

# AGM May 2004

Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2004

## *Points of interest*

- This Year's Report
- Financial Report
- Prayer Pointers

## Annual Report for 2003/2004

The past year has been particularly busy for the committee. We have enjoyed a reasonable amount of publicity and are grateful to the editors of The English Churchman, The Gospel Magazine, Grace Magazine and Evangelicals Now who have published material sent to them.

In addition we set an advertising budget of £500 and have placed advertisements in these publications and The Evangelical Times. It is our intention to have six advertisements each in Evangelicals Now and ET during the course of 2004. These all follow a theme:

How can I help GARF?.....

All are invited to

We value your prayers for wisdom to handle applications for assistance. Each case brought to our attention has usually been laid on one or more of God's people's minds and it is not until we receive a completed application from the potential beneficiary that the committee are able to form an opinion as to whether or not to offer assistance. We are keen to ensure the fund is distributed in line with the aims and objectives of the founder of the Fund, Mr A J Baxter, minister of Cavendish Place Independent Chapel 126 years ago i.e. the relief of poverty of free grace ministers, their widows and dependants.

### **AGM 2003**

Our 125th AGM and Thanksgiving service was held at St Paul's Reformed Church at Bexhill. Graham Chewter, the Pastor at Bedford Grace Baptist Chapel preached from Philippians 4 v 19 "*But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*". This text is quoted on the cover of our booklet "Introducing GARF"

Graham spoke of Paul's love to the Philippians and their desire to

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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 v 10 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 k n o w s

Every grace and favour  
comes to us through  
Jesus blood”

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.

“The Church is not  
a club”

*“Now unto God our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen”*

## **Last Year's report**

Last year's report mentioned the help Pastor Graham Thrussell of Chichester had given to the committee at a meeting we invited him to attend. One of his suggestions was to appoint a Deputation Speaker and encourage Churches to hold Deputation meetings in order to both make the work more widely known and preach the gospel. We are delighted that *Tony Bickley, the Pastor at Ebenezer, Brighton* has kindly agreed to head up this work and meetings have been held at Halland Chapel and Eastbourne Evangelical Church.

## **Halland Deputation Meeting**

Tony preached at Halland firstly reading Ephesians 2 and then preaching from St Luke 8 v 19—21.

He spoke of the need to remember when Christians join a Church they do so as members of

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the Body of Christ. It is not a club. Christ cared deeply for others in the midst of His sufferings, and so too do the true members of Christ's Body care for and love one another. He linked these thoughts to the work of GARF.

## **Eastbourne Deputation Meeting**

At Eastbourne he set a challenge to

### ***Put GARF out of business!***

He opened his discourse by suggesting that there was a way that we could put GARF out of business, he stressed that there was a need at this present time for such organisations as GARF, but pointed out from Acts 4:32-37 that a Church that is working properly will meet the needs of the people of God.

He also spoke of the need for Revival, but stressed that it was not an easy option. He gave three conditions that existed in the verses in 1 Samuel 6:7—7:12 and they were:-

- How sincerity in worship was not enough
- How proper worship is always acceptable and blessed of God.
- The need for revival and the cost of revival.

### ***Sincerity in worship is not enough.***

It was pointed out that the people of Beth-She-Mesh rejoiced at the return of the Ark but also that they sought their own way of worship. They offered a milk cow, and although they offered it in a proper way, and with sincerity, the milk cow was not an acceptable offering. Bulls, lambs and doves were acceptable, but in their efforts to

please God they in fact displeased Him. Also they looked into the Ark, a thing they should not have done.

We did not doubt their sincerity, but the way that this sincerity was expressed brought punishment upon them, 50,070 people died as a result of this action. Sincerity is not enough.

### ***Proper worship is always acceptable and blessed of God.***

The men of Kirjath-Jearim, on the other hand, approached the Lord in a very different manner, the leader of that people appointed a priest; this was a type of Christ. The priest would represent them before the Ark and they would worship God both in sincerity and acceptable. The proof of this is that they were accepted and were blessed of God for 20 years.

