



IRISH METHODIST
WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP

Still Called to Mission?



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Our People

WORLD CHURCH LINKS

- Methodist Church Ghana
- Methodist Church Togo
- United Methodist Church in Poland
- Methodist Church Upper Myanmar
- Methodist Church in Haiti
- Methodist Church Sierra Leone
- Methodist Church in Britain

IRISH AND BRITISH MISSION PARTNERS

- Barry and Gillian Sloan (Germany)
- Brad and Rosie Goddon-Smith (Germany)
- Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman (Italy)
- Fiona Kendall (Italy)
- Matthew Laferty (Italy)
- Ray and Karen Borg (France)
- Angleena Keizer (Palestine/Israel)
- Rachel and Sylvester Deigh (Sierra Leone)
- Michael Tettey (Togo)
- Hans and Mary Van den Corput (Nigeria)
- Claire Smithson (Kenya)
- Wendy Kilworth-Mason (Rwanda)
- Jonathan and Isabel Hill (Zimbabwe)
- Malcolm Oliver and Gina Siatwinda-Oliver (Zambia)
- Keith and Ida Waddell (Zambia)
- Annekathrin and Matthias Buchold (South Africa)
- Chris and Linda Haines (Honduras)
- Melissa Newell (Ecuador)

MISSION ASSOCIATES

- Stephen McCann
(with 24-7 Ibiza)

COMMITTEE

- Laurence Graham
(General Secretary)
- Sahr Yambasu
(Ministerial Treasurer)
- Ian Patterson (Lay Treasurer)
- Nicky Algie (Secretary)
- Janet Unsworth
- William Carson
- Pam Dzunu
- Judith Weir
- Paul Maxwell (Ex Officio)
- Tim Dunwoody (Ex Officio)

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

- Lorna Kingston
(Southern District)
- Judith Weir (North Eastern
District)

STAFF

- David Nesbitt
(WMP Coordinator)



Called to Bring Good News



by Rev. Dr. Laurence Graham
WMP General Secretary

In Romans 1v15 Paul quotes from Isaiah, “how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”. One of the joys of being involved with Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership is the chance to see this verse lived out in the passionate mission of our sisters and brothers all around the globe.

It’s great to be part of that worldwide family, whose members follow Jesus and share His good news with everyone around them. Many of our Methodist brothers and sisters live in difficult circumstances, but nothing quenches their enthusiasm to tell the world about

Christ. How beautiful this is to see!

Also, how challenging this is to us. Are we amongst those who bring good news within our families, to our friends, in our local community and around the world? God calls us to have beautiful feet too!



World Mission Partnership Coordinator

DAVID
NESBITT



What exactly is a World Mission partnership Coordinator? Well, it's a very long job title, for a start! But in simple terms, my job is supporting Irish Methodists to grow God's church across the world. I'm responsible for getting people involved in overseas mission and for making sure that mission isn't just a one-way process - because effective mission isn't just about helping other churches to grow, it's also about them helping us grow.

I've been in the role for about six months now, and there's been a lot to learn. MCI has sister churches all over the world, and it feels like a big part of the job has just been getting to know all their names! I've also been getting to grips with the work WMP is already involved

in; everything from JMA to Mission Partners, MEET to the Container Ministry.

You'll find out more about our programmes throughout this report, both in terms of what's already happened and what we're planning for the coming year. I hope you'll be encouraged to read about the mission work that WMP has been involved in, and the people you've been supporting. But more than that, I hope you'll be inspired to explore how God might be calling you to be a part of this vital work.

If you'd like to learn more about any aspect of MCI's World Mission Partnership, please feel free to get in touch with me. My contact details are on the back cover of this report, and I'd be very happy to hear from you.



MEET

“METHODIST – EXPERIENCE – EXCHANGE – TELL”

MCI has skills and experience worth sharing with the world church, and the world church has knowledge, insight and ideas to share with us. WMP seeks to find ways of allowing that exchange to happen, with the aim of helping the Methodist Church to grow both at home and abroad.

MEET visits to our World Church Links are a key part of this work. In the past, these visits focused on how we could give to the place being visited. Today, they're designed to offer a more mutual exchange: instead of focusing only on ways to give to our partners, we're looking for ways to receive from them too.

Pictured: MCI President Rev. David Nixon meets Rev. Luca Anziani, President of the Methodist Church in Italy, during a visit to Rome

That's not because we want to be politically correct, or to disown the good work that happened in the past. It's simply about recognising a new reality: churches in other countries are growing in ways that we aren't, and instead of just showing them how we do things in Ireland, we should be finding ways to learn from what they're doing.



