

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION
Annual Report
2023



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About CWM



a partnership
of churches
in mission



VISION

Life-flourishing Communities, living out God's promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth.

Our theology statement invites us to explore the meaning and experience of:

Life-flourishing communities living the urgency of the Risen Life on the streets, seas, lands and in the territories of Babylon; witnessing to the uprising of the Spirit as she brings into being the New Heaven and New Earth in our midst; and being at one with the God of Life in arising, shining, planting, praying, singing, dancing and embodying alternatives to empire's death and destruction.

This is a clear articulation of CWM's 2020-2029 strategy framework, "Rising to Life: Breaking out of Babylon". The ultimate goal of the strategy is life-flourishing communities, a new way of being and behaving, a pattern of living based on justice and peace, where fullness of life for all creation is our primary calling and commitment. The vision statement captures the essence of subversive imagination of a different world, where the Earth and all that is in it, serve and sustain all of God's creation; and where the people of God envision this new life for now.

MISSION

Called in Christ to radical and prophetic discipleship, working in partnership with churches and the ecumenical community to resist life-denying systems, affirm peace, do justice and enable life-flourishing communities.

In our theology statement, we declare that "We seek, as an organisation and as a partnership of churches, a life rooted in obedience to God's mission focused on:

- Rising with the risen Jesus whose resurrection is insurrection and proclamation that Babylon is as fallen as the tomb is empty; and
- Responding in radical discipleship where we live out the New Heaven and New Earth in the midst of a violent, abused and grieving world as signs of transforming love".

In this mission statement, the emphasis is on naming this "violent, abused and grieving world" that ought to be replaced with life-flourishing communities, based on justice and peace. The means to that end is a clear sense of call to partnership with churches and the ecumenical community in which radical and prophetic discipleship is expressed in transformative and loving action to resist, affirm, support and enable life-flourishing alternatives.

VALUES

- Justice in relationships
- Mutuality, equality and interdependence
- Generosity of spirit
- Unity in diversity





Moderator's Message

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to all in this Annual Report and review the work that CWM achieved in 2023 as well as the dynamics and challenges that we faced in our mission. While 2023 was a post-pandemic year, it was not a unique year with respect to the difficulties and challenges faced by people in the contexts of our member churches. We continue to do our work, globally in what has been termed a VUCA environment. The existing conditions are Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous in all areas - in the politics of our various regions, in the economies of our various countries, in the social structures of our various communities, in the environmental crises of our various geographical locations, and in the technological advancements of our various contexts.

Yet despite these realities and challenges, our CWM vision kept us going, because we continue to be “committed to mutual sharing of people, ideas and money to advance God’s liberating transformative mission in the world.”

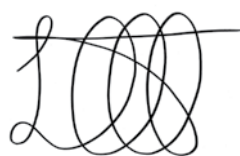


Despite the various contextual challenges we continued to make a difference by implementing some cutting-edge programmes such as rolling out The Onesimus Project funds guidelines, the historic launch of the Transformative Ecumenism programme, the planning and organising of the 2024 CWM Assembly, and the continued execution of our Strategic Framework in our 32 member churches. In addition, we have been continuing to empower our member churches to find local solutions for local challenges, thus making a difference in their own contexts.

As an organisation we operate using the model of accompaniment, and so in 2023 we have accompanied our member churches to achieve their missional objectives through the programmatic areas of Education, Formation and Empowerment, Mission from the Margins, Social Justice, Peace Building and Community Development. We have accompanied our churches through maintaining our underlying core values of justice in relationships, mutuality, equality and interdependence, generosity of spirit, and unity in diversity.

2023 was marked by raging wars in places such as Israel-Palestine, Myanmar, Ukraine and many others. This posed new challenges, and yet it also posed new opportunities to 'rise to life' with appropriate accompaniment strategies and interventions in the war-torn regions and in other places of difficulty and social injustices.

In conclusion, I want to express my profound gratitude to the Board of Directors for their consistent work of governance for CWM. My deepest gratitude also goes to the CWM secretariat and their diligent approach to all the tasks that 2023 presented. And gratitude to all our member churches who are the core business of our work. My gratitude also goes to our various ecumenical partners and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our work. Together, we are stronger in co-creating life-flourishing communities. And finally, my deepest gratitude to God for enabling CWM to effectively serve globally in 2023.



Rt Rev. Lydia C. Neshangwe
CWM Moderator





General Secretary's Message

It gives me great joy to present the Council for World Mission 2023 Annual Report. The CWM, a global partnership of churches in mission, has dedicated its programmes, staff, and resources toward helping member churches build life-flourishing communities. I would like to express deep appreciation for member churches who hosted CWM events, offered input into many processes of deep discernment, and shared their accomplishments and challenges with CWM and with each other.

As CWM rethought its priorities with an eye toward transformation, we present for the first time an Annual Report that reflects the new programmatic structure. With each section clearly divided into the programme areas, we also hope you are able to see how the programmes knit together as a whole to form the ethos of CWM.

As we continue to live in a deeply divided world with increasing numbers of conflicts, the climate emergency, and ever-increasing economic inequality, our programmes continue to operate with hope and always with the possibility of God-driven transformation. In this way, we remain focused on our strategic vision: “Life-flourishing Communities, living out God’s promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth.”

We have been implementing, in earnest, the ongoing CWM Strategic Plan for 2020-2029. In fulfilling the missional agenda for the strategy period, CWM has been in the process of engaging with the member churches and ecumenical partners to participate in the liberating mission of God and creating life-flourishing communities. “Life-flourishing” is the key motif for the mission and discipleship of the CWM.

CWM aims to challenge the oppressive and life-denying systems and confess witness to life-flourishing creation, society, and economy.

Under each programme area, you will be able to read in this report stories of the difference “on the ground” our programmes make, as well as “highlights of hope” that portray CWM’s many events, voices, and images across the world. We hope you see how these stories and highlights reflect, already, a new way of being, a pattern of living based on justice and peace, and a fullness of life for all creation. Amid the world’s grave challenges, we share hope.

Among our new initiatives in 2023 was the launch of the “Onesimus Guidelines to Access Different Funds,” which is a significant tool to address the roots of racialised inequalities and injustices within the CWM family of churches and the wider world. CWM has deepened its commitment to reparative action, and continues to call on other churches and ecumenical and mission organisations with similar legacies for just action.

Other programmes emphasised theological education with themes such as “Life Affirming Theological Education in Mission.” We asserted that theological education must be in the service of the transformation of the world rather than the ritual and institutional edifices of the church. We committed ourselves to working with our theological institutions to formulate curricula that align with the core concerns of the communities.

We also continued, through many programmes, to engage with young people by embracing their innovative and alternative visions of the world and opening spaces for their leadership and participation. We have worked to ensure the active involvement of women in all aspects of church ministry and leadership. We assert that the church is called to be and to effect just and inclusive communities.

Our Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) forums continued in 2023, helping us re-envision the theological movement, so that we can transform the current crisis into an opportune movement to “Rise to Life” together. The DARE programme continued to be a cutting-edge initiative of the CWM, bringing theologians and activists from the grassroots across the world to create a platform for subversive thinking. In fact, I consider DARE to be the theological backbone of the life-liberating movement!

Transformative Ecumenism has brought various ecumenical, missional, theological, and social organisations together. Launched in August 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya by CWM



and the All Africa Conference of Churches, Transformative Ecumenism is an attempt to reimagine ecumenism in response to the palpable fragility characterising the contemporary global landscape.

