



2023-24

# SMALL THINGS



# BIG DIFFERENCE



IRISH METHODIST  
WORLD MISSION  
PARTNERSHIP

# LETTER TO LEADERS

## INTRODUCING JMA 2023-24

Junior Mission for All (JMA) helps children and young people to learn about and support global mission in a fun, creative and engaging way!

This resource is designed to be flexible, so you can use it in whatever way is best for you; whether that's with your JMA group, as part of an all-age service, with a uniformed organisation, or sharing it with families to use at home.

In 2023-24, JMA will be supporting the Methodist Church in Ecuador, and particularly their work with children and young people in Puerto Misahuallí (pronounced *Pwer-toe Mis-ah-why-ee*).

Misahuallí is a small town on the edge of the Amazon rainforest, with a Methodist congregation of around forty people led by Pastor Fabiola Tenecora.

Despite their small size, the congregation are committed to a range of work including evangelism in the Shiripuno community, a free lunch programme for school children, and starting a new church congregation in nearby Ongota.

100% of the funds raised through JMA this year will be sent to support the work of Pastor Fabiola and the church in Puerto Misahuallí.

Our Bible focus this year is on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. This story teaches us about how God cares for our needs, and how He can use small things (and small children!) to make a big difference in the lives of those around them.

Thank you for your continued support for JMA. Engaging young people with world mission is so important, and WMP wouldn't be able to do that without leaders like you.

We hope that children and families will enjoy this year's JMA resource, and pray that God will use it as a way to spark interest in our world church family.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to get in touch.

David

David Nesbitt  
World Mission Partnership  
Coordinator

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# ECUADOR

THIS YEAR, WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT ECUADOR. ECUADOR IS A COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA. ALTHOUGH IT'S QUITE SMALL, IT'S PACKED WITH DIVERSE LANDSCAPES, LIKE MOUNTAINS, RAINFORESTS, AND EVEN VOLCANOES!



Ecuador is full of bright colours, delicious food and exotic animals. Most of the people there speak Spanish, but there are also dozens of “indigenous” languages. These are languages that have been around for a very, very long time, passed down through generations.

There are lots of yummy foods to try, like empanadas (tasty stuffed pastries), ceviche (fresh fish cooked in lime juice), and plenty of delicious tropical fruits like bananas and mangoes.

**"COTOPAXI" IS AN ENORMOUS VOLCANO NEAR ECUADOR'S CAPITAL CITY. IT HAS ERUPTED MORE THAN 50 TIMES!**

**THE GALAPGOS ISLANDS ARE PART OF ECUADOR. SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ANIMALS IN THE WORLD LIVE THERE.**

# FAST FACTS



The Galapagos islands are home to lots of unusual creatures, including giant tortoises which can live for more than 150 years!

The colours of the Ecuadorian flag are yellow, blue and red.



Ecuador grows more than 8 million tonnes of bananas every year!



The official language is Spanish.



Quito is the capital city. It is the second highest capital in the world.



Simon Bolivar was a famous soldier, who helped free Ecuador from Spanish rule.

# MISAHUALLI



You can watch a video  
from [Melissa here.](#)



THIS YEAR, OUR FUNDRAISING WITH JMA WILL FOCUS ON A TOWN CALLED PUERTO MISHAHUALLI. MELISSA NEWELL, A MISSION PARTNER FROM OUR CHURCH, LIVES THERE AND IS GOING TO TELL US ALL ABOUT IT...



Welcome to Misahuallí!

If you try to find Misahuallí on a map, you might find it difficult. It's a small town of about 1,200 people, on the River Napo, sitting on the very edge of the Amazon Rainforest!

If you fly into Quito airport, high in the Andes, and drive down the mountains for about 4 hours, you will arrive in Misahuallí.

The Methodist Church in Misahuallí is around 40 years old. It's very young compared to many churches in Ireland, but it's actually the oldest church in Misahuallí!

The current pastor is Pastor Fabiola Tenecora. Every Sunday, at 8.30am, there is the church service and Sunday School. Around 40 people attend on a Sunday, but during the week, there are lots more activities.

There is the church building, two classrooms, a kitchen, toilets, an office and a room for people to stay in. Sometimes people who live deep in the jungle come to Misahuallí and they need a place to stay. This is one way the church shows hospitality.

During the week, there is a community lunch for school-aged children to come and get lunch for free. This helps fight malnutrition that is common in the area. Many people's diet consists of rice, plantain (a kind of banana), cassava (which is a bit like a potato), chicken and eggs.

The church works in other communities too. They have started a new congregation in a nearby area, and a children's club in another community.

**MISAHUALLI IS MOST FAMOUS FOR THE MONKEYS THAT LIVE IN THE TOWN! THEY MIGHT LOOK CUTE, BUT THEY RUN AROUND THE TOWN STEALING THINGS AND LOOKING FOR FOOD.**

**THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER ANIMALS TOO, BUT MOSTLY THEY STAY HIDDEN, LIKE SNAKES, SPIDERS, FROGS AND LOTS OF COLOURFUL BIRDS.**



# MEET FABIOLA & FEBE



Check out this video featuring [Fabiola and Febe!](#)

## THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEAM SHOWING US THEIR CHURCH

I'm Fabiola, I'm married, and I have a 6 year old daughter. I'm from the city of Cuenca, but now I'm the minister of the Methodist Church in Misahuallí. My family support me as I carry out my ministry, especially my daughter – she comes everywhere with me!

As the Holy Spirit works, the focus of my ministry is seeing families transformed: parents who love their children, and children who learn to love the Word of God and grow up knowing God, so that when they are adults, they love God and worship Him with all their life.

I also want children to be well-fed, so they come to our church to receive food, and that's also why we go to communities with many needs. I also help to give out the boxes of donations to children who really need them. At the end of the day, I feel very happy knowing that I've been able to help many children, and most of all, giving them a hug and them hugging me back.

Hello! I'm Febe! (The Spanish version of "Phoebe", pronounced "Febbay".)

I'm 6 years old, and I go to Antioquia school in Misahuallí. I like my school.

I play with my toys with other children. I love my ballet classes, and I go to taekwondo training – I am a yellow belt. My favourite food is sausages and chips.

On Sundays I go to church and I like when it is time to go out to Sunday School.

On Tuesdays, I go to Shiripuno community by boat, it's fun going on the boat and sharing with the children.

On Saturdays we get the bus to Ongota. I help my mum buy the snacks for the children. There are lots of children there – they are happy and caring.

My favourite activity is colouring in.



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# BIBLE FOCUS

Based on Matthew 14; Mark 6;  
Luke 9; John 6

## A LITTLE LUNCH GOES A LONG WAY



Two thousand years ago, there were 5,000 people sitting on a hillside. They had all come to see to Jesus, arriving early in the morning and listening to him all day long.

By the time evening came, the crowd was getting hungry. Their tummies were rumbling, and Jesus' disciples were starting to worry about where they could find food for so many people.

The disciples asked Jesus if they should send everyone home to get food for themselves. But Jesus had a different plan: he said the people should stay where they were, and the disciples could give them something to eat.

The disciples were confused. They were in the middle of nowhere, with no shops or restaurants nearby. And even if there had been, how could they afford to buy food for such a big crowd?

Jesus asked them what food they already had. There wasn't much: just five barley loaves and two fish, which belonged to a small boy. That was enough to make a tasty meal for one person, but nowhere near enough to feed five thousand!

"Bring the food to me," Jesus said.

The little boy gave his lunch to Jesus, who looked up to heaven, gave thanks, and broke the bread and fish into pieces. Then Jesus started handing the pieces to his disciples, telling them to share them out amongst all the people. They must have thought he was crazy - how did he expect such a small amount of food to feed such a big crowd?

But when the disciples passed the food around, they found that there was enough for everybody to eat as much as they wanted. When the whole crowd was full, Jesus told the disciples to pick up the scraps. The little boy's lunch had turned into so much food, that even the leftovers filled twelve baskets!

# BIBLE FOCUS

Imagine that you were one of the five thousand hungry people in our story, waiting in the wilderness with no food nearby: no Tesco where you could nip in to buy a loaf of bread, no McDonald's Drive Thru where you could call for a quick Happy Meal!

Now, imagine you'd brought along a little packed lunch. Nothing very big, just enough for one person. Would you keep the food to yourself, or share it with everyone else?

The nice thing to do would be to share with everyone. But if you broke your lunch into five thousand pieces, there wouldn't even be enough to give everyone a tiny bite!

For people like you and me, there is no way to feed a big crowd with just a little lunch. But Jesus is able to use small things and small children, to do incredible things!

He knew that the people in the crowd were hungry, and he wanted to help them. Jesus asked the little boy to share his food; the boy gave what he had, trusting that Jesus would find a way to use it to feed the people.

In our world today, there are still lots of hungry people, and Jesus still calls his followers to share what we have.

In Ecuador, some boys and girls don't have enough to eat, so the church cooks food for everyone to share together. These meals allow children to eat a tasty meal, to spend time together, and become part of our church family.

Just like in Jesus' time, God is still using children to make a difference. JMA is one of the ways for children to be part of God's work. This year, JMA is helping our church family in Ecuador. We're raising money so that they can buy food, which they can cook and share with the children who need it. The money will also be used to build a new church, so that people have a safe and comfortable place to meet, to praise God, and to eat together.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Can you think of a time when you've been really, really hungry?
- 2) If you were the little boy in the story, would you have wanted to share your lunch with the crowd?
- 3) How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus asked them to share a small amount of food with such a big crowd?
- 4) How do you think they felt when they gathered in twelve baskets of leftovers?
- 5) Do you think it's still important for us to share what we have, with people in other countries?







# RESPONSE

Here are some ideas for how your group can respond to what they've heard about in our Bible story:



## PRAYER

An old favourite!



## SONG

All Through History



## CRAFT

Basket of Loaves and Fishes - check the video description for full instructions.

# DRAMA

Download this short script to bring our Bible story to life!

You could use this script with your JMA group or as part of an all-age service.



Thanks to Play it By Ear drama company for this great script!

Find out more about Play it By Ear on their website:  
[playitbyear.com](http://playitbyear.com)



# RECIPE

## THESE EASY RECIPES ARE A FUN ACTIVITY, SUITABLE FOR ANY AGE

In Ecuador, seeds from the Annatto bush are used to make a bright red food dye called "Achiote."

Why not make some "Achiote" style icing of your own? All you have to do is mix together icing sugar, a little water, and red food colouring. Add the colouring one drop at a time, until you get the colour you're after!

You can spread the icing on digestive biscuits, for a sweet and easy treat.



Alternatively, you could make some red ice lollies.

Mix red food colouring with diet lemonade, pour into lolly moulds and freeze for 3-4 hours.

To make them even tastier, try blitzing 200g of fresh raspberries or strawberries and adding them to the lemonade!

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# FUNDRAISING

## EVERY YEAR, JMA RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR WORLD CHURCH FAMILY

This year, JMA is raising money to support the work of the Methodist Church in Ecuador.

100% of funds raised will be sent to Ecuador, and used by congregations in Misahuallí and Ongota for:

1. A **community lunch project**, which provides a free meal for school-aged children and helps fight malnutrition.
2. Construction of a **church building** for a new congregation in Ongota.



### Get creative with your group fundraising!

Ask the children and young people if they have any ideas about how you could raise money, either at home or together in church.

Here are a few ideas:

Church BBQ | Family games night | Bake sale | Car wash | Car boot sale | Fancy dress party | Table quiz | Church movie night | Sponsored walk | Coffee morning | Soup lunch



# UPDATE FROM JMA 2022-23

LAST YEAR, JMA RAISED MONEY FOR THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF EGYPT AND SPECIFICALLY THEIR KINGO PROGRAMME.



Lois Magieb from the Bible Society of Egypt has given us an update on how last year's JMA funds will be used:

Donations from JMA will go towards making and distributing materials including

- 420,000 kid's books, and 3,500 teacher's books
- 70,000 illustrated Bible Story books
- 800 USB sticks with all 24 episodes of the Kingo TV show

These materials will be shared with more than 70,000 children across Egypt. Thanks to donations from JMA and others, churches will be able to buy the materials for a very cheap price - around 20p (€0.23) per child! This is especially important, as prices have been rising rapidly in Egypt and making life very difficult for the church there.

"Thank you JMA!"

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID TO SUPPORT THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF EGYPT, AND KINGO, LAST YEAR!**

**BY LEARNING, PRAYING AND FUNDRAISING, YOU HELPED KINGO TO TELL EVEN MORE CHILDREN ABOUT JESUS!**

# Make Your Own JMA Saving Box!



In the past, JMA collection boxes were made from **plastic**. From now on we want to make sure we make them from **recycled materials** to protect our planet. Ask an adult to help you look through your recycling to find a **box, carton** or **jar** that you could turn into a saving box. Your container will need to be **clean, dry**, have **no sharp edges** and have a way for money to be put into it... and taken out again!



### You will need:

- a container from your recycling
- scissors
- pens or paints
- glue



Use paints, pens or paper to decorate your container. You could also cut out or copy the JMA characters from these pages to colour in and stick on your box. Ask an adult to help you with the cutting.



# My JMA Saving Box



Here are some saving boxes that we made to inspire you.



How about drawing pictures in the boxes on this page and colouring in the rainbow? Then cut them out and stick them on your box.





# ALL-AGE SERVICE

A number of JMA groups across the Irish Connexion use this resource to shape an all-age Church Service.

When you talk about JMA with the wider church, encourage all members to be part of it. They can do this by talking to the children about what they're learning, praying with and for JMA groups and by giving financially.

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCE JMA**

Give a brief outline of what JMA is and why it's an important part of your children's ministry.

## **ECUADOR & FUNDRAISING FOR MISAHUALLI**

Introduce this year's focus - you could use the 'Meet Febe' video or the information on Pages 3-6.

## **BIBLE READING**

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6: 1-14)

## **SHORT ALL-AGE TALK**

You could use the Play it By Ear script as part of this!

## **CHILDREN SHARE WHAT THEY'VE ENJOYED ABOUT JMA THIS YEAR**

There is no right or wrong answer, the important thing is for children to get the chance to share with the congregation.

## **PRESENTATION OF BADGES & CERTIFICATES**

Order these in advance from the WMP office.

## **CHILDREN PRAY TO CLOSE**



# FAQs

## WHERE DO I SEND MONEY COLLECTED FOR JMA?

Funds raised for JMA should not be split. All monies should be sent to the WMP Treasurer, Mr Ian Patterson, at:  
2 Old Galgorm Dale  
Antrim  
BT42 1RL

## WHO DO I MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO?

Cheques should be made payable to World Mission Partnership. Please include a note with your cheque clearly stating that the donation is for JMA

## WHEN SHOULD JMA MONEY BE SENT?

Please send your JMA money by the end of June 2024. Please do not delay as funds received later may be sent to next year's project instead.

## HOW DO I ORDER RESOURCES (BADGES, CERTIFICATES ETC)?

Order via the JMA page on the World Mission Partnership website or contact the office.

## HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH THE WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP OFFICE?

World Mission Partnership, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY  
T: +4428 90 767969 | E: [worldmission@irishmethodist.org](mailto:worldmission@irishmethodist.org)



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[worldmission@irishmethodist.org](mailto:worldmission@irishmethodist.org)