

OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BOARD

(A) INTRODUCTION

The last year has been one of change, opportunity and challenge. We have been blessed to witness first hand how God has been at work through the international ministry of the Free Church. He has certainly not withdrawn his blessings. We have seen his gracious provision of people and resources and have clearly experienced His forward leading. We are convinced there is a vital role for denominationally based missionary service.

Change

The rapid pace of change around the globe is dizzying. The changes faced by international missions are similarly breathtaking. Let's be in no doubt, the task of mission expands with an ever-mushrooming global population. It is true also that the nature of the work changes to one of supporting and partnering national believers and churches rather than pioneering and planting them ourselves. It is in this context that we seek to adapt to change.

Since last May there has been the continued development of new fields and new relationships. Over a period of 15 months we will have seen the return of four missionary families and the commissioning of four others. There has been a change of leadership at Colegio San Andres. The IMB itself has undergone a change of leadership and faces another change of size and structure, as well as major funding and fundraising changes.

Opportunity

Undoubtedly one of the major battlefields of the present time is the world of Islam. We believe God has called us and is equipping us in this arena. There are also growing opportunities to network and partner within Europe. We have Free Church people who are eager to serve. In our traditional fields the opportunity exists to assist national churches to grow and become truly indigenous. As the majority of the world's believers are now found in the southern hemisphere and the developing world, there is tremendous opportunity for mutual service and a two-way flow of people and blessing.

Challenge

There is the challenge to hand over mature ministries to national believers. There is the challenge to work more closely with other churches and national workers. There is the challenge to maintain our commitments to existing works as well as respond to new callings, doing so cost effectively. We are challenged to continue to obey, to send and to give, even when resources appear scarce and the needs at home are great. There is the huge challenge of communication in order to enthuse, envision and lead the people of the Free Church in obedience to our calling. May we as a church be caught up in God's great plan of redemption in a fallen world.

The following is a report of activities over the last 12 months. It demonstrates God's faithfulness and blessing and represents a platform for future service.

(B) SOUTH AFRICA

As we report on the work in South Africa let us give thanks for the safety and wellbeing of our colleagues there. The country is experiencing difficult times and there appears to be an ever widening gap between those who are economically prosperous and the many who remain in poverty. Thankfully there is still an open door of opportunity to preach the Gospel. There is also the challenge for the church there to demonstrate the love and caring spirit of Christian compassion to those within their communities who are suffering from the ravages of HIV/AIDS and many other sad problems.

1. *The Free Church in South Africa*

It is with sadness that we record the death of Rev. Wilfred Thozamile Vumindaba who passed away on 18th December 2007 at the age of 85 years. Mr Vumindaba served the cause of Christ over many years, both as an Evangelist and then as an ordained Minister since 1975. He was a faithful and humble servant of Christ and a helper to the missionaries over a long period of years. Rev. Buntu Mtishe also suffered the death of both his parents in the course of the year and we extend our warm sympathy to him.

Rev. Webster Tshoni was ordained and inducted as the minister of the King William's Town District and we wish him well in this position. Mr Tshoni, although he has come into the ministry later in life, has already proved to be a wise and competent addition to the church's leadership. He also helps out at Dumisani.

Rev. Kenneth Ferguson, Mr Ernest Brown and the Board Secretary, Mr Calum Ferguson, visited South Africa as Board Delegates in March 2007. Their Report included several recommendations regarding the on-going work of the Church and all these have been conveyed to the Free Church in South Africa. Among these was a decision to reduce the amount given to the Central Fund of the African Church by 10% per annum. Special projects in the African Church will be supported financially as funds allow.

The Board is taking steps to transfer to the African church all church properties which are still registered as belonging to the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland (excluding those houses occupied by missionary staff).

The Board is very grateful to Women for Mission for setting up a Fund to help finance annual Youth Camps in the African church. We are grateful to them also for a generous grant towards the cost of the printing of the revision of the Xhosa Psalter. The generosity of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland has again been of great help to the Free Church in South Africa with money to help finish the new church building in King William's Town.

While we in the Free Church of Scotland are able to help our African sister church in several practical ways, we acknowledge that the Free Church in South Africa has to take responsibility, under God, for its own progress and formulate its own vision for the days ahead. In the words of one of the Delegates' recommendations to the Free Church in South Africa, "(it should) commit itself to earnest prayer for spiritual revival, urging and leading its people to sacrificial efforts in the service of the Lord."

The Church is also asked "to commit itself to the priority of praying for a regular supply of godly and gifted students for the ministry and for elders." We in the Free Church of Scotland must join our African brothers and sisters in these prayers.

