

Autumn 2003 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2003

Special points of interest

- This is our new News & Prayer Letter
- AGM 2003
- Prayer Pointers

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125th Year Annual General Meeting and Thanksgiving Service

This service took place on Friday 16th May 2003 at St. Paul's Reformed and Evangelical Church, Bexhill.

Pastor Gadsden opened in payer and read Psalm 150—a Psalm of Praise !

Philippians 4 was read following a hymn and Philip Starnes led us in prayer thanking God for all his goodness and faithfulness through the years.

Dr Gadsden congratulated GARF on its work and longevity. He exhorted the committee to remember these marvellous works are what God has done using 1 Chronicles 16 v 12.

It was then the turn of our treasurer Chris

David to give his thanks to our supporters around England and Scotland.

In recent years there has been a gradual decline in funds and last summer the committee met to pray for the beneficiaries and to seek to know God's will for the future as the funds were too low to make the usual quarterly grants. Almost immediately we heard confirmation of a legacy which has now been received and is far more than we ever imagined—£100,000.

In the secretary's report David Cottington reminded the meeting GARF exists primarily to

support Pastors whose churches do not have the means to fully support



Our 2 longest serving committee members with Bexhill Pastor Peter Gadsden and speaker Pastor Graham Chewter

them. Maybe some churches have put off calling a Pastor because of financial constraints. GARF would be pleased to hear of such cases.

A motion acknowledging the goodness of God

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Next Public Meeting on behalf of GARF

Our next meeting will take place on February 24th, 2004 at Eastbourne Evangelical Church, Victoria Road, Eastbourne at 7.30pm. The preacher will be Tony Bickley of Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Brighton.

Tony has very kindly offered to head up our deputation work amongst the local churches. Please contact the Secretary if your church would be interested in hosting a meeting on our behalf.

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through another year was carried.

A free-will offering amounting to £140 was taken for which we give thanks to our Gracious God.

For our sermon Pastor Graham Chewter of Bedford centred our thoughts on Philippians 4 v 19 *"But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

"Every grace and favour comes to us through Jesus blood"

He spoke of Paul's love to the Philippians and their desire to minister to his needs.

He preached under three headings:

*The Divine Benefactor
The Earthly Provider
The Heavenly Treasurer*

The Divine Benefactor:

"My God". What a vast theme! All seeing : Omnipotent : Almighty : Heaven of Heavens could not contain him : Glorious trinity of Persons : Chose to reveal himself to needy souls : The goodness of God seen in his grandest display of grace to those who are undeserving: humble, repentant sinners brought to Jesus.

The Earthly Provider:

Paul and the church at Philippi's love were mutual. This was manifest through their lives. In verse 14 Paul wrote from prison "Ye have done well that ye did

communicate with my affliction. It was to Paul a noble act a beautiful deed and an "odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God" (Verse 18)

There is a principle to use our health to labour. 2 Thess. 3 v10 and Eph. 4 v 28. Some are not able to work and love constrains God's people to make

provision. This is pleasing to God. The Lord has used GARF to meet particular needs of the Gospel Advocates and their widows for 125 years, Recently they feared the future but the Lord has abundantly met their needs.

The Heavenly Treasurer:

Philippi had given sacrificially out of love and esteem to Paul and God would give to them in return. He knows where to send help and by what means e.g. Elijah fed by the ravens and then the poor widow woman who proved "the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord which he spake by Elijah" 1 Kings 17 v16

The Lord is no man's debtor: *"Every grace and favour comes to us through Jesus blood"*

Graham concluded by reading verse 20 of Philippians 4 which we heartily agree was a fitting doxology to acknowledge the goodness of God our Father in

constraining one of his people to bequeath such a remarkable gift to GARF.

"Now unto God our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen"

Our AGM and thanksgiving service ended with William Gadsby's famous hymn "Immortal honours rest on Jesus' head"

We thank the St Paul's fellowship for their hospitality and especially the Lord for His presence and blessing.

The taxman giveth !

Don't forget that the taxman now gives an income tax refund on all donations given by taxpayers who are registered for Gift Aid with their chosen charity. Please make sure that you let us know that you are a



tax payer so that any donations you care to send us may have the tax reclaimed by us for the benefit of our beneficiaries.

Prayer Items

As a committee we are following up requests for financial support.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom to discern those most needy
- Wisdom to administer the funds in accordance with God's will
- People willing to serve as committee members. In recent years we have lost 3 members and as such need their



replacements input and prayers.

- Churches willing to host deputation meetings.
- A renewed interest in the work of the Fund both financially and prayerfully.
- Plans to advertise in leading Christian periodicals will bear fruit.
- Plans to sponsor a Minister's Fraternal will be met with

enthusiasm from those whom we contact.

Finally we ask that

- We obey God's leading and guiding, honouring Him above all else in all that we do and say.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Annual General Meeting 2004

This is an advance notice and is subject to change.

Next year's AGM will, God willing, be held at Five Ash Down Chapel, Near Uckfield, East Sussex on 27th May 2004 at 7.30pm when the preacher will be Mr Timothy Martin of Halesowen, West Midlands.

We trust it will be a very valuable time for all who join us there.

Press Releases

We have had some success in placing press releases with some of the Christian Press—English Churchman magazine being the best example and contains the full version of the front page of this newsletter

Our News & Prayer Letter

We hope you like this new newsletter. Please let us know your thoughts on it.

Do you like the layout?

What can we improve?

Let the editor know by e-mailing him at:
Garfeditor@kstarnes.mistral.co.uk

GOSPEL ADVOCATE RELIEF FUND

Registered Charity: 209606

The fund exists to support needy ministers and their widows and dependants.

G.A.R.F

Web Site

www3.mistral.co.uk/kstarnes/garf1.htm

If you want to know more please write to the Secretary and ask for the "Introducing GARF" booklet..

*For financial giving and enquiries please contact the Treasurer :
Chris David, 32 Scarletts Close UCKFIELD East Sussex TN22 2BA
☎ 01825 763035*

For general information and prospective speaking engagements please contact the Secretary:

*David Cottington, 10 Ryefield Close, EASTBOURNE East Sussex BN21 2XJ
☎ 01323 507168*

For Web Site feedback and ideas please e-mail the editor:

Garfeditor@kstarnes.mistral.co.uk

How can I help GARF ?

There are several ways of helping GARF

You can:

- Pray for us
- Support us financially
- Become a committee member if you feel prompted.
- Tell us of needy ministers, widows and their dependants.
- Remember us in your will
- Tell others of the work we are doing
- Host a deputation meeting