

# mission matters

PARTNERS IN MISSION

## INSIDE



Honduran community



Kickstart

Issue **29** Autumn 2009

## Healing and reconciliation in Sri Lanka



Image credit: David Fumival

The bloody 26-year-long Sri Lankan civil war left more than 270,000 people hungry and homeless. Despite the end of hostilities between government forces and the Tamil Tigers, rebuilding the worst-affected areas in the north and east of the country will take years.

The woman pictured here tells a typical story. Her husband scrapes a precarious living collecting firewood in an area strewn with landmines. Their two-year-old daughter, also pictured, was born in a refugee camp. Unable to feed themselves, they eat at a feeding centre based at Pattalipuram Methodist Church.

The bullet-ridden church, which can also be seen in the picture, supports 50 families; offering food, counselling, chaplaincy and peace-building services.

It is typical of many Methodist Church of Sri Lanka (MCSL) feeding centres and is being supported through the Sri Lanka emergency appeal.

"The Fund for World Mission immediately sent £20,000," explained Asia Pacific Secretary, Steve Pearce. "This was only possible because of your generosity."

Speaking recently, MCSL President, Revd Ebenezer Joseph, was eager to thank those who have given so generously. "This is one of the most challenging periods in my ministry. Nevertheless, we, as a Church, need always to affirm hope for the people and work towards healing and reconciliation

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## Committed to **Mission**



Some of the stories appearing in this issue have also appeared in the Methodist Missionary Society Report. We make no apologies – they are worth repeating! After all, in the context of the world at large it's reasonably easy to picture the work of mission. Images come to mind of sending relief in the wake of natural disasters; helping children orphaned by HIV/AIDS; supporting refugees from violent regimes; education or work creation schemes or developing new churches or outreach programmes. Any or all of these images are relevant to the work of mission. As a Church we are committed to working with our partners across the world to fulfil our obligation as the Church of Christ.

At home it's not so easy. It's difficult to imagine someone starving to death in the house next door. It's difficult to imagine someone being beaten to within an inch of their lives by rampaging mobs on your street. It's difficult to imagine someone who has lost everything in an earthquake in your town. But if we look around with mission shaped spectacles, what do we see here, at home?

We see a single young mum struggling to pay the heating bill. The homeless man crawling into a cardboard box against the winter rain. Children sitting alone on park benches because they're afraid to go home. The desperately lonely elderly widow.

People on our doorstep without help, without hope.

The second of Christ's greatest commands was this: To love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). In the stories featured here, we see how members of the Methodist Church have not only partnered with churches across the world, but also how we have looked around our home community, letting God show us how to be Jesus to the least, the lost and the last. How we are bringing help and bringing hope to our neighbours both at home and overseas – people who need a little touch of God in their lives.

As Methodists, we are committed to mission. Every member of the Church is a member of the Methodist Missionary Society and yes, in these difficult times, our giving is going to become costly to us – sacrificial in some cases. We don't need reminding that on this earth, God has no hands but ours, no ears but ours, no mouth but ours.

Can we afford not to give to the work of mission, one of the main reasons for our very existence as a Church?

**David Bennett**  
Fundraising Coordinator

## The **costliness** of giving

We are living in unprecedented times, most economists say. The world's financial systems still appear to be out of control. People are clearly worried – about job security, their savings and pensions, how they are going to pay massively escalating heating bills or, crucially, their mortgage or rent. Increased immigration and the influx of refugees from developing countries and migration across Europe is at an all-time high as people desperately try to seek out a living.

So, in a way, there has never been a better time for mission, both at home and further afield – to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to a sick and needy world.

The old adage says there are no atheists on a sinking ship, meaning that in desperate times people turn to God. Many people's journey of faith started with a small prayer to a God they weren't sure existed.

Yet what is happening around us, the conditions that are awakening people to the gospel, are precisely the same ones that can make it more difficult to spread the message of Christ. Many charities are reporting large drops in income. Even our own figures show a drop in giving to both the World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund. Yet the Bible tells us that King David recognised that his giving had to be costly (2 Samuel 24:24). Jesus taught that it wasn't the amount but the personal cost of the gift that mattered (Mark 12:43). Is your giving costly to you?



