

Information eXchange 26 June 2016

E-mail recipients can obtain fuller information by CTRL + click on the relevant links. This document will also appear on the Circuit web site.

All information herein is intended for use in churches in whatever form the user thinks fit. If printed, an acknowledgement of source should be included.

Further Email 'subscribers' can be added by contacting me at gosling.jb@btinternet.com .

John B Gosling

Book recommendation: - "The Shepherd's Life – a tale of the Lake District" by James Redbanks
Penguin 2016 £8.99

Not a story from the Bible – but a modern shepherd, an autobiography. It begins with a short summary of his school days and then is divided by the seasons, but includes much wisdom. The concluding paragraph of the introduction reads "It is the story of a family and a farm, but it also tells a wider story about people who get forgotten in the modern world. It is about how we need to open our eyes and see the forgotten people who live in our midst, whose lives are often deeply traditional and rooted in the distant past." The other question I ask is what insights does the author give us as to the interpretation of the Biblical ideas of the Good Shepherd.

the Connexion Issue 5 Spring 2016.

News for whole-life, world-changing disciples in the Methodist Church.



Copies should be available in your Church foyer. Please borrow, read and return for someone else.

The title of this issue is "*Spirit-led Enthusiasm*" Articles include a Spirit-led Quest for Social Justice, serving the poor in Hull, people with infectious enthusiasm (of the right sort), a vision for growth and work in Burnley and Hong Kong. We are reminded of the 'Four Alls' of Methodism; All People need to be saved, All people can be saved, All people can know they are saved, All people can be saved to the uttermost. In another article we are encouraged to live out "10 Holy Habits" as seen in Acts 2. Biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, giving, service, eating together, gladness, worship and making new disciples.

From All We Can (MRDF) May 2016

Massive earthquake in Ecuador



A huge earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, struck the Andean nation of Ecuador on Sunday 17 April. Over 600 people have now been reported to have lost their lives and more than 7000 have been injured.

All We Can is responding through one of its trusted humanitarian aid partners, the ACT Alliance. Medical facilities and items are urgently needed for people who were injured, as well as food, clean water and basic sanitation. We launched the Ecuador Earthquake Appeal following news of the disaster and we encourage you to do all you can to respond. "*The situation for thousands of people in Ecuador is a very serious one*" - Jason Snuggs, All We Can's Humanitarian Aid Manager.

[Find out more](#)

A hidden tragedy

Uterine prolapse (UP) is a distressing medical condition affecting an estimated 1 in 10 women of child-bearing age in Nepal, but most women hide their pain ashamed of their situation. All We Can's local partner ISS have been reaching out to women like 55

"Before I had a pain, but now I don't have any pain. Everything is okay." - Pasupati Rana.

[Learn more about ISS' life changing work in Nepal](#)



What happens when the rains don't come?



Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought since the 1980s and millions of people are facing severe hunger. All We Can's trusted local partner SUNARMA has been supporting some of the most vulnerable families affected by the drought in central and northern Ethiopia

[Read Shiferaw Tesema's story](#)

From World Church News May 2016

Relocation, relocation, relocation

by Julia Edwards



"Rising seas are impacting on our atoll communities; people's livelihoods are already affected, and the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) has taken the decision to accompany communities experiencing climate-related hardships", said the general secretary of ACoM, Dr Abraham Hauriasi, during his opening welcome to participants at the start of a three-day relocation workshop in Honiara.

Solomon Islands, a Pacific sovereign state to the east of Papua New Guinea, comprises nearly one thousand islands and is home to more than half a million people, most of whom live around the coasts of the main islands of Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita, New Georgia, San Cristobal and Santa Isabel.

Some communities, however, are very remote as they are located on low-lying atolls, known as the 'Polynesian Outliers', hundreds of miles (or days by boat) away from the larger islands; while others, geographically closer, live on artificial islands, built many centuries ago by their ancestors from blocks of the surrounding reef. All are vulnerable to the effects of rising seas.

