

Standing Committee – Report 2009

APPENDIX C

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2009

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev MAJ Burrows (Chair)	Mr W Kingston (Honorary Treasurer)
Rev OMR Donohoe	Rev JDM Pierce (Honorary Secretary)
Ms R Handy	Rev IP Poulton
Most Rev AET Harper	Ms A Rooke
Rev Canon PA Harvey	Mr TA Smallwoods

- Bishops' Appeal income in 2008 was €04,413 and £249,620 as against €63,132 and £190,367 in 2007.
- Bishops' Appeal will launch its annual newsletter, giving details of projects and grants, at the General Synod.
- Bishops' Appeal will seek to sharpen the focus of its grants at a time when an increase in requests for help is to be anticipated. There will be a desire to achieve the maximum impact with the funds available.
- In partnership with Christian Aid and Tearfund, Bishops' Appeal ran an all-Ireland Appeal in Lent 2008, *The Body of Christ has AIDS*. There was a disappointing response to the appeal, which was rooted in an explicitly biblical understanding of the oneness of the church in Jesus Christ.
- Bishops' Appeal always looks for good stewardship of resources by those to whom grants are made.
- This autumn, Bishops' Appeal hopes to welcome an African priest to Ireland to take up a scholarship the Appeal is funding, in association with Ireland Aid, in memory of Dean Des Harman, who served the Appeal with a wholehearted commitment and thorough stewardship for almost three decades.
- Bishops' Appeal recognizes that the economic crisis poses great challenges for the world's poorest people and calls on Church members to share in the response to those challenges.

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BE VERY CAREFUL, THEN, HOW YOU LIVE *Ephesians 5:15*

At a time when there is a great multiplicity of aid agencies, it might reasonably be asked why we persist with Bishops' Appeal? Why collect money for a Church of Ireland committee to allocate? Because we believe that we raise money in an efficient and cost effective manner and because we believe we can get money directly to those who are going to have the most impact in local situations. Being careful in a time of economic dearth means looking at who is most effective in achieving the goals we all desire. The evidence in Africa is that the Churches have a history of being the agents of greatest progress.

Richard Dowden, director Royal African Society, has no romantic view of the Churches, complaining they brought their "insane history" to Africa, but in his book *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles*, published last year, he concedes that their contribution has been vital. Writing on Uganda, he says:

In colonial times the Churches and their surrounding parishes became powerful centres, political and social as well as religious. When the European missionaries handed over to African priests and nuns that role continued. All over Africa the parish today means schools, health clinics, workshops and an indigenous postal service. In most of Africa the Churches have delivered more real development to people than all the governments, the World Bank and aid agencies combined. Africa's networks of priests, nuns and Church workers are one of Africa's more effective organizations. When states like Congo, Ghana, Angola, Mozambique and Uganda itself collapsed, the self-sufficient parishes used their moral authority to provide protection. Like the monasteries in Europe during the Dark Ages, they kept civilization going.

Being careful how we live means taking seriously the words of someone who, writing from a detached viewpoint, sees the huge potential for good that the Church can achieve. Such potential can only be achieved through the sacrificial generosity of Church members in countries like our own.

NOT AS UNWISE BUT AS WISE *Ephesians 5:15*

The Body of Christ has AIDS Lent appeal in 2008 was an attempt by Bishops' Appeal to act wisely in the face of one of the world's most pressing problems. We believed the title to be an appropriate reflection of Saint Paul's understanding of the solidarity of Christians in the face of suffering. We are particularly grateful to the dioceses of Cashel and Ossory and Derry and Raphoe for their efforts in support of the appeal.

A biblically influenced wisdom in the use of the income of Bishops' Appeal demands a serpent-like shrewdness in considering applications. Contributors to Bishops' Appeal give donations in good faith that what is given will be used to the maximum effect in the places it is intended to reach. The Committee has been alarmed at the level of spending by some aid agencies on the running of their own organizations. The Committee will prioritise grants to agencies where there is evidence that the organization has kept its own costs to a minimum;

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doing so will be in accordance with the wishes of those who support Bishops' Appeal and will hopefully be an encouragement towards efficiency within agencies supported.

MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY *Ephesians 5:16*

Bishops' Appeal hopes that two particular opportunities will present themselves during 2009.

The hoped for arrival of an African priest, on a scholarship in memory of Dean Des Harman, will bring immediate benefits here in Ireland as the person shares with people here experiences and insights from their own country; and lasting, long term benefits in their own community as they translate into action what has been learned here.

The meeting of the Anglican Primates at Alexandria in February 2009 commended the establishment of an Anglican aid and development alliance. This is not intended as an Anglican super-agency, but as a vehicle for co-operation between the Churches; for Bishops' Appeal, such an alliance would provide significant opportunities.

