



# *The* TREE *- of* LIFE



## Fruit that will last

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# President's letter

As the newly elected World President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, it is a joy to lead this global sisterhood from 2022 to 2026. I am proud to be a Methodist and I thank my parents for instilling the Methodist faith in me and teaching me servant leadership. I appreciate and value the basic beliefs and doctrines of our church: salvation for all people, and God's unmerited love and grace given to every person.

I stand in awe on behalf of the new World Executive between feelings of exceeding joy and anxious fear, because of the enormous work that lies before us. Yet we rely on and find assurance in God's promise that He will supply all our needs, with wisdom, strong faith, good health, and resources. Go And Bear Fruit, Fruit That Will Last has been a resounding theme over six days of the virtual 14th World Assembly, having been tackled conceptually through rich bible studies and stories led by our exemplary women. We are asked to go and bear fruit at such a time as this, a turbulent global period when moral dilemmas continue to hound us. I am reminded of what Mary Waldrop said: "It's important that people know what you stand for. It's equally important they know what you

won't stand for." So, we are reminded that while we say "YES" to universal education, to the improvement of maternal health, opposing to climate change, and to a sustainable environment, it is equally imperative that we say "NO" to gender inequality, to violence against women and children and all forms of violence, to hunger and poverty, to child mortality.

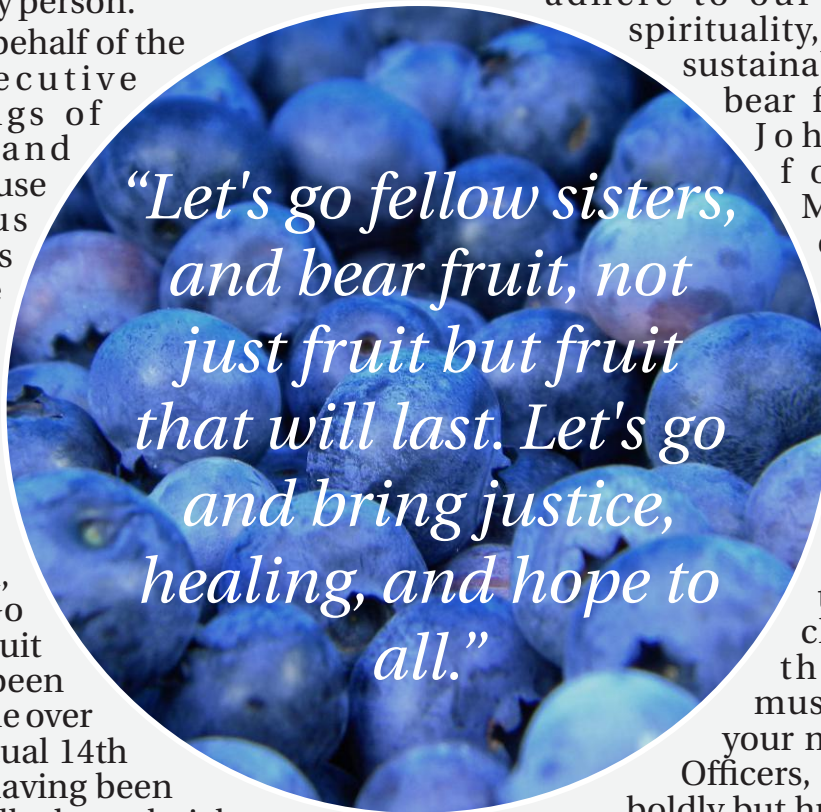
I believe that bearing fruit makes a difference in our communities. The Bible says that we are in this world, but we are not of this world. Our emblem is the tree of life, with its symbolism – it's an evergreen tree, signifying continuous life and vitality, and its branches stretch upward and outward. (Revelation 22:2) Because of where we are standing, on either side of the river, as Federation women, we must

adhere to our theme's call to spirituality, productivity and sustainability as we go to bear fruit that will last.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, had his own paradigm shift in his life when he undertook social holiness for the poor and marginalized in society, thereby instituting reformation. We have in our hands the power to change our part of the world and we must believe that. As your newly elected World

Officers, as your leaders, we boldly but humbly say, "Let's go fellow sisters, and bear fruit, not just fruit but fruit that will last. Let's go and bring justice, healing, and hope to all."

