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FREE

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL - CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

WIM



WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST

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World Mission Partners.

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Israel and Palestine: Kate McDonald, John McCulloch.
Italy: Fiona Kendall.
Malawi: Gary Brough, Linus Malu, Ken Ross.
Nepal: Joel Hafvenstein.
Zambia: Jenny Featherstone, Ida and Keith Waddell.

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Contents



Welcome to the August/September edition of WM

- 2: Safe Spaces in StARS**
From Syria to Dundee, hear Yara's story.
- 4: Mony a mickle maks a muckle**
Rev Bob Milne reports on the after flood support in Malawi.
- 6: Tuli Umo Muli Christu – We are One in Christ**
A Twinning visit in photos.
- 8: UMN Helps Restore Hope**
Update on the Let Us Build A House Campaign
- 10: Prayer Focus**
Being part of the World Church.
- 12: Resource Round Up**
Reminder of the resources available from the World Mission Council.
- 14: Update**



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Editorial



We all have a story to tell. There are boring bits and parts that make up a regular day, but there are the life changing moments too. All our stories are made up of interactions, encounters, friendships and walking alongside others. Often we're involved in different chapters of different peoples lives and we don't always get to see how the story continues. At this year's General Assembly the World Mission Council shared stories from partners around the world. The Church of Scotland, through the World Mission Council, shares in so many stories. In this issue of WM, Yara tells her story of StARS and how she is involved in listening to others' stories and advocating on their behalf. Rev Bob Milne shares how many people have been supporting one another

after the floods in Malawi, he reminds us that sharing with others is an expression of Christian love. We also hear from Joel in Nepal on the latest chapter of the Let Us Build A House Campaign. Rev Gordon Strang reminds us that there are brothers and sisters everywhere: to learn from, laugh and cry with, and worship together. As a Church we should be encouraged by the connections we can have around the world and we should be challenged to build on these partnerships so that we all continue to grow.

ACT NOW...

Visit the website to see how you could be involved:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

SAFE SPACES IN StARS



Images © Alex Treves

At this year's General Assembly Pastor **Kirsten Fryer** shared about the essential work that St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) is involved with in Cairo. Yara (pictured below) is just one of many individuals who is part of StARS, here is her story.

When Yara arrived in Cairo as a refugee from Syria, she wasn't sure what she would do. She wanted to continue her studies. Her English was good. But, as a refugee in Egypt, her work options were very limited. Then she found StARS (St. Andrew's Refugee Services). StARS works across education, legal aid, psychosocial, community outreach, and unaccompanied children and youth support programmes to serve approximately 40,000 refugees each year. A ministry of St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo, and celebrating its 40th year of service, StARS' mission is "Driven by a commitment to justice and fairness, StARS works as displaced people



and for displaced people to respect human dignity and enhance quality of life." Of over 300 staff, more than 85% are from refugee communities, giving refugees

Driven by a commitment to justice and fairness, StARS works as displaced people and for displaced people to respect human dignity and enhance quality of life.

the opportunity to develop valuable professional skills while assisting fellow refugees. Yara was hired as a psychosocial worker in the Adults and Families Program, where she worked alongside refugees from countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, supporting vulnerable refugees to access housing, education, and financial assistance. StARS provided a safe space for people to come; she listened to their stories and advocated on their behalf to other service providers in Cairo. Many of her clients were survivors of torture and sexual and gender-based violence. Though the work was very challenging, she found it rewarding and exciting. Proving to be very good at her job, she was promoted to the coordinator position. She supervised staff, attended working group meetings with other service providers in Cairo, and continued to see clients. Recalling her time at StARS, she says, "I used to face the same problems as the refugees I supported, I felt their pain and did my best to help. As refugee staff we were always at risk, but the work environment and support provided by our colleagues and supervisors made our lives easier." She remembers the people she worked with being "like the family support that I missed." In the spring of 2019, Yara and her family were resettled to Scotland. After her experiences at StARS, Yara found that she



loves working as a helper. She hopes to continue learning and giving back to her community. She has started volunteering at an organisation in Dundee that works to empower refugee women, providing them with training and support. She hopes to earn her International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificate and enter the University of Dundee to study human rights, with the goal of helping vulnerable people in Scotland.

LEARN MORE:

The Church of Scotland is involved with Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. You can learn more about what they do on their website:

www.sfar.org.uk/who-are-we

Or visit the StARS website to find out more about their work:

stars-egypt.org

MONY A MICKLE MAKES A MUCKLE



Rev Bob Milne is a volunteer with the World Mission Council in Zomba Presbytery of the Church of Central Africa, Blantyre Synod, Malawi. He has been writing for the World Mission blog and recently shared about the ongoing relief work after Cyclone Idai.

