

missionaryventures
update
Issue 7



Involving People to Impact Nations for Christ

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Missionary ventures is an interdenominational Christian organisation that partners with indigenous Christian leadership, enabling them to reach and impact their own people with the love and message of Jesus Christ. Within the UK we aim to inspire churches, groups and individuals to personal involvement in missions. We do this in three ways; by training and facilitating short-term mission teams; by safely channeling financial support for needy children, pastors and projects around the world; and finally by recruiting and sending longer-term missionaries to develop the work further.



By Rob
Carter,
Director

Introduction

Every now and then a book really affects me. “Dalit Freedom” by Joseph D’Souza is one of them.

It maps out the 3,000 year old struggle that these ‘untouchables’ have endured. The hierarchical caste system in India is an integral part of Hinduism. However the Dalits fall

outside of this system and are considered sub-human and lower than animals. They are

forbidden from touching any member of any caste.

In practice this means that they have no basic human rights. They are denied the education and employment opportunities enjoyed by caste members and many regularly suffer

attack, abuse and worse.

There are an estimated 250 million Dalits in India today and 70% live below the poverty line. It is a scandalous injustice of mega proportions in this day and age.

Jesus considered no one ‘untouchable’. He mingled with the rejected ones of society. He taught about a Kingdom where

all people are made in the image of God and where the God of love reaches out to the oppressed,

poor, weak, vulnerable and down-trodden. The indigenous churches we partner with are reaching out to the tribal Dalit groups such as the Yanadi, Porja, Gond and the Netakani.

Missionary Ventures remains committed to

taking the wonderful message of love, acceptance and salvation to every nation, especially perhaps to the poor, weak and vulnerable.

This issue focuses on some of the precious people who have been touched and changed in some way by our collective efforts. With your help we are able to make an impact for Christ in around a dozen nations this year.

Thank you for your part in all this.

Rob Carter

“Jesus considered no one untouchable”



By Eric and
Lyndsey
D'Errico

Africa at Ireland's Doorstep

From 2002 to 2006, one of the fastest growing religions in Ireland has been within the African community.

Primarily Pentecostal, the numbers have shot up by 157% according to the 2006 Census. New churches are being born and growing at such a rapid pace that even the Irish media has taken notice. With such numbers, it has changed the face of Irish identity within a decade.

The image of Ireland as a tweed jacket, white face, and regular mass attendance is quickly becoming the product of a bygone era. In fewer than 10 years, Ireland has become a melting pot of ethnicities, identities, and religions. The recession has seen some immigrants return to their native lands, but the African church is here to stay.

Ireland is open as an asylum seeking nation. People from war torn countries and places of oppression have flocked to the country in droves. These people come from a variety of backgrounds and religions, but many are Christians seeking a place to belong.

In Sligo alone, a place known as Globe House holds up to 400 asylum seekers waiting for their papers which will allow them to live in Ireland as legal residents.

In the second half of 2010, we got to know Sligo Elim Church member Jacques Kosongo from the Democratic Republic of Congo

(formerly Zaire). He has been in Ireland for 6 years, originally as an asylum seeker, but now has a part time job and his own house with his wife Ju-Ju and two sons, Samuel and Daniel. He was formerly a Pastor in the Congo and now gives his time to leading the French speaking fellowship on Monday nights at Sligo Elim.

Upon meeting, we both felt God speak to us to work together. Since then, Jacques and Eric have been leading the French

service and have started a Bible Study in Globe House. Through Jacques'

"Upon meeting, we both felt God speak to us to work together"

connections, we will be able to do so in the near

future, Praise God! This is a tremendous opportunity and answer to prayer.

Jacques' heart is to not only reach Africans, but all of Sligo and Ireland. He doesn't see things as African or Irish, but as Christian and non Christian.

Please pray for more connections to be built between the Irish church and the African Christians, so much work needs to be done in bridging the gap between religion and relationship with God here. We believe that outreach to the Africans is a step in the right direction.

Join a Team

You can join a short-term mission team. Spend two weeks helping in some of the poorest countries in the world. Be stretched as you use the skills and personality that God has given you.



There is a team for everyone. Teams can be evangelistic, focus on building-up local believers through Bible teaching and encouragement, provide practical help such as construction and D.I.Y. or provide a medical need.

Teams sometimes focus on a particular age group such as children or young people. We still have spaces on teams this year ... visit our website

**www.missionaryventures.org.uk/teams
for details or phone the office on 01706 639333.**

Serve Overseas

We need your help to reach and impact the nations for Christ. There can be no greater 'buzz'



than seeing people saved, established in their faith and equipped to make a real difference in their communities. The Lord Jesus himself said that the harvest is plentiful but that the workers are few ... we have

been asking God to give us more workers so that our efforts will become even more effective. Is God calling you to serve in the mission field? Missionary Ventures needs people all over the world. Ever considered an internship of between 3-12 months. Interested? E-mail Rob on rob@mvgb.org.uk or ring the office on 01706 639333.



