



# World Church Relationships News Bulletin

June 2011

Mark 12:28-31

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these." (NRSV)

## MISSION PARTNER SPECIAL

### What do Mission Partners do?

Mission Partners are appointed to work with Partner Churches around the world to fulfil a specific need that our partners have identified within their Churches. It takes about £20,000 a year from the Methodist Church World Mission Fund (WMF) to fund a Mission Partner, which is why every donation to the WMF is valuable and matters to partner churches all over the world. By way of thanks to all those who have supported the work of mission partners with their prayers and giving, please read on to find out more about the different types of work that our Mission Partners are currently doing all over the world.

### Could God be calling you to become a Mission Partner?

Please click [here](#) for more information on how you could become one.

## Asia/Pacific

### Bangladesh

In her latest newsletter, mission partner Pat Jamison reflects on her first year in Bangladesh:



*I arrived on 22 April enthusiastic, anxious and yet excited about what was ahead. I am still enthusiastic, less anxious and remain very excited about what God will do through me here in Bangladesh. I thank God every day for allowing me the privilege of serving Him in this beautiful country with such amazing people.*

**Pat with a local women's group**

*There have been a few times when I have felt a bit frustrated with staff and the systems within this country. Then someone comes to the clinic and it just makes me realise what I am doing is worthwhile.*

*A mother brought her two year old son who was very obviously physically and mentally disabled. I felt here wasn't a great deal I could do for this little boy (how wrong I was). I took time with her and the boy. I cuddled him, made him smile, he almost made me cry and I gave advice. They have very little money and could never afford a paediatric referral. I have asked them to keep bringing him to see me. They were so pleased and I realised this is what it's all about helping people in just a small way.*

*I don't plan on changing Bangladesh, the church or even CBSDP. God has given me a job to do. He never said it would be easy He did however say He would always be with me. God could perform a miracle in his life and if I can be part of it that would be brilliant.*

## Nepal

Here's an update from Paul and Sarah Wright in Nepal.

*We've been having an unusually wet spring...*

*The three Sunday School groups are going well. We prayed for a shelter on the roof but we have not been able to erect anything permanent as the landlord is not willing.*

*Meanwhile, we have a tarpaulin that gives some shelter from the sun. It's still a challenging environment in which to teach as one week it was very windy and the billowing plastic was nearly unbearable, last week we had unusually heavy rain and the roof was very wet. We nearly cancelled the class but at the last minute the skies cleared and we took plastic chairs to the roof instead of sitting on the floor in our usual way.*

*We have concerns about how we will manage during monsoon but we are trying to make the best of the situation. Please pray for a better solution for our group that meets on the roof. The youngest group (who meet in the only room) were very restless initially as many are new to being in a structured learning situation but they are now responding well to our puppet duck 'Nukkley', sitting well during stories and joining in keenly. Praise God for the way our youngest group are enjoying their class.*

*We have a regular group of seven teachers who take turns in leading. The more experienced ones are helping to support the newer ones and we are pleased with the speed at which some of them are growing in confidence. We are still needing to work on encouraging them to do more preparation before church. Pray that we will find appropriate ways to encourage the teachers to do a better job.*

For more information please contact Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, at  
[wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## Latin America/Caribbean

### Belize

Here's an update from Maggie Patchett in Belize:

*Greetings from Belize. First of all apologies for the long gap since my last newsletter. This does not mean I've*

*been sitting around doing nothing – in fact just the opposite; there has been so much going on I have had difficulty finding time to sit down and write to you all. Here are some of the things which have taken place so far in 2011:*

*The Annual District Conference this year took place in January in Dangriga, in the southern part of Belize and included the children and youth ‘Festival of Praise’ on the Saturday, and the youth service and ‘Young People’s Demonstration’ – a parade through the streets of Dangriga, on the Sunday. Our theme this year follows on from last year’s: ‘Forever Young for Christ: Building up the Temple’.*



