

SUPPORTING MISSION at Home & Abroad



What are the Methodist Church Funds?

The Methodist Church Funds are: the general Methodist Church Fund (MCF) and the three more specific funds; the Fund for World Mission, Home Mission and the Fund for Property.

Can I give to the specific Church Funds?

The Methodist Council encourages church councils to make gifts from their own general funds to the general MCF, but many churches as well as individuals prefer to give to the specific funds.

Why can't I support individual projects?

We support projects and publish information about them in retrospect which is why we always encourage our supporters to either support a particular Fund or support the general Methodist Church Fund where your

gift will be used where the need is judged to be greatest.

In addition, supporting particular projects can sometimes lead to popular projects being over-funded while other, equally worthy projects, are not given the same support. Naturally, we are keen to give each project the appropriate level of support which is why usually we encourage people to support the Funds not individual projects.



What is the World Church Office (WCO)?

The WCO replaced the Overseas Division in the 1990s. The Office consists of four Area Secretaries - each representing the four continents - and the Overseas Service Secretary who has overall responsibility for Mission Partners in Africa and Experience Exchange Partners around the world. Team Leader, Michael King, heads the WCO. You can find out more about the WCO and the work they do by going to our website www.methodist.org.uk.

What is the difference between MRDF and Methodist Church Funds?

The distinction lies with the organisations we work with. The World Church Office (WCO) works primarily with our **61 partner churches** around the world engaging in exciting mission projects and initiatives. They do this by administering grants from the Fund for World Mission (FWM). On the home ground, we work with churches engaged in mission all over Britain. You can find out more about these projects and initiatives by either going to our website or by requesting copies of our *Special Projects, Mission in Britain* booklets and annual reports; *God's Mission in Britain* and *MMS*, all available as downloadable resources on the Mission Education and World Church webpages on our website www.methodist.org.uk

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) makes small miracles possible for the most vulnerable

people living in the world's poorest countries through:

- Long- term development
- Emergency relief and
- Campaigning against the causes of poverty.

MRDF's main focus is long-term development which helps make people less vulnerable to disasters. MRDF works through 60 local partner organisations enabling marginalised communities to achieve their own long-lasting development.

For more information on MRDF, go to www.mrdf.org.uk

Who do I make my cheques payable to?

You can make your cheques payable to the individual Fund eg, The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission or to the more general Fund, The Methodist Church Fund. Donations for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund should be made payable to MRDF.

For more information about the Methodist Church Funds, go to our website www.methodist.org.uk or contact Mission Education on 0207 467 5116/5152



The Methodist Church 



NEWS & EVENTS

Mctxt4u is the new text service from MethodistChildren. The aim is to help older children and young people grow as Christians and increase their awareness of God through the week by using news, challenges and prayers in the texts sent to their mobile phone. It's absolutely free and anyone can join. To find out more go to www.methodistchildren.org.uk or email children@methodistchurch.org.uk for advertising cards to distribute.



A brand new Centre dedicated to global mission was launched at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham on 13th September 2006. Sponsored by Anglican Mission agency USPG and the Methodist Church, the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies (SOCMS) based at Queens is the successor to the United College of the Ascension.

For more information about the Centre, contact Revd Val Ogden (Director) by email: v.ogden@queens.ac.uk or by telephone: 0121 454 1527



Please tick and post/email:

Please send me your 2006/2007 list of World Mission Speakers, "Windows on the World"

I would like to invite the Mission Partner expected on leave in 2007, and named below to speak

Mission Partner's name: _____

Event: _____

Preferred date(s): _____

Your name and contact details:

Send to: Margaret Michelmores,
World Church Office, 25 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5JR

E-mail: michelmores@methodistchurch.org.uk

European Methodist Festival, 1-5 Aug 07 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

You can find out more about the festival on the website www.methodist.eu Publicity materials (flyers and posters) are available from Colin Ride, Europe Secretary. You can call 0207 467 5164/5101 or email him at: wco.europe@methodistchurch.org.uk.

