

# The World is My Parish

## An introduction by Bishop Michael Doe, USPG General Secretary

Not many people know that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, began as a SPG missionary. In 1735 he crossed the Atlantic to Georgia where his spirituality deepened and his evangelistic zeal grew: he longed to reach out beyond the colonists to the native Indians, and even the slaves, but he soon returned to England a frustrated and deeply unhappy man.

Yet, as perhaps many more people know, it was John Wesley who would later say, 'The world is my parish'. That first missionary experience sowed the seeds of a movement which would help revitalize the whole church and challenge the often restrictive practices of the Church of England. For Wesley there were to be no boundaries standing in the way of his passion for sharing the love of Christ in both word and deed.

Mission is no longer about taking things from Europe to the rest of the world. It's about seeing the whole world as our 'parish' – the place where God has called us to be the Church – as we seek to support each other in mission. And when we do that, we will find ourselves, like John Wesley, deeply changed, and showing that the love of God has no bounds.



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