## What's in a name?

On 1st September 2009, the Fund for World Mission changed its name to the World Mission Fund (WMF). Hardly worth the effort, you might think, but it reflects a more substantial change in the way that mission is to be funded and the Methodist Conference has decided that adopting a new name will help to signify these changes. With it comes a new vitality in meeting the challenge of a rapidly changing world, one where partnership with the local churches and agencies in each country is becoming more effective than ever and in some cases, the only way to reach some groups of people.

Similarly the Fund for Home Mission has been replaced by the Mission in Britain Fund, but in this case it is accompanied by more radical change in the grant making structure to cover a wider application of funds through six streams (Ministry and Mission, Youth, Chaplaincy, Property, Cross Cultural and Heritage). This will enable the Mission in Britain Fund to support more innovative and exciting new projects across the UK as well as maintaining some existing work.

In the same way as the World Mission Fund now works with its Partner Churches in each country, the Mission in Britain Fund encourages circuits and districts to play a greater role in supporting local projects.

We know from the Bible that names are significant and changes of name even more so. When God changed Abram's name to Abraham, it came with a whole new vision. Changing the names of our mission funds heralds a revitalised and vibrant commitment of the Methodist Church to the work of mission – work that stretches from our next door neighbour to the furthest corners of the globe.

in the hearts of the people. The willingness of the Methodist people in Britain and Ireland really strengthens us. Please continue to pray. It's God's grace alone that enables us to continue with what could be done without just giving up."

Thanks to your giving, the Church is now able to send public health physician Jenny Bywaters to a Methodist hospital in the far north of the country, to offer her expertise to the mental health services in the Jaffna region. Jenny will spend six months working alongside the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, assessing the needs of the traumatised population and helping mental health experts respond to the crisis. "The Sri Lankan people are in urgent physical need," says Jenny, "but in the longer term, the psychological consequences will be enormous."

David Bennett, Fundraising Coordinator, said, "People's generous giving over the years has enabled the Methodist Church to respond immediately to the crisis in Sri Lanka with support totalling £25,000.

"This, however, is just the start. Donations are still needed to continue this vital work and we now want to send more financial support, alongside our prayers, to help our Partner Church continue its relief and peace-building work."

### A reflection and a prayer for Sri Lanka, written by students from the Theological College of Lanka (TCL)

#### Reflect

Let us open our hearts and allow God to speak to us and lead us to true repentance. Christ was nailed to the cross not for the salvation of a particular ethnic group or religion or nationality or culture.

Christ was crucified for the liberation and peace of all humanity and the whole of creation.

Christ did not teach us to call upon God as our Heavenly Father of the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims or Burghers, but as Father of the whole human race.

Let us open our eyes and look at our country.

Those killed are not Sinhalese, Tamils, Burghers or Muslims: they are all God's children. The body of Christ is the whole of creation, including our country.

How can we be Cain in our day? Can we still ask the question: Lord, am I my brother's and sister's keeper?

It is not only those who light a fire but also those who do nothing to extinguish it who are also responsible.

The times are here when God is asking us: "I was hungry – what have you done for me? I was oppressed – what did you do for me?"

#### Pray

Our loving Father and Mother God, God of all life, remember Sri Lanka.

Give your hands to all those who are suffering and affected by war and violence.

Give your love and care to them.

Gracious God, you listen to the cry of the refugees.

God of Liberation you come down and dwell with your people and liberate them. To whom can they go?

Dear God, you see the broken and the wounded and you say:

"These are my people," and it is for them that you came to proclaim liberty to the captives and to set the oppressed free.

O God, lead us from death to life, from hatred to love and from war to peace.

God of life and hope, uplift those who are struggling and when their struggle seems so long, when the pain and dying become unbearable,

Oh God, be their hope.

To give to the appeal, see:  
[www.justgiving.com/methodistchurchfundforworldmissionsrilankaappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/methodistchurchfundforworldmissionsrilankaappeal)  
 or write a cheque to The Fundraising Coordinator, The Fund for World Mission, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR,  
 quoting the reference SR59. For more information, see: [www.methodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk)



## World Church reaches out to Honduran community

There are few parts of the world where the compassionate arms of the Methodist Church do not reach.