2. *Dumisani Theological Institute*

The Board is encouraged by the continuing ministry exercised by DTI and commend the work to the prayers and financial support of the Church. The sphere of influence of the DTI continues to widen and it is obviously not just a useful facility for several churches, but also a centre of theological and spiritual maturity so clearly needed in the South Africa of today.

The Board was pleased to help Principal Dr Alistair Wilson attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America in June 2007 which enabled him to make useful contacts which we hope will bring more help for DTI in the future.

Rev. Thys Lourens retired from Dumisani at the end of 2007. He had given a number of years of excellent service and will be greatly missed. It has been an encouragement however to learn of the appointment of Rev. Deon Lombard as a lecturer. Deon is a fluent Xhosa speaker, and has been the minister of the Bethany-Emmanuel Baptist church in King William's Town for some years. He has been helping at Dumisani for some time and from the middle of this year he will be on the full-time staff. Theologically he is in full sympathy with the doctrinal position of the Institute. Dumisani also welcomes Deon's wife, Shelley, as its new Administrator.

When the Delegates visited the DTI they met with staff, students and the Board of Governors. They all agreed that, if finance became available, consideration should be given to acquiring a complex of buildings more suitable to the requirements of a modern theological college.

The DTI was encouraged to try and maintain the present range of activities associated with Dumisani and the emphasis on training Xhosa men for the ministry of the FCSA. The Principal has given the assurances that this is in line with present practice in Dumisani, even within the strict limits of staff and finance available.

3. *Free Church Missionaries*

During the year we were able to welcome on leave, Rev. and Mrs Reid, Rev. and Mrs Christie and Rev. Dr and Mrs Wilson.

Our sympathy was expressed to Mrs Angela Reid whose mother passed away just a day after she and Norman arrived home from South Africa in June. The Reids returned from their furlough in January. Norman has been extremely helpful in the church work as well and has been the channel through which much practical help has come from our sister church in Ireland. He has also been able to re-start the work in the King William's Town prison which is a great encouragement. We wish Norman and Angela well in this new spell of service and we congratulate their son Stephen on the completion of his architect's studies and on his new post in Johannesburg.

Ronald and Morag Christie will be retiring from South Africa in August. Since leaving Dumisani, Ronald has been busy with literature work associated with the church, the preparation of a 'Blue Book' and guide books for office-bearers and the revision of the Xhosa Psalter for printing, among other much else. In addition he has been the interim-Moderator of the Embo District and this has resulted in a great deal of travelling for both himself and Morag as she has helped with the women's work there. Ronnie has also preached virtually every Lord's Day in churches in the Southern Presbytery and Morag has led the Women's Christian Association work in the King William's Town District as well as with the Bible Women's meetings. They will be missed in the Free Church in South Africa and we salute them for all they have contributed to the FCSA and to Dumisani during Ronnie's years as Principal there. We pray with them for their daughter Fiona as she begins her new work in Medellin, Colombia.

Rev. Alastair and Mrs Jenny Wilson and family had a short leave at the end of 2007 and the beginning of this year. We are grateful to the Lord for the way they have all fitted into life in South Africa and for safety for Steven who has to travel many miles each day to and from school in East London. Jenny has been active in the Bible Women's days at Dumisani and we are sure that her considerable talents will be further employed in the work there as time goes on. Alastair is developing the DTI in a way that continues to enhance its reputation in the Eastern Cape and much further afield.

From August to October Rev. Dr John Ross, along with Mrs Ross, 'covered' for Rev. Norman Reid in Dumisani during his furlough. As a result of this experience, Dr and Mrs Ross have felt the call of God to offer themselves for further service in South Africa and hope, God willing, to take up a post in Dumisani in time for the second semester of 2008. While we sympathise with the congregation of Greyfriars/Stratherick, Inverness, we are also grateful to them for their willingness to allow their minister to take up this new field of service. Rev. Dr John and Mrs Elizabeth Ross will be very welcome additions to the missionary family in South Africa. We do pray that all necessary arrangements for their going to South Africa will fall into place without problems. They are assured of the prayers and goodwill of all in the church as they take up this new work. We know that John will be a great asset to both Dumisani and to the FCSA. We are very conscious that Elizabeth will feel the break from the contacts she has fostered in Inverness but we are sure she will find a new niche in King William's Town.

(C) INDIA

Regular contact is maintained with our colleagues in Central India. Frequent reports are received from the Presbytery, the Mission Council, the Schools and the Hospital. They have now been running independently for twenty years, but still require annual grants to help support the work. During the year the Board commissioned a systems review by an experienced Indian Christian accountant to help the Church, the Mission Council and the Schools to maximise their use of resources and to ensure that proper and efficient procedures are in place. His report is now being implemented. Board delegates will visit later this year to encourage further the move towards financial self-sufficiency.