INSPIRATION AND CHALLENGE

Would your church like to be inspired and challenged?

That's what happened when James Pender spoke at local churches this summer. James is serving in Bangladesh, jointly supported by CMS and the Methodist Church, and was one of several Mission Partners who were back on leave this year.

One church's World Church Sunday was, "very full and uplifting, a very rewarding day for everyone, really informative and challenging." Another church's Awayday was absolutely "spot-on", "the best ever." They realised that they needed to be more outward looking, both in serving the local community and in widening their interest and support for work overseas. The presentations were, "brilliant, giving a real flavour of Bangladesh, so interesting, yet also thought provoking and challenging."

Below are the names of Mission Partners expected back next year. To invite a Mission Partner to speak or to request a list of World Mission Speakers resident in this country, just fill in the form below and you can be equally inspired and challenged!

Name	Country Serving	UK Base	Time expected/available, 2007
Ian & Diana Bosman	Ghana	Essex, then W Midlands	Mid Jan onwards. Final furlough
Janet Corlett	Honduras	Isle of Man/London	Jun/Jul
Jonathan & Isabel Hill	Zimbabwe	Burton on Trent	Jun/Jul/Aug
Sue Jansen	Argentina	Scotland	Jan (fully booked)
Colin Johnston	Zambia	Not yet known	Summer
Jeana Scofield	Kenya	Sussex	May/June/July
Allan & Andrea Smith	Nepal	Dorset	May/June/July
Claire Smithson	Kenya	Manchester	Late Summer
Eddie & Susan Sykes	Bahamas	Shropshire	Jun/July
David Upp	Fiji	Halifax/London & various	Jan
Maggie & Kit Mudalige	Sri Lanka	Exeter	Spring/Summer



Further Information

Please contact John Nutt, Mission Education Coordinator,
Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR
Tel: 020 7467 5116 Fax: 020 7467 3763

E-mail: missioneducation@methodistchurch.org.uk

Website: www.methodist.org.uk

This newsletter is free. Further copies are available at £2.25 per 10 copies as a contribution towards the distribution cost from mph (see address below)

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Please support the
Funds for World
and Home Mission

The Methodist Church

mission matters

INSIDE



AIDS Information Supporting Mission Abroad

Issue **21** November 2006

CLARITY in Mission

Mission Matters is undergoing a facelift. From now on, each issue will come with regular features such as News & Events, Book Reviews and the Views from Abroad. Occasionally, we will also have special features such as this issue's World AIDS Day special. These are extended articles designed to give you a more in depth insight into an issue or theme. We hope that these new features will give you a well-rounded insight into what's happening in mission – at home and abroad – and within the Connexional Team.

With all the excitement about the new features, it's easy to forget about other, more confusing matters. Here at Mission Education, we often receive enquiries from our supporters. Some of them would like to support individual projects and do not understand why they cannot do this while others do not understand the difference between the various Methodist Church Funds. Some people just don't understand the difference between the Funds and the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) as we are housed in the same building! With all these distinctions, it is easy to see where and how confusion reigns. In response to the many questions, we've designed a short guide to giving to the Methodist Church Funds (see page 5). We hope you find it useful.

With World AIDS Day upon us again, this issue of *Mission Matters* comes with a special feature on HIV/AIDS; what it is, how the worldwide Church is responding to it and how you can be engaged in this vast mission field. We hope you enjoy reading the new *Mission Matters* as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.

World AIDS Day



It seems like only yesterday that we observed the last World Aids Day but here we are a year later preparing for another one. For those who are wondering what World AIDS Day (December 1) is, it is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS and this year, the theme, which is always set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.

So then, what is HIV?

It's the Human Immunodeficiency Virus which causes AIDS. It is transmitted through bodily fluids, in particular, blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is a collection of rare infections and cancers that people with HIV can develop. If a person with HIV gets one of these specific illnesses, they are said to have AIDS. (www.nat.org.uk)

Contrary to popular opinion, HIV/AIDS is not only consigned to

developing countries. In the UK, 7,000 people are infected every year. The National AIDS Trust (NAT) co-ordinates the UK World AIDS Day campaign. NAT is also the UK's leading independent policy and campaigning voice on HIV and AIDS.