Tegucigalpa, the capital city of the Central American state of Honduras, is no exception. Here, Methodist volunteers have lovingly built a church in the ramshackle district of Fuerzas Unidas, which lies on the edge of this primarily Spanish-speaking city.

In February, Fuerzas Unidas's 8,000-strong community of mainly women and children, led by an inspirational pastor, Sandra Carcano, was paid a visit by the Revd Tom Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for World Church Relationships.

The Methodist Church works closely with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) who fund mission volunteers in the area. At times, though, the presence of a friendly face, a prayer or two, some well considered advice and a big dose of love can be almost as important as hard cash.

As Tom puts it, "Sometimes a visit has much more value than sending money. It says to a Partner Church, 'We are interested in what you are doing and want to come and share it with you'. This church has not asked for any money, but has asked for our prayers, concern and continued interest. It may lead to us sending money for the work, but for the time



Image credit: Thomas Quenet

being, our love, expressed in being with them, is very significant and says much more than money."

Tom was deeply impressed that in this poverty-stricken community, where there is no running water and where the dilapidated homes are reminiscent of 'small square bird cages', there was a thriving Methodist church. Not only that, but medical volunteers had established a clinic within the church to provide a GP service and dentistry to the local people.

There is also a small nursery where mothers bring their young children, many of whose fathers have sadly abandoned them. A sanctuary exists where women – young and old – gather together to pray, share stories and offer each other comfort.

Tom says, "I listened, and tried to understand how this church is engaging in mission. That I had heard their call to come over and see was very much appreciated. Now I can understand first-hand that what they are doing is on the frontline of mission. They are very happy that someone from the place where Methodism was born has taken the trouble to come and see them."

*'... a big dose of love can be almost as important as hard cash'*

## Partners in Mission

Some of the stories in *Mission Matters* feature the work that British and Irish Methodists do throughout the world. It recognises that work in these islands is inextricably linked with the rest of the world. If every member of the Methodist Church is a member of the Methodist Missionary Society (MMS), this inevitably shapes our understanding of ourselves as Methodists in a world context.

Income for the World Mission Fund (WMF) appeared to show a small decrease in giving during 2007/08. This was at a time when the British economy began to slide into recession and yet the figures still reflect a commitment to giving by so many in the Church. Many people continue to support the work of world mission despite the difficulties that such adverse financial circumstances might bring, while the efforts of Women's Network, notably with the Easter Offering, must also be highlighted. On behalf of our Partner Churches around the world, thank you.

Within this continuing generosity of giving by churches and individuals, there is a growing trend for individuals, local churches and circuits to give cash for specific projects. This is nothing new but at a time when the Connexional Team has less staff to handle such specific donations, it would seem an appropriate moment to look at some important issues that this raises.

The Methodist Church in Britain helps Partner Churches in many ways – through personnel exchange, grants, scholarships for future leaders, Nationals in Mission Appointments



– indigenous staff paid for by the Methodist Church. These are all funded through undesignated giving to WMF. It is understandable that local churches in the UK want to give in a more personal way and there can be a tendency to choose certain projects that have a popular appeal; perhaps neglecting 'less fashionable' causes and countries. Often, these are the ones where our partners are desperately requesting help. So, if you are considering specific projects, please ask our experienced World Church Relationships staff. They will be happy to advise you about how you can support the priorities of the leaders in our Partner Churches.

In the Methodist Church we are all partners in God's mission. May we individually and collectively continue to listen with confidence to God and to each other as we acknowledge worldwide the privilege of being partners in sharing the good news.

#### Michael King

Leader, World Church Relationships



## Church cash helps Bangladesh street children

Cash from the World Mission Fund is helping to transform the lives of the street children of poverty-stricken Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries.

The Ekota ('Unity') Project, based at the central church office in (Old) Dhaka, the country's capital, is working with children from some of the area's most notorious slums. They have set up the Jokhon Tokhon Centre where street children can drop in at anytime.

