

WARE IN THE WORLD



MISSION UPDATE WINTER 2024

ISSUE 5

MISSION IN ACTION IN BIRMINGHAM

We hear from Andrew and Neil

James and Mel Lynch, our mission partners in Birmingham, are building relationships between churches and 'other-faith' communities.

Andrew writes: "In September, I was part of a trip to support James' work with Sandwell Churches. This was the 7th such trip by Christ Church MADD* since 2015. **The MADD working party** was led by Neil Pearce and Richard Clayden, and supported by Martin Dudley, Roger Tiffen as well as local church volunteers. Unfortunately, Ron Porter, a stalwart of previous visits, was unable to attend due to ill health but texted us encouragement throughout. Thank you Ron."



While there, Caroline Tiffen and Mary Salter visited Mel Lynch and they were privileged to witness her ministry at The Well, which is a drop-in centre for local Muslim women to come and encounter Jesus through friendship, conversation and activities. Caroline was struck by how caring the women were about each other. It reminded her of how Jesus could see into people's hearts and know what they needed.

(continued on page 2)

*MADD - Men Active During the Day - established over 10 years ago to nurture friendship, fellowship and service of the church and wider community.



Christ Church Ware

Jesus led, Spirit empowered, Grace based.

WELCOME TO MISSION NEWS

- **Practical mission - MADD in Birmingham** - Andrew and Neil report on a renovations project.
- **Legacy fund update** - two new projects being supported and a summary of donations so far.
- **Finishing a Church building in Brazil** - Chris Woodrow introduces LATIN LINK.
- **Family Link Myanmar** - how the Christ Church youth donation of legacy money has been used.
- **We are an ECO-CHURCH** - Paul and Dave do a Q & A to help us understand A Rocha.
- **Terrible Floods in Nepal** - news from Prem about the worst monsoon in living memory.
- **Youth discipleship in Sri Lanka** by Charlotte Boulton.
- **The Lynches, STM to SE Asia** - to broaden the family understanding of world mission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION - Go to www.christchurchware.co.uk/missions

MISSION IN ACTION IN BIRMINGHAM *(continued)*

Meanwhile the men worked at the **Zion URC church in Oldbury** and involved re-purposing disused schoolrooms into offices and installing a kitchenette and toilet. These offices will be available for suitable ministries, such as Christians Against Poverty (CAP), that will allow the church to extend its outreach.

Neil writes: "When we go to Birmingham, we don't expect an easy time and, although it can be a struggle, it's amazing to be a part of God's love in action in an area of need. This trip we were faced with a huge task which we weren't able to complete but we have set the ball rolling for the local community to finish".



"We also had the privilege of visiting the **Brandhall Community Hub**, which was our focus last year. The place is now a hive of activity, full of people chatting and enjoying each other's company. The hub is used as a food pantry, and as a source for second hand school uniforms and baby clothes. The garden at the rear has been transformed into a place of peace and reflection – one young man in the community found solace in this haven and was moved to tears.

It was hugely encouraging for our group to see how our contribution last year helped to establish this hub."

LEGACY FUND UPDATE

The Legacy fund is the 10% Tithes of money raised for the building redevelopment.

First phase:

£11,500 for INF for wheelchairs in Nepal.

£9,000 for Amigos for projects in Uganda.

£7,500 for projects for children with additional needs (which has so far included the sensory room/den in the church centre and equipment for The Nest in Christ Church School).

£2,000 for the youth to allocate which has been split £1,000 for Family Link Myanmar and £1,000 towards developing the outside prayer area at Christ Church school.

Second phase:

£25,024 for Reach Beyond/One Heart Clinic in Athens.

£9,450 for Latin Link/ enabling the completion of a church building in Serra da Torre.

Final (3rd) phase

Decision scheduled for March 2025.



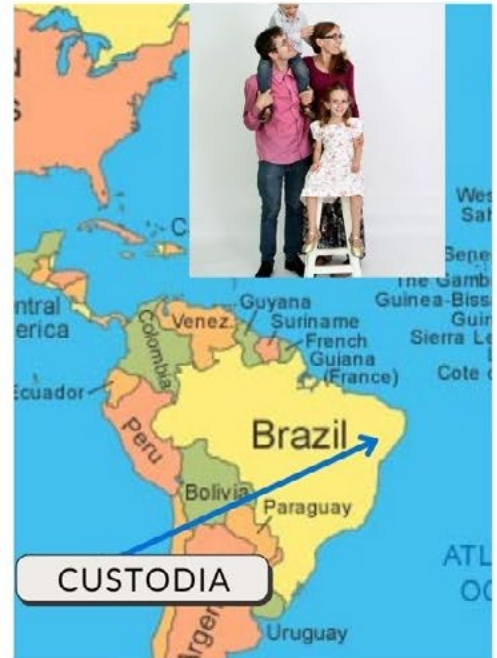
CHURCH BUILDING IN BRAZIL

A new legacy project
by Chris Woodrow



Latin Link
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING

Legacy
Fund



Tim and Hannah met whilst studying at All Nations approximately 12 years ago and were active members of Christ Church (Hannah) and Emmanuel Shared Church (Tim) during their time at all Nations.

