

REPORT
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BOARD

INTRODUCTION

This past year has been a year of change and challenge for the International Missions Board (IMB). We can no longer rely on “a slice of the cake” from central funds to meet all of our budget costs, but are required to raise a percentage of our budget ourselves. While the target of £150,000 to be raised directly by the IMB for 2010 seemed daunting we are grateful to the Lord and our people and congregations that we were able to raise over £130,000 (close to 90% of target). For 2011 the target is £200,000 but there are hopeful signs that congregations and individuals are rising to the challenge. In effect we see this new financial arrangement as an opportunity to make our own people better aware of the exciting projects that we are involved with as a denomination. We, along with our colleagues in the Home Missions Board, have produced missions brochures highlighting the different places and people that comprise our work. As a Board, we now need to make an even more thorough and consistent job of making known the great work that our missionaries and partner churches and agencies are doing.

The Free Church of Scotland has traditionally been very mission-minded and over the years has provided funds not only to our denominational work, but also to other agencies. We already work closely with established and respected organisations that specialise in particular fields. One such group is Latin Link with whom we shared a very well attended conference in Inverness in June of 2010. We are aware that our people who are called to the mission field may not find opportunities of service in our traditional fields. We have therefore developed a policy to establish good practice when Free Church people wish to work with other organisations. This will enable the “mother church” to have a vital and important part in supporting prayerfully and sometimes financially such people as well as publicising their work.

We also face change and challenges as far as International Mission itself is concerned. We have to adapt to the fact that our work doesn’t necessarily have to be “over there”. We are involved in Frontier work on our own doorstep. Due to concerns about confidentiality and security, we have re-named one area of service as the “Martyn Project”. The IMB wants to emulate the pioneering spirit of Henry Martyn (1781-1812) who brought the gospel to the least reached people on earth from South, West and Central Asia. The “Martyn Project” report is not as detailed as before as we have to be sensitive to publicising this material.

While they are mentioned in the body of the report we also want in the introduction to publically recognise and thank those who have or will be returning from years of faithful service on the mission field. Rev. Dr David and Mrs Olwen Ford returned this year from Colombia for health reasons but, it is anticipated, will continue to be able to serve Latin America from the home front. In the months that remain we will be welcoming home Rev. Norman and Mrs Angela Reid and Rev. Dr John and Mrs Elizabeth Ross, both having served faithfully at Dumisani in South Africa. The church is indebted to them and we give them our sincere thanks.

As we respond to these challenges we are reminded of the greatest challenge of all set by our Lord himself where he first tells us his disciples that “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Matthew 9:37 - 38

He then says “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18 - 20

(A) LATIN AMERICA

Quotation - "The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." – *Henry Martyn, missionary to India, Persia & Turkey*

Promise - “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

1. Overview For almost a century the Free Church of Scotland has seen Latin America as one of its fields of service. Many Free Church men and women have heard and heeded the mission call to Latin America serving as pastors and preachers, doctors and nurses, teachers and administrators. In the last thirty years, nothing

short of an evangelical revival has taken place in South and Central America. By the grace of God, the dedicated service of her workers and the prayers of her people, the Free Church of Scotland has been able to play a part in nurturing and extending a rapidly growing Church. Today, through key personnel and strategic grants, the Free Church of Scotland is a significant partner in providing excellent theological education in Perú and Colombia. In the field of primary and secondary education, Colegio San Andrés in Lima continues to grow and flourish as it approaches its centenary in 2017.

2. Perú

2.1 *Lima Evangelical Seminary (www.sel.edu)* Rev. Donnie Smith continues to serve as Rector of SEL. He and his wife Julia have committed their lives to the service of the Peruvian Church and the seminary which now enjoys University status is a testimony to their commitment and zeal in the Lord's service. Achieving University status is a tangible recognition (by the secular authorities) of the quality education and training provided by the seminary to students from all regions of Peru and countries throughout the region. The Seminary continues to exercise a broad ministry to all levels of the church from Sunday school teachers to seminary rectors. Rev. Donnie Smith is encouraged by a recent discussion with the Principal of the Free Church College concerning cooperation between SEL and the Free Church College. Such collaboration would first require a cooperation agreement between the two institutions. This process may lay the foundations for a relationship that would be a blessing to both institutions and to the wider church in Scotland and Peru.

2.2 *Colegio San Andrés (www.sanandres.edu.pe)* "*Timor domini initium sapientiae,*" "*El Temor de Dios es el Principio de la Sabiduría*" - *Prov.1:7*. When the Lord is at work, the results are obvious. We remain grateful to God for the ongoing blessing enjoyed by the pupils, their families and the entire staff team at Colegio San Andrés.

2.2.1 *Spiritual* The school is the centre of a ministry to almost 700 pupils and their families, who are mostly Roman Catholic. God has been pleased to bless the efforts of the pastoral team through the conversion of many. Both last year and this year, there have been a majority of Christian pupils in the senior years, who are actively involved in the school's practical Christian ministries programme. The school initiated a newly-formed association of Christian schools, bringing together the many Christian schools both in the capital city, Lima, and throughout the country, to share resources and expertise, and to set and monitor standards.

