

The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN

29 OCTOBER 2009



Psalm 34: 4-6 *"I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble."* (NRSV)

ASIA-PACIFIC

Mission partner news: Nepal

Allan and Andrea Smith, Mission Partners in Nepal, use their last newsletter to share about one of the ways God has used them during their time there: *"During the last week in Butwal almost all the outstanding work for the new church buildings was finished, leaving just garden landscaping and path making to finish. The picture of the church porch includes some of our building team."*



To read the entire newsletter, please go to:

<http://methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1453> .

£10,000 Flood solidarity grant sent to the Church in South India

Since 2 October 2009 the retreating south-west monsoons have brought continuous heavy rainfall in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in southern India. This has taken a heavy toll on human life and also caused considerable damage to property. Vast areas are totally submerged, cutting road and rail links, damaging houses and property and destroying crops. Bishop Lawrence Bartholomew from the Diocese of Nandyal, Church of South India writes, *"Our great church in Kurnool town has been surrounded by flood waters more than ten feet. Our clergy and the congregation members living in the surrounding area of the church are taking shelter in the balcony of the Church. And the news is that the situation may worsen further. People are running to higher grounds and are crying for help. There is a sense of helplessness and uncertainty of life with the sense of drowning... the situation is grave with raising level of water of rivers, canals and tanks. This is the first of its kind, we are appealing for your prayers"*.

The Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) has granted the Diocese of Nandyal, Church of South India, £10,000 from the World Mission Fund to help its response to the floods.

For more information on the situation In South India please contact the Asia-Pacific desk:

WCR.AsiaPacific@methodistchurch.org.uk

AMERICAS-CARIBBEAN

Guatemala: The Methodist Church in Britain's Companion to Guatemala

The Reverend Conrad Hicks recently completed his first visit to the Methodist Church of Guatemala in his capacity as Companion from 12th -22 October. Commenting on his visit he says: *"Here was a Church which, with few resources, that had, under God, achieved much, and was achieving much. Despite the regretful split in the church, the carnage of the civil war, the poverty of the people, the ministry that was without a stipend, the Iglesia Evangelica Nacional Metodista Primitiva de Guatemala – IENMPG) has grown eight-fold and established many vital projects that address the great social needs in the country. The great financial and human input that comes from the USA in the form of workers for "Salud y Paz" or work teams constructing church buildings, is an obvious blessing, but outside help must not drown out the still small voice of God heard in His work among the largely Mayan National Methodist Church."*

EL Salvador: Reverend Thomas Quenet's recent visit

Revd Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean, has written about a touching experience he had during his recent visit to our partner church in El Salvador. Tom met Karina, a 14 year old girl who has found God and a hope for her future through the ministry of the Methodist Church in El Salvador. Read about how her encounter with the Church there changed her perception of her future and how this encounter helped her realise that indeed God has plans to give her a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). The World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain is supporting the Methodist Church in El Salvador this year with a grant of £5,000 to minister to many more people like Karina.

For more information on the Companion's visit to Guatemala or on the Reverend Thomas Quenet's visit to El Salvador, please contact WCR.AmericasCaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk

ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

The Church World Service

The Church World Service is a Partner Organisation of the Methodist Church in Britain, whom we support through the World Mission Fund. It is an Ecumenical organisation working towards implementing development and humanitarian activities across the globe by eradicating hunger and poverty and promoting peace and justice around the world. An article from The Church World Service in Pakistan/Afghanistan tells the story of how The Church World Service is helping very poor Pakistani women in practical ways such as providing basic food packages of cooking oil, tea and other items, so that they can feed their families. Many families have been displaced because of the recent events in Pakistan, but the assistance and support that organisations such as The Church World Service provide, is a step in helping them overcome their daily struggles.

For more information about how we support the work of The Church World Service, please contact the World Church Relationships Office.

EUROPE

The Spanish Evangelical Church

During the Evangelical Spanish Church's Annual Synod which took place between 9 and 12 October, Pastor Joel Cortés was re-elected to continue his Presidency of the Church.

If you would like to learn more about our Partners in Spain, please look on their website:

<http://www.iee-es.org> or to find out how the World Mission Fund is supporting the ministry of this church, please contact the World Church Relationships office on wcr.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk

Prayer points

- Please pray for Allan and Andrea Smith as they return to a very different life in the UK. Pray that the Lord will be a lamp unto their feet and guide them during this new season of their lives.
- Please pray for all those affected by the serious floods in South India. Pray that the Lord God will help the Church there be a ray of hope and support for all those who have lost families, homes and livelihoods.
- Please pray for God to send his Holy Spirit to guide and consolidate the relationship between the MCB and the Church in Guatemala. Please pray that God blesses the Reverend Conrad Hicks so that he can continue representing the MCB in, faith, hope and love to our partners in Guatemala.
- Please pray for our Partner Church in El Salvador. Pray for God to give wisdom and insight to its Executive Committee by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that by sharing the Gospel with their community, the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ will bring hope for the future to many other Salvadorians.
- Please pray that the excellent work of The Church World Service will continue, and that God will help them bring hope to many more poor and vulnerable in the countries it operates in.
- Please pray for Pastor Joel Cortés as he continues to serve and lead the Evangelical Spanish Church. Pray that the Lord will bless his ministry and that the Church will continue reaching out to its community there.