

London District – Language and Culture Fellowship Groups News!

Catch-up on what is happening in the district – this month we bring you news from the fellowship groups!

The Chinese Fellowship, Epsom, Sutton Circuit

The Chinese fellowship in Sutton is Cantonese speaking. There are a variety of activities that run within the Fellowship and therefore a number of subgroups that meet on their own at various times. The subgroups are Junior Sunday school, Friday Youth Fellowship, Ladies Fellowship and Love Fellowship. Each meets at different times, either weekly or monthly for their activities, which may include bible study or social times.

The subgroups then come together in the fellowship's annual gatherings – like the spring conference, church family outings and fellowship group holidays. The youth group also have their own conference in winter. All activities and gathering aim to continue to build a stronger relationship with God and enabling members to serve whole-heartedly with praise, love, care & passion. The Youth Fellowship reaches out to the community within two secondary schools as they take part in Boards' service and also share their testimony.

In December, we had a Musical production, which attracted over 400 people! It was a great success and was written about in the [Special Christmas Edition of "Good News in the Global City"](#). The youth winter conference was a success too, it strengthened the faith of young people – enabled them to unashamedly share their own stories, their faith journey stories.

In 2011 we plan to launch and run Disciple courses in English and Chinese and also to encourage people to explore their vocation within ministry.

By Hazel Yu, minister in Sutton Circuit



The Korean Christian Fellowship

The Korean Christian Fellowship was launched in September 2010, and therefore only at its infancy stage of development. Our fellowship is not different from the other fellowships within the Methodist church, in that, it aims to encourage members into full participation in the various aspects of life in their local churches. However, what makes us unique is that we are not just a Methodist fellowship, but an ecumenical Christian Fellowship where all Christian denominations can be included. We already

have a strong relationship with three major denominations within Korea such as Methodist, Presbyterian, and Evangelical Holiness.

For the last several months, one of main issues within the Korean community has been the strain between South and North Korea. In order to keep peace between the two nations, we had prayed with and for the Korean community and also made an international link with the [Eugene Bell Foundation](#) which has been working for peace in Korea based on the Christian ethos.

Coming together with the other fellowship groups was also an important issue. Our choir groups were invited to the Ghanaian Fellowship and we shared our and their talents in their carol service. It was a really good time to savour 'different cultural worship.'

As the fellowship we intend to meet fairly regularly, once a term in this New Year, and the first meeting takes place on Friday 4 February. This will be a good time to think about the KCF's future plans and to pray for God's grace.

By Donghwan Kim, minister Kingston-Upon-Thames



The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship

The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship exists in more than 20 local churches across the London District. The fellowship has two main services, meeting at the Westminster Central Hall every second Sunday of the month at 2:30pm and at the St. Marks Methodist Church, Tottenham every fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00pm.

There are six main subgroups within the fellowship: the Choir, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Christ Little Band, Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary and the Junior Church/Youth Fellowship. The activities of these various subgroups go a long way in strengthening integration within British Methodism and they contribute to the spiritual growth and development, not only in the local congregations but also within the local communities.

The fellowship also organises various fundraising events throughout the year to support projects in the UK and in Ghana. One of the highlights of last year's events was a choral concert & carol service towards the end of last year which was attended by the Korean Christian Fellowship & Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship.

Looking ahead to 2011 there are many activities planned, the first was a ministers trip to Ghana for 20 British ministers which took place on the 2nd-14th January, with 18 of the 20 ministers on the trip coming from the London District and the 2 from other Districts within the UK.



It was an exciting and enjoyable trip with lots of things to do and places to visit. The group visited many places across Ghana including; Accra, Winneba, Cape Coast, Sekondi/Takoradi, Nzulezu and Kumasi. We also visited the Methodist Rafiki Satellite Village where there is an orphanage, Elimina Castle, Nzulezu (which is a village on the river), Manhyia Palace, Bonwire (where there is a Kent-weaving town) and Jamasi in the Kumasi diocese where almost 1,000 youth had gathered in a three day fasting and prayer.

There were two church services organised for the group, the first one was at the Bethel Methodist Church in Takoradi on 5th January and the church was full to capacity. The second was at the Wesley Cathedral in Kumasi, they were both wonderful services. The group had the privilege of inspecting a guard of honour mounted by the boys and girls brigade.

We were also given the opportunity to preach in some of the circuits in the Kumasi Metropolis at the 7:00am and 9:30am services respectively. The group participated in a minister's retreat known as FK (Fellowship of the Kingdom). Almost all the ministers in the Methodist church Ghana were present. It's a five day fasting/prayer/retreat to take stock of our calling. The weather was quite okay. It was not too hot as anticipated because of the 'Harmattan' – the Saharan wind. It was a truly wonderful trip!

The 20 ministers were able to raise an amount of £3,266 to support the construction of a chapel for the church at Nzulezu, the village on the river. The monies came from personal donations and from their various congregations. The cheque was presented to the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist church Ghana, Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, during the service at the Bethel Methodist Church Takoradi.

