

Partnership Coordinator for Africa
Southern Africa Visit
Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia.

29 July – 1 September 2022



Purpose of Visit:

- **To meet with Church leaders in partner countries and build relationships.**
 - **To understand local context and current issues.**
 - **To visit partner churches and partner projects.**
 - **To meet with Mission partners ‘in situ’.**
 - **To share developments at MCB.**
- **To discuss and share vision for future partnership.**

Dr. Andrew Ashdown

NAMIBIA
29 July – 5 August



Programme

Saturday 30 July	09.40am Arrive Windhoek. (From Doha, Qatar Airlines). Visit Reheboth Society. 80kms south of Windhoek.
Sunday 31 July	Preach at Methodist Central Windhoek. Visit Katatura town circuit. Travel to Walvis Bay. Visit Kuisebmund Society
Monday 1 August	Visit Swakopmund Society. Naraville Society. Drive to Sossusvlei (6 hour journey). Night at Sossusvlei.
Tuesday 2 August	Sossusvlei to Luderitz. (7 hour journey).
Wednesday 3 August	Visit Luderitz Society. Travel to Keetmanshoop (4 hrs journey) Visit Keemanshoop Society. Night at Mariental Dam.
Thursday 4 August	Visit Mariental Society. Return to Windhoek. (4 hours). Dinner with Bishop Charmaine and Bishop-Elect, Christopher
Friday 5 August	Dep Windhoek 0710. Arr Harare 1235 (Airlink via Jo'burg)

Introduction

The Methodist Church started its work in Namibia as early as the 1820s, but due to much adversity the work started and stopped over the years. During the First World War, a Methodist Minister, Rev. Woods, who was an army chaplain in Windhoek, was instrumental in re-starting work in Namibia. For a while, Namibia was a District but due to further challenges was subsumed into another District of the MCSA Connexion. In 2020, Namibia was once again made a District within the MCSA.

The District is over 824,000 sq kms, but has the second lowest population density in the world. Due to the difficulties the church faced, over the decades members have migrated to other denominations and the Methodist Church is one of the smallest churches in the country. The Lutheran Church is by far the largest denomination in Namibia due to the country's German-influenced history.

The District now has 5 Circuits covering the whole country and only 6 Ministers. It has 10 societies and 9 preaching places with new work beginning in a number of places. But the distances between the Circuits are huge. (The distance between the neighbouring circuits of Swakopmund and Luderitz is a 740km, 11 hour journey on un-made roads through wilderness). There are 44 Local Preachers assisting the Ministers and only 4925 members across the whole country, of which 784 are children and youth.

Current MCB Grant Contributions to the Methodist Church in Namibia:

Annual Grant: 2020-2021. £20,000

Reheboth Circuit.

Reheboth is a town 80km south of Windhoek that is home to the Baster people. These are an important and often marginalized community within Namibia. But they are making an increasingly significant impact in the country. The Baster people are mixed race and descend from the intermarriage of settlers and the indigenous Ku, Sang and Kalanga tribes after the arrival of settlers in Colony Bay, South Africa in 1652. Discriminated against in South Africa, they stayed together and migrated north where they settled in Reheboth in 1872. The leader of the Baster people is a political figure known as the ‘Captain’. It was a privilege that the current ‘Captain’ of the Baster people came to welcome me at the Methodist Church in Reheboth during my visit.

The Methodist Church in Reheboth is an important presence within the Baster community which faces many challenges, including inner conflicts, high unemployment, lack of housing, no development, alcohol and drug abuse, women and child abuse, and teenage pregnancies. These seem to be common challenges across Namibia, which, though rich in resources, sees few of the benefits, since the international corporations who own the mines take all the profits.

The Methodist Church in Reheboth is therefore a Mission Orientated Church. Its Minister is also the Director of Mission for the Church in Namibia, Rev. Colin Geertz, (whose training as a Superintendent Minister was funded by MCB) is a dynamic and visionary pastor who is helping transform the life of the church, both in Reheboth and nationally. He sees challenges as opportunities. Work that the church has undertaken includes:

- The establishment of a Covid19 clinic and treatment centre in a church residence throughout the crisis, for the people of the town. This was so successful that there are now plans to convert the building into a full-time community clinic.
- A regular soup kitchen.
- A growing vegetable garden project. (See summary section).
- The appointment of a dynamic Youth Minister, Meghan, who is undergoing theological training and is representing Namibia at a Youth Training event in South Africa.
- The addition of new classrooms to the Methodist School.
- Inclusive worship for young and old.
- Strengthening bible study and ministry for women, men and young people.



Rev. Colin Geertz. Mission Director & Reheboth Superintendent. Lunch at Reheboth & with Baster Leader.

Swakopmund and Walvis Bay

After preaching at the Central Methodist Church in Windhoek, we first visited the poorer suburb of Katatura in Windhoek before travelling 5 hours to the coastal town of Walvis Bay.

Walvis Bay is a Circuit consisting of five Societies: Swakopmund, Kwisebmond, Walvis Bay, Hettis Bay and Arundas. The Walvis Bay Circuit consists of mixed communities including a number of refugees from surrounding regions of southern Africa. Swakopmund is a coastal retirement town of 42,000 residents. 50% of the Methodist congregation are elderly. Like the other churches throughout Namibia, the Circuit has a Vegetable garden in every church compound. These have been established for three reasons: to teach communities the value of the earth; to grow produce for vulnerable people within their communities; and to make some income if possible.

The Churches in Swakopmund are trying to listen to the needs of young people and include them in worship and daily church life. Every Circuit in Namibia has a Safeguarding Officer who offers safeguarding training in their circuits.

I asked the local communities what they wish for from the Methodist Church in Britain other than funds. Interestingly their reply was:

- Media resources on Methodism. Digital and Video. (Printed resources are not helpful... they are expensive and difficult to access). Media teaching resources are a major priority.
- The concept of handing Africa funds to Africa raised serious concerns.
- Partnership and relationship is deeply valued.



Swakopmund Vegetable Garden



Walvis Bay members



Bishop Charmaine & Youth leader, Walvis Bay.

Luderitz

From Swakopmund, it was a 2 day, 780km journey on unmade roads through some of the most untouched wilderness in Africa, to the neighbouring circuit of Luderitz. The funding for the training of the Circuit's Superintendent, Rev. Reggie Mouton, was also provided by MCB.

