

News from Methodist Women in Britain

Tears and ovations in South Africa

Kate Curtis was one of five Scottish representatives at the 12th World Assembly of the Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, held in South Africa in 2011. She brought away with her a vision of 21st century “suffragettes of Christ”.

“Bambelela – Never give up”. This was the theme of this World Assembly: a statement of faith and encouragement.

It was certainly a boost to my faith and commitment in Jesus. To be involved with 600 women from every continent on earth and of one faith was amazing. From the opening ceremony the African love of life and Jesus became infectious; and their singing was spine tingling. Children taken off the streets formed a band and gave a brilliant performance, as did local school children with their amazing African dance.

Every nation and continent gave a report on their work. The poorest nations had a body of Christian women raising large amounts of money to help relieve poverty, educate children and women, and work for peace and justice in the world.

The humility of the Japanese delegate affected us all when, after giving her report, she apologised to the world on behalf of Japan for its nuclear pollution of the world. She bowed and left the stage in tear. We responded with a standing ovation.

What a force to be reckoned with: ordinary women like me making a difference in this world through faith – “suffragettes of Christ” in the 21st century.

Methodist Women in Britain hits the road

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is the new Methodist movement that incorporates Women’s Network in the Methodist Church and the British unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Jenny Lee is the MWiB Forum Representative in Scotland.

Here’s a date for your diary. Methodist Women in Britain is up and running and coming to you on 12 May 2012.

The new organisation was launched in Southport on 1 July, 2011, where Lord Street Methodist Church was filled to overflowing to see the new MWiB Executive commissioned and hear from – among many others – the Revd Baroness Kathleen Richardson. The service was an uplifting and powerful celebration, and a precursor to the launches that will be presented around the Connexion in 2011/2012.

The Scotland Launch will take place at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square from 2.30pm and will be an event certainly not to be missed. It will include a mix of worship, speakers, interviews, drama, resources and the MWiB photo exhibition.

With its ethos of spirituality and social action in a global context (in Scotland we are supporting the education of girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo), MWiB seeks to encourage, equip and enable women to serve God in the church, community and the world. We will achieve this through worship and prayer, sharing experience, collaborative working, mutual encouragement, training for discipleship, social action, gender justice, world mission and global vision.

Sign up for the MWiB quarterly newsletter at www.mwib.org.uk and keep up to date with the latest issues being pursued.

Important Dates for MWIB

April 2012

20th – 22nd MWiB Residential Conference at Swanick, Derbyshire, with the World Assembly theme: 'Bambelela – Never Give Up'. More details on MWiB website

May 2012

12th MWiB Scotland Launch, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, 2.30 – 4.30pm

October 2012

13th MWiB one-day conference on Millennium Development Goals, especially need to ensure environmental sustainability. Venue tbc

27th MWiB Scotland Day, Armadale Methodist Church

[Summer 2012 is the date of the European Methodist Festival in Krakow, Poland]