

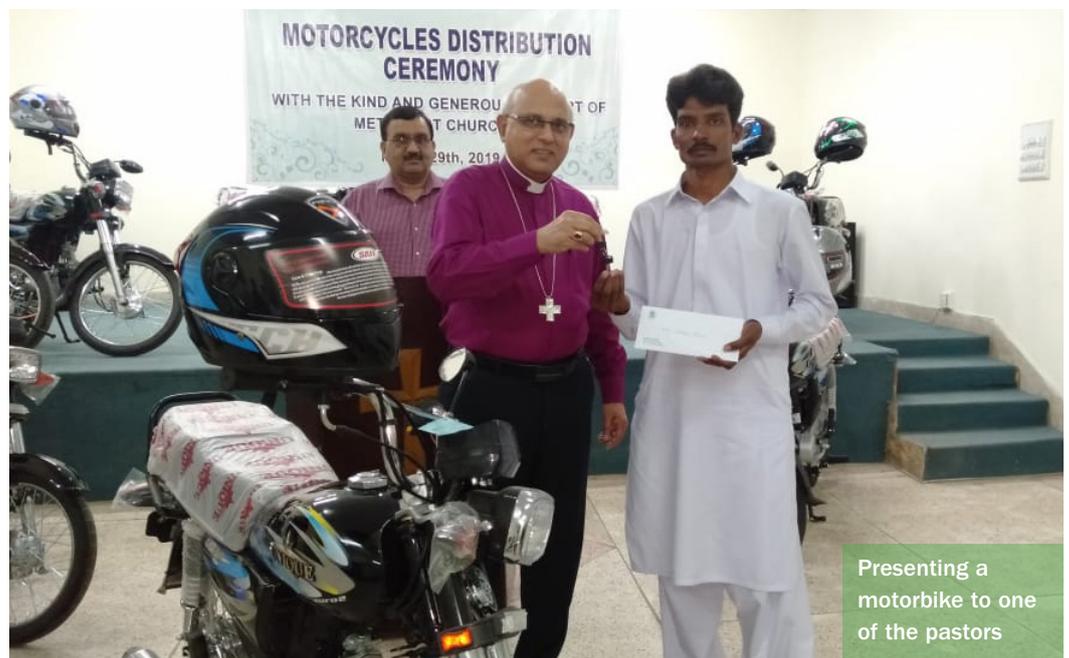


“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1: 8 (NRSV)

PARTNER CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS

Motorcycles aiding mission in rural Pakistan

Donations from the Methodist Church in Britain equip 10 pastors with vital transport.



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In rural parts of Pakistan, it can be difficult for ministers to visit people in their parishes because of the distances involved. However, earlier this year, ten clergy and outreach staff were happy and encouraged each to receive a gift of a motorcycle, funded by the Methodist Church in Britain.

Bishop Kaleem John was guest of honour at a special ceremony in March to bless and distribute the vehicles. These will enable staff to reach more people in rural Sindh, Pakistan, and to serve more effectively in their parishes. The bikes will be a particular help for staff visiting families of Hindu origin who have recently become Christian and live in outlying villages,

many of whom are not able to come to the main church for Sunday services.

Ashley Farooq, Office Manager for the Diocese of Hyderabad said, “On behalf of Bishop Kaleem John, the clergy and outreach staff, I am so grateful to each and every one in the British Methodist Church for raising and sending funds for this project. It is a great help indeed to implement the diocesan mission and vision for reaching the un-reached and sharing the Good News with them.”

Youth President visits Hong Kong

Jasmine, Syntiche and members of the Methodist Church of Hong Kong



Photo: © Getty Images



Syntiche Dedji is a Global Mission Fellow working in Hong Kong for the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM). She describes her work and a visit from Jasmine Yeboah, the Methodist Youth President.

A PMM advocate for the rights of domestic workers across Asia-Pacific. There are around 385,000 domestic workers in Hong Kong, and they form the backbone of society. However, many are underpaid and overworked, and often experience abuse and human rights' violations. APMM works across Asia-Pacific to raise awareness of issues surrounding migration, as well as organising and building partnership and solidarity for the advancement of migrants' rights and welfare. Currently, our main areas of focus are marriage

migration, development and forced migration, undocumented migrants and domestic work.