- Sipiwe Chisvo, World President



# Editor's word:

## How is your peace?

I bet you have not heard this question, but this is the question that the Jews ask themselves every day. Instead of How are you?, they ask: Ma shlomcha? or Ma shlomech?, depending if the one asked is a male or a female.

I have studied Hebrew for many years now, and it didn't strike me until this year. How is my peace? How is other peoples' peace? Not good, I would answer. Not good, because even though we live in a world that searches for peace – intrinsically, in relationships, between nations - we find no peace at all. People try to find peace through spirituality from Eastern Religions and through exercises like Yoga, some lobby for peace and fight in wars to establish peace, and still, nobody finds peace.

The thing is that we have the solution, but we do not access it. The only solution is in God. Ask for His help and follow closely what He shares with us through the Bible. If every person would follow Philippians 4:8: Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things, the situation would look totally different.

Memorize this verse, it is pure gold.

Think about this. If all our thoughts would be

focused on good and on purity, I doubt we would fight with one another, would envy each other, and so on. I doubt we would sin as much if we would not think of sins, but of everything which is pure, admirable, and praiseworthy. Usually, sin is premeditated. Someone plans to steal; someone plans to commit adultery. It is not something that happens suddenly. You cannot hate suddenly, but you let your mind for a while to think bad, to be jealous of someone, and after a while, hate is born in your heart.

Stop letting dark thoughts surround you. I have personally found this verse helpful when my own mind is straying towards depression. I push the negative aside by reminding myself and focusing on these good things and filling my mind and heart with positive things. And I doubt that someone watching the news every day and TV shows will have peace. Your thoughts will go in the direction your eyes were. Peace is something you search for, it is not just a passive achievement, but an active one.

I am not saying you will succeed from the first time, or the second, but you will be better and better every day.

Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy. (Proverbs 12:20) Have you ever thought that peace must be planned? Stop investing and plan for things that will ruin you and bring you to depression. Start planning for peace. As bad people plan bad things and wars – because

war is planned months, or even years in advance - be a person that plans peace, for yourself and for others.

*“The thing is that we have the solution, but we do not access it. The only solution is in God. Ask for His help and follow closely what He shares with us through the Bible.”*

-Ligia Istrate, Tree of Life Editor

# Self-Control

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

As we look at the fruit of the Spirit we learn about the character of God – the love of God, the joy of the Lord, and the peace of God: as well as God's patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness. And we know that all these qualities of God are demonstrated in the character of Jesus. But self-control is not a quality that God has to exercise over any evil desires within himself, because God is light; in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

All the other fruit of the Spirit are qualities which direct our thoughts and actions outward toward others. But self-control is a quality which directs our thoughts and actions inward towards our own selves, for our own good and that of other people. I think Paul included this quality among his list of the fruit of the Spirit because, unless we exercise self-control and live in a disciplined way, we are unlikely to bear the rest of the fruit.

So, what is it that you and I need to control in our lives? Paul lists these in Galatians 5:19-21 and refers to them as acts of the flesh. It is important to remember they include our thoughts, emotions, will, desires, and feelings, as well as our physical behaviors.

Firstly, Paul expects us to control our sexual desires. Today, uncountable numbers of women, girls, and boys all over our world suffer rape, violence, and other forms of abuse. As the women of the Federation, we advocate for an end to gender-based violence, we wear black on Thursdays to call for a world without rape and violence.

Then, there's your temper, your attitude towards others, your appetite, how you use your time, and your tongue. Are you in control of all these?

Self-control is something that needs to be taught and practiced by all ages – young and old, and by both men and women. It is something for the whole Church, just like the rest of the fruit of the Spirit.

