

INVERNESS AND NORTH MISSION SUPPORT

OCTOBER 2012
ISSUE 1 2012/2013



Chairman's Report 2011-2012

Spiritually, we cannot stand still. Paul "pressed towards the mark". Images of pilgrimage and running a race in scripture confirm this truth. Therefore, venturing into a new country (Colombia) and developing two new locations for fund-raising events suggests that we as a support group, while still relying on tried and tested events, have a vision to press forward.

Our project assigned by the International Missions Board for the past session was the work done by Manuel and Patty Reano in Colombia in supporting damaged Christians and pastors. Though we were not able to have them attend any of the fund-raising events, some of us were able to speak to Manuel at the General Assembly and hear first hand of his gratitude for what the Support Group has done.

As usual, our first fund-raising meeting after the AGM in August 2011 was the coffee morning in November in the Free North Church. There was a good attendance and the sum of £1552 was raised.

Our second meeting was at Knockbain Free Church in February. The attendance was good, though there was room for more. The speaker was the Rev. Bob Akroyd, who has oversight of Latin American mission in the International Missions Board. He impressed us with his warmth; his grasp of the situation in Latin America generally and Colombia in particular; and his empathy with the Reanos in their work. A sum of £1236.25 was raised.

Our third meeting was in March in Fearn Free Church. This coffee morning was supported enthusiastically by local people and it was encouraging to see this new venture raise the sum of £510.40.

Our fourth meeting was at Dingwall Free Church for a coffee morning. Unlike the previous year, there was a good attendance at Dingwall. The creditable sum of £992.07 was raised.

As a result of these fund-raising efforts, a total of £4400 was sent to the Reanos.

Developing meetings in the Caithness and Sutherland area has been delayed by a number of factors, but it is still hoped that a fund-raising coffee morning can be held there this year in Helmsdale.

We are thankful to many helpful people and churches; the Committee members, who are very diligent and enthusiastic about the work; those who help in setting up, in servicing stalls, in providing items for stalls and in preparing and serving food; our Treasurer, Moira Bauld, for all the unseen work she does in that capacity and for organising cards for sending to missionaries; our Secretary, Sandra Bain, who cheerfully keeps things organised; Mrs Katie MacKeddie for being the inspiration behind the Hilton coffee morning; Mr Willie Wyllie for handling Gift Aid forms; Greyfriars Free Church for providing rooms for committee meetings and the AGM; the Free North Church, Dingwall Free Church, Fearn Free Church and Knockbain Free Church for the use of their premises for fund-raising events; Mr Calum Graham for leading the singing at Knockbain; and Rev. Bob Akroyd for coming to speak.

While we miss the contribution made to the Missions Support Committee by Mrs Joan MacLennan and Mr Duncan Gordon, we are grateful for the addition of Dr Alan Fraser to the Committee.

If we have made some progress in developing this work, is it not small in view of the need we seek to meet and the potential among God's people to give much more support? Surely the task before us is to pray and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and scripture as to how we can enthuse more congregations, stimulate more generosity, involve more young people and be proactive in our advocacy of our calling from God.

George F. MacLean

COMMITTEE

Chair

George MacLean

Vice-Chair/
Newsletter

Mary Gillies

Secretary

Sandra Bain

Treasurer

Moira Bauld

Alan Fraser

Paul Jennings

Irene Kennedy

Katie MacKeddie

Robert MacKenzie

Peggy MacLennan

Norman MacLeod

Ishbel McLure

Helen Sharp

SOUTH AFRICA

We plan to be supporting mission work at Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa this session.

It took some time to come to a decision as to which project would come our way... We learned that just passing over a sum of money to an institution or programme of work does not automatically create great joy for those who are involved. There is anxiety..... about sustaining the work once this money ends....about the allocation of money to one project and not being able to use it to deal with a greater need arising later...and a few other issues that did not occur to us....

However, the recommendation made is that we raise funds to provide some financial support for the Correspondence Courses which have been a part of Dumisani's work since many years. These Courses are part of the story in *The Ochre and the Blue*, by Bill and Elizabeth Graham. Among all who have completed them, have been prisoners whose lives have been changed by this experience and who are now following the Lord.

It has also been suggested that some of the money raised be used for student bursaries which can be very small by our standards. Also it is requested that money could be moved from one project to the other as need arises. Our Committee is happy to agree with all of this.

We are looking forward to the contact we will have with the mission in South Africa and we pray that the Lord will bless our fund-raising efforts this session.

FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING – FREE NORTH CHURCH
17th NOVEMBER 2012 at 10.30am

FEBRUARY LUNCH – NORTH KESSOCK FREE CHURCH - 16th FEBRUARY 2013
at 12.30pm

MAY COFFEE MORNING – DINGWALL FREE CHURCH – 11th MAY 2013 at 10.30am

We are always pleased to receive donations of baking and bric-a-brac at the Coffee Mornings.

FUND-RAISING

Our fund-raising last session was very encouraging and we are grateful to our Treasurer, Moira Bauld for all the book-keeping she does. A copy of the complete financial statement is available if you would like one.

A summary is as follows:

INCOME November Coffee Morning - £1552.00; February Lunch - £1236.25; Fearn Coffee Morning - £510.40; May Coffee Morning - £992.07; Donations – £115.00; Late donation for India - £53.00

EXPENDITURE India - £53.00; Colombia - £4400.00

We thank our God for the generous hearts and hands of His people.

Distribution

We are trying to save on postage by distributing this Newsletter on e-mail so if you have an e-mail address please send it to me at the address below.

mm.gillies@saqnet.co.uk

I have tried to identify one person in each congregation who would take responsibility for making copies of the Newsletter in October and April/May and ensuring that everyone who is interested in mission support will get one.

I HOPE IT WORKS