



“So I tell you,  
whatever you ask for  
in prayer, believe that  
you have received it,  
and it will be yours.”  
Mark 11:26 (NRSV)

## PARTNER CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS



Methodist Youth President Jasmine Yeboah in Rwanda

# A Life-changing experience in Rwanda

by Jasmine Yeboah, Methodist Youth President

**I saw *Hotel Rwanda* in my RE class in secondary school. As I sat with tears in my eyes, I asked the Lord to allow me to visit Rwanda one day.**

Years later – having grown up, graduated, worked in finance and just about to start my new role as Youth President of the Methodist Church in Britain – I was asked the ultimate question: “Where would you like to go on your mission trip?”

An explosion of thoughts came rushing through my mind: Jamaica, Sri Lanka,

Dubai... even Pakistan. As the word ‘Rwanda’ was mentioned, my heart leaped out of my chest. God wanted me to go to Rwanda. I’d wanted sun, a beach and fun. But God was teaching me that this role was not about me but about serving. Little did I know how much Rwanda would change my life.

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## PARTNER CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS

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The genocide occurred in 1994. This means that anyone aged 24 and above was alive when it happened. I heard a lot of stories from survivors. One question I kept asking was: “How did you forgive?”

Bishop Samuel Kayinamura, a genocide survivor, gave me a remarkable answer: “We have to remember that when you decide to forgive someone, it is like taking the healing medicine yourself before giving it to the

person that has wronged you.” He went on to explain that after the genocide, he was very angry and every time he would go back to his village, people would run in fear, thinking that he wanted revenge.

After hearing powerful stories from other genocide survivors, I asked myself: if they can forgive after all they have been through, what is stopping anyone else? I can truly say that in order to love like Jesus did (John 3:16), we have to be willing to forgive like he

did (Luke 23:34). It’s not easy, but it is worth it.

When I was elected as Youth President at 3Generate 2017, my campaign focused on how young people can be courageous in the way they live out the gospel, and how they can create a Church where vulnerable feel welcomed. I saw this in abundance on my visit to Rwanda.

For more information, please contact Olubunmi Olayiasade at [wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.africa@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## “Stretching brotherly hands”

**R**esidents of Sialam village in Chin State, western Myanmar have been badly hit by famine – the knock-on effect of unusual weather last year, which caused crop failures amongst all the farms in that part of Myanmar. Villagers were forced to migrate or sell valuable property to feed their families.



Sialam Methodist Society responded to the crisis on its doorstep by setting up a food management committee and establishing a ‘rice bank’. “All residents in Sialam who were affected by famine now have food security,” said the Revd Van Thawng Dun, Chair of the Methodist Church Upper Myanmar’s Hakha District. “In total, 67 households (324 people)

in the village received enough rice for 8 months.”

The World Mission Fund gave Methodist Church Upper Myanmar a solidarity grant, which helped fund the rice bank.

“We, the Methodist Church, Hakha District and Sialam Society deeply feel fortunate and blessed to have received this grant,” the



Revd Van Thawng Dun said. “It is really a blessing to our District. We simply can’t thank you enough for stretching your brotherly hands long enough to reach and help us in this critical important situation.”

For more information, please contact Steve Pearce at [wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk)

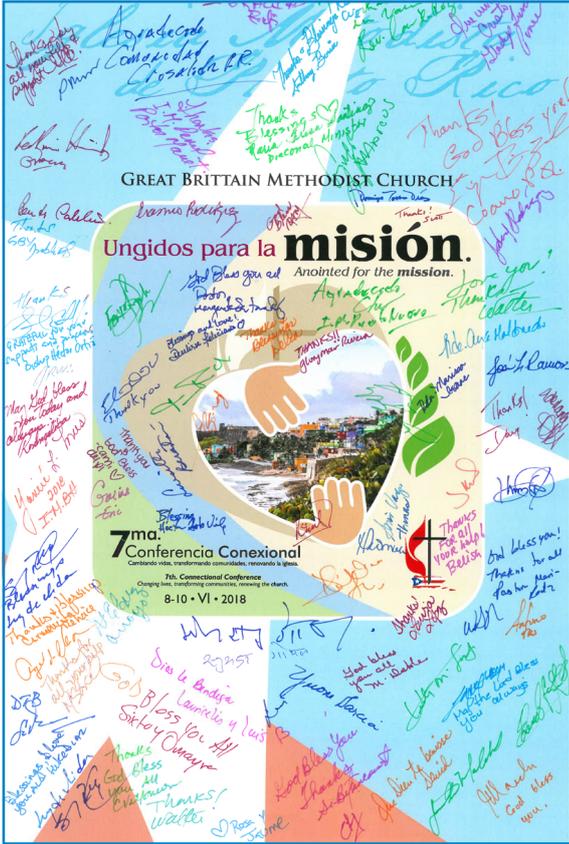
# ¡Muchas gracias!