The centre has become a haven for hundreds of youngsters whose lives have been blighted by deprivation and its attendant hardship. There they receive food and education. They can also do some of the things that children in developing countries take for granted: play games, hang out or simply rest.

Bangladesh based Mission Partner, Sarah Hall, said, "It is great that the children feel able to drop in and relax at the centre, and while there, relate to the teachers with whom they develop relationships and seek help where necessary."

Recently, Sarah recalls, two smartly dressed 12-year-old boys named Jahangir and Faisal turned up at the centre. The boys, who were clad in school uniform, "looked out of place amongst the other street children," she said.

It transpired that Jahangir had attended the centre regularly for three years after which he was referred to a night shelter. There, staff helped him to get into to a school which provides him with a monthly allowance, as well as food and clothing. This one-time street child is now thriving.

Sonia, an 11-year-old girl, is in a similarly fortunate position. The staff at the centre found her a sponsor and she now studies in a hostel on the other side of the city. It not only provides her with a safe place to live but also food, clothing and an education.

Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific says, "By offering financial support to our partner, the Church of Bangladesh, and by funding Mission

*'... the centre has become a haven for hundreds of youngsters whose lives have been blighted by deprivation'*

Partners, the World Mission Fund gives real expression to the desire of Methodists in Britain to share in this practical work for justice for all, including street and working children."

So, as the Church's work continues in the region, very poor children continue to benefit. It is to be hoped that they too will follow Jahangir and Sonia into a better life.



## World Mission has a vision for Benin

Tucked away in French-speaking western Africa, the diminutive state of Benin is just one of a number of countries in the region that the Methodist Church is helping to reinvigorate.

The Church, working under the umbrella of the Community of Churches in Mission (Ceeva), has helped to establish no fewer than nine projects in this former French colony, which is one of the poorest countries in the world. These include a social chaplaincy for spreading the gospel, a spiritual retreat and a 'Good Samaritan' polyclinic.

A recent roundtable meeting of Ceeva in the Beninese capital, Porto Novo, found that there is still a fundamental need for all the projects to continue. It concluded that the Church was ready to carry out its mission "to respond to spiritual and

social needs as well as to address political questions in the Beninese society, by carrying out its work as a Church of Jesus Christ, especially by announcing the gospel to all men and

*'... by carrying out actions of love, solidarity, justice and equity.'*

to each man by carrying out actions of love, solidarity, justice and equity."

In addition, it was decided that future work should place more emphasis on human rights and women's rights. Improving women's literacy will be a key feature. Defending the rights of new migrants and displaced people in this cotton-

producing country, whose shores were once known as the Slave Coast, an allusion to the captives who were shipped from there during the slave trade, will also be a priority.

Existing projects, including a national youth camp planned for 2010 and the development of a pineapple plantation in Dangbo, will be given a spiritual and evangelical makeover. Work will also begin on combating HIV and AIDS.

This year alone the World Mission Fund has given over £54,000 in grants to ensure that this vital work continues.

Roy Crowder, World Church Relationships Partnership Coordinator said, "I am very impressed by the dedication, work, and leadership of EPMB. They are now engaged in many successful evangelistic and humanitarian projects."





# KICKSTART

## Revitalising children's work in the church

It all started when the Revd Alistair Sharp had a vision to see children's work in the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit revitalised.

Many of the circuit's churches were struggling to attract children and families but, in September 2008, a grant from the Mission in Britain Fund changed all that. 'Kickstart', an innovative project aimed at five to 11-year-olds and, with children's work at its heart, was born.

'Children's work' is a way of giving youngsters the opportunity to learn, enjoy themselves and achieve their full potential within a safe environment. It encourages them to be confident participants in church and community life.

Kickstart began by taking on an inspiring new project manager, 40-year-old Nicki Goodwin. She started to send volunteers into primary schools to help with assemblies and religious studies lessons. It proved to be a fantastic way of building up trust with both pupils and staff.

Buoyed by its success, Kickstart then set up an after-school club,

*'... it gives children of the Christian man a fantastic role model'*

where kids could play, do crafts and study, at the local church – Ryecroft Methodist Church. The kids loved the club so much that they named it Wonderzone.

