

Spring 2017

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!

JMA secretaries'
news inside!

NEWS FROM HAITI



NEWS FROM KENYA



The Methodist Church
Living generously

Welcome to
the Easter issue
of *Rainbow!*



Prayer focus

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the faith of Church members in Haiti. Thank you that as they trust in you and celebrate each of your blessings, the people shine out across the whole island as people of hope. Lord, we pray that you will meet the needs of every family who is rebuilding their home and livelihood. In Jesus name, amen.



New life in Haiti

How can someone who has been in a disaster think of anything but surviving? Sandra Lopez asked herself this question as she went to visit the Methodist Church in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew, which hit the island last October.

When Sandra arrived, she found people choosing every day to trust God for their needs, and to thank him for the little they had left. They told her that they were finding hope in the signs of new life that have appeared after the devastation of the hurricane, such as the Methodist schools opening again for their children, and seeing new leaves growing back onto trees. In the city of Jèrèmie in the south-west of Haiti, the hurricane destroyed almost all the trees. Seeing new leaves gives people hope that the trees that didn't get destroyed will soon bear fruit.

People were even thanking God for rain rather than the baking hot sun, which is more usual in Haiti. Even though many still do not have a roof over their heads, they would rather get wet than sunburnt.

Thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Church in Britain, the Church in Haiti received more than £50,000 to support the relief effort. The Church sent basic food supplies and water to the devastated areas very soon after the hurricane.