Bishops' Appeal has not the capacity to act as an agency in its own right, but were it to be part of an inter-Anglican agency, it would be able to share with those who have a theological approach to aid and development and who believe that there is a divine imperative, to act justly. An alliance could create the capacity to deliver aid directly to the point of need; grants through an alliance could be targeted and cost effective and, where there are direct individual relationships, there is the potential for a greater degree of accountability than is sometimes possible through impersonal agencies and non-governmental organizations. In the context of the sharp economic downturn in Ireland, an alliance might offer the opportunity of achieving more with less.

BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL *Ephesians 5:16*

The successive crises in banking and in economic confidence have had a severe impact in Ireland, few Church members have escaped unaffected from circumstances unprecedented in post-war history. Historically, crises have always affected the most vulnerable more sharply than those who have had resources to get them through the difficult times. The current worldwide economic downturn presents a bleak prospect for people in developed countries, but may be fatal for the poorest people in the poorest countries. The shift by rich countries towards protecting their own industries and jobs and the cuts in overseas development budgets mean that developing countries face a reduction in potential earnings from trade and a reduction in development assistance. The reductions will hurt the most vulnerable.

The evidence in the past has been that Ireland, perhaps because of its own history of famine and decades of economic hardship, has retained a spirit of generosity towards the world's poor. We pray in these days that the spirit of generosity will be maintained and that the poorest of the poor will not be left to die through a crisis due in great part to the behaviour of the richest of the rich. Bishops' Appeal would encourage Church members to express to political representatives our desire that our governments act justly and love mercy.

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PERSONNEL

Mr M O'Connor continues his tireless work as part-time Education Adviser to the Bishops' Appeal Committee, prepared to travel anywhere to speak with passion on issues of world development and justice. We would encourage parishes and dioceses to invite Mr O'Connor to speak at services and at meetings.

Within the membership of the Committee, a new secretary and treasurer were appointed. The Rev JDM Pierce assumes the role of secretary from the Rev IP Poulton, who had been appointed secretary after his return to the Committee in 2006. The Rev OMR Donohoe, who has acted with considerable verve and enthusiasm as treasurer and projects co-ordinator since joining the Committee in 2000, is succeeded as treasurer by Mr B Kingston; the Rev IP Poulton will continue to process grant applications. Mr Poulton's colleagues on the committee would wish to acknowledge the depth of insight and indeed theologically motivated commitment which he has brought to a very demanding range of responsibilities with Bishops' Appeal over recent years. We pray for the new office holders in their duties.

Bishops' Appeal could not function without a network of diocesan representatives and without the support of innumerable people in parishes. We rely on volunteers and are always grateful for any assistance received. If there are organisational issues, such as questions over leaflets and envelopes, we need Church members to raise these matters; otherwise it is not possible to respond.

TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

Bishops' Appeal has been encouraged by the steady increase in income from tax refunds. Taxpayers are reminded that tax-efficient schemes are available in both parts of Ireland whereby donations to Bishops' Appeal can be enhanced at no extra cost to the donor. In the Republic the scheme applies to taxpayers making a donation of €250 or more in the tax year. Taxpayers in Northern Ireland can avail of the Gift Aid scheme, which allows charities to reclaim 28% of all donations, made by taxpayers. Details of both schemes are available from the RCB office in Church House, Dublin and Church of Ireland House, Belfast.

THANKS

The Committee wishes to again record its thanks to the staff in Church of Ireland House, particularly Ms D Smyth and Mr A Clements, for their ever courteous and efficient assistance in the financial management of the Bishops' Appeal funds.

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BISHOPS' APPEAL ACCOUNT 2008

FUND ACCOUNT	Year ended 31 December	
	2008	2007
	€	€
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Contributions	733,392	802,552
Deposit Interest	6,626	4,681
Sterling translation loss	(13,052)	(1,413)
Tax refunds	26,463	20,183
	<u>753,429</u>	<u>826,003</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Grants	722,982	873,776
Printing and stationery	12,264	13,851
Administration & Personnel costs	31,652	28,137
	<u>766,898</u>	<u>915,764</u>
Deficit for year	(13,469)	(89,761)
Balance at 1 January	142,877	232,638
Balance at 31 December	<u>129,408</u>	<u>142,877</u>
EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS		
Cash on deposit	129,408	142,877
Balance at 31 December	<u>129,408</u>	<u>142,877</u>

Sterling balances and transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2008, €1 = £0.9525 (2007: €1 = £0.7333).