This lovely poster (pictured) is a collective 'thank you' from the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico to the Methodist Church in Britain.

When hurricane Maria struck the Caribbean last September, the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico was one of our most badly affected Partner Churches. The hurricane caused over 3,000 deaths, a crisis in medical care provision, food and water shortages and devastating damage to the island's infrastructure. The entire island suffered power cuts that lasted for months, and some areas were cut off from all communication for weeks.

The Methodist Church in Britain sent a solidarity grant of £10,000 to the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico, and supported the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in its relief and recovery work on the island.

For more information on how your donations were used in Puerto Rico, see this video (<http://bit.do/prvid>).



For more information, please contact Sandra Lopez at [wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.americascaribb@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## MWiB President visits South Pacific



In July, Sandra Goodwin, the President of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), spent 16 days in Fiji and the Solomon Islands. She went to attend the South Pacific Area Seminar of the World Federation of Methodist and

United Church Women (WFMUCW), and to visit and liaise with women and church members of The Methodist Church of Fiji and the United Church of the Solomon Islands (UCSI). While she was there, Sandra also took the

opportunity to see for herself how climate change is affecting the South Pacific – specifically the Solomon Islands.

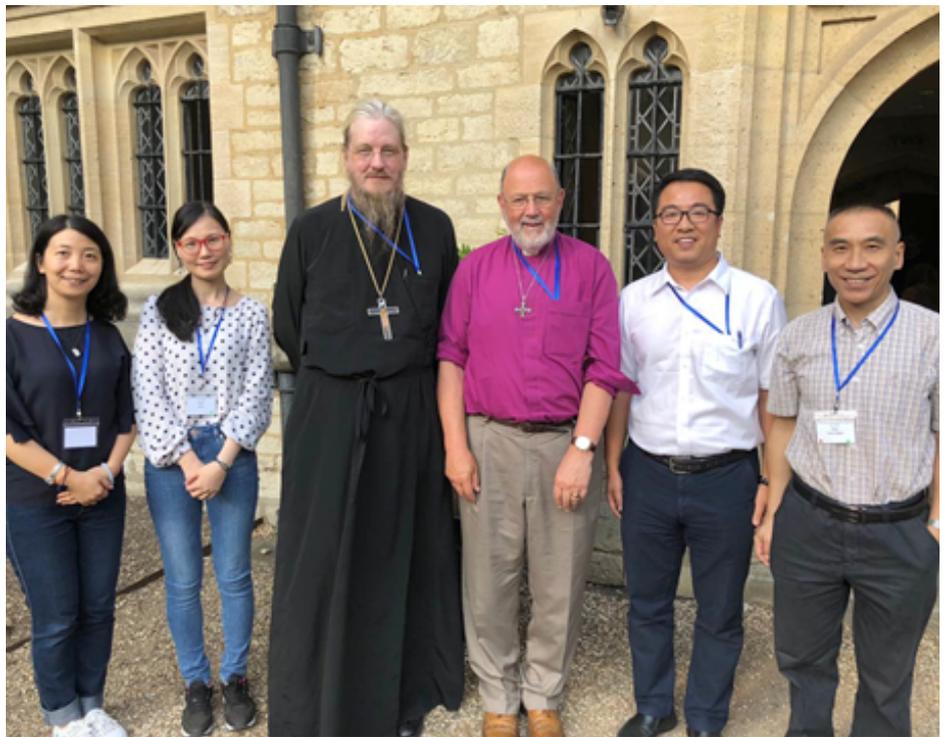
“I found both in Fiji and the Solomons a strong sense of their affiliation to, and affection for, their roots in the Methodist Church in Britain,” Sandra said. “Traditional Wesleyan hymns and liturgy, some adapted to fit the topography, are widely used and treasured. The sound of the rich harmony of their singing which was generally unaccompanied is a memory that I will treasure.”