Methodist school damaged by Hurricane Matthew



Methodist donations helped repair this school



A damaged Methodist church

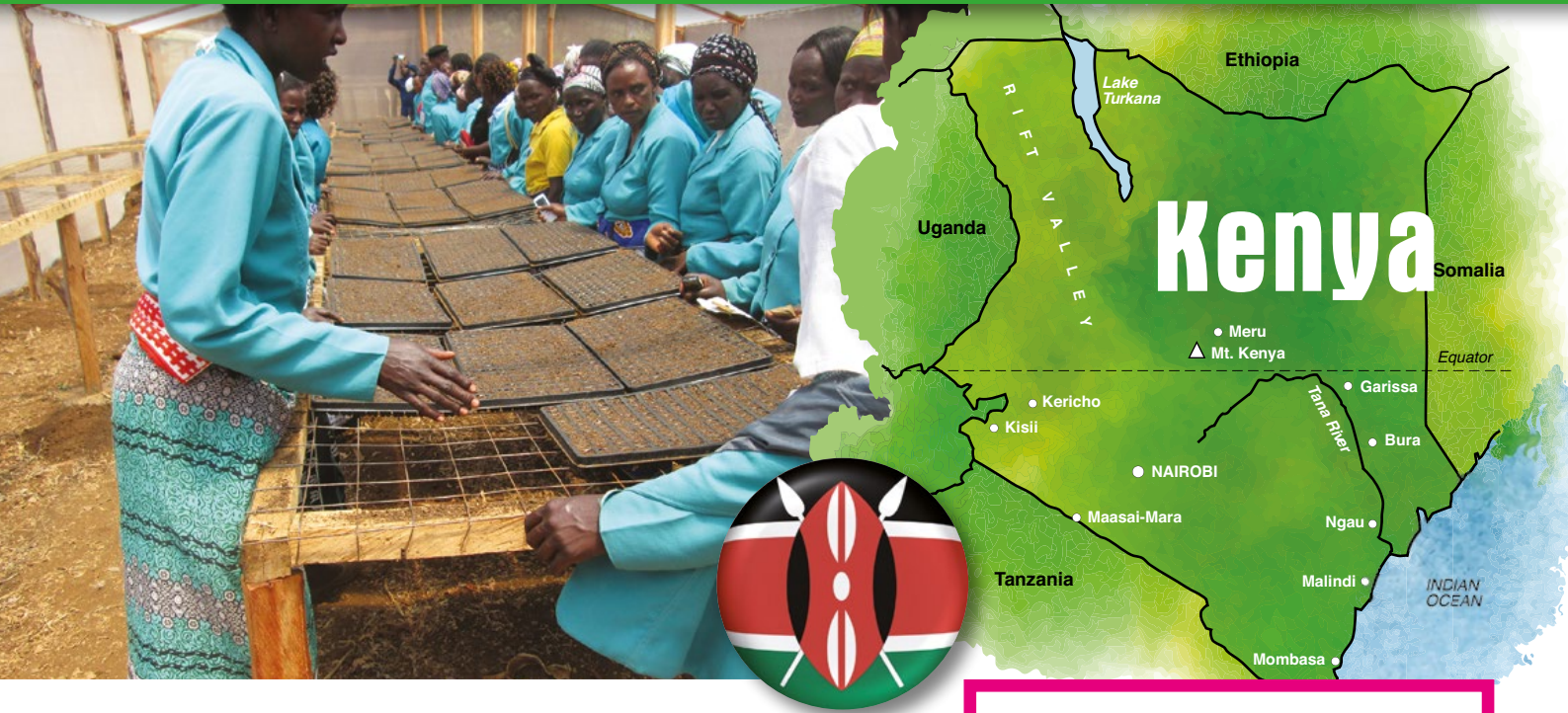


The Church sent basic food supplies



Thankful leaves

You may not experience hurricanes where you live, but we all have hard days at home, at school, or in our community. Perhaps there is something hard in your life right now. Can you think of some things that you can thank God for – even during bad times? Write or draw them on these leaves, and thank God for the new leaves in Haiti.



Raising little shoots in Kenya

A hundred women from Meru in eastern Kenya came together to think up ways to improve their lives and earn a little more money for their families.

These women met with Martin Gikunda, who works with the Methodist Church in Kenya. With his help, they decided that they would like to grow food in greenhouses, and start a fish farm. They needed to learn how to do this, so Martin trained them in greenhouse farming, irrigation and fish farming.

Martin helped to provide two greenhouses and the women saved up money to build a third. The women now grow tomatoes and fruit in the greenhouses, which they sell in local markets.

With their new skills and the money they have earned, all 100 women have planted small vegetable gardens at their homes. Over 400 other people have also learnt from these women and started their own gardens. They now have enough food to eat, and earn enough money to pay for their children to go to school (in Kenya, everyone must pay to go to school – even people who are very poor).

Country facts: Kenya

- Kenya is a country in east Africa.
- Kenya has a coastline on the Indian Ocean.
- The landscape of Kenya includes savannah (grassy plains), lakes, the dramatic Great Rift Valley, highlands and mountains.
- Wildlife including lions, elephants and rhinos can be found in Kenya.
- Kenya is named after Mount Kenya, the tallest mountain in the country, which is 5,199 metres (17,057 feet) high.

Dear Lord,
Thank you for blessing these women with good ideas and blessing the work of their hands. Thank you for Martin who helps them. We pray that their plants will continue to grow strong and bear much fruit. Amen.



EASTER OFFERING 2017

Shine like Stars



Every year at Easter, the women of the Methodist Church arrange a service to thank God for money that has been collected for mission work around the world.

This verse has inspired the stories used in the Easter Offering service this year. They tell of Methodists around the world who shine like stars offering God's love and hope in difficult places.

“Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.”

Philippians 2:15
(NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Philippi and the book of Philippians

The book of Philippians in the Bible is a service letter from St Paul to the Christians living in a city called Philippi.

Philippi is in north-eastern Greece. It was named after Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. Philippi is an ancient city, and was established in the fourth century BC. Paul came to Philippi in 49 AD.

Paul went there because on night he had a vision of a man from Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” (Acts 16:9 NRSV)

Philippi became home to the first Christian community in Europe. You can read more about how this happened in the book of Acts, chapter 16.



