

# BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS

Convener: Rev SJ HANNA

Secretary: Rev WS MARRS

## ‘Serving a mission-hearted Church’

1. The General Assembly’s Board of Mission Overseas (BMO) upholds a vision *“to serve a mission-hearted Church, in step with the God of mission, reawakened to the missionary nature of God’s Word, placing mission at the heart of all it is and all it does, from the end of the pew to the ends of the earth.”* (Overseas Board Report to the General Assembly 2005, p142). The Board is committed to proclaiming Christ and his universal reign and to upholding values of being God-centred, people-focused, Church-based and forward-thinking.

2. As BMO seeks to mobilise the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) to this end, the Board’s Mission Review 2005 identified four areas of priority namely: Mission Engagement; Outreach Initiatives; Leadership Development; and Compassionate Ministries. These continue to provide clear foci for the ongoing work of BMO’s four Assembly Committees, which in turn are served by the Steering Committee operating as the Business Committee of the Board.

### Steering Committee (SC)

**Para 3 to 34**

Main Issues: Edinburgh 1910 centenary conferences; Review of activities; Staffing; Partner Church visits and visitors; Mission personnel; Finance.

### Outreach Ministries Committee (OMC)

**Para 35 to 47**

Main Issues: Sustainable development.

### Leadership Development Committee (LDC)

**Para 48 to 53**

Main Issues: Evolving leadership development practice; Leaders in training.

### World Development Committee (WDC)

**Para 54 to 60**

Main Issues: World Development Appeal; Moderator-supported special appeals.

### Mission Involvement Committee (MIC)

**Para 61 to 77**

Main Issues: Resources, training and teams.

### Steering Committee (SC)

3. **Edinburgh 1910 Centenary Conferences:** In the past year there have been four major international conferences to mark the centenary of the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh in 1910, and many smaller local events as well. From 2-6 June, 2010 there was a centenary conference in Edinburgh itself, taking the theme of “Witnessing to Christ today”, and bringing

together a broad representation of Church traditions ([www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)). The conference resulted in a 'Common Call' to mission that recognised the global nature of Christianity and the wide appreciation of the Edinburgh 1910 legacy across Churches and mission bodies. At Tokyo, 2010 two thousand global mission leaders and observers met from 11-14 May with the theme of "Making disciples of every people in our generation" ([www.tokyo2010.org](http://www.tokyo2010.org)). From 16-25 October, 2010 the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation was held in Cape Town, South Africa, bringing together 4,000 Church and mission leaders from 198 countries, with the theme of "God in Christ, reconciling the world to himself" ([www.lausanne.org](http://www.lausanne.org)). Finally in Boston, from 4-7 November there was a conference entitled, "The changing contours of world mission and Christianity". This targeted theological faculties and students from all over the world, seeking vision for mission in the 21st Century through summation and analysis of the three major conferences held earlier in the year ([www.2010boston.org](http://www.2010boston.org)).

4. Of the above international conferences, PCI was represented at the Third Lausanne Congress, and also more locally at the Irish Council of Churches' Board of Overseas Affairs Study Day commemorating the Edinburgh 1910 centenary. This was held on 1 October, 2010 on the theme of "World on the Move – Migration and Mission", a subject that is very relevant for Ireland today.

5 BMO's membership of Global Connections enables it to keep up to date with new thinking and initiatives in world mission. The opportunity to work alongside other agencies and societies in the local context through the Mission Agencies Partnership (MAP) is valued. Further reflection on mission comes through membership of the British and Irish Association of Mission Studies (BIAMS). All such forums and conferences have provided good opportunities to participate in discussion and be challenged on a broad range of mission related issues.

### **Review of activities**

6 A day-conference was held on 15 January, 2011 in Wellington Presbyterian Church, Ballymena. This facilitated the fine-tuning of strategy in the light of key issues arising since BMO's previous review in 2005, including some highlighted by the Edinburgh 1910 centenary conferences, in particular the Third Lausanne Congress. There were 42 Board members in attendance, and uplifting worship led by Karen and David Campbell. The table-talk format proved conducive to fruitful discussion and fellowship, and a detailed report was presented to the Board in March 2011. In summary, the conference sought to:

7. **Review vision:** Reflecting further on the role of BMO and of PCI Congregations it was highlighted that the Board is responsible for seeing and sharing the 'bigger picture' in overseas mission, rather like the 'brain to the body', or the 'heart-beat to the circulatory system'. The Board should provide a window to the Church in the world, yet ensuring that the voice and concerns of the world-Church are heard clearly in Ireland; it is responsible for establishing and maintaining standards in partnership arising from many years of experience in relating to Churches and agencies around the world; the challenge remains to mobilize the wider Church to think globally yet act locally; to release

Congregations in mission, yet resist congregationalism by encouraging co-ordination and unity. While on one level the Board needs to be versatile and multi-faceted in serving the Church in global engagement, it needs to refocus on what is its distinctive role, bearing in mind that sometimes 'less is more', and we should not be ashamed to say there are things we cannot and should not do. Watchwords as BMO moves forward might be, "*maintaining relationships, developing partnerships, open to initiatives.*"

8. **Revisit values:** In continuing to be *God-Centred*, the Day-Conference revisited the importance of mission engagement being not so much interventionist as incarnational. While there is little doubt that real mission is costly, are PCI members willing to pay the price? PCI is set in a risk-minimising culture, much affected by a compensation and claim mentality, discouraging the Church from sending mission personnel into a world where globalisation has created a diversity of new situations of risk. It was agreed that the Board should continue to seek those willing to serve long-term, ready to give a lifetime to overseas service.

