WALDENSIAN MISSIONS AID SOCIETY, SCOTLAND
-The Scottish Waldensian Society –

Founded in 1850- Supporting the Waldensian/Methodist Churches in Italy
[Scottish Charity No. SC.001346]

NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2014

MEETING ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2014 – LIBERTON KIRK HALLS

The Society is very pleased to welcome **GIANLUCA FIUSCO**, the **Director** of the Waldensians' Social Centre - **"Servizio Cristiano"** - at Riesi in Sicily. He will speak at a meeting at LIBERTON KIRK HALLS, ON WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2014, AT 8 PM. All interested are invited and encouraged to be present. Gianluca will speak in Italian, and translation will be provided by the Rev. John Bremner, the minister of the URC Church in Bathgate, and someone who has himself served as a Pastor with the Waldensian Church in Italy. Light refreshments will be available in the Foyer from 7.30 pm.

At the recent Synod of the Waldensians in Torre Pellice in August, important information was given concerning a new initiative – "Mediterranean Hope" – by the Church. This provides small units for receiving, training and integrating immigrants arriving in Southern Italy, particularly in the island of Lampedusa. This seems an important and practical small part towards the solution of this very difficult European problem. It was also noted that the numbers of Italian Citizens opting to send the charitable tax funding of .8 per cent to the Waldensians Social and Community Work was over 600,000, a very significant number given the very small numbers of members of the Waldensian Churches.

Copies of the excellent book, ***"An Alliance Across the Alps",*** by Mr. R. D. Kernohan, on the links between Scotland and the Reformed Churches in Italy, are still available. This is a most useful Book, with the full history of the Society and its work since foundation in 1850. The book can be obtained from me at £10 per copy.

The Society records its appreciation of the continuing support of all its members most warmly. Likewise, donations for the ongoing work will be most welcome, and Gift Aid Declarations can be provided to donors who pay U.K. tax. The Society is usually able to provide a Speaker or a video or CD, for presentations to any interested organisations, who may wish to know more of the work of the Waldensian and Methodist Church and Community in Italy. Requests for further information, including copies of the Waldensian Review, will be welcomed. Up to date information can be obtained from the Website of the Waldensian Church – www.chiesavaldese.org – in both English and Italian. In future I would be happy to send this Newsletter by email. Please advise of your email address for this purpose. Work is in progress with a view to setting up a website for this society.

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