By William Davis, Ghanaian Fellowship Chaplain

Ministers Trip to Ghana Jan 2011 – More!

We asked some of the ministers who went on the trip to share their personal highlights of the trip with us and this is what some had to say:

'My highlight of the trip was visiting a place called the Village, which runs a mission home and school for abandoned children. Their stories moved me to tears yet in that situation I was able to thank God for the Carers. On my return I know that God wants me to do something for those children and I have now made that mission my personal charity and hope to make a contribution of at least £500 for the next five years for the ongoing work of God.



My second highlight if I had to choose would be visiting the people who lived on the water and spending a day with them and left me with the feeling that I do not merely want to plant a church but to give of my time in practical service. I was spiritually encouraged and stimulated for the continuing work of God here in Britain by this visit. Their generosity and hospitality were second to none'.

Claudius Bailey, minister in New River Circuit

'The hospitality was tremendous (sometimes so much food we had to work hard to be polite to our hosts!). One thing that stays with me is the appeal we heard from the Presiding Bishop, Emmanuel Asante, to the wealthier churches to support the weaker ones – something we also need to heed in Britain'.

Jonathan Kerry, director at Guy Chester Centre

Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship

What were the fellowship highlights in 2010?

“There were quite a number of activities planned for the whole fellowship last year. Some were for particular groups such as choir, youth, men’s fellowship and women’s fellowship. But the recent highlights were:

- The fellowship’s conference in Wales back in Sept which was attended by over 350 people from various branches of the fellowship across Britain. Our spiritual and emotional needs were met and we had social and relaxation times as well. My family and I as a new Chaplain of the fellowship were welcomed. It was a truly wonderful time of fellowship and building relationships!
- The second one was the School of Evangelism workshop which took place in Coventry in November – 83 participants attended the day. The school is aimed at those who have a passion for witnessing and evangelising. It’s designed to equip and aid them as they explore the meaning, methods and approaches of evangelism.
- The final one I would like to mention is the fellowship’s night of prayer held in Leicester in December. On the 11th December, despite the bad weather, over 250 members gathered at Leicester Methodist Church for a night of prayer, worship and praise. The resident minister Revd Jill Marsh blessed us with her presence. The choir performed at their best – and it was just a wonderful way to finish the year, as it was the fellowships last big gathering of the year. Also in December we attended the Carol service hosted by the Ghana Methodist Fellowship at Westminster Hall.”



The Methodist Zimbabwe Fellowship in the UK, referred to as the MCZF-UK, was formed by a small group of Zimbabwean women who came together in 2002. The group was officially inaugurated by the then Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, the Rev Cephaz Z Mukandi. The fellowship has since grown into a body made up of 27 branches country wide from Southampton to Slough and Liverpool to Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Fellowship works to encourage members to participate in all aspects of their local churches and the

Fellowship. They also create and maintain cultural awareness of traditional Zimbabwean Methodist Church styles of worship and music, largely based on the hand book, “Nziyo dze Methodist ne Minamoto” or “Methodist Songs and Prayers”. The fellowship holds gathering and activities for various groups. The Fellowship also seeks to cultivate a vibrant Youth wing to encourage a healthy distribution of all age groups across the congregations to achieve continuity.

Adam Nyawo, Zimbabwean Fellowship Chaplain

Urdu and Hindi speaking Methodist Church

Southall in Ealing Trinity Circuit has a congregation specifically for Urdu and Hindi speaking services. It has been running for more than 40 years and regularly gets around 70-80 in attendance. The church is mixed in age group - with young and old across generations. There are various activities for all age groups. There youth activities are growing and there are plans to develop junior church. There are other Urdu speaking congregations around London, in Wembley, Heston, Hounslow, in other parts of the country in Oxford, Slough and Southampton.

A recent highlight activity was Christmas time. We sought to make this season very special for the community of Southall, on Christmas evening we as the Church gave out mince pies on the road outside our church building also giving the community a message of peace and love and friendship. Apart from worship we held lots of games and fun activities with children of our Sunday school and welcomed all who wished to join in with us on those special occasions. During the festive season we made arrangements to accommodate other Churches and Congregations and on some of the services there were more than 200 people in attendance. There was also a community procession – which ran from the Anglican Church at St. Johns through to the community of Southall. There were floats in the procession and the whole community got involved. It took several months to plan the event and in spite of the weather (remember there was a lot of snow on the 18th December) there were lots of people watching and it turned out to be a very enjoyable event!!

The church doors at Southall are often opened for conversations and meetings with others who want to talk about issues relating to events in Pakistan and India. It is proving to be a useful centre for people to have these conversations and to speak with one another about issues from 'home' and with the community too. There is a lady called Aasia Bibi who is currently on death sentence in Pakistan due to her speaking about her Christian beliefs. The community in Southall wishes this woman to be released and some are demonstrating in Italy where a UN meeting is taking place.

We are looking forward to some key events in 2011 like Easter with a Sham-E-Calvary singing and later some summer fun with recreation and a dinner.

By Haroon Bartak from Southall Methodist Church