In one of my war poem anthologies is a poem written as if by a woman sending a gift parcel to a victim somewhere after VE Day. It goes something like;

'Because your family is dead
And your home is gone,
And you have lost everything,
I send you a bar of soap,
Some toothpaste, a shirt and
A pair of my husband's old tennis shoes.'



Small steps, but small steps will get you to your destination just as surely as long strides.

It came to mind as we took the relief packages to remote areas to help people who had lost a lot in the floods of early March. After a fact-finding trip, and extensive consultations with local groups it was decided that in each package we would distribute:

- 20 litre plastic bucket with lid
- 2 plates
- Large mug
- A small bag of clothes bought locally
- 25m of heavy-duty plastic sheeting (which is enough to line a roof)
- A selection of school writing books, pens and pencils (these were discontinued after a while when people said they were no longer needed)

As I joined in the local relief effort, I have thought this cannot be enough, there must be more we can do, but this is what the people on the ground said they needed most.

One of the ladies who had received expressed thanks to all those who had contributed in any way. She said "These are not small gifts they are expressions of Christian love and they will bring great blessings to us, so thank you from all of us".

That lady in 1945 gave what she could and with the prayerful hope that it would do some good. I am luckier than her, I know

that the gifts given are appreciated and are of great benefit.

This has not been a cheap operation. With donations from Church of Scotland congregations we were able to help around 5500 people. This might only be a small number compared with the many affected by the weather systems but it is 5500 people who know that others care for them.

With left over funds we are looking at supporting long term projects. These may include provision of a maize mill, establishing a communal small holding or perhaps buying maize seed for the upcoming sowing season.

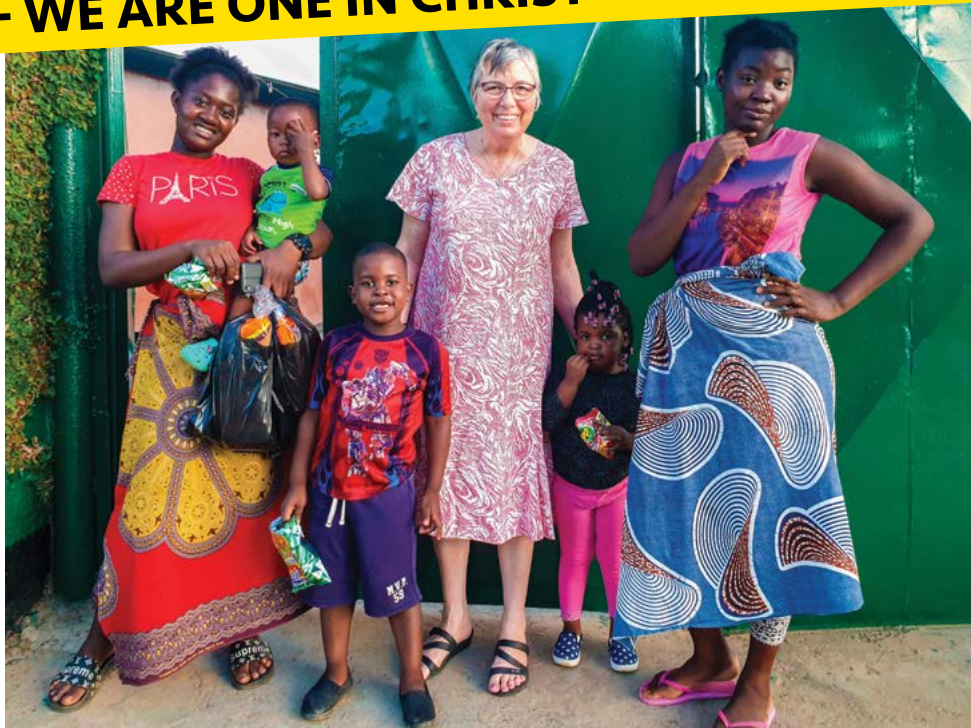
Small steps, but small steps will get you to your destination just as surely as long strides, or as my Granny was always fond of saying 'Mony a mickle makes a muckle'. As the muckle love of God is shown in buckets and lining sheets, we move on to discover new ways to help spread that love, no matter how small, for they are never insignificant.

ACT NOW...

Christian Aid have an appeal to support the relief effort after Cyclone Idai.