In May Jasmine came to visit us in Hong Kong. While she was here, I was able to share a bit about my work here in Hong Kong.

During her visit, she met Methodist ministers and members of their social outreach and youth programmes. They were very interested to hear about her work as Youth President and to learn more about 3Generate as they are currently in the process

of developing their own youth conference. Two years ago, they came to the UK to observe how the Conference and elections for Youth President take place.

Jasmine also visited various Methodist churches around Hong Kong, and some of the Church's social outreach programmes. Here we have a number of programmes for children, youth and the elderly.

Altogether, it was a great programme and beneficial, both for Jasmine, and for myself and my colleagues.

If you're interested in finding out more about the work of Global Mission Fellows, have a look at their website: umcyoungpeople.org/the-latest/global-mission-fellows-opportunity

Generous hospitality in the South Pacific

The Revd Sam McGuffin broke new ground with his visit to the Methodist Church in Fiji.

The Revd Sam McGuffin, President designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland, has just completed an overseas visit to Fiji – a first both for both Churches.

Sam writes, “It was an absolute pleasure to be in Fiji. The MCiF is a strong and vibrant church and despite our physical distance – Fiji is in the South Pacific and Ireland is in the North Atlantic – we share many common social, geographical and political issues.

“I can see this visit as the start of a partnership that hopefully will be of mutual benefit and I look forward to our continued dialogue and to developing further the relationship between the two churches in the future.”

The Methodist Church in Fiji arranged a full programme of visits and events over ten days, and Sam said he was very privileged and honoured to visit Viwa and Bau islands as part of his tour.

“During the boat crossings, I gained a little understanding

of what the early missionaries must have experienced when they arrived on the shores of Fiji, and it was a joy to be in Viwa where the Revd John Hunt first translated the New Testament into Fijian. I found visiting John Hunt’s grave a very emotional experience and I am humbled by the ultimate commitment that many missionaries gave to share the gospel.”

The Revd John Hunt died aged just 36, nine years after he first arrived in Fiji. When he was in Viwa, the Revd Hunt had prayed for the conversion of Ratu Sera Cakobau, the paramount chief of Fiji, who resided on the nearby island of Bau. Six years after the Revd Hunt’s death, Ratu Sera Cakobau finally embraced Christianity and was baptised in Bau. The date – 30 April 1854

– was 165 years to the day of Sam’s visit.

A special service of commemoration is held every year on 30 April, and this year, the Revd Sam McGuffin had the great honour of delivering the sermon. Afterwards, he was hosted by Ratu Epenisa Cakobau, who is the great great-grandson of Ratu Sera Cakobau.

Sam at the end of his visit, concluded: “Having learned and shared so much over the visit, I wish to thank MCiF for its extraordinarily generous hospitality, MCB for making the visit possible and Julia Edwards for being a wonderful guide and companion. I pray God will continue to bless and build upon all these relationships in the years to come.”



Photo: © Getty Images

Seeing God at work in Cuba

Vibrant worship in Havana,
Below: Cuban mission in the mountains



The Revds Stephen and Elaine Lindridge share testimony from their visit to the vibrant and growing Methodist Church in Cuba.

God is adding to the Methodist numbers in Cuba by around 10% every year. The biggest church has more than 3,000 members and 120 cell groups. The worship is loud, vibrant, joyous and indigenous.

Cuba is a Communist country, so when the good news is shared it's with people who haven't heard it before. It can be very powerful to witness. For example, towards the end of one of service we attended, the Bishop asked who hadn't yet asked Jesus into their life. A man stood up straight away and was invited to the front. The conviction showed in his face, it was very real and powerful. The Bishop continued talking and inviting

others, and around five responded and came forward. The first man literally fell to his knees and started weeping loudly. Calmly, the Bishop asked a couple of the lay pastors to stay with him. They knelt with the man, and comforted him and prayed. There was no hype, but this was a very powerful moment.