“Sincerity in worship is not enough”

Tony speculated that during this time, as is the way of all Christians, they would be praying for the nation, as

would Samuel. Their prayers were finally answered, as a change of heart came upon the whole nation.

### ***The need for, and the cost of, Revival.***

During this time the heart of the people was changed and they began to long for the return of the ark and so Samuel gave them the conditions that would be needed for this to happen.

We were told that we had to remember that the Ark represented the presence of God amongst the people. We noted those conditions as laid down in 1 Sam 7 v 3.

We saw a determination that is perhaps lacking in the Church today, and a willingness to obey regardless of personal cost. We then looked at v6 and

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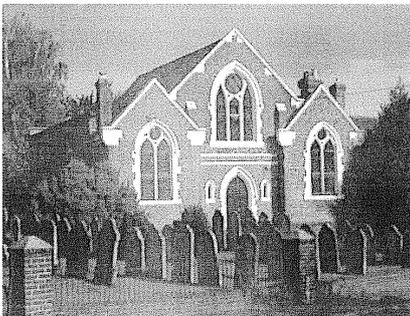
noted the determination that existed amongst the whole of the people of God. They fasted together and pleaded with the Lord and the Lord heard them and answered. Tony noted that most of us work in isolation amongst our own fellowships, and how we need a bigger view of the Church, and a closer communion and determination in seeking the Lord's blessings. We need more than the fellowship of friendship and words, we need to gather together and pray, and fast when needed, and that it was needed now as never before since the Reformation.

Finally Tony noted that when the people of God come together in this way, that Satan is not very far away. The Philistines sought to take advantage of what they saw was the weakness of Israel. But God fought for them (v10) and both protected them and gave them victory over their enemies.

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## Five Ash Down Chapel

We are grateful to Pastor George Rabey and the friends at Five Ash Down for agreeing to host our 126th AGM. It is some years since we held a



meeting here and we are delighted to renew fellowship with them.

Timothy Martin preaching for us who looks after two churches (Slapton & Wappenham) in Northants and who has family links with the Fund and whose father was pastor at Chichester.

It is also good to have Pastor

## Newsletter Editor

A newsletter is now being produced by Ken Starnes who says....."modern technology enables us to achieve many things and I have utilised my computing skills and desktop publisher software to bring

*a fresh look to what we required. Feedback is produce. Currently it is all printed in-house but when a more professional approach is needed we will use outside resources as*



## Annual Report Continued

### Thanks to our Gracious God

Most of all we thank our Gracious God for upholding the fund for 126 years. Much has changed during this long period of time but; *"I am the Lord, I change not"* Malachi 3 v 6. We continue to receive gifts from a band of loyal supporters dotted around England and Scotland and we do sincerely thank all who have given to this fund during the year.

## The Honorary Treasurer's Report

"During 2003-04 the fund has continued to support the two widows and three pastors we have helped for a number of years. We have additionally been able to send grants to four new pastors as a result of the legacy received last year. The committee has been encouraged to see an increase in the levels of donations made to the fund from both churches and individuals. We give thanks to God for His goodness to all connected with this work."

## A Committee Member remembers

Two of our committee members, Phil Starnes and John Cornwell, have served almost 100 years between them, This AGM is Phil's 50th and he says ....

*"It is very fitting that we are having the Annual Meeting here (Five Ash Down) this year.*

*It was just 50 years ago this summer that Mr Joe Turner, Pastor of Five Ash Down Chapel asked me if I would join the Gospel Advocate Magazine Fund as it was at the time.*

*The fund was started from the proceeds of the sale of the Gospel Advocate Magazine and reinforced by donations and legacies*

*There were twelve Committee members at the time I joined, made up of men from Providence Chapel Brighton, Jireh Chapel Lewes, Tabernacle Hastings and 2 Strict Baptist Chapels as well as Halland.*

*Back in 1958 we held both afternoon and evening Annual Meetings at Providence Chapel, Church Street Brighton under the*