The Board is delighted to report that last year's Moderator, Rev. Dr John Ross, and his wife Elizabeth recently visited India on behalf of the Free Church and we look forward to hearing his impressions of the situation there. Such visits are a great encouragement to all those serving in the various branches of the work.

1. *Presbyterian Free Church*

During the process of registration as a charity it was found that the name Free Church of Central India was not acceptable to the Registrar, so the Church was registered by the Presbytery as the Presbyterian Free Church. This is now their official name. The four congregations continue to worship and witness in sometimes hostile conditions.

During the year Sumeet Mishra completed his BTh in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dehra Dun, in North India. After an initial probationary period in Jabalpur he was ordained as co-pastor in Lakhnadon. Plans are being made for one of the other pastors to go for further study.

2. *Mission Council*

Outstanding property matters, handled by the Mission Council and the Evangelical Trust Association of South India, which holds all the Mission property in trust, are still ongoing, but slow progress is being made.

3. *Shiksha Samitee (Education Society)*

This is the body, made up of local Christians, which is responsible for running Chhapara Mission Higher Secondary School and Lakhnadon Mission School. The Schools continue to achieve excellent results in State examinations and Chhapara School is regarded as the best in the District. The Principal, Mr Michael John, son of the late Rev. Prakash Kumar, is keen to improve the accommodation and facilities. The head teacher in Lakhnadon is Mrs Anju Glory Singh. Daily Bible teaching is carried on in the designated moral education period in both schools.

4. *Emmanuel Hospital Association*

The medical work in Lakhnadon and Chhapara has been run under the auspices of EHA since 1974. The Medical Superintendent in Lakhnadon Christian Hospital is Dr Adarsh Benn, a Physician, and his wife Dr Lata is Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. Mr Yohan Malche, the Administrator, is a tireless worker not only in the hospital but in other branches of the work as well. The Hospital still needs a surgeon.

The two Community Health and Development projects, one called SPANDANA, based in Lakhnadon, and the other in Chhapara Christian Health Centre, continue to reach out in the name of Christ into villages some distance from the main centres bringing health services and development in challenging circumstances. .

(D) LATIN AMERICA

2007 has been a year of Continuity, Change, Opposition and Opportunity. Many of our key personnel have changed with the prospect of more change in 2008 but the core focus of mission, education, training and evangelism remain.

1. *Perú*

1.1 *Presbyterian Churches in Perú*

The Free Church of Scotland maintains fraternal links with the Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y Reformada en el Perú (IEPRP) and the Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana del Perú (IEPP). Currently the Board is open to investigate ways of making these links more meaningful by considering projects where joint cooperation is both possible and mutually beneficial.

In March 2008, Don Luis Torrejon died. He had served the church in Perú faithfully for many decades. He was a pastor in Rioja, an Elder in Lima and a teacher at Colegio San Andrés. A tribute is being prepared by Rev. William M. Mackay and will appear in the Monthly Record.

1.2 *Lima Evangelical Seminary* (www.sel.edu)

In Lima, the Seminario Evangélico de Lima (SEL) provides excellent training for the emerging generation of church leaders, ministers and missionaries. The Rector, Rev. Donnie Smith, continues to raise the profile of the seminary both within Perú and throughout Latin America. The Free Church of Scotland is a significant partner facilitating the work of SEL. The staff and students of the Seminary are grateful to the Free Church of Scotland for their prayerful support and to the WFM groups that are in constant communication.

1.3 *Colegio San Andrés* (www.sanandres.edu.pe)

Following the 2006 road traffic accident in Inverness, there are unresolved legal actions being taken in Perú against the Church, the school and a named individual. The Church has appointed lawyers to answer these actions in Perú and we await their report.

On 13th June 2007, Colegio San Andrés celebrated its 90th anniversary. Dr Ian MacIver and Rev. Iain MacAskill representing the Board of Trustees and the International Missions Board respectively were present to bring greetings from Scotland along with taped messages from former members of staff. Among the other greetings was one from the Mayor of Lima City Council expressing ‘*congratulations to St Andrew’s College on the 90th anniversary of its founding celebrated on the 13th June of this year, with the prayer that it may continue its fruitful service as an institution of benefit to our young and to our citizens in general.*’

Colegio San Andrés is passing through a significant and critical stage in its illustrious 90-year history. In April 2007, Rev. Bob Akroyd, Rev. Iain MacAskill, Miss Mary Gillies and Mrs Annie Margaret MacDonald visited Colegio San Andrés and the summary of their report stated:

'We firmly believe that the Free Church of Scotland should be proud of the Colegio San Andrés and be prepared to invest in its future. The school is definitely contributing to the Christian good of Perú. This is clearly a time of transition. Questions of governance, location, personnel and identity are critical to the future of the school. Change is essential and this is recognised by missionaries, local members of staff and parents, but we need to devise a positive way forward to maintain the high standards of the school and to improve its link with the Free Church of Scotland. This is a mission field where the Gospel is reaching 485 students and their families and we are persuaded along with the staff of San Andrés that this field is ripe for harvest. We need God's wisdom and vision to ensure that Colegio San Andrés remains a powerful testimony to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Later in 2007, the school was saddened to lose their headmaster Donnie MacAulay, Head of Secondary, Tim Donachie and Administrator, Julio Ardiles. All three have served the school diligently and faithfully over many years. The departure of the MacAulays and the Donachies necessitated an urgent search for a new headmaster. In the months that preceded the appointment of a new headmaster, Colegio San Andrés benefited greatly from the services of former Headmaster, Marcos Florit who served at the Colegio from September to December. Also at this time, Donnie Smith took time from his seminary responsibilities to provide leadership and supervision to the school in a time of transition.

With great anticipation, the Board was delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Clive Bailey as headmaster to commence in January 2008. Clive and his wife Ruth returned to Perú 30 years after their first tour of duty.

Within the Colegio, the English department remains strong due to the consistent input of Mrs Elma Armstrong and Mr Marc Scarlett. The International Missions Board is actively seeking one more person, or couple, to work in Colegio San Andrés.

The next chapter in the history of the Colegio San Andrés is the transfer of governance of the school from the International Missions Board to a Local Board. The Board, in consultation with Mr Clive Bailey and other experts in Perú, plan to bring forward a draft constitution for the new governing board to the Assembly.

1.4 Moyobamba Presbyterian Church (www.presbimoyo.org)

In Moyobamba, the work of the gospel is three-pronged: based in the church, the school and the clinic. In 2007, IMB representatives visited Moyobamba and had the privilege of preaching to over 300 people at both the morning and evening worship services. The Church pursues extensive outreach work in the San Martin region and church planting in other parts of Perú.

Alongside this large congregation there is the Annie Soper Christian School which continues to grow while maintaining a strong Evangelical Christian ethos. To further extend Christian education, there is an ongoing plan to found a Christian university in the Moyobamba area.

With over 20 years of ministry experience in Moyobamba, Asociación San Lucas (<http://www.lukesociety.org/>) is a multifaceted healthcare centre. The objective of the Society, set up in 1986, is to "change people's lives by giving them the tools for self-change". Their focus is on health both in the clinic and in the field, and in preventative rather than curative health. The three areas of work are clinic, integrated health programme and pastoral health.

Key to each prong of this work in Moyobamba is the MacPherson family. David and Martha have served the church and community in Moyobamba well in many ways. In 2008, they return to Scotland to so that their children can pursue full-time education. They will be sorely missed in Moyobamba but David has planned his transition well to insure that the work of the gospel in the church, the school and the medical mission will progress even in their absence.

2. Colombia

2.1 Intercession for Colombia

At the time of writing this report Colombia is in the midst of a major political crisis. While a measure of calm has been restored, tensions persist. The fight against internal terrorism (FARC) has embroiled the Colombian government in controversy with her neighbouring countries. There has been a threat of war with both Ecuador and Venezuela. Urgent prayer is needed for this difficult situation. Pray for political peace and Gospel blessing.

2.2 *Fundación Universitaria Seminario Bíblica de Colombia* (www.unisbc.edu.co)

The Free Church of Scotland gives significant input into the training and preparation of leaders for the emerging church through providing two full-time missionaries to the Biblical Seminary of Colombia (Fundación Universitaria Seminario Bíblica de Colombia). Since obtaining university degree awarding status, the Biblical Seminary looks to grow in order to better support and train leaders for the growing Evangelical churches in Colombia. Currently, there are 150 fulltime students on the 5-year course. Dr Manuel Reaño, the Principal of the College, and Dr David Ford, Lecturer, have provided valuable input into the life and teaching of the seminary. Mrs Paty Reaño and Mrs Olwen Ford have important roles in the pastoral care of students and the development of projects ranging from after-school clubs to sewing classes. Within the next year, the Board plans to visit the seminary in Medellín to discuss the long-term strategy for involvement in the seminary and in the work of the gospel in Colombia at large.

The Lord is using the seminary to build His church and for the Christian good of Colombia. According to Manuel Reaño, the work of the seminary is growing:

'We are applying for a licence for a master's course next year. We'll explore the possibility of a second career (Family Development). We start a full Communications Department, we convert our Saturday Bible Institute into a fully blown Centre of non-formal Church-related Education, we enrol more Bible Institutes into the network of such establishments we advise and help develop (there are almost 30 already in the network, and all over the country... that's over 1000 students, but stay tuned as more are applying... absolutely overwhelming!), we have established a University publishing house [with three books published to date]. ... Bits and pieces like Diploma courses, and workshops and a Missions Centre, and of course, the Community Children's Library [BINCO, the children's library set up by the WFM funds] now strengthened with the presence of two lovely Swiss girls working as volunteers.'

