

# **THE VINCENT SOCIETY CHARITY GROUP**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

CMJ UK is a working name of The Vincent Society - a company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in England no 00256264, registered charity no 1153457

## **Introduction**

This year has seen many blessings for the Society. It began with the very generous response of our supporters to the Spring Appeal, considerable legacy income throughout the year and the Autumn Appeal surpassed the levels achieved in the Spring. This is on top of the continued generosity from our individual and church supporters' ongoing giving. We have also been blessed with significant opportunities for our outreach work and in sharing the work of the ministry in the UK and internationally.

We take the opportunity within this report to acknowledge the faithfulness of the Lord who calls us and equips us to fulfil our mission and to our members and supporters for their unfailing prayer and financial giving.

We are pleased to report that in 2015 we gained 6 new churches and 76 individuals to the mailing database. At the end of the year we had 531 members.

## **Trustees' Activities**

There were several areas of Trustee activity in 2015. The most notable aspects of our work in 2015 were the completion of the restructuring activities and the setting of the 2016 budget. These tasks were in addition to the regular oversight activities of the Society by the Trustees.

The final aspect of the work to simplify the structure of the Society by consolidating all of our work and finances under the umbrella of the charitable company called the Vincent Society was achieved with the approval of the 2015 AGM and the subsequent activities to implement its decision. The Trustees are grateful for the ongoing prayers of our supporters for this work and the practical help of the staff of the Kubernesis Partnership LLP.

A key responsibility for the Trustees in any year is the setting of the budget. The Trustees were very pleased to be able to set a budget for 2015 that maintains the increased evangelism expenditure agreed in 2014 as well as extending our conference work in the areas of Youth work and Reconciliation and we are excited about the potential impact this could have.

As this report has indicated we have continued to benefit, not only from the generosity of our supporters in their regular giving but also from the blessings of a number of very generous legacies. These kind gifts help to put us on a more secure financial footing and to have a more solid basis for planning our work in the future. We would particularly like to thank those supporters who remember us in this way and to put on record our appreciation for their valuable support.

## UK

We have continued to promote the teaching and training resource - "Putting People on the Moon". This resource has been used in 2015 at 2 evangelism training events. Plans are in place to update this in 2016.

Our evangelism workers have continued to develop a good network of personal contacts and friendships which lead to worthwhile encounters with the Gospel. In addition to this "day to day" work, the Society invested in three other major outreach projects in 2015. In all our outreach work the primary focus is to reach Jewish people sensitively and appropriately, but it is never our intention to exclude other people from any of our outreach or educational activities. These outreach projects are listed below:

1. The Vitality Show (New Age) outreach in March at Earls Court, London, where four of our staff members worked in partnership with other similar ministries under the heading of the Jesus Experience Team. Over the four days, many hundreds of people engaged in conversations and some prayed for salvation.
2. Two staff members organised much of the Spring Fair at Christ Church in Jerusalem in April with a team of volunteers. This event brings local people (Jewish and Arab) into the Church environment and many important conversations take place and contacts are made.
3. Street outreach in Stamford Hill - we continued to support the outreach meetings during the spring and summer of 2015. New in 2015 were two prayer walks organised by and attended by our staff and others who shared a desire to be part of this ministry.

The Temple Model linked to the updated version of the "Bible Comes to Life", continues to be used extensively by staff to promote the message of our Society. It is also a useful tool to educate fellow believers in the importance of the Jewish roots of their faith and the call on us all to bring the Gospel to our Jewish friends and neighbours. The need for a permanent storage site continued to be researched. Use of the artefacts as educational aids has been a regular occurrence on deputations, summer camps and whenever staff exhibit using the Bedouin Tent. The Temple Model was displayed during the year and it continues to be displayed at Youth With A Mission (YWAM) HQ in Nuneaton during school holidays, as part of the "continuing joint use" agreement we have with them.