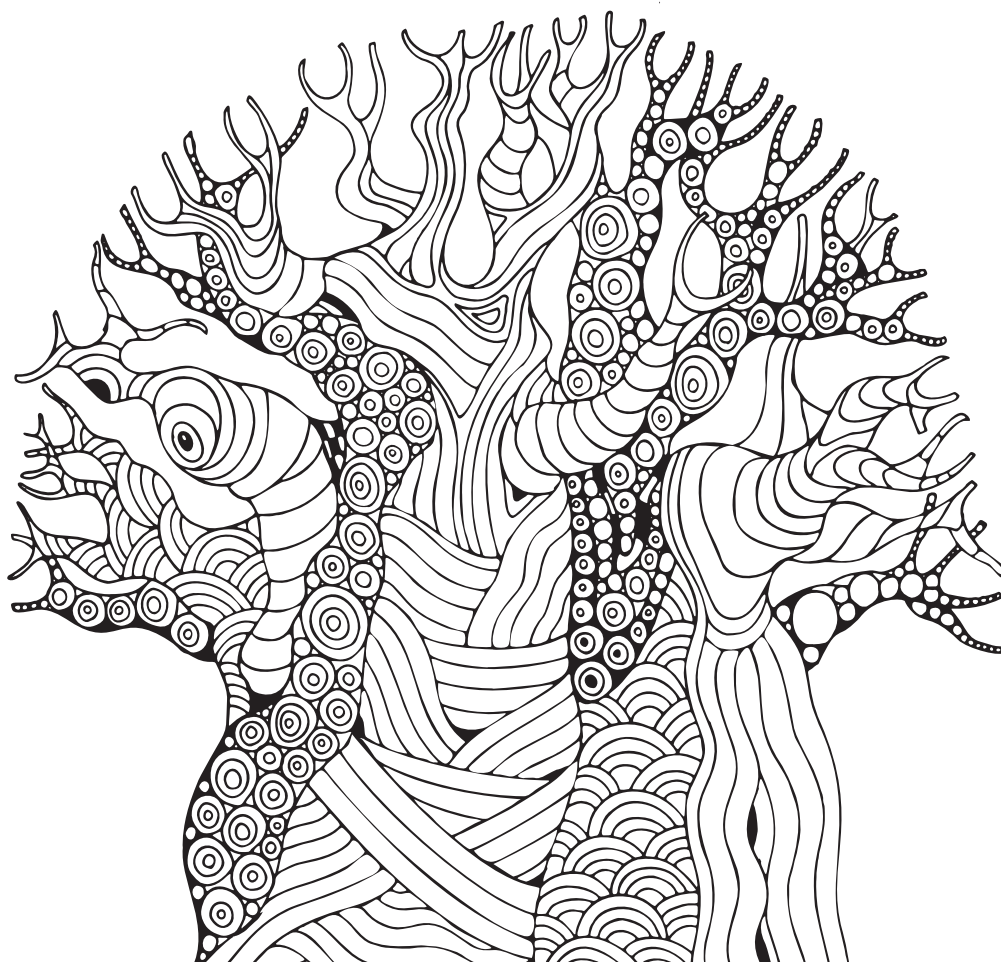
Transformative Ecumenism proposes new ways of understanding and living out ecumenism in the 21st century. As we gathered together in Transformative Ecumenism, we committed ourselves to advocate for justice and dignity for all of God's creation, asserting that these are pivotal for the realisation of the promise of abundant life for all. Transformative Ecumenism recognises the urgent need to move away from Eurocentric attitudes and responses to the diversity and complexity of the present world order.

These are only a few of the examples of CWM's commitment towards a collective struggle against oppressive structures. I remain grateful for the hard work, dedication, and creativity of our members, partners, and staff.

A final word: A significant part of 2023 was dedicated toward anticipating and preparing for the CWM Assembly 2024, which will occur in Durban, South Africa, from 12-19 June under the theme "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation." We ask for your prayers and your participation as we all rise together in 2024 toward more just, equitable, and sustainable life-flourishing communities.



Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum
General Secretary



Mission Programme and Partnership



About the Programme...

The Mission Programme and Partnership Programme is intentionally committed to strengthening CWM's mission identities through the further development of sharing human resources—embodied in Partners in Mission—as well as contextual mission thinking and actions, embodied in the Mission Support Programme.



Partners in Mission

CWM facilitates the sharing of people as a means of deepening partnership and support for member churches and partner organisations.

Mission Support Programme

CWM's Mission Support Programme was born out of the recognition that CWM's main function is to encourage and support its member churches in their mission work.

In 2023, CWM supported 20 projects from 17 member churches. The ongoing projects are in various states of completion, and CWM continues to journey with member churches at every stage of the project process, from conception right up to closing.

Internship Programme

CWM Internship is a creative, hands-on, and innovative opportunity for people ages 21-30 to explore faith alongside work in an international mission organisation.

What it means on the ground...

“Don’t run away from challenges—run over them!” That’s the advice heard by 18 mission partners who attended the Partners in Mission 2023 Global Gathering in Guyana in September 2023.

In other words, the vision of “rising to life and breaking out from Babylon” is for everyone. The global gathering embodied this as mission partners shared what brings them feelings of hope—and what actions bring their churches and communities toward healing and liberation.

The theme of the gathering was “Together as Mission Partners,” and together they connected face-to-face, shared their mission stories, learned from each other, and received support and encouragement.

They were present for the official launch of a new training handbook designed to help mission partners understand CWM, the Partners in Mission Programme, and the call to service in the mission.

Mission partners also shared their personal experiences and encounters, and together they talked over various aspects of their service, from job scopes to training, finance to program administration.

2023 highlights of hope...



Presbyterian Church in Taiwan delegates visit CWM Singapore Office

“It is my joy and honour to welcome the first large group of member church delegates to the CWM Office post-pandemic,” said CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum in his opening remarks during a team visit by 20 delegates from Presbyterian Church in Taiwan in February 2023.



Caribbean and North America Council for Mission holds biennial meeting

The biennial meeting of the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission was held in Grenada in May 2023. CWM’s Partners in Mission Coordinator and Programme Associate for the Caribbean region, Vickeisha King Burke, attended the meeting representing CWM and bringing greetings from the General Secretary, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum.

Our Partners In Mission



Cynthia Mwita



Lembe Sivile



Wezi Manda



Chen Yu Fen



Innocent Kangwa



Robert Gama



Disraeli Hutton



Nigel Lindsay



Joan Reid



Jung So Young



Thomas Phiri



Patrick Banda



Jacob Zikuli



Aldon Smith



Jane Kaluba



Mark Meatcher



Melanie Smith



Sifiso Mpofu



Oh Minwoo



Dennis Sikazwe

Life-flourishing Creation and Economy

About the Programme...

Creation...

The distress of God's creation is the consequence of systems, ideologies, and practices that put profit over people and the planet. The fact that those who are least responsible for the crisis are forced to bear its gravest consequences exposes how interlocking systems of oppression are intrinsically connected with the ecological crisis. Life-flourishing creation calls for courage and creativity to heal and restore the people and the planet.

Economy...

Rising to life is a subversive witness that defies the market forces which commodify life for profit. Such forces are unleashed by transnational corporations through the colonisation of the land, water, forest, and atmosphere, and accumulation by dispossession. At its core, neoliberal capitalism is an idolatrous system that desecrates and destroys life. Life-flourishing economy is an economy that embodies defiance against money-theism and the celebration of abundant life.



What it means on the ground...

Life-flourishing Creation and Economy efforts brought passionate discussions, local immersive experiences, and budding networks of youth, theologians, clergy, and others who care about restoring people and the planet, and creating access to all for abundant lives.

For example, the School of Intersectional Ecotheology and Ecojustice Witness inspired

young environmental advocates. When it convened in September and October 2023, it drew 22 participants from CWM member churches and the All Africa Conference of Churches. The school was held both online and in-person in Lusaka, Zambia.

One young participant said the time spent in local communities was an eye-opener. "It's one thing to study climate justice academically, but to witness its real-world impact is transformative," she said. "I'm leaving with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep connection to the communities we aim to serve."

The young people collectively reported that they left the school with the ultimate goal of making a tangible impact on climate justice, both in their churches and the wider community. "This is just the beginning of a movement that will continue to gather momentum and contribute to a brighter and more sustainable future," the group reported.

2023 highlights of hope...



Theological Education for an Economy of Life Master of Theology Programme launches

A dedication service was held to mark the official launch of CWM's first Theological Education for an Economy of Life Master of Theology programme in January 2023 at the Union Theological Seminary, Philippines. Among those in attendance were the pioneer batch of students from various regions around the world, who took part in the dedication service via pre-recorded video.



At Pacific youth consultation, a cry to “save our lives, save our seas, save our land”

Twenty-seven young people from ten CWM member churches in the Pacific gathered in Funafuti, Tuvalu, from 7-14 September for a consultation on climate justice.

The consultation aimed to empower youth, promote interdisciplinary learning, recognise the value of Indigenous knowledge, and ultimately lead to concrete actions.

Interfaith Eco-spiritualities Global Consultation promotes eco-justice and inclusive civil society engagement

In October 2023, CWM hosted the Interfaith Eco-spiritualities Global Consultation at Missenden Abbey, UK. The event brought together 40 participants from CWM member churches, ecumenical partners, and other faith traditions worldwide, representing diverse religious traditions, including Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Indigenous people, and practitioners of African traditions. The consultation focused on two key areas: discipleship and dialogue, and ecology and economics.

Discipleship, Spiritualities, and Dialogue



About the Programme...

The Discipleship, Spiritualities, and Dialogue programme works with member churches, ecumenical and interfaith partners, government and civil society to offer a more intentional way to affirm the agency of those who are marginalised, to participate in their struggles and share their hopes; explore together ways to overcome marginalising tendencies; and to resist forces of marginalisation in and across specific contexts.