*In March, the ground-breaking for the new Methodist High School to be built in Belmopan took place, coinciding with the first of many planned Wesley College 1st form Retreat 16th May 2011 visits from teams from United Methodist Churches in the USA. The foundations are coming along in leaps and bounds now and we have more teams coming to assist in the project throughout the year –with some already making plans for next year too. That’s good, as we plan to open the school over the next 4 years, starting from Sept 2012, with a new year group being added each year. Zion Park School, one of our rural primary schools, is also getting two new classrooms – relying mainly on local fundraising and help from the parents and the local community at the minute, but with other assistance promised soon.*

*Before Easter I went to the south of the country, along with newly commissioned lay worker, Salome, to train, encourage and support those working with the children and youth in the Toledo Circuit, and since Easter I have been to the two circuits in Honduras doing the same thing. It is very encouraging to see the commitment and desire to improve the work shown by many of the children and youth workers; on Utila, one of the Bay Islands, the teachers from the Methodist Community College also attended, and in total we had over 80 people attending youth leadership training sessions in the past three months. The trip also gave me the opportunity to visit nearly all the churches in the Roatan circuit – and they have some beautiful settings!*

*In Belize City, the violence and shootings continue – mainly between rival gangs, but also spilling out into the general public at times too. For a country with such a small population the number of deaths has a devastating effect on the mood of the people, but there continues to be protests at what is happening, as well as action groups trying to do something about it.*

## Grenada

From a recent newsletter from Andy Dye in Grenada:

*How would you feel if a couple of people turned up at your door and asked, “We are from the Methodist church up the road, do you have time/would you like us to pray with you?”*

*To be honest if it were me I would probably mutter something about being too busy and shut the door quick. However this month in Grenada groups from the Methodist church have been doing just this. The aim has not been to proselytise anyone but it has been to (re)connect with the community and offer prayerful help.*

*The response to our visits has been incredibly encouraging. Almost everyone has invited us in to their house, shared concerns and allowed us to pray along with them. I had a very moving experience in being able to pray with a group of teenage boys just off the basketball court in one home, and then pray with the family and person*

*who was very ill with cancer in the next. There was an openness to prayer and a sense of spirituality that was wonderful. The lady who was ill with cancer had her friends around her and she was openly expressing her deep trust in God, while being honest in her pain.*

## Africa

### Nigeria

Hans and Mary Van den Corput are mission partners in Nigeria. Hans is a doctor, and his work covers three hospitals: the Royal Cross Methodist Hospital in Ugwueke, the Beautiful Gate Hospital in Ozuitem and the Motherless Babies Home in Colony Uzuakoli. They sent this report on how well those hospitals are currently doing.

*At the Royal Cross Methodist Hospital Ugwueke several doctors have been employed. Three have been posted part-time by the government; three are fully employed. However they are all young doctors at the beginning of their career, so they need coaching in the theatre and when they are called out to see patients. Because of the long theatre days and the emergency calls during the weekend, Hans still has long working days.*

*Ugwueke can only be reached by an untarred road which is about 12 km off the main road. As the rainy season started in April, the roads are in bad condition again. The new Toyota Hilux, a donation by WCR last year, is very helpful. However, the condition of the road is hindering the travel of patients and other hospital staff.*

**For more information please contact Bunmi Olayisade, Partnership Coordinator for Africa, at [wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk)**

*There is one big generator for the supply of electricity. Because it is now very old, there are blackouts almost every month. We are eagerly waiting for the completion of the renovation work on the electricity lines to Ugwueke which has suddenly stopped. Water supply remains a problem for both the hospital and the surrounding villages. The hospital has built a water treatment plant. However, a reliable supply of electricity from the generator is needed in order for the pumps to function well, and the water pipes have to be in good order.*

*Waterborne diseases are very common. There is a constant stream of typhoid patients coming from a neighbouring village (Akazeze). Last week there was a serious outbreak of cholera in another village (Ezeukwu); about 15 patients died - three in the hospital. One patient received as much as 40 litres of IV fluid and also a lot of oral rehydration solution.*

*There is a strong desire to build a chapel at the hospital for staff and patients but a lack of funds to do this (about 20,000 GBP would be needed). Every Sunday there is a service in the reception hall of the hospital.*

