



# The Methodist Church

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN, 12-16 OCTOBER



Jeremiah 29:11-14 *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD..."* (NRSV)

## Mission Partner News

Jenny Featherstone, Mission Partner funded by the World Mission Fund, is working with the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. In her latest newsletter, she describes a poignant experience she had during her summer in Zambia.

*"A lady I knew vaguely, a single mother of two who had lost her job 6 months ago, came to see me. She had not found any more work and was struggling to make ends meet. She sat on my settee, a mixture of desperation and dignity. I offered a small sum of money & she just broke – tears of relief flooded down her cheeks & she began to thank me profusely. In the UK I have spent more on a cheap pair of sandals. I was hit by several emotions all at once. Embarrassment, anger, shame and inadequacy washed over me. I love (the) people, their resilience and commitment to God and the beauty; but hate the injustice, corruption and unassailable poverty that I am so often confronted with. This is where I am grateful for your prayerful support. It is so easy to get used to the abject poverty in Zambia and harden your heart to the many outstretched hands. Your prayers help keep me sensitive to my privileged position, thank you"*

To read the full report, please go to <http://methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1442>

It costs approximately £20,000 per year for Mission Partners to serve in different parts of the world. Thank you for your giving to the World Mission Fund which enables this essential work to continue.

## WORLD CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AT THE 2009 METHODIST PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATION AND CONFERENCE

We were privileged to host over 20 representatives from our partner churches this year at the 2009 Pre-Conference Consultation and Conference. The central theme of discussion of the Pre-Conference Consultation this year was on the paper, *"Hope in God's future"* (available on the Methodist website in English, Spanish and Portuguese and soon in French). Two of these representatives, the Reverend Eduard Khegay from the Northern Europe Central Conference and the Reverend Peter Caley from the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe have written a report on their experience at Conference.

The Reverend Eduard Khegay says, *"...I am grateful to God for gifting us with Methodist movement around the world. We are a big and wonderful family of people who are passionate about making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have many challenges and struggles in many countries on the planet. Yet we are eager to do mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ, to help people in need and work for the cleaner and safer environment, to practice justice and use our resources wisely."*

To read both reports please go to: <http://methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1494>

## CEPALC:

In the 2008-2009 Connexional year, Methodists around the British Connexion supported one of our Latin American ecumenical partners in Colombia, CEPALC (the Latin American Centre for Popular Communication), with **a grant for £5,000 from the World Mission Fund**. CEPALC's current projects include working with groups of children and young people from the poorest neighbourhoods in Bogota by teaching them to resolve conflicts and seek peaceful solutions to issues through the values of the Gospel. They train children and young people in theatre, radio, television, puppet shows

and many more, to convey their message. Below is a testimony from one of the children who benefited from their activities:

**Angie, aged 14:** *"I belong to the Emmanuel Methodist Church in Aures, Suba. I was a leader in the children's ministry last year, and this year I began to take part in the coordination of that programme for the Church. Thanks to the training that CEPALC has given me, I have learnt to communicate better with others, to overcome my shyness and express my opinions in public. I have learnt some very valuable lessons in social values, children's rights and treating people humanely. When problems arise with my peers I now use conflict resolving techniques that I learnt in the workshops to resolve them. As well as theatre, I have also learnt about music, puppets and visual art thanks to CEPALC and the Methodist Church (in Colombia)".*

For more information on the work of CEPALC, please contact the Latin America and Caribbean desk at Methodist Church House: [WCR.AmericasCaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:WCR.AmericasCaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk).

**Prayer points:**

- Please pray for the 2010 All Partner Consultation and 2010 Conference, that God may send the Holy Spirit to guide the preparations for it, and the discussions and decision-making during both events.
- For the excellent work of CEPALC, that it may touch many more lives in Colombia and have a real impact on Colombian society.
- Please pray for Jenny Featherstone, that the Lord will continue to use her heart of compassion for the Zambian people for God's divine purposes and glory. Pray that God will continue using her skills at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation to bless those who use its services.