

Partnership visit to Kenya 6 - 9 August 2018

Aims of the visit

- To meet with MC Kenya's senior management
- To discuss partnership issues and share mission priorities of both Conferences
- To explain ongoing changes in MCB grant procedures plus new mission initiatives
- To meet with AACC and WSCF to discuss programmes supported by MCB



Senior managers and MCK women leaders in Nairobi with Bunmi

I arrived at Jomo Kenyatta airport in Nairobi, was kindly picked up and journeyed to Methodist Guest House. I later had a lunch meeting with Rev Mwaine – MCK Presiding Bishop. He was glad to hear that MCB Mission Partners' retreat

went well in Kampala, Uganda where twenty seven of us fellowshiped, networked, prayed, worshipped and ate together for seven days. I then met with the MCK senior management at the Connexion Office to discuss partnership issues:

1. Martin was responsible for project development and work closely with external partners. He conducts exchange programmes e.g. one thousand men travelled from Kenya to Mwanza in Tanzania under the auspice of MCK Men's Fellowship. The aim was to network with Tanzania Methodists to promote friendship evangelism. Martin also coordinates relief support for disaster victims, monitor and evaluate programme
2. Diane is a Deputy Director for Ministries. She was responsible for - Women, Youths, Family life, men Fellowship and Ministries. She focuses on new mission areas
3. Rev Denise works closely with youths from deprived places and offers mentoring to boys and girls so as to positively influence society. He also promotes peer training
4. Kenya handles hall hiring and missions by empowerment
5. Emma is the Communications Manager and leads in fundraising for MCK TV ministry
6. I met Rev Denise and Purity – both new 2018 NMA beneficiaries working as youth mentors and East Africa Regional Liaison Officer respectively
7. Dorothy is the Finance officer and collates sustainable ideas through synod committees to supplement ministers' stipends as well as train other districts such as South Sudan and Congo
8. Carol works on Savings and Credit department that empowers 2,500 ministers and few lay members to supplement their income e.g. microfinancing, land acquisition for income generating initiatives etc.
9. Purity helps with exchange programmes, develop work plans and sustainable financial models to support mission initiative
10. KeMU has requested for PE's replacement as a lecturer at the Theology department as from August 2019
11. I discussed the opportunity for FT delivering Safeguard training and help dev MCK policy whilst serving in Uganda

12. Requests and opportunities for SALT group training options were explored

Next day I met with the MCK women leaders who shared that their focus would be on economic empowerment, literacy and support for teenage mothers. The MCK's regional women's conference taking place in December 2018 and I was invited to be the guest speaker as women participants from the East Africa block are expected to attend. Eunice promised to send me the outstanding 2017 report soon.

All African Conference of Churches visit on 7 August 2018 at AACC Secretariat

I was welcome by Dr Bright Makudor, the Deputy CEO because the current CEO was away. In attendance at the meeting also were the Accountant and Head of Development. I received an overview of the eleventh General Assembly held in Rwanda in July 2018. The theme was, 'Respecting dignity in God's image'. Partners and various stakeholders were in attendance. AACC's mission priorities were collectively explored by members during the one week assembly. The listening committee attended various sessions and compiled information from different voices to influence strategic thinking. At the end of the assembly, AACC staff drafted a timeline for its strategic plans. Summary of points discussed were:

- AACC wishes to refocus on Diakonia – promoting preaching and service in the next five years
- Working with partners to fund programmes, not overheads
- AACC plans to focus on governance, leadership and self-sustainability to help African church leaders change their mind-sets
- AACC recently brought 600 leaders together to focus on income generation and become a donor organisation by dates set by the participants
- It was mentioned that 30% of the world's resources are in Africa. Therefore the nothing is impossible if you know where you wish to get to
- AACC thanked MCB for its support for its various programmes in the past and commended its efforts in offering scholarships to potential leaders of partner churches across Africa
- Bright also thanked MCB for supporting the internship programme for the World Student Christian Fellowship. He commented that many African youths have lost hope and there is increasing need for relevant training in entrepreneurship and to develop economic programmes for youths
- AACC is planning an All African Youth and Student Conference in Nigeria in the near future
- The Church has to refocus its energy of poverty eradication as well as help breach the inequality gap in its society



Dr Bright Makudor – the Deputy CEO at AACC his office

Visit to PROCMURA (Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa) office in Kenya

I met Joy Wandabwa, the Financial Manager at PROCMURA office, because the interim General Adviser was in Tanzania. Summary of discussions:

- I met with Florence Iminza, a National in Mission appointee as well as other PROCMURA staff. Florence is responsible for women issues and also assist with awareness among the youths to curb religious extremism and violent radicalisation. It was good to know her contributions has been significant as a mission priority for PROCMURA

Bunmi with Joy Wandabwa and Rev



- Joy also commented that the recruitment process of the General Adviser has started and potential candidates should have academic and or church relations experiences in Islamic relations
- Dr Johnson Mbillah, the ex-Gen Adviser recently got a job at Trinity University in Accra
- PROCMURA's strategic plans end in 2018, however a draft one is being developed pending the appointment of the new leader
- Partners are being updated on PROCMURA activities and possible programmes for support
- I seized the opportunity to look around the building. The restaurant is

now well established and repayments of loan for the income generating scheme are going well. PROCMURA plans to pay off its loan by 2020-21 as forecasted

- All PROMURA office lets were occupied and there is a list of potential tenants due to its popular location in Nairobi. This initiative helps raise income to offset the soft loan from Oikocredit taken in 2014

Meeting at World Student Christian Fellowship – Africa Regional Office, Jumuia Place, Nairobi

It was an opportunity to meet again with Maxwell Omondi as the Regional Director and he was much more relaxed than when we met the previous year because he was the only staff member in the office. Jennifer is an intern with WSCF under the NMA scheme and her post has been beneficial in providing administrative and liaison services as well as building up her skills, knowledge and confidence

- Jennifer now works directly with youths and offers awareness to students and youths on popular issues
- Jennifer is also responsible for accessing social media for news and to upload important information
- Jennifer assists with developing and submitting proposals to other partners and recently attracted another youth to temporarily help with WSCF's finance admin
- Jennifer relates closely with all African youths on Christian and secular issues



- Maxwell develops and implements strategic plans for WSCF- Africa. There were various issues requiring urgent action – increase in suicide and drug use among youths (a sense of hopelessness)
- Jennifer commented that African youths are considered as the ‘microwave generation’, expecting immediate results. As a result, many struggle to connect, they feel frustrated and demotivated, thereby losing hope. Christ is still the hope of nations and collaborative effort to address unemployment, offer opportunities in addition to promoting skills acquisition through various means should be priority for the governments, industries and churches in Africa. So help us God!

Next day, I departed early to Benin for a roundtable meeting.

Thanks

Dr Bunmi Olayisade
Africa Partnership Coordinator
August 2018