This year, they have decided to put young people at the heart of their World AIDS Day Campaign, as in many ways they have been the generation that missed out on AIDS awareness messages. The theme of YOU, ME, US is aimed at encouraging both individual and collective action to make a difference and one of the most effective ways of doing this is making red ribbons available and HIV visible. And, they need your help.

By taking a collection box and selling Red Ribbons, churches can make a major contribution to this year's World AIDS Day campaign, in both raising awareness and raising vital funds for NAT.

You can order a box online at www.worldAIDSday.org.uk or call NATS on 0207 814 6731.

Available HIV/AIDS resources from Mission Education and Methodist Publishing House (mph).

- *Revised HIV & AIDS Strategy & Implementation Plan* by The Methodist Church of Southern Africa. Available from Mission Education.
- *The Body of Christ has AIDS* Available from mph (poster code GA290)
- *Speak Out about HIV/AIDS* Available from mph (GE184)

Unless otherwise stated, you can order these resources FREE from mph online www.mph.org.uk or by calling 01733 325002 stating the product codes. Postage and packing costs may apply.

WEBSITES

- LEAT provides practical home based support by way of trained volunteers to those within the London Borough of Southwark who are living with HIV/AIDS.
<http://www.lead.org.uk/>
- UNITAID aims at improving international drug purchase to enable citizens in developing countries to have access to treatments for malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. <http://www.unitaid.eu/sommaire.php3?lang=en>
- Christian HIV/AIDS Alliance is a network of Christian agencies, churches and individuals praying and working together to serve and empower those affected by HIV/AIDS
<http://www.chaa.info/>
- Christian Medical Fellowship
<http://www.cmf.org.uk/>

The Fund for World Mission also supports a wide variety of HIV/AIDS projects around the world. For more information on these projects and accompanying resources, kindly contact Mission Education.

From Zambia

Something I've come to realise during my time out here is that living in Africa doesn't make you a better person, it just forces you to confront poverty, and all the problems associated with it, in a more direct way. Problems that were always very academic to me - AIDS, street children, unemployment, hunger - are now real. I found out just the other week that one of my best friends here is HIV positive, and was devastated by the news. But then a quarter of the population here are the same, so why should I be more upset by one individual than all those thousands of people who are also HIV+? And it's the same with the street kids. I've got to know a family of 5 kids quite well, and have been working with a friend of mine to get the youngest ones cared for in an orphanage. Thankfully they've now been taken in, but the oldest boy, who is 17, has just been left to fend for himself. Every time I go past Shoprite I see him there begging and it breaks my heart. And yet his story is similar to those of all the other street boys. But these problems are real to me now because they affect people I love and care about.

Having painted such a bleak picture, I've actually had an amazing time here, and I love learning about African culture. I say African instead of Zambian since Mindolo, where I'm working, is a

pan-African centre, so it's given me the privilege to meet people from all over the continent. And it has really whetted my appetite for more. I now want to go to Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Malawi.... Will anyone out there pay me to be a full time EEP??? I hope that my time out here has 'Africanised' me - I want to go back and greet everyone I come across, I want to be able to dance and sing in public without getting embarrassed, I want to be patient and more laid-back. But only time will tell how long these changes will last. I just know that I don't want to turn into a stressed out commuter who pushes past people on the street without giving them the time of day. That's not what life is about.

Claire Price was an Experience Exchange Partner at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. She taught the Media and Communications course. The Experience Exchange Programme (EEP) is jointly run by USPG and the Methodist Church. It gives volunteers, who must be resident in Britain or Ireland, a chance to work in a different culture and environment, and experience the church in another part of the world.

