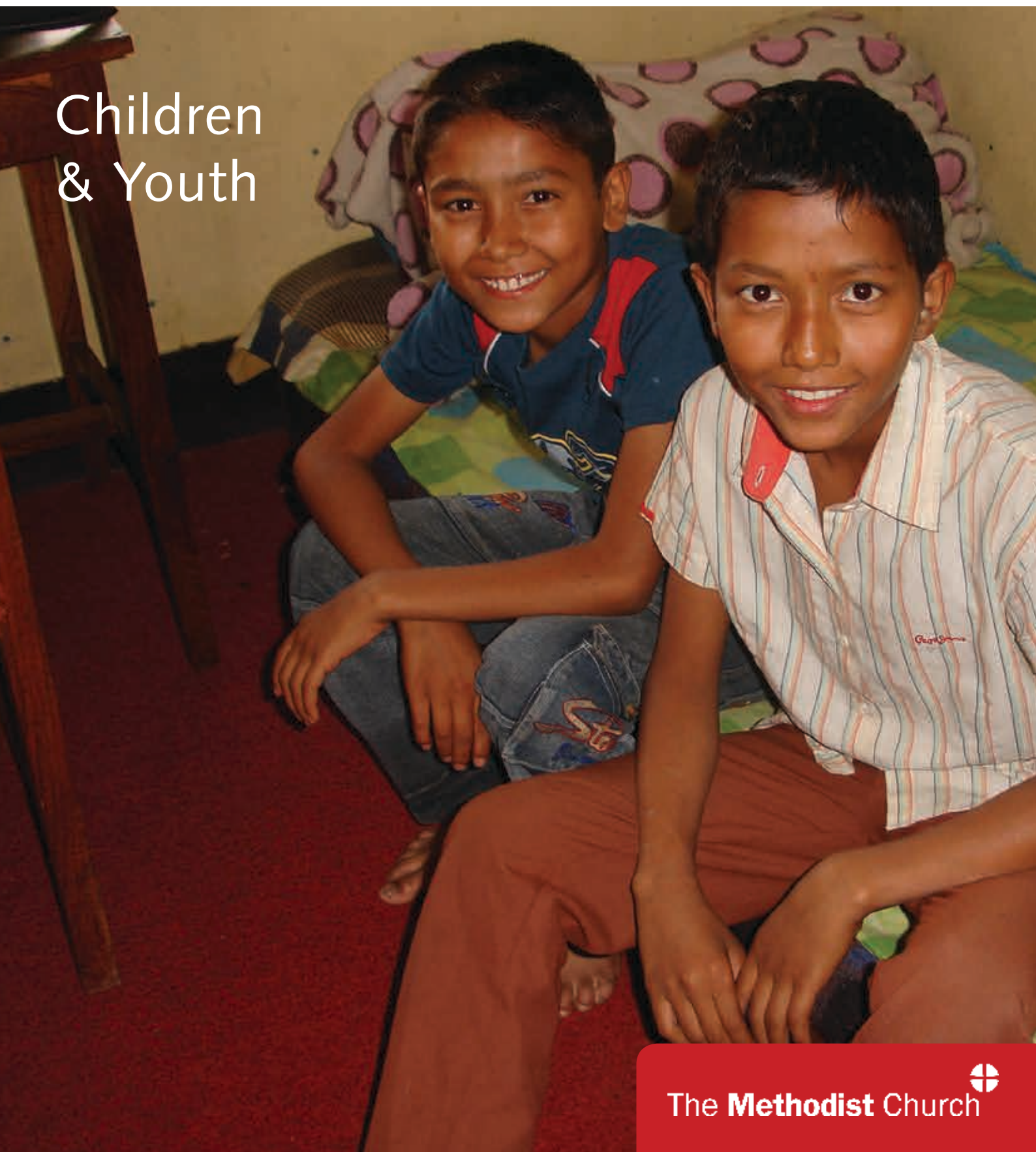


mission matters

Children
& Youth



Simply put, youth mission is the Church's efforts to help each and every young person grow personally and spiritually. I believe that as a definition, youth mission is much more complex than just that; it's like trying to catch water with your bare hands. Youth mission releases many opportunities and reflects how you can count how many pips there are in an apple, but not how many apples there are in a pip. Youth mission is about releasing potential within young people, and empowering others to do so too.

