

WfM Report 2008/09

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by the WfM Committee over the past year. We thank the Lord for His goodness, wisdom and blessing on the various activities undertaken to support home and international mission work.

COMMITTEE During this year several changes have occurred. Anne Mackay has served on the Committee for over 20 years and as she retires we warmly thank her for her willing and enthusiastic service. As Catriona Macdonald and Angela Thomas also leave the committee, we thank them for their valued contribution. We are pleased to welcome Janice Anderson and Hazel Morrison on board and are thankful for the harmony that exists among us all. We would greatly appreciate your continued prayers as we work together to support the mission interests of the Church.

DAY AWAY 2008 On the 27th of September 350 ladies from all around the country gathered at the Macdonald Conference Centre in Aviemore for the 8th WfM Day Away. The topic for the day was 'Opportunity Knocks' (based on Colossians 4: 2-9) and Nola Leach, Chief Executive of CARE, gave two challenging talks on this subject.

The missionary speaker was Martha Macpherson, who shared some of what she had experienced in her recent move to Aberdeen from Peru. Morag Christie, recently returned to Glasgow from South Africa, shared how her health concerns provided opportunities to tell others about her faith. Sandra Armstrong and Annabel Robertson spoke from their own experience of everyday opportunities to serve the Lord. The programme also allowed for informal time which was spent enjoying friendships old and new. A wide variety of craft stalls raised over £1700 for the current project. We would like to thank everyone involved in the arrangements for the day. Above all, we give thanks to God for the teaching and fellowship enjoyed during our time together. Please pray for the Committee as preparations have already begun for the next Day Away.

RECIPE BOOKS This year, our second recipe book was reprinted in time for Christmas. Since the last Annual Meeting, sales of both books have allowed WfM to give the following donations to areas of natural disaster:
£5,000 via Disaster & Relief fund to Burma, £5,000 via World Vision to China Earthquake, £2,000 via OM for Mercy Appeal, India and £3,000 via Disaster & Relief fund to Congo

Since 1995, £83,384 has been given to various Disaster and Relief projects from the profits of recipe book sales. £55,500 has been sent via the Free Church D&R fund and the remainder via other agencies such as OM, Tearfund and World Vision.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BOARD (IMB) Anne Mackay and Margaret Smith have continued to represent WfM at Board meetings but as from June this year Christine Mackenzie will take Anne's place.

PERSONNEL AND RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE Kirsty Boyd, Christine Mackenzie and Margaret Smith provide support for women who are home on furlough or about to begin service overseas. We thank Catherine Macpherson and Mary Gillies for providing this support in the past.

PRAYER NOTES We again thank Daphne Douglas for her work in compiling the monthly missionary prayer notes. Congregations are now encouraged to receive these by e-mail.

LINK PEOPLE We are grateful to the Link people in different congregations for distributing project leaflets.

ICT COMMITTEE (Information & Communication Technology) The work of this committee includes producing the annual project brochure and the programme for the annual meeting. They have also created and will update as necessary a powerpoint presentation publicising and supporting the work of WfM. We thank Catriona Macdonald for her helpful input and Alison Macdonald will now work alongside Joan Montgomery and Kirsty Boyd.

WfM PAGE Alison Macdonald wishes to thank all who have so willingly contributed material for the Monthly Record. This has undoubtedly raised the profile of WfM within the church and encourages everyone to work together to support mission. Our thanks also go to the General and Missionary Editors of the magazine.

SUPPORT-A-VOLUNTEER FUND During 2008/9 the following Free Church members received financial support to help them serve as volunteers in mission areas: Becky Robertson (Uganda), Stewart Johnson (Peru), Eleanor and Melford Horrocks (Nigeria), Jane MacKenzie (China), Lyndsay MacKay (Peru) and Catriona MacArthur (Dumisani).
We are grateful for all donations which make this support possible.

PROJECT At the time of writing, the 'Health Matters' project has received £21,373. This money will be used by Eastern Europe For Christ, Emmanuel Hospital Association, India, and the San Lucas Project in Moyobamba.

ANNUAL THEME AND BIBLE STUDY The Annual Theme for 2008/09 was "Making the Most of Every Opportunity" and a number of groups used the accompanying Bible Study material. The new theme for 2009/10 is, "Where is your treasure?"

WfM WEBSITE Relevant information about WfM and materials to download can be found on the website. Enter www.freechurch.org and click on Missions. We thank Catherine Pearson for her help with the upkeep of the website.

Finally, thank you all for the support and encouragement you give to the WfM committee throughout the year. Please continue to pray for this important work.