In further seeking to educate the Church and encourage Jewish Believers, staff led or organised numerous church meetings, deputation events, Passovers, Olive Press parties, and Shabbat meal teaching events. Staff and local visitors have able to benefit from monthly teaching sessions from various speakers, including a local Rabbi, linked to Staff days. This work has also been done in partnership and has representation on the group of similar focused ministries, "Love Never Fails".

Key speakers from CMJ Australia and South Africa were brought in to aid the teaching. One of Kelvin Crombie's events was hosted at the House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Cox, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli. In addition to these Church based meetings; work took place in colleges and theological symposiums and conferences. We have attended and provided speakers for "anti-Semitism" events.

Staff also represented the Society at UK Christian conferences. New to the list was a trip to Ireland to display our Bridal gown and speak at a special event about brides in the Bible. We were also represented at Catalyst in Ireland, an event for 20s to 30s. We also had staff speaking at the Atlit Memorial event and the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE) convention in Jerusalem in August where the subject was 2,000 years of Jewish mission.

Staff (and local reps) led numerous Passover celebrations and helped many churches explore the link between Passover and Holy Communion and the person and work of Jesus.

In July our annual three day conference at Swanwick Conference Centre was attended by over 230 people. We had great teaching from John Atkinson. In addition to these major events, staff members promoted CMJ via a range of media contacts and this included work with Revelation TV.

In terms of theological reflection and education we have continued to publish and widely distribute Olive Press Research Papers. This year's subjects were Crucifixion to Resurrection by Alex Jacob; Two Streams of Zionism and their Contemporary Relevance by Michael Eldridge; A Synoptic History of Jewish Mission by Alex Jacob; and Did God really Say? by Jacki Turnbull. These papers are given free of charge to CMJ members and complimentary copies sent out to a range of Bible Colleges etc. Other articles that staff have generated have been published in the Mishkan journal and the Evangelical Review of Theology and Politics, and a chapter (focusing on the emergence of Messianic Judaism) for a forthcoming Dictionary of Charismatic Theology.

Staff also marked the Holocaust memorial event and Yom Kippur by taking part in or hosting a number of remembrance events or prayer gatherings. This again shows our on-going stand against anti-Semitism. Staff prepared and led the national Yom Kippur prayer event in London.

The new areas of work during 2015 have been:

- Alongside our main annual conference in July 2015 we ran a youth conference that enjoyed the teaching and music of Chip Kendall. This was enjoyed by over 40 Youth delegates. Other youth events took place during the year.
- Two Community Based Evangelists were appointed to work in Manchester and London.

- A UK version of the At the Crossroads Conference was organised in Manchester by staff and supported by the lead staff from Israel, allowing the reconciliation theme to be developed amongst Jewish and Arabic delegates.
- We commissioned, produced and distributed a new DVD teaching resource from Olly Goldenberg aimed at youngsters and their parents.
- A Residential Keshet course on the Isle of Wight was attended by 14 people including an Arab street evangelist, an Iranian family and an Algerian MBB (Muslim Background Believer) and was very well received, resulting in an extra CMJ Rep (in an Arabic church).

We have continued to raise the profile of CMJ online using our Social Media pages to connect with supporters throughout the year, enhancing the website to provide an interesting and up-to-date profile to those who engage with us in this way.

In all this work staff and trustees are helped by a team of volunteers. The number who engage with us this way has dropped to 6 regulars who average 26 hours per week. In addition we have local reps who promote the work of the Society in their locality and who were supported with a training event during 2015. This training event which increased from a two day event to a three day event was held in London and included a visit to a rabbi in his synagogue.

The Trustees would like to note, with gratitude, the tremendous efforts of our small but dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission, without them little of our work would be done; and we acknowledge their service, but more importantly to the Kingdom to which we all belong, and to our Lord.

## **Israel**

The Society does not operate directly in Israel, but it does provide a significant amount of financial support for the work of our sister society CMJ Israel; £115,000 in 2015.