Our last MEET visit was in 2019, to Ghana (pictured left). In 2023, WMP will be working with MCI's Home Mission team, and our sister churches overseas, to design visits that facilitate a genuine exchange of knowledge. We want to give Irish Methodists the chance to experience church in a new context, to share the best of what we do with the world, and to bring home the kind of learning that we can use to transform the church here in Ireland.

World Church Family

In Ireland, we're used to the idea of an extended family. Many of us have relatives in other countries, like an aunt in Australia or a cousin in Canada. As Methodists, we're also part of a wider church family with more than 80 million members all over the world.

WMP works to strengthen those relationships. In recent years, our focus has been on developing links with our Methodist family in Ghana, Togo and Poland. These plans were heavily disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions, and particularly by limitations on travel.



Right:

Rev. Dr. Stephen Skuce with Rev. Slawomir Rodaszyński from UMC Poland



Despite these challenges, links between our churches have grown. In 2022, members of MCI's Southern District used virtual meetings to run bilingual Bible studies on Zoom, and held a joint service celebrating Lay Preachers. And in the North Western District, District Superintendent Stephen Skuce took part in UMC Poland's Church Renewal Programme.

In 2023, we want to develop and expand these links. We'll continue using technology to meet and communicate with churches in other countries, but we'll also be visiting each other in person and spending time together. Our aim is to deepen the relationship and sense of connection to our Methodist family in Poland, Togo, Ghana – and beyond, as we work to grow God's church everywhere.

Left: *Togolese Methodists taking part in an Irish service celebrating local preachers*



Ibrahim: Still Called to Mission

TOGETHER, GROWING GOD'S WORLD CHURCH



Many years ago, in the land of Ur, God called Abraham to leave his family and set out on a journey of faith. More recently, God called another Ibrahim (the Arabic form of “Abraham”) to leave his Muslim family and become a Christian missionary in Ghana.

Ibrahim is part of our world Methodist family, whom we first met in our 2021 Annual Report. Since then, Ibrahim has continued on his journey of Christian faith and

service. He has been working as an evangelist, using open air crusades, films, house to house evangelism and street evangelism, to plant two new churches and to revive several struggling congregations. He has also been studying for his Lay Preaching qualification, and hopes to progress into ordained ministry.

Ibrahim’s example is an inspiration to us, as we consider how to answer God’s call in our own lives. Please continue to pray for Ibrahim and our brothers and sisters in Ghana, as they grow the Methodist Church and share the Gospel with the people around them.

“Junior Mission for All (JMA)”



JMA is an educational programme for children, designed to help them understand and engage with their role in God’s global mission. It allows them to hear from children in other parts of the world and encourages them to learn about, pray for and serve the worldwide church.

Each year children in the Methodist Church in Ireland raise funds for a world church partner or programme. Last year, JMA supported children’s ministry in our sister churches. We were

able to send £30,000 to fund initiatives including outreach work with children in rural Ghana, a Church Summer Camp for children in Poland, and a Youth empowerment programme in Togo.

This year, JMA focuses on the work of the Bible Society in Egypt and their hugely successful TV character, “Kingo.” Kingo is a big, friendly lion who loves to teach children and families about the Bible! Using characters like Joseph and Ruth, Kingo gives lessons about Christian values including courage, humility and forgiveness. The character has been



a huge success in Egypt: every year, hundreds of thousands of children attend Kingo festivals, and millions watch his videos online or through a local Christian TV station. Kingo is even able to reach the Muslim families who make up 90% of Egypt's population, because he teaches values based on Old Testament characters.



Funds raised by JMA from September 2022 - June 2023 will be sent to the Bible Society in Egypt to support their children's work and particularly their ministry through Kingo resources. Funds will pay for Kingo resource packages to be sent to groups of Sunday school children across Egypt. These packages contain workbooks,

illustrated Bible Story books, teaching guides, and a USB drive with episodes of Kingo's TV show, crafts and games.

This year, JMA's theme is "With God, You Can." Inspired by Kingo's use of Old Testament characters as examples of Christian values, the Bible focus is on 1 Samuel 17 and the story of David and Goliath. The resource looks at David's faith and his confidence that, when God was with him, not even a giant could stand in his way.

