

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

**1. Introduction**

The Committee are thankful to the Lord for the privilege he continues to afford of engaging in mission work at home and abroad. We are indebted to his ongoing provision for the maintenance of the work and are thankful for those who support our efforts by their service, prayers and financial contributions.

**2. Home Mission Work**

Our Home Mission Worker, Mr Donald John Morrison, continues to seek to bring the Good News to the unchurched through literature distribution, street evangelism and door-to-door visitation and his work in the past year has taken him to many parts of the United Kingdom. The Committee would commend Mr Morrison to the prayers and practical support of the Lord's people for the work done in the name of our denomination and for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

**3. UK/European Mission**

**a. Ballyclare & Doagh**

The Committee note with satisfaction that the work in Ballyclare & Doagh continues to develop as, does the outreach work in Portavogie. The Committee commend Rev. Trevor Kirkland to the prayerful support of the Church.

The Committee propose the continuance of the grant payment of £500 per month to the Ballyclare & Doagh Congregation, effective from the cessation of the current arrangements, up to and inclusive of May 2019.

**b. London**

Services continue to be held in London under the auspices of the Knightswood Kirk Session. The Committee commend this ongoing work to the prayers of our people.

**c. Spain**

The Committee commend Rev. Jorge Ruiz Ortiz who is responsible for three Preaching Stations in Spain (Barcelona, also known as Rubi, Miranda and Bilbao) which for the purposes of administration are treated as one although they are many miles apart. Recently two brethren, namely Wilson Calle and Hugues Pierre, have been ordained as ruling elders. The Committee give thanks to the Lord for this encouraging development.

**4. International Mission**

**a. Zambia**

Sadly, despite ongoing attempts by the Committee to resolve the difficulties encountered with the Zambia Mission Trustees, no real progress has been made. Indeed the responses received have indicated that there is no likelihood of our concerns being satisfactorily addressed. The Committee have sought to disburse the funds held in the name of the Zambia mission and are of the view that the Church should no longer support the work there and instead encourage our people to support the work in Sri Lanka and Spain as both these works are fully in agreement with our theological position.

**b. Christian Community Schools Association (Zambia)**

The Committee commend the work which Marjanne Hendriksen does in Christian primary schools via Christian Education Ministry (CEM) in Zambia to the prayers and support of our people. It noted that the

monthly allowance of £50 originally intended for a three year period had ended in February 2018. The Committee recommend that the General Assembly approve that we continue our support for Marjanne Hendriksen and increase her monthly allowance to £80 per month (£960 annually) up until February 2021, after which it will be reviewed again. The Committee recommend that she be assured of their full support for her dedicated work amongst the children in the Christian schools.

### **c. Sri Lanka**

#### **Vavuniya Mission**

The Committee commend Rev. S N V Partheepan, who works in Vavuniya, for his tireless efforts and diligent service to the mission work there. The Church attendances continue to be encouraging and the work of the Seminary in Vavuniya takes place every month.

#### **Mullaitheevu Mission**

The highlight of this year has been the construction and opening of the new church building. Readers of the *Free Church Witness* have been kept up to date with the progress of this work and little else needs to be said about it here. But we do rejoice in the successful completion of the building and the generous help given from many quarters toward the financing of its construction. We would commend this work to the prayers and practical support of our people.

#### **Pastoral Concerns**

As mentioned in last year's Report there have been a number of pastoral problems which Mr Shanmugam Partheepan has had to face. In order to assist him in dealing with some of these problems, the Committee has in the past year sent out Rev. Trevor Kirkland and Rev. James MacInnes to strengthen him in the work for the Lord.

#### **Diaconal Works**

Both the Vavuniya and the Mullaitheevu Congregations continue with a program of diaconal aid enabled in large measure by Ceylon Christian Care. The Committee express its deep gratitude to them for the help they continue to give.

#### **Training of a Second Sri Lankan Pastor**

The Committee continues to make provision for the training of a second Sri Lankan pastor. They continue to seek a suitable Candidate for training for the ministry but as yet no suitable Candidates have been identified. The Committee will continue to keep this matter before them. A sum of £5,000 has been allocated in the 2019 budget, should this eventuality arise.

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

As reported last year the Presbytery receives virtually no regular support from the Committee. The Committee remains available for advice if requested by the Presbytery but other than this there is nothing to report regarding the Committee's involvement.

### **6. Smiths Falls**

The Committee has continued to provide pastoral oversight to the Congregation and are grateful to those who have given periods of supply to them. They require continued pastoral care and a regular ministry.

### **7. China and Hudson Taylor Ministries**

The Committee continues to support the work of Hudson Taylor Ministries in China with the supply of ministers from among us who are able to assist in the work there. Despite a short moratorium made necessary by the increased activities of the authorities, this work has been resumed and ministers of our denomination have agreed to visit China. The Committee recommend this work to the prayers and practical generosity of our people.

HENRY J.T. WOODS, *Convener*

**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Committee on Home & Foreign Missions, and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and the Clerk;
2. The General Assembly thank the Home Mission Worker, Mr Donald John Morrison, for his continued faithful service and assistance. They commend Mr Morrison, his wife and family to the prayers of our people;
3. The General Assembly note with thankfulness the Lord's blessing upon the Congregation of Ballyclare & Doagh and their outreach work at Portavogie;
4. The General Assembly approve continuance of the grant payment of £500 per month to the Ballyclare & Doagh Congregation effective from the cessation of the current arrangements, up to and inclusive of May 2019;
5. The General Assembly note the ongoing work under the pastoral care of Rev. Jorge Ruiz Ortiz and commend it to the prayers and financial support of our people. They thank Mr Ortiz for his diligent and tireless service to the Reformed cause in Spain and further afield. They commend the various efforts made to further the Lord's cause and commend this work to our praying people;
6. The General Assembly commend the London outreach under the care of the Knightswood Kirk Session and seek to encourage all those involved in the work;
7. The General Assembly note that despite repeated efforts by the Committee, no satisfactory reply has yet been received from the Zambia Mission Trustees. They recommend that no further financial assistance be given to the work and encourage our people to give to the Sri Lankan and Spanish work instead;
8. The General Assembly commend the work of Miss Marjanne Hendriksen and approve an increase in her monthly allowance to £80 per month (£960 annually) up until February 2021, after which it will be reviewed again. The General Assembly assure her of their full support for her dedicated work amongst the children in the Christian schools;
9. The General Assembly note with thankfulness the ongoing developments in the work in Sri Lanka under the care of Rev. S N V Partheepan. They commend Mr Partheepan for his tireless service and commit both him and his wife Dinogee to the prayers of our people;
10. The General Assembly acknowledge the debt of gratitude they owe to Ceylon Christian Care for their generosity in supporting the diaconal work of our mission in Sri Lanka;
11. The General Assembly note the ongoing work in the Presbytery of the United States of America and encourage their brethren in their labours in the Lord's work;
12. The General Assembly express their thankfulness for the Congregation in Smiths Falls and commend its ongoing needs, especially of a settled pastor, to the prayers of the Church;
13. The General Assembly note with interest the ongoing work in China carried on by Hudson Taylor Ministries. They are gratified to learn of the assistance rendered by a number of our ministers to this work and encourage those who are able to give their services to this most worthy endeavour. They note the increasing pressures being brought by the State upon the Church in that land and commit our fellow believers there to the protection of Almighty God.