

Join With Us in Praise & Stand With Us in Prayer!

Focus	Praise / Thanks	Prayer
Jamaica (p.2)	Thank God for those who attended the gatherings.	Pray for God's direction and care for Jamaican children and young people.
Church of North India (p.3)	Thank God for CNI's positive plans for discipleship training.	Pray that many middle-class Indians would truly follow Jesus.
Discipleship in Africa (p.3)	Thank God for the interest in our Whole-life Discipleship training.	Pray that God would provide funds for our 2018 discipleship plans.



The Season for Jesus-Shaped Living (and Giving!)

Christians around the world are reflecting on the amazing miracle of Christ's birth. He took on human form so that our lives might, in turn, become 'Jesus-shaped'. What a humbling mystery!

God is using Faith2Share to help many gospel workers make disciples whose lives are truly Jesus-shaped and it's hard to think of a more important mission. We have many requests for support and do not want to let down those on the frontlines of world mission. We would like to invite you to make a special gift this Christmas to support our disciple-making projects next year. **Thanks to a generous donor, your gift can now have a double impact** because it will be matched pound-for-pound (up to an appeal total of £4,000).

A gift of £14 could provide one day's training for a disciple-making mission leader in Rwanda.

To make a special gift for discipleship in Rwanda simply send a cheque to our office address:
Faith2Share, Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ (Please include your name and address)

Or make a quick, secure donation online via NowDonate on our website: <http://faith2share.net/donate>

**On behalf of Faith2Share gospel workers around the world,
We wish you a very peaceful and joyful Christmas!**

Thank you so much!

Faith2Share Member Movements

Anglican Frontier Missions, Anglican Inland Missionary Society (Sri Lanka), Anglican Relief & Development Fund (Australia), Antioch Mission, AsiaCMS, Asian Outreach Alliance, BORN, Church Army Africa, Church Mission Society, Church of Nigeria Missionary Society, CMS Africa, CMS Australia, CMS Ireland, Friends Missionary Prayer Band, Global Teams, IGOSA, Indian Evangelical Mission, Interserve India, Isa-e Church, iServe Africa, Lifeway Mission International, Mahabba Network International, Mahanaim Ministries, Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, Mekane Yesus IMS (Ethiopia), Mission Together Africa, Mission Together Inc. (Canada), MSF International, NAMS, National Mission Commission of Nepal, New Life for India, New Zealand CMS, OMF International, PMI, SAMS Ireland, SAMS USA, SOMA UK, TEAM, The Sheepfold Ministries, Torchbearers Mission

We send out *Missionet* 5-6 times per year. If you would like to update your details or change your mailing preferences please contact us at f2s@faith2share.net or write to Faith2Share, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6BZ.

For inspiring news: www.faith2share.net, www.facebook.com/faith2share or www.twitter.com/f2smissonnews

Registered Charity No. 1132707



December 2017

Missionet

Focus On Discipleship

Jesus-Shaped Living



"This is a movement of God's Spirit" was Chantel's comment as she completed her first day of the *Intentional Discipleship Consultation* in Kingston, Jamaica, facilitated by Faith2Share last month. With about 150 other church leaders across this Caribbean island, Chantel was exploring what it might mean if her life, at home, at work and in the wider community, was 'Jesus-shaped'. (You can find more about this movement of the Spirit in Jamaica on page 2.)

Somehow *Faith2Share* has found itself at the leading edge of a global wave of excitement about Jesus-Shaped Living. We started our 'Whole-Life Discipleship' consultations in a remote town in north India in 2011 and now find ourselves sharing this passion with Pope Francis, who talks about "missional discipleship", the World Council of Churches (WCC) who will gather next March around the theme of "Transforming Discipleship", and thousands of ordinary Christians who want more out of Christian commitment than religious observance – they want to experience Jesus-Shaped living.

For five years, until 2016, Faith2Share facilitated the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiate. That initiative, which still has two *Faith2Share* staff on its board will gather senior leaders in Boston, USA next June to bring a new focus on Discipleship in our churches. To change the analogy, in the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, the 'discipleship movement' is beginning to feel like a new reformation within the churches and *Faith2Share* is privileged to be there on the frontline.