*- Louise Wilson, World Secretary*

# Bossey report

## Together Towards Unity: Being Church in a Fragmented World

Upon entry into the course, I had no prior knowledge of what the course entails, only a general idea based on the course title, Together Towards Unity: Being Church in a Fragmented World, that allowed me to make assumptions that I would benefit, identifying acts of division and the solution to counter such acts. Certainly, the course has helped me to better understand the role that I play, specifically in the denomination that I represent, and in the various groups (of the church) that I am currently a part of, to appreciate and embrace my calling and the position I am placed in, not only as a pastor's child, whereby I am usually placed in the center and often seen to be the individual to execute good examples to other people, but also as a public servant of my country, where division and unity amongst sections and divisions, ministries are mostly observed. I believe my life has been given a mission when my parents, Rev. Fonofavae and Emi Soalo, committed their lives to the church. Their profession became mine, with an emphasis on the practical side of ministry.

During and upon completion, the course has contributed to the enhancement of my roles by identifying visible factors of division and unity amongst churchgoers, embedding ecumenism in all practices to wholly serve my task as an active member of the Methodist Church of Samoa, to be the sending church, not only the receiving church. One of the interesting things I have learned is networking and exploring ecumenical relations in a global cohort, understanding each other, and learning from each other. The cohort itself consists of respectful members from various denominations from different countries. I am beyond ecstatic to disclose the benefits of the course I was fortunate to take to my fellow members, as well as to young women. As an individual, I will also embed the knowledge learned from the course to improve my service to the church, as well as my relationship with the church members. It is my ultimate goal to make disciples and

strengthen togetherness with other people, regardless of the denomination they represent.

As Jesus commanded His disciples: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28: 19–20)



*- Barah F Soalo, Bossey scholar*



# News



## The 14th World Assembly

From 9th to 14th August the women of the Federation enjoyed the 14th World Assembly, led by Alison Judd. This time the event was online due to the world conditions. Before the event, the Helen Kim Memorial Scholars met as usual, but online. They were led by two former HKMS, Rachel Allison and Luiza Pereira.

On the 9th, women dressed in green, a color that expresses life, to show the value of fruitfulness and to acknowledge the new logo (Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last). The program started with worship, an amazing drama, and the World President's report, including the Tree of Life, Website, and Archivist reports. The closing devotion was led by Europe Continental on the theme LOVE. After the open program, the Business Meeting took place, where the results of the elections for the executive of the World Federation were discussed, together with other matters. On the second day, the open devotion was led by the

South Pacific Area on JOY and the results of the election were shared with all the women. Jill Baker presented a beautiful Bible Study, which started with the explanation of the logo and the seeds presented in the Bible, and then, the participants discussed the theme further in breakout rooms. The UN report was given by Matilda Johnson, the World Vice-President, and the day closed with devotions by the South Asia Area on PEACE.

Whoever wanted could participate in the workshops, that were available every day on YouTube.

The available workshops were: Reducing Poverty, led by Dr. Muriel Nelson and Jessica Solar, Gender Justice, led by Emma Cantor and Julie Caddick, Health and Well-being, led by Melanie Douglas and Carolyn Lawrence, Eliminating Violence, led by Angleena Keizer, Care for Creation, led by Mollie Pugmire and Caroline Pomeroy, and Creative workshops, led by Naomi Allison and Amelia Koh-Butler (who also led the worship).

On Thursday 11th, the

women dressed in black, showing their belief in condemnation of violence against women. The opening devotion was on PATIENCE and was offered by Latin America Area. After the memorial service led by Rev. Jemima Amanor, the women were given the possibility to share memories in the breakout rooms about influential women that are no longer with us. The keynote speaker was Amanda Khozi Mukwashi (she was the Chief Executive Officer of Christian Aid and also served in different NGOs, currently being the UN Resident Coordinator in Lesotho). She had an important message about the sufferings of the women, especially in Lesotho, and in the breakout rooms the participants could discuss further the issues with which the women are confronted and meditate upon the presentation. North America Area closed the program with their devotion on KINDNESS.

12th August began with East Asia Area's devotion on GOODNESS and the Area reports were presented: North America, Latin

West Africa, Southern and East Africa, Europe: Britain and Ireland, Europe: Continental, South Asia, East Asia, and South Pacific. The day closed with devotions by the West Africa Area on FAITHFULNESS.

The day of 13th August opened with the Southern and East Africa Area devotion on GENTLENESS. After that, the women enjoyed the HKMS's wonderful presentations, and the Action Plan was discussed. Europe: Britain and Ireland Area offered the closing devotion on SELF CONTROL.