Youth mission can be 'calculated' in a number of ways which may not necessarily include young people preaching at their local church service. Within the Methodist Church, youth mission takes place in many ways – some of which could also be described as youth participation.

3GENERATE

CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2014

The Children & Youth assembly, 3Generate, provides children and young people with a voice that is capable of being heard within the wider Methodist Church. The event also lets children and young people vote on who they would like their future representatives to be. 3Generate is not just your typical Christian youth event; I like to see it as a Christian youth 'mash up' event as it features workshops and debates, and has worship as being integral at the event and trickling through everything that we do. But 3Generate is more than an event that happens on one weekend in November. What about the children and young people who can't go?

The BiG SleepOver resource enables



8-18 year olds to engage with the event in their local context, enabling them to take an active and participatory role in the life of the Church. There are also paid opportunities for young people within the Methodist Church, such as the One Programme – a paid year for young people aged 16-23. Each year, the Methodist Church funds ten placements for One Programme Participants (OPPs).

Children and young people play an essential role in the Church so it is important to us to embrace this. Children and young people are the 'NOW' of the Church, not just its future. We all know about financial investments but now more than ever we need to invest in the young people of the Church.



Tamara Wray,
Methodist
Youth President



Above: Activities from 3Generate 2013
Below: BiG SleepOver resources

The Methodist BiG SleepOver 2014 for children and young people aged 8-18 **1**

What is 3Generate and the BiG SleepOver?
3Generate is more than an event. The world can see the 3Generate logo as a symbol of different voices joining for discussion and participation of children and young people across the Christian Church.

Planning your BiG SleepOver Preparation for the event **2**

Ensuring a successful event starts with the planning and preparation. This resource provides a range of ideas and activities to help you plan your event. It also includes a checklist of things to do before the event.

Ways to involve children and young people in planning

- Consultation before the event
- Involvement during the event
- Involvement after the event

Content ideas for your BiG SleepOver **3**

The 3Generate event has a variety of activities to help you plan your event. This resource provides a range of ideas and activities to help you plan your event. It also includes a checklist of things to do before the event.

The six strands are:

- Spirituality
- Games and activities
- Liturgy (worship)
- Traveling
- Taking it forward
- Testimonies

Development of a Sports Strategy for Methodist children and young people **4**

We are pleased to share this strategy with you. It is a guide to help you develop a sports strategy for your church. It includes a range of ideas and activities to help you plan your event. It also includes a checklist of things to do before the event.

Revisiting chaplaincy

Shaping the next generation of chaplains

As I think about all the dedicated children's youth and family workers I know, it impresses me how many of them instinctively work in a chaplaincy style: spending a lot of time in the community – whether in schools, after-school clubs, Sure Start children's centres, sports clubs, local cafés, Young Offenders' institutions and beyond. There they are – a steady presence, creating safe spaces for children and young people to discover who they are and develop into responsible adults. Some children and youth leaders also spend time responding creatively to the practical needs they see, often at great personal cost. Others are advocates about issues that affect children and young people at a very deep level. From my perspective, that sounds a lot like chaplaincy! However, a children, youth or family worker might not think of what they do in that way. But what might happen if they did?

Jesus told us to go into all the world and chaplaincy naturally puts us into those 'out-there spaces' as all the world opens up to us as possibility. Once there, as relationships of trust are built with young people and those who care for them, change occurs. I know that can happen, because once upon a time, people of faith



gave me the time of day and it made all the difference.

A couple of years ago, I used to walk past the local magistrates court on a daily basis. Groups of young people would often be waiting outside, ready to attend a session of court *(magistrates courts sentenced 10,442 juveniles in the third quarter of 2010 – about 15% of all sentences passed). I thought two things: firstly, where is the Church here? And secondly, so many youth workers would make outstanding chaplains in youth courts around the country! Chaplaincy provides a tried and tested framework for being an effective presence.

What about being a chaplain to a uniformed organisation? The youth leader might be the best person for that role, rather than the local minister. Or what about a charity that works with young people from all kinds of backgrounds, that is looking for volunteers to walk alongside young people to listen without judgement, helping them to shape spiritual awareness, life attitudes and values?

