

Global and Local Outreach Team Report 2008

During 2008 the Global Affairs group changed its name and its overall brief. It became the Global and Local Outreach Team (GLO team) to reflect the wider Church support to demonstrate God's love in community based projects as well as through our overseas links.

It was agreed by the PCM that local community groups to be supported financially would be:

- The Hothouse
- Walsall Street Teams
- Betel - Birmingham
- The Glebe Centre

These are in addition to our continuing monthly and annual allocations to:

- Paul and Cathy Middleton
- Operation South America
- Open Doors
- Terry and Simone Lockyer
- Hilary and Reza

The Parish Church Committee agreed that the percentage of the Church income which will form the basis for our giving allocation was to be 10% of the Church's unrestricted giving from the previous year. Based on this the allocations made by the GLO team for 2008 totalled just over £20,000.

Our Church has a number of other links which we support prayerfully, practically and via fund raising for individuals or teams going out on short term assignments with:

- Krasif Aid
- Hope Foster Home
- Medic Assist to Sudan
- Tear Fund
- The Children's Society

In our 2009 budget we plan to have a small discretionary allocation to assist those wanting to volunteer on a short term basis to share and use their skills in mission at home or abroad. During this year a team went out to Paraguay to work in the village of Quiquiho with operation South America.

The GLO team feel that it is important to stress that giving to Mission both at home and abroad is not just financial. Our GLO links rely on us for prayer and keeping the congregation informed of their needs. To this end we are investigating how to use the notice board, screens and web site more effectively to share information about our GLO links. In December the Prayer event focused on the GLO team links and was a valuable time to share the work and needs of all those we support.

2008 saw changes in our support; John and Judie Ellison retired and Nathan and Jen Gregory returned home from Uganda so that Nathan could train for the ordained ministry. However, no report for 2008 could be complete without recording our sadness at the death of June Hathersmith. June had worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators for over 30 years and the way she shared how God had supported her throughout that time was an inspiration to us all. The Celebration of her life held in the Parish Church in September enabled us in Aldridge to share our memories of June with her many friends throughout this country and beyond.

On behalf of all our GLO links the team thanks all members of our congregation for their generosity via regular giving, "one off" collections and through practical giving at Christmas and the Glebe centre "Dustbin". We also thank you for your prayers which mean so much to those working at home and abroad.

Global and Local Outreach Team
April 2009