

Winter 2015

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!

JMA secretaries'
news inside!



The Methodist Church



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Rainbow Editor: Victoria Ireland

Use of photographs

We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

All photographs should include written confirmation that written parental consent has been obtained (and the date it was obtained) for the image to be used in *Rainbow*. We are unable to use any images that do not confirm you hold parental consent.



Welcome to the winter issue of *Rainbow!* We are excited to be sharing news from the children of some of our mission partners in Rwanda and El Salvador. You can also read stories from Tunisia, and from the Mission in Britain Fund. On the back cover, you'll find our winter JMA challenge, and see how you can get involved in this year's Advent Offering.

Enjoy this issue, and have a joy-filled Christmas!

A warm welcome to Tunisia

Freddy Nzambé is pastor of the Reformed Church of Tunisia. Freddy grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo and later moved to Tunisia.

Tunisia is home to many immigrants from other countries in Africa. A person who moves to a different country is called an immigrant. It's very sad that some people in Tunisia are not very welcoming and might be unkind to immigrants.

Freddy and his wife Sylvie run a women's home and a student centre called Montfleury in Tunis, the capital city of Tunisia. Many of the people who live there are originally from other countries in Africa.

Freddy and his family welcome everybody. It does not matter to



Freddy and Sylvie where people are from, what they look like, or what their faith is.

Tunisia is a Muslim country and only a few Christians live there. Freddy describes Montfleury as a place where people try to live the love of Christ. "You are not allowed to evangelise (share your faith) in Tunisia," says Freddy. "But you are allowed to love."

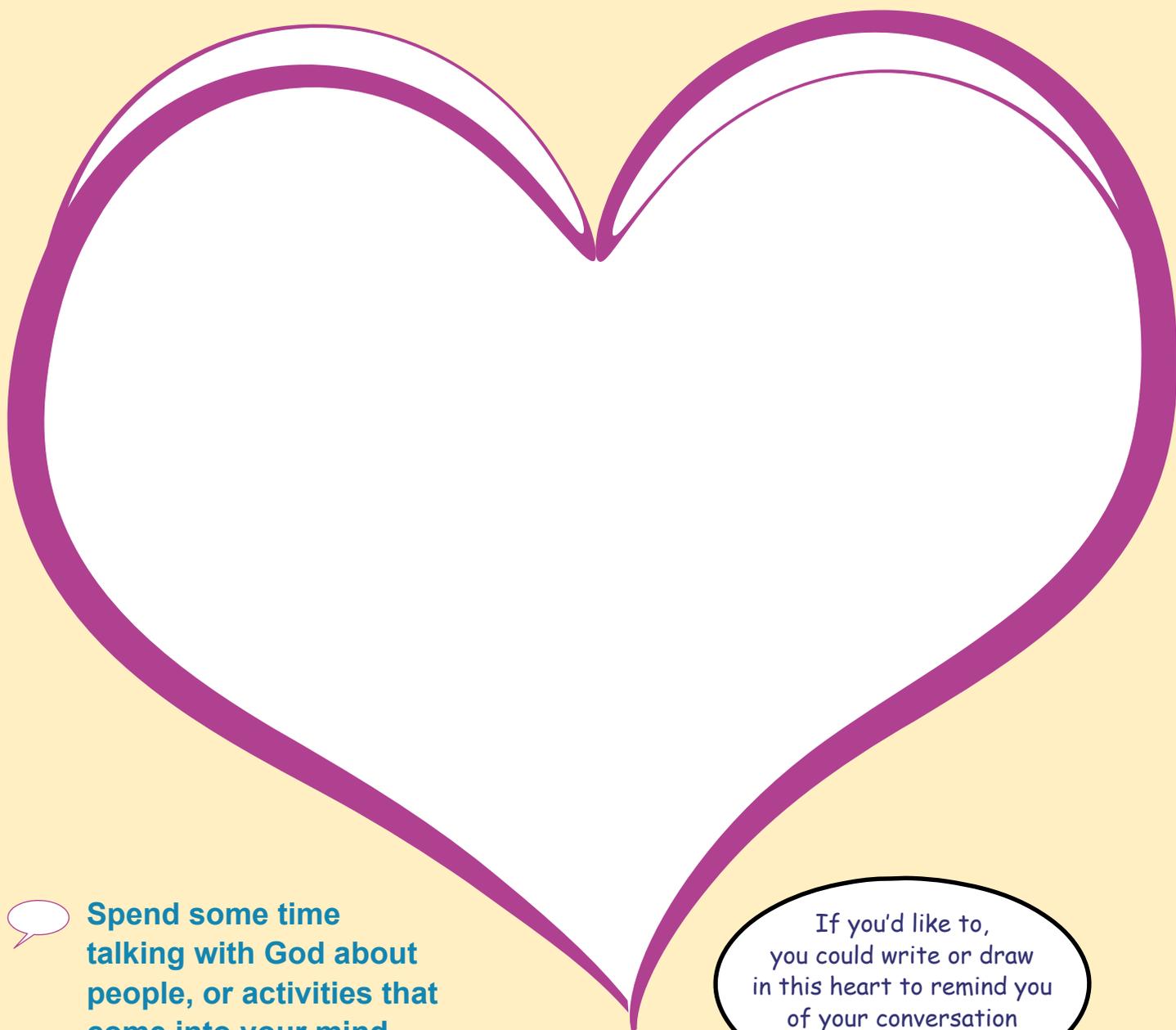


Prayer focus "You are allowed to love"

What do you think of when you read these words?