We hope and pray that families across MCI will be encouraged by this

year's JMA. The resource is designed to be flexible, so it can be used with any children's group or uniformed organisation, as part of an all-age service, or even by families in their own homes.

However, the resource is only effective if it's being used, and WMP are hugely grateful to all the JMA secretaries and leaders who share the JMA message with our children and young people. Like many other areas of church ministry, the number of JMA leaders has

fallen in recent years – so if you agree that it's important to help children engage with mission, please visit our website and sign up to receive our JMA resources.



Who are you supporting?



MISSION TO IRELAND

Rev. Tawanda Sungai

When we think of mission, we have traditionally thought of God calling people to leave Ireland and travel to other countries. But God also calls people to travel in the other direction, using them to spread His word and grow His church here. MCI has members from all over the globe, and ministers from four different continents. Rev. Tawanda Sungai, who features in our World Mission service, is one of them. Tawanda is a Minister of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe serving with MCI on the Dublin Central Mission Circuit, where is he also Chaplain to the Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship in Ireland.

WMP contributes toward Tawanda's work with the Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship because we recognise that God wants to reach Zimbabweans just as much as He wants to reach Irish people. But Tawanda's contribution to MCI isn't limited to reaching those from outside Ireland; his experience of faith, church and ministry in a different context are a real asset to MCI. Incorporating that kind of experience into our church is vital to the continued growth of the Methodist Church in Ireland.





MISSION FROM IRELAND

Melissa Newell

God has called Melissa from Ireland to mission overseas. Today, she is helping to grow the church in Ecuador. Melissa hasn't gone to Ecuador to take over their church or tell them what to do: she's there to contribute to their work, using her skills and experience to support their ministry.

In Ireland, Melissa taught Spanish to English speakers – and in Ecuador, she's running English classes for Spanish speakers. She's using her experience of working with Irish teenagers, to help Ecuadorian children and young people engage with their local church. She's organising prayer meetings, youth events and worship courses.

She's also helping to plant a new congregation and developing discipleship programmes to support Christians to grow deeper in their faith. Melissa is living her faith wholeheartedly, and transforming the world by growing the church where it's needed the most.



NATIONALS IN MISSION

Tawanda Sumani

In 1892, Methodist missionaries founded a theological training institute near Marondera in Zimbabwe. The institute faced significant challenges early on - several of the founders were even martyred, and buried on site - but it was eventually converted into a successful school. Today, this school provides both academic and practical lessons, including instruction in agricultural techniques. Land opposite the school was developed into "Waddilove Farm", and the farm has become not only a model of agricultural education, but it also plays a key role in providing for Methodist institutions and generating income to support the ministry of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

Waddilove is managed by Tawanda Sumani, a "National in Mission Appointment" (NMA) from Zimbabwe. NMAs carry out mission in their own countries, with financial support from churches in other countries. So, whilst Tawanda Sumani is still based in his home country, he is part of an international mission to grow the world church. Irish Methodists support NMAs across the world through our contributions to the World Mission Fund.

Answering the Call to Mission

As we've seen throughout this report, God is still calling Irish Methodists to be involved in mission. That call isn't reserved to a select few: **every single one of us** has a role to play in supporting mission across the world. There are lots of ways to do that, and World Mission Partnership is here to help you find out how you can best respond to God's Call to Mission.



PRAY

Sign up to receive bimonthly prayer requests from those serving overseas and/or monthly Prayers of Solidarity for our global family.

GIVE

Your donations provide support to those actively involved in mission overseas. You can donate online, set up a standing order, or send a cheque payable to 'World Mission Partnership'. You could also consider leaving us a gift in your will.

GO

If you feel called to mission overseas, then WMP is here to help you explore that call. You can visit our website to find out more, or email worldmission@irishmethodist.org

JMA

You can use our annual resource in your local church to help engage children in God's global mission. You can also use it at home, or with any children's organisation.

CONTAINER MINISTRY

Visit our website for updates and requests.



How to Give (UK)

Please tick this box if you would like to receive our bimonthly newsletter via email.

MONTHLY DONATION: STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Complete all 8 boxes marked *

To:	* Your bank name:	Branch Address:	* Your bank address:
Please pay:	Allied Irish Bank (AIB)	Branch: University Road, Belfast	SC: 93-84-24
For the credit of:	World Mission Partnership		Acc no: 22382013
The sum of:	* Amount in figures	* Amount in words	
Commencing:	*	Frequency: Monthly	Date of last payment: *
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish tax to be reclaimed on my regular giving of € _____ per month (standing order).			
Name of account to be debited:	*	Acc no:	*

For Gift Aid and Standing Orders, all the details below **MUST** be completed:

Title:	Name(s):
Signature(s):	Date:
Address:	Postcode:
Telephone:	Email:

I want to gift aid my donation of £ _____ per month & any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years.