By Cris Trueman

Fundraising Heroes!

Our two most recent fundraising challenges couldn't have been more extreme.

The first was a Tandem skydive, jumping from 14,000 feet on a beautiful sunny day, with the most recent being a 20 mile trek up and down mountains in constant pouring rain and wind, with their feet planted firmly on the ground!

The Tandem Skydive Challenge, saw a brave 8-strong team jumping from a plane at 14,000ft (well above the clouds!) freefalling for 9,000ft for a whole minute and then taking the remaining 5,000ft at a more sedate pace of drop followed (hopefully) by a gentle landing.

As a team they raised a brilliant £10,000 which has helped the EMBO Pre-school project in South Africa, the Three Stones Rural Healthcare programme

in Uganda, outreach in Zambia prisons and orphan care programmes in India.

The most recent was the '3 Yorkshire Peaks Challenge' with teams starting out at 5.30am ascending and descending Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Gent peaks in the Yorkshire dales all in one day.

The weather was so bad everyone was soaked through after just the first hour. The 42 participants showed immense guts and determination in completing all the challenge in such horrendous conditions.

Their efforts are expected to raise around £15,000 for several projects, but in

particular the completion of the Trust Children's Centre in Mbarara, Uganda which is a place of safety and education for many orphaned and ex-street children.

The determination and bravery of all those who

participated in both these Challenges will benefit the lives of many in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Thank

you to all who took part and for everyone who sponsored them.

"The 42 participants showed immense guts and determination"



By Cathy
Potter

Eunice An Inspiration

Embo Pre-school is situated in the Valley of a Thousand Hills in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

It's an area with one of the highest rates of HIV/

AIDS in the country. Official reports say about forty percent of the population is infected, but in reality that number is even higher.

This excessively high rate of infection means that many homes are becoming 'gogo' (Zulu for grandmother) or child-headed households with the responsibility of rearing children falling onto the elderly or very young.

A retired teacher called Eunice, an incredible woman who inspires us all, and leads the day to day running of the school

along with myself. She has an incredible passion for the area of Embo, and

especially the children and people in the community. We have already begun training

ladies from the community to teach alongside us and enable them to start bringing in an income for their own families.

We have been able to help fund and equip the participating children with the help of a group of elderly widowed women.

The provision of food has been one of our main challenges, as the children require two meals a day: porridge for breakfast and a midday meal. However, it is an absolute delight to work and serve the Lord this exciting way, watching

Him provide miraculously week by week.

We have endeavored to give the children fun experiences that they otherwise would never have the opportunity to enjoy. We have organized parties, picnics, trips to the beach, and educational outings. All of these have been such a blessing to the children and also a testimony to their parents.

Our prayer is that a seed has been planted in these young lives, and through the school and their teachers and volunteers, they will experience the love and goodness of God.

A Church and individuals in Durban, with the help of Missionary Ventures is funding a new exciting phase for Embo – a new building in a new location.

This should provide better facilities for children and pave the way for further development.

“She has an incredible passion for the area of Embo”



By Nigel
Harding

Loving the Streets of Uganda

Missionary Ventures has been partnering with Pastor Willy Tumwine and his wife Anne for seven years.

Having lived most of his own childhood on the streets of Uganda's capital city, he understands the desperate predicament street kids find themselves in; depending on their own wits; being out of favor with their now distant families, and a nuisance to the world at large. Here are just a few wonderfully true stories of changed lives.

Kids March On

There are two main groups of boys: firstly the younger boys, who currently live with their house parents, Dennis and Rebekah, daily attending school. They are encouraged toward self-discipline by their desire to be members of

a marching band. If they are well behaved, they can participate in events and practice together.

Missionary Ventures sponsors the educational fees for some of these

carpentry, welding, and so on, that will give them a livelihood in the future.

Some boys shared their extraordinary testimonies with our regional director for Africa, Nigel Harding.



younger boys.

The second group consists of older teenagers who have been with Pastor Willy since the beginning of his outreach in 2004. They live at the church and are given opportunities to gain vocational skills like

Sound Story

Take Joel for example (top right). He is now twenty one. He was abandoned by his mother when he was only two months, suffered abuse and was deprived of an education. Joel grew up

in Kampala and began stealing, fighting, smoking marijuana and inhaled dangerous chemicals like glue and petrol.