Long-term partners with Latin Link, they have two young children (Rita and Moses) and live in Custodia in Northeast Brazil where they serve the local community working together with a local church (Betel Brasil, a national denomination).

Much of Tim and Hannah's work is with a quilombola community (those with historic links to African Slaves and those who resisted slavery in Brazil) in Serra da Torre where, amongst other things, they are leading a Brazilian team planting a church in Serra da Torre for the quilombola community. Serra da Torre is situated on the top of the hills surrounding Custodia, a half hour car journey up a winding dirt track from the town. It is a community of 100 families with no basic sanitation, schools, infrastructures etc, but characterised by strong family and community ties and mutual support.

Construction of the new church building has been gradually progressing over the last few years as funds have become available and is reaching the final stages. The donation, which we have made from the Christ Church Legacy Fund, will enable them to complete the building, which will include a mission guesthouse and rooms for children's activities in addition to meeting space and facilities to support worship.

Tim and Hannah have maintained links with several member of Christ Church and we are delighted to support the work they are doing.

(Chris is a member of the Legacy committee)

<https://latinlink.org.uk>

FAMILY LINK IN MYANMAR UPDATE

by Ros (Chair of Legacy Committee)



On 17th October, I went along to the youth group to listen to a short presentation being made to them by Fyl Bevan (Maisie's grandma) who is one of the trustees of the charity Family Link in Myanmar - this is the small christian charity working with homeless and orphaned children that the youth decided they would support with £1000 of the legacy funds allocated from the 1st phase.

It was a very inspiring and humbling presentation (very well pitched by Fyl to keep the young people focused) and we were told how the money that had been given from the legacy funds had been used to build two wells for fresh water (they were shown a short video of one of these wells being used and could see 'Christ church' marked in the concrete) and also to buy much needed food to help support many local people unable to buy food for themselves.

We were also told about the miraculous ways that God has provided other funding over the years for this small charity enabling them to pay for the construction of a new 'children's home' which has blessed not only the children, but has also been an amazing witness to the builders involved.

At the end of the presentation, the young people were encouraged to pray together for individual children within the home ranging in age from just 2 to 17 years. I'm so glad that our legacy committee encouraged the PCC to agree to involve the youth in this way and praise God that the money given to Family Link has indeed been used to bless others.

Fyl Bevan (trustee) writes: "Since Family Link Myanmar was birthed, we have been able to provide food, camps, medical care and housing. We have also reached out to remote communities with emergency flood relief, food and at least 23 wells. They are enriched with faith and excitement at seeing God daily on the move, and a deep challenge as we see small children and teens worshipping daily and utterly expectant in prayer. None of us will ever be the same again".



We are an **ECO** **CHURCH** AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

The Christian environment & conservation charity A Rocha was established over 40 years ago and Christ Church has been using their services. In 2024 Christ Church Trustees/PCC voted to make donations to support the work of A Rocha UK.

Christ Church has a working group to address environmental issues and two of the members have been asked some questions to help us understand the work and our involvement.

Paul Watson and David Lowrie (PCC and ANC) answer some questions.

Question 1: What are the similarities and differences between A Rocha International and A Rocha UK?

Paul says, "The two organisations are related but run independently. A Rocha International is the global home of all the related national organisations in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Australia and NZ, who all share the same goal of environmental care as a Christian mission in the world especially in relation to a changing climate affecting global temperatures and weather patterns, with consequences for all life on earth.

A Rocha UK addresses climate change and its environmental consequences for living plants and animals in the UK. It is a Christian mission to which the church has been slow to respond, and is only now addressing theologically and practically to arouse its members to see how they can all be involved".

David adds, "A Rocha UK also run a community program called Wild Christian, which is a community of individuals and families learning about nature and caring for creation, taking practical action at home and in their local areas. They offer education resources, for primary and secondary school aged children (3 - 14 years).

There is also the Partners in Action program, which is a growing network, supporting Christian land managers located in all four nations of the UK".

Question 2. What impact has involvement with A-Rocha UK had on you and Christ Church?

"I (**Paul**) have been a member of A Rocha since the 1980's and have been eager to encourage fellow Christians to follow my lead. In 2016, A Rocha UK launched Eco Church and invited churches to sign up. There are now over 6000 churches who are on the journey of discovery of how they can be involved in all aspects of their church life. CCW became an Eco Church in 2016; we have been on our journey since then, and have been awarded our Silver Award for the developments we have introduced".

Question 3. What is your vision for the future of Christ Church and the wider Christian community with regard to environmental and conservation issues?

"My (**Paul**) hope is that we will deepen our awareness of the beauty of God's creation and our role in its protection, that we will be active in promoting this view as part of our mission in the world, and help to change policies both locally and nationally. I would like Christ Church to catch the vision and need to change the world before it is harmed too far to recover. In the process, I would like us to achieve our Gold Award and to use it to proclaim our intention to be Eco Christians influencing the world to follow us both in faith and in deed".