2.2.2 *Academic* The School continues to benefit from a steady and significant rise in pupil numbers from 475 in 2008, to 525 in 2009, to 625 in 2010 and to 687 in 2011. The school is now at its maximum capacity, with a waiting list in several year groups. The continued growth in pupil numbers has necessitated the hiring of several new staff. The staff team now numbers 110. Staff in-service training, forward-planning and evaluation are intrinsic elements in the ongoing drive to raise academic standards. In 2010, 90% of final-year students gained admission to universities.

2.2.3 *Administrative* The School is self-sustaining financially, has no debts, and in 2010 reported a net profit of £119,000. The annual turnover at Colegio San Andrés now exceeds £1.3 million. The expansion of the past few years has involved considerable building work to accommodate students, and there is now no further room for expansion on the present site. A fund-raising programme among former pupils has begun, with the aim, once the transfer of the school is authorised, of purchasing a greenfield site for playing fields and a future annex.

2.2.4 *Governance* In preparation for transferring the governance of the School and ownership of the school property, a new local educational association has been formed comprised of members from the International Missions Board and Peruvians with education, legal and financial expertise. This is a monumental step in the 94 year history of Colegio San Andrés and cause for celebration. We pray that 2011 will contain similar landmarks in the process of transferring the school to local governance and local ownership.

2.2.5 *Legal* In the midst of encouragement there have been challenges. The court case concerning the deaths of two pupils in Scotland is currently being heard in the Peruvian courts. Every effort has been made (and continues to be made) to resolve this case through a mutually agreeable settlement. The IMB and Board of Trustees have demonstrated a sincere and determined resolve to participate in every effort of conciliation. The International Missions Board renews its call to the church to pray for a fair, rapid and equitable settlement of this case.

2.2.6 *Personnel* Mr Clive and Mrs Ruth Bailey have completed their third year of service. The school has welcomed Miss Catriona Macdonald who will add her teaching and missionary experience to the English department. Catriona reports from Perú:

"My first impressions of San Andres are very similar to my first impressions of Lima – bustling, dynamic, noisy, youthful, lively and mad traffic at break times/rush hour! I have been in Perú for seven weeks and in the school for six. I am enjoying the freedom of working in a Christian environment and being part of the San Andrés community. In particular I am appreciating the positive attitude and commitment of the staff as well as the closer relationship

between teacher and pupil. Within the school I am teaching English to three classes within the primary department. I am also learning Spanish and receive regular lessons from a tutor. I have just started to take an SU group one lunchtime per week and have had the opportunity to take part in the school's practical ministries programme."

There is also a steady number of volunteers travelling to Lima to support the work of the school. Rachel Mein and Rosy Fraser are currently at the school. There are always opportunities at Colegio San Andrés for volunteers of any age. Contact Clive Bailey or the International Missions Board to find out how you can serve.

2.2.7 Personal Currently, the Bailey's are concerned for the health of their daughter Catriona. When Clive returned to Perú for the start of the new academic year, Ruth remained in Scotland to support Catriona and accompany her for medical appointments. Currently the Baileys are praying for a diagnosis and a course of treatment for Catriona. The International Missions Board joins them in this prayer and commends them to the prayers of the wider church.

2.3 Moyobamba

2.3.1 Presbyterian Church (www.presbimoyo.org) Rev. David MacPherson reports:

Last year it was reported that the Moyobamba congregation had planted a new church on the outskirts of the city. The new congregation, in Lluyllucucha, is now served by Pastor Walter Anaya and a Kirk Session and has seen steady growth in the course of the year. The mother congregation in the town centre has largely replaced the 70 members who were commissioned to start the new congregation with 40 new members joining the church by profession of faith in 2010. Pastor Eliderio continues to serve as senior pastor of the congregation. Pastor Oscar Briones has left the leadership team in Moyobamba to take charge of a new church plant in the northern city of Piura.

2.3.2 The Annie Soper Christian School The 2011 school year began with approximately 300 pupils under the leadership of Mr. Arturo Solis as headmaster and strengthened by the addition of Pastor Dario Meza as the new school chaplain.

2.3.3 University of Moyobamba Steps towards the creation of a Christian university in Moyobamba continue to be made. The road to this ultimate objective is still a long and possibly tortuous one. A portion of the land purchased for this project (c. 150 acres) is now being developed commercially with the planting of teak, cedar and mahogany.

3. Colombia

3.1 Fundación Universitaria Seminario Bíblica de Colombia (www.unisbc.edu.co) 2010 was a year of transition and challenge. The seminary, like many in its position, is facing a significant funding crisis. Exchange rates and economic downturn translates into reduced mission expenditure from funding partners in the U.S. and Europe. The Free Church of Scotland remains a key partner for the Seminary. As Rev. Dr David Ford writes, "The most encouraging feature in the past year was the Ministry of Education approval of Latin America's first professional online course at an evangelical Seminary: the postgraduate specialisation in "Christian Worldview and Ethics" started in January with seven students enrolled. However, the continued financial difficulties, falling day time student numbers and increased violence in the city have made the past year particularly difficult. Those involved in theological education are heartened by the continued demand for a trained leadership from an evangelical church which is growing at about 6% annually."

