

Global Focus Annual Report

Global Focus Team (formerly World Mission) (for year ending 30 September 2009)

Area of Responsibility

Reflecting P's&G's strategy, our aim is to show God's love globally through links with our existing mission partners whom we continue to support in prayer and finance, and also by looking at ways of encouraging a wider interest and participation in God's mission internationally at P's&G's. This includes helping to identify specific social, economic and spiritual needs around the world.

Summary of preceding year

- With grateful thanks to God and the generosity of P's&G's congregation, we exceeded the gift day target of £45,000 by the end of the financial year. This enables us to fulfil our commitment to mission partners over the coming year as well as continue to develop links with Kisumu, Kenya via World Vision.
- Stuart and Janeth Aitken (Ecuador) and Vincent and Beatrice Langariti (Uganda) completed their time as mission partners moving on into other areas of work and/or service. However, P's&G's commissioned one new mission partner in August '09, Kieren Barnes, who joined the staff of Cheryl's Home, Nairobi. Hopefully his being at Cheryl's will strengthen the link already set in place with P's&G's Youth Fellowship as well as provide opportunities for others who wish to take part in short term mission trips to do so.
- Thanks to Gemma Stoddart, the children's work now includes a regular focus on world mission. Some of this is building on the links with Kieren and Cheryl's Home and relationships made through the YF visits. The youngsters are encouraged to write letters, send shoe boxes with presents at Christmas and also to find out more about the culture and issues faced by children in Kenya and to pray for them.
- The Global Focus (world mission) team recruited two new members – Alison Strang and Cathy Richards – both with first hand knowledge of the community links with Kisumu, Kenya. Six team meetings were held during the year when P's&G's strategy paper was looked at in the light of how best to encourage wider interest and participation in world mission and how this could better link into present areas of ministry in the church. We recognised this to be an ongoing process.
- A key priority of the GF team is to encourage prayer for world mission and world issues and that a focus on prayer for world mission becomes integrated into the overall church strategy for improving the prayer life of the church. To help encourage prayer, WM prayer meetings were held but, unfortunately, were not well attended. News and newsletters from mission partners were also circulated to home/small group leaders for information, sharing and prayer. A monthly mission partner prayer focus appeared in the weekly newsheet and on the Sunday service notice overheads.
- World Mission now has its own page on the P's&G's website although some material cannot be displayed due to sensitivity. WM was given its own dedicated notice board in church. Globetrotter was distributed three times during the year with details of mission partners and prayer requests. The September Activity Fair stall attracted interest for follow up.
- Mission partners Mike & Helen Parker, Malcolm & Carrie Lyon, Stuart & Janeth Aitken visited Edinburgh during the year and shared at Sunday services and in home groups. Over the summer months, there were separate visits from Perry Ngerry and Esther, and from Mary Muinde, all from World Vision Kenya, who shared in Sunday services.
- Developing short term mission opportunities is still a key area but did not progress as intended due to time constraints.

Targets for the coming year

- Ensure that the work and ministry of P's&G's mission partners is promoted and shared as widely as possible and through as many media as possible so that they are supported through encouragement, prayer and financial giving. This will include a new look Globetrotter and greater inclusion in the Blether. The GF team are working with the Communications Team on this.
- Financially to raise sufficient funds through the annual gift day target to ensure that the financial support we give to mission partners, and to the Kisumu link, is appropriate to needs and increasing costs and to fulfilling P's&G's commitment of support. Financial support to partners has remained the same for the past two years due to financial constraints.
- Encourage and develop increased prayer for world mission in the prayer life of the church individually and corporately as well as in small groups. This will be helped by the anticipated appointment of a Prayer Coordinator. It is also hoped to have more definite links between church home/small groups and mission partners.
- Develop a short term mission programme which encourages an age-wide involvement in different projects and ministries overseas. Also try to discover better ways for those who have been overseas to feed back their experiences at P's&G's.
- Look at ways to encourage wider interest and participation in God's mission internationally. This could be through holding workshops on various world development, social, economic issues or taking a more proactive approach to short term mission

opportunities. A workshop planned for 10 October, and open to other churches in Edinburgh, will look at church involvement in overseas mission and development projects and is also aimed at Christians concerned with global injustice. The speaker is Steve Haas from World Vision. This workshop coincides with P's&G's Global Focus weekend for the launch of *Just Christmas*

- Explore more about what the Kisumu link to P's&G's through World Vision will mean within the church.

Resource Implications for the coming year

- To raise £50,000 (gift day target) over the coming financial year - mainly in order to meet our mission partner commitment of support but also to have a small fund available to help develop links with Kisumu.
- Receive help and guidance from the Communications Team in the task of keeping P's&G's congregation aware, informed and praying for mission partners, Kisumu and other global issues.
- Support in keeping P's&G's global focus web page up-to-date and relevant.
- Support from the P's&G's Prayer Coordinator so that world prayer concerns are fed into Sunday service intercessory prayer as well as into other areas of prayer within the church.

Pauline Hurst, Chairperson

Team members include: Alison Creasey; Jon Hammond; Roderick Mackenzie (Vestry rep); Cath Macneal; Peter Quill; Cathy Richards; Alison Strang.