

**IX.**  
**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**COMMITTEE ON HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS**

**1 Introduction**

In keeping with the attempts to rationalise the time taken at the General Assembly this report will be more compact than in previous years. This is no indication of there being any less activity or endeavour on the part of the Committee, as they seek to fulfil the duties laid upon them by the General Assembly.

This year has seen the Committee oversee significant developments in our existing mission work, which has been a joy to witness. Increased influence with pastor training in Cornerstone, additional manpower, premises and attendances in Sri Lanka, a broadening support base for the work of Covenant College Zambia Trust, and discussions regarding a second Home Mission Worker have all served to strengthen the resolve of the Committee in their efforts to promote the cause of the Saviour both near and far.

As ever we are much indebted to the generosity and spiritual concern of our people in supporting the mission work of the denomination.

**2. Home Mission**

The work performed by the Home Mission Worker is of great value we believe, not only to our Committee or denomination, but indeed to the nation of Scotland. Although this year has seen Mr Donald John Morrison battle with eye trouble, he has continued to serve with his usual vigour, determination, and plainness of speech. Once again he has supported many congregations in their efforts to reach out to their own neighbourhoods. Mr Morrison has also successfully secured a number of grants from Christian bodies to support his extensive tract distribution program.

Throughout 2013, good evangelistic and reformed literature was distributed and circulated in the various places he visited across Scotland. Some of these places included: Shettleston, Knightswood, (districts of Glasgow), Edinburgh, Stornoway, Ardelve & Broadford, Ayr, Dores & Farr and of course throughout Inverness. Mission outreach was also engaged in at the Hebridean Celtic Festival, Rockness and at the large Army Base in Fort George. Along with the large quantity of foreign language literature given out, especially Polish, a combined total of around 17,000 gospel tracts were also distributed, along with 9,507 booklets and magazines, 67 Bibles and 5,000 TBS Calendars. The Committee's hope and earnest prayer is that the eyes of many Jews and Gentiles will be opened through the materials distributed, near and far, and that God's Word will make many "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

As well as his work of Home Mission, Mr Morrison continues to organise United Christian Witness events, thereby raising awareness of what God says about marriage in opposition to the prevailing and immoral redefinitions attempted by our parliaments.

Last year the Committee sought (and received) permission to investigate the need for a Second Home Mission Worker in Scotland. Being aware of the vast scope for home missions, combined with our inability as a small denomination to effectively reach large swathes of our country, as well as considering the duty as a church to reach out primarily to those of our own nation, the Committee have concluded there is a need for a second Home Mission Worker.

In seeking to address this need the Committee have followed two complementary avenues.

First of all, the Committee wish to see established a permanent second Home Mission position, and are asking the Assembly to give permission for the Committee to establish such a position. However, the Committee are not in a position at this time to present fully costed proposals, and so are further seeking Assembly permission to consult this year with the Finance & Sustentation Committee and Presbyteries in this regard, in order to have costed proposals in time for the Assembly of 2015, DV.

Secondly, the Committee initiated and have assisted the Training of the Ministry & Admissions Committee in planning a second proposal to make use of a divinity student's fourth and final year of studies, in which he is expected to perform some duties related to Home Mission work. This is distinct from the more permanent proposal outlined above, but is reported to show the conviction of the Committee regarding both the need and importance of this matter.

### **3. Jewish Mission**

The Committee continue to support the work of Christian Witness to Israel in 2014, and commend their labours for the sake of Israel to the interest of the Church. The Assembly of 2013 gave the Committee a remit to consider what biblical responsibility falls on the Church in relation to Jewish mission and to report progress to this Assembly.

The Committee have begun investigating this serious question, but are not yet in a position to bring a full report to the Assembly, and are seeking an extension of one year to their remit. The Committee have investigated the origins of the Church of Scotland's mission to the Jews in the mid-nineteenth century, and the Acts of Assembly thereanent from 1838-42. We are indebted to Mr Maurice Grant for his assistance in locating these Acts.

### **4. Overseas Missions**

#### **1. Zambia**

The work in Zambia comes under the Covenant College Zambia Trust, with its three areas of ministry being the Pastor Training College, Christian Education, and Farming God's Way. The Committee remain grateful for the diligence and love shown by Miss M. Hendriksen and Mr P. Bailey for the schools ministry and farm ministry respectively.

This past year has seen significant challenges for the work of Covenant College, and the Committee were pleased to be able to offer some assistance to Rev. David Lachman (Vice-Principal, Covenant College) in overseeing a visit from Rev. Allan Murray in August-September 2013, and Rev. Andrew Allan once more to the annual meeting of the Trustees in April 2014. It is hoped that Mr Allan will address the Assembly.

The Committee, despite some hurdles, were pleased to be able to offer accommodation to the Lachman family during their annual furlough. The Lachman family returned to Scotland a little earlier than usual this year, and welcomed their third child, Titus Tyndale, into the world during their stay on the island of Lewis. Mr Lachman pursued a busy schedule of visits during his furlough, both to congregations in our own denomination and further afield in England, Wales and Ireland. It is hoped that this will broaden the support base for Covenant College. To the same end it is planned that this year's furlough will be to congregations in the United States.

Covenant College continues to seek for extra staff, as the need for lecturers committed to the reform of the Church in Zambia remains great.

Continuing support for the work of the College, Schools and Farm has been maintained by many of our congregations. We would like to bring to the attention of the Church the continued financial pressures faced by this mission. Please pray that the mission Trust would continue to act with great zeal and courage as they seek the reformation of the Church in Zambia, and the transformation of lives for Christ.

## **2. Sri Lanka**

The mission work in Sri Lanka now occupies a regular place in our report, and the Committee praise the Saviour for allowing us, as a denomination, some part to play for the sake of his people in Sri Lanka.

Rev. Partheepan Nixon Shanmugam, with his wife, Dinogee, are settled in Vavuniya, where they have seen the work grow little by little. The mission has now secured land and has erected a place of worship. Teaching of all ages and stages is organised, from nursery provision to lectures designed to educate existing preachers in the doctrines of grace.

One other significant support has been the appointment of a helper in Vavuniya, with Piratheepan now working alongside our Missionary on a part time basis, able to evangelise and tract. Please pray for this partnership, that both men will be given an increase of grace and zeal as they labour together for Christ.

The Committee are delighted with the successful visa application that has allowed our brother and his wife to join us in Scotland, and it is expected that Mr Shanmugam will address the Assembly and give a more full update on his work.

It should be stated once again the enormous support that Ceylon Christian Care have been to the establishing and sustaining of the mission work in Sri Lanka. The sympathies of the men of CCC with the doctrine and ethos of reformed and experimental religion makes this an easy relationship for the Committee, and we greatly appreciate the spiritual interest our Dutch brethren have taken in our mission and our missionary.

## **3. China**

Contacts with the work in China continue to deepen, and it is hoped to build on this in the present year. The support of Hudson Taylor Ministries allows the church to develop this connection, for which we give thanks to the Lord.

The Committee are delighted to record that Rev. A. Allan has been formally appointed as General Secretary of Hudson Taylor Ministries UK, who are in the advanced stages of submitting an initial application to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to be registered as a Scottish Charity. They have agreed a Statement of Faith and have nearly concluded drawing up their Constitution.

More details will be presented at the Assembly.

## **4. Canada - Smiths Falls**

The work in Smiths Falls continues on an even course. Rev. Bert Pohl exercises a tent-making ministry there and expects to be present at the General Assembly. The Committee were encouraged to hear of a move into the town centre, and pray that this will continue to foster connections with the local people and raise the profile of the Congregation as they seek to preach Christ to needy sinners. Mr Pohl hopes to be present at the Assembly and can provide further updates.

## **5. Presbytery of the United States**

The Missions Committee have little directly to report from the United States, as they are only called upon in exceptional circumstances. It is hoped that brethren from the Presbytery will be present at the Assembly and be able to convey a review of the situation within their Presbytery bounds.

The 2013 annual Family Conference run by the Presbytery was both well attended and much appreciated, and provides a great focal point for Presbytery fellowship. Speakers last year were Rev. K. Macdonald (Scalpay) and Rev. D. Silversides (Loughbrickland Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland).

GREG MACDONALD, *Convener*  
MURDO A.N. MACLEOD, *Vice-convener*

**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and the Clerk;
2. The General Assembly thank the Home Mission Worker, Mr Donald J Morrison, for another year of faithful service and assistance and commend Mr Morrison, his wife, and family to the prayers of the Church;
3. The General Assembly recognise the need in Scotland for further home mission work, and approve the progress of proposals for a second Home Mission Worker; they instruct the Committee to liaise with the Finance & Sustentation Committee to ascertain the best way to fund such a position, and to report back with such proposals to the next General Assembly;
4. The General Assembly approve the support given to Christian Witness to Israel and urge the cause of Jewish evangelism upon the prayers and heart of the Church;
5. The General Assembly continue the Committee's remit to give detailed consideration to what Scripture requires of Gentile believers with regard to the evangelisation of Jews, and to bring their report along with any proposals thereanent to the next General Assembly;
6. The General Assembly thank Rev. David Lachman for his continued labours at Covenant College;
7. The General Assembly note with gratitude the efforts made over this past winter to broaden the support base for Covenant College Zambia Trust, in Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales;
8. The General Assembly commend Rev. & Mrs David Lachman and family to the prayers of the Church;
9. The General Assembly give thanks for the services of the Rev. Allan Murray in lecturing in Covenant College and also for continuing his mentoring rôle for the Lachman family;
10. The General Assembly give thanks to God for the ongoing labours of Miss Marjanne Hendriksen (Christian Education Ministry) and Mr Phil Bailey (Farm Ministry) at Covenant College;
11. The General Assembly thank Rev. Andrew Allan for his lecturing and reports as the Church's representative Trustee on Covenant College Zambia Trust; and covet God's blessing on him in his ongoing responsibilities as representative Trustee for the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing);
12. The General Assembly note the ongoing work in the Congregations of the Presbytery of the United States of America and rejoice in the strengthening of the work there;
13. The General Assembly give thanks for the ministry of Rev. Bert Pohl in Smiths Falls, Canada and instruct the Committee to continue to give all needed support to both Mr Pohl and his congregation;
14. The General Assembly note with pleasure the strengthening of the mission work in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka under the care of Rev. Partheepan Nixon Shanmugam, and the effort made to bring both himself and his wife to Scotland for the General Assembly;
15. The General Assembly acknowledge their debt to the generosity of Ceylon Christian Care in supporting the mission work in Sri Lanka in practical ways;
16. The General Assembly continue the remit of the Committee to take steps towards reaching the long-term goal of an indigenous seminary in Sri Lanka;

17. The General Assembly note with pleasure the opportunities of the past year to support pastor training in China and instruct the Committee to take such steps as are necessary to see this continue;
18. The General Assembly note the supporting rôle played by Hudson Taylor Ministries, and thank the Saviour for providing such invaluable practical and financial support;
19. The General Assembly encourage Kirk Sessions to be active in the work of outreach and to be supportive of mission at home and overseas.