Rev. Dr Manuel Reaño has stepped down from his position as rector of the seminary though he remains on staff. Manuel's health has been a matter of concern to himself, his family and the wider church but he reports that he is feeling much better. He is currently enjoying a period of sabbatical leave and furlough – both of which are well-deserved. The Reaños will be in Scotland in 2011 – a time of rest and renewed fellowship is eagerly anticipated. In September Manuel will resume teaching duties at the seminary. He has been asked to be the editor of the Seminary's magazine (*Ventana Teológica / Theological Window*). He is also considering ways of ministering to those whose health and wellbeing have been compromised in their service to the Lord's cause – this is a growing field of pastoral care.

While in Colombia the Fords exercised a wide-ranging ministry. David taught Synoptics, Greek text, John's gospel, Biblical Theology, Church History. He managed *Recursos Teológicos* website and wrote for *Ayuda Pastoral* (Pastoral help) website. Olwen used her time and talents facilitating *Zero Stress* sewing room with the running of workshops, helping families in the local community and encouraging local leadership of the project.

David and Olwen Ford returned to Scotland in 2010 – a few months earlier than planned. David's health was an ongoing concern and all were agreed that the time to return was right. The Fords are enjoying a period of furlough in Lenzie and the IMB and David are in discussion concerning his on-going role in serving the church in Scotland and in Latin America. Technology now means that instruction can take place via the internet or Skype and also many

thousands of people each month are making use of the excellent online resources pioneered by David while at the Seminary.

4. Conclusion The door for Gospel work in Latin America remains wide open. The IMB has the right people with the right skills in the right institutions to provide the right training for a new generation of Christians and church leaders. The work is strategic and visionary; the blessings are obvious. In past generations our prayer was that the blessings enjoyed in Scotland would extend to nations like Perú. Now, the situation is reversed. In Latin America, Church growth, dynamic evangelism, and impacting society and culture with the Gospel are typical. The Gospel cause in the British Isles, however, is receding under a tide of materialism, secularism and scepticism. If the Lord showered on Scotland even a small portion of blessing enjoyed by God's people in Latin America, our churches would be crowded, our college would be over-subscribed and our missionary personnel would increase geometrically.

(B) INDIA

Strategy Our strategy for India is to support our Indian colleagues in building a strong, fully independent, indigenous Church conscious of its own identity and reaching out to its communities through the preaching of the Gospel and related mercy ministries. To achieve this we are committed, by agreement with the Presbyterian Free Church (PFC), to a progressive annual reduction in its grant while offsetting this reduction through the support of appropriate development projects. We also provide financial support for Christian education and medical work.

As made clear in our strategy, our work in Central India involves supporting our partners in three specific areas of Christian work; the church work of the PFC, the educational ministries (day schools) of the PFC in Lakhnadon and Chhapara, and the medical and community development work of Lakhnadon Christian Hospital (LCH). We will consider each in turn.

1. Presbyterian Free Church (PFC) The PFC is a small denomination consisting presently of four congregations; Premnagar and Vijainagar (in the city of Jabalpur) and one in each of the small towns of Lakhnadon and Chhapara.

There is much cause for encouragement in the evangelistic work of the PFC, particularly in the villages surrounding the towns of Lakhnadon and Chhapara. In eleven villages surrounding Lakhnadon there are 125 new believers or seekers with weekly Sunday services in three of these villages. In Chhapara the outreach work is conducted in partnership with an Indian missionary organisation called Grace Ministries under the leadership of Vinay Das, an elder in the Chhapara congregation. In the last three years there have been 110 baptisms and many of these are now members in the Chhapara congregation. A discipleship course has recently begun for 30 young people.

In the midst of much encouragement there are, as we should perhaps expect, difficulties and discouragements. As reported previously in 2009 the Premnagar congregation effectively separated from the PFC. IMB delegates who visited India in 2011 were asked by the Presbytery to assist in taking steps towards reconciliation; sadly the efforts made proved unsuccessful.

2. Educational ministry This consists of the day schools at Chhapara and Lakhnadon run by the Education Committee of the PFC. Both schools are highly regarded in their respective communities, evidence of which is to be seen in growing pupil numbers (c. 800 in Chhapara and c.500 in Lakhnadon). The growth, though welcome in one regard, has brought with it significant financial and administrative challenges. The fees charged are very modest and prove insufficient to provide even very low salaries for the very committed staff. Such a situation is unsustainable in the medium term and the Education Committee are faced with the challenge of tackling and overcoming the financial shortfall.

Thought is being given, in discussion with the Education Committee, of the possibility of establishing a pupil sponsorship scheme that would allow supporters in Scotland and elsewhere (including India) to assist in the payment of school fees for the poorest children.