Claire Price in Zambia



You will be pleased to know that we are still encouraging support for the Methcare/Love Box scheme. The scheme is part of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa's HIV/AIDS programme. The 'Love Box' contains medical supplies for the treatment of opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS: pneumonia, cough, diarrhoea, thrush, fever, bronchitis and herpes amongst others. When these infections are treated, people are able to continue working and take their place as valued members of the community.

We are happy to invite your support for this particular scheme because we know that the more money is raised, the more people can be helped, and the 'Love Box' scheme can be spread more widely.

Revd Steve Penrose is Chaplain to London's HIV Community Support Group. He is also the Director of the London Ecumenical AIDS Trust (LEAT). LEAT provides information, advice and training on HIV/AIDS. It also offers practical and emotional support to people of all faiths and none who are affected by HIV/AIDS. To find out more about LEAT, go to www.lead.org.uk, give them a call on 0207 793 0338 or email Steve Penrose at: hivchap@btopenworld.com



From North India

In 1996, I applied to the Church of North India and have been serving for 10 years now. In 1997, I received training on HIV/AIDS from the Church of Christ at Chiang Mai, Thailand. This was an exposure of a lifetime because I was introduced to people with AIDS for the first time. Initially, I was using all the communication material prepared by the government but people always asked, *what has the Church prepared on HIV/AIDS?* I then worked on pamphlets, posters, a manual for teenagers and videos.

This is the true story of Shruti.

The HIV/AIDS team of the Church of North India went to Shruti's school to conduct an awareness programme. When I ended my talk, Shruti had many questions. She wanted to put them all to me but she did not want to make it look obvious in school. The School Principal arranged a quiet place for Shruti and me to talk. Shruti was hesitant in the beginning but when she felt comfortable, she spoke. She said she was in grade seven when her uncle, her father's younger brother, started abusing her. She was afraid of her father so she could not share this problem with anyone, not even with her mother. Now, she was worried that she might be HIV positive because one night when she went to get drinking water, she heard sounds coming from the kitchen. She peeped in and found that the same uncle was having sex with the maid. It was shocking and sickening but she did not realise the seriousness behind it until she heard me speak about HIV/AIDS. She was taken for a blood test and tested positive.

The news was [delivered] to the parents who initially reacted very aggressively. Gradually, they accepted the problem. They said they accepted me because I belonged to the Church and not just any other organisation. But there was no school for Shruti. Even

though the Principal was willing to let her continue and [keep her secret], her parents withdrew her.

Her uncle had to go for a test and [also] the maid who came from a slum area. The maid's husband was dying of AIDS. The uncle and the maid both tested positive too. The maid's husband died, as did the uncle and the maid herself.

I started visiting [Shruti's] family. I used to literally plead with her parents to allow her to go for antiretroviral treatment but they were very reluctant as Shruti had a younger sister and they did not want the secret to be out. They had shifted from their area to another locality to live in a rented accommodation. It was their ancestral home that they had left. They intended to return when everything was over. They did not want the neighbourhood to know anything about 'this' problem.

Shruti is now no more. I was with her family at her cremation. The bud that should've bloomed dried and withered.

I found a beautiful person in Shruti. She never complained. She used to talk to me for hours. I visited her every Saturday. She would wait for me. I watched her year after year growing weak and pale. One day, she said to me, "I will go to God before you go and I will send blessings to you to be living in this world with a long life to look after people like me." Talking to her and being with her has given me a lot of courage to face other people especially young people with HIV and AIDS but I pray to God for no one to face what Shruti faced. I have also learnt a lot from this experience.

As a caring Church, we work to meet the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS through home-based care, palliative care and pastoral care. As a concerned Church, we work among the general population with special emphasis on women, adolescents and the youth.

As a vigilant and observant Church, we encourage sexual abstinence and promote faithfulness but, we also talk about preventive devices. As a non-judgemental Church, we discourage stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS and gender disparity with special emphasis on the under-privileged and marginalised. As an educating Church, we provide counselling and advocacy on spiritual values based on moral theology, family values, self-motivation and ethical guidance. As an encouraging Church, we reach out with hope and the love of Christ to not only the infected but all those affected by HIV/AIDS. In the broad sense, we are all affected by it whether we believe it or not.