Investing in young people is one of the best things any society can do and chaplaincy is one of the most effective ways to shape that influence. Chaplaincy gives our presence a rhythm and a clearly defined purpose - in other words, chaplaincy becomes our method!

Of course, it would be so easy just to think of children and youth as the recipients of chaplaincy. However, there is one more thought to share: peer chaplaincy, where children and young people learn the essential skills of chaplaincy for their day-to-day lives. I would argue that chaplaincy as a ministry is something that young people can explore creatively as they develop faith. By instilling these skills early on and by giving permission for young people to have a go at summer camps and in the playground, we not only create healthy communities and human beings who instinctively make space for the other; we also begin to prepare the next generation of chaplains – and that is both an exciting and a necessary opportunity!

For more information about chaplaincy, see the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* edition of *Mission Matters* (Autumn 2013) or visit www.open-source-chaplaincy.org.uk

*www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-quarterly



Jonathan Green



Helping to shape spiritual awareness, life attitudes and values

Street Child sponsorship

Methodist children and young people are encouraging local churches across the Connexion to help raise £30,000 to sponsor two teams from Nicaragua – one male, one female – to attend the Street Child World Cup in Rio de Janeiro this year.



*Below:
The Nicaraguan SCWC
Boys Team after
a Saturday morning
training session*



David Friswell, Head of World Church Relationships, recently visited Nicaragua to see how the teams were getting on in preparation for the Street Child World Cup. While he was there, he got to see firsthand how Nicaraguan Methodists are engaging with children and young people.

“The Church in Nicaragua is prioritising youth work in many ways,” says David. “It has established feeding centres across its eight churches in Managua and is spreading the initiative to other parts of the country. The kids are primarily from single families; this means that they don’t get a meal till very late and some may not even have breakfast, as single parents often go to work very early and come home late. The Church has set up afternoon activities such as playgroups and youth clubs for them. It was lovely to see Pastor Eduardo, the head of the Church, helping out in the kitchen and serving food to the kids.”

The Church also runs skills training for 16-19-year olds, teaching them skills that will lead to employment. One example of this is the sewing training centre in the north coffee growing area of the country.



Left: For those who can't play football, juggling is always an option

Right: The children and young people are very involved in leading worship

is quite a poor country and the Church works with kids who will struggle to get any work. In Nicaragua, if you're well educated and in the right social class, you have a good chance to progress. But these kids do not come from that social background, so for them the future is fairly bleak. Many want to set up their own businesses in cooking, mechanics, baking etc, but even if they obtain those skills it doesn't necessarily mean they will get capital to start off, so the Church is exploring how to facilitate them.



Above: Singing and music are central to the ministry of the church

Although mainly for young women, there has been a good uptake of the sewing by young men, who seem to like the tailoring business! The Church is also looking to set up a mechanics course for the young men.

"The inclusion of young people is very inspirational and the church lay workers' approach is to go out proactively to the community, with a strategy to interact with them. This young Methodist Church in Nicaragua is still discovering how to be a church community and it's exciting how they develop new ideas. I look forward to see how the World Mission Fund can continue to support our Partner Church."

It became clear to David why the Nicaraguan Church had such an emphasis on youth work. "Unlike our ageing population, 50% of Nicaragua's population are under 30," he explains. "Therefore, youth is a big part of the community and Methodism is about being in the heart of the community. Nicaragua

Right: Children waiting eagerly at one of the church feeding centres in Managua



ACT NOW

The World Mission Fund supports Methodist Churches like Nicaragua's as they seek to help their communities develop. Be part of this support; donate now via www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate/ or via the giving form.

"Just two Christians"

Under Nepali law, the children of prisoners are permitted to live in the prisons with their parents, if they have no other form of parental care and protection. Many of Nepal's prisons are very basic; an inmate's bed could just be a mat on the floor – and if the inmate has children, they might well be sleeping on it too.

Below: Many of the prisons are remote and very basic



Bajura prison is in a mountainous region of Nepal



"Some of these children will be fairly disturbed," says Steve Pearce, Partnerships Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific. "They would find it difficult to adapt to a specific regime. If, for example, their parents had been arrested for drug offences, the likelihood is that they have mixed within that environment."