3. Lakhnadon Christian Hospital (LCH) The IMB delegates to India in January 2011 were greatly encouraged to witness the progress being made by the hospital under the energetic and visionary leadership of Dr Heman Prasad (Medical Supervisor) and his team. Dr Prasad is ably assisted by Mr. Albert Chandu (Administrator) and Mr Raj Singh (responsible for Community Development). Other key players include Dr Jewel (wife of Dr Heman) and Mrs Sheetal (wife of Albert Chandu). We limit ourselves to noting the following highlights;

- Vast improvement to the outpatient department facilities largely funded by funds provided by Women for Mission (WfM)
- Purchase of ambulance (also funded by WfM)

- Building and inauguration of new staff quarters for medical personnel. These buildings consist of two apartment blocks with accommodation for 18 families in spacious and comfortable surroundings and have been funded with the support of De Verre Nasten (the mission wing of the Gereformeerde Kerken Vrijgemaakt).
- Continuing expansion of the community development work in c. 200 villages that includes health education, preventative health work, HIV/AIDS programme, and water / irrigation projects (wells and / or dams).

It is also worthy of note and thankfulness to God that there is now an excellent relationship existing between the hospital and its leadership team and the local PFC congregation. Mr Raj Singh is an elder in the congregation and the families of Dr Heman and Mr Albert Chandu are active and supportive members. As a Church we are grateful to God for such able and godly men and women serving at LCH and are confident that the modest support we are able to provide is being wisely and effectively utilised.

Conclusion As commented in the Report 2011 provided an opportunity for IMB delegates to visit India and it is only right to acknowledge the generous and kind hospitality received from all connected with the PFC, LCH and the schools. Finally we are very pleased to report on the visit to Scotland in April 2011 of the Rev. Samit Mishra and Mr Pradeep Kumar (minister and elder respectively of the Chhapara congregation). This provided many the exciting opportunity to hear at first hand of the Lord's work in Central India.

(C) SOUTH AFRICA

Overview The IMB joint strategy for South Africa is to work with Dumisani Theological Institute and the Free Church in Southern Africa in achieving their financial dependence progressively by 2017-18; to facilitate Dumisani in serving the Church in South Africa as it provides training and theological education, and the FCSA in its spiritual growth and outreach to its own and other people groups; to support these bodies by appropriate projects.

The following report from our missionaries in South Africa gives a good account of the current situation there:

1. *Free Church in Southern Africa* Over the past year there have been many occasions for praise and thanksgiving in view of the evidence of God's blessing on the Free Church in Southern Africa. In a recent conversation with a member of another South African Presbyterian denomination it transpired that there existed much good will and respect for the FCSA's clear and faithful testimony to the Gospel. Surely nothing is more important than that, although that is not all that can be said about the Church. Before detailing some of the positive factors, it is as well to share some of struggles and difficulties faced by the FCSA.

Despite our Lord's solemn injunction to 'maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' there are parts of the Church where unhelpful tensions and rivalries threaten its unity and peace. Another obvious and easily identifiable challenge is the proper governance of the Church's affairs, including satisfactory financial management. When able and well informed elders face-up to these challenges they can sometimes be resented as if they were seeking power and influence for themselves. In most districts, both in the Transkei and the Southern Presbytery, there is a long established shortage of men. In many congregations men are significantly out-numbered by women, and this gives a poor impression to male followers of traditional religion who often consider Christianity to be a women's religion. Another challenge faced by some congregations is that their ministers are not resident in their districts and, therefore, have minimal involvement with their charges. And then, of course, there is money. With a membership base that is largely rural and impoverished, the FCSA struggles to pay adequate stipends and to maintain its buildings in good repair. As is sometimes the case at home, the grip of church traditions can exclude the radical restructuring that might make the Church sustainable in its own context. Such tribulations, struggles, battles and hindrances are nothing new and have been forever the adjuncts of gospel ministry. The much loved Rev. Norman Reid retires to Ireland this summer. His invaluable and diligent service to the FCSA over many years has been greatly appreciated and will leave a significant gap in the ranks of the Southern Presbytery.

On a more positive note, over the last year, progress has been made in the King William's Town district, as elsewhere. The church building at Club View progresses towards completion. The floor was recently re-laid after the previous cement finish broke up and furnishings have been provided for the main meeting area, and the Sunday School room. The Sunday morning congregation is steadily growing as members become more consistent in their attendance and as new members join. The Sunday School continues to flourish. The services are normally led by the local elders, who, along with district elders, frequently preach. Dr John Ross often takes a number of consecutive weeks, preaching in English. The singing, both of the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed, leaves little room for improvement and with the whole congregation willing to lead the singing, official precentors are redundant. Rarely do district communions come to pass without new members and baptisms; often there are ordinations of elders and deacons too.

News, both positive and of difficulties, like Paul's 'wide door for effective work' with 'many adversaries,' (1 Cor. 16:9), comes in from Southern Presbytery districts around King William's Town – Knox, Pirie, Dewar, Nonzwakazi, Burnshill, East London – as well as the two more remote districts of Dordrecht and Somerset East, and the congregations in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Sometimes changes of interim-moderators, the settling of congregations with newly inducted ministers, or the diligence of active elders have all contributed to the blessings experienced. But, one suspects, it has mainly been the prayerfulness of some of the older women that has averted disasters and maintained the testimony of the Church. As 'Rabbi' John Duncan once admonished an Assembly, it is such praying women, often living in remote places – like St Kilda, in his example – that contribute to the good of the Church far more than people imagine.