The work of CMJ Israel includes the Heritage Centres which are visited by many thousands of Israelis each year. These centres show their visitors something of the history of love and commitment shown by Christians (especially, of course, those working for CMJ) to the Jewish people in the Land since the 19th Century. There are two Heritage Centres in Jerusalem: one in Tel Aviv and one in Migdal. These are located in guesthouses run by CMJ Israel and in the Anglican International School, Jerusalem (AISJ). These are of great historical interest to Israelis and are used to educate the Church about its Jewish roots.

CMJ Israel also runs the AISJ and supports other Christian Schools in Israel, both in Arab and Jewish communities. AISJ is a Christian School with very high academic standards. AISJ

welcomes students from all living in the area, including local and expatriate Christians and those from the Jewish and Muslim communities. It shows how people from all backgrounds and communities can prosper together within the context of Christian love.

### **Public benefit statement**

The charitable aims of the Vincent Society were previously carried out for public benefit mainly by the work of CMJ, until its transfer of activities which took effect from 1 January 2015.

The Trustees confirm that they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit requirement in the decisions taken.

The Vincent Society has advanced the Christian religion by the fulfilment of these objects as the main public benefit of this Society. Key to this is the evangelistic work in the UK achieved by the employment of staff whose work is to evangelise and promote evangelism in ways that are appropriate for Jewish people. This promotion takes place within the wider church and also includes other support staff and volunteers. The work is done in a way that does not restrict evangelism to Jewish people in an exclusive way but encourages people of all backgrounds to consider the claims of Yeshua Ha Meshiach - Jesus the Messiah.

In addition to the day to day evangelistic work (in the form of friendship evangelism etc.) the Society has been present at a number of outreach events. These include street outreaches and specialist outreaches at New Age events, all of which are open to all members of the public. The evangelistic work of the Society has been done in a culturally sensitive way without any coercion whatsoever and fully in line with aim of the Society (Articles of Association 5.21 states that no financial gift shall be made to any Jewish person out of the funds of the charity unless that person has been for at least a year a baptised believer in Messiah and that any such gift can be seen to be in furtherance of the Objects of the Charity and not as an inducement to become a believer).

The evangelistic work of the Vincent Society is done in a way that is appropriate to and available to Jewish people but it has never been exclusive in its approach. In all of the work that is done in a Jewish context with both new and mature believers alike being shown the importance of the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

The Vincent Society has also been of public benefit by engaging with and supporting Jewish believers in Yeshua in their faith. Jewish people who make a commitment to Yeshua often describe themselves as "Messianic Believers" and these believers may form "Messianic Congregations" or "Messianic Fellowships" for worship, mutual support and encouragement in their faith.

The Society has also organised public religious services and special events to educate the wider Christian community about the Jewish roots of Christianity and to encourage them to

support Messianic believers and to support outreach to Jewish people. Individuals are also given the opportunity to pay for a visit to Israel, to promote a greater understanding of both Christianity and its Jewish origins. It also seeks to ensure that the costs of such a trip are kept to a level that allows a large section of the public to be able to enjoy them.

### **Future Developments**

As we enter into 2016, in addition to the updating of the evangelism course there are a number of other new initiatives, namely; the review and potential future strengthening of our Community Based Evangelists, the celebrating of the 150th anniversary of the British Messianic Jewish Alliance (BMJA), the planning for the celebrating of the 100th anniversary of the Balfour declaration (in 2017) and the on-going strengthening of our links with our colleagues in Israel. In regard to these Israel links we are investing in partnering with the Crossroads conference (April) and the Christ Church spring fare event (May) both hosted in Jerusalem.

### **Conclusion**

The work of the Society has been progressed in 2015 such that the gospel has been advanced among Jewish people. The activities and the manner in which they are executed are consistent with the objects of the Vincent Society. We continue to pursue innovative means of continuing this work and in partnership with like-minded charities both here in the UK and in Israel. We seek to continue to serve the Lord in the mission that He has given us. We publically and gratefully acknowledge His faithfulness to us in 2015.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 and signed on its behalf by:



B G Salter  
Trustee & Chairman