

WALDENSIAN MISSIONS AID SOCIETY, SCOTLAND

NEWSLETTER, MAY 2006

The Society is pleased to welcome Pastor Giuseppe Ficara, the Pastor of the Waldensian/Methodist Church in Palermo, this coming month. He spent a year of his theological training at New College. Pastor Ficara is to attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on behalf of the Tavola, and will be in Scotland for the week prior to the Assembly. In this regard, all supporters are invited to meet him at an **Open Meeting, in Liberton Kirk Halls, Kirkgate, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 17 May, at 8 p.m.** This will be a memorable occasion, and refreshments will be served.

There are still available copies of the excellent book, "**An Alliance Across the Alps**", by Mr. **R. D. Kernohan**, on the links between Scotland and the Reformed Churches in Italy. Mr. Kernohan participated in the visits in recent years, by groups from the Society, to Torre Pellice and Florence, to further the research for the publication. The book can be obtained from me at £10 per copy.

Following the previous visits arranged by the Society, a Group largely from Liberton, made a further visit to **Florence and Casa Cares**, from **Monday 3 April, to Monday 10 April, 2006**. On Sunday, 9 April, the group was able to worship with the Waldensian/Methodist congregation of Florence, and many of the other Reformed Church groups in Florence – Baptist, Church of the Nazarene, Salvation Army, etc, and the Service was recorded for transmission as an Easter Service on Eurovision on Easter Day, 16 April. A video recording of this most inspiring service was obtained, and will be shown in due course. It was in particular good to make contact again with Pastor Gianna Sciclone, whom I had known since 1969.

There is a possibility that a further visit may be made to Torre Pellice, in April 2007, and this will be a small group, designed initially for those who may not have visited the Valleys before. Expressions of interest should be made to me.

The Society records its appreciation of the support of all its members, and of the Hope Trust, which supports causes which have a specific protestant religious objective, and which have no political allegiance.

Requests for further information, including copies of the Waldensian Review, will be welcomed most warmly. Likewise, donations for the ongoing work will be most welcome, and Gift Aid Declarations can be provided to donors who pay U.K. tax. The Society is usually able to provide a Speaker and a video or coloured slides, for presentations to any interested organisations, who may wish to know more of the work of the Waldensian and Methodist Church and Community in Italy.

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