The story of the last twelve months in the Transkei districts of Tabase, Embo and Ngcingwane has been one of hard working ministers, conscientious elders and deacons, growing congregations and spiritual blessing. One cause of great encouragement has been the licensing of Umfundisi (Rev.) Mason Nkwelo, a successful businessman and gifted elder, who, whilst pursuing private studies at Dumisani Theological Institute, offered himself for the ministry of the Church. As a part-time student, Umf. Nkwelo graduates Bachelor of Theology next year. The Transkei Presbytery meetings, usually held in Mthatha, are characterised by warmth and friendliness, with substantial time being given to reports from the districts. It used to be the custom to provide a meal in the church at the end of business, before members travelled home, but a recent trend, indicating the depth of fellowship that exists, is for one or other of the local elders to invite the whole Presbytery to his home for the meal in a more relaxed setting.

A very encouraging and growing development in some of the more remote villages, both in the Transkei and the Southern Presbytery, is for district moderators and interim-moderators to undertake pastoral home visits after the Sunday service.

A number of FCSA men, recognised by the Church as candidates for the ministry, are currently studying at Dumisani. There can be no doubt that the greatest contribution the Free Church of Scotland can make to its sister church in South Africa is to provide for its theological education in a context that is doctrinally Reformed and also warmly evangelical.

2. *Dumisani Theological Institute* Following on from Dumisani's 30th anniversary in 2009, we rejoice that it continues to provide high quality training and theological education, publication of Christian literature and generally giving invaluable support to the Church in South Africa.

There is no doubt, however, that the past year has been a particularly difficult year in the history of Dumisani, brought about in part by the financial challenges resulting from a combination of factors, including the fluctuating exchange rate of the rand against sterling, and rampant inflation in South Africa.

Nonetheless, there have also been notable encouragements in the work and it is important that we look at some of these before examining the difficulties.

2.1 *Encouragements*

2.1.1 *Graduating Students* In 2010, a good number of students made progress in their studies and several students completed their degrees. The latter were recognised at the Awards Ceremony in March 2011, where the visiting speaker was the Rev. Noel Due from Australia, remembered warmly by many from his time in Scotland. Among the successful graduands were the Rev. Buntu Mtishe, a minister of the Free Church in Southern Africa, who completed his BA Honours degree; Mr Wayne Grätz who completed his BTh degree (with outstanding results) and Mrs N. Masabalala who also completed her BTh. It is a particular achievement for Mrs Masabalala who has been doing her studies part-time over a total of eight years by attending evening classes. In addition to these three students, another student, Fezile Mathiso, completed all the requirements for his BTh from North West University with excellent results.

2.1.2 *Sunday School Work* The year began with a great encouragement in that Rev. Victor Nkatha joined the staff as Sunday School Project Worker and Junior Lecturer, as a result of funds raised for Sunday School work by children of the Free Church of Scotland. Throughout the year, the team who lead the regular workshops gave direction and encouragement to dozens of Sunday School Teachers, including a record attendance of around 110 at one workshop!

2.1.3 *Building Project* It was very exciting to see a proposal in drawings and then a 3D digital model for a proposed new building which would allow Dumisani to work much more effectively as a college. The issue of buildings had been discussed by the Board of Governors for many years and so there was a real sense of progress and anticipation as the drawings and model were unveiled.

2.1.4 Visitors There were numerous visitors to Dumisani during the course of the year. These visits are always encouraging for the Dumisani community and often they provide an opportunity to serve the wider Christian community. Notable among the visitors in 2010 were Professor I. Howard Marshall in March and, in October, Dr Jamie Grant (a former colleague of the Principal) and Rev. David Meredith, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

2.2 Challenges

Along with these significant encouragements, however, there were numerous serious challenges, in three areas in particular:

2.2.1 Financial The staff had known for around two years that the international economic climate was becoming more difficult and that this would inevitably affect their income. What had not been anticipated was that the strength of the Rand against the Pound Sterling (as well as against some other currencies) would have a devastating impact on their income. In a frighteningly short period, Dumisani went from having a very encouraging income stream to facing a significant deficit which quickly ate into reserves. Towards the end of 2010, it became clear that drastic action was required to safeguard the institution.

2.2.2 Staff retrenchments With deep regret, the Board of Governors agreed to “retrench”, or make redundant, two of the administrative staff, Mr Ikho Magodla and Mrs Lilitha Mshweshwe. This was an extremely painful decision to have to reach and the impact on the morale of the remaining staff was very negative.