What it means on the ground...

The spirit of the Discipleship, Spiritualities, and Dialogue programme is embodied in this excerpt from a poem written by 18 young people from Africa, Caribbean, Europe, and South Asia who gathered to challenge racial supremacy, collaborate for equality, and pray for a path toward life-flourishing communities.

From the Hearts of the Young

#not yet uhuru

*We long for life-flourishing communities –
In our individual contexts –
And around the globe.
Societies which embody equality, equity and
freedom –
Where all your people have access to wealth,
education, resources
And all that is needed for abundant life;
Where all voices are sought out, listened to,
and heard,
And wisdom flows freely – from everyone to
everyone,
Crossing all boundaries
For the wellbeing of all.
God of justice,
We are young people.
We are living in the midst of a brokenness*

We did not create –

*Legacies of slavery, colonialism, and inherited
unjust structures.*

*Yet we believe in the God-gifted talent we each
embody –*

*The particular insights you afford –
So that we can be a force for transformation
Today.*

The young people attended a workshop in London in December 2023. They upended the traditional training model that encompasses knowledge being transferred from the “knowing” to the “unknowing”—the very premise from which racial supremacy often stems.

DARE Global Forum harvests dreams and hopes for a transformed future



The Global Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) Forum focuses on bringing newer, younger, and cutting-edge scholarship to the “weaving mat” to explore and interrogate new models of mission and evangelism.

Seforosa Carroll, who teaches at the United Theological College in Australia, has her eye on a long-term goal: transformation. A member of the Steering Committee for the DARE Global Forum, Carroll co-led the “Ecology and Anthropocene” stream of the gathering.

She believes the forum is much more than a way to encourage innovative thinking. “It’s about contributing to making possible a new heaven and a new earth,” she said. “That’s the long-term vision.”

Previously serving as a respondent for DARE, Carroll made a commitment to serve on the Steering Committee because it was a way to listen, on a global level, to new ideas. “It was also a way to listen to dreams and hopes for a transformed future through meeting people and hearing their stories as they share in the struggle and celebrate milestones and

achievements,” she said. “Also, as an academic and a theologian, the topics explored at DARE coincide with my research interests.”

More than 100 people gathered at the DARE Global Forum in Bangkok in September 2023 to openly exchange ideas, and some of those topics, Carroll said, “are taboo or frowned upon either by wider society or our own churches.”

DARE, she added, is “a space where you can come talk about something that you may not necessarily have the freedom to talk about in your institutions.”

As a professor, Carroll works to form candidates for ministry in diverse contexts. “What does it mean to be a church in a growing, diverse context?” she asked, adding further questions about what it means to be Indigenous.

“What does it mean to be Indigenous and Christian?” she asked. “I was formed within a western tradition which has rules about how you should do theology and how you should write theology.”

Carroll hopes that the many exchanges at



DARE will lead people to think about God in different ways. “Just for an example, in the western world, writing is paramount,” she said. “But can theology be expressed orally or through creative writing? Through storytelling?”

She also hopes DARE will help participants find the confidence to introduce alternatives to the normal ways of thinking about theology. “That takes confidence and courage,” she said.

As the DARE Global Forum concluded, participants from 30 different countries returned home, bringing new ideas, actions, and inspirations with them.

DARE brought...

120 participants
30 countries
6 thematic streams
50+ papers and case studies presented
13 steering group members

2023 highlights of hope...



Plans take shape for Eric Liddell 100

Individuals and organisations renowned for excellence in their fields convened to work in March 2023 on The Eric Liddell 100, a major initiative to honour the legacy of Scottish icon and former London Missionary Society missionary Eric Liddell, well-known for his Olympic gold medal win at the 1924 Paris Olympics. The initiative will celebrate his life, sporting and community service achievements.



CWM London Office received visit from Malawi High Commission

In May 2023, the CWM London Office hosted a visit from Malawi High Commission's Development Counsellor Rev. MacDonald Sembereka, who served as special advisor to former Malawi President Joyce Banda, before taking up his current roles in diplomatic missions.

CWM Mission Secretary Rev. Dr Graham McGeoch outlined the work of CWM through its CWM Africa member church in Malawi and across the globe.



"Indecent and Indignant" in Bogota: taking a hard look at mission

From 29 November to 3 December, the Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) forum delivered difficult questions and discerning answers in Bogota, Colombia. The regional forum brought together 36 multi-disciplinary scholars and activists in various fields from 11 Latin American countries who, as a collective, took a hard look at how mission, with imperial roots that led to the marginalisation of many indigenous peoples, can be decolonised and the oppressed and exploited liberated.

Education, Formation, and Empowerment



About the Programme...

Education

God's intention for us and for all creation is goodness and flourishing. As we die to sin, we are invited to rise to life-flourishing. Our CWM education philosophy is that education should be geared towards the flourishing of life. We learn to live in the ways God intends. We learn to influence the world to live out God's calling to us.

Formation

Formation includes practical community living, social analysis, learning God's revelation among Indigenous communities, and participation in the campaigns and struggles to dismantle systems of oppression (Babylon). Formation also includes the development of competencies to engage in missional work. Physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual health and wellbeing all contribute to formation in discipleship. Formation for mission and ministry integrates different styles of learnings and builds the capacity of people to respond to God's call.

Empowerment

We value life-flourishing education and empowerment. CWM education strategies serve to empower individuals and communities. Building capacity becomes a starting point and is followed up by application of learning. By empowering people to act on what they have learnt we are activating mission. Mission is both sending and receiving. Education is fuel for both.

Academic Accompaniment Programme

The Academic Accompaniment Programme provides for further education. Such opportunities are used by member churches to:

- Build or upgrade a theological faculty
- Develop new leaders
- Acquire specific skills for emerging challenges in mission

Special Academic Accompaniment Programme

This programme offers post-graduate and doctoral research in theological education in partnership with selected renowned academic institutions.

Training in Mission

Training in Mission is open to young adults with Christian maturity and a sense of adventure and discovery.

Face2Face

Face2Face aims to facilitate immersion, Bible studies, and seminars for participants to reflect on mission in a post-colonial context, and engage in a global dialogue on theology, spirituality and mission.

A New Face 2023-2024

This is an opportunity for new female faces, and is open to ordained women with demonstrated leadership capacity.

2023 highlights of hope...



What it means on the ground...

“My mother was right”

Those are the words of Siphamandla Fayaka, from the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa. He’s the first in his family to graduate from a tertiary education programme—and that programme was Training in Mission.

He purchased his graduation robes as a keepsake, and dedicated his success to his mother. “Indeed, my mother was right when she told me that a persistent person [will] never meet unfortunate circumstances,” he said. “This achievement is not only for me, but for my family... and all those who come from the marginal lines of society. This programme proves that, despite our disadvantageous backgrounds, we can still do well if we put in the hard work.”

Fayaka was one among eight graduates from Training in Mission who showed persistence and willingness to challenge the church.

The programme, held in Fiji and Jamaica, celebrated graduation in November 2023. The ceremony, held at the Webster Memorial Church in Jamaica, was the most recent in the series of Training in Mission courses that have been nurturing the scope of the church’s public witness for the last 40 years.

TIM Participants

Siphamandla Fayaka Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA)	Chay Gah Yan (Xie Jiaxin) Ecumenical/Singapore Anglican Diocese
Tai-Li Hsu Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)	Susana Paopao Matamata Congregational Christian Church Samoa (CCCS)
Edgard Tamatoa Tepuhiarii Ētārētia Porotetani Māōhi (EPM)	Lemon Chambugong Church of Bangladesh (COB)
Atithi Halder Church of North India (CNI)	Ebenezer James Church of South India (CSI)



A New Face: nurturing the next generation of female leaders

Eight women pastors from various CWM member churches across the six regions arrived in Taiwan in November 2023 to attend “A New Face.” A six-week course offered in two three-week blocks over two years, “A New Face” seeks to provide a safe space for established women to share, be empowered, and ultimately equipped for female leadership in their respective churches.



Face-to-Face 2023: Young peacemakers explore what challenges inclusivity

With peacemaking more important than ever, the Face-to-Face programme helps young people become leaders in breaking the chains of conflict, reach a better understanding of each other's world views, and strengthen their framework of faith.



India: Where social structures and religion mesh

Twelve unordained ecumenical participants—from Taiwan, Zambia, Samoa, Tonga, England, Madagascar, Myanmar, and Botswana—came together for the six-week Face-to-Face programme in October and November 2023 to immerse themselves in the religious diversity that is India.

They examined the roles of religion not as a dividing tool, but as an active player that contributes to building peace for life-flourishing communities.