Eventually he broke the cycle of self-abuse, he quit smoking marijuana, and stopped stealing clothes from washing lines.

sound guy at church. His greatest desire is to study sound engineering, as God provides. His ambition is study and become the best sound engineer in Uganda.

Young men like Joel need our prayers that God will continue his transforming work in their hearts, and give them that special opportunity they so desperately need to live meaningful adult lives.

Not all children survive the cruelty of street life, but those who are kept by Jesus march on, with a glorious story of redemption following them throughout their lives.

God is still rescuing people from destruction, giving them hope and a future.



Later he moved to Mbarara and the scars of rejection only deepened further and his habits continued. At fourteen years old he went on the streets, living in unfinished houses and eating from the rubbish dumps.

After some time he came to his senses and started visiting all the churches in town. There was nowhere he felt at home until he came to Pastor Willy's church in 2004, who preached the Gospel to him and Joel's heart began to change. He hung around the church during the week and received informal counseling as well as being given odd jobs to keep him busy.

Joel considers Pastor Willy to be the closest person to a true father and respects him greatly, since "where I have passed, he passed there too." Joel says that Willy "loved me even though he didn't know me."

You can see the bitter life Joel has endured, the deep inner wounds it has caused him, and the inner healing he is gradually gaining by the extraordinary love of his heavenly father.

Joel shows a keen interest in music and sound production, which has led him to become the chief

**"he loved me
even though he
didn't know me"**



By
Elizabeth
Ratliff

Paul's Big Heart

Pastor Paul Swala has a big heart for children, especially orphans.

Without money for school fees, uniforms and school supplies required by the government schools, the orphans in Roma compound were shut out from getting an education and left to spend

their time aimlessly.

Seeing these children with very little future, Pastor Paul and his wife, Mary, started the Hope In Christ Community School in 2009 with three students. Just two years later they now have 100 students, 2 teachers and are in the process of completing new classrooms.

Missionary Ventures has been helpful in providing school supplies for these leaders-in-the-making. This past Christmas was a first: the children presented a Christmas program for their caregivers, complete with not-so-quite authentic costumes!

HELP FINANCIALLY

The song says that money makes the world go round. That's not true but we do need funds for our projects around the world and to maintain and develop the ministry of Missionary Ventures. Your gift can help to feed or educate a needy child, plant a church in an unreached area, support a missionary family, train and help a pastor in a rural community, disciple a prisoner or help establish a small business for a poor family in a remote village. Your donation will really make a difference!

You can:

- **Send a cheque payable to Missionary Ventures to MVGB, Office 3, Champness Hall, Drake St, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 4AD.**
- **Make a direct transfer to our bank account – Missionary Ventures, Sort Code 20 10 03 Account Number 10575828.**
- **Pay via Just Giving by going to www.justgiving.com/mvgb**
- **Give through PayPal by visiting our website www.missionaryventures.org.uk/giving**



By Neil Roden

Old Cars Change Lives

Do you have a car that has failed its MOT?

It may be too costly to repair or just needs sending for recycling. Or maybe it is just surplus to your needs right now. Would you consider donating it to us and help to change lives for good in some of the poorest countries in the world?

As well as running my own car repair and servicing business, I run the charity organisation ARM UK (Automobile Repair Ministry) We take in young would-be mechanics and give them training and experience to NVQ qualification working on the donated vehicles.

Donated vehicles suitable for and needed

in the mission field are repaired and where feasible are sent directly to Missionaries. (Reliable and safe vehicles are essential as missionaries travel in extreme weather and road conditions.)

The remaining vehicles are either repaired to MOT standard for onward sale or used for training before recycling.

The profits generated from the sale are then used to help the missionaries pay for repairs and maintenance of their vehicles.

ARM has been able to help Missionary Ventures Field Co-ordinators to date in South Africa, Zambia, Uganda,

Mozambique, Ireland and Greece and look forward to expanding that work through continued donations of vehicles.

ARM can collect vehicles from almost anywhere in the UK.

To donate a vehicle please contact myself directly on **0161 339 0698** or email **armuk@tiscali.co.uk** or alternatively ring Cris Trueman at the Missionary Ventures office on **01706 639333** or email **cris@mvgb.org.uk**

“Would you consider donating your car to us and help to change lives”



By Elizabeth
Ratliff

The Smile Returns

Picture this scene. **Your husband drinks and gambles away the meagre amount of money for feeding the family. Every day you wake up to the cries of hungry children; you have no hope. There is no future.**

And then one day someone approaches you to sell drugs. Suddenly there is the potential for providing for your family. What would you do?

That is the situation Priscilla found herself in and eventually it landed her in prison, separated hundreds of miles from her family, with her children having to fend for themselves plus pregnant with her fourth child.

She came to prison with only the clothes on her back, no wash bucket, no soap, no cooking pots, no food and no provision for clothing a soon-to-be-born baby.

