



Welcome to my first newsletter!

Firstly, thank you for your interest and taking the time to read this. This newsletter will look a little different to future updates, as I tell you about the past few months, explain my new role and tell you about future plans.

Cliff College

I have just completed a semester studying and preparing for mission in a global context at Cliff College in Derbyshire, England. I studied alongside six other mission partners-in-training: including the Buchold family preparing for service in Johannesburg, South Africa, Ray and Karen Borg, who will be going to France and Brad and Rosie Goddon-Smith.

Much of the blessing of the past three months has been from sharing the experience and preparation together as we have supported each other through training, assignments and practical preparations. We also shared many fun occasions, laughter and a beautiful weekend in the snow.



Cliff College, Derbyshire

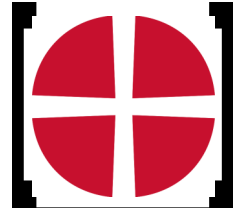
Next steps



Sunrise at a snowy
Cliff College

Most of us have finished our time at 'Cliff', and I am back in Northern Ireland until late January/early February, where I will be finalising preparations for leaving, and doing some more training online, as well as spending Christmas with family and friends. My exact leaving date depends on when my visa comes through. When it does, I will be moving to Santo Domingo de los Colorados in Ecuador to work as a mission partner with the United Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador. My role will be split between teaching English and building a discipleship programme for young adults. It is a very exciting time, but there is also a lot to do, and of course it is emotional, and accompanied by all the nerves you would expect.

Prayer requests



That my visa will be processed as soon as possible, to allow me to leave in January/February

For all other practical arrangements involved with moving
For friends and family

That I will know God's presence and guiding over the coming weeks and months

That I will be humble enough to listen and observe, and that God will guide me about what approach to take and how to fulfil the role I have been given

Once again, thank you for your interest and support. My commissioning service is planned for Sunday 16th January. As I write this, I am not sure how many people will be able to attend due to Covid-restrictions (and Covid restrictions which may change after Christmas), but we do hope the service will be live-streamed. Please contact me if you want any further details, which I will be able to confirm closer to the time.

Keeping in contact

There are various ways to keep in contact or keep up to date with what I am doing, as well as this newsletter, including

Methodist Church in Britain website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/people-in-mission/mission-partners/>

Methodist Church in Ireland website: <https://irishmethodist.org/world-mission-news/introducing-melissa>

Prayer updates from Mission Partners in bi-monthly email from World Mission Partnership (Methodist Church in Ireland). Sign up here: <https://irishmethodist.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=02c4ee339e5f7b75f7b2f0d29&id=ad7b5dee01>

In the new year, I also plan to set up an Instagram account to document the journey of a Mission Partner. More info to follow.

*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Melissa



Celtic Cross, 8th Century in Eyam village, Derbyshire