



“After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’”
 Luke 10:1-2 (NRSV)

PARTNER CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS

Urgent Prayer for Cameroon



The Right Reverend Fonki Samuel Forba, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon shares with us the dangers faced by Christians in his country

Members of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon have experienced an increasing wave of continued and targeted attacks on our personnel and institutions. These have been carried out by the military and by armed men within the English-speaking community.

Many of our Christian brothers and sisters have suffered greatly. They have been kidnapped, beaten, harassed, wounded or even killed. At the same time the amount of property destroyed has been overwhelming.

In recent weeks horrific attacks have taken place on some of our pastors and teachers at church schools. Today in Cameroon it is common to see human corpses littering the ground.

People have cried, wept, wailed and mourned until they cannot do so again. Our country has degenerated to a shameless level where it seems to take pleasure in killing its own citizens! As a Church that incarnates the image,

person, will and presence of the Most High God, we cannot remain silent.

We denounce all those who carry out these wicked acts, whether they are supported at national or international level. We condemn those who initiate, encourage, support or sponsor such inhumanity.

We ask you to pray for those responsible, that they will repent and turn from their wickedness. We also pray for the healing and protection of those who have suffered so much and who are still suffering at the hands of their attackers. Above all we ask that we will soon be delivered from this evil.

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Mission partners' retreat – Entebbe, Uganda

Dr Bunmi Olayisade reports on an inspiring retreat held for mission partners in Africa



Earlier this summer, a group of 24 mission partners from across Africa gathered in Uganda to share fellowship and stories, as well as times of fun and relaxation.

During some of the sessions the group was addressed by the Revd Zac Niringiye, former Anglican Bishop of Kampala. He spoke to the group about living out of a place of resting in God.

Those attending also heard the inspiring testimony of Ingrid Wilts, a Dutch mission partner. Ingrid

talked about how she learned that God wanted her heart, not her works and how God had led her to a place where relationships were more important than tasks.

The mission partners were also ministered to by some young Ugandan Methodists. In addition there was time for sharing together in reflection and prayer, before everyone returned to their various countries.

Reflecting on the retreat, Michael and Joanne Tettey, who are based in Benin, said, "This was

a beautiful, refreshing time spent with our fellow mission partners who serve in Africa."

They also expressed their gratitude to everyone who took part in the event and for the funding from the Methodist Church in Britain and the Church of Scotland.

For more information, please contact
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Seoul Reflections

Carolyn Lawrence reflects on her visit to South Korea for the meeting of the World Methodist Council in July

The World Methodist Council comprises 425 members representing almost 80 million people in over 130 countries. I was proud to be a part of this on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain.

It was also good to learn about the particular issues facing the church in South Korea and hear of their earnest prayer for the reunification of North and South Korea. I attended a 4am prayer meeting with 5,000 local believers. It was the culmination of 40 days of prayer for the reestablishment of the Church in North Korea.

There used to be a flourishing Church in North Korea but over the course of the colonial period, communist rule and the Korean War most churches have been destroyed. According to Open

Doors World Watch 2018, North Korea is now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian.

The commitment, fervour and spiritual hunger of the Korean Christians was a challenge to me. It's something from which we in the UK can learn so much. We gave thanks to God that although just a year ago the nation seemed on the verge of war, today the prayers of many have been answered as reunification seems a step closer.

News from the Mediterranean

PHOTO: © GETTY IMAGES



Fiona Kendall, our mission partner based in Rome, updates us on the current campaigns and concerns relating to Mediterranean Hope (MH) in Italy

An initiative of the Italian Federation of Protestant Churches, MH works with migrants coming to Italy from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. It aims to aid vulnerable migrants by protecting them from human traffickers, while supporting their requests for asylum to allow legal entry into the country. It also provides hospitality and accommodation for refugees for what is described as “a reasonable period of time”.

Humanitarian Corridors

One major programme arising from MH is Humanitarian Corridors; the result of an ecumenical collaboration between Catholics and Protestants and endorsed by the Italian Government. These seek to establish safe and legal passage for refugees. It is encouraging to see that this pioneering activity is now being replicated in other countries.

A further Humanitarian Corridors programme is now being run enabling another 1,000 participants to benefit. While this is not without its challenges, it is being held up as an example of best practice by Italy's European neighbours.

Scicli

This year, 18 participants in the Humanitarian Corridors programme have come to Scicli, a town in the south east of Sicily. Eleven of the participants are children.

They enjoy support in the form of language tuition and transport to school, as well as assistance with accessing health benefits and pursuing asylum applications. They are also encouraged to take part in activities designed to promote integration with the local community.

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Welcoming Europe

Without doubt, the largest numbers of migrants coming to Europe by sea and land arrive in Greece, Italy and Spain. This means these nations have shouldered a disproportionate burden as they seek to help so many vulnerable people.

We Are A Welcoming Europe, Let Us Help! is an initiative that seeks to develop EU policy. Amongst other things, it aims to ensure that financial support is provided for local groups helping those in need.