Names in red are Biblical locations

They call me a saint

Having a new start

The Revd Maria do Carmo Moreira Lima – Brazil

Maria works for the Methodist Church in Brazil. She supports young people who are in prison. Maria shines like a star among them by showing how much Jesus loves them. She teaches the young people that with God there is always a chance to change and live a different kind of life.

In the book of Lamentations, it says:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSV)

Prison is not a nice place to live. Maria helps to make life easier for the young people by providing better food and helping them learn to get on with each other, even when they don't always agree. She has also encouraged the prison team to build a special place where parents can visit their children.





Dear God,

Thank you for your promise that if we say sorry for the wrong things we have done, you forgive us and we can have a new start. All of us do things sometimes that make God and other people sad. Yes, everyone: children, parents, teachers – everyone!

Help us to say sorry quickly and do what we can to make things right. Help us to know deep in our hearts how much you love us and how completely you forgive us every time we are sorry for doing wrong.

Thank you for Maria's work in the young people's prison. Please be with her and all the young people; let them know that you are with them and that you want them to be okay.

In Jesus' name, amen.



Zacchaeus is forgiven

New beginnings aren't just for us today. Jesus offered a new beginning to many of the people he met. One of them was Zacchaeus.

Perhaps you know this song about Zacchaeus? You can sing it to the tune of *Old King Cole*.

*Zacchaeus was a very little man
And a very little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see
And as the Saviour passed that way
He looked up in that tree
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today
For I'm going to your house to stay."*

Here is a retelling of the story from Luke 19:1-10

Lots of people didn't like Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector and he sometimes collected more money than he was supposed to, so that he could keep some of it. That's stealing.

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. When he heard that Jesus was in town, Zacchaeus rushed to meet him. The trouble was that everyone else wanted to see Jesus too. They had all heard about Jesus' wonderful stories and his amazing miracles.

Zacchaeus could not see over the crowd because he was too short. But he was so desperate to see Jesus, he climbed up a tree. That's not the sort of thing you usually see a grown-up doing, is it?!

He watched Jesus walk along. He was so excited to be able to see Jesus at last. And then Jesus did something that Zacchaeus hadn't even dreamt might happen. Jesus looked up into the tree. He looked right at Zacchaeus.

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus jumped down from the tree right away and happily welcomed him home.

As Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus (he even knew his name!), something moved in Zacchaeus' heart. He knew that he had to change his life. He said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"



Ankaase Hospital is in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, about 260 miles from Accra, the capital.



Prayer focus

Dear Lord,
We thank you for all the money that will be spent in Ankaase Hospital this year. We pray that these projects for children and families will go smoothly. Lord, please bless the nutrition project and help to provide the right food for all children in Ghana. Amen.

JMA Ireland

Ghana is the focus country for JMA Ireland this year. Laura wrote to *Rainbow* from the Methodist Church in Ireland to tell us about one of the projects they have learnt about.

Joseph Amankwah works at Ankaase Hospital. The hospital treats over 155,000 people a year; this is about the same as the number of people who live in Oxford or Dundee.

The hospital is the only place where people can see a doctor. They do not have clinics or doctor's surgeries near their homes like we do in Britain.

The hospital was built over 30 years ago and looks a bit old and dull. This year, JMA funds will be used to decorate the children's ward colourfully, and to buy toys and games for the children.

Some of the money will be used to create a new space in the hospital where mothers and children can come to learn about good nutrition. Nutrition is a scientific word to describe the food we eat. Mothers will learn how to cook the right foods to help their children stay healthy and fit.

Eating the right food helps children to grow strong and can prevent many of the illnesses that affect young children. UNICEF estimates that a third of child deaths would be prevented if children had good nutrition, so this project could make a big difference in Ghana.



Dear JMA secretaries,

Welcome to the spring issue of *Rainbow*. We hope you have enjoyed a good start to 2017, and wish you a very happy Easter, filled with joy and hope.

Please consider supporting your children and young people to take part in the Easter Offering service. You can read more about the Easter Offering in the centre pages. Visit the Methodist Church website to download all the resources including children's activities.

