

Snippets of news about the work of the Methodist Church from around the world

Church of South India

(where we support the work of Dr Jayachitra, National in Mission Appointment)

Church of South India (CSI) is a large and varied church, the 24 dioceses (see banners below). Local church life can be very Victorian Anglican with imposing looking church buildings.



One of the partnership activities we support with CSI is a course in Pastoral Management, which aims to equip pastors with skills to address efficiently whatever setting they find themselves serving.

Much great work is going on. CSI is ahead of the British churches in many ways, not least it's ecological activities and policies. The worship has been creative, poetic and focused on the mission of justice.



Elections are a big event at Synod (held in January 2020). The new leadership having been duly elected and inducted, they begin work immediately; the four on the right (in the photo) will be in the office immediately following Synod for worship and briefings about their new roles. The four on the left will go home.

The CSI higher education institution where the Synod met is in the top ten of Indian universities with 13,000 students in 40 faculties.

Edited from report by Steve Pearce, Global Relationships Partnership Co-ordinator Asia-Pacific

Brazil



Do you happen to know how many people your District hopes to reach with the gospel in 2020? Is it hundreds, or thousands? Well, in 2019 the Amazonian Ecclesiastical Mission Region (known as *REMA* in Portuguese) of the Methodist Church in Brazil reached at least 10,000 people with the gospel between March and December, through one single outreach activity, repeated only 6 times in the year.

I am in Brazil with the Vice President designate Carolyn Laurence, and we have had a fascinating day learning about the outreach of the *REMA* hospital boat to the Amazon communities along the Tucumã river. The church in this region gathers a group of medics and evangelists, from Brazil and from overseas, who visit several communities for 6 days at a stretch, offering vital medical care and more importantly, vital spiritual care. Evangelists share the good news of Jesus Christ with communities, and where there are people within the communities who make firm commitments of faith, they are in turn disciplined and trained

to become local church leaders. The boats can house 22 medical personnel and evangelists, and the *REMA* district would very much welcome British Methodist medical personnel to take part in this powerful mission outreach.

The *REMA* District is a growing district of the Methodist Church in Brazil, and the District Bishop, Fabio Cosme, shared his four areas of focus: prayer, evangelism, intimacy with God and discipleship. As we prayed on the mission boat together before we departed, and as I reflected on what we had learnt that day, it was evident that this is a District that does nothing without prayer and without first seeking God. It is a District that harmoniously brings together social outreach with evangelism and without shame, and as with other places that I have visited in Brazil, encourages its members to develop a deep intimacy with Christ. May we open our hearts to learning from our partners and use these biblical strategies to build God's Kingdom in the UK.

Taken from the report by Sandra Lopez, Global Relationships Co-ordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

Methodist Liaison Office reports a busy January

(where our District Mission partner, Deacon Angleena Keizer is based)



Epiphany and the Armenian and Orthodox Christmas celebrations were held this month by the Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Israel. Demonstrations within the West Bank and Gaza took place, creating many detentions, following a recent inter-national peace proposal.

Three female volunteers from the UK will assist in the area, working from three weeks to three months at the BBC, Tent of Nations, Hope School, Nour and Lajee in Aida Camp.

The MLO organised the itinerary for the Living Christianity in the Holy Land, with the Rev. John Howard as co-leader. The visit included holy sites, seeing and understanding the reality of occupation, and volunteering at Ibillin, Mar Elias High School. The small group had the opportunity for dialogue with Arabs and Israelis in Muslim, Christian and Jewish homes.

Staff participated in a number of prayer and Bible studies. They attended the "The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine Israel (EAPPI)" handover. In EAPPI, international volunteer teams spend three months in one of seven locations across the West Bank, providing protective presence, support and regular detailed reports. Participation included Praying Together and prayers at Checkpoint 300 [the Palestinian entry into Jerusalem].

Angleena Keizer led Hope School Assembly and preached at the UMC Filipino Church in Tel Aviv.

This month there were also VIP visitors, including four kings and 26 Presidents for the 75th memorial of the Holocaust. Prince Charles and President Putin visited Bethlehem. As a result of heightened security, Checkpoint 300 was closed; therefore, workers were unable to travel to work in Israel. However, their visit was very highly appreciated.

Report from World Methodist Council First Friday newsletter