

# World Development and Relief Committee

## 1. Income

Income for 2003 was €97,482 and £220,526 compared with €103,091 and £190,735 in 2002.

## 2. Screening Committee Decisions

The Screening Committee met twice to disperse available funds.

7th June - £26,000, \$15,340 and €15,000 was allocated to various health projects in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Ghana, Sudan and Portuguese speaking southern Africa (for a Portuguese edition of the health manual *Where there is no Doctor*).

25th November - £165,000 was pledged to a range of projects,

- Nepal - Leprosy Hospital equipment
- India - Girls School for the Deaf: water provision
- The Gambia - renovation of village well drilling equipment
- Uganda - Training of village leaders in organic farming methods
- Honduras - Miskito Indian Community Programme
- Pakistan - Skills training for girls
- Pakistan - Computer training for slum dwellers
- India - Dalit women skills and business training
- Ghana - Youth training programme
- Kenya - Dryland farming training
- Sierra Leone - Schools rehabilitation programme
- South Africa - Community Resource Centre
- Bolivia - QUB students/Habitat for Humanity house building.

The screening committee makes decisions about funding but small grants can be made at the discretion of the WDRC officers. The following received small grants:

- Nigeria - Uzuakoli Methodist Secondary School roof
- Ghana - Scholarship for a Methodist Church agricultural student
- India - Water at a school for deaf girls
- Cote d'Ivoire - stipend for project worker with handicapped artists.

## 3. Visits and visitors

The Convener of the WDRC led the MMS(I) work party to Kenema in Sierra Leone in July. This underlined the need for support for the rehabilitation of war-damaged secondary schools. Primary schools can tap into international funds for reconstruction. The Rev. Patrick Kamara, director of the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone Kenema Development Office attended the June Screening Committee. The Rev. Walter Pimpong of Ghana attended the November

Screening Committee and described his work of rescuing girls and women who are victims of ritual slavery.

## 4. Contact with other agencies

The WDRC continues to be a member of Dochas, the Irish umbrella organisation for development NGOs. WDRC representatives serve on the Irish National Committee of Christian Aid and the Convener of the WDRC is Irish Council of Churches representative on the Christian Aid Board. In 2003 Christian Aid received £35,000 for projects in Haiti,

Rwanda and Serbia. Two WDRC members serve on the board of the British Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF). MRDF received £25,000. Tear Fund received £13,000 for the Honduran community development project mentioned above (Paragraph 2).

The WDRC continues to have a formal relationship with Christian Aid and the British Methodist MRDF. It should be noted that Christian Aid staff and volunteers are available to speak about development issues and the work of Christian Aid. There is also a range of development education resources available from the Belfast and Dublin offices of Christian Aid.

## **5. Christian Aid Ireland**

If the sponsoring Churches in Ireland give their approval a new legal entity named Christian Aid Ireland will be established as soon as possible. Christian Aid Ireland will be registered in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with one board of directors made up of the present Irish National Committee of Christian Aid, which is appointed by the sponsoring Churches, including the Methodist Church. Christian Aid Ireland will continue to be closely linked to Christian Aid in the UK.

This new arrangement is required by new charity legislation pending in the ROI and in Northern Ireland. It will enable closer co-operation between the Protestant churches and ownership by them of their development agency in Ireland. There will be improved co-operation with the Irish Government Development Co-operation, Ireland (DCI). DCI currently allocates over €1 million per annum for post war reconstruction and HIV/AIDS programmes, through Christian Aid. Ireland will continue to be represented on the Board of Christian Aid UK.

## **AGENDA**

1. The Conference adopts the report.
2. The Conference reminds all Methodists of the directive to share at least 1% of post-tax income for the work of World Development and Relief.
3. Methodists are encouraged to use the Gilt Aid scheme in NI and the Charities Tax Relief Scheme in the ROI.
4. The Conference endorses the arrangements for the establishment of Christian Aid Ireland.
5. The Conference commends the Christian Aid Trade Justice Campaign to 'Change the Rules' of international trade so that poorer nations can earn a fairer share of the benefits of global trade.
6. The Conference recommends that special prayers be offered for the work of the World Development and Relief Committee on Sunday October 2004, the beginning of One World Week in NI.
7. The Conference directs that the amount of £35,000 be allocated to Christian Aid projects and that £25,000 be allocated to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund subject to annual review.
8. The Conference appoints the Screening Committee:-  
Revs. John Parkin, Sahr Yambasu, Robert Russell, J. Henry Keys, Mr. Brian Maxwell, Dr. Elizabeth Lemon, Ms Samantha Tuck (MRDF Advisor), \_\_\_\_\_, Mr. Alan Watters (Secretary).