This was Priscilla, a woman with good intentions to care and nurture her children but now in prison.

When I first met Priscilla she never smiled. Missionary Ventures was able to provide the necessities for her and later for her new baby girl.

Over time Priscilla heard the Gospel and responded to the love and hope in Christ and she really blossomed. Smiles

and joy replaced the worry and hopelessness.

The day she was discharged she said, "Sister Elizabeth, you don't have to worry. You will never see me here again." Although it was sad to know I probably will never

see her again because her village is hundreds of miles from here, it was absolutely glorious knowing that her journey back home was entirely different because she had the assurance of the Lord Jesus.

"Smiles and joy replaced the worry and hopelessness"



By Colin Green

Hope Restored In Haiti

Missionary Ventures UK became involved with Haiti after the disastrous earthquake

In 2010 and received generous donations from supporters to help. After unfortunate delays due to local unrest in Haiti, our first UK team went out in February to do some construction work and build a house for a family in just a few days.

Generese is the old Woman in the photo, along with three of her four grandchildren. Her daughter is Oleine and the children's names are Wiline, Kandia, Daisha, and Fanfane.

Their house was destroyed in the earthquake and fortunately,

no one was home when the quake struck. They didn't have much, but what they did have was lost that day.

The family attends the Mission of Hope church and that's where they went after the quake. Their material needs were met mostly by donations that came into the mission.

After about a month living there, they moved into a small camp of temporary shelters for displaced people which was next to the church.

They have been so

blessed to have a home to move into and say "Mesi" (creole for thank you) to Missionary

"They didn't have much, but what they did have was lost that day"

Ventures for helping to give them hope again.



Colin Green is a self employed electrician, builder and experienced sound technician.

He has a heart for mission and completed the Missionary Ventures 'Developing Confident Team Leaders' course. He led a construction team to Haiti earlier this year.



By Hugo
and Salomie
du Toit

Children's Ministry Zambia

Hugo & Salomie du Toit are Missionary Ventures Field Coordinators.

They have a heart for the children of Southern Africa and Hugo trains and equips Christian leaders to value and minister to children in their communities.

This item highlights their pioneering work in Zambia.

Bernard Sikkabenu, Church Pastor

Bernard says Children's ministry was one of the neglected ministries in the Sinazongwe district of Zambia. Introduction of this ministry by Pastor Hugo & Salomie has brought a very big difference in our local churches and in the community at large.

During church services, children used to leave the building and sit outside doing nothing, while the adults continue with the service. However, by

introducing children into the services, lives have changed and we are seeing more discipline in schoolchildren. Children who had never attended church before began to attend and others started to express their love for Jesus.

Through Hugo & Salomie's training of Pastors and Sunday school teachers, we have come to realize the importance of children's ministry. They now understand children are the future generation and that we must love and teach them just like everybody else, just as Jesus did.

Mr Muleya Nchinga (Principal, Mwaled Community School)

Missionary Ventures has been making considerable contributions to our school. The morals of school pupils have improved through





Biblical teachings. This has had a positive impact on the pupil's behaviour and has greatly helped the school's guidance and counselling department.

The Bible teaching has also made a great reduction in the number of pupils committing offences. The school has four trained teachers for 570 pupils and is very short staffed. The Bible teaching itself has provided great assistance to us and the religious education classes are always well attended. We are also very grateful for all the stationary packs that have been donated. On behalf of myself, the school and the whole community, I cannot thank Missionary Ventures enough for their love and commitment to our school. God bless you.

Clive Sebela,
School pupil
On behalf of

myself and my friends, I can testify how my life has changed through Bible education given to me at school.

Pastor Hugo was teaching on how sin separates us from God. After this teaching, he led us into a confession prayer and after praying I felt a new person, my burdens have been taken away and I now know my sins are forgiven.

Since that day, my life has changed and I regularly attend church. The love for Christ is continually growing in me. Both my parents and teachers have seen the difference in me and the good life I now live. Pastor Hugo also provided us with stationary packs and Gospel booklets. I cannot thank enough Pastor

Hugo, Salomie and all the Missionary Ventures supporters.

May God bless you.



HELP IN THE OFFICE

Our office in Rochdale is a vital cog in the Missionary Ventures machine. We urgently need volunteers or partly-supported staff who will help us facilitate and prepare teams, promote and communicate our work through the website and publications. Working hours are negotiable. We are also looking for a qualified Doctor who can, on a part-time basis, help us develop our Medical outreach programmes. Finally we need men or women who may be willing to serve in the important role of trustees. Interested? E-mail Rob on rob@

**mvgb.org.uk or
phone the office on
01706 639333.**

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