Luderitz is a mining and fishing town in the south of Namibia – the last settlement before South Africa. Methodism was brought here in the 1920s and the Church was built in 1924/25. Luderitz is isolated and feels like a 'world's end' kind of place! The Circuit serves three churches, each of which are 3-4 hours journey by car apart, across the desert. Apart from the Minister, there is an Evangelist, who came to Luderitz as a child. There are 206 members scattered across the Circuit, many of whom are pensioners. But a young people's guild has just started. The Sunday School is growing and there has been a grant-funded children's workshop. The Methodist Church serves mostly the mixed communities in the poorer side of the town (the township during Apartheid days). During Covid, the congregation had reduced to about 5-10 people, but has now increased to about 20 people of all ages. The unemployment rate is very high amongst young people and women. The Minister lives 6 hours journey away from Luderitz and comes once a month. Local preachers lead worship on the other

Sundays, but the modest congregation is in good heart. Organisations take turns to lead the services. The Methodist Church is known as a local community and a church of open arms. And despite the small numbers, the church is known for its singing and good preaching. Like all the Circuits around Namibia, the Church has a soup kitchen for the poor and a garden. Their vision is to be a place of welcome for all. The Wesley Guild is active and has a strengthening spiritual life.



Luderitz Methodist Church.



Church Leaders.



Evangelist, Samuel.

Keetmanshoop

From Luderitz, it was a 4 hour journey to Keetmanshoop, one of the other churches in the same circuit. The training of the Evangelist, Mr. Minnie, was paid for by MCB.

There has been a church in Keetmanshoop for 95 years. It is a major settlement on the main road between Windhoek and South Africa. The Church was established in 1915 after the deaths of the early Methodist missionaries and during apartheid days, the morning service was for ‘blacks’, and the afternoon service for ‘whites’. After independence in 1990, the whites left and went to another church. It is now an all Namibian church. There is a small congregation (normal Sunday service about 27 people and special celebrations 75). There is an active women’s group, Young Men’s Fellowship, strong music and singing tradition and like other churches in Namibia, a desire to be a welcoming community for all. The biggest problem in the area is unemployment. The Vegetable garden here has been a great success and has inspired most members to grow their own.



Mariental

A few hours north of Keetmanshoop, we visited the town of Mariental. Here too is an established Methodist congregation. A Methodist school started here in 1931 and the church was built from 1970-1973, with the efforts of the congregation. Again, this is a modest congregation of only 20-30 members on a Sunday, but they get 25 at their Sunday school and have initiatives to address key local issues: teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, alcoholism, domestic gender-based violence. The Minister visits once a month and the Circuit has 2 local preachers. The ladies in the congregation also regularly visit the local prison and take sanitary provisions to female prisoners, as well as providing the same for girls in the local schools.



Mariental Church. Namibia.

Conclusion:

Whilst I visited the Central and Southern part of the Country, I was not able to visit the remote northern areas, where the Methodist Church has a long presence and an important ministry, especially amongst the refugees from Angola and Congo. ‘

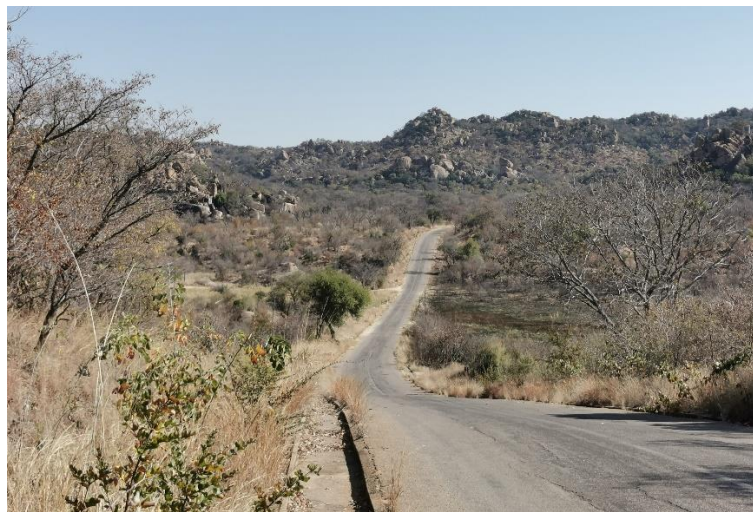
The main impressions and findings of my time in Namibia are:

- A small District in one of the most isolated regions in the world.
- Small congregations of mostly poorer sections of society committed to being places of Christian welcome and hope for their local communities.
- All undertaking transformative, missional ministries with minimal resources.
- A vision to serve their local communities.
- A strong sense of their part within the wider Methodist world and the British origins of Methodism.
- Deep gratitude for the support the Methodist Church has been able to give, especially supporting the training of Ministers.
- Lively, small congregations strongly rooted in Methodist musical traditions.
- The British Church is not seen as ‘colonial’, but as an important partner in global Methodism.
- Churches trying to work and determined to work towards self-sustainability.
- But deep concern at the proposal to hand Africa funds to be managed by Africa and the many risks this poses.
- The Methodist Church in Namibia represents an inspiring example of faithful ministry and outward-looking service by a modestly-sized Christian community, utilising their modest resources to maximum missional impact. It is an exemplary model of Christian presence in a challenging context and with inspiring and visionary leadership.



ZIMBABWE
6 – 20 August, 2022

- To meet Methodist Church leaders in Zimbabwe.
- To visit Methodist churches and institutions in Zimbabwe
- To visit United Theological College, Harare.
- To visit Mission Partners, Hills and visit Thekwane Mission
- To visit Chimoio Mission, Mozambique (With Bishop Purity of South Africa).
- To monitor and visit recipients of MCB grants.
- To discuss challenges and aspirations.
- To visit an All We Can supported project.



Programme

Friday 5 August	Arrive Harare Airport 12.35pm. Meeting Church leadership.
Saturday 6 August	Attend National Methodist Schools Award Ceremony at Waddilove School, Marondera. Continue to Mutare. (3 hours)
Sunday 7 August	Travel from Mutare to Chimoio in Mozambique. Worship at Chimoio Mission. Meeting with Presiding Bishop of South Africa and Bishop of Mozambique. Return to Mutare.
Monday 8 August	Travel from Mutare to Harare. (4 hours).
Tuesday 9 August	Visit Waddilove Farm, High School and Primary School
Wednesday 10 August	Methodist Churches in Harare West and Harare East
Thursday 11 August	United Theological College, Matthew Rusike Children's Home, Epworth Society. Manyano Admin
Friday 12 August	Harare to Bulawayo. Visit Moleli School and Goat Project Visit Andrew Ndhelela Centre, Gweru. Methodist Central Church, Bulawayo
Saturday 13 August	Thekwane Mission School. Plumtree. Matobo National Park
Sunday 14 August	Preach at Methodist Central Church, Bulawayo. Mbembesi
Monday 15 August	Bulawayo to Kadoma to Harare.
Tuesday 16 August	Meeting with MCZ Leadership. To Nyanga
Wednesday 17 August	Nyanga to Chimanimani
Thursday 18 August	Chimanimani to Harare. (Via Nyika Women's Project).
Friday 19 August	Harare to Victoria Falls
Saturday 20 August	Victoria Falls to Livingstone. Start of visit to Zambia.