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Standing Committee is responsible for preparing the Income and Expenditure and the Fund Account for the year ended 31 December 2008. We have examined the above and have compared it with the books and records of the Fund. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, do not express an audit opinion on the above statement. In our opinion, the above statements are in accordance with the books and records of the Fund.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin
10 March 2009

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BISHOPS' APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS

	2008		2007	
	Stg£	€	Stg£	€
ARMAGH	26,666	3,523	26,729	1,681
CLOGHER	46,098	7,546	21,202	1,900
CONNOR	37,113	150	37,541	160
DERRY & RAPHOE	65,844	26,075	40,437	23,249
DOWN & DROMORE	43,998	-	50,903	-
DOWN DROMORE & CONNOR	5,200	-	950	-
KILMORE	894	11,087	-	18,320
ELPHIN	-	9,384	-	7,781
CASHEL & OSSORY	-	66,990	-	74,505
FERNS	150	23,734	100	21,032
CORK	-	47,359	-	87,441
DUBLIN	50	197,059	-	216,816
LIMERICK	-	15,448	-	18,324
MEATH & KILDARE	-	46,331	-	56,590
TUAM	-	9,227	-	6,128
ANONYMOUS (UNKNOWN)	-	-	1,930	-
INDIVIDUALS (INCL. LEGACIES)	3,213	16,288	5,351	16,146
OTHER	500	12,009	-	-
TOTALS	<u>229,726</u>	<u>492,210</u>	<u>185,143</u>	<u>550,073</u>
TOTALS IN EURO		<u>733,392</u>		<u>802,552</u>

BISHOPS' APPEAL GRANTS PAID

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	2008	2007
	€	€
Disaster Relief	68,374	176,000
Health & Medical	187,734	175,615
Education/Communications	306,073	167,520
Rural Development	<u>160,801</u>	<u>354,641</u>
Totals	<u>722,982</u>	<u>873,776</u>
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY		
	€	€
Christian Aid	141,488	287,938
CMSI	97,244	78,842
Tearfund	25,000	17,860
Feed the Minds	13,532	47,629
Others	<u>445,718</u>	<u>441,507</u>
Totals	<u>722,982</u>	<u>873,776</u>

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BISHOPS' APPEAL GRANTS PAID

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

AFRICA - €276,185 and £155,575

Agricultural Training	Burkina Faso	Christian Aid
AIDS Education	Tunisia	Bible Society
Asra Hawariat School Fund	Ethiopia	Direct
Body of Christ has AIDS	Africa	Christian Aid
Body of Christ has AIDS	Africa	Tearfund
Children's Social Services	Kenya	Aidlink
Girl Friendly School	Togo	Plan Ireland
Health Care	Sudan	CMSI
House Building	Mozambique	Habitat for Humanity
Improvement of Agricultural Techniques	Rwanda	Direct
Jacaranda Farm, Kaduna Project	Nigeria	Direct
Kajiado Famine Support	Kenya	CMSI
Latrines	Zambia	Salesian Sisters
Maternal Health	Cote d'Ivoire	The Leprosy Mission
Meath & Kildare Diocesan Project	Malawi	Direct
Medical Supplies	Zimbabwe	Rev Noel Scott
Nutrition Programme	Zambia	Direct
Project to combat HIV/AIDS	Uganda	Love for Life
Reconciliation Work	South Africa	Vuleka Trust
Refugee Education	South Africa	Feed the Minds
Schools Project	Uganda	Church of Ireland College of Education
Secondary School Work	Rwanda	CMSI
Small Grants Fund	Mozambique	VSO Ireland
Sudan Education Project	Sudan	CMSI
Sudan Refugees	Sudan	CMSI
Ubombo Children's Care Village	Ubombo	Direct
Vocational Training	Uganda	CMSI
Women with Disability	Uganda	Feed the Minds
Youth Development Programme	Tanzania	USPG

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ASIA - €129,77 and £70,998

Community Project	Burma	USPG
Emergency Relief	Burma	USPG
Emergency Relief	Burma	Crosslinks
Flood Relief	India	Christian Aid
HIV/AIDS Project	India	Friends of HOPE
Marginalised Communities	Sri Lanka	USPG
Medical Programme	Bangladesh	USPG
Neyyoor Hospital	India	Dr Derek Jenkins
Pre-School Project	Palestine	Christian Aid
Rehabilitation Programme	Palestine	YMCA, Shepherds' Field
Skills Training	India	Christian Aid
Toilet Blocks and Water	India	Dr Graham's Homes
Traditional Birth Attendants	Afghanistan	SAFE
Wheelchairs	India	Motivation

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA - €72,002 and £2,050

Civil Society Project	Honduras	Progressio Ireland
Project to combat HIV/AIDS	Paraguay	Love for Life
Projeto Bem-me-Quer	Brazil	Sr Helen Regan
Suspension Bridge	Honduras	GOAL
Women's Integral Education	Guatemala	Christian Aid

OTHER - €5,000

RTE TV Documentary	Developing World	KMF Productions
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