"It is working tremendously well," says Nicki. "We began working with three schools in the Ryecroft area of the circuit," she says, "and a few weeks later started encouraging the pupils to come to a brand new after-school club... From a standing start, there are 60 children on the register with 30 attending regularly."

Nicki is also helping churches to expand their children's work, advising them on an array of issues from practical to legal including the all important area of safeguarding. She has even roped in her husband, Neal,

as a volunteer as "it gives children of the Christian man a fantastic role model," she says. The pair are currently working to develop a training scheme so that churches can run their own children's programmes based on the Kickstart schools' partnership. They want all the children's projects in the churches to become completely sustainable. "Our aim is to make Kickstart redundant!" Nicki quips.

Nicki is "passionate about sharing Jesus" with young children and has found real interest amongst teachers.

"I'm amazed at how open the schools are to this – when teaching about the crucifixion the class teacher, who wasn't even a Christian, helped me to explain to the children why Jesus died on the cross," she says.

The Kickstart project aims to have eight after-school clubs in place by August 2011. With such eager and committed staff on board, how could they fail?

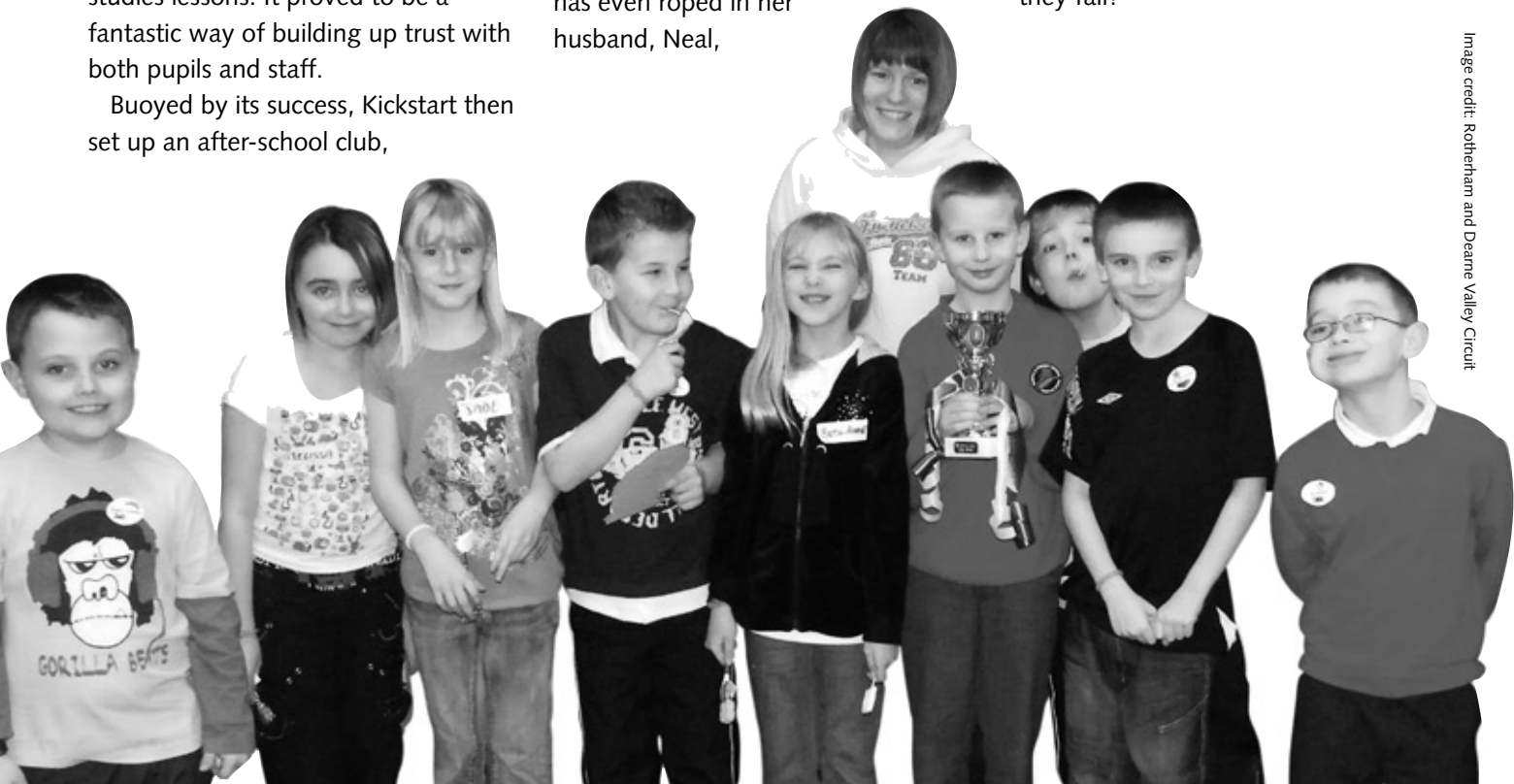




Image credit: Touchstone

## Mission promotes cohesion in Bradford

A flagship project in West Yorkshire, supported by the Mission in Britain Fund is blazing a trail for inter faith relations and diversity.

Set up in 1989, Touchstone is a Bradford-based resource centre which offers services to people of different faiths across Bradford and West Yorkshire.

With a sizeable grant this year of over £84,000 from the Mission in Britain Fund, the project is going from strength to strength.

The innovative scheme which, since 2008 has been designated 'a District project of Connexional significance', is now able to employ five staff and has ten keen volunteers who offer support to the myriad people who come through its doors.

Bradford is home to a large immigrant population and, to reflect this, Touchstone offers an impressive range of services to asylum seekers. They include a dedicated one-to-one worker who is there to give advice and support. The human rights organisation McKenzie Friends is also on hand to help people who have to go to court.

The committed staff, led by team leader, Geoff Reid, also play a vital role in actively campaigning for the rights of these disadvantaged people, many of whom have fled oppressive regimes.