You are allowed to love



 Spend some time talking with God about people, or activities that come into your mind.

 Ask what God thinks.

 Ask God to remind you of times when you have shown love to others.

 Does God want to tell you anything more about love?

If you'd like to, you could write or draw in this heart to remind you of your conversation with God.



A 'lion letter' from Rwanda

The Leoni family are our mission partners in Rwanda. They are originally from Italy and their surname means 'lion'. Michele and Sam Leoni, aged seven and five, wrote to tell *Rainbow* readers about life in Rwanda.



Here in Rwanda, it's very warm and it rains only during the two rainy seasons (September-November and April-May). Our house is nice and we have an enormous garden! We also have a vegetable garden and many trees: three avocado trees, two mango trees, two *ibinyomoro*, one papaya tree and even two banana trees which we planted when we arrived.

Fruit here is really delicious. **Michele's** favourite is *amatunda* (passion fruit) and **Sam's** *ibinyomoro* (you don't know it, but it's red on the outside while the inside is red with black seeds). Bananas, pineapples and mangoes taste much better here than they do in the UK!



Our mum Elena helps disabled children with physiotherapy. She trains their teachers and parents, and creates devices for them with paper furniture technique. Sometimes we help both with children and in the workshop, especially during our holidays.

Our dad Mattia works with poor children. For those in primary school, he does sport in our garden and organises lessons (English, mathematics and Kinyarwanda with an assistant called Ildephonse). For the youth group, which is called YEAST, he organises evenings with English, chess, dancing (with Cedric and Yves), singing (gospel with Mum!), Kinyarwanda writing sessions and arts.



We have a great time here! Our school is very good and we spend a lot of time there. We also spend time on the bus, but we like it because we make friends. Once a week we play tennis with Dad. Sometimes we go swimming. Every Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, we play football with local children.

The language, Kinyarwanda, is hard but we are learning a bit and sometimes in church we sing and dance, though recently we've been mostly to the English service organised by **Dad** and **Mum**.

In August, we went with our granny to Akagera Park to see wild animals. We saw hippos, buffaloes, zebras, antelopes, crocodiles and a fish eagle in action! We also went to a tropical forest (where we walked over the canopy) and along Lake Kivu, where we rowed on a traditional boat.



Life in El Salvador



Paul Collins and **Maura Cook** have been serving as mission partners in Ahuachapán, El Salvador, since December 2012.

Maura and Paul live and work in Ahuachapán with their three children: two daughters, Scout (aged seven) and Assisi (five) and a son, Saffi (three). Maura and Paul work as teachers in a nursery school and also teach English classes to adults.

When Assisi and Scout visited their family in Scotland last Christmas, they met with us in London and told us all about what it's like living overseas with mission partner parents.





What do you like about being mission partner children and living in a new country?

Assisi: I liked going to the beach on Easter Day. The sea is warmer than our beach in England so you could stay in for longer. At school I learn lots of Spanish words from the other children. When I see them in the morning, they say “hola” to me.

Scout: I like being able to eat lots of ice cream because it’s so hot. I like my big house which has lots of space on the floor inside to play with the train track. Because it’s hot we can play with the hose in the yard and go to swimming pools which are outside.



And what do you not like?

Assisi: I don’t like the really loud dog that lives on our street. Sometimes I don’t go out to play because I don’t like the dog. I don’t like going to school some days because I get lots of really hard homework and I don’t understand it in Spanish.

Scout: I didn’t like having to move house because I miss my old house. We have had to do lots of travelling.



What is the most important thing you have learnt?

Assisi: I’ve learnt to do lots of tricky things here, like silly kinds of homework and lots of new things at school.

Scout: I’ve learnt some new songs in Spanish, like “happy birthday”

which is “cumpleaños feliz”, and how to ride in a *tuc-tuc* safely. That’s a motorbike with three wheels which you can get home from somewhere if you are too tired.



What do you miss most from back home?

Assisi: I used to like going to my friends’ houses, like Martha’s house. And I miss fish and chips, the straight fish from the fish and chip shop.



Scout: I miss my friends and my trampoline and all the toys in the garden like the ladder that went up to the sky.



What are the differences between church in El Salvador and your church back home?

Assisi: Our church in England was really fun because I liked playing with the felt tip pens. I used to go to church in the morning, but here we go in the afternoon when it’s really hot.