2.2.3 Family circumstances In addition to the difficulties faced by Dumisani, several family members of the staff team have experienced difficult times. Bethany Wilson and Tara Lombard have both faced significant health challenges and have been in hospital for surgery. One student also lost three members of his immediate family over a period of six months. Then towards the end of last year, Elizabeth Ross was attacked by a dog in a shop which has left some ongoing health issues and has had a major impact on the Rosses’ plans for return to the UK. More recently, the Rev. Norman Reid’s father passed away in Northern Ireland. Between these various issues, staff commented more than once of their awareness of a spiritual battle going on hidden from their eyes.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Finances Humanly speaking, all the future plans for Dumisani, including any building project, really depend on increasing income so that it meets expenditure. Of course, while the staff must plan and work, this really depends on God moving his people. The staff team has been deeply touched by the support of the Lord’s people all over the world. Please pray with them that God will continue to provide for them through his church

3.2 New Staff Dumisani will be greatly diminished by the departure of Norman and Angela Reid in July 2011 and John and Elizabeth Ross in October/November 2011. These are two very experienced and very well-qualified pastors and teachers; their wives have made numerous invaluable contributions to the work. It is still not clear what funding and suitable personnel will be available to replace one or both of these men. Please join the Dumisani team in prayer for clarity about available finance and for a clear call for those who the Lord intends to carry this work forward.

3.3 Thanks The International Missions Board expresses its warmest appreciation for the marvellous contribution of Dr. Wilson and his team, particularly in view of the very difficult circumstances which they have gone through in the past year. The Board has made an emergency additional payment of £10,000 from its reserves to help address the extreme financial challenges, and hopes to be able to help further later in the year.

The Board is very grateful for the help of Mr. Adam de Jong, a business analyst and Free Church elder, who has gone out to Dumisani to assess the situation there and report back to the Board to enable them to make as informed decisions as possible as they prayerfully consider how best to address the situation and ensure, by the grace of God, the firm establishment and further development of this vital work.

(D) MARTYN PROJECT

1. Overview Over the past few years the Board has invested time, personnel, and money in this important work of the church. We are aware that it is a challenging field of service. However, with suitable, gifted individuals we believe that we are making an impact, with God’s help, at home and abroad.

2. India Delegates visited Rahmat in January 2011 and were pleased to see him upbeat and focused on his work. It was evident that he and his family have a positive outlook on the work in Dehradun and Rahmat’s ability to continue in this strategic ministry.

3. *West & Central Asia* Colin Macleod has been involved in a project to produce contextualised Bible study materials. With numerous visits throughout the year to the area, Colin was and is able to assess the needs of the church there and therefore is able to teach and encourage those who are ministering with limited resources.

Since the summer of 2009, S and S have been based in Glasgow. They are grateful to God for the great door of opportunity that has been opened for them there amongst the people group with which they had been working overseas. In addition to the well attended weekly Bible Study in their home, they are involved in pastoral visitation and practical support of believers and seekers. The City of Peace meetings are an integral part of teaching and discipling those they come into contact with especially since few are fluent in English. Many are asylum seekers and refugees so this brings with it its own set of challenges but S and S are grateful for the prayerful support of the Lord's people and have been upheld through the ups and downs.

In order to regularise his position, the International Missions Board is petitioning the General Assembly that the Rev. Seoras MacGillivray be granted a seat in Presbytery based on his residency within the bounds of the Presbytery and being engaged in the work of Asiam Ministry

Adam has spent three months in Central Asia in the spring of 2011. His primary objective is to help, encourage and serve the Christian communities in whatever way he can as they face many difficulties. Along with that, Adam serves in Europe and North America where home Bible Fellowships are set up. Thousands have heard the Gospel in these gatherings and many have come to faith in our Lord.

4. *Deputation and Prayer* The sensitive nature of the work means that we can't publicise our work as much as we would like. Again, we would encourage our congregations to invite those involved in the Martyn Project to speak about their work. We also value your prayers for this exciting work which we believe is 'cutting edge' in our day and in our society.

(F) GENERAL

1. *Publications* The Board expresses its thanks to Mr Charles and Mrs Daphne Douglas for the excellent work they do in editing the *From the Frontiers* material each month for *The Record* and the *Frontiers* annual. We are also most grateful to Daphne for compiling the monthly Missionary Prayer Notes – a work she has been doing faithfully now for 20 years. The Board also thanks the Editors of *The Record*, *The Instructor* and *Free* for promoting missionary interest.

2. *WfM* (www.freechurch.org/missions/wfm) The Board acknowledges the excellent work done by Women for Mission (WfM) in fundraising and in supporting our missionaries. The following is a brief report from the WfM Committee:

We thank God for His blessing on the various activities undertaken to support home and international mission workers. We would also like to thank everyone involved in the work of WfM and to let them know it is greatly appreciated.

2.1 *Committee* Meg Millar has handed on the responsibilities of secretary to Hazel Morrison but is staying on the committee. We are sorry to have said farewell to Margaret Smith, Daphne Douglas and Maggie Macleod all of whom have served faithfully for many years. We are happy to welcome Sarah Cumming and Rona Matheson as new members on the committee.

2.2 *Day Away 2010* The Away Day took place on Saturday 25th September last year in Macdonald Conference Centre, Aviemore and all who attended were blessed by the ministry of Ann Benton. We look forward to the next Away Day in 2012.