Geoff says: "We work hard to tackle deprivation amongst these groups. We also campaign on their behalf. We hold protests, lobby MPs and file petitions about issues such as dawn raids on asylum seekers and their families."

*'... committed staff play a vital role in actively campaigning for the rights of these disadvantaged people'*

Geoff is committed to his role within the city to promote inter faith work. He is chair of 'Beacon' (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) where he works tirelessly with the Bishop of Bradford

to promote multi-faith cohesion. He is hugely grateful to the Mission in Britain Fund for supporting him and his staff to continue their valuable work.

"Because of the sort of organisation we are, we could not exist without the church centrally. Because we've had their support we've been able to make a significant difference to people's lives." Geoff says.

## Mind the Gap

### An unfolding story of fresh growth

As young people are increasingly drawn away from the Church, a flourishing project supported by The Mission in Britain Fund is helping to buck the trend.

'Mind the Gap' is a thriving scheme focusing on friendship and evangelism in the Jarrow and Gateshead Circuit in the North East of England. It's aimed at the 'missing generation' of 20-40 year-olds. It has been so successful that, after six fruitful years of putting on a range of popular social and theological events, it has spawned a brand new church – a church plant.

The innovative plant based at the Sheriff Hill Methodist Church has proved a great way of creating fresh expressions of church, designed to coexist alongside traditional congregations.

Its enthusiastic co-founder, District Evangelism Enabler Steve Lindridge, says, "Our mission was to reach the 20-40 age group that seemed to be missing from churches in our circuit. The Mission in Britain Fund has helped Mind the Gap to develop massively into its latest and most exciting stage – a church plant."

At the heart of the exciting project is a monthly contemporary worship service called 'Theophany' – meaning appearance/showing of God. There are weekday cell groups where members enjoy fellowship and are discipled and pastored; regular Alpha Courses; and 'seeker events' – for people who are interested to know more such as 'Curious?'. They offer a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere into which people are encouraged to bring friends.

Steve Murray, an experienced Local





Preacher, who has been involved with the circuit for a number of years and who now runs the plant, said that it had made church accessible to the community.

