

LCJE-Conference 27-31 May 2013

Session 5- Mission, money and communication-*Our communication with Christian churches/communities – more than money*

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Our communication with Christian churches/communities takes place on a number of levels. Let me outline the main three:

Firstly, 'formal links'. As a mission society with links into the wider Anglican Church we enjoy links with a range of congregations and within Partners in World Mission (PWM). This gives CMJ opportunities to engage with local Churches via a range of mission networks, diocesan contacts and Lambeth Palace. Sadly in my view these 'formal links' are becoming increasingly less significant and effective.

Secondly, membership/supporters links. As a mission society we currently have around 1500 members/supporters and around 200 supporting Churches. Some of our members serve as CMJ representatives within their local Church groups. We communicate regularly via publications (Newsletter/Theological Journal/Prayer Magazine) website, social media and via 'face to face' contacts mainly via Church deputation meetings, conferences and other events led by CMJ staff.

Thirdly, advocacy links. These are links seeking new support beyond our current members/supporter base. We regularly communicate with a range of Bible Colleges, CME groups and others. For example, we regularly have a CMJ stall at a range of Christian events/festivals in the UK. We also offer a range of educational opportunities including study tours/sabbaticals etc in Israel.

In all of these links we never apologise for speaking about money. However, the issue of money is probably given a much higher focus when communicating with our Members/supporters. Our ongoing work is mainly dependent on the generous giving of individual members/

supporters and Churches. The raising of funds is very important and I think we do our understanding of the Kingdom a major disservice if we 'play down' or 'spiritualise away' the need to address mission finance in a clear, coherent and compelling way. However, all our communication is aimed not at fund raising but at forming ***genuine sustainable mission partnerships*** with individuals and Churches.

In these genuine sustainable mission partnerships there are a number of elements; such as prayer, financial giving, encouragement, fellowship and practical ministry engagement. For example, in regards to practical mission engagement our new evangelism strategy seeks to equip local Churches in their own outreach and to cooperate with them in existing (and new) evangelistic projects. Such cooperation gives to both local Churches and to us as a mission society more genuine points of contact/interface with the wider Jewish world. Such cooperation strengthens, authenticates and sustains our mutual mission calling.

As a mission society of the Church we must always serve within the wider picture of the Church. Our expertise and calling must be celebrated and affirmed, but such celebration and affirmation must never lead to seeking to establish a movement independent or isolated from the Church. Vital channels of accountability and mutual support must be maintained. For this to be achieved good communication is vital. This communication must always be more than money, for we are communicating mission, but mission without money (resources) is rather like faith without work (James 2v17).