2.3 *Disaster Fund* Since the last Annual Meeting, sales of recipe books 1 and 2 have enabled WfM to give the following donations through the Disaster and Relief Fund to areas of natural disaster:

£3000 in September 2010 to Blythwood for Pakistan
£500 in October 2010 Tearfund for West Africa – Mali Appeal

The sale of WfM Christmas Cards has also raised over £2000 for this fund.

2.4 *International Missions Board* Christine Mackenzie and Anne Mackay (Golspie) represent WfM at Board meetings. Kirsty Boyd and Christine are able to support women missionaries home on furlough. They have

interviewed Olwen Ford and Ruth Bailey on home-leave from the Church's mission fields. Sarah Cumming is now also available to help in this area.

2.5 *Link People* Sarah Cumming is now overseeing WfM Link people to ensure relevant information is passed from the Committee to WfM groups and individual women throughout the Church.

2.6 *ICT Committee* This group consists of Alison MacDonald, Joan Montgomery and Kirsty Boyd, who have produced high quality leaflets and posters to advertise WfM's work.

2.7 *WfM Page* Alison Macdonald continues to edit the page in *The Record*.

2.8 *Support-a-Volunteer* During 2010/11, there were seven young Free Church members who received financial support to help them serve as volunteers in mission areas. Information about Support-a-Volunteer can be found on the Free Church Website on: www.freechurch.org/missions/wfm.

2.9 *Project* At the time of writing, the 'Home & Away' project has already provided funds to the following:

Weekly Lunch Club – Leith Free Church
Mums & Toddlers Group – Cross Free Church, Ness
Bible Study Material – Neil White, African Outreach

2.10 *Annual Theme and Bible Study* The Annual Theme for this year has been 'Living for God's Glory'. Bible Study material was available on the website.

3. *Support Groups and Young People* The Board greatly values the work done each year by the three Mission Support Groups in raising awareness and funding for mission projects. The effort they make each year makes a big difference to so many in our various mission fields. The Board also commends the young people of the Church for all they achieve in raising funds for Mission through the Youth Project.

4. *Furlough Flat* The Board is indebted to Mrs Mary MacMillan and Miss Anna MacDonald for the great work they do in looking after the furlough flat in Edinburgh. They always go the second mile in making the flat ready for the visiting missionaries and this is greatly appreciated.

5. *Eastern Europe for Christ* The Board continued its annual support of the excellent work of EEFC providing them with a grant of £2,500.

6. *Partnership with other Churches* The work of the Board is greatly helped by the keen mission interest and support of Mr Ernest Brown who serves as the representative of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Northern Ireland. We value our continued partnership with them in mission. The Board also greatly appreciates the continued prayerful and active support of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

7. *Disaster Fund* The following amounts were received and paid out during 2010:

Balance at 1st January 2010		£23,320
Amounts received		
WfM Donation	£8,220	
Congregational Donations	£21,503	
Individual Gifts	£4,852	
Interest Earned	£149	
Gift Aid Recovered	<u>£121</u>	
		£34,845
Amounts paid		
Blythswood - Buckets of Love	£8,000	
Tear Fund - Haiti & Pakistan	<u>£35,000</u>	
		£43,000
Balance at 31st December 2010		£15,165

DAVID MACPHERSON *Chairman*
IAIN MACASKILL *Vice-Chairman*

APPENDIX

Petition: Rev Seoras MacGillivray

To the Venerable the Generable Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland indicted to meet at Edinburgh on 23rd May 2011 the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll humbly shews:

1. Whereas Rev. Seoras MacGillivray was ordained by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for the work of Asian Ministry on 1st December 2006 in accordance with Act II, Commission of Assembly, October 2006 at the request of the International Missions Board;
2. Whereas Mr MacGillivray has been engaged from 2007 in language study in preparation for the work for which he was ordained;
3. Whereas in the providence of God he has been unable to continue this study or take up an appointment overseas in the furtherance of this work because of visa difficulties;
4. Whereas since September 2009 he has been working temporarily in Asian Ministry in Glasgow under the oversight of the International Missions Board until such time as it is possible to go abroad again;
5. Whereas there appears no immediate prospect of this becoming possible;
6. Whereas it is desirable that his position be regularised and he be placed on a standing similar to the other Asian Outreach Workers in Glasgow;
7. Whereas he is resident in the city of Glasgow and attends Govanhill Free Church within the bounds of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll;

Wherefore may it please the General Assembly to grant to Mr MacGillivray a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll so long as he remains resident within the bounds of the Presbytery undertaking the work of Asian Ministry on condition that he submit an Annual Report through the Glasgow and Argyll Presbytery to the International Missions Board for consideration by the Joint Asian Outreach Committee; or do otherwise as in their wisdom they deem best.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the International Missions Board and thanks the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.
2. The General Assembly greet all our missionary personnel and assures them of their continued support. It gives thanks for safety and security for all the mission workers over the last year and prays for their ongoing well-being in circumstances that can be precarious.
3. The General Assembly commend the work of the gospel in 'closed' countries and among migrants and refugees who now live in the United Kingdom.
4. The General Assembly commend S and S and their family to the prayers of the Church.
5. The General Assembly send greetings to Adam and his family, thanking them for the personal sacrifices that they make to serve the Lord in this work and to assure them of the continued prayers of the Church for his safety and blessing in the work.
6. The General Assembly send greetings to Rahmat and his family, thanking them for the personal sacrifices that they make to serve the Lord in this work and to assure them of the continued prayers of the church for his safety and blessing in the work.
7. The General Assembly commend Rev. Colin MacLeod and his family to the prayers of the Church.

8. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the International Missions Board and grant its crave. They grant to Rev. Seoras MacGillivray a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll so long as he remains resident within the bounds of the Presbytery undertaking the work of Asian Ministry on condition that he submit an Annual Report through the Glasgow and Argyll Presbytery to the International Missions Board for consideration by the Joint Asian Outreach Committee.
9. The General Assembly send greetings to the Presbytery of the Presbyterian Free Church in India and encourages them as they establish a strong and fully independent indigenous church.
10. The General Assembly send greetings to the Education Committee in India and encourages them in their efforts to improve the finances of the schools so that this vital ministry can continue.
11. The General Assembly commend the work of outreach and mission especially in the villages of Chhapara and Lakhnadon and shares in the joy of seeing many come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
12. The General Assembly send greetings to Dr Heman Prasad and the staff of Lakhnadon Hospital and Chhapara Health Centre commending them for their ministry of Christian care and compassion.
13. The General Assembly commend Lima Evangelical Seminary for training and equipping a new generation of church leaders in Perú and throughout Latin America.
14. The General Assembly note with approval the possibility of cooperation between SEL and the Free Church College, and encourage those involved to explore the feasibility of such arrangements.
15. The General Assembly commend Rev. Dr Donnie and Mrs Julia Smith for their lifelong commitment to serving the church of Jesus Christ in Perú.
16. The General Assembly commend Clive and Ruth Bailey in their service in Lima at Colegio San Andrés.
17. The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to God that 629 pupils have matriculated at Colegio San Andrés and that 18 new members of staff have been hired.
18. The General Assembly commend the work of the Annie Soper School and the Moyobamba congregation with its vision for church planting and prays for the establishment of a Christian university in Moyobamba.
19. The General Assembly commend the work of Medellín Seminary and expresses their appreciation to Rev. Dr Manuel and Mrs Patty Reaño and Rev. Dr David and Mrs Olwen Ford.
20. The General Assembly greet our missionaries serving in Dumisani, Rev. Dr Alistair Wilson, Rev. Dr John Ross and Rev. Norman Reid and assures them of the prayers of the church.
21. The General Assembly acknowledge the valuable contribution made to mission life and work by Mrs Angela Reid, Mrs Jenny Wilson and Mrs Elizabeth Ross.
22. The General Assembly greet the Free Church in Southern Africa and assures her of our continuing prayers for God to bless and prosper her.
23. The General Assembly greet the Board of Dumisani Theological Institute and pledge the Church's continued support for the work it undertakes.
24. The General Assembly assure the Dumisani Board of our prayer and support in appointing replacement lecturers for Rev. Norman Reid and Rev. Dr John Ross as they approach retirement.
25. The General Assembly send sincere thanks to Rev. Norman Reid for his dedicated and excellent work in Dumisani and for his significant involvement in the Free Church in Southern Africa for many years. The General Assembly also pays tribute to the valuable contribution made by Mrs Angela Reid during their years in South Africa and wishes them every blessing in the Lord for their retirement.
26. The General Assembly send sincere thanks to Rev. Dr John Ross for the excellent contribution he has made in Dumisani and also for the help he has given in the Free Church in Southern Africa. The General Assembly also expresses its thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Ross for her keen involvement in the work and gives thanks for the good

measure of recovery following here illness. The General Assembly and wishes Dr and Mrs Ross every blessing in the Lord for their retirement.

27. The General Assembly greet all the staff, students and Board of Governors of the Dumisani Theological Institute and gives thanks for their dedication and encourages them to maintain the present range of activities associated with Dumisani.

28. The General Assembly greet Mr Mike Moore and all the CWI workers expressing appreciation for their work in Jewish evangelism, and prayerfully commends the work of the society to the Lord.

29. The General Assembly encourage members of the Free Church of Scotland to prayerfully consider opportunities for service within CWI.

30. The General Assembly greet all our Free Church members working outwith areas of direct Free Church missionary operation and assures them of our prayerful and practical support.

31. The General Assembly thank Mr Charles and Mrs Daphne Douglas for editing material for *From the Frontiers*. They also thank Mrs Douglas for her diligent and faithful service in producing the monthly Prayer Notes.

32. The General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the part played by the Mission Support Groups in raising funds and fostering an awareness of the special needs found in all areas of our missionary activity.

33. The General Assembly gratefully acknowledge the value of the work done by Women for Mission and commends them for their outstanding fund-raising efforts. They express their appreciation for the help and advice given by their representatives on the Board, Mrs Christine Mackenzie and Mrs Anne MacKay.