

Points of interest

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



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Annual Report for 2004/2005

The Honorary Secretary's Report



The Committee acknowledge with much thankfulness the goodness of God in granting a measure of wisdom in seeking to discharge their increasing duties.

We express with the Psalmist "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for the truth's sake". Psalm 115 v 1

Our quarterly Committee meetings have been unusually busy and lasted between 2½ and 3 hours. Individual members have worked tirelessly behind the scenes dealing with enquiries and taking a proactive approach to promote the Fund.

We are sorry, although not surprised, the Lord's elderly servant, Reg Payne, formerly Pastor at Wivelsfield, resigned from the Committee earlier this year. Reg gave many years of service to GARF and we feel the loss of his experience, help, encouragement and Godly influence. About three years ago the Fund was low but Reg advocated prayer and pleaded the promise "the Lord will provide." Soon afterwards a legacy for £1,000 was received followed by more substantial sums.

Please pray that the Lord will constrain some of his people to join the Committee. We have approached three men in recent months but for the time being they have all declined.

We are indebted to our band of loyal supporters dotted around the

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United Kingdom and are encouraged this number continues to grow.

Grant Applications

Many applications have been received and grants awarded.

In some instances, after prayerful consideration the Committee unanimously declined to offer assistance. This is a difficult task. We have to rely on the information provided and at times find it necessary to decline because the church appears to have the funds, but for reasons unknown to us, they are not paying an adequate stipend. This is clearly not in keeping with biblical principles. The Lord himself said in Luke 10 v 7 "The labourer is worthy of his hire."

The Committee have recently decided to ask beneficiaries to submit church accounts and an updated application every two years so that we can endeavour to channel funds to those most in need.

Editorials

We are grateful to various editors for their interest. Dr J

Benton of Evangelicals Now interviewed us and devoted a prominent half page in January's edition.

Pastor Tim Curnow has also featured the Fund again in The Grace Magazine. He plans to create an awareness of the aims and objectives of GARF and similar charities in the October edition of Grace. He has asked me to do the leg work in collating this information. Please pray this article may be the means of encouraging God's people to think in terms of supporting such ministry as part of their Christian service. Sadly very real providential needs exist among Pastors, their widows and dependants even in 2005!

The editors of English Churchman and The Gospel magazine have also devoted editorial space and encouraged us in the work.

AGM 2004

Last year Five Ash Down Chapel hosted our AGM. Timothy Martin, Pastor of Slapton and Wappenham Evangelical Church, Northants preached. This was his first direct involvement with GARF and

before he began his sermon he expressed appreciation for the assistance given by GARF to his mother since his father died in 1975. Mr Martin Snr. had been appointed Pastor at Providence Chapel, Chichester but was taken to glory before he could take up the pastorate.

Timothy preached from Psalm 72 v 18-24. He sought to show from the Psalm how God's Old Covenant People were faced with (a) "A great Riddle" and how God provided a (b) "Grim Remedy" for it but with (c) "Glorious results" at the end of the day.

The Lord seemed to be out to destroy the fledgling community he had brought into being by bringing upon them a desperate famine, but by sending Joseph down to Egypt, would provide for them a wonderful way but not without appalling

suffering coming Joseph's way in the short term. Here we were brought face to face with the Saviour's sufferings for us upon Calvary and the provision made for us as a result.

The glorious results were plain to see at last – just as

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a recent legacy completely transformed the GARF situation. As with that deliverance of old it was unexpected, sudden and complete. That is God's work.

Mrs Martin's Home Call

Timothy chose for our last hymn "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform". Two and a half weeks later Mrs Martin was taken to Glory. He conducted her funeral service at Rowley Regis and her mortal remains were interred at Potton in Bedfordshire.



Timothy and his aunt are pictured by the grave.

The Committee miss her letters. They were always so spiritual and full of thanksgiving to her Saviour. This is her last letter, written on 25th March 2004.

"Dear Friends,

Thank you once again for your very kind gift to me, it's such a great help in providence.

My thoughts and prayers will be with you all at the annual general meeting in May and that the Lord's presence will be felt amongst you all.

We have a wonderful Saviour and His ways are past finding out. What wonderful promises

we keep receiving in His Word.

Just recently I came across these words found in Isaiah Ch. 65 v 24 "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear". Really Pearls indeed.

Trusting that you all keep well in health.

Yours in the tie that binds.

Sincerely

Mrs R M Martin"

New GARF Logo

My son Matthew put his graphic design skills to good use by designing and producing several ideas for updating our logo. We eventually settled on the Raven -1 Kings 17 v 1-7.



John Newton's hymn about the care God takes of his people is a wonderful paraphrase of the Ravens being used by God to take care of Elijah. Please pray GARF will be a means of care in 2005 and beyond if the Lord tarries.

1 Elijah's example declares,
Whatever distress may betide,
The saints may commit all their cares
To Him who will surely provide;
When rain long withheld from the earth
Occasioned a famine of bread,

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The prophet, secured from the dearth,
By ravens was constantly fed.

