

## Visit to Methodist Church Ghana 27 – 31 July 2011

The aims of the visit were to strengthen relations between the Ghanaian and the British Methodist Churches and to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its autonomy.

The President of the British Methodist Conference - Lionel Osborne; Jenny Impey, William Davis as the Chaplain of the UK Ghanaian Fellowship and myself departed on Wednesday 27 July and were met by Bishop Kwaku at Accra Airport. Also with us was Carol from UMC Germany. We arrived at a lovely guest house at 10.30pm and had a lovely meal.



British and Ghanaian Methodist officials in Accra



At MCG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

### Day 2 – 28 July 2011

We met with the Connexional senior staff at the office headquarters and together with the Presiding Bishop we visited the President of Ghana – Prof Atta Mills, the Opposition Leader and the Chief Justice. An account of this visit was published in the local newspaper the next day. We later had lunch at the Accra Diocese Office with presbyters and lay members of the Diocese.

We visited the Methodist University College which is now in its tenth year. The students were on vacation but we met a few staff who showed us round. Some of the courses offered were Business Administration, Agriculture, Social Studies. The presiding Bishop made a few requests on behalf of MCG

- A request for student exchanges, lecturers on sabbaticals and affiliation with other institutes
- A request for market support or partnership to produce 'fresh juice drinks' on a larger scale in Ghana where the high demand is not being met.
- A request for opportunity to network with other Methodist University Colleges to share information, skills, experiences and ways of ensuring high standards of education

### Day 3 – 29 July 2011

Arrived Kumasi at 2.30pm from Accra and was welcomed by the Diocesan Bishop. After lunch we went to see the Wesley College Freeman Centre for teacher training, Women's Training Centre and Men's Fellowship Conference Hall for hosting special events. We received gifts at WTC Kumasi. The following requests were made:

- A request for a link with Cliff College to deliver vacation courses
- A request to formalise a link with MWiB as the institute was started by Women's Network in the thirties
- That staff be linked with other Partners e.g. PCC
- A request for a Mission Partner to teach Mathematics, ICT etc and other vocational courses
- All computers are obsolete and newer models are required. Cookery and hair saloon equipment are needed and any assistance would be welcome



Rev Jenny Impey with the Director of the Women's Centre at Kumasi



At Rafiki Orphanage

### Day 4 – 30 July 2011

Visited high performing Methodist Schools such as Wesley Girls School and Mpatitism Boys School.

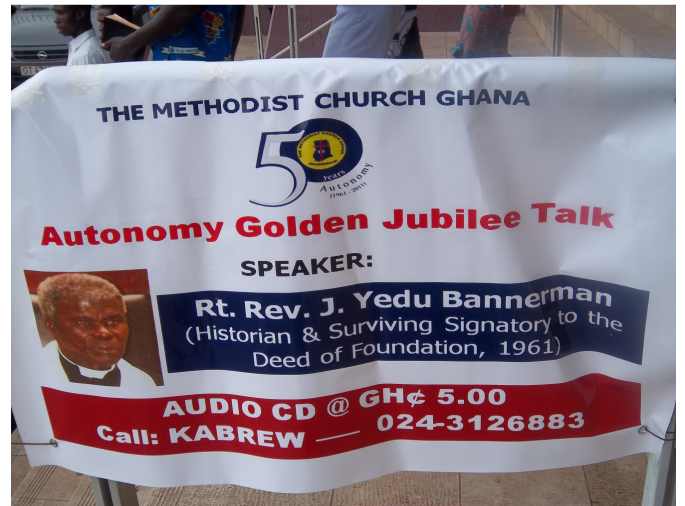
Went to Rafiki Orphanage managed by MCG. It was established in partnership with other partners five years ago and accommodates 25 children in five homesteads headed by a house-mother each. There is room for expansion to an optimum number of 50 children. There are also seven classes on site and the age range of the children is from eight months old to nine years old. There is a Director on site whose wife is a nurse and offers free services at the orphanage. Challenging cases are referred to a hospital. One of the children is HIV infected and receives ongoing treatment and care. The Orphanage works in collaboration with the government and depends on the goodwill of supporters to run the Home. The salary of the Director is funded by the World Mission Fund under the Nationals in Mission Appointments programme of the World Church Relations Office.

**Day 5 – 31 July 2011**

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of MCG's autonomy in 1961 which was held in Accra Stadium. Government dignitaries and MCB representatives and MCG members were in colourful regalia and joyful mood. All the Methodist Churches in Accra came together for a joint service and Rev Lionel Osborne gave a congratulatory speech as the President of the Methodist Church Britain.



**Celebrations at the stadium**



**A celebration banner**