CWM re-envisioning life-affirming theological education in mission

“What are our visions for the future of theological education in mission in the face of permacrisis?” asked CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum during his welcome speech at the 2023 CWM Theological Education Consultation.

In January 2023, 30 delegates from theological institutions worldwide gathered at the Union Theological Seminary, Philippines, to re-envision the direction of theological education in a post-pandemic world during the Consultation themed “Life-Affirming Theological Education in Mission.”

Mission from the Margins

CWM seeks to propose alternative theologies—those that are rooted in local communities, in the margins. And the margins have voices. The Mission from the Margins programme aims to radically engage communities within their context as they recover their voices stolen and suppressed by Babylon. Through establishing networks, strengthening capacities, and creating alliances of the afflicted, this programme area not only serves to dismantle the mission model bequeathed to the contemporary church, but also works intentionally towards founding alternative communities that bear witness to justice-centered value systems, people-inspired political directions, and generosity of spirit in relationships.

Creating life-flourishing societies requires the commitment to denounce all systems and practices that stigmatise, criminalise, exclude, and dehumanise people because of their ethnicity, race, caste, gender, sexual orientation, health, and class.

The Mission from the Margins programme includes:

- Beyond mission: Church as a discipleship community of public witness.
- “I can’t breath.” Breaking out from white supremacy and racism.
- Creating life-flourishing societies for survivors of sexual harm.
- Cast out caste: breaking out from casteism
- “Coming out” of mission: reimagining life-flourishing societies.
- Decolonising mission: reimagining life-flourishing societies with Indigenous communities.
- Disabling mission: reimagining life-flourishing societies with disabled people.
- Mission on the move: reimagining life-flourishing societies with migrants and refugees.

2023 highlights of hope...



Building life-flourishing societies: Racism as the Roadblock

CWM Africa Region organised a training programme on “Youth & Racial Justice Africa”, gathering 25 youth participants from CWM Africa member churches and ecumenical partners, as well as resource persons to involve youths in liberation missiologies and explore how they can collectively address racial justice issues in their continent. Held from 23-27 April at Boksburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, it brought together youths to understand what South Africa endured during apartheid and to learn about the present situation of racism in Africa.



Gender and spirituality: Regaining voices for gender justice

The CWM Gender and Spirituality programme, held in November in Lusaka, Zambia, drew 29 participants from all five CWM member churches in Africa. The program is designed to educate, equip, and empower grassroots advocates to introduce alternative missiological thinking into local societies as a panacea for entrenched gender injustices.

Peace Building and Community Development

About the Programme...

The Peace Building and Community Development Programme seeks to translate CWM's central mission goals into action-oriented, mission-driven, and theologically-rooted programmes. The focus is on "glocal" peace building that addresses the realities of living under empire in a time of no peace and no justice for people or planet.

The programme foregrounds peace building and community development as intrinsically missional.

In 2023, member churches were creatively and fully involved in action, advocacy, and witness

on local, regional, and global levels while seeking to contribute to sustainable community development. The programme foregrounds peace building and community development, and includes the following facets:

- Seek and pursue peace with justice advocacy and action.
- Blessed are the artisans of peace: peace pedagogy, anti-oppression, and conflict transformation.
- Seek the peace of the city by transforming community development.
- The church for others: grants to support advocacy, solidarity, and action initiatives.

What it means on the ground...

CWM demands immediate ceasefire in Palestine, restoring peace with justice.

In a statement released in October 2023, the CWM condemns, in the strongest terms, Israel's "atrocious siege of occupied Palestine that has been uprooting, displacing, and killing innocent civilians and destroying their homes."

The statement read: "While the Hamas militants' acts of violence against Israeli civilians in kidnapping and killing are inhumane, Israel's egregious siege of Palestine, in particular of the people of Gaza, is even more inhumane and must be condemned."



2023 highlights of hope...



Engaging in God's mission through CWM/ Nethersole Fund and Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital

In June 2023, a CWM delegation visited the CWM/Nethersole Fund and the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in Hong Kong.

In 1994, owing to the relocation of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital from Hong Kong West to Taiipo in New Territories, the land at Bonham Road was sold. The land, which was registered under the name of former London Missionary Society (now known as CWM), had been occupied by the hospital for over a century.

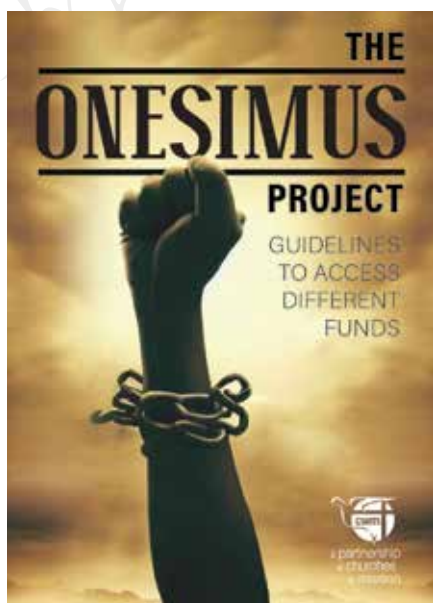
Both CWM and the hospital decided to use part of the proceeds from the sale of the land to establish the CWM/Nethersole Fund in Hong Kong in September 1997 to support the development of projects and services in need in both Hong Kong and mainland China in the following four main areas: evangelism, medical and health, education, and social welfare.

"The fund is not a direct service provider; instead we walk hand-in-hand with non-governmental organisations and the churches' initiatives rolled out by partner organisations," explained Chow Kun Chee Roland, fund chairperson.

The Onesimus Project

About the project...

The CWM's Onesimus Project has its roots in the CWM Legacies of Slavery Programme that sought to address the roots of racialised inequalities and injustices within the CWM family of church and the wider world. This focus was embraced in recognition that the roots of racialised inequalities and injustices were also embedded within the missionary heritage of mission societies like CWM's forebear, the London Missionary Society.



Onesimus offers us a biblical story to open up the issues of enslavement, release, confession, and discipleship.

The Onesimus narrative in the Epistle to Philemon served as a missional text in shaping the CWM Partner in Mission understanding and practice in the first decade of its existence. The narrative focused on the priority of building just relationships within ecclesial communities built on unjust structures of power dynamics.

Key areas

- Legacies of Slavery
- Modern Day Slavery
- Education for Liberation
- Transformative Ecumenism

2023 highlights of hope...

New Onesimus guide will help churches access funds to address injustice

In October 2023, CWM published "The Onesimus Project: Guidelines to Access Different Funds" to help member churches access three different types of funds. The booklet was launched in October 2023 at the CWM Member Churches General Secretaries' Conference.

The three funds described in the guide are the Reparatory Justice Fund, Healing of Memories Fund, and Modern Day Slavery Fund.

For each of the three funds, the guide outlines a description, aim, and guidelines on how to access. Another section of the publication offers guidelines for writing proposals, including a detailed suggested outline.



Transformative Ecumenism opens pathways to change

The Transformative Ecumenism (TE) Movement was launched on Saturday, 19 August 2023, at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The launch came after three days of a consultation on transformative ecumenism that began on 17 August and was attended by over 100 people, including eminent religious leaders from Kenya and across the globe. What exactly does Transformative Ecumenism do? It advocates the necessity to view the world from the vantage of those struggling for life, explained Lutheran pastor Rev. Dr Deenabandhu Manchala. “In the process, Transformative Ecumenism helps us learn to develop an awareness of the interconnected reality of all forms of life,” he said. “Such a view of life is necessary for a world that ensures life with dignity, freedom and justice for all.”

Transformative Ecumenism also opens pathways for individuals and collectives to get more involved with the initiatives and agents of transformative change—both at the local and larger levels. “To that extent, it presents itself as an opportunity for Christians and churches to move away from past modes of compromise with powers and power bases and be a part of the network of God shaping up around them,” said Manchala. “Transformative Ecumenism is people-based in its identity, pursuits, and approaches. It is a movement of people and a network of partners for God’s justice.”



National Commemorative Service pays tribute to heroes of Demerara Uprising

Bethel Congregational Church, part of Guyana Congregational Union, a CWM member church, hosted a National Commemorative Service to observe the bicentenary of the 1823 Demerara Uprising in August 2023. Its distinguished guests in attendance included Guyana Prime Minister Mark Phillips, Member of Parliament Hon. Dr Karen Cummings, Leader of the Opposition Aubrey Norton, Deputy Mayor of George Town Denise Miller, Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud, Permanent Secretary Elisabeth Harper, Chair of Guyana Reparations Committee Eric Phillips, and CWM Moderator Rev. Lydia Neshangwe.