Ms Karuna Roy, Coordinator, HIV and AIDS Programme, The Synodical Board of Health Services, Church of North India. Karuna is the 2006 Recipient of the E.H. Johnson Award. Established by the Canadian church in 1983, the award is named in honour of Edward (Ted) Johnson, one of its long time mission leaders who died in 1981. Recipients have included Beyers Naudé, Desmond Tutu and WARC president Clifton Kirkpatrick. This is an abridged version of her acceptance speech.

Karuna's post is supported by a general grant from the Fund for World Mission to the Church of North India (CNI).





The Views from Abroad

During this last term, a number of people have pointed out to me that there are some very needy areas in Kenya where nothing is being done with regard to the education of the hearing impaired. A few weeks ago, the Assessment Officer of the Meru district asked me if there was anything I could do to help the deaf children in Tharaka district. He has had a number of referrals from there, but there are no schools in that area where he can place them.

Tharaka is a very dry barren area about three hours drive from Meru town. At the moment, because there are no schools for the deaf in that area, deaf children are just kept at home, put into mainstream schools with no support, or into units for the mentally handicapped.

Tharaka district is in the lowlands so it is very hot and dusty. There is not much vegetation.

However, everyone was very welcoming and the Assessment Officer

in Tharaka told me about many deaf children who are sitting at home because there are no teachers of the deaf in that area. I also met the Methodist Bishop of Tharaka, who assured me that there would be no problem with accommodation as he could provide me with a house at the Rural Training Centre.

After giving the matter much prayer and thought, it would seem as if the Lord is leading me in a new direction. However, the time spent in Kaaga Deaf School has been very worthwhile and without the many experiences gained there I certainly wouldn't contemplate moving to Tharaka.

It will be with more than a little sadness that I shall leave the children and teachers in Kaaga at the end of the year. However the teachers there are very dedicated and with the many resources now coming in from various organisations in America, I know the children's education will continue to improve.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Teachers and children that they will remain strong in their commitment to Christ.
- God's blessing on all the preparations for Tharaka.
- A vehicle that can transport all my belongings.
- Ability to cope with the climate and living conditions in Tharaka.

Helen Moorehead is a Mission Partner working with deaf children in Meru, Kenya. A Mission Partner is someone who feels called by God to go and serve in another part of the World Church. This programme is supported the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.



As I stated earlier, this year I'm also involved in helping to care for a Methodist Community that lives in a place called CARMEN DE PATAGONES

which is in the "real" Patagonia as opposed to Bahia Blanca (BB), which is only in Patagonia in the minds of the Methodist Church for administrative purposes! As you know, Bahia Blanca is located in the far south of the Province of Buenos Aires. Sometimes, I have to go there twice a month and at other times once a month. I went there once in March and twice in April, and when I go there, I leave BB on the bus at 12.30pm on Friday, arriving there at 4pm, and I leave there on the bus at 1.30pm on Sunday, and arrive back here at 5pm. I just have enough time to catch a taxi, get home,

greet Catalina and turn round twice before it's time to lead worship at my church! However, although the travelling tires me a bit, and it's a time of non-stop work for me, when I'm there I'm happy to do it (although I dislike my separation from Catalina!) because there's a great interest in God's Word among the people there. The community is very poor and the Mapuche Indian people have strong links with the Methodist Church so I find the work quite interesting. I will tell you all about it in my Winter newsletter.

As for my work in the Central Church, it's a little easier than last year as the folk understand my limits, and my position about matters more than at this time last year. Also, I continue to enjoy the flexibility of the work and the amount of pastoral visiting that I am able to do here.

I am very happy to be working for God here in Argentina, and I continue to feel that it is the place where God wishes me to be.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That God's will WILL be done through me in relation to my street work in Tiro Federal.
- To my accompanying of the folk in Carmen de Patagones.
- And in my work with a wide range of people as Pastora of the Central Church here in BB.

Sue Jansen is a Mission Partner in Argentina.