In Cuba, people of all ages are encouraged to be missionaries and are sent to share the good news in new places. It's not always easy. One missionary mentioned to us how he fights with his self-confidence and shyness so that he can share the gospel. He feels spiritual oppression every time he goes to share the good news. He said, "It's difficult but not impossible."

The way it works is that a local church appoints a missionary to go to a new area to share faith. When someone shows interest in the gospel, the missionary ask that person to open their home to start a cell group. This grows and when it gets to about 25, it



becomes a mission. When the mission grows to more than 40, they start to try to register it as a church. Once it becomes a church, the Bishop sends a pastor. If the missionary becomes that pastor, they can then go to the seminary. In other words, someone's trained as a pastor only after they've proven they can plant a church.

There is also a strong expectation that members will invite others to cell groups and services. New believers attend Bible classes and after a while they may progress to membership classes. The bar is high to become a member – they have to attend classes, pray and read the Bible for themselves, tithe, be of good character and give testimony. They also sit an exam! All of this takes about a year. It occurred to us whilst we were there that they don't waste any time on inconsequential activity. There's no fund raising meetings or activities – yes they have some finance from American sponsorship, but a lot comes from the members who are expected to give generously.

Whilst out there, we were thinking about the way the Church works in Cuba and reflecting on how they prioritise evangelism, worship and cell groups. At the end of our visit the congregation prayed for us and the Methodist Church in Britain.



Photo: © Getty Images



Update on Louis Tregonning

Sadly because of the Easter Day bombings in Sri Lanka it is no longer possible for Louis (left top) to volunteer there as it wasn't felt safe to send him. Instead he is going to the Church of South India for a couple of months. If you want to follow his adventures, go to his blog at: travelswithtreggers.weebly.com/



Tiana has adopted two kittens!

Tiana Dinard-Samuel (left) writes: "About a month or so ago a friend of the landlord found some kittens left in a box on the street which is sad, but he let us keep them so now I have two 'sons' who are really cute. Sometimes they are annoying when they try to attack my earrings or climb over my laptop when I'm watching something but they're still great!"

Tiana recently took part in a live question and answer session via Skype at a World Mission weekend in Doncaster.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Encounter Worldwide programme go to: www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/world-church/overseas-opportunities/encounter-worldwide/

MISSION PARTNER NEWS – FAREWELL TO HAITI

Mission Partners Sharon and John Harbottle were special guests at a leaving dinner held in their honour

The British Ambassador to Haiti, Sharon Campbell, hosted a special dinner to bid farewell to two of our mission partners who have served the Lord faithfully on the island of Haiti for the past seven years.

Sharon Harbottle writes, "It was a wonderful evening of vibrant conversation and the Ambassador

expressed her thanks to us not only for the work that we have done in Haiti through the Methodist Church, but also for representing Great Britain, for 'flying the flag' as she called it, supporting the establishment of an embassy once more and helping to build diplomatic relationships. She especially referred to her visit to our home, where she had been able to meet members of the Methodist Church who informed her about the history and work of Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti, in preparation for the 200-year celebration of Methodism in Haiti in 2017." Sharon and John are seeking God's will for the next season of their lives.



left to right: the Revd Yachelle Watson (MCCA Deacon); the Revd Marco Depestre (Superintendent minister); Sharon Harbottle; Mrs Sharon Campbell (British Ambassador to Haiti); Prosperity Raymond (Christian Aid); John Harbottle; Rosny Desroches (Past MCCA Connexional Vice-President); Caroline Rowett (Charges d'Affaires, British Embassy).

MISSION PARTNER NEWS IN BRIEF

Steve and Jane Day are now home and beginning to readjust to life back in the UK. They say, “Your prayers and support have been so significant during our time in South Africa and we remain grateful for your expressions of friendship, love and care towards us.”

Peter Ensor is also now back in the UK and **Tim and Angela Macquiban** will be back this summer.



Photo: © Getty Images

Would you like a speaker for a Global Church event or service?