Through a heartfelt liturgy crafted by CWM, the service honoured the legacy of leaders such as Quamina – a deacon and member of this church – and the sacrifices and valor of nearly 12,000 enslaved people who participated in the revolt for freedom. The 1823 Demerara Slave Rebellion is widely acknowledged as one of the largest uprisings by enslaved people and stands as a pivotal chapter in the history of slavery. The 1923 rebellion, together with a revolt in Jamaica in 1831, contributed significantly to hastening the Emancipation Act.

Members' Mission Forum



Africa: Building life-flourishing communities at the margins

The CWM Members' Mission Forum for the Africa region was held based on the theme "Africa in the context of building the life flourishing societies: Face to face with the reality and brutalities of Babylon," in February and March 2023 in Nairobi. The event brought together church leaders from CWM Africa member churches to collectively discern and seek the will of God as He works in the margins of society.

The event commenced with a keynote address by the General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, on "The other side of slave history:



Untold stories and hidden truths." Calling for research to be conducted on slave trade from East Africa through the Indian Ocean to Arabic countries, he highlighted the need for teamwork with those around the world who are also combatting systemic injustice and modern-day slavery. In addition, he urged Africa to acknowledge its complicity in the slave trade, and upon self-reflection, to seek justice, restoration and reconciliation.





Caribbean: Rise to Life – Radical Discipleship and Transformative Spirituality

The CWM Members' Mission Forum for the Caribbean region gathered 14 delegates, resource persons, and an ecumenical partner for empowering discussions, collective discernment, and mobilisation on mission priorities under the theme "Rise to Life: Radical Discipleship and Transformative Spirituality." Hosted by the Guyana Congregational Union in Georgetown, Guyana, in May 2023, Mrs Rose Wedderburn extended warm greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of CWM in the Caribbean region, and Dr Sudipta Singh, Deputy General Secretary for Programmes, presented an overview of CWM's programmes and structure on 28 May 2023.



The next day, the keynote address was delivered by Rev. Dr Michael Jagessar, who delved into moments of rising, including costly discipleship and transformative spirituality within the contextual setting. He emphasised the power of re-envisioned discipleship and its role of effecting positive change in communities and all creation, as well as the need to acknowledge and resist legacies of colonialism and promote justice, peace and flourishing life.



East Asia Region: Members' Mission Forum convenes

The East Asia Region – Members' Mission Forum was held in April 2023 in Singapore. This was the first in-person regional meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The theme was "Life-Flourishing Communities: Sharing and Partnership," and it brought together a delegation of 37 participants, resource persons, and guests from member churches and partners throughout East Asia.





Europe: Discusses life-flourishing themes

Twenty-eight delegates from five CWM Europe member churches and ecumenical partners gathered in April 2023 for the Members' Mission Forum (Europe) themed "Break down the Walls of Division" (Ephesians 2:14) held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The forum focused on life flourishing themes and discussed The Onesimus Project.

Hosted by the Protestant Theological University (PThU), the forum heard from Prof. Annette Merz and Dr Martijn Stoutjesdijk, who delivered the keynote address about a major international research project on legacies of slavery carried out by researchers from several universities and funded by the Dutch government. CWM General Secretary, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, shared information about The Onesimus Project with member churches, ecumenical partners and scholars.





Pacific: Radical Discipleship and Transformative Spirituality

CWM's Pacific Members' Mission Forum, themed "Radical Discipleship and Transformative Spirituality" was held in Nadi, Fiji, with inaugural worship led by Rev. Dr Amelia Koh-Butler, CWM Mission Secretary for Education, Formation and Empowerment.

Acknowledging the land on which the members were meeting, member church delegates, guest speakers, and staff sang in Fijian and shared in splashing of water as a symbol of rising to life through baptism. Re-envisioning a radical Christian discipleship must take into account the role of Christianity in colonising violence and occupation, and requires Christ's redemption of such a spirit and practice in discipleship.





South Asia: Life-flourishing Communities – Addressing Modern Day Slavery

The CWM South Asia Region – Members' Mission Forum was in May 2023 in Dhaka City Centre, Bangladesh, bringing together a delegation of 20 participants, resource persons, and guests from member churches and partners. It served to foster dialogue, collaboration and synergy among member church delegates as they explored effective strategies and approaches to address modern slavery in South Asia's social, economic and cultural context.



General Secretaries' Conference



The CWM Member Churches General Secretaries' Conference was held in October 2023 in Singapore under the theme "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation."

The conference brought together general secretaries of CWM member churches from around the world for fellowship, learning, and discernment.

In his opening address, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, CWM General Secretary, said that the conference is an opportunity for "all of us to connect with one another, to develop friendships, to foster partnerships, and to engage ourselves in productive conversations."

He added that it is also an opportunity for "us to involve ourselves in a discernment process by sharing our common wisdom, experiences, and contextual knowledge to find better ways to implement CWM projects in partnership with the member churches."

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Kenneth R. Ross, who spoke about the need for transformation in the world today. "As we survey our contemporary reality, it seems that the stench of death meets us on all sides," he said. "For God is a God of life; and death is overcome by resurrection."



Prof. Ross noted that "if ever there was a time when the world was crying out for transformation, it must be now!"

"We need to be together in transformation," he said. "One thing we have discovered through our involvement in mission is that it is the relational quality of human life that enables us to flourish."

The conference also featured in-depth discussions on several key topics, including The Onesimus Project, CWM Assembly 2024, and the new programmatic structure.

CWM Sunday



CWM Sunday 2023: CWM celebrates its 46th anniversary

Every year, the Council for World Mission (CWM) community commemorates CWM's inauguration as a mission organisation with a renewed missional ethos on a Sunday close to 18 July. CWM's 46th Anniversary Celebration was held at the Chen Li Presbyterian Church in Singapore on 16 July 2023. It was based on the theme "Break down the Walls of Division" (Ephesians 2:14), and attended by church members, CWM staff, and Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM) representatives.



Annual Members' Meeting (AMM): “Break Down the Walls of Division”

The Annual Members' Meeting convened in Changhua City, Taiwan in June 2023 under the theme “Break Down the Walls of Division,” taken from Ephesians 2:14, “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

Hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, the Annual Members' Meeting agreed to the formation of the CWM 2024 Assembly Planning Group and Nominations Committee as proposed by the Board, and approved the proposed dates, venue, and host churches for the 2024 Assembly.

During CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Joosesop Keum's presentation and proposal towards the CWM Assembly 2024, he said that ongoing global crises such as military conflicts; the climate emergency; and social, political and, economic inequalities challenge CWM's mission of reconciliation through building life-flourishing communities.

The Annual Members' Meeting also included a closing worship and Holy Communion service led by Rev. Pan Chung-Chie of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. In a sermon, Keum drew a parallel between the challenges faced by CWM, the church, mission work, and Peter's experience as described in John 21:5-13.

Keum emphasised, “As Christ is risen, we rise too with these people to raise our heads and to see the blue sky to overcome injustice, oppression, and discrimination.”





“Not Forgotten and Not Alone”

The CWM made a conscious decision to hold its June 2023 Annual Members' Meeting in Changhua, Taiwan as an act of support and solidarity with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, and the wider Taiwanese society.

“Taiwan has experienced increased military exercises (simulations and provocations), and the Taiwanese people feel increasingly vulnerable,” reads a statement, entitled “Not Forgotten and Not Alone,” issued from the Annual Members' Meeting.

Speaking of how Taiwan was one of the most isolated countries in the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement adds: “Taiwan was not allowed to participate in the global response to the pandemic, including accessing information and resources, sharing data and best practices, and participating in international discussions and decision-making.”

Throughout 2023 and before, CWM has been working closely with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and other ecumenical partners through the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, advocating for the rights of the Taiwanese people to self-determination, including religious, political, and

economic freedom, and in pursuing peace in the region.

“CWM affirms Taiwan's right to rise to life through the pursuit of justice, peace, and reconciliation,” reads the statement. “It acknowledges the resilience of the people of Taiwan in resisting the oppressive structures which threaten to destroy peace in their communities and limit their opportunity to flourish.”

CWM also commended Taiwan's generosity in contributing to the welfare and wellbeing of other nations, even in the face of its own challenges.

“CWM calls for greater global cooperation within and beyond the CWM family to support Taiwan in its struggle for peace, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law,” reads the statement. “It urges global multinational and ecumenical organisations to hear the voices of the Taiwanese people, to speak out against the military hostilities being suffered by Taiwan, and against the injustice of Taiwan's continued isolation.”

Ecumenical Engagement and Partnership



CWM and AACC sign MOU to strengthen ecumenical partnership

The General Secretaries of CWM and All Africa Conference of Churches signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2023 to facilitate ecumenical partnership and engagement in a signing in Nairobi, Kenya.