Name of charity: Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership (of the Methodist Church in Ireland)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature(s):	Date:
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When completed, return form to:

World Mission Partnership, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY.
For Standing orders, a copy will be kept and the original forwarded to your bank. **Queries:** +44 (0)28 9076 7957 or worldmission@irishmethodist.org

Bank Transfer: see above
Registered Charity No.
108435 (NI)

**BOOST
YOUR
DONATION
BY 25P FOR
EVERY £1 AT
NO COST TO
YOURSELF.**

giftaid it

How to Give (Republic of Ireland)

MONTHLY DONATION: STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Complete all 9 boxes marked *

To:	* Your bank name:		Branch Address: * Your bank address:	
Please pay:	AIB	Branch: 1 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin	SC: 93-12-68	
For the credit of:	World Mission Partnership		Acc no: 11345-009	
The sum of:	* Amount in figures		* Amount in words	
Commencing:	*	Frequency: Monthly	Date of last payment:	*
Please cancel any previous Standing Order in favour of the beneficiary above.				
Name of account to be debited:	*	Acc no: *	IBAN:	*

For Tax Reclaim and Standing Orders, all the details below **MUST** be completed:

Title:	Name(s):
Signature(s):	Date:
Address:	Eircode:
Telephone:	Email:

Please tick this box if you would like to receive our bimonthly newsletter via email.

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If you pay income tax in the Republic of Ireland and donate more than €250 in a tax year to the Methodist Church in Ireland and its departments, then the Methodist Church in Ireland (Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership) could claim tax relief on your donation and boost the value of your gift without it costing you a cent.

I wish tax to be reclaimed on my regular giving of € _____ per month (standing order).

Signature(s):	Date:
---------------	-------

When completed, return form to:

World Mission Partnership, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY.
For Standing orders, a copy will be kept and the original forwarded to your bank.
Queries: +44 (0)28 9076 7957 or worldmission@irishmethodist.org

Bank transfer details:

Swift/BIC: AIBKIE2D
IBAN: IE63 AIBK 9312 6811 3450 09
Charity No: 20000578



Your Giving to World Mission in 2021

	STERLING			EURO		
	CIRCUIT	JMA		CIRCUIT	JMA	
Southern District	-	-		€46,219.04	€556.36	
North Western District	£34,221.21	£469.35		€1,085.00		
North Eastern District	£31,837.32	£18,206.67				
MWI			£20,566			€4,723.53
Dividends & Trust			£82,660.03			
Other			£40,903.02			€3,130
		Total:	£228,863.60		Total:	€55,713.93

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

On average, Irish Methodists give less than £15/€17 to World Mission each year. For most of us, this represents a tiny proportion of our income.

World Mission Partnership strives to maximise the impact of every cent and penny. Grants focus on growing the world church through evangelism, discipleship and leadership training.

Examples of support given in past 12 months:

- Theological training for ministerial students in Togo
- Printing Ukrainian language Bibles
- Leadership Conference for women in West Africa
- Discipleship programmes in Romania
- Support for church staff in Haiti
- Training for Lay Preachers in Sierra Leone

The Methodist Church in Ireland asks us to seriously consider our giving to World Mission Partnership so that we can continue to play our role in answering God’s Call to Mission.

DONATIONS

Cheques payable to ‘World Mission Partnership’.

Send to:

WMP Treasurer, 9 Meadow Dale, Newtownabbey, BT37 OUT.

Bank transfers:

Details can be found on Pages 13 (UK) and 14 (ROI)



IRISH METHODIST
WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP



THE METHODIST CHURCH
IN IRELAND

TOGETHER, GROWING GOD'S
WORLD CHURCH

World Mission Partnership

Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

+44 (0)28 9076 7957
worldmission@irishmethodist.org
www.irishmethodist.org/world-mission

Our Mission

Enabling Methodist people in Ireland, and friends, to join with partners around the world to proclaim Christ's love and offer of salvation & to promote church growth. We do this by giving and receiving, teaching and learning, praying and being prayed for and serving and being served.