2 More likely to rob than to feed,
Were ravens, which live upon prey;
But when the Lord's people have need,
His goodness will find out a way.
This instance to those may be strange
Who know not how faith can prevail;
But sooner all nature shall change,
Than one of God's promises fail.

3 How safe and how happy are they
Who on the good Shepherd rely;
He gives them out strength for their
day,
Their wants he will surely supply.
He ravens and lions can tame!
All creatures obey his commands!
Then let us rejoice in his name,
And leave all our cares in his hands.

Newsletters, Reports and Website

Ken Starnes, a Committee member since 1982, continues to use his desktop publishing skills. We now have our own website at www.garf.org.uk.

Newsletters have been mailed to all supporters, beneficiaries, church secretaries and other potentially interested friends. These and this report have all been designed, printed and posted without any cost to GARF.

The time spent designing and producing logos was also voluntarily given.

Deputation Meetings

Tony Bickley, Pastor at Ebenezer, Brighton is engaged D.V. to preach and speak about the Fund at Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire on Tuesday, 21st June, 7.30 pm and Providence Chapel, Bedford on Thursday, 20th October, 7.30 pm We thank Pastors Robert Oliver and Graham

Chewter for their support.

Pastor Roger March of Wolverton Evangelical Church, Milton Keynes has kindly agreed to sound out churches in the area with a view to hosting a meeting next year.

We hope to finalise plans for meetings in Northern Ireland next year in time for an announcement at the AGM.

Please prayerfully consider encouraging your church to host a meeting.

Tony insists on being reimbursed for out of pocket expenses only.

Pantiles Baptist Church, Tunbridge Wells

We are grateful to Pastor David Levell and the church for agreeing to host our 127th AGM and Thanksgiving Service.

GARF last held an AGM here in 1992 and we are delighted to renew fellowship with them.

It is also a pleasure to have Pastor Robert Morgan of Erith to preach on this occasion. We trust the Lord will be pleased to grant him liberty in preaching and prepare hearts to receive the Word.

Finally Brethren, pray for us.

David Cottington
Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Treasurer's Report

We continue to be grateful to God for his provision for the work to continue during another year - the GARF committee is very grateful to the many churches and individuals who have so generously contributed to the fund. We especially give thanks that we have seen an increase in the overall income to the fund, and that the level of personal donations has almost doubled since last year.

As you may have read in previous newsletters, we have recently sought to promote awareness of GARF, among both potential supporters and applicants, in Christian periodicals and at various meetings.

As a result of this, we have been able to

consider 11 new applications/re-applications and throughout the past 12 months support 12 pastors and widows throughout the country with quarterly grants which have been received at opportune times.

We pray that the Lord's people will continue to support GARF in the future, and that the fund's income would continue to grow to allow us to meet the level of grants distributed to ministers, widows and their families in need.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

Chris J David

A Committee Member remembers

Some memories fifty years on!

It was Mr Will Tompsett who approached me about joining the Committee. We both worshipped at Providence Chapel, Barcombe. At that time the Committee met in a small back room at Jireh Chapel, Lewes. Mr Peckham from Brighton regularly presided in an efficient and gracious manner.

When I joined James Childs was secretary. He travelled by train from Hastings, and, the meetings were timed to finish so that he could return on a specified train!

In 1963 I took over from James Childs, and soon realised what a privilege it was to correspond with the recipients of grants from the Fund who, although experiencing hardship, were so appreciative...."rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation,." With many I was able to share in such a way that I knew them well, though we never met. One

recipient we are still helping forty two years on. The letters I received from another, over a period of sixteen years, I still keep and treasure.

Tom Relfe, from Fairlight was another Committee member. His daughter brought him to Lewes, and patiently waited in the car. He was retired and totally committed to serving the Lord in ministering to small scattered chapels. By Monday evening he seemed quite exhausted, yet always insisted on standing when leading us in prayer. A truly humble and gracious man who made a great impression on me.

In recent years our secretaries, Ben Elford, and now David Cottington, as well as our treasurers have done a tremendous job in bringing our Fund up to date in technology, yet not losing the personal touch.

Our Committee continues to depend on prayer support.

Financial Statement Income and Expenditure

Income & Expenditure as at 31st March, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions & Donations	1,495	780
Church Donations		
Ebenezer Chapel, Brighton	111	
Five Ash Down Chapel (AGM)	80	
Halland Chapel	250	
	441	628
Interest on Investments	3,683	3,472
Income Tax Recovery on Gift Aid, Investments & Subscriptions	72	116
	-----	-----
Totals	5,691	4,996
	-----	-----
EXPENDITURE		
Grants	15,450	10,950
Advertising & Promotion	849	217
Ministerial Fees	150	150
	-----	-----
Totals	16,449	11,317
	-----	-----
Surplus/Deficit	-10,758	-6,321
	-----	-----

Financial Statement Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2005

	<u>2005</u> £	<u>2004</u> £
ASSETS		
Giro Bank Current A/c	1,881	2,364
Portman Deposit A/c	82,112	92,428
Cash To Be Banked / Unpresented Cheques	-1,325	-1,366
Total	82,668	93,426
REPRESENTED BY		
Balance at beginning of year	93,426	99,748
Add Surplus / Less Deficit	-10,758	-6,322
Total	82,668	93,426

Gospel Advocate Relief Fund

Objects

The object of the Gospel Advocate Relief Fund (GARF) is to help needy ministers of the Gospel, their widows and dependants. The Fund was established in 1878 to assist the many gospel preachers in small churches, or doing pioneering work, who must exist on very meagre salaries. GARF can help some of them by sending financial relief and encouraging them through correspondence and prayer. It also supports the widows and dependants of men who spent their lives proclaiming the gospel.