## East meets West

**O**ver the summer, the Methodist Church in Britain played host to four theological scholars from China: ‘Peter’ Yuan Shiguo, Ms Wang Jiawei, ‘Robin’ Luo Chengzan and Ms Chen Qirui (‘Cherry’).

During their time in the UK, the four visitors spoke at two ‘open meetings’ at which they gave a vivid picture of the Church in China today. The first of those open meetings was hosted by the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies; the second was held at Lambeth Palace.

The group spent three weeks in Oxford and one in Cambridge. They had a weekend in Birmingham (where they visited other faith communities and attended a black church) and spent another weekend sightseeing in London.



A Methodist grant of £3,890 helped make the visit possible. “Thanks to the grant, four Chinese scholars have been helped to access important resources for their research and for future teaching,” said Godfrey Stone,

Chair of Friends of the Church in China, one of their hosts. “Both we who received them, and they who came as our guests, have a lot to thank God for as we look back over a creative time together.”

## Barry Sloan is new Europe Coordinator



**T**he Revd Dr Barry Sloan has been appointed to the role of Europe Regional Relationship Coordinator in the World Church Relationships team.

Barry and his wife Gillian, from the Methodist Church in Ireland, are mission partners currently serving with the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Germany. Barry will take up his new role on 1 January 2019. He will also serve, in a reduced capacity, as Director of Evangelism in the UMC in Germany.

Barry and Gillian will continue to live in Chemnitz, where Gillian works at INSPIRE, an ecumenical Fresh Expressions project.



## 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.

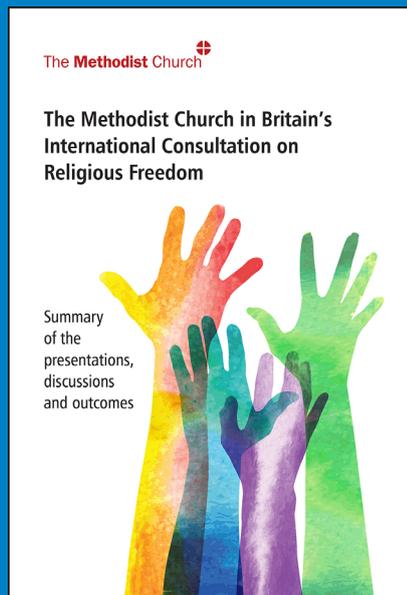
**14-25 February 2019**

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](mailto:John_d_howard@hotmail.com)

## The Methodist Church in Britain's first consultation on religious freedom

took place at the Focolare Centre for Unity, Hertfordshire, in March 2017. More than 30 church members and representatives of Partner Churches met with other experts in human rights, multifaith dialogue and Islamic religious freedom.



A report on the consultation has now been published and can be downloaded from [www.methodist.org.uk/media/9361/methodist-religious-freedom-report.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9361/methodist-religious-freedom-report.pdf)

## 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](mailto:WCR.Admin@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## DONATE TO THE WORLD MISSION FUND

All the Partner Churches, partner organisations, NMA postholders, scholarship students and mission partners that you regularly read about in *World Church News* are supported by the Methodist Church World Mission Fund, through the sharing of both resources and personnel.

You can donate online by going to [www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate). Alternately, send a cheque to: the Methodist Church World Mission Fund, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Please make cheques payable to “Methodist Church World Mission Fund”.



Young people from the Cuban Methodist Church ‘adopted’ 73-year-old Mártires Sayas Tamayo after paying a visit to the elderly persons’ home where he lives. They now pick him up from the home every Sunday, take him to church and bring him back afterwards. Mártires says that before the young Methodists visited the home, he had never heard about God.



## PRAYER POINTS

Pray for Rwanda and for Jasmine as she starts her term as Youth President.

Pray for the Church in the South Pacific, especially for those dealing with the effects of climate change.

Pray for the Church in Puerto Rico as it continues to provide a response to the aftermath of last year’s hurricanes.

Pray for people living in the areas of Myanmar still affected by famine, and for church-based projects like the rice bank, that are trying to help the situation.

Thank God for the growing partnership between Christians in Britain and China.