This framework of cooperation will enable both organisations to address missional tasks in the African continent, focusing on economic and social justice, creation care and climate justice, formation in mission, ecumenism, diakonia and leadership, said CWM Moderator Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, who was present to witness the ceremony.



“Representing over 200 million Christians, AACC is one of the largest ecumenical bodies in the African continent that promotes justice and proclaims the gospel of positive transformation. CWM will offer accompaniment to discern God’s will and address the pressing challenges the contemporary society in Africa is facing,” she added.



GEM School inspires proposals for economic justice for all

Taking place from 21 August to 1 September 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a city marked by stark socio-economic disparities, the 6th iteration of the Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics, and Management for an Economy of Life (GEM School 2023) brought together 24 participants to collectively reconsider economics for a fairer and more sustainable world. These participants hailed from over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, and the Pacific. Among them were church leaders, pastors, theological students, financial experts, advocates for economic justice, and environmental activists, all with the shared objective of fostering intergenerational and multidisciplinary dialogue and learning.

GEM School was hosted by the Council of Churches of Malaysia and convened by the Council for World Mission, World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation, and World Methodist Council, as part of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative.

ZacTax Campaign Relunched in Africa

The ecumenical Zacchaeus Tax (ZacTax) Campaign was relaunched on 20 May 2023, offering faith-rooted African perspectives on just taxation and reparations and sharing concrete proposals to advance corporate and wealth taxation as well as social and ecological reparations.

“Tax justice is a matter of faith. By faith, (all) are entitled to abundant life. Ordinary people have a right to know and to participate in decision-making tables that affect our own God-given dignity, said Suzanne Matala, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Oikotree, and the keynote speaker at the event held at the Mannah Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.



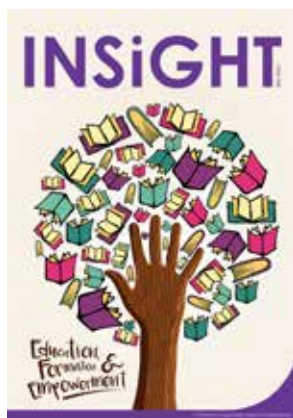
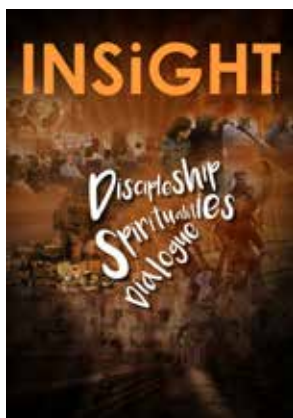
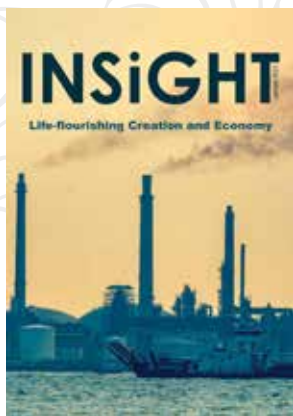
The ZacTax Campaign is a part of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) advocacy platform sponsored by the Council for World Mission (CWM), World Council of Churches (WCC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), and World Methodist Council (WMC).

CWM Communications

In 2023, CWM Communications made new inroads into prophetic storytelling that highlighted life-flourishing communities.

INSiGHT

Regular publications included six issues of INSiGHT with the following themes:



INSiGHT January

Life-flourishing Creation and Economy

INSiGHT March

Mission from the Margins

INSiGHT May

Discipleship, Spiritualities and Dialogue

INSiGHT July

Education, Formation and Empowerment

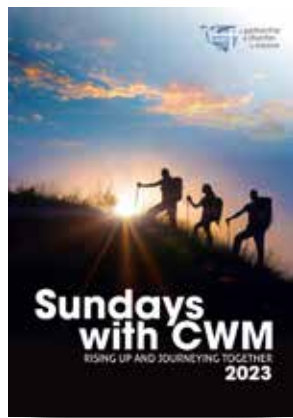
INSiGHT September

Mission Programme and Partnership

INSiGHT November

Peace Building and Community Development

Sundays with CWM & Annual Report 2022



CWM continued to grow its audience on digital media.

Website



The website drew
107,051 pageviews

Device breakdown

Desktop 52%, mobile 45%, tablet 1%

Top 10 viewing countries

1.  India
2.  Singapore
3.  United States
4.  United Kingdom
5.  South Africa
6.  Zambia
7.  South Korea
8.  New Zealand
9.  Taiwan
10.  Jamaica

During 2023, on social media, CWM channels saw significant growth.

Facebook



- 7,369 followers (16% more than 2022)
- Facebook reach: 122,423*

*Defined as accounts that saw any content from CWM page, including posts, stories, social information accounts that interact with the CWM page, and more.

YouTube



- CWM produced 32 new video titles
- Video views totaled 7,524*, (25% more than 2022)
- Viewed by non-subscribed audience 6,376 (84.7%), subscribed audience 1,148 (15.3%), meaning that most viewers watched the video as non-subscribers.
- Subscribers: 407 (38% more than 2022)

Weekly E-newsletter

- Subscribers: 1,319 (10% more than 2022)
- More than 50,000 emails sent.

The CWM Archives: SOAS Library

The Collections

Housed at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Library, University of London, since 1973, the CWM Archives are a unique historical resource for the study of the global spread of the Christian faith over the last 200 years, used by academic researchers, family historians, churches, and communities from around the world.

Documenting the work of European missionaries, as well as Indigenous evangelists and Christian converts in many parts of Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, records span the whole history of the organisation - from the foundation of the London Missionary

Society in 1795, to the creation of the Council for World Mission in 1977, and will continue to grow as records are added.

Comprising over 3,000 boxes, the archives preserve a wealth of material, including original handwritten letters and reports, journals, minutes, maps, a collection of early miniature portraits, thousands of photographs, slides and digitised film footage. The collections also include a reference library comprising over 13,000 published books and pamphlets, including periodicals, magazines, reports, translations and vernacular texts, and resources written for children.





Accessing the Archives

The Council for World Mission archives are available for consultation in the Special Collections Reading Room, SOAS Library. Please contact SOAS to arrange a visit or make a research enquiry.

Email : special.collections@soas.ac.uk

Phone : +44 (0)20 7898 4180

Special Collections

SOAS Library
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London, WC1H 0XG, UK

Details of services offered by Special Collections can be found at:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/research/library/special-collections>

Archive and Library catalogues can be accessed from:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/research/library/special-collections/search-our-catalogues>

Digitised materials from the collections can be seen at:

<https://digital.soas.ac.uk/cwmc>



Gathering at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Library at the University of London in September 2023, eight students and academicians from universities and research institutions across the United Kingdom explored together ways to decolonise mission studies.

Part of the SOAS Seminars series, the gathering offered access to and exploration of the CWM archives dating back to 1795. Scholars who have been working on archives from decolonial perspectives presented their research and worked while simultaneously guiding participants through archival material. CWM archivist Jo Ichimura offered an archival overview with the theme: "Voices in the archives: exploring the archival legacy of CWM."

Dr Daniel Preman Niles: An Asian Prophet



The Council for World Mission mourned the passing of Dr Daniel Preman Niles in August 2023. Dr Niles was the third General Secretary of the CWM and served the community of churches in mission with great

commitment from 1991-2002. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the mission of CWM have left an indelible mark on the CWM.

Originally from Sri Lanka, as the General Secretary of the CWM, Dr Niles assumed a pivotal role in shaping the future of global mission work for the CWM community. During his tenure, he enabled an ecumenical process to further the discussion on cross-cultural and contextual approaches to theology. He also initiated the process for the Network of Theological Enquiry (NOTE) as an effort to help bridge the divide between theology and religious studies and explore common concerns among theologians from the global south. Jointly published by the CWM and CCA, *The People of God Among All God's People*:

Frontiers in Christian Mission can be seen as one of the prominent outcomes of the NOTE process. He facilitated the process of creating an endowment fund through the capital received as the Gift of Grace from the sale of Nethersole Hospital in Hong Kong. As a result, CWM not only was able to begin the Mission Support Programmes (MSP) but also stabilised its financial status even today.

Through his leadership in prominent global ecumenical organisations, to which he dedicated most of his life, and through his academic scholarship, he contributed greatly towards the global ecumenical community, especially the Asian contextual and liberation theology. His recent publications, *The Lotus and the Sun* and *Is God Christian?* are a couple examples of his commitment to promoting Asian contextual and public theology. A festschrift titled, *Scripture, Community and Mission*, was jointly published in 2003 by the CWM and CCA in honour of Dr Niles.

Dr Niles understood that the challenges of our time required not only intellectual solutions but also the development of a shared understanding and a collective will to effect positive change. His approach to global mission was inclusive and participatory, recognising the wealth of wisdom that emerged from the diverse cultures and traditions of Asia.

