

## **FCI SECRETARY'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023/SEPTEMBER 2024**

We were pleased to hold the Annual FCI Day with Hybrid format of both physical meeting and over Zoom on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Order of the day had changed. The theme for the main session was 'Opportunities and Challenges for South Asia Diaspora', with the Speaker being James Wesley of Bshop's College, Kolkata who is currently a PhD student in Aberdeen. The Holy Communion service in the afternoon was led by Revd Shirley Murphy Murphy, (Chaplain to the Bishop of St David's at The Diocese of St David's, Church in Wales) and the Message was shared by Revd Davidson Solanki (USPG Regional Manager for Asia and the Middle East).

During the past year the Management Committee met at the Indian YMCA on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at All Saints Church, Battersea on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and by Zoom on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Meetings were also held for the Planning of the Mission Story-Telling Conference, one in person and two over Zoom. A further meeting of the Management Committee is planned for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

A successful Mission Story-Telling Conference was held at All Saints Church, Battersea on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Approximately 41 people attended, and many spoke of their past experiences in various parts of the world. The people also were invited to form Groups, and where all had the opportunity to share their stories. The two keynote addresses were given by Dr Mark Galpin of All Nations Christian College and our Patron, Bishop Alastair Cutting. There were also five designated storytellers who told their mission story. The talks and stories arising from this day have been compiled into a book which is available to members and others. Unfortunately, Adrian Watkins was unable to be present due to illness, we extend grateful thanks to him for all the work that he had undertaken prior to the day. Grateful thanks to Anand Asir and Jessie Anand for all the arrangements they made to make the event so successful.

A Zoom Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The theme was 'Child Development in South Asia'. Mr Raja Moses, Project Coordinator (Children and Anti-Human Trafficking Project) and Medical Manager (Good Shepherd Eye Clinic and Hospital) of the CNI Diocese of Durgapur explained the diocesan work among children. Revd Joseph, Director, CSI Synod Christian Education Department, shared the mission strategies and activities of CSI among children. Mattheew Bicket also gave us an update on the situation in Bangladesh. There were fewer people that joined this time, perhaps due to holidays and the political situation in Bangladesh with the internet down. The Management Committee will be arranging a further Prayer Meeting in the future with the possible theme 'Men's Fellowship and Men in the Church'.

Work is continuing on the writing of a short history of the FCI.

FCI members have received regular copies of 'Pilgrim'. We give thanks for the Editor (Sumanth Bommarthi) and the Editorial Group for preparing these and to the people who have made contributions to these editions.

Since the last FCI Day unfortunately, we have lost members who have died. We currently have a membership of 61 Individual Subscribing Members: 70 Joint Subscribing Members: 21 Life Members and 6 Groups. Unfortunately, there are a number of people whom we have not heard from for some time.

I express my sincere thanks to the Chair – Revd Adrian Watkins; the Treasurer – Revd Jessie Anand; the other members of the Management Committee including Revd Anand Asir as he steps down this year from his role as Education Secretary. Also, to Revd William Allberry in his various roles and especially as Membership Secretary, and to Selvan Enoch, the Webmaster. We wish Jessie and Anand well for their retirement and the next two years that they plan to spend in the USA.

This is my final Report as Secretary as I conclude my two terms at the Annual General Meeting, I have enjoyed and learnt many things from the Officers and members of the Management Committee.

Margaret Marshall – FCI Secretary

September 2024