Introduction

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is a product of the British Methodist mission activity in the former Southern Rhodesia which began in 1891. MCZ was granted autonomy by the British Methodist Church on 18 October 1977 with Revd Andrew Ndhlela becoming the first black President. The Church has grown through evangelical work and memberships stands at nearly 126,000 persons, with women constituting more than half the membership. The church consists of 8 Districts each of which has a Bishop; 1800 congregations across Zimbabwe spreading across all 10 provinces of the country, including the marginalised and hard to reach areas. The Methodist Church of Zimbabwe is a member of the World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, All-Africa Conference of Churches, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the Africa Methodist Council. The vision of MCZ is to be an empowered and connected Christian community impacting society. Church leadership is chosen every five years by the main Conference that is the decision-making body of the church. The Church is engaged in various evangelical work that includes farms, schools and clinics that offer services to communities.

MCZ has a holistic approach grounded in scriptural principles which includes evangelism, health, education, human rights protection and youth ministry and the Matthew Rusike Orphanage. MCZ has 340 ministers and 6150 Local Preachers. It manages 20 primary schools, 9 high schools and several clinics across the country. There is a vision to build a University. Through the Methodist Development Relief Agency (MEDRA), MCZ has been instrumental in responding to crises, supporting gender equality and dealing with issues including disability inclusion, human trafficking, safeguarding and gender issues. The 5 year Strategic Plan of MCZ includes the following four pillars:

1. Improving Church growth
2. Enhancing Social Responsibility, social justice and community participation.
3. Resourcing the Church on sustainability.
4. Strengthening MCZ for effective delivery.

Current MCB Contributions to the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe.

Annual Grant: 47857. 2021. £40,000.

Essential Assistance Grant: 48396 2022 £27,000 (£16,400 Remaining)

NMAs

44108/2334.	NMA Parliamentary Liaison Officer. (Last £7,950 2021) 2017-2021. Rev. Edmore Chiota.	
44109/2335.	NMA Resource Mobilisation Officer. 2017 – 2022. Elisah Shergni.	£ 7,950
46794/2883.	Chimolo Mission Station. 2019 -2024	£ 7,200
47913	Waddilove Farm Manager. Mr. Tawanda Samani.	£ 8,388.
42510/2088	NMA Finance Assistant MEDRA 2017-2022 (£ 5,000) £0 due. Knowledge Musimbe. Post successfully completed.	
44119/2345	NMA Business Developer MEDRA 2019-2022. Tariro Washaya.	£ 8,000
SALT 46796/2885	Rev. Noleen Chinyerere PhD Student in Practical Theology. 2021-2023.	£ 6552

Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

47855	2021.	£ 8,421
Essential Assistance	2022	£ 5,000

Waddilove Farm and Schools

When a Theological Training Institute was established by Methodist Missionaries in 1892 near Marondera in Zimbabwe, little could they have imagined that it would a century later become one of the largest and most successful Methodist schools in the country. After early struggles (several of the founding missionaries were killed in the Shona uprising of 1897 and their graves are still on the site), the Institute was converted into a school which by the 1960s included both a High School and Primary School. The school was instrumental in establishing a curriculum that not only provides a high quality academic education, but also practical subjects such as building, agriculture, textiles and woodwork – all skills that are essential to enabling pupils to develop practical skills and achieve a rounded education. Both schools have extensive vegetable gardens and poultry rearing, all of which are tended by the pupils as part of learning agricultural techniques. Today the High School has over 1000 pupils and the Primary School over 800. In the recent National Teachers Award Day, the school swept the board in awards for quality of teaching and results in all subject areas.

Across the road from the schools is the remarkable Waddilove Farm, run by the Methodist Church, and managed by the inspiring Farm Manager, Tawanda Sumani, whose salary is paid for by the Methodist Church in Britain. This is a flourishing farm, the profits of which support the Methodist Institutions, benefit the local community, are an increasingly lucrative income-generating source; and which provides a wonderful educational tool for the local area.

Today, the farm has 95 head of high quality cattle, including 6 bulls, 12 cows and 72 heifers. Each heifer is worth US\$1200 on in market. A fine dipping structure has been built to protect the herd from ticks and other diseases and the herd is growing rapidly. The farm has also recently built a new greenhouse containing 1600 tomato plants of the highest quality, producing in one season 24 tons of produce. The farm manager plans to triple the capacity by building an additional even bigger greenhouse and to market the produce across Zimbabwe. The poultry project currently houses 1600 broiler chickens and a large structure is planned to accommodate a further 5000 birds. In addition to this, 18 new pigstys have been built to house 200 pigs. All this has been achieved by the Farm manager and is having a transformative effect on provision for the Methodist Institutions as well as being both an exemplary model for agricultural education and an income-generating opportunity towards ensuring the Church's self-sustainability.



Farm Manager: Tawana Sumani.



Waddilove Cattle herd.



Waddilove Tomato crop.

Matthew Rusiki Children's Home and Orphanage, Zimbabwe.

Named after its' founder, this inspiring Children's Home and Orphanage is named after the dedicated Methodist Minister who devoted part of his ministry to homing orphans in his Manse during the 1950s. When the children became too many to look after, the Church dedicated the land to build an Orphanage and over the years it has become a respected and exemplary place of care for children of all ages who are vulnerable, abused or orphaned. The Home is founded on holistic principles of physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual support for vulnerable children. It also provides education and opportunity for the children's future, including both a Primary and Senior School, a College, a Clinic for the children, two other centres in different parts of the country, and agricultural projects that provide food and educational opportunities for the orphanage children and staff.

The model of care at the Home is inspiring. It is recognized that the children need a homely, caring environment. Thus, each residential house unit provides normal home-like accommodation for 8 children of varying ages and of both sexes with a live-in ‘house mother’ who offers parental nurture to the children and encourages a family atmosphere within each unit. Notwithstanding the trauma that most of the children have been through, they are clearly relaxed and happy at the Orphanage. In addition to the Director, Rev. Linrlelink Mutendzwa, there is a professionally-trained Social Worker on the staff as well as a Chaplain, and outside professional care or counselling is provided if it is found to be needed. Currently there are 96 children resident in the Home. Many more have applied but there is simply not space.

