

WALDENSIAN MISSIONS AID SOCIETY, SCOTLAND

NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2005 CALENDAR – SPECIAL APPEAL

The Waldensian Calendars have only now been received.

The attached Calendar is sent with the best wishes and compliments of the Central Committee.

I have now had the privilege of being Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for some 25 years, and have found this most rewarding, and stimulating. In that period, up to 2003, the Society had the benefit of generous grants from a Scottish Charitable Trust, whose primary purpose was to support work of a Protestant Religious nature, and which could not be considered in any way political. Our Society clearly came fairly and squarely into this trust purpose.

For reasons, which are not clear to me, the Trust has made no grant whatsoever for 2004. Consequently, this will result in the income of the Society in the current year being considerably lower than in previous years.

The Society exists to foster links between the Waldensian and Methodist Churches in Italy, and the Scottish Protestant Community. This is done by means of the personal contacts, which exist, promoted by our recent Group Visits, in 2002 and 2004, and in prayer and solidarity. At the beginning of the 20th Century, our Scottish Waldensian Society was, I think, the largest contributor, from outside Italy, to the work of the Waldensians. In recent decades, the Waldensians have had the benefit of very significant financial support from Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and USA. Nevertheless, I know that the Moderator, and other Pastors and friends, in the Waldensian Churches value substantially the historic and ongoing support from Scotland.

I therefore draw this information to your attention, for your thoughts and prayers. As ever, financial donations to the ongoing work of the Waldensians, whether small or great, will be very gladly received. Our Society's administrative expenses are very modest, and thus the vast bulk of our income is sent each year, to continue the work of Mission and Service, which is achieved by the Waldensian/Methodist Community. It is clear to me that this work is of a significance enormously beyond the fairly small numerical size of that Community.

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