FLOODS and LANDSLIDES IN NEPAL

After the excessive monsoon rains

A letter from Prem and Indira Subedi

Dear Friends Greetings from Kathmandu Nepal,

After our UK visit, we are gradually settling back in to our roles, so many things to catch up, work to be done and a lot to clear and clean. Here is a short update on flood and inundation.

After the incessant rain for 60 hours, the whole of Nepal was badly affected and over two hundred people lost their lives and there is a huge loss of properties.

Actually, Nepal is experiencing the effects of climate change with a huge change in rainfall patterns. Kathmandu valley was also seriously affected by floods and inundation. Some churches were swept away by the flood. Members of our church in Kathmandu are also affected and about 20 people took refuge in church rooms. Please pray for safety, relief and support.



State of roads after flood



Roads inundated by a swollen river



Anandaban Hospital - damage outside (photo above) and inside (photo below)



YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP GROUP – SRI LANKA

by Charlotte Boulton

Since February 2024, Manoj and I have been running our church's youth group for ages 13-18. We started off with three regular attendees and within this time have seen it grow to ten regular members with others attend when they can. The discipleship group is a bi-weekly meeting in our home which is a relaxed and a safe space for the young people to come with concerns, questions, and a mind ready for discussions about life and the Bible. We always aim to run our meeting with the outlook that young people need Biblical values they can easily apply to their own lives.

For the young people in our group, their priority is of course snacks and fizzy drinks which we always provide far too much. We like to send them home full of sugar and energy! The group begins with a game related to the topic we are discussing in that session. For example, we played 'Bravery Bingo' (each person had 9 things to do that required them to be brave) in the week we looked at the story of Daniel and why it is important to be bold in our faith. Our hope is that from these games, the young people can relate the message and character in the Bible to their own lives and situations they face. Following this, our sessions cover a story in the Bible or a topic of importance for their lives where the young people read their Bibles and listen to a short message prepared by us. We then have discussion questions for us all to explore together and a time of prayer. Their unique perspectives have not only encouraged each other but have impacted both Manoj and me!

We have seen some amazing fruit come from the sessions and time with the young people including hearing testimonies of them applying lessons we learned to their lives and situations they have faced.

We have also had the opportunity to invite other young people along to the discipleship group including some non-Christians who attend the school we work in. These young people are now committed members of the group who eagerly anticipate the next meeting. In August our church held a camp in Madampe and we had an amazing opportunity to baptise 7 of our youth group members in the swimming pool. Seeing them grow in their relationship with Jesus, their assurance of their faith, and their commitment to a life serving God is the reason we love this responsibility.

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church Ware who continue to pray for the work we are doing in Sri Lanka.



Please keep our youth group in your prayers that in every situation they face they would remember God's promises and apply the lessons they are learning in the group to their lives.

THE LYNCH FAMILY ARE PLANNING A SHORT MISSION TRIP

by Mel Lynch

As a family, we are going on a short term mission trip with Interserve, to SE Asia in August 2025 (unable to name the country for security reasons).

We wanted to do this trip with the kids (they will be 12/15/17 years old) so they have an experience of what God is doing in other parts of the world (they have never left Europe) and also so that we can all see what the church looks like there, and what mission is like outside of the UK. We go with the aim to learn from the team and locals, and serve wherever they need us to!

James and I met in Zambia on a short term mission trip in 2003, and after doing a few trips afterwards – we felt called to mission “full time”- so we know how significant short term mission trips can be.

We are excited to be staying with an Interserve couple who have worked there for nearly 30 years. We will be involved with a school in a city – helping where we can – mainly with running sports outreach activities. We will also have the opportunity to be involved with a clean water project and rural farm, as well as trying to learn some of the language too!

- We pray we are an encouragement to the cross cultural team who have served there faithfully for years.
- We pray God can use us to help them with practical tasks, and that the kids see they can serve Him by using their sporting skills too.
- We value prayer for all that we need to do before we go too.

Praise the Lord for provision of support for the trip.



LOCATION OF MISSION PARTNERS



CHRIST CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS INCLUDE:

PEOPLE

- 1. Richard and Monica Harvey
- 2. Mel and James Lynch (Birmingham – Women of Worth Ministry) st-johns-house.org
- 3. Flavio and Cinzia De Lima (Operation Mobilisation) www.om.org/ships
- 4. Prem and Indira Subedi (in Nepal) www.availmission.com/avail-worker/prem-and-indira-subedi/
- 5. Charlotte Boulton www.thedustproject.com
- 6. Michael Resta in Burundi

ORGANISATIONS

Street Pastors in Hertford and Ware
www.streetpastors.org

FUTUREhope
www.fhhw.org.uk

CPAS (The Patrons of Christ Church)
www.cpas.org.uk

Tearfund – Rwanda – Church and communities transformation
www.tearfund.org

All Nations – training for mission
www.allnations.ac.uk

A Rocha- Eco Church