If you would like to invite a speaker to your event, please get in touch with Carolyn Lawrence at Global Relationships.

You can email her at:

lawrencec@methodistchurch.org.uk

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Church twinning

A growing number of churches and circuits are building twinning links with Methodist partner churches around the world. Their aim is to share and learn in mission, understanding, culture and worship across Methodist communities – together.

If you are interested in developing a twinning link with a church or circuit in another country, take a look at our new guidelines document on our website. The guidance takes you through a series of steps to support you in thinking through, developing and establishing a link that is mutually beneficial.

If you already have a link, it would be great to hear how things are going and what has been shared and learnt in your efforts to understand and strengthen God’s mission around the world.

Our new twinning guidelines could help you on your journey, both in developing a new link but also perhaps invigorating an established one.

Click here to download the document. You can get in touch with us at the Global Relationships team by emailing gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk



Methodists for World Mission

MWM Conference

MWM South West are holding a conference on the theme of ‘Movement – the work of the world church with people on the move’

**on 4-6 October 2019
at Brunel Manor, Near Torquay, Devon**

The main speaker will be **Dr Andrew Dye** – former mission partner and Programme Team Leader in the Global Relationships team.

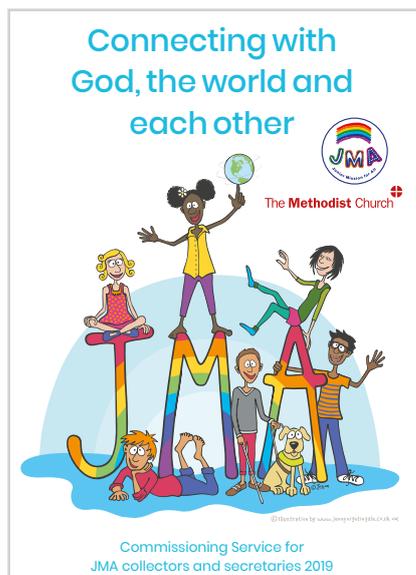
For more details and a booking form contact the secretary: Audrey Standhaft
Aud.standhaft@outlook.com

JMA commissioning service 2019 – ‘mission for everywhere’

The brand new and super cool JMA commissioning service 2019 is now live on the Methodist Church website. It’s colourful, eye-catching and fun!

The theme for this JMA commissioning service (children’s worship) resource is **Mission for Everywhere**. In this resource, we look at how mission is important for us because it’s important to Jesus. As Jesus said: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you”* Matthew 28: 19-20.

For more information, visit www.methodist.org.uk/jmacs19



Living Christianity in the Holy Land tour

22 January
to
3 February
2020

A two-week experience of Christianity in Palestine from **22 January to 3 February 2020**. It will be led by the **Revd John Howard**, former mission partner to Israel/Palestine and **Deacon Angleena Keizer** from the Methodist Liaison Office, Jerusalem. For more information, contact John on john_d_howard@hotmail.com



Volunteer in Tonga wanted!

Sia'atoutai Theological College in Tonga are looking for a volunteer to work as a librarian for up to 12 months to catalogue a library system. Accommodation can be provided.

If you're interested in this amazing opportunity contact Carolyn on lawrencec@methodistchurch.org.uk

Photo: © Getty Images

Future editions of the World Church Newsletter – share your thoughts with us

What would you like to read about in the World Church Newsletter? What would help you and others to engage with our partner churches, mission partners and volunteers overseas?

If you would like to give us feedback please email gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the staff in rural Pakistan as they use their new motorcycles to do their pastoral visits.

Pray for Syntiche and her work in Hong Kong with APMM.

Pray for Jasmine in her final few months as Youth President and that she receives guidance as she seeks God's will for the next season of her life.

Pray for the Revd Sam McGuffin as he is inducted as the new President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and for his wife Linda.

Pray for the Church in Cuba as they reach out to their communities with the love of Jesus despite opposition.

Pray for our returning mission partners as they readjust back into life in the UK and for other mission partners moving to new appointments.

Pray for Tiana in her final few months in Buenos Aires and for Louis as he begins his placement in South India.