The last day, 14th August, started with prayer and worship, and the new officers were commissioned. Part of this event was Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (Geneva Secretary of the World Methodist Council.), who led the religious service and preached from Luke 13:18-21 and John 6:35. After the closing ceremony, the joint executive meeting took place and after it, the new executive met for the first time.

- Ligia Istrate, ToL Editor

## ELECTIONS: MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE

### Part one: World Officers

#### World President: Sipiwe Chisvo



I am wife to Godfrey, mother to four daughters and a son, and grandmother of nine beautiful grandchildren. I lost my second daughter eighteen years ago when she was 27 years old. At 65 years old, I have been privileged to serve God for the greater part of my life, serving in my local church as a local pastor, in the Circuit, and in the community. For eleven years I have served in the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women as Area Vice-President and Area President. Baking is my passion and I

enjoy it so much! I have studied Systemic Counseling and Family Therapy at the University of Zimbabwe. I enjoy talking to people and listening to their stories as I do my work as a counselor.

#### World Vice-President: Ivonne Pereira Díaz



I am from Chile, and I was born on December 29, 1955. I currently live in the city of Talcahuano, in the south of my country. I am married to Pedro Correa Montecinos, pastor of the Methodist Church of Chile, for 42 years. I have two sons, Claudio Andrés and Pablo Cesar, and three grandsons. I am a social and community worker with a Bachelor of Theology from the Faculty of Theology in Chile, Caza Matriz de Deaconesses in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil. As a pastor's wife I have been in several churches and that brought me responsibilities as a leader; currently I work together with my husband in the Methodist Church of Talcahuano.



**World Secretary: Louise Wilson**



Louise lives in Northern Ireland and is married to Tom. They have two daughters, one son, and three grandchildren. She worked as an Associate Lecturer in further and higher education and then as the Training & Development Officer for the Methodist Church in Ireland, before retiring in 2018. One of Louise's greatest privileges is being a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church and regularly being invited to lead others in worship. She was recently appointed as the Local Preachers' Coordinator in her District. Within her local church, she acts as Secretary to the Church Council and is responsible for teaching the Membership Class when required. Louise has served as the President of her own Unit and as both the Area Vice-President and Area President. Louise states, "Over the past 24 years I have learned the value of this global sisterhood, as I have met women from different countries, heard and shared in their stories, and been privileged to count many of them as my friends."

**World Treasurer: Ngui Ting**



I am a Malaysian Chinese and have served as the President and Treasurer

of the East Asia Area. Praise the Lord that I was brought up in a Christian Family. My family has also come to know the Lord. I am married to Andrew Ngui. We have two children who are medical doctors, and we are blessed with five grandchildren. After graduating Business Administration from Otago Polytechnic in New Zealand, I worked as an executive in several Malaysian Companies. In 1996, I co-founded a trade business with my husband in Hong Kong. I have also served as treasurer in numerous churches and organizations and worked for the establishment of a Social Service Center for the elderly in Hong Kong and mainland China. In recent years, I have been coordinating the Alpha Courses in my local Church.

with others. I am passionate about languages too. The empowerment of women and raising awareness of any kind of abuse or violence, even structural violence are important issues for me.

**East Asia Area President : Mary Devadason**



I was married until this year to Rev. Dr. T. Devadason Peter (he passed away). I have three lovely children and four awesome grandchildren. As a pastor's wife, I was able to work along with him throughout Malaysia among the Tamil-speaking people for the past 45 years. I was the Methodist Women Conference President and Spiritual Life Coordinator of the Methodist General Conference of Women of the Methodist Church in Malaysia for eight years. I am retired, but my passion is to work among women. At present, I'm the advisor for the local and district Methodist Women and the lay leader of the Tamil Methodist Church, Tamil Settlement, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia. I have also served The East Asia Area as Secretary and Vice-President.

