

Partnership visits to Methodist Church Ghana, Eglise Protestante Methodiste Benin and Methodist Church Nigeria

25th October - 6th November 2016

Aims:

- Attend a partnership meeting with Methodist Church Ghana leaders
- To meet with Pat Jamison – MCB/ Ireland mission partner serving in Ghana
- To meet with Michael and Joanna Tettey – MCB mission partners serving in Benin
- To meet with the National In Mission Appointee and EPM Head of Church in Benin – Rev Dr Alagbada.
- Meeting with the newly appointed MC Nigeria's Secretary of Conference and a visit to Methodist Theological institute, Sagamu

Partnership meeting at MC Ghana Connexional Office in Accra.

The atmosphere was open and it was great to have these MCG leaders present. Presiding Bishop Titus Pratt welcomed us and started with an opening prayer.



Director of Health, Administrative Bishop and Presiding Bishop of MC Ghana

- MCB grant strategy – I explained to MC Ghana leaders that MCB was reviewing its grant strategy and smaller African Methodist Conferences would be prioritised over better established Methodist Conferences. MC Ghana was grateful for the information and commented on prior notice to help with financial planning, prioritising mission initiatives and better manage its financial resources.
- Strategic and Leadership Training – We discussed changes to application process for group and individual training unlike previous years. I encouraged MC Ghana to use both group and individual training to support and achieve its mission priorities in different ways.
- Leadership exposure - MCG requested for exchange and exposure of its lecturers at the Ghana Theological Institutes to other African theological institutes. Bishop Pratt also enquired about arranging sabbaticals with global partners too and I suggested he confers with the African Methodist Council (AMC) as a better forum for this issue.



Bunmi, Joseph and Pat at MC Ghana Connexional Office

Other nearby Methodist Conferences

- MC Sierra Leone – Bishop Pratt asked for an update on Bishop Beah's health because he was unable to attend the World Methodist Council at Houston, Texas. He said MC Ghana was willingly to check for medical facilities to help his situation in Accra because the medical provision in Sierra Leone is not as advanced. However he asked if MC Britain could contribute too particularly because his current condition was exacerbated by overwork during the Ebola pandemic? I will advise MCSL to liaise with MC

- MC Cameroon – Bishop Pratt raised the issue of a newly formed MC Cameroon. I will have further discussions with AMC about the church, its location and congregations. How does it plan to sustain itself? MCG plans to visit the new church in Cameroon and dialogue with MC Nigeria too.
- MC Nigeria – There is a brewing problem with street kids in Northern Nigeria. Ghana also has its challenges with street kids in Accra however MC Ghana is rising to the challenge. I shall link up

Archbishop Idoko of MC Nigeria based at Kaduna State with Bishop Pratt. MC Ghana welcome a visit to Accra to understudy its successful street kid programme and share experiences with MC Nigeria.

MCB Mission Personnel serving at Ankasee

Present at the meeting: Bishop Titus Pratt; Admin Bishop - Dr Paul Boafo; Director of Health and Sanitation - Enoch Osafor; CEO of Ankasee Methodist Hospital - Joseph Amankwaa and the Director of HR and Administration Rev Cobbah; Pat Jamison –

MCB/ Ireland mission partner and myself
After seven months of serving as a Public health nurse at Ankasee's, Pat's temporary Nursing Registration application was still pending. Every effort made by Ankasee hospital management to hasten it has been unsuccessful but efforts were ongoing.. Pat has not been able to perform any clinical operations till date which could affect her British Nursing Council accreditation. After much discussions and contributions from those at the meeting, it was agreed that Pat should complete her service after one year if her temporary registration is unsuccessful and return to Britain to avoid losing her British registration. Hopefully her temporary Ghana Nursing registration would come through before March 2017 for future reference. If not she would be back in the UK before her current registration elapses.



Pat with colleagues at Ankasee Methodist Hospital, Ghana

In the meantime, Pat is working closely with her colleagues to consolidate the weekly Community health outreach for house bound patients. She has spotted potential leaders for succession planning. Eight chiefs in the neighbourhood commented on the positive impact of this new scheme - the first in the country. Pat also helps with induction training of new nurses and considers drafting policies and procedures for Ankasee Methodist Hospital to reflect its Christian ethos of compassion and care for patients. Lastly Pat has started brigade work in the circuit with about 160 children. The children participate in various games and crafts and she is currently training youth leaders and few adults on leading the group. Well done!