As a supporter of Faith2Share you are part of this reformation for Jesus-Shaped Living. We are a tiny movement within the global community of 2.4 billion Christians but if we are faithful to our calling God will achieve great things through us. As one of our African leaders said when we met in Thailand in October, "Why are we keeping the yeast in the tin – it needs to be thrust into the wasteland of the dough – then we will really see what God can do!"



Metropolitan George Coorilos, a Syrian Orthodox bishop from India, will lead the WCC conference in March (see above).

www.faith2share.net

One Love: Discipleship in Jamaica

International Director, Mark Oxbrow, reports on the Intentional Discipleship Consultation in Jamaica

It is a little known fact that towards the end of his short life, the singer Bob Marley, was baptised as a member of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. His song 'One Love' provided us with a starting point for a recent Discipleship Consultation in his home nation of Jamaica. In this song his life-long yearning for togetherness within the global family of humanity finds its source in worship of the Lord – a strong reminder of Faith2Share's own foundation verse, Revelation 7:9.

One Love! One Heart!
Let's get together and feel all right
Sayin': give thanks and praise
To the Lord and I will feel all right;
Sayin': let's get together
And feel all right.



As we gathered for a celebration day, at least two young men (above) seemed to have found some joy in life but sadly the service that followed offered little inspiration.

“Boy-child issues, that’s what we need to talk about.” This was the response when I asked what key family issues challenged whole-life discipleship in Jamaica. My work with partners in Asia had often focused on ‘girl-child’ issues but here the ‘boy-child’ came clearly into focus as participants discussed how Jamaican churches could impact their communities. Absentee fathers, a gang culture, the social acceptance of marijuana and the flow of guns from the USA all make it very difficult for boys to develop Jesus-shaped lives - or, indeed, lives with any kind of workable structure at all.

In four venues across the island, in consultations and worship, 150 Christian leaders explored together the challenges of following Jesus amongst their friends, at work, in troubled communities, in the media, with the LGBT community, and in their families. One archdeacon commented, “This consultation should have happened years ago, we are so good at doing church that we have forgotten how to follow Jesus”.



Discipleship Challenge

How would you answer this challenge?

During the session on discipleship at work we were reminded that world sugar prices have dropped and the plantations the British established can no longer employ people. The mineral bauxite is however a valuable commodity but requires destructive mining. As a Jamaican business investor would you open up new bauxite mines to offer employment or protect the beautiful environment for the future?

How should a “Jesus-shaped” investor respond?

Whole-life Discipleship



Discipling the City Tribes of India

India, a nation of 1.2 billion, has 645 officially recognised tribes (as well as many smaller ethnic communities), and is just 2.3% Christian. As the nation rapidly becomes an urban society, one of the bishops of the Church of North India (CNI) called for a new focus on “city tribes”.

Bishop Andrew, speaking at the Faith2Share-facilitated consultation in Delhi was referring not to the rural migrants who inhabit the pavements of every Indian city, but rather to the millions of Indian middle-class, middle-income, and highly influential Indians who know nothing of Jesus’ call to whole-life discipleship.

This consultation in July was the second Faith2Share has facilitated for the CNI. More than half the bishops were present with other key leaders and as a result the programme for intentional discipleship will be rolled out at diocesan and parish level across north India. Faith2Share member agencies such as Indian Evangelical Mission and Friends Missionary Prayer Band will be helping to resource this new movement.



“Many are attracted to ‘Jesus the guru’ but do not want ... a ‘foreign religion’ like Christianity”.



Jesus-Shaped lives for Africa

Our Whole-life Discipleship consultation in Kampala, Uganda, has just finished and we are working on plans for at least three more in Africa next year - as well as others elsewhere.

Faith2Share is about collaboration and we work with several of our 40 member agencies and other partners on each consultation. In Uganda we worked in partnership with SOMA-UK, Church Army Africa and the Church of Uganda. However **none of this would be possible without your participation as well in prayer, advice and giving.** With this newsletter you will find a letter telling you how you can help us bring Jesus-shaped living to Rwanda, Malawi and Tanzania in 2018. Please do join us in taking up this challenge.

- **Rwanda** 19-22 February : Whole-life Discipleship consultation hosted by Anglican Church of Rwanda
- **Malawi** 2-6 March : Intentional Discipleship consultation hosted by Anglican Church of Malawi
- **Tanzania** 8-12 March : Discipleship workshops hosted by the World Council of Churches

Collaboration for Disciple-making