In its’ outlying centres, the Home offers outreach programmes and care to distressed children in the community, providing food, educational supplies and assistance with school fees to vulnerable children. So successful have these projects been that, recognizing the great need and the lack of provision of such services, the Government has sought to partner with the Home.

The Methodist Church in Britain is partnered with the Matthew Rusiki Home and is pleased to have contributed financially. However, the needs are extensive. The Annual costs for the whole project, including the schools, staffing and running costs amount to US \$572,000 per year, of which US \$ 32,000 is provided by partners. The Methodist Church of Zimbabwe makes a substantial contribution to the remainder, but the financial pressures represent a constant strain. Despite the challenges, the Staff are committed to expanding provision to meet the extensive need and to sustaining the high quality of care and support that they offer to the children, which is an example nationally and internationally.



Orphanage Housing unit.



‘House Mother’ at Orphanage.



Principal: Rev Mutendzwa and Social Worker.

United Theological College.

Formerly Epworth College, this Ecumenical Theological College was established in 1954. It was primarily a Methodist Institution until becoming an ecumenical United Theological College in 1977. 95% of all the clergy of all denominations in Zimbabwe are trained here and 7 current bishops in Zimbabwe were trained here. The College is known for its philosophical and academic model of learning. Courses include Philosophy of Religion, Hebrew and Greek, Systematic Theology, Christian History, African Theology; and new courses cover global challenges such as Race Relations, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation, Inclusivity and World Religions with a focus on Islam. The College is recognized as transforming rural candidates and providing good theological foundation.

Transforming pastoral care for women in Zimbabwe. SALT Beneficiary: Noleen Chinyerere

The SALT scheme – providing scholarships for students overseas has been one of the Methodist Church in Britain’s most popular grant opportunities. These have supported many beneficiaries around the world, and the studies that have been funded often have a transformative impact, not only on the individuals who have been supported, but on the wider Church that they serve.

It was a privilege to meet with one such student last week – Noleen Chinyerere - whose PhD studies are currently being funded by the MCB SALT scheme. Noleen’s goal is to transform the Church’s

response to the pastoral care of Zimbabwean widows. Culturally, too many women face trauma in their marriages and when their husbands die, even if they are committed Christians, they are prioritising traditional, tribal customs related to bereavement. Noleen asks: “Is this because the Church’s capacity to deal with issues of trauma and bereavement in women is inadequate? Is the Church truly a therapeutic community? The Church celebrates marriage and couples but is less attentive to the voices of the divorced, the widowed and the abused. Their voices must be heard and the Church must be inclusive and compassionate to all.”

The title of Noleen’s PhD study is: ‘Investigating traumas and rituals in healing of widows among the Shona people: a pastoral approach.’ Her study includes extensive fieldwork with Zimbabwean widows in both rural and urban areas and a detailed evaluation of how the church responds to the emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of traumatized and abused women. Her study includes analysis of traditional bereavement customs and Christian customs and her hope is that her findings and conclusions will encourage the Church to address its pastoral care and response towards bereaved and abused women. The Zimbabwe Church leadership keenly support Noleen’s studies and recognise the importance of the subject. It is hoped that her thesis will be published.

Noleen’s study comes from personal experience and is dedicated to her mother who is a widow who experienced a difficult marriage. Noleen is from a rural background and would not have been able to undertake any studies at all without the support of the church. After our meeting, Noleen wrote:

“I have no proper words to express my gratitude. Had it not been for the financial assistance of the Methodist Church in Britain, I could not have done any of this because of economic hardship and financial constraints. Please kindly extend my gratitude to the Methodist Church in Britain and to all its supporters. Be blessed.”



Noleen Chinyerere. SALT Beneficiary.



United Theological College.



Librarians.

Visits to Churches in Harare West District.

Two days were spent visiting Methodist church communities in low and high density residential areas of Harare City respectively. These included:

Mabelreign. A church founded in the 1980s formerly a ‘White’ church, but now an all-black congregation. Like most Methodist Churches in Zimbabwe, the church has both an English and Shona service, and a membership of 900-1000, most of whom attend the Shona service.

Superintendent Minister is Rev Likha Maloreen. The church runs a Youth Project and a Sunday school with an attendance of 112 children.

Mufakose. This is the lead church of three urban societies with a total membership of 600 including children. The Superintendent is Rev. Tendai Chikwature. The church has a strong musical tradition and a choir of 50 and was extended in 2017. There are strong women, youth and Sunday School groups.

Kambuzuma. Situated in a high density urban area, this is one of the poorer churches in Harare. The Superintendent Rev. John Mugozi has two other Ministers working with him and two other societies

to look after. The membership is about 250 persons from the poorer sections of the community. The Circuit looks after an area densely populated by former employees of the National Railway which has collapsed. There is high unemployment. Water supply is a problem with water available only once a week, and this is dirty water. A borehole has been drilled. The Circuit has no vehicle. Despite the many challenges, the Circuit tries to be self-funding but struggles to meet the costs of ministry.

Mbare. Mbare is nicknamed “the heartbeat of Zimbabwe”. It is the communications’ hub of Zimbabwe from which public transport goes to all corners of the country. At the centre of this community is Mbare Methodist Church which was founded in 1902. The District Bishop, Dr. Paradze, is based here and the Superintendent is Rev. Gledman Mapfumo. The Circuit consists of 3 societies and 2 full-time Ministers. It has a membership of 700, the majority of whom are women. There are many traders among the congregation... one of the largest markets in Zimbabwe is right outside the church gates. About 200 attend the Youth meeting and there is a thriving women’s ‘Manyano’ group. The lay leadership work well. Ongoing vision includes developing income-generating projects and creating a recreational space for young people.



Rev. Tendai Chikwature. Mufakose. Bishop Dr. Paradze, Harare West. Mbare Parish Church. 1902.

Epworth Women’s Centre. Opened in 1997, the Epworth Women’s Centre is a good example of an income-generating initiative that both raises funds and supports both the church and the local community. The centre started by offering training for women in dress-making and other skills but it has now become a major Conference facility providing a venue for weddings, conferences and meetings, not just for the Church but for the wider community. There are over 35,000 women members of Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and the Centre represents a resource for the whole country. It has 124 beds (charging \$10 a night) and the Conference facilities can accommodate 250 people. (The charge for Wedding hire is \$350).