Bishop Pratt and his team were very grateful for Pat's contributions and participation at the last MCG Conference, Health Conference and at the hospital. She will continue to help with the website and other ad hoc duties. MCG has promised to continue to assist with her nursing registration and seek ways of addressing this challenge much earlier in future. After our meeting, I travelled with Pat for four hours by road to Ankasee. I met with some of her colleagues at the hospital and we were able to relax at her residence to discuss various options and for her to reflect on her mission service. I left the next day from Kumasi airport not too far from Ankasee, back to Accra.



Senior members of the Good Samaritan Hospital at UPAO

Partnership meeting at Eglise Protestant Methodiste Benin

Due to lack of direct flights to Benin, I travelled all day by road crossing three country borders with Michael Tettey and Kodjo who drove us. I had asked Michael to meet me in Accra. We eventually arrived late in the evening and it was good to see Joanna, Joelle and Janelle on arrival at

Cotonou before checking into my accommodation. Michael and Joanna are both MCB mission partners in Benin.

Audit meeting at Porto Novo

The following morning we travelled for about an hour to Porto Novo for a meeting at Universite Protestante de L'Afrique. Also in attendance were all senior members of the Good Samaritan Hospital (PBS). The external auditors were there to present their comprehensive audit report for PBS because it was the first organisational audit since its inception. Risks were identified, progress and strengths indicated and areas for improvement shared. I accompanied Mr Michael Tettey as the Hospital Administrator to listen as an observer. The exercise was funded by the World Mission Fund to encourage best practise. Later I commented that I hope the recommendations would be carried out and regular audits done to promote continued improvement. A copy of the report and progress on recommendations would be sent to WCR office later in the year. Constant Lokossou, the NMA translator was very helpful with translation at meetings.



EPMB Partnership meeting at UPAO



Constant Lokossou – EPMB translator

Whilst in Benin, I visited Michael and Joanna with the kids at their home. Joelle (9) was having her French class and Janelle (6) preparing for her school's fashion show; she was very excited! This period was half term so Joanna and Michael had to invent ways of engaging them outside school routine. We later walked to the beach not too far from the house, to allow them run around and enjoy the fresh air – basically a ploy to tire them out before going to bed. It was good to spend time with the family and hear how the children have settled well in Benin and do enjoy school.

Partnership meeting at Methodist Church Nigeria Connexional Office, Marina - Lagos

The following week, I travelled to Nigeria by road and met with Prelate Samuel Uche at the MCN Connexional Office in Lagos. He was recovering from a bout of malaria. We spoke at length about the humanitarian problem affecting displaced families in North-Eastern Nigeria due to insurgencies from Boko Haram terrorists. Bishop Amuta mentioned plans to visit the area and also seize the opportunity to visit the new Methodist Church in Cameroon. I hope to visit Cameroon sometime to meet its leader and get more information about its existence. At the moment MCB has a partner church in Cameroon.

Another subject discussed was the ongoing challenge with the increasing number of street kids out of school in Northern Nigeria and I suggested a visit to



Bishop Opoko, Bunmi and Bishop Amuta at MC Nigeria Office, Lagos

Accra to learn from the MC Ghana street kid project and the willingness of MC Ghana to host.

- **Grant review** - I mentioned the ongoing MCB grants review and the support for a MC Nigerian SALT student studying in Ghana. I plan to work with the partner church on how best to optimise its training applications to achieve its goals because of the recent review of MCB grant strategy.
- MC Nigeria asked if British theologians could assist with its Masters programme at Sagamu. I explained the possibility under the People to People programme being developed by WCR office. The next day I visited the Theological institute to meet with the leaders and see available resources and infrastructure.

Visit to Methodist Theological Institute, Sagamu

I travelled with Dr Ekebusi to Methodist Theological Institute, Sagamu. We met with the Dean of

Academics, the Rector - Dr Onadipe and Dr Idialu -a senior lecturer. The institute wishes to start delivering postgraduate modular courses and an invitation was made to have British Methodist Theologians to teach alongside their Nigerian colleagues on short or long term basis. It would be nice to explore the People to People programme for this as well as secure SALT training for few of our lecturers to teach significant courses such as Wesley studies, systematic theology etc. We toured the compound and I viewed accommodations on site for prospective short or long term mission personnel. We later visited Bishop Akinwale – the Bishop of Remo who assumes the position of the Secretary of Conference at the start of December 2016.



Methodist Theological Institute, Sagamu

***Ephesians 4²: with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
3 endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

Thank you

*Bunmi Olayisade
Africa Partnership Coordinator - Methodist Church Britain
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