9. In continuing to be *people-focused*, how should the Church better prepare its members for costly discipleship, to be 'cruciform' Christians? In terms of risk, the Board needs to do further work on a policy that is based on sound mission theology, good practice that informs and inspires those called to go, and is well communicated to the wider PCI family.

10. In re-examining its value of being *Church-based*, BMO affirms that global mission is the responsibility of the whole Church. In PCI an increasing number of initiatives are congregationally driven, with many working in partnership with other agencies and societies. BMO recognises the value of mission work undertaken by other agencies and societies, indeed increasingly shares with them in mission training and promotional events. The Board also seeks to encourage the recognition of PCI members serving with other agencies and societies and plans to look at the possibility of introducing a 'mission associate' scheme. Support for those in PCI who travel widely around the world, encountering the Church in the world, whilst on business should also be considered.

11. It could be argued that PCI members have been more comfortable with trans-continental Church to Church relationships, whilst overlooking the potential for mission both local and global through building relationships with multi-ethnic, diaspora and migrant-led Churches on its doorstep. BMO sees this area to be a meeting point for the work of BMO and the Board of Mission in Ireland (BMI), as it seeks to reach the 'world' as it has come to Ireland through migration.

12. Exploring and taking forward each of the above initiatives is part of what it means for BMO to be true to its value of being *forward-thinking*.

13. **Refocusing strategy:** The Day-Conference recognised the need for fine-tuning in each of the four areas of strategic focus previously identified: outreach initiatives; leadership development; mission engagement; compassionate ministries.

14. **Outreach Initiatives:** The Day-Conference was informed of statistics highlighted at the Lausanne Congress:

- Only 3% of Church resources globally are directed to mission amongst unreached people groups, yet surely they have a right to hear the gospel, and there is an issue here of ‘spiritual justice’.
- 64% of those who come to faith in Jesus Christ do so before the age of nineteen. What does this mean for our focus on mission amongst children and young people around the world?
- One third of the world’s spoken languages does not have one translated verse of Scripture, and as such are experiencing ‘Bible poverty’.
- 70% of the world’s population are oral learners, and need to hear and see the gospel demonstrated in their midst.

15. There is work here that only the Church can do, and this must be prioritised. OMC was encouraged to hand over work that is mature and complete, and consider how best to engage in the ‘new’ and ‘not yet’ in the world. There needs to be more intentionality in endeavouring to make disciples who come into fullness of life in Jesus Christ. It will mean a rediscovery and sharper focus, both for PCI members and not least the mission personnel we send out, on being disciples who are salt and light, the aroma of Christ, distinguishable from the world, and working to make disciples in the world.

16. **Leadership Development:** The Third Lausanne Congress called Church leaders around the world to lives of “humility, integrity and simplicity”. It is not so much “better methods” that are sought from leadership, but for them to be “cleaner vessels”, rejecting the seduction of power and renouncing material gain. For those who come as ‘Leaders in Training’ to study in Ireland from PCI’s partner Churches, there needs to be continuing adequate support in prayer, good links to local Congregations and training opportunities that go beyond the strictly academic.

17. **Mission Engagement:** There were a number of practical suggestions to be noted: involvement in “overseas mission has to be viewed as an essential part of discipleship and of congregational life, prayed about, preached about, and illustrated using the best of today’s technology”. The need to challenge and encourage children and young people is seen as a key area of focus for the Mission Involvement Committee (MIC).

18. **Compassionate Ministries:** The World Development Committee (WDC) plays a significant role in encouraging a good response from PCI to meet the needs of many in the world. However, to what extent has PCI devolved the necessary work of education and challenge on a wide range of development issues to our specialist agencies and partners, Tearfund and Christian Aid, or to what extent should this be the responsibility of the Board and WDC?

19. BMO will continue to explore the implications of the above findings from the Day-Conference, not least through the appropriate Assembly Committees.

20. **Partner Church Visits and Visitors:** The following overseas visits were made to attend consultations and conferences called by partner Churches and mission organisations, and to offer pastoral support and encouragement to BMO missionary personnel:

- Gordon Campbell to the Baltic Reformed Theological College, presenting lectures in Vilnius, Lithuania, 11-17 September, 2010;

- Norman and Evelyn Hamilton, and their daughter, Julie, on a Moderator's visit to South Africa and Malawi, 21 August to 17 September, 2010.;
- Uel Marrs to the annual meeting of CCAP Zambia Synod, Lusaka, Zambia and to Mseleni Hospital, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, 20 - 28 August 2010;
- Uel Marrs and Helen Johnston to attend the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-26 October, 2010;
- Cheryl Meban and Marie Kane to Faculté Jean Calvin (FLTR), Aix-en- Provence, France, 2-5 November. 2010;
- Gordon Campbell, Deborah Ford, and Isobel McAuley to Seminario Evangélico Unido de Teología (SEUT – United Evangelical School of Theology), Madrid, Spain, 26-30 October, 2010;
- Phyllis Spence and Caroline Hawthorne to Gujarat, India, 14-22 November, 2010 to attend anniversary celebrations of the Women's Guild;
- Helen Johnston to Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan, 23 January-1 February, 2011;
- Uel Marrs to PCEA International Mission Conference, Mombasa, Kenya, 30 January-13 February, 2011;
- Stephen Richmond to SAT7 Network Conference, Cyprus, 8-12 March, 2011;
- Gordon Campbell to Faculté Jean Calvin, France, May 2011;
- Uel Marrs to UMN General Assembly, May 2011;
- Helen Johnston to Portuguese Bible Institute's Mobile Bible School, Algarve, Portugal, May 2011;
- Pamela Forster to Hope II Conference, Budapest, Hungary, May 2011.

