



Explore • Share • Enrich

in partnership and mission with Methodist Churches worldwide



The **Methodist Church** 
World Church Relationships



IRISH METHODIST
WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP

What is Encounter Worldwide?

Encounter Worldwide offers Christians in Britain and Ireland (aged 18 and over) the opportunity to spend three to twelve months sharing in the Methodist Church's mission, life and culture in another part of the world.*

Explore faith

- Experience life, faith and Methodism in a different culture and setting.
- Stretch and share your own faith.
- Deepen your understanding of justice and development issues.
- Play a full part in a local church and its community.

Share skills

Your placement will be based around your skills and interests. You could be teaching English, providing medical support, establishing administrative systems or working with young people. Don't worry whether you have specialist skills or not, the key thing is a willingness to learn!

Enrich mission

When you return home:

- share your experience and learning
- enthuse others about mission, faith and culture
- raise awareness of the practical and spiritual realities of people living in other countries and cultures.

Pause and reflect

The Church is looking for volunteers who are:

- committed to exploring their faith
- willing to learn and share as equals
- open to others' perspectives, ideas and culture
- resourceful and able to cope with new and unfamiliar situations with limited support
- committed on their return to enrich mission by sharing their encounter with others

* If you are looking for an encounter for a shorter time, please get in touch to find out about other opportunities.



The Encounter

Working alongside other Christians in God's mission provides a base for exchange, enrichment and learning. Partner Churches around the world contribute something to the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland by hosting Encounter Worldwide volunteers.

Keeping in touch with home and sharing with those supporting you is an important part of being an Encounter Worldwide volunteer. Encounter Worldwide will bring an opportunity to challenge faith, experience a different culture, share skills, make new friends and have fun!

Apply

Selection for Encounter Worldwide is through an application form. There is also an interview process, which is a two-way meeting to help you decide if you wish to take part in Encounter Worldwide. It also helps the Methodist Church assess your suitability – going overseas is not for everyone.

Prepare

Appropriate preparation and cross-cultural training is provided. This will be tailored to suit your needs and the requirements for your encounter. Training will usually take place over a few days and will include cultural awareness, the background of Methodism in the region and a regional/country specific briefing, as well as how to cope in difficult situations.

Cost

There is no organisational charge for participating in the programme. As a self-funded volunteer you will need to cover all the costs necessary for your time overseas. This includes flights, accommodation, food, visas, vaccinations, insurance and personal expenses.

The cost of participating in the programme varies between placements but for twelve months, a figure of £5,000 (or Euro equivalent) should act as a guide. The Methodist Church in Britain can assist with budgeting and fundraising advice if needed. Those applying as a member of Methodist Church in Ireland may receive a grant from its World Mission Partnership.



Continuing mission

Returning home from overseas continues the Encounter Worldwide experience. You will have time and space to reflect and the World Church Relationships Team will provide a debrief. You will extend your Encounter in further mission, faith, and worship activities, as well as staying in contact with your overseas partner and other returning volunteers. Not only will this strengthen your Christian life but also build up the life of the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland.

- Interested in undertaking your own Encounter?
- Want to find out more and talk it through?
- Ready to apply?

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