




IRISH METHODIST
WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP

IN ALL PLACES

2024

 Lachin in her manyatta



Methodism in Rural Kenya

“WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH IN SAMBURU. WE ARE ABLE TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN AND TO LEARN ABOUT GOD.”

I was talking with Lachin an elderly Samburu widow in her 'manyatta' (family compound) in an isolated village, deep in the Samburu Tribal region of Northern Kenya. Like all Samburu, her tiny round hut is divided into three sections – one for the husband, the other for the wife and family, and the other as a social and cooking area. A fence is built at the centre of the village where the cattle are accommodated during the night. The external fence, made of thorny branches, protects the village from raids by neighbouring tribal groups who regularly try to steal cattle and kill defenders. Most Samburu villages consist of up to 10 'manyattas' each occupied by a family. Being a polygamous tribe, each family has the same number of huts as the number of wives held by the man.

The Methodist Church in Kenya has been undertaking a truly remarkable ministry in the Samburu region since 2014. During that time a number of simple churches have been built in remote areas to serve the growing number of Christians in the region. When a church is built, the leadership of the villages it serves choose a location that is most central to the catchment area of villages and then decide on the plot of the land where the church will be built. Most Samburu congregations still do not have a church building but meet under a chosen tree and worship in the open air. The Methodist Church, with its missional focus on reaching the most vulnerable, is the only church to have penetrated into the villages of this isolated region.



Welcome from Samburu
Methodist children

Many of the churches have started schools. And in all the areas, the number of congregations are growing. Much of this growth has come through the work of Rev. Jacob Pasache, himself a Samburu tribesman. Rev. Pasache has been working for years as an Evangelist, travelling between villages on foot and by motorbike. The Circuit also has another Evangelist, Eunice, who undertakes a fruitful ministry, particularly amongst women.

The Samburu people follow traditional customs. Many of these are beneficial to Samburu society and communities. However, one of the customs which the Methodist Church is working hard to address is the issue of female genital mutilation, and the social customs that make marrying off girls at a very young age an acceptable practice. By working with local leaders and through local evangelists and ministers, the Methodist Church is having some success in this ministry. The other key issue for all the Samburu region is the availability, collection and storage of water. Successive droughts have devastated the landscape and the people's livelihoods, and have increased violent incursions by neighbouring pastoralists in search of

pasture and water. Women have to walk miles in many cases to find any water source, and usually, the sources that exist are inadequate and dirty. It is the hope of the Methodist Church that it can help in finding some practical and cost-efficient solutions to this major problem.

I was deeply moved and humbled by the warmth of the welcome from the Samburu people and inspired by the resilience and dedication of those ministers who are serving them. This is a grass-roots ministry of the church that celebrates and respects the contribution of isolated communities to wider society, whilst seeking to bring life and hope in situations of great hardship. The result is people who are dedicated to loving and serving God and who rejoice in the blessings that they have, even amidst the considerable challenges that they face. They are an example to us all.

Our thanks to Rev. Dr. Andrew Ashdown for this article. Andrew is the Methodist Church in Britain's (MCB) Partnership Coordinator for Africa. MCB and the Methodist Church in Ireland (via World Mission Partnership) contribute to the World Mission Fund, which supports the Methodist Church of Kenya's work in Samuburu.

About Us

WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP (WMP) CONNECTS IRISH METHODISTS TO CHURCHES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SO THAT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER. TOGETHER, WE SHARE IDEAS, RESOURCES, AND PEOPLE SO THAT THE WORLD CAN KNOW GOD'S LOVE. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE THINGS WE DO:



- We organise visits to churches in other countries. This past year, we facilitated Irish Methodists in visiting Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Poland, Ghana and Germany.
 - We invite other churches to visit us. In 2023 MCI hosted Rev. Adrian Myśliński and his wife Agata, from UMC Poland.
 - We send Irish Methodists to serve with churches and agencies in other countries. WMP currently supports five Irish Methodists serving overseas.
 - We offer grants to churches in other countries – see page 15.
 - We encourage the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI) to pray for our world church family, and ask the world church to pray for MCI.
 - We look for ways that churches can learn from each other, like our 2023 MEET Team to Germany.
 - Our other programmes include Junior Mission for All (JMA), Container Ministry, and short-term mission.
- 🌐 [Visit our website to find out more.](#)

A Prayer for our World Church Family



Father, we thank you for your world church.