He tirelessly worked to bring people together, encouraging interfaith dialogue, and promoting respect for differences as well as shared values. He served as an inspiration to numerous young Asian theologians and offered them opportunities to develop contextual ways of living out theology in Asia. His ability to connect with individuals from all walks of life was a testament to his genuine humility and compassion.

As we bid farewell to this extraordinary leader, let us remember and celebrate the life he lived, the ecumenical values he stood for, and the theological inspiration he provided to us all.

CWM Mourns Demise of Ecumenical Mama, Dr Agnes Abuom



With great sadness and heavy hearts, we mourned the demise of our beloved ecumenical mama, Dr Agnes Abuom. Her passing was an immense loss to the global ecumenical movement, where she played

an extraordinary role as a visionary leader and a steadfast advocate for justice and peace. She dedicated her life to promoting unity, mission, and reconciliation through the ecumenical movement. She paved the way for Transformative Ecumenism and continued to work to renew the ecumenical movement, always firmly based on her unyielding faith.

Throughout her long distinguished ecumenical career, Dr Abuom tirelessly worked for gender equality and empowerment. She championed the cause of gender equality and empowerment, breaking barriers and inspiring female leadership and paving the way for many women to assume leadership roles within the Church and ecumenical movement. She herself broke countless barriers to serving the WCC as its president and moderator and the global ecumenical movement with dignity, integrity, and simplicity of her leadership.

She always represented the voices of marginalised communities, particularly those from the global south. Her efforts were instrumental in ensuring that the perspectives, experiences, and concerns of churches in the Global South were heard and taken into account in shaping the international discourse on faith and justice. With her leadership, she greatly contributed towards successfully holding the WCC assemblies in Busan in 2013 and Karlsruhe in 2022. Dr Abuom has been a faithful supporter of the world mission, including the recent World Mission Conference 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Dr Abuom's contributions to the global ecumenical movement will forever be remembered in our collective memory and continue to guide and inspire us as we strive to carry forward her legacy.

Who We Are



EUROPE

Congregational Federation (CF)

Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW)

Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN)

Union of Welsh Independents (UWI)

United Reformed Church (URC)



CARIBBEAN

Guyana Congregational Union (GCU)

United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands (UCJCI)



AFRICA

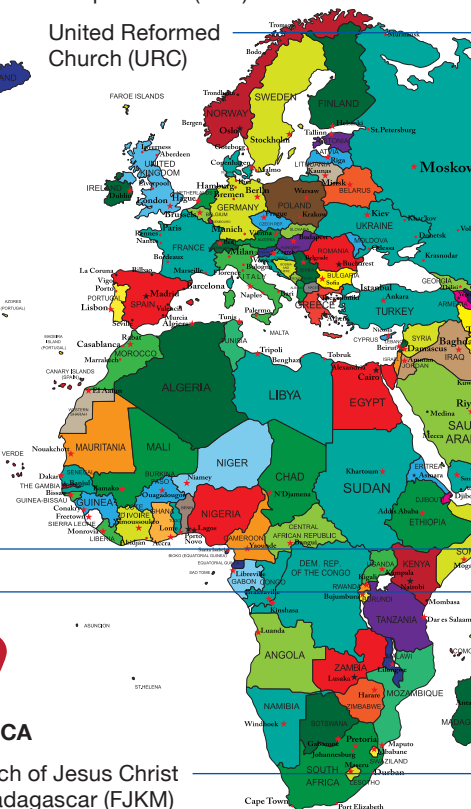
Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM)

Churches of Christ in Malawi (CCM)

United Church of Zambia (UCZ)

United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA)



Our Members

32 Member Churches
41 Countries
190,188 Congregations
22.2M Members



Governance and Leadership

Board of Directors & Trustees

Council for World Mission Ltd

Rt Rev. Lydia Cynthia Neshangwe (Moderator)
 Mr Siliga Atiako Kofe (Treasurer)
 Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum (Ex-Officio)
 Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
 Mr Markel Abe Oneil Virgo
 Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn
 Rev. Ram Thanga
 Elder Lim Kar Hor
 Rev. Jill-Hailey Skeel Harries
 Mrs Albertine Kabaru
 Rev. Giron Samely Lyttan
 Dr Prema Sarojini Francis
 Ms Sarah Phua Yiran
 Ms Rozemarijn Annemieke van't Einde
 (resigned: 14 November 2023)

Council for World Mission (UK)

Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn (Chair)
 Ms Lindsey Brown (Independent)
 Rev. Philip Leslie King (Independent)
 Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
 Ms Sarah Phua Yiran
 Dr Prema Sarojini Francis

Council for World Mission Africa NPC

Rev. Dr Lungile Mpetsheni (Chair, Independent)
 Rev. Jill-Hailey Skeel Harries
 Mr Markel Abe Oneil Virgo

Committees

Audit Committee

Rev. Dr Andre September (Chair)
 Mr David Mark Tucker
 Ms Jennifer Britton

Dr Sanjay Patra
 Ms Yu Chia-En
 Ms Betty Kuili

Finance Committee

Mr Siliga Aitake Kofe (Treasurer) – Chair
 Elder Lim Kar Hor
 Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
 Mrs Deborah Wilson

Investment Committee

Prof Ho Yew Kee (Chair)
 Mr Courtney Campbell
 Ms Celestine Khoo
 Dr Marie-Aimee Tourres
 Rev. Dr Melanie Smith
 Mr Richard Morgan
 Ms Priya Lukka

Staffing Committee

Mrs Albertine Kabaru (Chair)
 Rt Rev. Lydia Cynthia Neshangwe
 Ms Lindsey Brown
 Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn
 Rev. Giron Samely Lyttan
 Rev. Ram Thanga

Programme Reference Group

Rev. Dr Setri Nyomi (Chair/expert)
 Rev. Dr Byung Joon Chung
 Mr Corey Hampton (Youth)
 Dr Aruna Gnanadasan
 Mrs Patricia Diane Montoya
 Rev. Dr Laurent William Ramambason
 Mrs Roina Taufao
 Prof Kathleen Ferrier
 Dr Iva Carruthers



Management

Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum (General Secretary)

Dr Sudipta Singh (Deputy General Secretary – Programmes)

Rev. Dr Sindiso Jele (Mission Secretary – Social Justice & Africa region)

Rev. Julie Sim (Mission Secretary – Mission Programme & Partnership, East & South Asia regions)

Rev. Daimon Mkandawire (Mission Secretary – Ecology & Economy)

Rev. Dr Graham McGeoch (Mission Secretary – Discipleship & Dialogue, Europe region)

Rev. Dr Amelia Koh-Butler (Mission Secretary – Education & Empowerment, Pacific region)

Mr Soonyew Sum (Mission Secretary – Finance)

Rev. Dileep Kumar Kandula (Mission Secretary – General Secretariat)

Rev. Dr Young-Cheol Cheon (Mission Secretary – Communications)

Legal and Administrative Details

Council for World Mission Ltd

UEN: 201206146Z

Registered Charity

It is a registered charity in Singapore

Registered Address

143 Cecil Street, #03-02 GB Building

Singapore 069542

Office Address

114 Lavender Street, #12-01, CT Hub 2

Singapore 338729

Auditors

Baker Tilly TFW LLP, 600 North Bridge Road

#05-01 Parkview Square, Singapore 188778

Bankers

The Development Bank of Singapore Limited

12 Marina Boulevard

Marina Bay Financial Centre, Tower 3

Singapore 018982

Solicitors

Goodwins Law Corporation, 143 Cecil Street

#03-02 GB Building Singapore 069542

Company Secretary

Ms Pauline Ang Hooi Yeong

Council for World Mission Ltd

Report of the TREASURER

Treasurer: Siliga Kofe

Reflection

Resilience Amid Challenges

The global economy faced significant challenges in 2023, including inflationary pressures and banking crises. However, it demonstrated remarkable resilience. Central banks raised interest rates to combat inflation. These adjustments aimed to balance controlling inflation and supporting economic growth.

Geopolitical tensions increased across the globe, impacting international relations and shaping policy decisions. Military conflicts in Europe and the Middle East continue to simmer, while international relations are undergoing significant shifts with the emergence of rival political-economic blocs.

We thank God that in terms of financial performance, CWM had recovered from the losses of 2022, when our investment income suffered substantial unrealised investment losses.

Financial Highlights

Income

GBP 15.6 million

Net surplus

GBP 7.4 million

Expenses

GBP 8.2 million

Fund balance

GBP 186.0 million

Income

The charity experienced a total income of GBP 15.6 million, primarily attributed to investment valuation gains of GBP 11.8 million, supplemented by dividend income of GBP 3.6 million, GBP 0.2 million from property rental income, voluntary contributions and other sources.