*The Beautiful Gate Hospital Ozuitem has still not grown beyond the level of a health centre. On Mondays and Saturdays there is a busy out-patients clinic. Some patients with conditions such as diabetes and tuberculosis are admitted but most patients needing treatment in hospital are taken to Ugwueke. The building of a ward/theatre has reached the stage where only flooring and plastering remain to be completed, but a ban by the local government has delayed the work and has to be lifted before it can continue. A visiting team has declared the building to be illegal.*

*At the Motherless Babies' Home, the primary issue is how to make ends meet. It is extremely difficult to replace staff who resign because of the low salaries. Repairs have to be delayed until money is available. But the work is satisfying; the babies are well taken care of and look well. Many visitors come to the babies' home both from inside and outside Nigeria. Especially at Christian festivals people come and bring food and items for the home.*

*We hope there will not be any obstacles to our furlough and we thank God for another successful year in Nigeria.*

## Zambia

Here's an extract from a recent blog post from Keith and Ida Waddell in Zambia:

*Yesterday afternoon we set out for Sesheke. That's the District HQ which is about 70km upstream on the border with Namibia. As usual we were killing two birds with one stone – but more about stones later ...*

*Our first concern was the father of a little baby girl, Liseli, whose mother had died in childbirth. He had phoned us to let us know she needed more milk formula. We agreed to meet him at the Social Welfare office for the hand-over. Liseli is now no longer sickly, but a healthy, active little two-month-old baby. After giving the milk, Liseli's father asked if we could drop his son at Simungoma as he was being sent to the wife's family farm to bring back food that they needed. God's provision in all this was evident as we had been sent a gift for him which had arrived this week.*

*After some organizational teething troubles on the ground, work on the UCZ Sikuzu Community School has finally commenced. The Steering Committee is now in place and assuming its role to ensure effective and efficient use of resources, human and material in the construction process. Our suppliers had difficulties with a bearing on their truck and were reluctant to deliver to such a 'remote place'! After much negotiation and assurances that they would not get stuck in sand, they came to Mwandi earlier in the month to pick up the 200 pockets of cement they were to deliver to Sikuzu earlier but could not because of the truck difficulties. There were steel bars and conforce to move as well that we were storing for them.*



*The first tranche of funding came through the IPC in March and all the cement and materials were bought then and have now been delivered to Sikuzu. There will need to be another three deliveries to bring all the cement that has been ordered. The 704 pockets are enough for the slab and superstructure to ringbeam level. The other 286 bags will be ordered later for the floor screed and plastering.*

*As can be seen from the picture, brick-moulding is progressing apace and work has now begun on foundation footing. 60 tonnes of stones are required for the concrete for the foundations, the slab and ringbeam and our nearest quarry is on the far side of Sesheke. Hence our trip yesterday. The stones by themselves cost K8,142,000 (\$1,800 or GBP1,200) but the six trips to deliver them will cost much the same K8,051,400!*

*This morning we have just had a rather distressing visit from a teaching colleague. His nephew, one of our Grade 8 boys, went fishing on the river the day before yesterday in the afternoon to check the nets set earlier. The mukolo (dug-out canoe) he was in was smashed by a hippo and he fell into the water. All that has been recovered is his jacket. The uncle was asking if the Mission boat could be used to look for the body...*

## Sierra Leone

Mission partners Michael and Joanna Tettey (and their daughters Janelle and Joelle) recently returned to serving in Sierra Leone after a short break. They write:

*Our first few weeks in Freetown were challenging especially with regard to accommodation for the family and work. Thankfully these issues have now been resolved as we moved to a two bedroom flat just before Christmas. In addition Michael was allocated an office at Conference Office in January – which was great!*

*Joelle started her new school soon after we arrived in Freetown and has settled in quite well. She has made lots of friends from her swimming and ballet classes. Janelle has also taken quite well to the weather in SL and even though we took her before she could completed all her immunizations she has been healthy. Thanks be to God!*

*Michael's role has changed significantly and is still evolving but his responsibilities include overseeing Nixon Hospital in Segbwema and putting together a business plan with the hope of turning the hospital around. The hospital has now been renovated with funds from the government of Sierra Leone and the focus has now turned towards securing partners to secure its long-term future. We are presently in discussions with a number of international NGOs including the Voluntary Service Organisation (VSO) and Save the Children of Sierra Leone in this regard. Please pray these discussions would prove successful and that the church would be able to identify partners to work which would secure the future of Nixon Hospital.*

*Joanna prepares for the teaching assignment in Segbwema in the summer. It is planned the whole family be relocated for nine weeks in the end of June to August when she is scheduled to teach 106 students the obstetrics module of the SECHN course. In addition, she has made arrangements with the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL) which is sponsored by the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone to help with their Mother and Child Health programmes by supporting the midwife in charge there. Joanna is also in discussion with the Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC) - formerly owned by Mercy Ships in Freetown. The plan would be for students at Nixon Memorial Nursing School to undertake practical training at AWC as their facilities and training programmes are believed to be at international standards.*

## Why not invite a Mission Partner to speak at your church?

Click [here](#) for a list of Mission Partners who are expected home on leave in 2011.

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

Mission partners often have PowerPoint presentations, music and stories to share that lend themselves to a wide range of events such as coffee mornings, international evenings or after Sunday lunch meetings as well as informal small groups and midweek meetings. Lay mission partners are happy to be interviewed during a service if they cannot preach.

## Europe

### National in Mission Appointment in Estonia

With the aid of two Nationals in Mission Appointments (NMA) posts funded by the Methodist Church in Britain's World Mission Fund the, the Church in Estonia is continuing with a huge long-term programme of discipleship and evangelism it started last year.

The NMAs are Thea Kant (the Estonia church's coordinator of evangelism, discipleship and spiritual formation) and Maire Ivanova (who works in the area of spiritual formation). Both have been in post since January 2010.

*"2010 has been a good year without many major challenges,"* said the Revd Taavi Hollman, District Superintendent of the Estonian Methodist Church. *"We have been blessed with good partners, volunteers and some long-time dreams are becoming true."*

For more information please contact Roy Crowder, Partnership Coordinator for Europe, at [wcr.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk)



#### Nationals in Mission Appointments (NMAs):

These appointments encourage and support local people in key mission projects in their own countries. Salaries are paid by the Fund for World Mission and enable new work to be developed.

Volunteers at a summer conference

Last year, the Estonian Church sent two evangelism teams on missions in the north and south of the country, working in partnership with the Brazilian Methodist Church. They also set up a prayer and visioning team (Taavi Hollman, Maire Ivanova and Thea Kant) to look into ways to revitalise the church. Plans for 2011 include evangelism training in churches, plus several youth missions – including one to Latvia.

*"We are most thankful for the work and support of the British Methodist Church, which enables us to remain in full-time ministry and work in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, spiritual formation and church renewal,"* Taavi Hollman said.

## Monthly Prayer Focus

- ⊗ Pray for the clinic where Pat Jamison works in Bangladesh, and for the people who come to it for help.
- ⊗ Please pray for the Wrights, who will be running a club for ex-pat children in Kathmandu this summer. “Using the story of Elisha, we hope to help them learn more about God through games, crafts, drama and activities,” they say. “We have been blessed with a keen group of volunteers. Please pray for us as we plan together. None of us have ever led a week long Bible Club before! Pray too for the children who will come.”
- ⊗ Please pray for those working with the youths of Belize City and others to try and reduce the levels of violence there. Also for the many people in Belize who have attended leadership training over the past few months, that the church and the work may be strengthened and grow.
- ⊗ Pray for the family of the lady Andy Dye visited in Grenada, who has since sadly died as a result of the cancer she was suffering from.
- ⊗ Please join the Van den Corputts in thanking God for another successful year in Nigeria, and pray that the Royal cross Hospital is able to get the chapel built.
- ⊗ Pray for the building work that has just started on the UCZ Sikuzu Community School in Zambia, and for our mission partners Keith and Ida Waddell.
- ⊗ Thank God for the work of all the Tetteys’ partners – both in Sierra Leone and abroad – with whom they work with us on diverse projects to bring the gospel to life in the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised communities.
- ⊗ Pray for the ongoing work of the Methodist Church in Estonia.