Help us continue to grow.

We pray for our Methodist family in other countries.

Bring them closer to you.

Help those who face persecution, including our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

Give them strength and courage.

Comfort those suffering the pain of war, including those in Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Be with them in their mourning.

Give direction to churches facing new challenges, including those in Germany and Poland.

Make your plans clear to them.

Nurture the young people in our congregations, including those in Ghana and Ecuador.

Help them to grow in faith and know your ways.

Bless those who are serving you in mission, including Barry and Gillian Sloan, Melissa Newell, Gemma Barclay and Gavin Taylor.

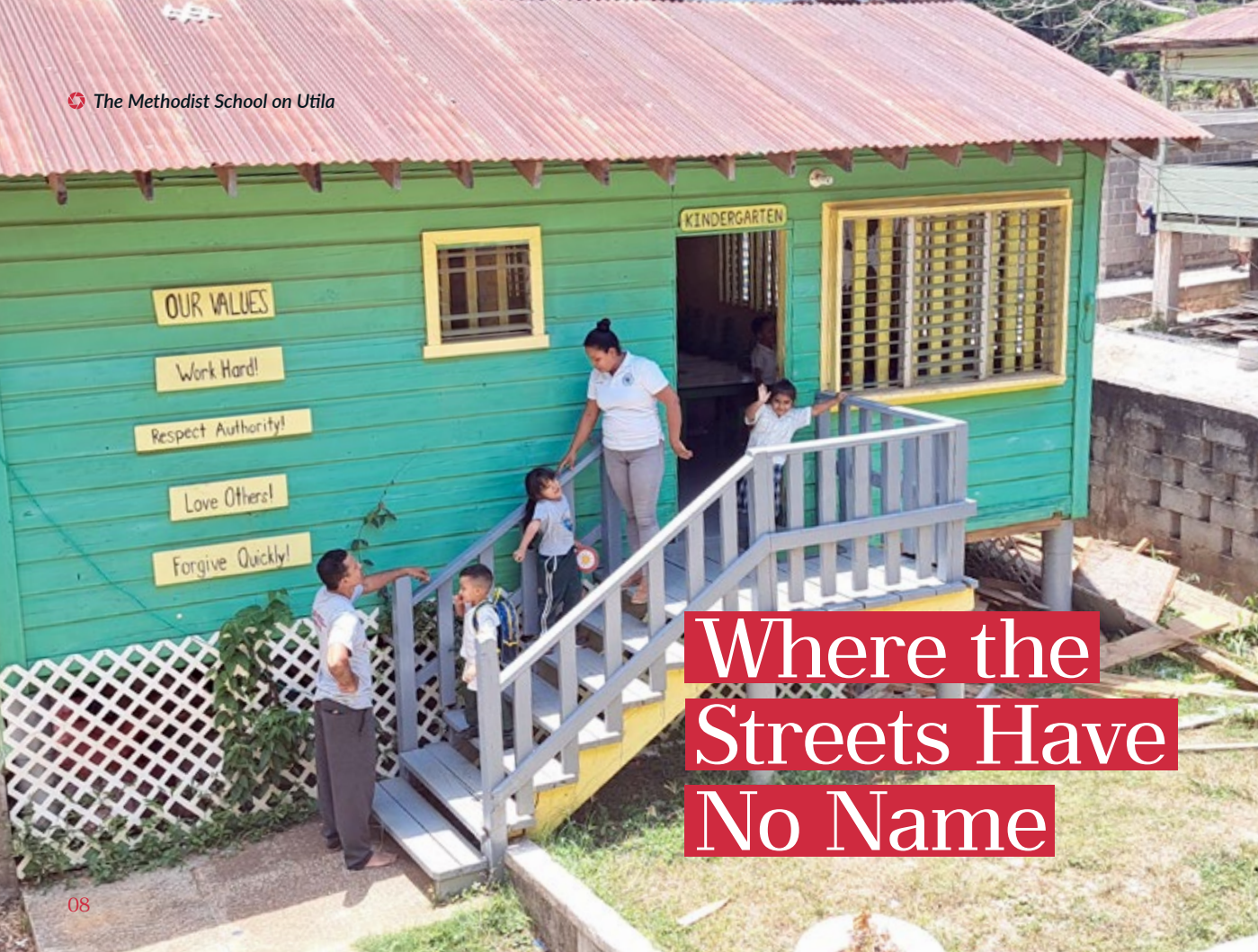
Keep your hand on them.