“There are stories of lives rebuilt and of supporting people in need. Then there’s the recovering alcoholic who found faith and new life in Jesus and now helps people with addiction problems.” he says.

The blend of informal cafe-style meetings, modern worship, discipling and social evangelism has attracted interest from members of neighbouring churches in this urban area famed for its Angel of the North sculpture. Excited by what they have seen, they have been spurred on to make big changes in their own churches.

The Mission in Britain Fund has supported Mind the Gap from the start, showing what can be achieved when you give new projects the tools to sustain themselves.



## New look for **Mission Matters – Partners in Mission**

**M**ethodist Churches – and others – tell us that *Mission Matters* is a really useful source of information. Up to now, it has featured stories from across the world about how the Methodist Church Funds have been used so effectively in the work of mission. We are beginning to hear of exciting and imaginative initiatives in the work of mission within our shores, too. From young people’s work in inner cities or on the beaches of Cornwall, to befriending people at the end of their lives, we are looking forward to featuring these stories in future issues. You will also find fundraising advice, articles on new initiatives and campaigns, news from the Connexional Team and reports on the latest appeals as well as individual stories of changed lives.

If you want more copies of *Mission Matters* free of charge to use in your church, to give away, or even leave in the dentist’s waiting room (it has been done) please contact us.



## IN FUTURE ISSUES ...

### Are legacies taboo in Church?



Statistics show only five per cent of the population leave a gift to charity when they die. Anecdotal evidence further suggests that few church leaders talk about leaving gifts in wills, even though Christian charities rely heavily on gifts in wills to fund their projects.

A new survey by a consortium of six Christian charities aims to find out why Christians are so reluctant to leave gifts in their wills.

Under the banner of 'Christian Legacy', the aim of the consortium is to increase legacy gifts to Christian charities. The study also looks at whether attitudes

towards giving are changing in the current economic climate.

Initial results have identified a particular attitude towards legacy giving by Methodists. In a future issue of *Mission Matters – Partners in Mission* we look forward to reporting on the survey in more detail.



**David Bennett**  
Fundraising Coordinator

### The emperor's new clothes?

In the previous issue of *Mission Matters*, reference was made to the re-organisation of the Connexional Team ('The future of Mission Education') and how some of the work of advocacy was being brought under the banner of the new Christian Communication, Evangelism and Advocacy Cluster.

That process is now complete and mission advocacy has now fallen within the remit of the new Fundraising Coordinator, David Bennett. Part of that process has resulted in fundraising for mission work being placed on a formal basis alongside advocacy. Fundraising is not just a new name for Mission Education, nor is it just a way of reorganising our existing appeals and offerings. Along with the new Connexional Grants Committee, fundraising is aiming at forging a more direct link between giving and mission, making it easier to support the work of the Methodist Church.

This is a bold initiative agreed by Conference and a new strategy paper for fundraising was recently debated at Council. We look forward to reporting on the outcome shortly.



### From BBQ to Bring and Buy — Church Fundraisers

Much of the work of mission is dependent on the extra amounts raised by local churches at fundraising events.

The special offerings or passing the plate on a Sunday fund a great deal of excellent mission work, both overseas and at home – the extra income raised in this way that can make all the difference to the work of our partners in mission:





## Mission in Britain gives hope to Morecambe pensioners

Pensioners in Morecambe have more than just the bay to enjoy now that The Mission in Britain Fund is donating cash to improve their lives.

A generous grant of £10,000 is helping a charity called CHIPS (Christian Help in Partnership), in the Morecambe and Heysham Circuit, to provide a much needed visiting and befriending scheme for 160 elderly people.

Many have reached the ripe old age of 80 and 90 years and would be lonely and isolated if it were not for the visits they get from one of the charity's 75 befrienders, who generously give up their time to add a bit of colour to the pensioner's lives.

One of the scheme's big success stories is 102-year-old Winifred, who is still able to live on her own because she

knows that she will see a friendly face every week, have someone to talk to over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Her CHIPS volunteer, 73-year-old Rod Baker, pops round every Monday to take the one-time Morecambe Bay lifeguard out.