Scout: Church is a long way away from our house, but in Caistor it was just up the hill and round the corner. There was carpet on the floor in Caistor Church, but in El Salvador it is very dusty so we don’t have carpets.



El Salvador

- El Salvador is in Central America, the thin piece of land joining Mexico to South America.
- El Salvador means “the saviour” in Spanish.
- Many homes outside town centres do not have running water. It is collected from communal pumps, taps and wells in plastic jugs. It is used as drinking water but contains parasites and amoebae, which make people ill.
- Geothermal power in El Salvador represents 25% of its total electricity production. This is energy that uses the heat from volcanic activity in the ground.



Dear God,
thank you for all the families who work for you around the world.

Please help them to know that you are with them, comfort them when they miss their friends and family, keep them safe and healthy as they work and travel, inspire them with the wonderful new foods, sights, and sounds of a new country.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Mission in Britain Advent Offering

The Mission in Britain Fund receives one fifth of the money that you collect for JMA. It is used to support work here in Britain. Projects include sharing the message of God's love with local communities, and practical help for people in need.

On the first Sunday in December, Methodist churches collected money for the Mission in Britain Fund. In church you might have heard stories from a project called the Parson Cross Initiative (PXI).

Parson Cross is in north Sheffield. A group of local churches came together to support local people. They listen to people who need to talk about things they are finding difficult; they pray with them and show them places where they can go for help. A highlight of their work is offering creative activities such as art, creative writing and gardening.

Creating is an important way to care for our souls, and God has special things for us each to enjoy. What do you enjoy doing? Reading, gardening, building things, drawing, cooking, singing, or something else?



“Sometimes hope is like a candle flame that has almost gone out; it doesn't go out but I need friends to remind me that it is still there.”

(Laura)



Creative wordsearch

Create Clay Grow
 Make Junk Plant
 Draw Glue Dance
 Paint Bake Sing
 Write Dig Music



Creative Christmas trees

How many different styles of Christmas tree can you think of? We had a few ideas; I'm sure you can think of even more! Draw your ideas here.



Prayer
focus



Heavenly Father,
 thank you for the
 Parson Cross
 Initiative. Help people
 who are most in need
 to find the centre
 and show them your
 love and healing.
 Please provide all the
 people, equipment,
 and funds that the
 group needs for its
 activities.
 Amen.

Dear JMA secretaries,

Welcome to the winter issue of *Rainbow*. We hope you have enjoyed your first term back after the summer break, and wish you a wonderful Advent and Christmas filled with joy and wonder.

Please consider supporting your children and young people to take part in the Advent Offering. You can read more about the Mission in Britain Fund on the previous page, and our back page includes ideas of how to help.

Please send in details of how you get involved in the Advent Offering. If you include photographs, please make sure that you have the consent of the parents and

guardians, and confirm this when you send them in. Then we will be able to publish them in *Rainbow*. You can email us at childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or write to us at the address below:

JMA, The Children & Youth Team, The Methodist Church,
25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR



Upper Caldecote Methodist Church, North Bedfordshire Circuit recently held the presentation of JMA badges and certificates for the year ending Aug 2015. Parents and family members were invited to come along. The minister, Revd Andrew Hollins, gave a brief outline of the history of JMA, then presented this years awards. The evening finished with table tennis, pool and table games with parents, family members the young people.

At the end of the evening four new JMA collectors were recruited.

Upper Caldecote Methodist Church, North Bedfordshire



This is a special year for Anerley Methodist Church as we are celebrating our 150th church anniversary and have held a series of events throughout the year to commemorate it.

This photograph was taken at our annual JMA service in October. Our children were delighted to win the JMA shield for having raised the highest increase in funds as against last year out of all churches in the Crystal Palace and Blackheath Circuit. churches in the Crystal Palace and Blackheath Circuit.



New JMA resources pack!

We hope many of you are already enjoying the new JMA resources pack. Please do send us any feedback; this was a new initiative and we are keen to hear how well it is meeting your needs, as well as any other suggestions you might have for future resources.

For anyone who hasn't had chance to see the pack yet, it includes everything you need as a JMA leader. Inside you will find an annual planner, six small group session guides, a game and much more. You can order the pack from Norwich Books, who can also send you all the other JMA resources that you need including badges and certificates. To order go to www.methodistpublishing.org.uk or phone 0845 017 8220.



To keep up to date with JMA news, please visit our website:
www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-jma

Winter challenge

How can you and your JMA group support your church as it raises funds for the Mission in Britain Fund?

LIVE

How can you help with fundraising?

- You could use the ideas that you drew on page 9 to make Christmas cards to sell after a service.
- Could your group welcome everyone as they arrive to a service?
- Could you bake cakes to sell after a service?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the Mission in Britain funded projects.

Show us how we can help others.

Give us courage to do so, that we may be part of your plans to change Britain, one life at a time.

Amen.

THINK

Proverbs 19:17

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.”

Write this verse in your best handwriting and illustrate it in the space on this page.