Director Women’s Centre. Epworth Women’s Centre. Mbare Market.

Income-generation for Education and Church growth. Moleli Goat-rearing project.

In many parts of Africa, the churches struggle to attain financial self-sustainability. Income-generating projects are therefore an important part of the Church’s work. Very often, these represent an essential contribution to sustaining the church’s ministry, whilst also representing a ministry in themselves to provide opportunity and development in rural areas.

Moleli High School is an important Methodist Institution in a rural area about 70kms south of Harare. Founded in 1962, the School has 705 boarding pupils, 30 teaching staff and 25 non-teaching staff. The school has a good reputation nationally despite the challenge of meeting costs.

The Methodist Church in Britain has recently funded a Manager for a Goat project to help with income-generation for the school. Takudza Wezuva is a well-qualified farmer who is enthusiastic about agriculture and livestock rearing. He writes:

“Goat farming is a very profitable business to operate in Zimbabwe. The demand for goat meat is increasing. Goats are easy to keep and very profitable as feed costs are low and they easily adapt to almost any climate. The Kadoma District opted to start a goat project due to the potential high profits. Demand for goat meat is high and there is potential for growth in the market.”

Mr. Wezuva has built a strong fence around the goat pen and a substantial housing structure for the goats. He has invested in a high quality breed of goat that is healthy, resistant to disease, adaptable to the environment and offers the best quality meat.

Today there are 21 ‘does’ (female) and 14 ‘bucks’ (males), who will soon be breeding. The vision is to have a herd of 100, which will be sustainable and profitable. There is a ready local market with high demand and the project will soon be helping fund the costs of Moleli High School.



Goat project manager. Takudza Wezuva. (Funded by MCB).



Entrance to Moleli School.

Thekwane Mission School. Matabeleland, Zimbabwe.

Founded at the turn of the twentieth century, Thekwane is the oldest Methodist Mission School in Zimbabwe. Situated in an isolated area just a few miles from the Botswana border, it continues to serve isolated communities and has over 700 pupils.

I am grateful to a friend for sharing some historic photos from 1937, when the current church was consecrated and when her grandfather was the Methodist Minister at the Mission.

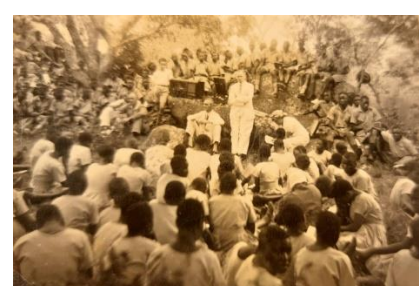
Today, these hospitals and schools are completely locally staffed, though some foreign Mission partners with particular skills to share still exist in some places, including British Mission Partners, Jonathan and Isabel Hill, who still work at Thekwane.



Thekwane Mission Church.



Thekwane Mission School.



Consecration of Church, 1937.

The hardships of rural ministry in Africa. Mbembesi near Bulawayo.

Travelling across Africa, there is no doubt that ministry is hardest in the rural areas. Circuits are situated far from towns and their churches and societies are spread across wide areas, often up to 40kms apart. There is little or no public transport and often the Minister has no transport and has to walk many miles to visit his people and take services. Here, communities are at their poorest. It is difficult to raise the funds to pay the Minister or maintain churches and the Connexional Offices often struggle to fund the upkeep and service of these outlying areas and sometimes it can be difficult to find Ministers who, with their families, can appropriately be placed in such challenging contexts. And yet the faith, vibrancy and perseverance of the congregations in these isolated areas is humbling and inspiring.

The Methodist Church is constantly finding ways to provide income-generating ideas that are sustainable and can be of benefit both to the church and the local community. Chicken-rearing projects are a popular means of income-generation in Africa. Chicken is the most popular meat consumed. They are easy and cheap to breed and a 6 week old chick can be sold for US\$1, which in rural Africa is not far off a day's wage for some.

At the rural Circuit of Mbembesi, 40kms north of Bulawayo the minister has lived for 3 years inside an unfinished home which the church have been unable to afford to complete. Conditions are difficult and, open to the elements, the construction that is there, is deteriorating. The Minister, Rev. Zaimbudzana, has three churches, one 20kms and another 40kms from his main church. He has no transport and has to walk around his circuit.

The Methodist Church in Britain has funded a Chicken-rearing project in Mbembesi Circuit. It is situated in a compound several miles from the main church. The first batch of 125 birds was a great success and yielded well and they are now on the second batch. However, out of the second batch of 125 birds, a few dozen were stolen from their pen, and others died of disease, leaving 66 birds. These were therefore moved into a church member's home where they are now being well cared for by a family.

The chicken-rearing project is deeply appreciated by the local people and has already started reaping benefits for the Circuit. It is encouraging others to set up their own local initiatives.



Mbembesi Church and Chicken Project.

Women's Empowerment Project Nyika. Matabeleland. Zimbabwe

Whilst travelling in Matabeleland, I visited a wonderful Women's Empowerment Project in Masvingo Province, southern Zimbabwe, supported by 'All We Can'. Local people have set up a variety of projects covering several rural villages, run primarily by and for women (but including men) to empower them and support their local community. These include training in agriculture, bee-keeping and honey production, grain production, sewing, conflict management, making of sanitary pads for women (shop bought products are far too expensive for rural women), business skills training and group dynamics. A Committee consisting of local villagers organises the initiatives and oversees management. It is inspiring to see such local initiatives at work that are having a transformative and lasting impact on all involved and upon their local communities.



Nyika Grain grinding.



Nyika Honey production.



Nyika Tree planting.

Chimoio. Mozambique. Global Methodist fellowship in a Mozambique Mission church.

On Sunday 7 August, I was blessed to make a wonderful and inspiring visit to Chimoio Mission in Mozambique and to worship with the local community there. It was particularly inspiring to bring together the Presiding Bishop of Southern Africa, Purity Malinga; the Presiding Bishop of Zimbabwe, George Mawire; the Bishop of Mozambique, Dinis Matsolo; the Bishop-elect of Mozambique, Maria Mucamba; and the Director of Mission for the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Blessmore Chinhara. It was the first time the bishops had all met together and we had a profoundly worthwhile meeting after the service, during which the agreements for the ministry at Chimoio were secured, relationships were deepened, and a common vision shared.

Chimoio is a genuine ‘mission’ context...a rural church community with an unfinished building and a Minister’s house (funded by MCB – shown in the picture with the bishops), serving a mostly Shona Methodist congregation from a wide area and including a few outlying societies a substantial distance from the centre.

Mozambique is a huge country and because Chimoio is 1000km from Maputo but not far from the Zimbabwe border, with a majority Shona population, MCB has financed the sending of a Zimbabwean minister from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe to serve the community. The challenges are many, not least the fact that it is a very poor area. But the people are committed to being a witnessing Christian presence in the area. The vibrancy and joy of their worship was truly inspiring and the sense of being part of and supported by a much wider Methodist Christian fellowship with the Bishops of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and myself from the Methodist Church in Britain being present, was a moving symbol of the hope for the future and our shared commitment to partnership with the global church.



A historic meeting at Chimoio Mission, Mozambique.

Presiding Bishop of Zimbabwe, George Mawire; Presiding Bishop of Southern Africa, Purity Malinga; AA; Bishop-Elect of Mozambique, Maria Mucamba; Bishop of Mozambique, Dinis Matsolo; Mission Director of Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, Blessmore Chinhara.



Chimoio Manse. (Built with MCB funds). Chimoio worship in unfinished Church.

CONCLUSIONS. ZIMBABWE.

It is difficult to overstate the challenges facing the Church in Zimbabwe. They include:

- Political Instability. A government that few seem to support.
- Financial ‘meltdown’. In July 2022, inflation stood at 257% and was rising daily.
- There is over 90% unemployment.
- Following Covid, congregations have dropped by 30% and are recovering only slowly.
- Isolated rural areas that are hard to reach.
- Widespread poverty meaning it is difficult to meet costs of supporting ministry.
- Transport challenges.
- In August 2022, the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe elected 6 new Bishops (out of 9). These require training.
- The removal of MCB funding has a major impact on various ministries and capacities.
- The Church is committed to increasing its income-generating initiatives in order to sustain and grow its ministries.

Although Zimbabwe is currently facing a major economic crisis that is having a serious impact on the work of the churches, the commitment to mission, education and evangelism remains as strong as ever, and Britain’s invaluable contribution to many of the missional initiatives of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe has been deeply appreciated.

Key messages to the Church in Britain:

- Past funding opportunities have been transformative for the work of the Church in Zimbabwe.
- Meaningful relationship and partnership is considered extremely important moving forward, whether or not it includes funding.
- Deep concerns about the AMC proposal. Will the inclusion of churches other than British-associated churches further limit accessibility to funds of more ‘needy’ connexions and provide funding opportunities to churches that already have substantial access to American and global funding sources? If other churches are to be included, a substantial percentage of funds should be guaranteed/allocated to poorer connexions and those churches that have less access to external funding sources.
- Build relationships... Ideas: Clergy exchange. Schools exchange and online links. Partnering with British Districts.
- Tackle global/ecclesial issues together.
- Online connectivity.
- MCB can be a vehicle for more interconnectivity across Africa.
- Can MCB be a resource for providing information on multi-agency funding opportunities?

ZAMBIA

20 August – 31 August 2022

- To meet United Church of Zambia leaders in Zambia.
- To visit UCZ churches and institutions in Zambia.
- To visit Mission Partners: Waddells in Mwandu and Olivers in Lusaka.
- To monitor and visit recipients of MCB grants.
- To visit Health projects in Zambia.
- To discuss challenges and aspirations.



Programme:

Saturday 20 August	Cross border from Zambia to Zimbabwe. Travel to Mwandu.
Sunday 21 August	Church at Mwandu Mission. Visiting Mwandu Mission. Staying with Mission Partners Keith & Ida Waddell.
Monday 22 August	Visit Mwandu Hospital and local Schools, Workshops and churches
Tuesday 23 August	Travel from Mwandu to Livingstone. Visit Vic Falls, Zambia side. Stay in Livingstone
Wednesday 24 August	Drive from Livingstone to Lusaka (9 hours). Visit Choma. Meet former Mission Partner, Jenny Fairweather. Visit Chodort School and Training Centre.
Thursday 25 August	9am. Flight from Lusaka to Mansa (NE Zambia) (2 hour flight). Followed by 3.5 hour drive from Mansa to Mbereishi Mission Hospital on Congo Border. Back to Mansa. Night in Mansa.
Friday 26 August	11.30am Flight from Mansa to Lusaka. Free afternoon in Lusaka.
Saturday 27 August	Lusaka.
Sunday 28 August	Ill.
Monday 29 August	Ill.
Tuesday 30 August	Meeting with UCZ Staff at Synod office.
Wednesday 31 August	Dep Lusaka 2125 Qatar Airways
Thursday 1 September	Arr LHR 1310

Current MCB Contributions to the United Church of Zambia.

Annual Grant:	47907. 2020-21.	£20,000.
NMAs	44106/2331. Surveyor.	£9,200
	2018-2023. Abel Kondwani Kafunda.	
	1591 Vice-Principal. Chodort Training Centre. 2015-2021. (£36,500)	£ 0
SALT	45635/2600 2020-2023. Rev. Derrick Kalanga.	£3,340
	PhD in Peace and Conflict Resolution. (£7060)	
	39909/1775 2019-2021. Rev. Christopher Njovu. (£23,400) Masters of Theology. University of KwaZulu Natal.	£ 0

Theological Education by Extension

3066. 2021.	£ 5,000
3069. 2021.	£ 3,000

United Church of Zambia University 3067. (2021). £ 7,000

Introduction

The United Church in Zambia is the largest Protestant church in Zambia and covers all ten provinces of the country.

The United Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia, now part of the United Church of Zambia, owes its beginnings to the work of the London Missionary Society, the Church of Scotland Mission, the Union Church of the Copperbelt and the Copperbelt Free Churches. In the Copperbelt, mining began in the early 1920s. Christians from various areas went to work in the mining towns, and interdenominational worship began in both the African and European housing areas. Helped by the fact that they were already cooperating in education and welfare, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Missionary Society, and the London Missionary Society came together in African areas to form the Union Church of the Copperbelt. Shortly after this, the congregations of the European areas came together in the Copperbelt Free Church Council. By 1945, the way had been prepared for the union of the London Missionary Society and the Church of Scotland Mission in Northern Rhodesia. These congregations, along with the Union Church of the Copperbelt, joined to form the Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia. In 1958, the act of union took place.

The church formed on 16 January 1965, combining the Church of Central Africa, Rhodesia (a mission work of the Church of Scotland), the Union Church of Copperbelt, the Copperbelt Free Church Council, the Church of Barotseland and the Methodist church.

The United Church in Zambia has partnership relations with the United Church of Canada and maintains its own Theological Colleges in Zambia.

The United Church in Zambia has 3,000,000 members in 1,060 congregations. It has a Presbyterian church government with 10 presbyteries and a Synod. It is a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the World Methodist Council. Close contacts with the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church (USA) remain.

Medical Work in Zambia.

The United Church of Zambia has an important Health ministry and manages 4 mission Hospitals and 7 clinics across the country. The Church operates under the principle of the total salvation of humanity including physical well-being and reconciliation in Christ.

All the health clinics were built during colonial times in the 1960s and 1970s and are desperately in need of updating, but resources have been hard to come by. Working in conjunction with the Government of Zambia, the Ministry of Health provides and pays for the staff whilst the UCZ must look after the infrastructure.

Across Zambia, the Church is trying to rehabilitate its' health facilities and improve water provision and sanitation, but physical, financial and cultural challenges are faced. The Health ministry of UCZ represents a significant part of the Church's ministry and it is hoped even more resources may be directed towards it. Given the extremely high cost of providing medical care, it is also hoped that whilst MCB is not able in future to provide funding, it might be able to be a resource for information on multi-agency funding opportunities.

Mission Partners: Gina Oliver. Health Secretary for the United Church of Zambia. Malcolm Oliver. Partner Volunteer.

Gina Oliver was appointed in November 2021 as Health Secretary for the United Church of Zambia and is a Mission Partner for MCB. She has a vital role in managing and monitoring the 4 mission hospitals and 7 clinics across Zambia. Working with the Zambian Ministry of Health, the Ministry agrees to provide and fund staffing for the hospitals and clinics, but UCZ is responsible for the buildings and the equipment within them. This represents a huge responsibility and challenge given the age of the buildings and equipment existing in them, much of which needs replacing.

Gina's husband, Malcolm has recently 'sat down' from being a Superintendent Minister in the UK. He joins Gina and the family in Zambia as a Mission Volunteer and hopes to support the UCZ using his extensive practical knowledge and skills and his long experience of living and working in Zambia with Gina.



Medical Mission on the Zambesi. Mwandi.

A bone-shaking 3-hour journey west of Livingstone, on the banks of the Zambesi River overlooking the Namibia side is the Mission station at Mwandi. This is an important site historically. It is a place where David Livingstone preached and stayed and from nearby, he set off in canoes down the Zambesi to discover the Victoria Falls.

The Methodist Mission was established early in the 20th Century but the hospital was built in the 1950s and extended in the 1970s. Much of the equipment is dated and some does not work, but with the help of MCB Mission Partners, Keith and Ida Wadell, and the support of the UCZ Health Secretary, Gina Oliver, also an MCB Mission Partner, substantial attempts are being made to develop the hospital as a launchpad for improving the health infrastructure across Zambia.



Mwandi Mission Hospital



Mwandi UCZ Church.



Morning worship at Brickworks.

Within the hospital, a new Oxygen-making unit is being installed, which will be able to supply oxygen to the whole district. This has cost £275.000 to install – funds that were raised by Ida Waddell from several international sources. A Cervical Cancer screening unit has been established... cervical cancer in Zambia having the highest prevalence in Africa, caused by the HIV virus. It is hoped to spread out the cervical cancer screening programme across Zambia. Meanwhile, the X-Ray machine is not working and needs replacing but there are no funds to do so. The Mission Station also includes a Home for vulnerable elderly people (formerly a Leprosy unit) and a feeding centre for Orphans and vulnerable children, feeding over 100 children every day. In order to improve self-sufficiency, Keith has established a brick-making project on the site and chicken and livestock-rearing projects, with a fish-rearing pond also being developed.



Oxygen Unit. Mwandi.



Cervical Cancer Screening Unit.



Orphan Feeding Centre. Mwandi.

Mwandi, like the other medical Institutions across Zambia, is an inspiring example of the diligence and perseverance of hard-pushed medical personnel, seeking to provide services with minimal resources and extremely limited equipment that is mostly dated or barely functioning. Drug shortages are also a major problem. Whilst it is recognized that it is impossible for churches to find the level of funding needed to secure the infrastructural improvements needed across the Institutions, we may be able to find a way of providing information of how and where funds might be sourced for essential equipment. Our Mission

partners in Zambia are also a very good example of the vital contribution made by Mission partners in supporting the work of local churches and alongside local staff.



Matron of Elderly Unit.



Mwandi Hospital.



Sooka Church near Mwandi.

Mission Partners: Ida and Keith Waddell.

Ida and Keith are long-standing Mission Partners in Zambia. They served originally in Mwandi from 2004-2015 and then from 2015-2022 lived in Lusaka, where Ida served as Health Secretary until Gina took up the post. They have recently returned to Mwandi where they have built their own house within the Mission compound.

Ida is proving instrumental in developing the Mwandi Mission hospital services, including the Breast and Cervical Cancer screening units and Keith is assisting in expanding the income-generating projects and workshops that support the hospital and Mission station. It was moving to join Keith for daily morning prayers at the Brick works with the workers, who shared in the Bible Study and prayers.

Ida is working with Gina to help ‘roll out’ some of the medical developments at Mwandi to other hospitals and clinics in Zambia.



Mission Partners Ida and Keith Waddell. Mwandi.

Njase Clinic, Choma

The Njase Clinic at Choma is a good example of the challenges facing rural clinics in Zambia, many of which are run by the church. The clinic serves a population of 17,000 people in the local area but is substantially under-resourced. Its’ services include: anti-viral treatment; ante-natal and post-natal care; delivery of children; HIV testing; environmental health training; Child health and immunisation.



Njase Clinic, Choma.



Aids Testing Unit, Njase Clinic.



Drug Store, Njase Clinic.

The main challenges are the lack of space, the shortage of drugs and the condition of much of the medical equipment available. Across the Choma District, there are 32 remote health facilities, but for the whole region, there is only one ambulance.

Chodort Training Centre, Choma.

Chodort Training Centre is an inspiring example of how the Church can combine both service to the local community and run successful income-generating initiatives. The Vice-Principal of the Chodort Training Centre, Dr. Edward Nondo, has for three years been funded by MCB through the ‘Nationals in Mission’ scheme. Chodort’s Principal was formerly MCB Mission Partner Jenny Featherstone (who still lives in Choma) and prior to Covid, had a 5 year Strategic Plan in place for developing the Skills Development programme. The projects on-site include a Wood-Working Training Workshop; a Tailoring Workshop, which has run a very successful re-usable Sanitary Towel making project supplying local schools (commercial products are far too expensive for most rural women and girls); and a Cookery Training Centre. (We were provided lunch by the students at the Cookery training centre and it was one of the best meals I had in Zambia – restaurant-worthy standard). UCZ owns a large plot of land at Chodort which it is hoping to develop into a large Training Centre complete with accommodation for students from around the country. There is enormous potential in this project for thinking ‘out of the box’ and expanding further, though it has suffered greatly during the Covid crisis. UCZ are considering how it might more effectively develop the existing projects to expand its work, output and income. Meanwhile, the local church are expanding their church on site to accommodate their 600 communicant members. Chodort has been receiving young volunteers from Germany in an experience/exchange project – a good example of other ways of partnership.



Jenny Fairweather.



Chodort Manager. Edward Nondo.



Chodort Catering Students.

Mbereishi Hospital. Providing Healthcare in the northern border region.

Far to the north of Zambia, in a remote rural area close to the border of Congo and Tanzania, lies the small town of Mbereishi. Missionaries came here in the early 20th century and the Mission Hospital was built by the London Mission Society in 1965. The hospital has a capacity of 80 beds and serves a catchment area of 18,000 people. There are 100 staff including medical and maintenance personnel.



The hospital includes Out-patient facilities and In-patient wards for men and women and a labour ward, as well as providing Ultra-sound scanning, surgical procedures, dental care, laboratory services, pharmacy and drug testing.



Only Incubator in hospital... broken.



Mbereishi Drug Store.



Laundry room falling down.

Visiting Mbereishi provides a sobering glimpse into the challenges facing rural Africa in medical care. The infrastructure of the hospital is deteriorating. There are serious difficulties with water supply. A borehole has been sunk but the only pump that exists is broken. Electricity is sporadic. Most of what equipment exists has long past its 'sell-by' date and is either malfunctioning or broken altogether. Only two of the four lights in the operation theatre work. The only Incubator the hospital possesses in the mother and baby unit is broken and does not work. There are no resuscitation machines. The only dental chair in the hospital is broken. The hospital possesses four industrial laundry machines but all are either broken or in need of repair. So all the laundry in the hospital is done by hand. Moreover, the laundry is housed in a building that is literally falling down and is dangerous. The beds and mattresses are old and worn and providing accommodation for the staff is a challenge. There is a desperate shortage of essential drugs and when we visited, the essential items needed for preparation of surgery had run out.



Congo/Zambia border.



Mbereishi Hospital Kitchen.



Laundry. All machines not working.

Such problems represent a significant challenge to the Church of Zambia and are replicated across other medical institutions. Efforts are being made to raise the necessary funds to improve services and there is a growing move towards striving for self-sufficiency, but the scale of some of the needs is daunting. The staff and the United Church of Zambia remain committed however to providing what services it is able to do so and will not abandon these remote areas where the Church has provided care for decades. Grants from MCB to the UCZ have helped to staff some of these institutions and support income-generating initiatives. However, given the scale of the challenges, it is hoped that we may be able in future to assist in providing information of possible funding sources from non-Church organisations for significant requirements that are beyond the capacity of the churches to provide.

Theological Education by Extension (Zambia) TEEZ.

Theological Education by Extension was formulated in Zambia and has now been rolled out Africa-wide. It seeks to make contextual theological training available and accessible to lay and ordained people in all contexts. Training feeds into the theological Institutions and subjects covered include (amongst others):

- Gender-based violence.
- Self-sustaining financial training.
- Agro-theological programmes.
- Young people's ministry.
- Life Skills development.
- Better Church and society.
- Transformational theology.
- Training for retirement.
- Agribusiness.
- Bible teaching and training.



TEEZ Director

The scheme provides training for pastors, evangelists and University tutors and has been widely welcomed across Africa and ecumenically. Ten mainstream Christian denominations participate and through these denominations, the training has the capacity to reach 50% of the population. The training is also being rolled out in Swahili and French and at three levels: Basic, Advanced, and Tutor level.

Summary from the Leadership of the United Church of Zambia.

- The UCZ Leadership acknowledge the transformative support that MCB has provided to UCZ through its' grant programmes. These have served numerous individuals and institutions and assisted the growth and development of UCZ.
- The participation of partners from the UK has helped developed Church programmes and "helped the Church become more relevant within communities in ways that the Church could not have achieved alone."
- There is a need for continued partnership and human resources with particular skills to help 'kick-start' projects.
- Continued meaningful partnership is considered vital to the future relationship of the global church and the mission and vision of the Church.
- The UCZ Church House in Lusaka was built with the commitment and vision of UCZ members. Currently the UCZ is mostly funded by Presbyteries in Lusaka and the Copper Belt. Other more rural presbyteries contribute but the poverty of their context means they are less able to make a substantial contribution.
- Whilst funding will not be possible in the future, MCB can play a major part in providing information on multi-agency funding possibilities/sources.

Significant concern about the Proposal for handing the Africa Mission Fund to Africa:

- Context: Africa has not lived with or developed the philosophy by which the fund is currently managed. Most in Africa will not be aware of the sense of history, time and 'cost' that has built up the fund and therefore will not 'value' it in the same way.
- There is a risk of 'focus' being lost in the management of the fund because of the perceived size of the fund available.
- Concern is not about Africa's ability to manage the fund. Rather concern is rooted in the complex and diverse cultural, social, religious and economic contexts across Africa which might threaten the manner in which the fund is managed.

- African churches deeply respect and appreciate the way and the neutrality in which the fund is and has been managed by MCB: “MCB should not, because of a misplaced expression of historic guilt, relinquish its’ God-given responsibility and make decisions that we might all come to deeply regret. Concerns about ‘colonial attitudes’ (most African churches do not see the fund’s management in this way) should not make us make wrong and damaging decisions.”
- Whilst the current Trustees of the new proposed fund in Africa may be trustworthy and objective, can we guarantee that that will always be the case?

UCZ is very keen to learn and to share in discussion on the concrete proposals for ways in which the vital partnership and relationship between the Church in Africa and MCB will continue to be expressed in the future.

Impressions of UCZ.

- Dynamic and visionary churches committed to growth with a focus on Theological development, health ministries, training and income-generating initiatives.
- Many financial challenges with a huge strain on resources due to the age of institutional buildings.
- Nevertheless, a commitment to greater self-sufficiency.
- A desire to ‘reach out’ more into rural areas and serve the poor and disadvantaged.
- An able and committed leadership team in Lusaka seeking to address the challenges with their people.
- The contribution of our Mission partners to the life of the Church is invaluable and deeply appreciated by the local communities.
- Keen to maintain and continue to strengthen historic links and partnerships with MCB, particularly through person exchange and connectivity.