**West Africa: Dr. Muriel Victoria Nelson**



## Area Presidents

**Europe: Continental: Lilla Kardosné Lakatos**



I grew up in a Methodist family in Dombóvár, Hungary. I'm living in Budapest (the capital of Hungary) at this moment with my caring and loving husband, Sandor. I had the joy to study theology at the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Hungary (six years), and at the Waldensian Faculty in Rome, Italy (one year). I took a course about mental health and organizational development in Budapest (2014-2016). I served in Strasbourg, France (seven months) and five years in the Hungarian UMC in various positions. For almost two years I was living in Alsószolca, I was ministering as a local pastor to Roma people (gypsies). From 2014 to 2018 I served as the unit President of Women's Mission in Hungary. I am passionate about the human soul; I like to be in conversation

Dr. Muriel is the Conference President for United Methodist Women in Liberia. She has a Doctor of Ministry Degree, with emphasis on Women in Ministry, a Master of Arts in Christian Education, and a Bachelor of Religious Education. She is an advocate for women, children, and young people, and has a passion for women's and girls' empowerment. She is also a professor, facilitator, and counselor. Married to Rev. Dr. Julius S. Nelson Jr., she has seven biological children, and several adopted, and she also has spiritual children. Dr. Muriel is the former Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary, A.M.E. University, and an Adjunct Faculty of Bishop John G. Innis Graduate School, United Methodist University, Liberia.

**Latin America: Jessica Solar**



Jessica is from Lima City, Peru. She has the blessing of pastoring two Methodist churches located south of Lima, where her husband was Pastor, and she is blessed with two beautiful children, Carlos Josué and Camila. She has studied Economic Sciences, Administration and Finance. She is completing her studies for a master's degree in

Administration and Social Management, as well as a bachelor's degree in Ministries, at the Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Lima – all while working as an Administrator at Colegio America del Callao.

**Southern and East Africa Area: Patricia Mapani**



I am an active member of the United Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, I have served in various committees and held different roles as the Outreach Coordinator, Chairperson for Resource Mobilization, Nominations and Staff, in the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Worship Chairperson and Music Director for both the Church and Women's choirs, and Finance Chairperson for the Women's Fellowship. I have also served as Coordinator for WFMUCW, UMC Zimbabwe Unit for eight years before I became Area Vice President for my area. My interests include Music, Fundraising, and Church and Society work. I have been married to Ricky Mapani for 38 years and together we have a very supportive and loving family of

five children and four grandchildren. I have an Economics Degree, I am an entrepreneur and I have a passion for coaching, empowering and educating women.

**NEWS ALERT**

**We welcome the units that were received as Affiliate and Associate members at the Assembly Business Meeting!**

**Affiliate:**

- Senegal United Methodist Church in West Africa Area
- Zambia United Methodist Church in Southern & East Africa Area
- Upper Myanmar Unit 3 in South Asia Area
- Lower Myanmar Unit 2 in South Asia Area
- Romania United Methodist Women in Europe: Continental Area
- Puerto Rico in Latin America Area
- Dominican Republic in Latin America Area
- El Salvador in Latin America Area

**Associate:**

- Cambodia Women's Committee of Methodist Church Cambodia in East Asia Area



## Helen Kim Memorial Scholars 2016-2022 Updates

Luiza Pereira: As my time as an HKMS comes to an end, I can't help but think that so much has happened during these six years. Gladly, we were able to have our Area Seminar in Brazil before the pandemic. Even when things got difficult with the Covid-19 outbreak, we were able to experience fellowship through online meetings, including two with the HKMS. I had the privilege to be involved in the 2021 Webinar and in the World Assembly. My last challenge was being part of the team that organized the training for the new HKMS, also online (for the first time ever). For all these amazing opportunities and for everything I've learned during the past six years, I couldn't be more grateful to God and to the WFMUCW! My official commitment is over, but my heart remains committed to this beautiful organization.