Strengthen our relationships with our world church family.

Help us to love and learn from each other.

In your Son's name we pray,

Amen



Where the
Streets Have
No Name

THERE ARE NO ADDRESSES ON UTILA: WHEN YOU LIVE ON AN ISLAND BARELY 17 MILES SQUARE, EVERYBODY KNOWS WHERE TO FIND EVERYONE ELSE.

But for newcomers like Rev. Chris Haines, the absence of street names or house numbers makes pastoral visiting tricky. Relying on a golf cart (there are no cars on the island) and vague landmarks, Chris travels around Utila to meet with the congregation he has crossed the world to serve.

Accompanied by his wife Linda, Chris is a Mission Partner serving with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA). He ministers to a congregation on Utila itself, and also on nearby islands which are only accessible by a precarious ferry ride across the open sea.

Life on a tropical island might seem idyllic - especially when your back garden is the Caribbean! The reality, of course, is that mission on Utila comes with its challenges too. The Haines share their home with lizards, ants, scorpions and mosquitoes. The heat is oppressive, especially for ministers holding services in full-length robes. Communication with the outside world is limited by patchy internet connections and a non-existent postal system.

Most challenging of all, however, is the changing nature of the church itself. "Church leaders are becoming increasingly elderly and tired," Chris writes. It is difficult to provide the necessary training for local preachers, and to adapt church life to cater for both Spanish and English-speaking members. All this amidst the literal and economic storms which buffet the wider Caribbean church.

Despite these challenges, both Chris and Linda play an active role in all aspects of church life, including preaching, pastoral care and youth ministry. They also help to run a Methodist school which provides bi-lingual lessons in Spanish and English. In everything they do, the Haines seek to be a source of encouragement and an expression of God's love, serving their brothers and sisters in a very different part of the world.

Through World Mission Partnership, Irish Methodists contribute to the World Mission Fund which, amongst other things, provides funding for Mission Partners like Chris and Linda Haines.



Sharing Scripture in Cuba

When Reina received her Bible, she kissed it. A volunteer with the church in Holguin, Cuba, she evangelises in a small village outside the city every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. She shares the Good News with everyone she meets: “This is what God has called me to do,” she says. “To share God’s Word with others.”

Asked how she would feel if she had Bibles to share with the people she visits, Reina burst into tears and leant her head on the interpreter’s shoulder. “I would be very, very happy,” she said.

In Ireland, we’re familiar with the power of Scripture. We’re also accustomed to it being freely available to

us – but in Cuba, Bibles are a precious commodity. That’s why World Mission Partnership works with the Bible Society Northern Ireland, to support Cuban Christians with the “Bible for Every Cuban” programme.

Alain Montano, General Secretary of the Cuban Bible Commission, is in no doubt about the importance of that support: “Thank you to the generous hands from so far away. We are so grateful. I am confident to say that your support has made a lasting impact on the Church in Cuba.”

Through World Mission Partnership, Irish Methodists have contributed £15,000 (€17,245) to support Bible distribution in Cuba.



“God’s Trend” in Sri Lanka



“OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LOST HOPE. THEY ARE DESPERATE FOR ANSWERS.”

It is easy to lose hope in the face of disaster and, for Christians in Sri Lanka, disaster has been a common theme. In 2019, a series of suicide bombs targeted Christian churches on Easter Sunday. Two hundred and sixty nine people were killed and more than five hundred were injured. These terror attacks were followed by COVID-19, which was in turn followed by an unprecedented economic crisis.

The situation has driven many young Sri Lankans to leave the island. Others look for different ways to escape – whether through sex, drugs or losing themselves in a digital world. The Methodist Church Sri Lanka is determined to offer an alternative option and is calling young people to explore “God’s Trend” instead.

In 2023, World Mission Partnership supported Sri Lankan Methodists to hold a camp for young people. The camp brought together members from all three of Sri Lanka’s main language groups, helping them to learn about each other and celebrate their common identity as Christians. It was also a chance to discover God’s purpose for them, and “to explore ways of serving their Church, society and nation by recommitting their lives to God.”