Structure

The GARF committee meets quarterly to consider grants for both new applicants and existing beneficiaries in accordance with the rules of the society.

GARF has no relationships with other charities or organisations, but seeks to co-operate with like-minded charities where appropriate.

Reserves

GARF does not actively seek to hold any reserve funds, but aims to distribute those funds available to ministers, widows and dependants in a manner which is both sustainable to the fund, and which does not create a dependency on the part of the beneficiaries.

Publicity & Awareness

GARF seeks to raise awareness of its work by various means, including newsletters for churches and supporters, advertisements in the Christian press, and attendance at appropriate conferences. The aim of this publicity is both to inform pastors and potential recipients of grants, and to encourage donations in support of the work.

Prayer Items

Praise :

- That the Fund is more widely known.

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 4 members and miss the support their input and prayers make.

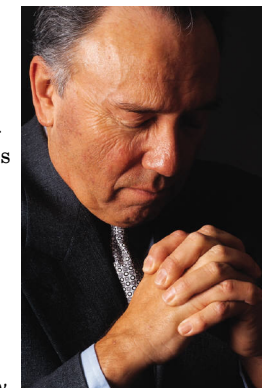
- Churches willing to host deputation meetings.

- A renewed interest in the work of the Fund both financially and prayerfully.

- Advertisements in leading Christian periodicals will bear fruit.

- Deputation speakers in other parts of the country

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



Ministers Conference April 2005 Update

Banner of Truth Ministers Conference, Leicester

As we go to print, Tony Bickley is manning our stand April 18th to 21st. We intend to give a report at the AGM and in our next newsletter.

We have purchased a small display stand for use at conferences and deputation meetings.

Do pray that God will bless these labours of love.

FIEC Bible Conference Update

FIEC Pwllheli Event, April 4th to 8th

Newsletters were available at this event. We hope to have a more visible presence next year.

We pray that they have been well received and generate interest in the work of the Fund.



GOSPEL ADVOCATE RELIEF FUND

REGISTERED CHARITY
209606

NEW WEBSITE:

WWW.GARF.ORG.UK

Members of the Committee as at March 2005

John Cornwell (Lewes)
David Cottingham (Halland) (Hon Secretary)
Chris David (Halland) (Hon Treasurer)
Ken Starnes (Ringmer)
Phil Starnes (Halland)

Trustees

Ben Elford
Reg Payne
Phil Starnes
David Wyld

Contact Information

For financial giving and enquiries please contact the

Treasurer :

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✉ treasurer@garf.org.uk

For the "Introducing GARF" booklet, general information and prospective speaking engagements please contact the **Secretary:**

David Cottingham, 10 Ryefield Close, EASTBOURNE
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For Newsletter and Web Site feedback and ideas please e-mail the editor:

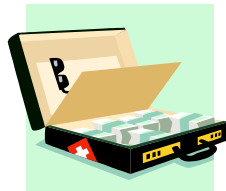
Garfeditor@garf.org.uk

Gift Aid Reminder

Don't forget that the Inland Revenue 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.

A copy of the declaration form is on the back of this report.



For the relief of
UK ministers
their widows
and dependants

Deputation Meetings 2005 (D.V)

Preacher: Tony Bickley of Brighton
Tuesday 21st June

Old Baptist Chapel, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Thursday 20th October

Providence Chapel, Bedford

127th A.G.M and Thanksgiving Service 2005

Tuesday 17th May (D.V.)

Pantiles Baptist Church,
73 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Preacher: Robert Morgan of Erith.

How can you help 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

For more information contact:
The Secretary,
10, Ryefield Close,
Eastbourne,
BN21 2XJ

Registered as a charity : Number 209606



WebSite: www.garf.org.uk



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Hon Secretary
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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2XJ

☎01825 760223

☎01323 507168

Gift Aid Declaration

Details of donor (please use BLOCK LETTERS)

Surname.....

Forename(s).....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post code.....

Donation amount.....

Monthly/Quarterly/Annually/One-off (delete as applicable)

Declaration: I should like the Gospel Advocate Relief Fund to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Date.....

Signature.....

Notes

- If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:
Please notify the charity if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force
- You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Gospel Advocate Relief Fund. – it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
- You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations (currently 28p for every £1 you give).
- Remember to notify us if you no longer pay income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Gospel Advocate Relief Fund reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.