Wanda Hogan: I have loved my six years as HKMS and can't believe that the time has come to pass on the honor to a new set of ladies! I've enjoyed being part of the 10th Joint European Area Seminar and helping out with both the Global Online Event and the 14th World Assembly. Some of the things that I was able to be involved in as a HKMS included setting up a local team and sewing kits for Days for Girls International, volunteering with Sethule Orphans' Trust in Zimbabwe, and taking part in the 'No Excuse for Abuse' Domestic Violence awareness campaign run by the Methodist Women in Ireland. It has been wonderful to have the support and prayers of my fellow HKMS and to keep in touch via WhatsApp, email, and regular snail mail! A lot has happened for each of us both professionally and

personally over the last six years and it has been a privilege to walk alongside one another on this journey. I'd like to thank our HKMS leaders, Matavia Robertson, Rowena Quintanilla, and Janice Clark as well as Alison Judd and my Area President and Vice President Louise Wilson and Carolyn Lawrence for all they have done to support and challenge me over the years. I'm excited about my new role as Area Vice President for Britain and Ireland.

Rachel Allison: Life has changed a lot for me while I have been the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar in the last six years. I have graduated from university, had five different jobs, moved house four times, made lots of new friends, and even got engaged. I am now working for a blood cancer charity helping them engage with politicians and health care workers. It is very rewarding and enjoyable work. I am very involved in my church, playing in the band, and helping to lead one of our home groups. I am so grateful to the Women of the Federation and those in my unit who have supported me and helped me grow in my faith over these years. I will continue to be involved with the World Federation supporting our new Helen Kim Memorial Scholars alongside planning my wedding!

Ligia Istrate is a Doctor in History. She is married and has two beautiful children: Hannah Yasmin (eight years old) and Iamin Cristian (almost three years old). Ligia is the current Tree of Life Editor, being part of the Executive Board of the World Federation. She pastors a Methodist church together with her husband, who is a pastor, in Sibiu, Romania. Together they are supervising two orphanages, one mostly for Roma children and one for Ukrainians since the war started in March. Besides her involvement

in the World Federation, Ligia is also involved in United Methodist Women, being the Unit President for ten years now. She also teaches at Nazarene College, on courses including Pentateuch and Academic Skills.

## Meet the Helen Kim Memorial Scholars 2022-2026

### Europe: Continental: Germany

Hi everyone! My name is Verena Glück, I am 26 years old and currently based in Stuttgart. I worked in a Methodist children's home in South Africa as a volunteer and fell in love with the country. In the meantime, I realized that I would like to study business



administration, which I did afterward (bachelor's). Now I am a master's student of environmental-orientated (green) logistics. Being an HKMS, I am most excited about meeting many inspirational women from all over the world with different experiences and working towards achieving the UN development goals together with a huge network and God by our side. I love dancing - all kinds of styles - and singing too. The sun makes me smile and my favorite songs are Hypnotized by Frank Moody and Who am I by Casting Crowns. God Bless you!

**Southern and East Africa Area:  
Zimbabwe**



My name is Nyashadzashe Nemacha, Nyasha for short. I go to the United Methodist Church, where I have been an active member of the youth for more than ten years now. I am currently the

Youth President of my church and the Treasurer of the district area. I serve on various committees at church: the Church council, Communications specializing in digital communication, and the Praise and Worship team. I really love my church and cannot wait to work with the WFMUCW in my area. I am currently studying for my bachelor's in accountancy at the University of Johannesburg and the University of Zimbabwe, and I work as an intern auditor at KPMG Zimbabwe (Accounting Business). I love to be active: hiking, rifle range shooting, exercising, water skiing, and much more. At home, I enjoy reading, baking, cooking, and gardening. My favourite food is pasta. What I love the most about the place I live in is the peaceful scenery and the fact that I can wake up every morning and look out the window to see what the day has set for me. My life quote is, "Have a smile of courage and hope." In every situation that one may face, always smile because you know there is a bigger person who is in control. I am a very ambitious young lady who believes that anything and everything is possible if you put God at the centre of all. I am very excited to be an HKMS and cannot wait to share what God has in store

for me. I aim to change the world and leave God's footprint wherever I go. I will bear the fruits that make the world a better place.

**South Asia: India**

Hi everyone, I am Benita Jeyakumar from India. I have completed a Master of Business Administration in Finance and I'm currently working in Barclays Global Markets, Mumbai, as a business analyst. I have been involved in translating an English daily devotion magazine (Honey drops) to Hindi so that it reaches out and blesses Hindi-speaking people. Also, I am involved in organizing monthly fellowship meetings for



young girls and youth fellowships as well. It is my earnest desire that I use all the talents God has given me to fulfill

the purpose He has for me. What makes me smile? Watching nature and the beauty of God's creation. What do I love most about India? The diversity and richness in its culture - different languages, different people, and different cuisines, all in one country!