It was with these children in mind that Dinesh Neupane and Ruben Pradhan set up the Peace-Loving Children's Homes. Here, the children of prisoners receive food, shelter, education, medication and other basic necessities.

Dinesh and Ruben began visiting prisoners as volunteers in 1988 and the needs they saw in the prisons and among prisoners' families led them to found Prison Fellowship Nepal (PFN).

PFN is a non-profit non-government organization established in 1988 and affiliated with Prison Fellowship





These two brothers, Milan (left) and Sujan (right), have just arrived in the PFN Home in Kathmandu

International. It operates in 50 of Nepal's 74 prisons, working with inmates, their families, their victims' families and also with ex-prisoners. The Methodist Church in Britain has been supporting PFN since it began and is proud of its achievements. "PFN basically started with these two guys, who as Christians felt that they should do something in relation to the prisons," Steve Pearce recalls. "They started visiting prisons, and when they saw the need they simply set about doing something. They set up PFN with some support from our partner the United Mission in Nepal; they now run it as a Christian organisation in a predominantly Hindu country.

"It's amazing to see how they have expanded their work by finding ways of helping the rest of the churches in Nepal engage with prison ministry. They tried to set up a local church coordinator for every prison in the country, so there is someone from the local church nearby who will visit and will help the church make whatever provision it can to help the prisoners. Dinesh and Ruben see this

as an important thing for the Church to engage with, just like John and Charles Wesley used to do in the olden days; they too thought that prison mission work was important. I see the World Mission Fund supporting this work for many years to come."

ACT NOW

All around the world, the World Mission Fund helps churches respond to needs that aren't always headline news. You can be part of this; go to www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate/ or donate via the giving form.



Steve Pearce (left) and Dinesh with some of the boys in the Kathmandu home

A journey inspires discipleship

Yarm



The Mission in Britain Fund has agreed to support the Yarm Methodist Church's youth project in setting up a lunch project to provide meals during school holidays for children who qualify for free school dinners at term-time.

This Easter, a group of young people from Yarm Methodist Church in Stockton-on-Tees are travelling to Mexico to help build homes for poor families in Tijuana as part of Urban Saints' Rebuild programme. This is the third time young people from the Yarm church have gone on such a trip; as a result, they have been inspired to look for opportunities to demonstrate God's love in their own community back in Yarm.

However, engaging with needs at home proved to be more of a challenge. Most of the area's needs involve issues such as domestic abuse and drug and alcohol dependency. The church felt that it would be difficult to ensure the young peoples'

safety if they became engaged in these areas. But then the church discovered the Make Lunch Project.

Make Lunch aims to provide lunches during school holidays for children who would normally qualify for free school meals during term time. The young people did some research and found that in areas of Stockton, approximately 50% of children live in poverty. Within some of these areas, 50% of children receive free school meals; in others the figure rises to about 75%. In many cases, the school meal is the only balanced meal a child receives. The question the youth of Yarm Church then asked was: if so many schoolchildren

are dependent on school meals, what happens to them during the 13 weeks of the year when schools are closed?

Although adults are supervising the project, all the work is being planned and done by the young people of Yarm Methodist Church: recruiting other young people to take part, organising the venue for the delivery of the meals, communicating with the various schools in Stockton and dealing with other aspects of the project. Through doing all this, the young people have been able to develop skills of their own; not just skills in planning and project managing, but also pastoral skills as they use time before and

Right: Children are always inquisitive and activities are organised to entertain them while the house building is progressing

Centre: A typical finished house

Far right: The new home owner receives the keys to his new home





The team from Yarm prepare to leave for Mexico



House builders gather for a team photo

after lunch to engage the children in faith-based activities. Once the project starts to serve meals in May, the young people aim to encourage others to start lunch projects in their own areas.

“The young people realise that their project will not stop child poverty,” says Stef Hoyle, a youth worker at Yarm Methodist Church. “But they are hopeful that their efforts will help reduce some of its effects.”

Find out more about the Make Lunch Project at www.makelunch.org.uk



Stef Hoyle, the youth worker at Yarm Methodist Church



Make Lunch Project

School holidays are not just a break from the classroom. For many, they are also a break from hot meals.

