

LONDONDERRY CITY MISSION

110th Annual Report

1. This 110th Anniversary year of the Mission has been characterised by continuing change.

2. Our new purpose built forty-one bed Hostel for Homeless Men, leased from North and West Housing Ltd., was officially opened by the President in October, the transfer from the old building having been smoothly effected at the beginning of September. Already running at almost full capacity, the age profile of the residents has changed dramatically and we are now dealing with younger men with more serious problems, though the new Hostel's facilities have greatly increased our ability to do so effectively. The volume of administration involved in the work of the new Hostel has increased considerably and we are deeply indebted to Manager Sean Boyle and his staff for maintaining their emphasis on people, for the high standard of round-the-clock care they provide, for the quality resettlement opportunities they offer, as well as for coping admirably with the ever increasing bureaucracy.

3. The Clooney Family Centre, being run by NCH (National Children's Homes), under the auspices of the North West Community Support Partnership (in which we are involved with two partners), opened its doors for business in January and is already addressing serious family needs within the Waterside area. Mr. Nigel Williams, the NI Children's Commissioner, assisted by the President, officially opened the Family Centre in a blaze of publicity in March. There are high hopes that it will make an extensive and lasting impact in an area with a proven need for such work. The strong links between NCH and Methodism are being recognised and developed locally with the introduction of an annual NCH Sunday in Clooney Hall in June.

4. The Clooney Centre, in the new Clooney Hall building, continues to develop its work, with a new 'Toddlers and Others' group as one of its most recent success stories. The Centre is well used by a variety of organisations for a range of events. Manager Ruth Connor, works hard at attending to the needs of existing clients, developing the client base, and extending the types of usage of the Centre to meet needs within the surrounding community. She is well supported by the Centre staff and we are grateful to them all for their contribution to our life and work.

5. We are constantly grateful for the support of the Circuit and the Connexion and increasingly aware of the opportunities we have and of our dependence on God to help us seize them. Pray with us that we will not only continue to be blessed but also continue to be a blessing.

AGENDA

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. Dates of Committee Meetings: 6th September and 6th December 2004, 7th March and 6th June 2005.