**West Africa: Liberia**



I am Martha Blogwedy Dobbah, a passionate and God-fearing young woman. I hold a Master of Arts Degree in Child Development

Studies from Haifa University, Haifa City, Israel. I am a teacher by profession and have been in the

teaching field for the past seven years. Currently, I lecture Early Childhood Education courses at the University of Liberia (UL) and at African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU). I am the Youth Coordinator for Refuge United Methodist Church in Liberia, the first Vice President for the United Methodist Young Adult Fellowship Conference, Liberia Annual Conference, and the Young Women Coordinator for West Africa Central Conference. I work closely with the United Methodist Women in Liberia, where I serve as the Matron for the United Methodist Women Girls Hostess. I am the Monitoring Officer and member of the proposal writing committee for the Women and Young Women Joint Economic Empowerment Project of the Liberia Annual Conference, a project which aims to empower women and young women with livelihood skills and small businesses. I also write for the Liberia Annual Conference United Methodist Women Devotional Guide for persons experiencing violence, titled: "Breakfast with Jesus." My best smiling moment is when I look at a photo of myself, admiring God's beautiful creation. African American Christian Movies are my best movies, my favorite song is Goodness of God by Jenn Johnson, my favorite food is an African Dish - Fufu and Pepper soup - and my favorite book is the Holy Bible. What I like most about Liberia is the beautiful beaches that surround the country.

**Southern and East Africa Area:  
Zimbabwe**



My name is Yeukai. I am a social worker by profession. I am currently working as a probation



officer in the Department of Social Development under the Ministry of Public Service Labor and Social Welfare. I hold two degrees - a bachelor's in social work and a postgraduate degree in Monitoring and Evaluation. I am a local preacher and the youth president of the Methodist church in Zimbabwe. My involvement includes working with young people and families, as well as representing young people on local and international platforms. What makes me smile? A song by Sia called Powerful. It reminds me of the potential I have as a woman and what I am capable of.

**East Asia: Taiwan**

I am Yu En Liang from New Taipei city. I grew up in a small but lovely town near the mountains. I graduated with a master's degree in Agronomy, and I am currently an intern teacher in Farm Management. I served in the choir and worship group in my church, and I was involved in conferences



for youth leadership and women leadership, particularly in Methodist churches. I am a person who laughs a lot. I enjoy hanging out with friends, music, and delicious food.

## Women that inspire

In the breakout room that I (Ligia) was in, at one of the sessions dedicated to the women that are no longer with us, but still inspire us, Pamela Grayson shared about Dr. Mary Jefferson:

'Dr Mary Jefferson had a close relationship with the women of Sierra Leone. I learned that when visiting their Conference in the 1990s, she was assigned a room in a hotel, but when she discovered that African women at the Conference were to sleep on church floors, she refused the offer, saying that as she was there to represent women, she should share the same accommodation, and off she went to sleep on the church floor. She returned to England determined to assist these women in building up their Skills Centre. She organized a campaign to collect sewing

machines that had been set aside when their owners switched from hand to electric and had them transported to Freetown. She then set up a system to receive goods they had made and sell them at any event she visited. She always had a Sierra Leone stall at the Annual Conference of Methodist Women in Britain, for example, laden with duvet sets, tablecloths, and even brightly colored cotton trousers. The Skills Centre flourished, and more Sierra Leone women found employment. This was only one aspect of Mary's service. She had a long and fruitful life. She passed her 90th birthday when she fell ill with cancer in 2017. The hospital wanted to operate on her, but typically, Mary said she didn't want the National Health Service spending precious resources on her at this stage in her life...She said she knew where she was going and was happy to go when the Lord called her. It was her story that inspired me and no doubt many others in the Sheffield Methodist District to become involved in the Women's Network and the World Federation. I thank God for the privilege of knowing her.'\*

\*Information sent after discussion via email to Sandra Goodwin



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