Find out more on their website
www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/cyclone-idai-appeal.

TULI UMO MULI CHRISTU - WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST



Alison Boyes and Alison Robertson from Dunscore linked with Glencairn and Moniaive recently visited their twinned congregation in Lubuto, Zambia.



This was Alison's first visit to the African continent.

Taking part in the Men's Christian Fellowship.



Members of the Women's Christian Fellowship about to leave to preach in a rural area.



What the twinning means to me - (in Bemba our twinning motto is Tuli Umo Muli Christu - we are one in Christ).



Boys Brigade practising (using instruments donated by our churches).



The service to renew our twinning after 10 years.



A warm welcome from Rev Joseph Simukonda and members of the Lubuto UCZ Congregation.

LEARN MORE:

Read more about their adventures in a recent blog post:
cofswmc.wordpress.com

UMN HELP TO RESTORE HOPE



Mission partner **Joel Hafvenstein**, serving with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), describes his most recent visit to see the post earthquake reconstruction supported by the Church of Scotland.

We were racing the monsoon. Once the big rainstorms properly began, traversing the remote mountain country of north Dhading would become not only difficult but dangerous. The two motorable dirt roads linking it to the outside world would be closed by landslides, the steep trails would become streams. But the monsoon was late, and we hoped we could manage a week's travel before the deluge. We crossed the cloud-thick Pangsang Pass (3,850m) by vehicle. Then the track turned into a thick slurry of mud and shale, leaving us another several hundred metres to descend by foot. The driver asked dubiously whether I wanted to swap my big umbrella for his more compact one. Half an hour later, I was glad I hadn't,

when a pre-monsoon storm caught us; the wind swept rain drenched us, but the big umbrella at least kept water from soaking into my backpack. As we reached the village of Tipling and I started picking the leeches out of my socks, the skies cleared to reveal snowy Himalayas overhead. I'd last visited Tipling in 2017, on a planning visit. After the 2015 earthquake, the government of Nepal took responsibility for rebuilding people's houses, pressing UMN to focus on schools and water systems. We held on for some time to the extraordinary £329,133.86 raised by the Church of Scotland, in case an opportunity came to "Let Us Build A House" after all. Then we were asked to rebuild schools in Sertung and Tipling, a remote corner of

Dhading known as "Ruby Valley" because of the precious stones occasionally found there. Following my 2017 visit, I asked if we could use the Kirk's appeal funding to extend our work into the Ruby Valley. The answer was literally an answer to prayer. Kho Bahadur Tamang, chair of Tipling's School Management Committee, reminded me that in 2017 we'd prayed together for resources to rebuild the area's schools. Now we could see the result: Dongdendevi Secondary School was getting three new earthquake-resilient school blocks, replacing the makeshift corrugated iron structures the students had been using since the quake. I spent the next five days hiking through the Ruby Valley, visiting school construction sites in ten villages serving hundreds of children. I drank from UMN-built public taps which bring drinking water from faraway springs. I visited families' new homes, rebuilt under the government housing scheme, small but using quake-resistant techniques (thanks in many cases to masons trained by UMN). I saw so many ways that UMN has helped restore hope to the region. When we left, it was still just ahead of the monsoon. UMN's work in Ruby Valley will wrap up in late 2020. Please pray:

- for the remaining construction to go smoothly,
- for our local partner organisations as they continue to serve north Dhading, and
- for the earthquake survivors who continue to rebuild their lives.



By the end of 2018, United Mission to Nepal in their reconstruction work in Dhading district had achieved:

- 4,516 students attending 36 newly constructed schools. 42 toilet blocks have been built at the schools.
- 37km of footpaths, 8km of paved roads and 8 bridges have been rebuilt.
- 8 micro-hydro power plants repaired to generate electricity.
- 55 communities, schools and health posts have access to safe drinking water and 358 toilets have been constructed. 222 water filters have been installed in schools and 57 water testing unit have been established to monitor the water quality.
- 3411 students and teachers have been trained in caring for the water supply and the importance of good hygiene and sanitation.
- 217 people have been trained to serve in 17 local government committees.
- 2014 people have been trained on issues of child protection, gender-based violence and child marriage.