Lampedusa

This is a small island to the south of Sicily. It's a place to which migrants are taken on arrival before being repatriated or dispersed to other parts of Italy. Their maximum stay should be 48 hours. However, many migrants have been forced to remain there significantly longer, sometimes for months at a time.

The Lampedusa MH team is therefore working with migrants and the local community to help to maintain all their delicate balance of interests.

Search and rescue

The Mediterranean Sea has become the most dangerous route for reaching Europe. Currently, the only boats now patrolling for migrants are those of the Libyan coastguard, who invariably take anyone picked up to Libya.

Sadly, European leaders cannot agree on the right way forward and a bitter debate about the rights and wrongs of this policy plays out daily in the media and on social media.

We must all remember these activities in our prayers and help raise awareness of the issues involved. You can find out more by looking at Fiona Kendall's recent newsletters, MH's update and Church reports on our website:

www.methodist.org.uk/fionakendall

Partner Churches join Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies

The Revd Colin Smith, Superintendent of Cambridge Methodist Circuit, writes about the 14th Institute held this summer in Oxford

A total of 170 scholars from Methodist and Wesleyan traditions from around the world were welcomed for eight days to Oxford. It's a city with strong Wesley associations.

Held every five years, the Institute always adopts a thought-provoking theme. This year it was 'Thy Grace Restore, Thy Work Revive – Revival, Reform and Revolution in Global Methodism.'

Institute members took part in working groups and plenary lectures as well as panel discussions. This year's Fernley Hartley Lecture was delivered by Prof Dion Forster from South Africa. It was entitled 'An understanding of Christian Perfection as African Christian Humanism in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.'

On the Sunday, those attending also heard a powerful and memorable sermon from Prof Peter Storey. Peter, a former South African Methodist Bishop, was also a fighter against the apartheid regime.

World Mission Fund support enabled 20 participants from our Partner Churches in Africa, South America, Asia and the Pacific to share in the programme.

Healthy lifestyles in Benin

Michael and Joanna Tetley send news of a west African project to help people adopt a healthier lifestyle

Earlier this year, a community health programme was offered to student pastors by the Methodist Church of Benin (EPMB). A simple clinic and health talk was provided on how to maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle. We hope that as this programme rolls out to the wider congregation, the ability to make healthier lifestyle decisions will follow.

We then offered this programme to the women of the congregation of our local

church. Simple blood pressure, height and weight checks were administered and all were well received. As is often the case with such clinics, many women were unaware of their health status.

Our next programme is scheduled to be delivered in November to Sunday School children at our local church. We are very excited as it will be the first time REPAG will be serving the children. Our suggested theme will again be, 'Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle'

with the emphasis on hand washing and dental care. Also in November, REPAG will have its sixth session for the growing number of pastors benefitting from the programme.



Student Pastors at the 'REPAG' programme. REPAG is from the French – REgard (a look), PArole (a word), Geste (an action)

New Programme Support Officer for Mission Education

Carolyn Lawrence has been appointed to the role of Programme Support Officer in the World Church Relationships Team

Carolyn is a primary school teacher by background. She has served as a Methodist Mission Partner in Guyana, South America with her husband Mark who is a Methodist Presbyterian. Her role now includes engaging with British and Irish Methodist

Churches, circuits and districts to build understanding and support for the work of global relationships. Carolyn will also continue to develop the Encounter Worldwide and Encounter Together Programmes, as well as Church Twinning.

Part of Carolyn's plans include updating the list of people willing and able to speak to churches about overseas work. If you want to be added to that list, or would like to invite a speaker to your event, please email Carolyn at: lawrence@methodistchurch.org.uk





Is God calling you to serve as a mission partner?

Could you be:

- ◆ a theological educator in South Africa or Zimbabwe
- ◆ a presbyter in Italy or South Africa
- ◆ a teacher in Samoa or Ukraine?

These are just a few of the many roles our overseas partners need

people for. Some can be filled in a one-year voluntary capacity. We welcome inquiries from all who are exploring whether God is calling them to serve overseas with the Methodist Church.

We look forward to hearing from you. Email us at WCR.Admin@methodistchurch.org.uk



Prayer Points

Living Christianity in the Holy Land

A 12-day experience of Christianity in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Galilee, led by former Methodist mission partner the Revd John Howard.

14-25 February 2019

This is different to a traditional pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will visit some of the holy sites, but the emphasis is a lot more upon meeting the people and hearing of their lives. This will include doing some voluntary work.

For further details, contact John Howard at John_d_howard@hotmail.com

● Pray for the Church in Cameroon and those affected by the recent attacks on Christian pastors and teachers. Pray for an end to the senseless violence against innocent people and for the Government to step in to protect these people.

● Pray for the Church in North Korea and particularly for those who suffer for their faith. Pray for the reunification of North and South Korea.

● Pray for the Tetey family to be healthy in mind, body and spirit and for their daughters, Joelle and Janelle, in their new school.

● Pray for the work of Mediterranean Hope and all the vulnerable people they seek to help.

● Pray for the World Church Relationships Team. Pray for them as they seek new ways to engage the Church in Britain and Ireland with what is happening around the World Church.