*chairmanship of Rev JW Rowlands. Mr James Payne of Ebenezer Brighton preached in the afternoon and in the evening 2 short messages were given by James Payne and Mr Reg Saunders. It was also part of the evening meeting to approve the accounts and the annual report by the passing of two resolutions and approving any changes made during the year.*

*The Quarterly meetings have always been proved to be a time of real fellowship with the committee and the letters of thanks reveal how good the Lord is to His needy people. He knows just when to manifest His providential love to them.*

*I recommend you to give prayerful support to this precious area of His work."*

# Financial Statement

## Income and Expenditure

Income & Expenditure as at 31st March, 2004

	2004	2003
INCOME	£	£
Subscriptions & Donations	780	655
Church Donations		
Halland Chapel (Deputation)	250	
St Paul's Church, Bexhill (AGM)	140	
Ebenezer Chapel, Brighton	53	
Grace Baptist Chapel, Bradford On Avon	150	
Eastbourne Free Church (Deputation)	35	
	628	484
Legacy Income	0	102000
Interest on Investments	3472	1220
Income Tax Recovery on Gift Aid, Investments & Subscriptions	116	83
	4996	104442
Totals	4996	104442
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Grants	10950	6275
Advertising & Promotion	217	131
Ministerial Fees	150	0
	11317	6406
Totals	11317	6406
Surplus/Deficit	-6321	98036

# Financial Statement

## Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2004

	2004	2003
ASSETS	£	£
Giro Bank Current A/c	2364	922
Portman Deposit A/c	92428	101256
Cash To Be Banked / Unpresented Cheques	-1366	-2431
	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>93426</b>	<b>99747</b>
	=====	=====

### REPRESENTED BY

Balance at beginning of year	99747	1711
Add Surplus / Less Deficit	-6321	98036
	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>93426</b>	<b>99747</b>
	=====	=====

## 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.
- The possibility of deputation speakers in other parts of the country

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."*



## Ministers Conference April 2004 Update

The stand at the Banner Of Truth Conference generated some interest and several information packs were taken.

It was arranged at short notice, a stand being kindly lent to us by Our Inheritance Bible Ministries and some interest getters hastily printed.

Next year, God willing, we hope to print more attractive material and have someone in attendance. Any ministers who plan to attend the conference next year and would be willing to help please do contact the secretary.

## FIEC Bible Conference Update

**Information about the work of GARF was also available to ministers at the 2004 FIEC Assembly and Bible Conference at Pwllheli, North Wales (26th—30th April).**

We didn't have a stand there, but the FIEC Pastoral Society secretary, Rev. Basil Howlett, was sent approx. 60 abridged versions of 'Introducing GARF'.

## GOSPEL ADVOCATE RELIEF FUND

**REGISTERED CHARITY 209606**

Members of the Committee  
as at March 2004

John Cornwell (Lewes)  
David Cottington (Halland) (Hon  
Secretary)  
Chris David (Halland) (Hon Treasurer)  
Reg Payne (Wivelsfield)  
Ken Starnes (Ringmer)  
Phil Starnes (Halland)

Trustees

Ben Elford  
Reg Payne  
Phil Starnes  
David Wyld

*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 help-  
ing GARF

You can:

- Pray for us
- Support us financially
- Tell us of needy ministers,  
widows and their depend-  
ants.
- Remember us in your will
- Tell others of the work we  
are doing
- Host a deputation meet-  
ing
- Become a deputation  
speaker in your part of  
the country (Please con-  
tact the Secretary in the  
first instance)

## The tax man giveth !



Don't forget that the tax  
man 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.

Copies of a declaration form are enclosed with  
this report.

**Gospel Advocate Relief Fund**  
**Celebrate to the Glory of God 126 years**  
**1878—2004**

**Assisting needy ministers and their widows**

**DO JOIN US AT OUR AGM AND**  
**Thanksgiving Service**

**On**

**Thursday 27th May**

**At**

**7.30pm (DV)**

**Venue**

**Five Ash Down Chapel**

**Five Ash Down, Nr Uckfield**

**Preacher**

**Mr Timothy Martin**

**Pastor of Slapton & Wappenham Churches, Northants**