

## WEEK 5: How do we do mission?

### Getting started

Place a globe or a map of the world in the centre of the room. This will serve as a reminder that mission concerns the whole world and that Jesus had all people in mind throughout his ministry. Discuss briefly in the group whether the modern 'globalised' world is something you find inspiring or bewildering; do you feel better connected or does it make you feel insignificant?

### View from Ghana

The work of the Anglican Church in Ghana is varied, including projects focusing on healthcare, theological training, child trafficking and income-generation.

This work is carried out despite obstacles typical of a developing country. One particular challenge is a lack of priests, which means the church relies heavily on lay ministers – also known as catechists – such as Elijah Yakubu, aged 33, who is married with a daughter and teaches agricultural science at an Anglican school.

'I serve as a link between the parishioners and the priest,' he explained. 'I preach, organise bible studies and hold prayer meetings. I also visit parishioners, especially the sick, when the priest is not around.'

The catechists are dedicated. To reach remote congregations, they will often walk many miles without complaint.

'All the catechists are voluntary workers in the vineyard of the Lord,' said Elijah. 'The reward is not in monetary gain but in the blessings of God, and that makes us happy even though we are poor.'

The Rt Revd Emmanuel Arongo, Bishop of Tamale, commented: 'The catechists are the foot soldiers of the church. We are so proud of them because they offer their lives to Jesus Christ.'

He added: 'My hope for the people of the diocese is that they will grow richer and richer in spirit, so they can have the hope that God is always with them.'

The Revd Francis Sencherey expressed a similar sentiment. He is the chaplain at Mampong Babies' Home, run by the Diocese of Kumasi. In a country in which one in ten children do not reach their fifth birthday, Mampong looks after orphan children during their early most-vulnerable years, before returning them to their extended families. [In Africa, children are classified as orphans if they have lost one parent.]

'Travel with us in the coming weeks and months, as we seek to reflect the healing glory your cross offers this earth.'

'If it were not for the home, most of these children would not survive,' said the chaplain. He added: 'The care of children is a very important part of mission. It is like caring for a seedling. You incubate life and give life an opportunity to mature and grow into the life it can be.'

### Discussion

- Share with the group some of the difficulties you have faced in trying to live the Christian life and witness to Christ. In such circumstances, what inspires you to keep going?
- We each have different skills and personalities. What is the best way to discover your personal 'style' or 'place' in mission?

### Using the Bible

John 4:42: 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the World.'

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well touches on many issues: the need for water and food, gender issues, the role of the outsider, a debate about tradition, the need for reconciliation. So when the passage concludes with a declaration that Jesus is the 'Saviour of the World', the nature of this salvation must be broad, with physical and spiritual dimensions. Such salvation comes with a price:

the meeting takes place at noon (v6) – perhaps the writer had in mind another noontide when Jesus was thirsty, on a cross in Jerusalem.

1. What does it mean for you to call Jesus 'Saviour of the World'?
2. As Holy Week approaches and we reflect on Jesus' suffering, what do you think would make Jesus thirsty in our world today? How can we help to quench his thirst?

**Closing prayer**

Jesus, Saviour of the World,  
Lord of all Creation, yet also intimate friend,  
Offering nourishment for body and soul.  
Travel with us in the coming weeks and months,  
As we seek to reflect the healing glory your cross offers this earth.  
Amen