, 2500 kilos of wheat flour and 50 tons of rice were distributed to the villagers.”*

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

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

World Mission Fund Aid in Haiti

School children in Haiti have resumed lessons under tented roofing thanks to overseas aid. Marco Depestre, Secretary of The Methodist Church in Haiti, sent photos of lessons in full swing in the six tents which protect the children from the sun. Four of the tents are set on Nouveau College Bird ground where they shelter students attending classes.



Marco Depestre said: *“Because of the heat, we are covering them with plastic tarpaulin to create a better temperature for the children and teachers. Four are being used now and we could not do without them. The Methodist Church in Haiti is very thankful for the assistance you gave in providing these tents. Please convey*

our thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to make this possible. May the Lord richly bless you and yours!"

For more information on this, please contact Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean, at wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas

The latest news from the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas is now online. Issue 2, volume 2 of the e-newsletter "*MCCA in Focus NOWW*" features stories on Haiti and MCCA's 250th anniversary. The electronic publication was launched two years ago to inform, update and educate anyone with an interest in the life of MCCA. The latest edition can be found at http://www.mccalive.org/our_church.php?mid=5

Readers keen to be kept in the loop regarding future editions of the newsletter should email Paul Douglas-Walfall, Connexional Publishing Officer, at mccapublisher@caribsurf.com with the words "Add to list" in the subject line

For more information on this, please contact Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean, at wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk.

AFRICA

United Church of Zambia

On 9 March the Zambia Government declared flooded parts of the rural areas of Zambia as disaster zones following destruction caused by ongoing torrential rains. The report from United Church of Zambia General Secretary dated 13 March 2010 cited the loss of lives of children who drowned as a result of high water levels and collapsed houses.

Rev Chrispin Mbalazi requested support from Methodist Church in Britain in order to work alongside the Government in providing basic needs such as food, shelter, blankets, water and sanitary needs for victims residing in camps. School and church buildings were also closed or badly affected by the disaster. Many roads became impassable, impeding the movement of people and supplies.

The World Mission Fund has granted £5,000 to the UCZ to help the flood victims.

For more information on this, please contact Olubunmi Olayisade, Partnership Coordinator for Africa, at wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk

EUROPE

Conference of European Churches and Churches' Commission for Migrants

The Year of European Churches Responding to Migration 2010 is well under way. The Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe have launched <http://migration2010.eu/> with the aim of boosting the visibility of churches' work with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people.

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and is against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies in 18 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

"Migration has become a reality in almost all European countries, be they more immigration, emigration or transit migration countries," CCME General Secretary Doris Peschke stated. "It is important to recognise this reality and overcome fears in our societies. Migration is a blessing and not a curse," she added.

For more information on the work of CCME please contact Partnership Coordinator for Europe at wcr.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk.

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.

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 July; in London from 1 September	Rosemary very limited availability in July James available 1 September-30 November
Claudia Freund	Kenya	London, Nottingham, Wales	28 May-13 June
Jane Gray	Kenya	Denbighshire, Wales; Bishop's Castle, Shropshire	Limited availability 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	Now Has a fairly full programme; mid-April to early 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 and October
Eddie Sykes	Bahamas	Shropshire Liverpool, Chester and Stoke, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	Programme almost full; limited availability midweek only
Hans and Mary Van den Corput	Nigeria	The Netherlands	End-July-August
Keith and Ida Waddell	Zambia	Scotland and Northern England, London around 13 July	July
Paul and Sarah Wright	Nepal	North Rigton, Yorkshire	Mid-July-September

Prayer Points

- ⊗ Pray for all the Methodist Church in Britain's ecumenical partners in China. Pray that God will continue to unite the Church in witness to the China and the world. Also pray for Amity and that the wonderful work of reproducing the Word of God in many languages will continue.
- ⊗ Pray for the people in the Qinghai province in China that were affected by the earthquake. Pray that the Lord sends his comforting Holy Spirit to be with them during this difficult time and pray that the Amity Foundation will continue to respond effectively to the needs of all earthquake victims.
- ⊗ Please pray for the upcoming celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. Pray that the celebrations will be an opportunity for Methodists in the Caribbean to reflect on the goodness of God and the great hope they have in God for the future of their region.
- ⊗ Please thank God for the way in which he has met the immediate needs of the Methodist Church in Haiti through donations to the World Mission Fund. Pray that God will continue to use those funds to develop the work of healing and reconstruction that is taking place in the Haitian people and in their infrastructure.
- ⊗ Please pray for the people in the rural areas of Zambia that were affected by the flooding in March. Pray that the United Church of Zambia and the government will work together effectively to meet the needs of flood victims.
- ⊗ Please pray for the work of CCME in 2010 as it seeks to support migrants in Europe and highlight the benefits of nations hosting this wonderful diversity.
- ⊗ Please pray for all Mission Partners on leave in 2010. Pray that it will be a time of refreshment and renewal in the Lord for them.