While David Ford notes:

'It is difficult to appreciate why, but the Colombian Evangelical Church is one of the weakest in Latin America. It stands at about 4% of the population, compared with Perú's 12%. This weakness is reflected in the dominance of the Catholic Church in society. The conquistadors' genocide was pretty complete in the northern part of South America resulting in a purer version of Catholicism than elsewhere in the subcontinent. Preaching is pretty weak, Colombians are great singers, and love dramas and participation. But exposition is a rarity. Students, even in 1st year tend to be confident that they pretty much know all there is to know. The Theological Resources web site continues to get 1000 plus visitors a day, and I get emails from all over Latin American and other Spanish speaking parts wanting info and advice.'

In 2008, Miss Fiona Christie, daughter of Rev. Ronald and Mrs Morag Christie, arrived in Medellín under the auspices of Latin Link. For a period of two years initially she will serve at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia to establish an English department there.

(E) NEW FIELDS

In looking at new areas of work the Board has in mind particularly: Theological education, leadership training and mentoring; the Muslim world; and ministry opportunities in Europe.

With this background in mind, we are delighted to report on the following developments. This report is limited in most cases because of the sensitive nature of the work involved.

1. *Central Asia*

We continue to provide funding for Adam to help him in his ministry among his people in many different countries. His reports to us in the past year have told of the Lord's blessing on the ministry and wonderful accounts of God's Spirit at work in Central Asia. He has also told us of much suffering and hardship that the believers face there. Adam's own health has also suffered during the past year but we are thankful that he has been able to continue his vital ministry.

Our workers S and S are now settled into their language studies after the expected initial difficulties of adapting to a new country and culture with a young family. The greatest difficulty has been the lack of Christian

fellowship. Visits from some family members have helped enormously and it is hoped that someone from the Board will visit later this year.

2. *Turkey*

In 2006 we began a partnership with a Turkish pastor who is seeking to church plant in an urban area of Turkey. Gurhan has a passion to reach his own people with the Gospel of Jesus and, in his own words, '*to find the Lord's lost sheep in Istanbul*'. The killing of three Christian workers in Malatya in April 2007 has had a dramatic effect on the morale of ethnic Turkish believers. Taunts and threats have made many fearful and church attendances have declined. Gurhan's fellowship has also been affected. It is small and they are hampered by the lack of a suitable building for worship.

The contact with Gurhan has been enhanced with the regular visits of Rev. Colin MacLeod to Turkey and it is felt that this link is vital to the development of the Turkish work. The Board fully support the proposals being brought by the Church Extension and Redevelopment Committee to extend Colin's contract and that he be appointed to this work for 5 years.

3. *India*

The partnership we have developed in India with Rahmat has continued to flourish. He is seeing a good response to the Gospel, with small groups of believers forming in various places, but there is always danger of persecution. He has plans for starting schools for children of this community, which suffers discrimination in educational opportunities. A delegation from the Board is expected to visit India in October this year and during that visit will be able to see at first hand the range of work that is being done.

4. *Europe*

4.1 *Greece*

We are looking into the possible development of a link with Rev. Argyris Petrou. He is a former pastor of a Greek Evangelical Church in Piraeus who is now a Lecturer in the Greek Bible Institute. The Institute has 40 students from various backgrounds and nationalities and it therefore has the opportunity to have a wide influence in the training of future ministries in that region and beyond. We are excited with this recent development and are providing some financial support to Argyris.

4.2 *Italy*

Rev. Kenny Boyd maintains close contact with the Church in Italy and keeps the Board informed of areas where we can support the development of the reformed church there. We have recently been able to provide some support to Rev. Dr John Paul Aranzulla who has been appointed professor of Biblical studies at IFED (Istituto di Formazione Evangelica e Documentazione) in Padova. This chair will have a significant impact for the future of the reformed witness in the whole of the country.

4.3 *Other opportunities*

We are grateful to Rev. David Robertson for bringing to the attention of the Board potential partnership and ministry opportunities within Europe. There are already significant links between local Free Churches and European ministries and it is envisioned that these links and opportunities will only expand in the coming years. The Board feels that links through congregations here supporting churches there may be the best way to develop the contacts already established.

(F) CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL

The Council of Management of Christian Witness to Israel sends warm greetings to the International Missions Board and asks that the Board communicate to the 2008 General Assembly its grateful thanks for the Free Church's prayerful and practical support during the past year.

1. *Israel*

The development of the work in Israel over the last two years since Mr David Zadok became the Society's Field Leader has been encouraging. Under his leadership, HaGefen Publishing has increased its production of literature and sales have increased dramatically.

Chief among David Zadok's long-term goals is to publish a commentary on every book of the Bible and, through the generous support of the Isaac Da Costa Foundation in Holland, work has commenced on Matthew Henry's Commentary. The translation of the Banner of Truth Trust's *Let's Study* series is also taking place.

HaGefen is also producing children's books such as *Shepherding a Child's Heart* to help parents inculcate godly values in their children. The children's illustrated book *Lior's Prayer* is the first Christian book of its kind to be produced entirely by Israeli believers.

The HaGefen website (<http://www.ha-gefen.org.il/en/>) has been online since the beginning of the year. Via the site HaGefen books can be purchased, and a database of Jewish Christians throughout history is being compiled which, it is hoped, will become a resource for researchers and a witness to those who believe Christianity and Jewishness are incompatible.

2. *Summer School of Jewish Evangelism*

Last year's Summer School was probably the best ever. Seventeen students enrolled. The first week consisted of lectures and seminars. During the second week of outreach almost 6,000 copies of the tract *So You Think You Know About Multi-Culturalism?* Were distributed at underground stations in various locations around London. Hardly any were discarded. The team also assisted the Covent Garden "In-reach" team in their open-air evangelism.

The students conducted a door-to-door survey on multi-culturalism in the predominantly Jewish areas of North West London and gave away copies of the evangelistic broadsheet *Shalom*. The survey proved effective in generating discussions on the doors. Ninety-three people completed the survey, a good number of whom also requested further literature.

3. *Yahad*

The Society was able to assist the second annual conference of *Yahad*, the national network of young British Messianic Jews, which took place from 24th to 26th August at High Leigh Conference Centre. The main speaker was Meno Kalisher who is a member of the CWI Amuta in Israel and the pastor of the Beit Geula Congregation in Jerusalem. Young Jewish Christians from the north and south gathered to hear Meno teach on the theme "Being Myself in Messiah".

4. *Debates*

At the time of writing, preparations are being made for two public debates that are set to take place in London and Oxford between the outspoken anti-missionary activist Rabbi Shmuel Boteach, and the Jewish Christian scholar Dr Michael L. Brown. This outreach is being undertaken in cooperation with the American-based Chosen People Ministries and it is hoped that a webcast of the debate will be broadcast in early June at <http://www.jewishdebate.com>.

5. *Glasgow Seminar*

The Society recognises the need to encourage churches situated in areas of significant Jewish population to include the Jewish people in their evangelistic programmes, and also to train Christians to share the gospel with Jewish people. On Saturday 23rd February, Mark Surey and Richard Gibson conducted *A Beginner's Guide to Sharing Jesus with Jewish People*, a day seminar for students and Christians who wanted to share the faith with Jewish friends.

CWI remains grateful for the continued support of the Free Church, recognising that our origins lie in an 1842 Act of Assembly in which the Church authorised the formation of *The British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews*. Though the Society has applicants who wish to become missionaries with us, it remains a matter of concern to the Council that CWI still has no missionary from the Free Church and we would ask not only for the continued prayers of the denomination but also for the Church to encourage its youth to share the message of Messiah with the people of promise.

(G) GENERAL

1. *Publications* Charles and Daphne Douglas took over the Editorship of *From the Frontiers* last year. We appreciate the excellent work they are doing and also the work which Daphne does in preparing the Prayer Notes every month. The Board also thanks the editors of *The Monthly Record*, *The Instructor* and *Free* for the work they do in promoting missionary interest.

2. *Support and Fund-raising* The Board greatly values the work done by Women for Mission and by the three Support Groups in raising awareness and funding for mission projects. The young people of the Church are also to be commended for their excellent efforts in raising funds for Mission through the Youth Project.

3. *Furlough Flat* Mrs Mary MacMillan and Miss Anna MacDonald have the responsibility of looking after the furlough flat in Edinburgh. The Board are most grateful to them for all they do to make the flat a warm, comfortable and welcoming home for the missionaries home on furlough.

4. *North America* Rev. Bob Akroyd will be representing the Board at the meeting of the North American Synod in April 2008.

5. *Eastern Europe for Christ* The Board continued its annual support of the excellent work of EEFC providing them with a grant of £3,000.

6. *Missionaries with other Societies* We recognise the outstanding contribution being made by several Free Church members who are serving with other missionary agencies. In most cases they receive no financial assistance from the Board but are supported through inclusion in the Prayer Notes.

7. *Partnership with other Churches* The Board greatly appreciates the continued support of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. We also value highly our continued relationship in mission with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Northern Ireland. The EPC is represented on the Board by Mr Ernest Brown and the Board recognises the tireless efforts which he makes in promoting the work of mission and in fundraising both in Northern Ireland and in Scotland.

8. *Disaster Fund* The following amounts were received and paid out during 2007:

Balance at 1st January 2007	£28,296	
Amounts received during 2007	<u>£8,382</u>	
		£36,678
Payments made during 2007:		
Darfur – Payment to Tearfund	£ 12,000	
Asian Floods – Payment to Tearfund	£ 5,000	
Peru Earthquake – Payment to CONEP	£ 5,000	
Peru Earthquake – Payment to Vine Trust	£ 2,500	
Bangladesh Cyclone – Payment to Tearfund	<u>£ 4,000</u>	
		<u>£28,500</u>
Balance at 31st December 2007		<u>£ 8,178</u>

9. *Short Term Service* In 2007, several young people from Scotland made significant contributions to the work of mission in Perú and Colombia. Mary Louise Stone served in Lima at Colegio San Andrés while Charissa Campbell, Mairi-Catherine Martin and Karen MacDonald served in Moyobamba. Mairianna Campbell spent a time in Colombia helping with the sewing project in Medellín.

The IMB encourages young people to consider their calling to the mission field and to take the opportunity of short-term mission work to test such a calling. All applications for mission work (short-term or long-term) are warmly welcomed by Calum Ferguson, Secretary to the IMB.

COLIN J. MACPHERSON, *Chairman*
 IAIN MACASKILL, *Vice-Chairman*

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the International Missions Board and thank the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.
2. The General Assembly greet all our missionary personnel and assure them of their continued support.
3. The General Assembly send greetings to the Free Church in South Africa and the assurance of our continuing prayers for God's blessing upon all her activities. They extend their sympathy at the passing of Rev T.W. Vumindaba and give thanks for his many years of faithful service.

4. The General Assembly greet the Missionaries and the missionary children in South Africa and give thanks that they have been kept safe and well over this past year.
5. The General Assembly record with gratitude the years of service given in South Africa by Rev. Ronald and Mrs Morag Christie and pray that they will be granted a long and happy retirement from the very fruitful and varied ministry they exercised over the years.
6. The General Assembly give thanks for the offer of Rev. Dr John and Mrs Elizabeth Ross to serve in South Africa. We pray that Dr Ross's wide experience and scholarly gifts will be of great benefit to the Dumisani Theological Institute and that both he and Mrs Ross will know the presence and strength of the Lord as they prepare for this new avenue of service opened up to them.
7. The General Assembly greet Rev. Deon and Mrs Shelley Lombard as they join the staff at Dumisani Theological Institute and pray the Lord's blessing will be upon them and their children as they settle into this new sphere of Christian work.
8. The General Assembly greet the staff, students and Board of Governors of the Dumisani Theological Institute. They rejoice with them in having new colleagues and pray for the blessing of Almighty God upon all the work that is undertaken in connection with the Institute.
9. The General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the considerable financial help given for the work in South Africa by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland and by the WFM.
10. The General Assembly send greetings to the Presbytery of the Presbyterian Free Church in India and encourage them in their efforts in evangelistic outreach and in attaining financial self-support of the congregations.
11. The General Assembly send greetings to the Mission Council in India and encourage them to expedite the various property matters outstanding.
12. The General Assembly send greetings to the Shiksha Samitee in India and congratulate them and the staff on the performance of Chhapara Higher Secondary Mission School and Lakhnadon Mission School.
13. The General Assembly send greetings to Dr and Mrs Benn, Mr and Mrs Malche and the staff of Lakhnadon Christian Hospital and Chhapara Christian Health Centre.
14. The General Assembly give thanks to Almighty God for the Gospel blessings bestowed on the countries of Perú and Colombia in recent generations.
15. The General Assembly express their commitment to maintaining links with the Presbyterian Churches of Perú, the IEPP and IEPRP, indicating readiness to assist, where feasible, in projects of outreach and revitalisation.
16. The General Assembly express their sympathy to the family of Don Luis Torrejon and gives thanks to Almighty God for his decades of faithful service to Christ in Perú.
17. The General Assembly commend the input of Lima Evangelical Seminary in providing excellence in theological education to a rising generation of church leaders and missionaries throughout Latin America. The Assembly recognise the life-long commitment and service of Rev. Donnie and Mrs Julia Smith in their service to the Free Church and to the wider Church of Christ in Perú.
18. The General Assembly commend the work of the gospel in Moyobamba and specifically the work and commitment of Rev. David and Mrs Martha MacPherson in serving the Church, the Annie Soper School and San Lucas association. The General Assembly also commend Mr MacPherson's vision for establishing a university in Moyobamba. The Assembly extend their cordial best wishes to the MacPherson family as they relocate in 2008.
19. The General Assembly congratulate the Colegio San Andrés having celebrated its 90th anniversary in providing Christian education to thousands of boys and girls.

20. The General Assembly give thanks for the appointment of Mr Clive Bailey as the new headmaster of Colegio San Andrés in Lima. We pray that Clive and Ruth Bailey will know the Lord's blessing as they embark on this second tour of service in the Colegio.
21. The General Assembly express delight at the 467 pupils who have matriculated at Colegio San Andrés for the coming academic year and earnestly pray for them, their families and their teachers for the Lord's blessing and protection throughout this year.
22. The General Assembly express gratitude to Mr Donnie and Mrs Marcella Macaulay and Rev. Tim and Mrs Marjorie Donachie as they return home to Scotland and to Mr Julio Ardiles upon his retirement. They pray blessing on all their labours at the Colegio San Andrés in their new spheres of service.
23. The General Assembly express gratitude to Rev. Marcos and Mrs Paty Florit and Rev. Donnie Smith for their service to Colegio San Andrés prior to the appointment of a new headmaster.
24. The General Assembly prayerfully remember the families of Gianmarco Peschiera and Carlos Gonzales and seeks a just resolution of all outstanding legal actions.
25. The General Assembly confirm their commitment to the local governance of Colegio San Andrés and await detailed proposals regarding its implementation.
26. The General Assembly earnestly pray for the country of Colombia for peaceful relations with its neighbours Ecuador and Venezuela and for domestic security and harmony. The Assembly also pray for continued gospel blessing throughout Colombia.
27. The General Assembly commend the work of theological education undertaken by the Biblical Seminary of Colombia and express their prayerful support to the work of Rev. Manuel and Mrs Paty Reaño and Rev. David and Mrs Olwen Ford.
28. The General Assembly extend their prayers and good wishes to Miss Fiona Christie as she begins her service at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia to establish an English department.
29. The General Assembly send greetings to Adam and assure him of our continued prayers for his safety and for continued blessing on the work.
30. The General Assembly send greetings to Rahmat and commend his ministry in India and assure him of our continued prayerful and practical interest in this difficult ministry.
31. The General Assembly send greetings to Gurhan and pray for the Lord's blessing on his ministry in Turkey and for a suitable place of worship to be found.
32. The General Assembly assure Rev. Colin MacLeod of their prayers for his developing ministry among Turkish people.
33. The General Assembly commend its workers in Central Asia to the prayers of the Church.
34. The General Assembly encourage the Church to remember prayerfully the future endeavours of the New Fields subgroup to explore ministry opportunities in Europe and to identify a theological educator who could partner with an existing theological training faculty in a mainly Muslim nation.
35. The General Assembly greet Mr Mike Moore and all the CWI workers, expressing appreciation for their work in Jewish evangelism, and prayerfully commend the work of the society to the Lord.
36. The General Assembly greet all our Free Church members working outwith areas of direct Free Church missionary operation and assure them of our prayerful and practical support.
37. The General Assembly express gratitude to Mairianna Campbell for her assistance in Medellín, Mary Louise Stone for her service in Lima at Colegio San Andrés and Charissa Campbell, Mary Catherine Martin and Karen Macdonald for their service in Moyobamba.

38. The General Assembly thank Mr Charles and Mrs Daphne Douglas for their work in editing *From the Frontiers*. They also thank Mrs Douglas for her faithful service in producing the monthly Prayer Notes.
39. 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.
40. The General Assembly gratefully acknowledge the value of the work done by Women for Mission and commend them for their outstanding fund-raising efforts. They express their appreciation for the help and advice given by their representatives, Mrs Anne Mackay and Mrs Margaret Smith, who attend Board meetings.
41. The General Assembly acknowledge the excellent fund-raising efforts of our young people through the annual Youth Project and thank them for this wonderful achievement. They commend the 2008 Youth Project for Colombia to the attention of the wider church.
42. The General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the work done by Mrs Mary MacMillan and Miss Anna MacDonald in taking care of the furlough flat.
43. The General Assembly express their prayerful good wishes to the Synod of North America and look forward to continued partnership in the work of the Gospel.
44. The General Assembly commend the excellent work of EEFC and pray for continued blessing on this ministry.
45. The General Assembly send greetings to our brothers and sisters in Australia and Northern Ireland who co-operate with us in missionary effort, and pray for God's blessings on our partnership.
46. The General Assembly commends the work of Women for Mission and expresses their gratitude for raising funds for mission and raising the profile of mission in the wider church.
47. The General Assembly commend organisations such as Tearfund in bringing compassionate aid in the name of Christ to victims of natural disasters.