For the 13 weeks of school holidays this year, many pupils in the UK will not eat a hot meal each day. At school more than 1.2 million pupils who may otherwise go without are eligible to receive free school meals. Outside of term time though, free school meals are not available and many pupils are left without regular hot food.

This is where Make Lunch comes in. During school holidays, our lunch kitchens provide free, healthy, cooked food for pupils who usually receive free school meals. We believe that every child deserves to eat a cooked meal every day. If you agree, we need your help.

All our kitchens are run by volunteers and are relying on donations of money and time to make things happen. And because we believe that one meal for one child makes a difference, we know that every single volunteer at every single kitchen is important.

www.yarmlunchproject.org



Church committed to community regeneration

YMCA Edinburgh has been running from Methodist Church premises in the Leith area of Edinburgh since 2006. It is part of the mission and outreach of the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit, working with young people and their families throughout Edinburgh and East Lothian.

The Leith area is in great need of youth support and the YMCA works with



disadvantaged and marginalised young people, many of whom have no church contacts at all. They have received three years' worth of backing from the Mission in Britain Fund to complete their five-year plan, and so far it has been a beautiful testimony of how church youth work can help regenerate a community. YMCA Edinburgh has worked with local churches to support and develop existing youth provision; supporting workers, co-ordinating and setting up holiday clubs. A full time youth and children's development worker the YMCA employed to work in East Lothian has partnered with local church youth workers and Scripture Union representatives to expand chaplaincy work in schools and at Christian youth events. The demand for work is high – particularly for one-to-one support, which is now

running in three high schools. Young people with need for low level emotional, social or behavioural support are referred to a one-to-one worker. Over the last few years YMCA Edinburgh has developed a partnership with Leith Community Theatre, encouraging young people in the community to get involved. The YMCA not only played an active role in the production of the community pantomime but also provided rehearsal space, one-to-one coaching for young people, child protection training and support for the board of management. This was a real opportunity for young people to demonstrate to their community that they had something positive to offer and they were commended for their sustained commitment and enthusiasm.

ACT NOW

With your help, the Mission in Britain Fund can continue supporting projects that respond to the needs of the poor. Donate now via www.justgiving.com/missioninbritain/Donate or via the giving form.

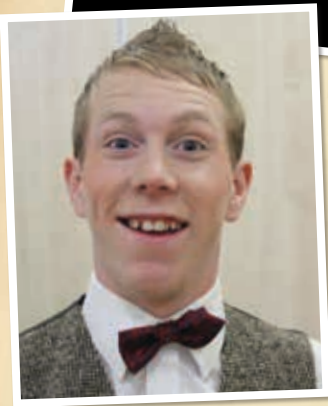
Main picture: The Shore, Leith Docks, Edinburgh

Right: Young people performing in Leith Community Theatre's production of 'Leitherella'

Left: Young people involved in group activities at playscheme

"I really enjoyed the experience and took a lot from it," said one of the young people who played a lead role in the 2012 pantomime. "I grew in confidence. At the

auditions I couldn't even sing in front of the team, but by the end I was able to do it in front of a full audience of 180 people. It was a great opportunity to meet lots of new people too."





This Methodist World Mission Fund DVD...



...tells the story of three ways in which we are in living partnership with people in Sri Lanka.

Mission Partners – watch Mannie and Lynn Jacob as they serve for three years at the college in Pilimatalawa.

Scholarships – journey to the war-torn north and see Nishanta putting into action the life-changing skills he learned.

Nationals in Mission – spend a health-giving day with Lakshman as he brings religious leaders together to save lives in a region threatened by kidney disease.

Three short films uncover the real difference made to people's lives by the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka through support from these World Mission Fund programmes.

Included on the DVD is a version of these films for young people. For further information, a list of speakers and other free mission resources, email wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk

Share the stories in Sunday worship, study groups and with friends. If you want to find out more about these inspiring situations or offer support, go to our website www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church or send a cheque to "Methodist Church World Mission Fund" at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

Watch out for the Summer edition of *Mission Matters!*

Mission Matters is now published three times a year. This summer's theme will be 'Thank you!' It will incorporate the annual report, showing how your giving to the various funds of the Methodist Church in Britain helps to support mission work throughout the UK and beyond.

Order your copies now by emailing missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk

