

## *Partnership visit to Kenya from 27 November – 3 December 2012*

Purposes of visit: To meet with Bishop Joseph Ntombura – Presiding Bishop designate of MC Kenya  
To attend and present at the Africa Methodist Youth Conference at Nakuru, Kenya  
To meet with World Student Christian Fellowship Regional Secretary in Kenya

### **Meeting at MC Kenya Connexional Office**

I arrived at Nairobi on the morning of Tuesday 27 November and went straight to a meeting with both the incumbent and designate Presiding Bishop of MC Kenya bearing in mind that Kenya was two hours ahead. Also at the meeting was the Financial Manager.

I received copies of MC Kenya Standing Orders, the Minutes of the last Conference when Bishop Joseph Ntombura was elected and a copy of Rev I'Mpwii's book. The Finance Manager – Amina Muua informed us that the construction of Building C has been completed, however assistance with loan repayment would be most appreciated. MC Kenya wondered why it has taken so long for MC Britain to respond to its special grant request. I mentioned that the Grant Committee was to meet this week and the Grant Office would be in touch. We later walked round the new building and met a few of the new tenants that had just moved in.



### **Met with a MCB Partner: World Student Christian Fellowship - Africa Regional Office**

Georgine has been the Africa Secretary for WSCF for some years and plans to hand over to the next executive in March 2013. The greatest challenge encountered in the succession plan has been the remuneration for the post which is much lower in comparison with that of other Regional Secretaries. Since regions have to fund raise for all priorities (programmes and projects) with little support from Geneva, this has been an ongoing challenge and the handover schedule has had to be delayed.

WSCF Africa defined its priorities as:

- Training potential leaders at national and regional levels
- Fight against AIDS/ HIV and sexually transmitted diseases
- Fight against corruption
- Climate justice
- Action against illegal immigration e.g. aware of increased sex slaves in the Arab world and increased reports of offshore deaths of immigrants seeking to emigrate abroad

Georgine thanked MCB for its ongoing support and asked for financial support towards one of its priorities. I asked her to submit a proposal to me for consideration. Georgine also gave me a book titled – WSCF Africa Region - A Historical Journey of Service and Faithful Witness for the WCR library.

### **Africa Methodist Youth Conference held at Kivu Retreat Centre, Nakuru, Kenya**

About two hundred youths (25 – 35 years old) from Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya assembled at Kenya for few days from 28/11/12 – 3/12/12. Most travelled on Tuesday 28 November and registration started on Wednesday morning, and the meetings commenced in the afternoon. The theme was 'Renewed mind for a transformed Africa'. The first speaker – Dr Gerrishon Mwiti encouraged the youths to move from common graces for all to pursuing special graces where one operates outside his or her comfort zone for God's kingdom. He commented that often the best time of our lives is our youth. The second speaker – Mr Michael Nartey focussed on promoting the entrepreneurial spirit among the young professionals to address unemployment and discourage dependency on foreign aid. He encouraged the Church to foster 'mentoring' among successful business people, advance business ethics in our society to uphold quality assurance in production and service delivery. The youths had a revival night made up of praise and worship as well as prayers.

On day two of the conference, Friday 30 November 2012; I spoke on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): Its significance and prospects for Africa's transformation. I listed the eight millennium goals and focussed on four of them namely: eradicate poverty and hunger, promote gender equality, combat HIV/AIDS and malaria and develop global partnership for development. I presented facts, maps and figures to support the significance of the goals and prospects for Africa's transformation. The second speaker of the day spoke on the marks of Methodism plus the history of Methodism. We had another lovely revival night.



The first session was on developing a spirit of worship for the transformation and healing of Africa by Mrs Seye Awe. Later in the day there was the council meeting which all the youths attended and I had a meeting with the governing council members of the African Methodist Youth Movement. Summary of discussion:

- The constitution of Africa Methodist Youth Movement (AMYM) was adopted at the council meeting however it can be amended as and when required. Members were advised to send contributions through the Country representatives to the Council for consideration during the consultation period which is to last two years. Member conferences represented were MC Ghana, MC Benin, MC Nigeria, MC Kenya and MC Southern Africa.
- Nana Abeke, the Chairman of the governing council also mentioned existing contacts with youths from MC Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Cameroun. I encouraged an active follow-up to embrace the United Methodist Church (UMC) stream in Africa. There is a strong UMC presence in Central Africa and this was an opportunity to invite them to the movement
- I advised that a formal letter of introduction as well as goals and objectives of AMYM be sent to me for it to be recognised as a partner. The body has been recognised by the World

Methodist Council because a representative from the office attended the opening ceremony and youth representatives from Swaziland and Angola were also present for the opening ceremony. I am able to link up with my UMC colleague – Dr Caroline Nyuki to support the young movement.

- At the council meeting, members endorsed the proposal to host the next AMYM conference in Benin being a Francophone country to attract more French speaking youths. The last three conferences were held in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya. The conference takes place every two years however the governing body is struggling to secure funding for its mission priorities. Council members have had to personally finance most of the administration and conference costs since participants were often self-sponsored and pay registration fees. However many are unable to afford the expenses. I encouraged them to investigate the cost of hosting the next conference and before setting the registration fees and afterwards seeks support elsewhere.
- The governing council members asked for assistance from MCB on three issues
  1. Leadership training of Country representatives and Council members on strategic management to prioritise activities, ensure accountable administration, evaluate outcomes and promote fundraising.
  2. Support one paid officer that would be responsible for communication, website presence, and fundraising. The MC Nigeria has offered to give an office space however I encouraged the council members to seek contributions of resources from national conferences. However administration overheads have to be factored in. All other posts should be voluntary and expenses might be kept to a minimum by sending soft copies to members or making use of Connexional office facilities for members.
  3. Request for exposure to other youth activities as well as improve cross-regional activities. Also there is the need for capacity building of potential leaders as part of its succession planning.



EPM Benin delegates at the Youth Conference



Dr Mbillah General Adviser of Procmura with Joy (Finance Mgr) and Henricke (a Partner)



Ongoing PROCMURA building supported by World Mission Fund

### Meeting with PROCMURA on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

Visited the PROCMURA office and met with the General Adviser – Dr Mbillah and the accountant Joy.

- Dr Mbillah confirmed the appointment of the new Communications Officer under the NMA programme and he was very grateful for the support. Florence Iminza has tendered her resignation to her former employment giving three months notice. In the meantime she was given a laptop and has started with some of the reports as well as website updates. She will also take up the duties of the Women Co-ordinator for PROCMURA.
- Dr Mbillah had a successful meeting with Interfaith experts based in East Africa and has planned to met with experts located in West Africa early next year in Lome, Togo. The

exercise is to identify potential candidates for the post of the General Adviser of PROCMURA when Dr Mbillah's term ends. Another will also be conducted for Central Africa

- MCB offers scholarship to train programme representatives in various regions where interfaith issues are important to the stability of the country. I was asked to help contact heads of churches of Methodist Churches in both Gambia and Benin because of the difficulty of identifying a good potential candidate
- With the ongoing terrorist attacks in Northern Nigeria, PROCMURA is willing to consider training a specialist in Zonkwa Theological College, Kaduna. I was asked to contact Prelate Makinde of MC Nigeria as a follow up
- PROCMURA was very grateful for the financial support from MCB towards its income generation initiative. I visited the construction site to witness the progress made, the project is on schedule

### **All African Council of Churches event**

Attended AACC dedication of Jubilee Hall for African Dignity and the Jubilee block for peace and justice to commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Archbishop Desmond Tutu declared the buildings open. Met other partners and dignitaries at the event.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu unveiled the Jubilee Hall at AACC event



AACC event



Bishop l'Mpwii and Bishop Ntombura

### **Meeting with Bishop Ntombura on 3 December 2012**

Bishop Ntombura was very grateful for my visit and said he was writing up his vision for MCK as well as indicating his mission priorities for his term of office. Bishop Ntombura has been responsible for evangelism, mission outreach and church growth these past two years before taking office. Therefore following our discussion about MCK special grant application, he wishes to take time to evaluate its implication on MCK strategic plans at the start of office. He plans to get back to me when he gets the formal response back from Methodist Church Britain.

Thank you.

Dr Bunmi Olayisade  
*Africa Partnership Coordinator*