The Pacific Conference of Churches was approached by ACoM to conduct awareness training on the issue of relocation. Over the course of three days in March 2016, more than thirty people attended the meeting, drawn from affected, low-lying island communities, government ministries and ACoM head office staff. The participants gained understanding about the science of climate change, shared their personal experiences and learned about relocations elsewhere in the Pacific, before offering their own approach to the issue.

Satellite data shows that sea levels have risen near Solomon Islands by 8mm per year since 1993 – more than twice the global average of 2.8mm to 3.6mm.

A home for girls



The Hanne Home for Girls has offered a home to poor girls from marginalised Christian communities in rural Sindh, Pakistan, for over 25 years.

The hostel (which belongs to the Diocese of Hyderabad, Church of Pakistan) has seen more than 200 girls come through its doors. These girls all received a quality education that transformed their lives, and now work as teachers, nurses, NGO workers and more.

Last year, the hostel was left in a difficult situation when its major supporter abruptly withdrew its support. The hostel had to downsize its staff, and 50 of the 75 girls who were staying there had to leave. Only girls from extremely poor backgrounds (including orphans, bonded labourers and girls from broken families) were kept on.

Support from the Methodist Church in Britain has enabled Hyderabad Diocese to continue looking after the remaining girls during the past year. "The Diocese will always remain grateful to the UK Methodist Church for all the financial assistance to overcome and manage the difficult situation of Hanne Home," said Bishop Kaleem John, fourth bishop of the Diocese of Hyderabad.

Bishop John highlighted the story of Ambreen and Anjli, two sisters from a very poor family. "Their mother is disabled and cannot walk, and their father died

two years ago," he said. "After his death, it was hard for the mother to look after her two daughters properly. Their granny, who is very old, tried her best to help. The girls were expelled from school shortly after their father died, because they couldn't afford to pay their school fees."

A local pastor paid the girls' mother and grandmother a visit, and heard about the difficulties they were having. The pastor – who also preaches in the church that's linked to the Hanne Home – told them about the home. He then discussed the girls' situation with the Hanne Home, and got both Ambreen and Anjli registered.



A tug of war

"The mother and granny are grateful to Hanne Home and all its supporters for helping to give their girls a future," said Bishop John. "They are really encouraged to see them growing spiritually and socially. Ambreen wants to be a doctor while Anjli is interested in becoming a teacher. They are good students and they pray regularly."



Learning to cook

For more information, please contact Steve Pearce at wcr.asiapacific@methodistchurch.org.uk

From World Church News June 2016

Prayer points

- ❖ Pray for Zimbabwe and

for all those who have been affected by a drought.

- ❖ Praise God for our mission partners in Zimbabwe and Zambia; for the godly work they are doing to assist those in need, and to be a voice for the voiceless.
- ❖ Pray for Pakistan and for all those who have been affected by a heatwave.
- ❖ Pray for the inhabitants of Ecuador as they struggle to rebuild their lives and country following the earthquake there.
- ❖ Praise God for Luis Ruiz Peñaherrera, and the work the Methodist Church in Peru is doing to help those most in need.

From Methodist E-news June 2016

Films new take on Bible stories



Six new short films that take a contemporary slant on Bible stories have been funded by the Methodist Church. Find the provocative, entertaining and often controversial films [here](#), along with accompanying study notes.

Produced by Applecart, they are bound to create a response from those who view them.

National month of prayer for toddler groups

1277*, an alliance of churches and other agencies that the work of church-based toddler groups, have organised as month of prayer for toddler groups.

There are more than 20,000 churches estimated to be toddler groups in the UK, and they are encouraged to their groups and those who participate. The theme for living life to the full, based on John 10:10. You can find more information and resources [online](#).



support

running
pray for
2016 is

*1277 refers to the average number of days a child has between birth and starting nursery education.

Methodist Conference 2016

The Methodist Conference opens at Westminster Central Hall, London at the end of June.

Please pray that their deliberations will help the Church to the glory of God