21. BMO was delighted to receive the following visitors from partner Churches and mission organisations:

- The Rev Alvis Sauka and Mr Artis Clemins from the Baltic Reformed Theological College, 14-20 August 2010;
- Mr Nicolas Mwakasulu from Malawi, 21-26 August 2010;
- Miss Mphatso Nguluwe, Director of LISAP, from Malawi, 21 September-29 October 2010.

22. **Office Staff and volunteers:** BMO is once again very grateful to its full time staff, who, in handling a heavy workload, have carried out their work with great efficiency, enthusiasm, and adaptability given the move to temporary office accommodation in Fisherwick Buildings back in early September. In January 2011 Pamela Forster was appointed to the executive staff team as Overseas Mission Training Officer, and at present that team is comprised of the Overseas Secretary, Overseas Mission Development Officer, Personnel Officer (Overseas) and Overseas Mission Training Officer. Over the past year they have been ably supported by an administrative staff team which has included a Senior Administrative Officer, three Senior Secretaries, and a Secretary. Two administrative vacancies were filled in 2010, in July Miss Pamela Hopper being

appointed as Senior Secretary (Mission Training and External Funding) and in October Miss Julie Ann Crowe appointed as Secretary. No additional funding was requested from the United Appeal Board in order to fill these posts. We also extend appreciation to those who, from time to time, help out in the office on a voluntary basis.

23. BMO conveys its deep appreciation to the **Rev Dr Mark Gray** who has served for the past seven years as Convener of the World Development Committee (2004-2011). Mark has had a longstanding involvement with the Board, serving initially as a missionary in Malawi, followed by many years of faithful service to the World Development Committee, and as a Board member. As WDC Convener, his 'hands on' approach and ability to be 'one step ahead' of the task at hand have enabled WDC to move forward effectively. Mark has kept his 'finger on the pulse' of a broad range of aid and development related issues, and the insights he has drawn from Scripture have never ceased to challenge and guide the Committee in its business. In expressing its gratitude, BMO prays God's richest blessing on Mark and his family.

24. BMO conveys its deep appreciation to the **Rev John Hanna** who has served for the past four years as Convener of the Board (2007-2011). It is almost thirty years since John and his wife Joan set out for missionary service in Singapore, and thereafter in Timor, Indonesia. From 2002-2006 John was Convener of the Asia Committee, and played a pivotal role in chairing the Board's Review Committee in 2004 and 2005. BMO are grateful also for the overseas visits that John and Joan made as faithful ambassadors of PCI to Malawi, Romania and Indonesia during the past four years. John's insight and wisdom have proved invaluable to the Board, and his distinctively prayerful approach to meetings meant they were invariably blessed with a very real sense of God's presence. The Office Staff are much indebted for John's pastoral support and friendship over the years, and for the way he and Joan have shown such warm hospitality as they opened their home to BMO meetings and events. The Board is also deeply appreciative for John's commitment to fulfil his role as Convener even when suffering ill-health in more recent years. In expressing its deep gratitude, BMO prays God's richest blessing on John, Joan and their family.

25. **Personnel:** BMO thank God for his faithfulness and provision for all BMO mission personnel who share their lives, gifts and skills in different nations and continents around the world – see Appendix A. The Board continues to strive to encourage and support them as they share the good news and learn from people of different languages and cultures.

26. On 16 January, 2011 the Rev Eddie and Mrs Mary Dorrans were commissioned by the Congregation of First Coleraine for missionary service in Kenya under BMO's Ignite Programme to work with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) on WHEAT's Bridge of Hope and Well Digging Programme.

27. At the Board meeting on 9 March, 2011 Calls were issued to Dr Lyn and Mr John Dowds to missionary service in Malawi under BMO's Integrate Programme. Lyn will be serving as a medical doctor at the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) David Gordon Memorial Hospital. Together with

their children Cody (6) and Suni (3), they plan to depart for Malawi in August 2011.

28. On 27 March, 2011 Mr Matthew (Matt) Williams was commissioned in Hamilton Road Congregation for missionary service in Malawi under BMO's Involve Programme to work with CCAP Livingstonia Synod as a lecturer at the College of Theology, CCAP University of Livingstonia.

29. **Appreciations** are recorded for Mervyn and Raing McCullagh who served in Indonesia (Mervyn 1998-2010; Raing 2007-2010); and Linda Jackson, India (1996-2010), who resigned from the service of the Board during 2010/11. Grenville and Georgie Hopkinson resigned from missionary service in Nepal on 31 December, 2010 and have taken up a new post with World Vision in Singapore.

30. During the last year **memorial minutes** were recorded and sympathies expressed in respect of Miss Joey McCausland who passed away on 29 May, 2010, having served in China from 1936-1941, and Miss Hazel McClenaghan who passed away on 7 May, 2010, having served in India and Birmingham from 1953-1975. Full details of memorial minutes are held in the BMO office.

31. BMO is grateful for the ongoing services of its Pastoral Adviser Team. Three new couples have joined Brian Hughes and Dibbie McCaughan on the Pastoral Advisor Team: Stephen and Ruth McCracken; James and Willi Barton; and Tony and Valerie McGall.

32. **Finance:** The ongoing commitment by PCI members to support the work of mission in a broad range of ways brings much encouragement. Thanks are recorded to individuals and Congregations who year after year have provided financial support through the United Appeal, and for all that the United Appeal Board does to ensure that the target of honour for the total appeal is reached each year. BMO received £962,000 from the United Appeal Board in 2010, and £920,000 has been approved by UAB for 2011. Having budgeted for a cash deficit of £152,000 in 2010, the year end accounts show a cash deficit of £50,902. The married couples' furlough allowance, which is the benchmark to the setting of all other missionary allowances, was set at £22,087 for 2011 so remaining at the same level as in 2010.