Please share any stories and photographs you have of your involvement in the Easter Offering. If you include photographs of any children or young people, please make sure that you have the consent of their parents and guardians and confirm this when you send them in. You can email us at fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk or write to us at the address below:

JMA, The Fundraising Team,
The Methodist Church,
25 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5JR

One of the youngest collectors for JMA



Stamford Methodist Church, Lincolnshire. When their morning services end Grace (pictured above) goes round to her supporters with her JMA collecting box helped by her mum or dad.



JMA award service, Glastonbury, October 2016.

JMA members finished off their Jigsaw project for the Nepal Challenge in September. They raised £100 towards construction work in Nepal.



Weymouth Bay Methodist Church JMA collectors, just after receiving their awards. Together with the adults in the church, many of whom still collect in their boxes, they raised £390.70. The church works together to make JMA a success and holds a special service to commemorate their efforts.

To keep up to date with JMA news, please visit our website:
[www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-\(jma\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-(jma))



One Mission Matters

Have you received the latest edition of *One Mission Matters* yet?



The theme for the latest issue is 'Imagination'. Secretary of the Methodist Conference, The Revd Canon Gareth Powell, calls for us to re-imagine our engagement with Church. How do you share the love of God with others in new and creative ways?

This issue also highlights Aldersgate Sunday (28 May) and includes information about *Feast of Faith*: a resource written especially for Aldersgate Sunday. There is also some information about the new *#iGive* fundraising campaign. **Product code: DL354-MM-17**

Bible Month

In June, the Methodist Church is encouraging churches and circuits across the Connexion to run a 'Bible Month': 30 days focused on the epistle of James. Why not join in?

Visit www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month and use the hashtag *#BibleMonth* on social media.



Agents of Change

3Generate 2016 encouraged children and young people to be an 'Agent of Change'. Some resources to help you begin to inspire, influence and act can be found on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/agent-of-change or email: 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk for more information.



3Generate manifestos

Each age stream at 3Generate produces a manifesto, based on the conversations that took place and expressing the views, concerns and aspirations of the children and young people who attended. The 2017 manifestos, created at 3Generate 2016, are available free to

download from the Methodist Church website. For more information, email 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk or visit www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate

3GENERATE

Mental Health Cards | *Children: Taking care of your feelings* (ages 12 and under)

Mental health is an issue of growing concern among children and young people – and those who work with them. Methodist Children & Youth has teamed up with Young Minds to provide a series of cards for children (aged under 12), young people (12-18), young adults (18-30) and youth workers. These pocket-sized cards are available in packs of ten; each

provides tips on how to stay mentally healthy, plus information on where to get help.

Product code:
AB012-CY-17

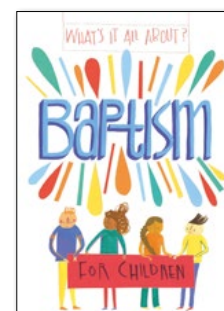


What's it all about? Baptism

Written for children aged 8-11, this booklet offers a short introduction to Baptism. There are answers to some common questions, activities and ideas for how siblings, of those being baptised, can be involved in the service, as well as explanations of the

terms, signs and symbols used.

Product code:
WH101-CY-16



JMA Easter prayer challenge



Create a prayer jar to help you remember to pray for people. Cut out the prayers below and write some of your own. Fold up the pieces of paper and place them in a bowl, empty jam jar, or another container.

Each day, pull out one piece of paper to use for your prayers. You might like to keep the prayer jar on your dining table and pray at dinner time, or keep it by your bed and pray at bedtime or when you wake up.

Here are some ideas for your prayers:

- Pray for something that your family needs.
- Pray for your school: the teachers, and children.
- Pray for your friends.
- Pray for someone who is ill.
- Thank God for your favourite thing this week.



Lord, may all young people in prison know that you love them very much.

Lord, we pray that you will meet the needs of every family in Haiti who is rebuilding their home.