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE



Rev Gordon Strang is a member of the World Mission Council. Here he shares a little of the importance of World Mission to the local congregation.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)
On Sunday, we sang a new song for us: Gordon Light's 'Draw the circle wide'.
"Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still, let this be our song: no one stands alone standing side by side."
It's a beautiful song that reminds us that, however much we might want to put a circle round a group, or a community, or a church, and say that within that circle, 'you belong', God is always asking us to make our circles wider and wider.
At this year's General Assembly, much of our attention was taken looking at radical plans for change. The Kirk is entering an exciting period where 'it's aye been' doesn't mean it needs to keep being into the

future. For all of us, it will mean lots of, as yet, unknown change.
It would be very easy to look inwards just now. When pressures mount, it's natural to focus on just 'us', just 'our circle'. But our world church friends, present at the General Assembly, played a really important role in lifting all our eyes back up, drawing our circle wide. Whether it was on issues of climate change, mission or simply just church structures, their voice was crucial in helping us all belong to more than just our wee circle.
That's the wonderful thing about the church. We belong to so much more. Our little bit of the world is part of a circle that encompasses the whole world. And there are brothers and sisters everywhere: to learn from, laugh and cry with, and worship together.

PRAYER FOCUS:

God of all creation, you are the centre of our world. The pivot round whom all us turn.
You call us to dream: to dream of far off horizons; to dream of new possibilities; to dream of a world in love with you, and each other.

Help us, Jesus, to draw wider and ever wider circles, building communities that look out to see you in the faces of friend and stranger alike.

Holy Spirit, may our loving know no borders in all that we do, as a church here in Scotland, and with friends all around the world. Amen.



NEWSFLASH:

One of the biggest Ebola outbreaks in history is threatening thousands of people – and could intensify at any moment.

Over 2,200 cases have been confirmed in two eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Christian Aid have launched the Ebola Outbreak Appeal.

Learn more at their website: www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS



Ken Ross is our newest Mission Partner and is based in Malawi while also supporting several education institutions throughout Africa. Please pray as he:

- builds connections and finds a niche in theological education and formation with the CCAP in Malawi.
- refreshes and improves his Chechewa language skills.
- teaches an intensive 3-week course at the Nile Theological College in Juba, South Sudan.

RESOURCE ROUND UP



Are you looking for an activity for a group or club that you're part of? Do you want to share with others about the work of World Mission and opportunities there are to get involved? Take a look at some of our new resources and have a reminder of where to find some useful essentials.

Did you miss Heart and Soul?

We had a great time at Heart and Soul this year. The theme of the year was "'Jesus said 'Follow Me': Stepping in to Discipleship". With this in mind we designed a board game that took you on a journey round the world sharing stories and challenges from our partners who are seeking to follow Jesus in their work.

You can borrow the big 3m by 3m game from the office or there are smaller A3 versions that we can post to you; perfect for Messy Church, Sunday clubs, Guilds or events. To order this, email:

wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk. Find out more about the stories and facts on the website under the 'Current Focus' page.



Mission Partner blogs

Did you know that several of our Mission Partners write blogs?

- **Fiona Kendall** works with Mediterranean Hope, a charity welcoming refugees in Italy
romanlens.wordpress.com
- **Rev Kate McDonald** (above) serves in the local congregation of St Andrew's Galilee, works as chaplain to the staff at the Scots Hotel and walks alongside the local Christian congregations and our partners in the northern areas of Israel and Palestine.
imaginationofpeace.com
- **Gary Brough** supports the work of Livingstonia Synod's Church and Society Programme as Communications and Resource Mobilisation Manager.
broughsinmalawi.com
- **Ken Ross** works with all 3 theological institutes run by the 3 CCAP Synods. He also contributes to other theological institutions run by our partners in Africa.
thinkingmission.org

ALTERNativity

Just God, Simply Christmas

Planning for Christmas?

Have you seen the new Alternativity resource? A set of discussion cards designed to help you think through how to celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way, in consideration for our brothers and sisters around the world who face challenges. To order these, email:

wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk

Follow Me: Sharing Stories

This year's popular report shares stories from our partners round the world who are committed to following Jesus in all that they do. The report will be an online resource only and will be available on our website from the beginning of September. It is encouraging to share stories, to take time to reflect on what planted seeds have grown into. As you read the report why not take time to reflect with your local congregation on what stories God has grown in your local community?

Where to find resources

We have Bible studies, games, reports and discussion cards as part of our wide collection of resources. We are also happy to come to an event or Sunday Service to talk about the work of World Mission and how you can be involved.

The resources are available to download from the website. To request these, if you can't find what you're looking for or if you'd like to book a speaker, email:
wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Church of Scotland

Look out for our weekly World Mission **e-newsletter** which returns in August

Visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk to sign up