33. Once again the Board of Mission Overseas is very grateful for the ongoing support of *Presbyterian Women (PW)* whose office bearers, Central Committee and members continue to contribute faithfully to the work of the Board. In 2010, the annual grant made by PW to the work of the Board was £190,000. BMO commends PW for their enthusiasm and commitment to the work of PCI in mission beyond the shores of Ireland, and thanks its members for their prayerful and practical support of BMO mission personnel.

34. BMO is once again indebted to the Board's Finance Officer (Overseas), Mervyn Whittle. In October 2010 Mervyn stepped down from this role on medical grounds, having served on a voluntary basis since 2002. He brought a broad range of financial skills, a depth of experience from the business world, and made an invaluable contribution for which BMO is deeply grateful. While retiring from the finance work of the Board, Mervyn continues to oversee an ongoing programme of maintenance for all BMO mission properties. The

Board is very appreciative of the ongoing support and guidance provided by the Board of Finance and Personnel.

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (OMC)

35. The initial remit of OMC was to develop guidelines for OMC's work in what came to be described as:

- Hospital and community based healthcare mission
- Mission through education
- Specialist Service Agencies (SSAs)
- Evangelism and Church planting
- Sustainable development

36. Four of these sets of guidelines have already been brought before the General Assembly and this year's report consists largely of a fifth set of guidelines focusing on sustainable development.

37. **Sustainable development:** BMO supports two streams of development work. Under the umbrella of WDC we have a huge amount of sustainable development work carried out largely through PCI's partners, Christian Aid and Tearfund. BMO also have missionary personnel working in development roles with its partner Churches around the world. These guidelines are designed to be used in conjunction with partner Church development work. BMO has a rich history of holistic engagement with its partner Churches. Currently, overseas mission personnel are serving in very demanding situations and facing significant challenges as they seek to engage in mission to the whole person. The following eight guidelines are designed to focus BMO's thinking on the orientation and training of mission personnel as facilitated by BMO's executive staff, and guide future engagement with partner Churches:

38. **Christian development:** BMO is committed to holistic mission, recognising that a people-focused mission entails serving *the whole person* – physical, emotional, intellectual as well as spiritual needs. It also recognises that individuals live within *communities* and *environments*, which are in need of the transforming power of the gospel. Following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, BMO therefore affirm the importance of *holistic or integral mission*. All that PCI is and does should reflect the love of Christ and humankind and a desire to bear witness to him, that others may be led to love and serve him. Furthermore, BMO understands the call of Scripture is to proclaim the Kingdom of God in word and deed. Development projects carried out with PCI's partners should maintain a central focus on intentionally sharing the love of Christ and the building of the Church.

39. **Sustainability:** BMO is committed to supporting projects and programmes which have a positive and lasting impact, are owned locally, and are financially and environmentally sustainable.

40. **Partnership relations:** BMO is committed to working with its partners and to have them in charge at a national and local level. Partner relations can be challenging but are central to the work of the Board. In this regard, BMO is committed to promoting better understanding and co-ordination

between existing partners, other partners and relief and development agencies, so the development of a more effective network of partners can be supported.

41. **Capacity building:** BMO is committed to building the capacity of partners to enable them to be more effective in making Christ known. Part of this commitment may mean sending mission personnel on short or long-term assignments. Where possible the focus should be on sending personnel to specific roles, which build the capacity of partners to undertake sustainable development.

42. **Training:** BMO is committed to training to a high standard any personnel sent out. Ideally training should involve exposure to development theory and also some time spent in the field with both expatriate and local personnel already working in development.

43. **Support:** BMO is committed to providing a network of support for its mission personnel recognising that on occasions they serve in extremely challenging situations. Clarity needs to be established with partners about their important role in supporting, directing and protecting the well being of PCI's mission personnel. BMO will encourage peer support and networking between those working in development in different areas.

44. **Evaluation and monitoring:** BMO is committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of projects to ensure that the direction of the work is sustainable and strategic. This will involve clear channels of reporting and responsibility between BMO, the partner Church and mission personnel.

45. **Funding:** BMO is committed to establishing transparent and efficient systems of funding that promote sustainability and accountability.

46. When partnering with other Churches in holistic mission there are many challenging issues. These guidelines briefly touch on many significant and complicated issues and have led to the development of a further set of questions and topics that require deeper exploration and discussion. OMC are committed to addressing these questions over the next number of years. Executive staff have briefly examined some of the questions raised and will continue to do so. OMC will return to the whole question of sustainable development in the near future and a working group is being set up between WDC and OMC to look further at the related issues.

47. **Future work of OMC:** Since its inception OMC's work has largely focused on producing guidelines for five areas of strategic focus. Now that these guidelines are completed OMC is aware that a great deal of work needs to be carried out focusing on the delivery, evaluation and promotion of the Committee's work. It is proposed that special emphasis be placed on one of these five areas each year and cover all on a five-year rotational basis. This year-long focus would include an evaluation of work around the world, strategic thinking about new opportunities, and the promotion of specific projects. Some key questions that need to be developed and posed in future agendas regarding each area of strategic priority are:

- Is OMC seeing its vision fulfilled such that people are being made disciples and coming into fullness of life in Christ?
- Partnership – Where in the world should BMO be concentrating efforts to develop relationships given the vision and purpose of OMC?

- Mission Personnel – In what roles are they engaged and what new opportunities are available? Are they well equipped to serve? Geographically, where are PCI mission personnel being placed? How does BMO measure the effectiveness of their work? Mission personnel will be invited to attend and report to OMC meetings from time to time.
- Congregational Involvement – To what extent should OMC be liaising with MIC to highlight personnel and projects for particular support, as well as Good News stories that deserve broader publicity?
- Grants – What role do they play in the future of the outreach work of BMO? How should projects be prioritised and grant funding distributed?

STEPHEN RICHMOND, Convener

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LDC)

48. LDC continues to count it a privilege to be involved with PCI's partner Churches and institutions in the personal and professional development of adequately trained, committed Christian leaders for the Church in many contexts across the globe. At the time of writing BMO's ongoing leadership development work includes projects in Kenya, Sudan and Malawi in Africa; in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan in Asia; in France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain in Europe; and in Lebanon and Israel/Palestine in the Middle East. For both 2010 and 2011 LDC has been in a position to allocate grants to our partners in line with a budget of £110,000. In the academic year 2010/2011 this was supplemented by £71,000 from the Lindsay Memorial Fund allocated by PCI's Trustees for studies in the United Kingdom of Leaders in Training (LITs) in Africa.

49. Each of the above contexts has its own peculiar dynamics and generates its own set of unique challenges. Part of the Committee's current policy, in line with the findings of the BMO review, is the pro-active prioritisation of work in non-African (especially Asian and European) contexts; to help meet this, and beginning in 2011, LDC intends to make a featured partner the focus for LD work each year. Another challenge, arising from long-term partnerships, is to achieve a desirable transition from unspecific block grants to more clearly designated funding projects with a marked people focus, especially as – in tension with this – there remains a need to offer some partners flexible funding so that they may maintain vital infrastructure (help which can be partly provided through the Ann Barker Bequest).

50. As part of BMO's overall provision of good materials for practising mission within the wider Church, one area of focus for LDC's efforts in 2010-11 has been the production of appropriate resources, in adaptation of materials developed as guidelines for LD work. With the aim of helping PCI Congregations get involved in leadership development work and in the support of leaders in training – including those who may be assigned to them while

studying in Ireland – Congregational guidelines are being made available (in conjunction with the MIC). Other resources are intended for use by PCI's partners.

51. LDC's 2010 report indicated LDC's awareness that PCI and her partners could collaborate better in LD work, for example in the process applied to the selection of candidates for leadership development (including appropriate interview questions) or in applying procedures such as a missional test to the assessment of projects for which PCI support might be sought. Accordingly, to help prospective leaders in training apply for PCI scholarships, new application forms for them and for their referees have been drawn up; at the same time, to help improve engagement by their sending Churches in their PCI-funded training (notably for purposes of improving accountability) a proposal form for partner Churches or institutions to complete is in planning, together with a procedure which will facilitate partners in evaluating a finished LD project, once their leader in training has completed studies and returned home. More focused conversation, involving face-to-face discussion, is needed with partners so that they may reciprocate and share with PCI their own philosophy and objectives for the discipling and training of leaders for their Church. In this way, partners will share in PCI's journey in mission, opening PCI up to the needs of the Church and the world as *they see it*; deferring to and listening to partners commits PCI to hearing what they have to say to us as a Church here in Ireland.

52. Again, as noted in last year's report, small LDC delegations undertook visits in autumn 2010 to two European training institutions with which BMO partners: the *Seminario Evangélico Unido de Teología* (SEUT – United Evangelical School of Theology), in Madrid, and the *Faculté Jean Calvin* (FJC, formerly FLTR), in Aix-en-Provence. These visits provided LDC with insight into mission in Europe today as well as an impetus towards achieving greater focus in the Committee's work. Through direct engagement with staff and students in both institutions, participants gained valuable knowledge of the contexts in which they minister – Latin Europe, in both cases – and of the particular mission of each: SEUT's strength is its distance-learning programme, including links with South America, while FJC's strength is its engagement with evangelical, Pentecostal and new Churches in France, francophone Europe and West Africa. Although their contexts make both institutions precarious, the two seminaries show strong commitment to their mission and are grateful for help from PCI. The strategic importance of both partnerships emerges the more clearly when one considers both the extent to which Europe has progressively shaped PCI's own context, in recent decades, and the attendant priority of reaching the unreached in contemporary Europe. In the wake of these visits LDC hopes to be able to enhance the grants currently budgeted for FJC and SEUT. Based on the template devised for use in the visits to Aix and Madrid LDC's Guidelines Working Group will also seek to refine a framework for future LD-focussed overseas visits, whether undertaken by executive staff, by Committee members (as in this new exercise) or by other members of BMO.

53. Among prospective applicants for LDC scholarships in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 are leaders in training from partner Churches in Asia (Pakistan, Nepal and Myanmar), Europe (Hungary and Romania) and also Malawi in

Africa. In the context of BMO's sustained commitment to helping valued partners develop their leaders, LDC also intends pro-actively to encourage future applications by adopting and publicising to partners a special focus on one continent and/or country in any given year. As with the award of grants, so the award of scholarships largely entails the ordinary exercise of wisdom, within budgetary constraints, yet in tandem with a prayerful listening for God's leading. The latter includes a readiness to be surprised: thus LDC was both pleased and able to help a student from the Presbyterian Church of Korea receive key short-term input from the Irish context into her Master's Degree at the University of Geneva, training for "understanding mission as peace and reconciliation".

GORDON CAMPBELL, Convener

## WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (WDC)

54. The Biblical witness of Old and New Testaments underpins and informs the work of WDC, whatever the specific developmental focus of a particular Appeal or series of Appeals. This witness directs attention to the importance of the primal necessities of life – to bread, clothing, shelter, welcome, community, education, health care, justice – in a fully developed Christian understanding of life in all its abundance. To struggle for them is an integral part of our spiritual calling.

55. **World Development Appeal:** In the second year of the "**Credit Where Credit's Due**" World Development Appeal the focus was on projects in Burkina Faso (Christian Aid) and Tanzania (Tearfund). In a departure from what has been the format of the World Development Appeal, two projects were highlighted rather than four. Within this, materials were sourced in Burkina Faso for a series of PowerPoint presentations, which told in detail how access to credit was transforming lives. These were of a high standard and thanks are extended to Stephen Lynas for travelling to Burkina to obtain story lines and photographs before shaping these into the presentations.

56. To date, around £450,000 has been contributed to the World Development Appeal. Out of this, WDC has disbursed grants of £200,000 to Tearfund and £200,000 to Christian Aid. Contributions to the Appeal are somewhat down on previous years. This is indicative of the difficult economic context in which the whole Church is presently operating.

57. **Special Moderator Supported Appeals:** It should, however, be noted that PCI has responded with exceptional generosity to the **Moderator Supported Haiti Appeal**. Almost £920,000 has been received since its launch in January, 2010. Given that PCI does not have partner Church relations in Haiti this amount has been divided equally between Tearfund and Christian Aid. It has been used to good effect to meet immediate need and lay the groundwork for getting back to sustainable development.

58. Following the terrible flooding in Pakistan caused by unprecedented monsoon rains the Moderator launched a further special appeal, in August 2010, the **Moderator Supported Pakistan Earthquake Appeal**. To date £570,000 has been contributed to this. £275,000 has been sent to Tearfund and £275,000 to Christian Aid, with £10,000 sent to the Presbyterian Church in Pakistan. This

last amount was forwarded as a sign of solidarity to PCI's partners in the Presbyterian Church in Pakistan, and is a sum commensurate with the Church's development capacity. Around £10,000 remains in the account for further possible support of the Presbyterian Church in Pakistan, working in a context of hostility and marginalization.

59. **Board of Mission Overseas:** In 2010 the Board of Mission Overseas allocation of the World Development Appeal was £30,000. The Board has used this in support of the very worthwhile Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme (LISAP).

60. **Looking to the Future:** WDC has decided to focus on projects in Uganda (Tearfund) and Cambodia (Christian Aid) for the Advent and Christmas Appeal of 2011. Again, Stephen Lynas will be tasked with sourcing appropriate materials, this year from Uganda. Both of these projects contain core dimensions of good grass roots development. As yet, however, the Appeal has not been given a title. This is so that the new Convener, to be appointed at the General Assembly 2011, will be able to shape the Appeal in a significant way.

MARK GRAY, Convener

## MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

61. BMO recognises that the Congregation is the fundamental unit of missionary endeavour. In order to help Congregations reach out from the end of the pews to the ends of the earth, MIC has been tasked by BMO to equip God's people for works of service (Ephesians 4:12) by (i) informing PCI Congregations regarding God's mission in the world today, (ii) envisioning the wider Church, especially Church leaders and mission agents, to adopt a global perspective, (iii) training and supporting mission hearted Congregations and (iv) providing opportunities for our members to serve overseas.

62. **Equipping through ... Informing:** The **BMO web-site** ([www.pcimissionoverseas.org](http://www.pcimissionoverseas.org)) continues to be, not just a very useful site, but a very well used one. The site is aimed primarily at PCI members and provides a comprehensive source of information and news about the overseas mission work of PCI – covering the countries, places and partners with which PCI and its missionary personnel are linked.

63. BMO's **Prayerline** remains a useful information resource that supplements the information on the work of the Board available through PCI's Points for Prayer. MIC would encourage members to make use of these resources in their own devotions, in congregational prayer meetings and in the Prayers of Intercession during Sunday worship.

64. Four regional '**Celebration of Global Mission**' evenings have been held since the last General Assembly. These were held in Carrmoney and Kilfennan Congregations in October 2010 and in Portrush and First Portadown Congregations in March 2011. MIC remains committed to ensuring that the location of venues reflects the wide geographical spread of PCI. Attendances were encouraging and the feedback positive for each of these events. MIC is aware, however, that the profile of those attending these events is not representative of PCI as a whole. MIC seeks the help of Ministers, Presbytery

and Congregational Mission Agents in encouraging people of all ages to attend these events in order that they might be envisioned for mission as they hear first hand of what God is doing in his world today. In addition, discussions with other Assembly Boards have begun as to how we can more effectively share the story of God's mission and our involvement in it with a wider audience.

65. MIC has not lost sight of the **SPUD** resolutions that were brought to the 2009 General Assembly and remains committed to sharing the stories of what God is doing globally through PCI personnel with the children and young people of our denomination. Some preliminary discussions have been held in relation to how BMO might do this both effectively and safely through the use of the internet, including social network sites.

66. **Equipping through ... Envisioning:** Recognising that the best advocates for global mission are so often those who are serving or who have served overseas, MIC continues to seek to equip mission personnel on home assignment for the task of deputation in order that the experience is a positive one for both speaker and listener alike. It is also MIC's desire to establish a broader pool of Mission Mobilisers who have a passion for sharing God's story with members of our denomination. It is hoped to be able to provide Mission Mobilisers with the resources and training necessary to enable them to envision PCI members in ways that are relevant and appropriate to the group they are addressing.

67. **Equipping through ... Training and Support:** In response to the increasing number of Congregations sending individuals and/or teams overseas – whether short or long term – MIC continues to help PCI's Congregations as they serve as both senders and those being sent. This training and support is currently provided through various training events and the provision of congregational resources. MIC welcomes the appointment of Pamela Forster as Mission Training Officer and, since this is a field officer post, MIC looks forward to the new opportunities for training and support that will be created through more direct engagement with Congregations.

68. MIC encourages Congregations to avail themselves of the various central training events that are available. This year BMO, in conjunction with the Mission Agencies Partnership (MAP), ran a rebranded training event under the title '**Prepared to Send?!**' This interactive workshop provided Congregational leaders with an understanding of the issues that they should be considering as they help teams or individuals prepare for service overseas.

69. With significant numbers of Congregational and Board teams going overseas each summer, BMO's **Overseas Teams Training (OTT)** day continues to be an important and well established event in the training calendar. OTT aims to provide relevant, practical advice and training on topics not normally or easily covered by individual teams in their pre-departure preparations. Feedback year-on-year has enabled the programme to be fine-tuned to suit needs. Overall, OTT is well-received and appreciated by those who attend and, again, MIC commends this training opportunity to all who are taking teams overseas.

70. Mission trips should not end when those involved arrive back in Ireland; taking time to debrief teams or individuals after they return home from overseas is very important, even if they have only been away for a week or two.

MIC understands that many in congregational leadership feel ill-prepared for this task and so the **Debriefing for Senders** training event aims to equip congregational leaders and team leaders for this vital task. This is now a well-established event in the BMO Training Calendar and has been deemed very worthwhile by those who have attended.

71. MIC is delighted to be able to launch at this year's General Assembly a new resource entitled, '**Do It Well**'; a toolkit for Congregations who are contemplating sending a team overseas. Through this resource, Congregations are encouraged to first of all address the question, "Is God calling us to go or stay?" For those Congregations who decide that the answer is 'Go', the toolkit will also provide, amongst other things, checklists and advice on matters such as developing good partnerships, understanding expectations, maintaining your spiritual health, travel, safety overseas and finance. MIC believes that this toolkit will help whole Congregations, not just the 'team', to be better prepared and less likely to make mistakes and heartily commends this to all who are considering sending a team overseas.

72. **Equipping through ... Engaging:** MIC acknowledges that the whole Church is called to engage in mission. It also acknowledges that that engagement can take various forms including praying, giving, sending, going and receiving. MIC is grateful to all those who faithfully pray for BMO's office staff and overseas mission personnel. It is also grateful to all those who contribute financially to the work of BMO through the United Appeal, through 'extra mile' giving and through the various boards and organisations within PCI.

73. This year, **YAC**, through its 2009/2010 Project, 'Missing Peace', was able to donate over £52,000 to the United Mission to Nepal in support of its conflict transformation work. **YAC's** 2010/2011 Project, 'On the Box', is seeking to raise funds for the work of SAT-7, an agency recognised by PCI as providing a specialist service in global mission, for its development of the 'SAT-7 Kids' TV channel that will beam into countries around the Middle East. **PW**, through its Birthday Fund 2010/11, raised £41,792 in support of the David Gordon Memorial Hospital, the Women's Empowerment Ministry in Ekwendeni, and Pre-school Play Groups in Mzuzu. **PW** is currently raising funds for the work and witness of the Church of North India, Gujarat Diocese, in particular the work of the Diocesan Counselling Centres in Ahmedabad and Surat, and also to help educate and support women and children throughout the Diocese, focusing mainly on the tribal areas. The **Junior BB** Project 2010 was able to donate £11,000 to support the work of 'Serve Afghanistan' in their work with deaf and blind children. The Junior BB Project 2011 is currently raising funds, through its 'Bridge of Hope' project, towards the building of a second footbridge across the Galana River in Kenya.

74. While many members of PCI have the opportunity to be engaged in mission through congregational overseas teams, opportunities also exist for individuals to join one of **PCI's Overseas Teams**. Indeed, centrally organised teams continue to be a necessary provision for individuals for whom the option of serving on a congregational team does not currently exist. MIC views PCI's central teams as being different, however, from a congregational team and so, when establishing short-term overseas teams, BMO focuses on doing what Congregations aren't able or choosing to do, thereby offering team opportunities

that complement what's going on at Congregational or Presbytery level. PCI's central teams also provide opportunities for those who wish to be part of a broader denominational or specialist team and for those who wish to 'Go See' a particular type of work or location with a view to establishing a longer term partnership or mission interest.

75. This year the sending of PCI's central overseas teams has come under the oversight of a single, united BMO/YAC working group – the Overseas Opportunities Group. This group is taking on an increasingly strategic role as it seeks to identify future team opportunities as well opportunities for those who wish to serve overseas as part of a GAP Year or Intern programme. Investigations also continue into how PCI might best provide opportunities for families who wish to serve together in short-term mission.

76. The practical issues that are involved in making our central teams 'happen' are dealt with by the appropriate BMO and YAC executive and administrative staff in conjunction with overseas partners and team leaders. MIC recognises that much hard work is done behind the scenes and is truly grateful to all who play such a significant role in making PCI central teams a success.

77. This summer, an all-age team will travel to **Ukraine** to lead an English-language teaching camp for young people in partnership with the Rev György and Mrs Enikő Szanyi of the Transcarpathian Reformed Church. Members will also have the opportunity to share their faith through music, drama and discussion groups. An all-age team will also travel to **Italy** in support of an evangelistic outreach event being organised by the Christian publishing company, Coram Deo and the Sola Gracia Church in Mantova. A Youth Team will travel to London to support the work of the Rev Edwin and Mrs Anne Kibathi and the PCEA Congregation in East London through the running of a children's holiday Bible Club and youth discipleship activities. A second Youth Team will travel to **Romania** to support Csaba and Ilona Veres in their work with young people.

MARK WELSH, Convener

78. Aside from the full-time staff in the Mission Overseas Office, many members of the Board willingly sacrifice of their time, energy, gifts and experience to serve on BMO's Assembly and Board Committees. Gratitude is extended to all who, on behalf of the Board over the past year, have attended consultations with partner Churches, visited missionaries in their country of service and spoken in PCI Congregations about the work overseas.

79. The Board gives all honour, praise and thanks to God for his guidance and sustaining grace over this past year, and ever seeks to bring glory to his Name.

## APPENDIX A

In the main report most of the names of BMO mission personnel have not been mentioned but their names, spheres and category of service are listed below and are to be taken together with this report.

***INTEGRATE PROGRAMME – service of two or more years***

**BRAZIL**

Naomi Keefe	2004	Outreach programme, The Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB), Casa Caiada, Recife
-------------	------	--

**GREAT BRITAIN**

Christopher & Nivedita Benjamin	1989	Ministry among Asians in Wembley, London
Edwin & Anne Kibathi	2009	Ministry among East Africans in East London

**INDONESIA**

Barry McCroskery	2004	International Partner Relations and Diaconal Work (social witness), Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT), Kupang
------------------	------	--

**KENYA**

Stephen & Angelina Cowan	1985 1989	Outreach and Development Work, Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Tuum
Naomi Leremore	1991	Teacher for Centre for Early Childhood Education and development of Sunday School materials, PCEA, Nairobi
Derek & Linda Roulston	1998	Outreach and Development Work, PCEA, Timau
Gary & Mary Reid	2000	Outreach and Development Work, PCEA, Olkinyiei

**MALAWI**

Diane Cusick	1995	Pre-school teacher training, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Livingstonia Synod, Mzuzu
Robin & Helen Quinn	2004	Lay Training Centre and Livingstonia Theological College, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Ekwendeni
Una Brownlie	2007	Nursing, David Gordon Memorial Hospital, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Livingstonia
Neil & Sara Kennedy	2008	Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health – College of Medicine of the University of Malawi and Consultant Paediatrician in the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre
Fiona Innes	2010	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Early Childhood Development

		Programme, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Mzuzu
Volker & JinHyeog Glissmann	2010	Executive Director, Theological Education by Extension in Malawi (TEEM), Zomba

**PAKISTAN**

Ron & Hilary McCartney	2007	Teaching, Forman Christian College, Lahore
------------------------	------	--

**PORTUGAL**

James & Heather Cochrane	2008	Leadership training, Bible teaching and Discipleship, Portuguese Bible Institute (IBP), Faro
--------------------------	------	--

**ROMANIA**

Csaba & Ilona Veres	2001 1993	Programme Co-ordinator, IKE-YMCA Mera Children's Project, Aksza Mission and Caleb House, Cluj
---------------------	--------------	---

**SPAIN**

Derek & Jane French	2000	Student outreach with Grupos Biblicos Unidos (GBU), Bilbao
---------------------	------	--

***INVOLVE PROGRAMME – service of up to two years*****MALAWI**

Matthew Williams	2011	Lecturer, Livingstonia Theological College, CCAP Livingstonia Synod, Ekwendeni
------------------	------	--

***IGNITE PROGRAMME – service of up to one year*****SPAIN**

Aimée Campbell	2010	Student outreach, Grupos Biblicos Unidos, Bilbo
----------------	------	---

**KENYA**

Eddie & Mary Dorrans	2011	Outreach and Development Work, PCEA
----------------------	------	-------------------------------------

**NEPAL**

Joe & Janet Campbell	2011	Advisor in Conflict Transformation United Mission to Nepal, Kathmandu
----------------------	------	---

**CANDIDATES IN MISSION**

Lyn & John Dowds                      2011    Doctor, DGMH, CCAP Livingstonia,  
Malawi.

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly give thanks for the faithful service and dedicated witness of PCI's overseas missionary personnel and their families, recognise the particular benefits of incarnational, long-term missionary service, and encourage BMO to equip missionary personnel for costly discipleship given the diversity of new situations of risk encountered.
3. That the General Assembly encourage BMO to explore further the possibility of offering associate missionary status to PCI members serving with other mission agencies and societies.
4. That the General Assembly encourage BMO to establish and maintain standards for partnering in mission, and prepare guidelines for PCI Congregations and presbyteries seeking to partner overseas.
5. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Mark Gray as Convener of the World Development Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Katherine Meyer appointed in his place.
6. That the resignation of the Rev John Hanna as Convener of the Board of Mission Overseas be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and \_\_\_\_\_ appointed in his place.
7. That the General Assembly give thanks for the witness of all who come from partner Churches and agencies to study and serve in Ireland, recognise the role of overseas partner Churches in shaping PCI's journey in mission, and acknowledge BMO's commitment to consult with and listen to the voice of such partners in the process of forging genuinely reciprocal relationships of inter-dependency and mutuality.
8. That the General Assembly acknowledge the guidelines on sustainable development and affirm its continued commitment to encourage and assist PCI's overseas partners in this work.
9. The General Assembly affirm the work of World Development as an integral part of Christian calling and give thanks that the World Development Appeal continues to be well supported in an exceptionally difficult economic period.
10. The General Assembly give thanks for the exceptional generosity shown across PCI for the Moderator supported Haiti and Pakistan Special Appeals.
11. That the General Assembly encourage Ministers, along with Congregational and Presbytery mission agents, to make known the resources and opportunities available through BMO for informing and envisioning PCI Church members about what God is doing in his world today, in order that PCI might increasingly become a mission-hearted Church.
12. That the General Assembly give thanks for those Congregations sending teams overseas and encourage them to 'Do It Well', by making good use of the various training events and resources available through BMO.

13. That the Board of Mission Overseas, with its associated working committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 279 of the Code as follows: