

Mission and Evangelism Committee report to Annual Meeting 2013

When I started writing these reports ten years ago the amount of money available was quite close to the total requested amount. Since then the amount of money has increased with inflation and also through excellent investments from the Otago Foundation Trust Board. However the amount requested has now increased considerably along with the downturn in the investment landscape. This has made the task of the committee much more challenging as we would all like to give people what they seek.

Also over recent years we have employed several more staff in Synod wide positions. We have also given long term financial support to Student Soul at Otago University and more recently, the Lex Wylie Missionary Fellowship, initially granted to the Upper Clutha Parish. All of these very fine initiatives impact considerably on the funding available from this committee for parish projects. This has been a challenge for our committee. I do want to thank them for their work, local research, careful reading of the applications and in particular their heart for Christian mission.

Further, unlike other funding committees, they meet twice a year, in February, like other committees but also in September. This is to enable applicants, seeking assistance with a project to start at the beginning of the next year to know, in advance, whether partial Synod funding is available. If granted, this money is then available from the start of the year, provided the recommendations from our committee have been endorsed by the Synod Life Committee, acting as a commission of Synod at their September meeting. The 2013 Annual Meeting will have a similar responsibility with the recommendations from Round 40, on the adjacent pages. My grateful thanks to all members of the Mission and Evangelism Committees that I have worked with closely over the last ten years. It has been a significant and interesting part of my life.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Officer, Mr Fergus Sime, for his careful preparation and presentation for all the meetings, his enthusiasm for the work and his wisdom in providing information to us all but not influencing any decision made on the grant applications.

Allan Paulin

Convenor