"Rod brings sunshine into my life," says Winifred. "I was lonely before I met him. Now I know I have friends and I have people to think about."

CHIPS was started 11 years ago by former social worker Pauline Elder, and it has been able to go from strength to strength with the cash injection it receives from The Mission in Britain Fund amongst other donors.

Pauline says, "The financial support from the Methodist Church has shown very clearly that 'The Church' not only supports CHIPS prayerfully, but practically too!"

The Morecambe-based charity also runs a social afternoon every Tuesday called T@2 which gives its elderly charges the opportunity to make friends, share memories and enjoy treats such as luxurious massage and pampering sessions.

Its dedicated staff also offer advice about benefits, accompany people on hospital visits and even help them to choose whether or not to move to a retirement home.

A 2008 survey by [elderlyparents.org.uk](http://elderlyparents.org.uk) – an organisation which supports children coping with the demands of ageing parents – found that nearly half of elderly people questioned said being lonely was their main concern in the future.

But with the support of the Mission in Britain Fund, Chips is going some way to ensuring that this loneliness is a thing of the past for the pensioners of Morecambe.

- The difference in Africa between providing clean water from a well and clean water piped into the village.
- The difference in Asia between reconstructing a school building destroyed by civil war and providing a school with teachers and books.
- The difference in the UK between providing premises for a youth group and making it a really cool venue that will attract young people.

We will be running a regular feature in future issues of *Mission Matters* – *Partners in Mission* with helpful ideas and tips on running a fundraising event.



Winifred with CHIPS vounteer Rod Baker



# The Colours of Advent

In the run-up to Christmas 2010 we will be launching a new Advent Offering. Based on our four 'Callings' (one for each of the Advent Sundays), it will be called **The Colours of Advent** and gifts raised will be used to support the work of mission in Britain.

Why do we need a special offering at Christmas? The work of overseas mission has benefited enormously over the years from the selfless work of the Women's Network

in helping to raise funds through the Easter Offering. Your generosity in giving serves to underline the commitment of Methodists to mission. Yet gifts from our members (given through circuits or directly to the funds) seem to favour world mission over mission in Britain.



Provisional results for 2007/08 indicate that giving to world mission exceeded giving to mission in Britain four-fold. We want to help that to change. The Mission in Britain Fund (MiBF) is not simply replacing the Fund for Home Mission – it's becoming associated with exciting and innovative new ways of doing mission in the UK as well as supporting existing programmes.

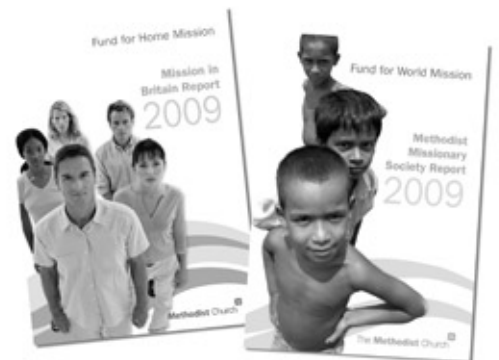
Just to whet your appetite, there are four Sundays in Advent and each Sunday will be used to celebrate each of our four Callings:

- **Learning and Caring**, the colour rose associated with joy and love
- **Service**, the colours red and green associated with life and hope
- **Evangelism**, the colour blue associated with creation
- **Worship**, the colour purple associated with the coming King.

Between then and now, you'll be hearing more about the new Advent Offering and how it can be used in your church to support the work of Mission in Britain.

# The 2009 Methodist Missionary Society and Mission in Britain annual reports are now available

The 2009 Methodist Missionary Society and Mission in Britain annual reports are now available. They are attractive, full colour A5 booklets which have been designed as a resource to help you in advocacy for world or home mission. Both reports include sections on how to give and can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website or ordered from Methodist Publishing on 01733 235962.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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Tel: 020 7486 5502  
Email: helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk  
Website: www.methodist.org.uk

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- District mission officers  Circuit mission officers
- Ministers and deacons in pastoral charge
- Mission fund supporters

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- Members of your local mission committee

- .....
- Local Preachers

- .....
- House group leaders
- .....

