

January 2004

Letter to Crosslinks Members

Dear Friends

Happy New Year! Once again I have the opportunity of writing to members on a number of issues but I promise to do so much more briefly than last time.

- The specific occasion for this letter is because we are due for elections/re-elections this year of General Council members on a regional basis. The terms of those elected on this basis in 2001 will have been completed. They are:
 - Rev Stephen Brook (North West)
 - Dr Janet Craven (Republic of Ireland)
 - Mrs Sarah Hinton (North East) Currently Mission Personnel Group Chair
 - Rev Rob Martin (South West)
 - Mrs Margaret West (Northern Ireland) Currently Ireland Group Chair
 - Mrs Gill Malcolm (Midlands)
 - Mr David Mills (North East) Currently General Council Chairman.

There was no-one elected for the South-East in 2001. Janet Craven retires from General Council and Gill Malcolm resigned in 2003 due to ill-health. Rob Martin and Stephen Brook have made it clear that they will not stand again. Sarah Hinton, David Mills and Margaret West have indicated their willingness to stand again if nominated.

- May I encourage you to consider nominations for General Council at this crucial time. As you will be aware we are considering possible changes to the way we are governed; there is thus no guarantee what the future holds for any candidates. We are hoping to encourage some younger members to stand and we need help particularly in areas such as charitable law, finance, human resources and communications. We are looking at current arrangements to see if we can make General Council meetings more accessible to those with these kinds of skills and age range so please do not hesitate to stand on account of these issues. Nominations must be received by 12 March.
- The term of election would be three years. At the moment General Council meets four times a year. If you would like to stand or nominate someone else please contact Janet Horsman (020 8691 6111 or jhorsman@crosslinks.org) who will give you the relevant forms and explain the procedure. If the person you would like to nominate is not a member of Crosslinks but can sign the Basis and Statement of Faith saying that they have supported the society in prayer and giving for at least a year then please get them signed up as members as soon as possible (details from Janet Horsman or the Website www.crosslinks.org). New members are eligible for election but cannot themselves vote for three months.
- We are hugely grateful for the time that the current General Council has been prepared to sacrifice. The responsibility is considerable for trustees but Crosslinks needs godly people to hold us unwaveringly to our purpose and foundation at this critical time and to help provide the strategic direction for the Society.

- Please be praying for this whole process, that God's mission to his world would be furthered as a result.
- The keen-eyed among you will have noticed that current Crosslinks membership is due for renewal at the end of 2003. General Council, in view of the many changes currently happening and that could happen soon, decided to extend the current membership scheme to the end of 2005. So if you are a member of Crosslinks now, that membership will continue without need of renewal until the end of 2005.
- It was a great privilege to visit the Autumn Conference in Devon in November. More than 70 attended and seemed to enjoy it. With the Conference was the first of the regional meetings to consult with members about future possibilities to improve the way Crosslinks is run. The time was divided into a description of current opportunities and challenges that face Crosslinks and a time on the governance proposals. There was considerable participation and comments will be fed back to the General Council.
- The second governance meeting was held in Guildford at the beginning of December. For various reasons attendance was very thin. Certain conclusions are likely to be drawn if this poor attendance is repeated. If for whatever reason you cannot attend but have a contribution to make, please send them in so that they can be taken into account. Some have chosen to do this already. Future planned meetings are as follows:
 - 28 February 2004** St Oswald's, Newcastle 5-7pm
 - 6 March 2004** St. Mary's, Wollaton Park 5-7 pm
- I am getting ready with eager anticipation for my first trip to Myanmar (Burma) with our President, Chris Wright, in January for a School of Biblical Training. We'd very much value your prayers for this and also for Tancy McDonald in Yangon, known to many of you, who is in considerable ill-health.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Lines
General Secretary