Through World Mission Partnership, Irish Methodists gave £5,000 (€5,870) to support the “God’s Trend” youth camp run by the Methodist Church Sri Lanka.



Finances

YOUR GIVING ALLOWS THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND, VIA WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP, TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF GOD'S WORLD CHURCH FAMILY. THANK YOU.

DONATIONS

Cheques payable to 'World Mission Partnership'.

Send to: WMP Treasurer, 2 Old Galgorm Dale, Ballymena, BT42 1RL

For bank transfers, please use the details below and send an email to ian.patterson@irishmethodist.org with details of your transfer.

Bank transfer details (ROI):

Bank: AIB

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Acc no: 11345-009

Sort Code: 93-12-68

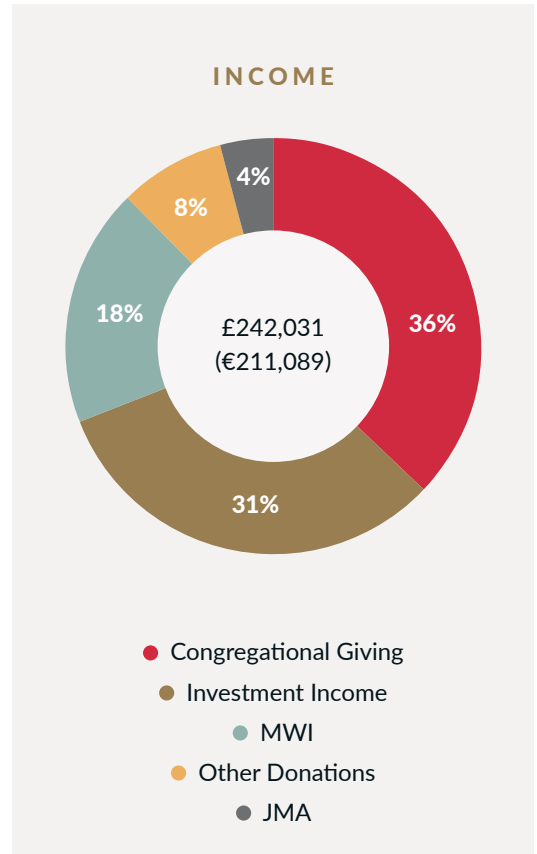
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(UK):

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EXAMPLES OF RECENT WMP GRANTS

GRANTS Sterling (Euro)	RECIPIENT	NOTES
£120,000 (€139,034)	World Mission Fund	Diverse mission projects, including the Samburu outreach. (See pages 2-5)
£2,222 (€2,585)	Methodist Church Southern Africa	"God is Speaking" Women's Bible Study.
£10,000 (€11,586)	Methodist Church Ghana	Youth and children's ministry.
£26,500 (€29,883)	Methodist Church Haiti	Staff support, community meal programme and fuel costs.
£8,445 (€9,523)	Methodist Church Ghana	International Women in Leadership Conference, empowering female leaders in the church.
£9,318 (€10,575)	Methodist Church Togo	"Aflatoun" Youth Empowerment Programme.
£26,434 (€30,000)	Methodist Church Sierra Leone	Training programme for lay pastors, staff support and income generation programmes.
£9,318 (€10,575)	UMC Poland	Christian summer camps for children.
£10,000 (€11,375)	Bible Society NI	Bible translation in Portugal, Bible distribution in Cuba. (See pages 10-11)
£7,303 (€8,522)	Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue, Sri Lanka	Interfaith and ecumenical work, support for staff and running costs.
£10,050 (€11,684)	Bible Society of Egypt	"Kingo" Children's Ministry project.

EXPENDITURE



76%
Grants



11%
Fundraising and
Education



10%
Programmes Spending
(inc MEET, JMA,
Container Ministry)



3%
Governance

MEET

METHODIST – EXPERIENCE – EXCHANGE – TELL



IN 2023 A MEET TEAM TRAVELLED TO GERMANY. THE AIMS OF THE VISIT WERE:

1

To expose Irish Methodists to new and different ways of doing church, so that they would be challenged and inspired to find effective ways of growing the church in Ireland.

2

To share what MCI is doing well with others.

3

To build relationships with Methodist brothers and sisters for mutual encouragement, understanding and support.

The team visited three German churches, each with a different but distinctly Methodist approach to serving the needs of the community around them. In Metzingen we visited a church building converted into a climbing hall; in Nuremberg, a contemporary congregation with an emphasis on worship; in Chemnitz, a project which focuses on serving people outside the usual church demographic.

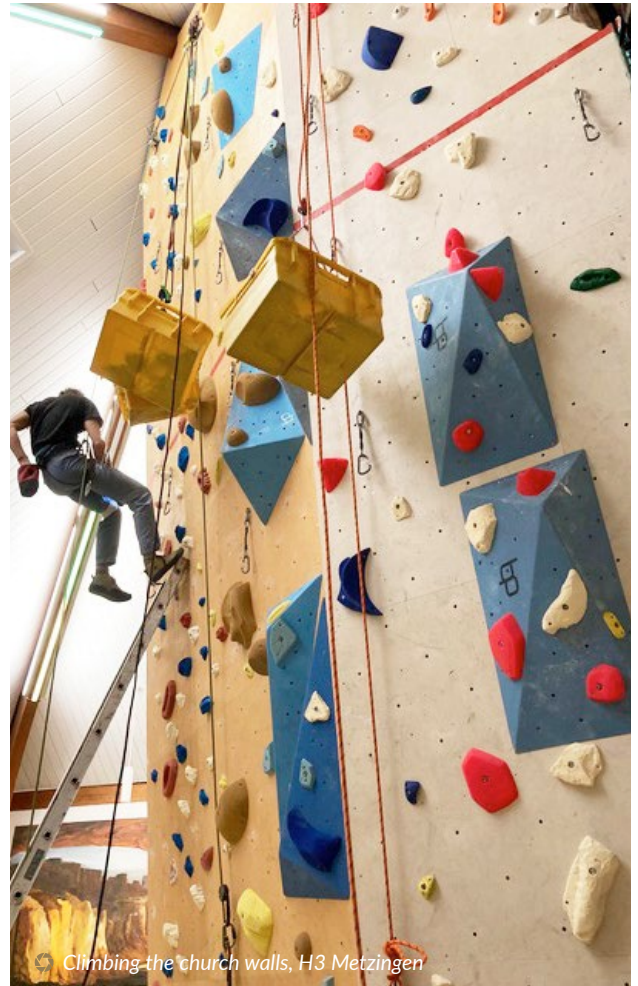
Each church offered valuable insights and WMP have worked closely with MCI's Home Mission team so that this learning can be shared across our church, at both the national and local level.



Contemporary worship in JesusCentrum, Nuremberg



INSPIRE Kids youth centre, Chemnitz



Climbing the church walls, H3 Metzigen

Those Serving

Barry & Gillian Sloan

Barry and Gillian Sloan serve with the German United Methodist Church. They run the INSPIRE project, a cafe, community and social outreach project in a city where Christians are a tiny minority.



Melissa Newell

Melissa serves with the Methodist Church in Ecuador. Her work focuses on discipleship and youth ministry, in addition to providing English classes and playing an active role in the local church.



Gemma Barclay

Gemma serves on Ibiza with 24-7 Prayer, caring for the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the island community.



Gavin Taylor

Gavin serves in Uganda with Engineering Ministries International, which uses engineering and design to support Christian missions and organisations in developing countries.



MISSION PARTNERS FROM THE METHODIST CHURCHES IN BRITAIN & IRELAND:

- Ray and Karen Borg (France)
- Fiona Kendall (Italy)
- Matthew Laferty (Italy)
- Barry & Gillian Sloan (Germany)

- Annekathrin and Matthias Buchold (South Africa)
- Hans and Mary Van den Corput (Nigeria)
- Rachel and Sylvester Deigh (Sierra Leone)
- Jonathan and Isabel Hill (Zimbabwe)
- Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman (Uganda)
- Gina Siatwinda-Oliver and Malcolm Oliver (Zimbabwe)
- Claire Smithson (Kenya)
- Michael Tettey (Togo)
- Keith and Ida Waddell (Zambia)

- Chris and Linda Haines (Honduras)
- Melissa Newell (Ecuador)
- David Hardman (Israel / Palestine)
- Sarah Lowe (Sri Lanka)



IRISH METHODIST
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THE METHODIST CHURCH
IN IRELAND

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