GBP 15.6 million Total income	GBP 0.2 m Voluntary & other income
	GBP 3.6 m Dividend income
	GBP 11.8 m Investment gain (unrealised)

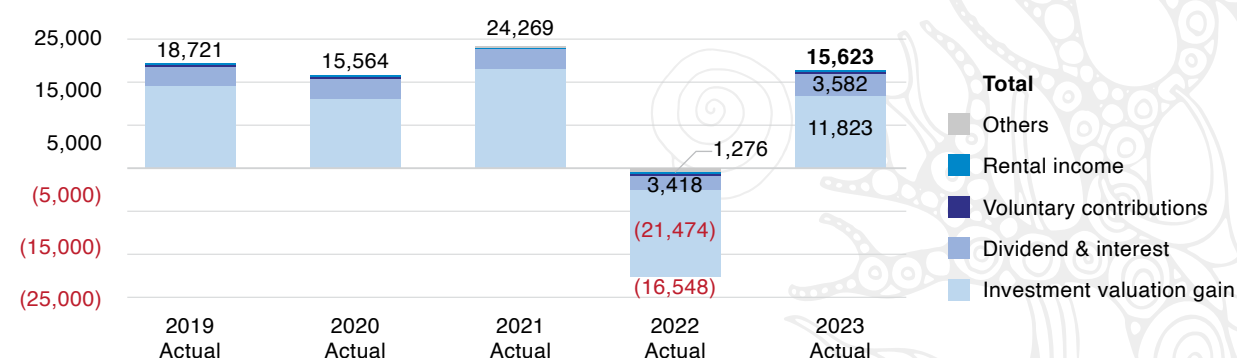
Investment Income

Global investment markets were volatile for most of the year until the last quarter of 2023, when major Investment markets rallied strongly, fueled by euphoria in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) boom. As a result, our investment portfolio returns improved, registering a nominal return of +9% for the year.

As CWM is largely self-funded, investment income is a cornerstone for advancing our vision and missional purpose. Over the past three years, the investment landscape has proven to be increasingly volatile and challenging, as reflected by the fluctuating trends in our investment returns.

There is a limit to any investment strategies, and investment return largely mirrors the broader global investment landscape; our ESG adherence further limits investment options. Therefore, prudence in managing our investments and spending within income level continues to be an effective safeguard in sustaining income growth.

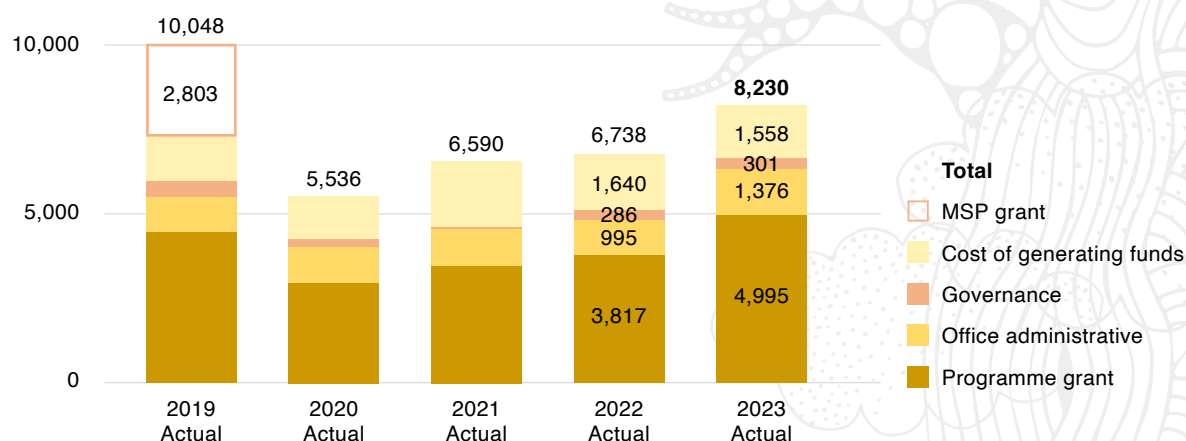
Income (GBP'000)



Expenses

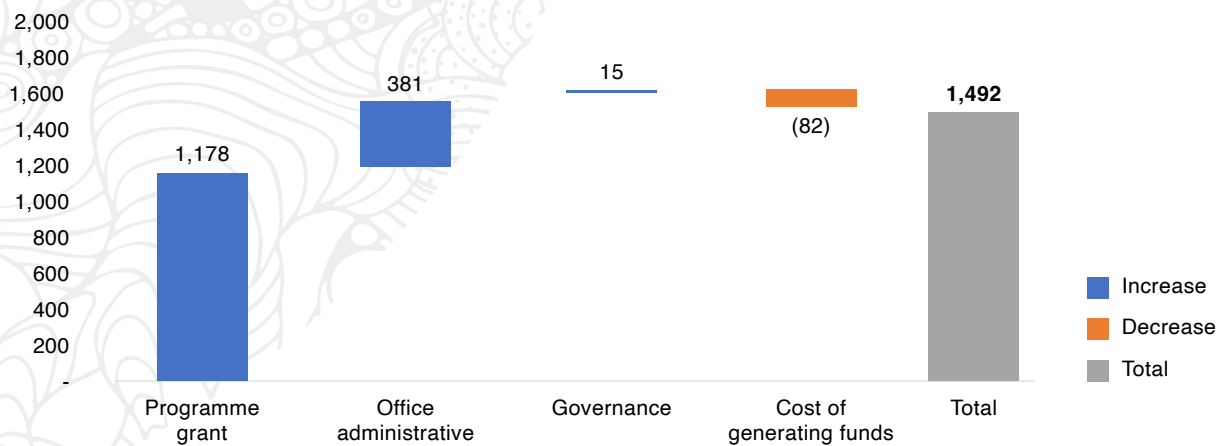
Total expenses (including investment managers fee) saw an increase of 22%, totaling GBP 8.2 million, driven by the post-pandemic resumption and normalisation of activities.

Expenses (GBP'000)



The rise in expenses was primarily due to higher programme grants and governance meeting costs, as in-person activities resumed in the second half of 2022. Rebuilding connections, programmes, and mission is critical after more than two years of pandemic-induced movement restrictions.

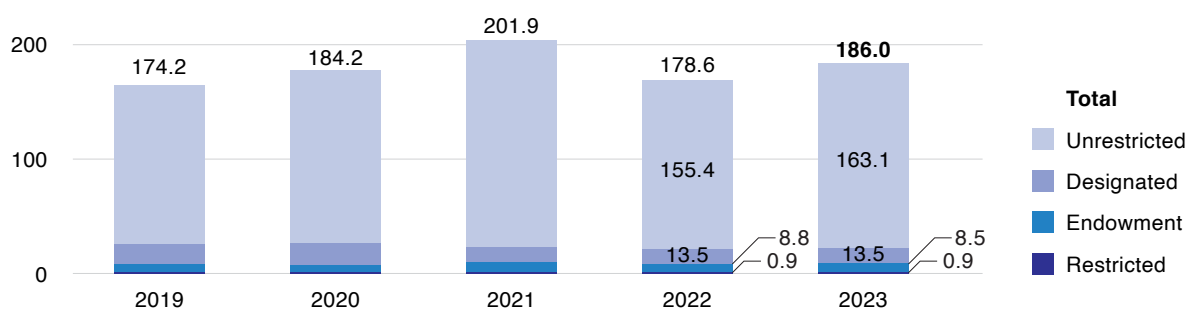
Movement in expenses 2023/2022 (GBP'000)



Fund Balance

As of 31st December 2023, our fund balance stands at GBP 186.0 million (+4.1%). Despite the turbulence in the global landscape, we take comfort in knowing that God is in control. This year, we witnessed a turnaround from last year's investment losses. A return to investment income gain contributed to a surplus for the year. Over the years, CWM has been guided by prudent long-term investment and responsible spending principles. These remain our guiding principles and our approach to stewardship.

Fund (GBP'M)



Outlook 2024

Global risks that have been impeding the global recovery since 2022 have not subsided. At the time of writing, there is still ongoing military conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, and geopolitical tensions and inflation remain high. As a result, the investment landscape will remain volatile as these risk factors continue exerting pressure on investment markets, affecting investment returns.

In closing, I express my profound gratitude for the reunion and reconnection of our members after a challenging two years during the pandemic restrictions. This year will be my final year as Treasurer. My sincere appreciation goes to the Board, Sub-Committees, fellow Finance Committee members, Secretariat, and all Staff members for their unwavering efforts throughout the year.



a partnership
of churches
in mission

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