GUYANA VISIT REPORT

February 2026



Left to right: Revd Sarah Lowe, Bishop Kofia Nials and right Sandra Lopez, on the Essequibo River

The main objective of my visit to Guyana was a pastoral visit to Revd Sarah Lowe, our mission partner with the MCCA. Sarah is serving in Guyana as a circuit minister in Georgetown, with responsibility for two congregations. Another part of her role is to develop a counselling ministry that offers guidance, support, and counsel to individuals across the District, particularly in situations requiring specialised counselling expertise. This aspect of her role has developed slowly, partly because Sarah is still becoming accustomed to how the District functions and to the resources available to support this work.

Guyana is a melting pot of cultures, where descendants of formerly enslaved Africans, Indigenous peoples, and descendants of Indian indentured labourers live alongside one another in relative harmony. The District reflects this cultural "chutney" mix, as it is often described in Guyana, with church members from all these ethnic backgrounds represented across its circuits.



The Essequibo Circuit



During my visit, Bishop Kofia Nials accompanied Sarah and I across the Essequibo River to visit the Essequibo Circuit, where many church members come from local Indigenous communities. There, Sarah met with members who spoke about mission and ministry in their communities. They described the challenges posed by declining congregations and the proliferation of other local churches that have been successful in attracting community members. However, they expressed gratitude to God for their ministry among the healthy number of children who attend church activities.

The two churches for which Sarah Lowe has pastoral responsibility are Susamachara Methodist Church, with an attendance of four to six people, and Houston Methodist Church, with approximately 32 attendees. Susamachara Methodist Church is exploring ways to reach the growing Spanish-speaking Latino community in the area, and this has given Sarah energy and enthusiasm for her work with the congregation.



Susamachara Methodist Church in Georgetown

Bishop Kofia expressed his appreciation for Sarah's contribution thus far. He noted her warm and approachable manner and observed that local church members are gradually building stronger relationships with her.

Bishop Kofia also reflected on the District's efforts to implement the United Strategic Direction (USD) plan[1] through the Church Can programme. Bishop Kofia shared that the District has benefited from training offered through the USD, particularly in climate change and disaster preparedness, evangelism, and class leadership development. The plan has encouraged the District to organise evangelistic crusades, train mentors for new converts, and place greater emphasis on friendship evangelism. The USD was initially shared with all District members through a leaflet campaign, followed by a series of workshops.

Sandra Lopez

[1] A joint All We Can and Methodist Church in Britain initiative