



Mission & Action Group

Meeting held on Wednesday 6th June 2007

Present: Beryl, Muriel, Denzil, Doreen, Leah, Jemima, Stephen.

1. Micah Challenge

Prayer cards have arrived in time for the half-way point of the year which is end of June. We watched a DVD presentation of the Micah Challenge which it was decided would be good to show as part of the sermon/address at the Parish Eucharist. We will use Sunday 24th June. To ensure congregation can see, invite them to come to view the screen and move about for the presentation.

5. Convoy to Moldova

New list arrived of items needed. We will put up a poster/list display and appeal for each member of the congregation to bring just one item from the list during the month of July.

6. Persecution of Christians in Pakistan

Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) is an interdenominational organisation working for Christians who are being persecuted because of their faith in Pakistan. Pakistan is an Islamic country where Christians are a religious minority and face religious, social, constitutional, economic and educational discrimination. Christians are living throughout the country in constant fear and as second-class citizens. Religious persecution and sectarian violence is on the increase, and Christians are the main target. The country's draconian blasphemy law (which carry a mandatory death penalty) and other discriminatory laws are being used to intimidate, harass and persecute Christians.

We will ensure that we pray for Christians who are being persecuted – especially in Pakistan. There is no ready made letter to write in campaign against the introduction of Shariah Law in Pakistan so we decided to write one letter to each of the suggested people and then ask for those interested in the congregation to sign their name.

7. Discrimination issues

Continuing the discussion about racism and other discrimination it was decided to bring the matters raised to the attention of the PCC next week. We need to make sure members of the congregation can speak (in confidence) about these sensitive issues, and although they would be encouraged to speak to Fr Stephen, it was acknowledged that this he might not be always the most appropriate person. We must continue to talk about these issues in these meetings so that God may direct our actions.

The first Black Anglican Bishop, Bishop Crowther, features in the current CMS magazine and this excellent article might form the basis of a wider discussion about race and racism in the church. It was suggested that copies be obtained for every member of the congregation to read about this remarkable man who suffered from racial discrimination.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4th July 2007