

## Partnership visit to Methodist Church Kenya (MCK) from 26<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017

- Aims – To meet with new Gen Adviser of PROCMURA - Kenya  
To meet with World Student Christian Fellowship (WSCF) regional Secretary in Nairobi  
To meet with the Vice Chancellor of Kenya Methodist University  
To discuss various partnership with MC Kenya leaders  
To meet with MCB mission partners serving in Kenya and – Peter Ensor and Claire Smithson



Joy Wandabwa and Dr Joseph Mutei at PROCMURA

I met with the new General Adviser of Programme for Christian – Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), Dr Joseph Mutei, in its fairly new Nairobi Office. Having recently taken up this position earlier in March 2017, he said he was familiarising himself with handover notes and seeking to know its stakeholders. Dr Mutei was also being acquainted with PROCMURA internal structures in addition to exploring various fundraising ideas for new initiatives. For example, he wishes to develop short courses for interested non-governmental organisations operating in interfaith hotspots. During my visit I also met with Joy Wandabwa, the team leader of PROCMURA and she expressed gratitude for support from MC Britain for past years. I then seized the opportunity to meet with Florence Iminza in the office. As the Literature and Communications Officer, she was sponsored under the

National in Mission Appointment programme administered by my office. It was great to hear of her contributions to the Women wing of the PROCMURA movement and the significant progress made in Africa since she started the post in 2012. She was grateful for the NMA funded by the World Mission Fund.

Later in the day I met with Maxwell Omondi based at Nairobi. He was the interim Africa Secretary for the World Student Christian Fellowship (WSCF). The former Secretary –Rev Amos had to resign for family reasons and Maxwell stepped in sometime in January 2017. Maxwell asked for help with a programme support from MCB as a longstanding partner. He said he was approaching other partners to support other programmes such as Climate Change, Leadership and Governance, Peace building and Conflict Transformation, Movements Building and Movement Visitation, Communication and Networking. He submitted WSCF report on 2016 activities and its strategic plans for 2017. Considering his difficult situation, Max asked if MCB could support an internship programme for young African graduates to work at its secretariat on an annual basis. That would reduce his administrative duties as well offer skills to young African



WSCF Africa Secretary in Nairobi

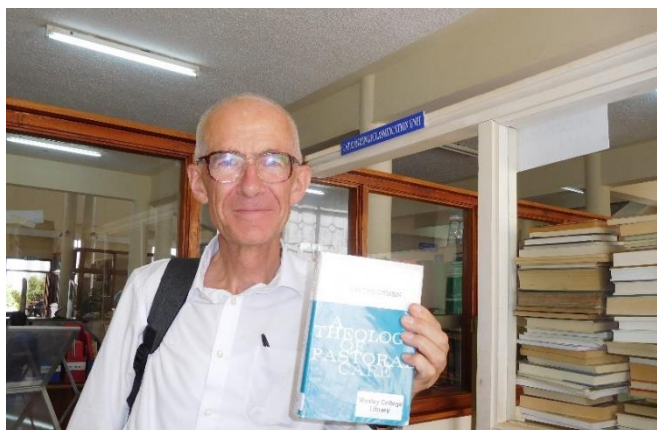
graduates. It would also offer relational opportunities with youths from other global regions. This proposal should nicely fit into a National in Mission programme. Currently he was concerned about how youths remain targets of selfish politicians during political campaigns for elections. African youths are also targets of terrorist groups to perpetuate violence and murders. The unemployment situation in Africa have driven many youths into illegal migration and human trafficking resulting in high death rates across the desert and dangerous seas. Maxwell was very passionate in seeking support to address these pertinent issues and I advised him to submit formal requests.



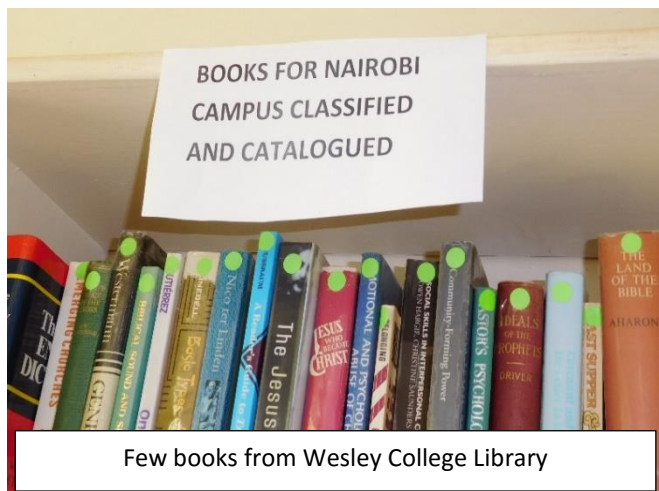
Prof Kiriamiti – Vice Chancellor of KeMU

## Visit to Kenya Methodist University (KeMU), Meru - Kenya

It was an early start when I left for a meeting with Prof Kiriamiti - the Vice-chancellor of KeMU whilst in Nairobi. I updated him on various partnership issues and he thanked me for the funding received for students studying at KeMU and the recent 38,000 books sent from Wesley College Bristol which was an incredible boost to library resources for KeMU students and staff. He also mentioned of contributions from Peter Ensor and Janet and Malcolm McCall as lecturers on long term and short term basis. Janet helped in teaching English language to two MC Tanzania students in 2016 before they proceeded to studying Theology and Methodist Church history. It was a very productive exercise for which he was immensely grateful. After the meeting at KeMU Nairobi campus, I travelled for five hours to KeMU campus at Meru to see Peter Ensor. We had a vehicle breakdown on the way.



Peter Ensor, MCB mission partner lecturing at KeMU

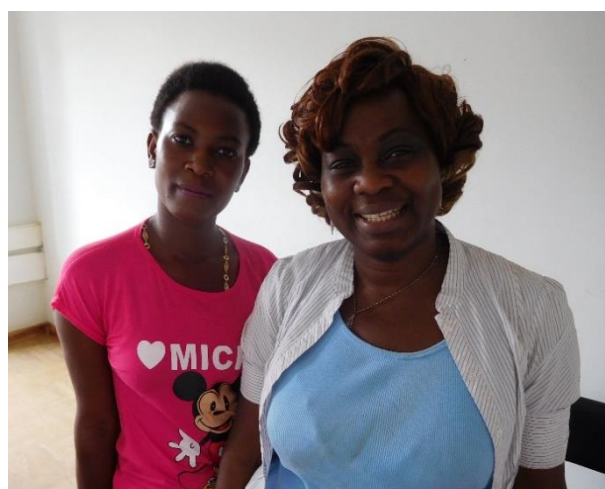


Few books from Wesley College Library

At Meru, I met with Peter Ensor who has settled in well after his furlough. His administrative responsibilities had slowly increased but he wishes to limit his tasks to lecturing theology and preaching at surrounding churches. His plans to relinquish his post as chair of the department very soon to another lecturer following recent leadership changes. I also met with five SALT students from MC Uganda and three students from MC Tanzania. Our conversations allayed fears about insufficient funding for subsequent years and I stressed the point that all would be expected go back to their Synods for at least for five years after their graduation. I seized the opportunity to visit KeMU library and saw the extra newly recruited five staff cataloguing the books for KeMU Meru and Nairobi libraries. There were loads of books everywhere in a secure part of the library. Afterwards I met a class of students in a ministerial formation class learning how to conduct a wedding – it was quite interesting. Lastly I met with the Chief Accountant and explained impending changes to MCB grant applications for which he was thankful. We then took off and travelled onwards to Maua Methodist hospital where I met Claire Smithson at the hospital.



Five SALT students from MC Uganda studying at KeMU



Ann is a SALT student from MC Tanzania at KeMU

### Meeting with Maua Methodist Hospital (MMH) senior management

I joined the departmental prayers at 7.30am. Prayers were said for the day, for the staff and patients and any eventualities by committing the day unto the Lord. They were comments that Claire was doing an amazing job especially with very few doctors on site since the start of the doctors' over three weeks prior. Claire is more involved as a consultant in palliative care and she delivers weekly lectures for HIV/AIDs trainers from all over the country. She also handles the tough referrals from various clinics and follows up difficult or complex cases. Claire is very committed to her work and all her colleagues value her contributions. Claire also works closely with mission teams from America and links them with the rest of the workforce.



Early morning prayers at Maua Hospital



Experienced skilled workers volunteering at Maua Hospital

After prayers, I met with a team of American Methodists (five engineers plus an administrator) developing a master plan for the future of Maua Methodist Hospital as requested by the new CEO. Staff and service users were consulted to help translate the current state to future vision. The team members were working tirelessly to develop building plans, schedule activities for renovation programmes and cost projects within two weeks. They hope the phasing of the projects would support fund raising, help prioritise duties as well emphasise specialist services at Maua hospital e.g. there has been a drop in normal births but an increase in C-sections due to good surgical services. This was because surrounding clinics and hospitals were now handling normal births and referring difficult cases to Maua Methodist Hospital. These information helped identify services the hospital could focus on to become more contemporary. After meeting the Americans I met with Dr Salvador who was very interesting and engaging. Mission is now different he said and that long term mission families have dropped in numbers. MMH has to see how it complements government plans and it should promote collaborative work. Currently Maua Methodist Hospital



Maua Methodist Hospital senior managers



Community Health senior colleagues at Maua

provide a range of services to the poor at the cost of over US\$ 90,000 per annum which has to be recouped from other services. The government scheme of free health care for under-fives and lactating mothers helps through the National Health Insurance that refunds through procurement of equipment and drugs. The key challenge for mission

hospitals is *sustainability through partnerships*. Mission hospitals need to better communicate their services and situation for better support from well-wishers. This might help manage expectations as well as consider how to become sustainable. Many mission hospitals located in rural areas have challenges of location, lack of modern equipment and lack of computerised records and amenities for young families. This situation hinders attracting and retaining good medical professionals from cities.

Ultimately it is essential to take care of medical service delivery, to tolerate other providers and, identify pressures from local partners. Dr Salvador also said the medical profession needs a seat of negotiation with the government. This is of particular significance for mission hospitals receiving doctors on secondment. Mission hospitals need high performing medical professionals able to reflect the values of the mission hospitals so as not to undermine the effort of hard working mission partners receiving only stipends. In the past, mission hospitals received 6% government support; now it only gets seconded medical personnel to work in the hospital but no funds or resources. During my visit, doctors' were on strike for over three weeks; demanding higher pay, better training and hospital equipment for health delivery. This has been the longest strike ever witnessed and all Kenya doctors and interns had worked out of Maua Hospital.

MMH was now at a stage where it need to fundraise for capital expenditure using capital funding. Its operational finances funds 400 staff salaries, equipment and maintenance. To survive the next phase, it needs to upgrade itself to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, continue to serve the poor, attract middle class patients through specialist services and use the national health insurance scheme to subsidise payments. The high powered team of engineers plan to help by costing various projects for fundraising activities.



MC Kenya ministers retreat in Mombasa

It would be a great opportunity to share this information with MCB districts or churches interested in linking up with Maua Methodist Hospital (MMH). With the launching of short term *Encounter programmes* at WCR office; specialist medical professionals would be welcome to serve at MMH. Also short term mission teams with professional skills such as accounting, pharmacy, ICT etc. would be of great help. Volunteers are licensed to practice and relationship building is cherished much more that monetary gifts. I suggested to Dr Salvador that the NMA grant might be the appropriate way of employing a Kenyan to organise local and global mission teams visiting MMH. Appointing new graduates with no work experience as interns every year would be a win-win situation for all. Dr El Salvador is a committed Christian with over 20 years of working in mission hospitals in Haiti, Congo and Kenya. He is a trained surgeon with experience of hospital administration. As a retiree, he seeks ways to fundraise for his salary so he could serve the poor. He is Mexican by race, American by nationality and a man of great faith!



Presiding Bishop -Rev Ntombura offers awards to ministers

autonomy this year ... 2017 a milestone for re-evaluation.

### MCK minister's retreat at Mombasa

After my visit to Maua hospital, I travelled more than five hours back to Nairobi and flew to Mombasa the next day for MCK ministers' retreat. It was a well-planned and well attended event with about 300 ministers from MC Kenya, MC Uganda and MC Tanzania. The theme of the retreat was *break camp... advance... you have stayed long enough on this mountain Deuteronomy 1:6*, dated 27<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. There were various sessions but the central theme was on Church growth. Prayers started as early as 6.00am and sessions ended around 10.00pm. Mombasa was chosen as venue because Methodism started at Ribe Methodist Church, Mombasa and later spread inland. Also MC Kenya became autonomous in 1967, therefore it celebrates 50 years of

I was invited to share on the significance of *Communication and Church administration* in Church growth during the retreat. It was an enriching experience. I later seized the opportunity to meet with senior female ministers who were leaders of the Women Fellowship to discuss their future plans. A regional workshop of women leaders from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania was in the pipeline and much needed.

I then met with the MC Synod Bishop – Bishop Muruiki with six Ugandan Methodist ministers as well as four Tanzania Methodist ministers at the retreat. At various times I met ten of the MC Kenya bishops in attendance including Catherine and Alice – the two female bishops. It was good to witness the significant church growth and appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit at meetings. There was a great sense of unity and ministers encouraged to share the good news and make Disciples of Christ while meeting other practical needs.

The following day I had a meeting with the Presiding Bishop Ntombura Mwaine during which he once again registered his appreciation for the 38,000 books donated by MC Britain from the former Wesley College Library, Bristol. He was grateful for the contributions from the two MC British mission partners, Claire and Peter. He confirmed that he would gladly approved further extension of their services in Kenya. I shared with him my meeting with sponsored students studying at Kenya Methodist University. I also informed him of the ongoing changes in grant applications and the recent drought relief grants approved to help victims of the devastating drought across East Africa.

The retreat was very successful with lots of positive comments from the ministers. I could sense a deep thirst and hunger for renewal and the move of the Holy Spirit. Session after session, the speakers spoke passionately investing in God's words and prayers. The Methodist Church Kenya is still growing with remarkable church planting taking place among the Masais plus other rural areas. Glory to God.



Bunmi presented at MCK retreat

*Articulate the vision, express the plan and then pray for resources.  
He is Jehovah Jireh – our provider, nothing is too difficult for Him!*