



# WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTADELPHIAN FOUNDATION

{2003 MAY NEWSLETTER}

## New Avenues to Serve

### WCF Director's Meeting April 12, 2003

- a) Opening remarks
- b) Treasurer report
- c) Charitable Works review
- d) Duncan Heaster proposal
- e) Video tapes
- f) WCF Resource Center
- g) Web Site
- h) WCF Fellow-workers
- LUNCH (noon):**
- i) WCF overview
- j) Preaching topics
  - BBasics in N. America
  - BBasics on CD/DVD
  - Israel Preaching/pastoral Gospel (online Version)
  - Seminar material on web
- k) Service topics
- Etc.

First, thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father who has blessed WCF's collective efforts to assist the work in the Master's vineyard. Then recognition that He has given us *more opportunities* and *new avenues* to serve. Our April 12 WCF meeting was momentous.

Invitees to personally present project proposals included the following Brothers and Sisters: Duncan and Cindy Heaster<sup>1</sup> from Lithuania, Mary Warner<sup>2</sup>, Jesse Warner<sup>3</sup> and John Pople<sup>4</sup> from California, and Steve Johnson<sup>5</sup> from Illinois. {<sup>no.</sup> points to the projects below; if you want more information about this project or desire to get involved, contact the individual directly}

As per custom, local ecclesia members (San Francisco Peninsula Brothers and Sisters) were invited to attend for lunch and the afternoon session, and to stay for supper and evening fellowship. Meeting highlights, decisions and action items as they unfolded during the sessions are reflected in the following list:

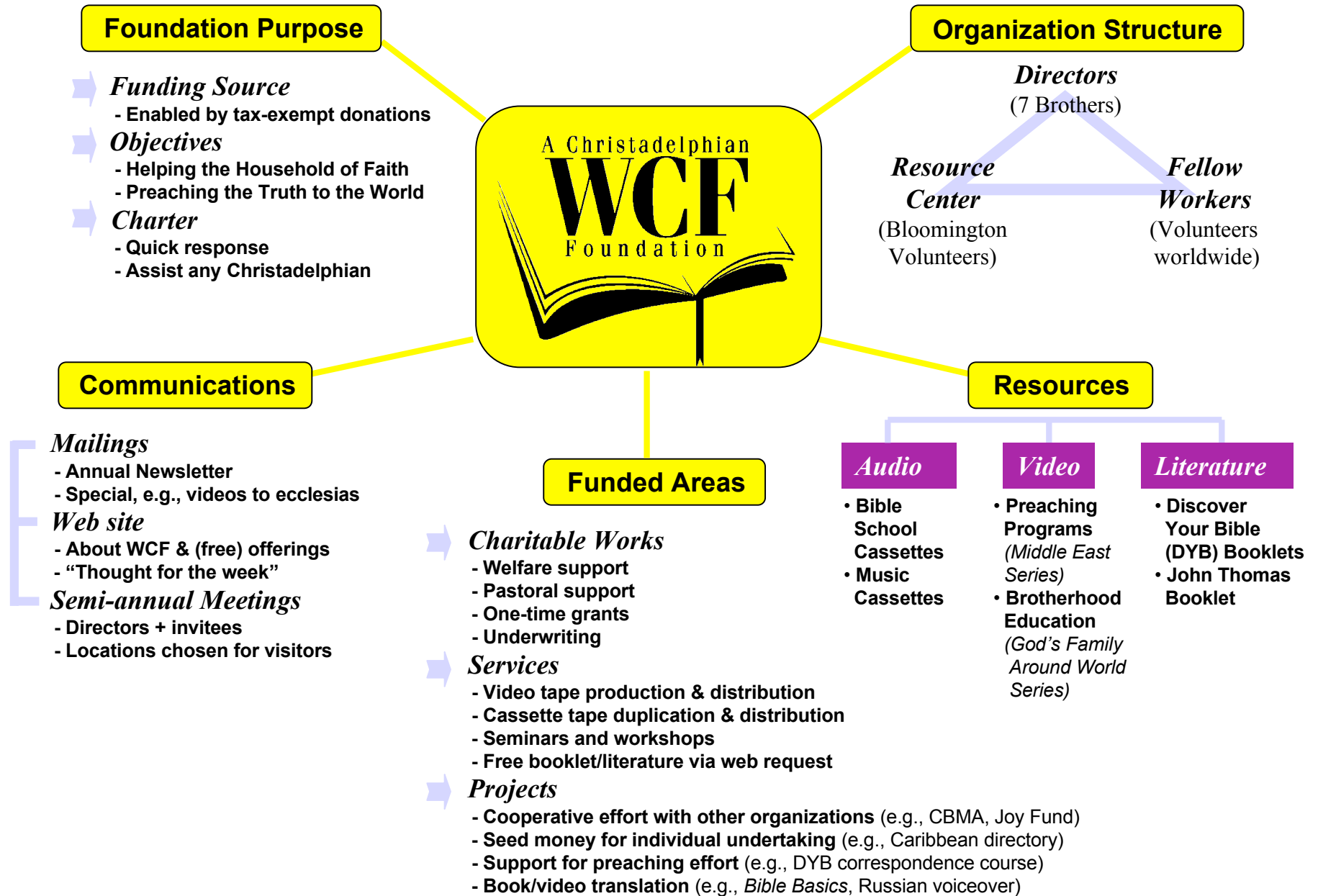
- Deep **thankfulness to God** for the generous donors to WCF; great needs could now be addressed
- Continuing ability to meet **ongoing and emergency welfare requests** by the Household of Faith
- Funding and promotion of a **preaching, pastoral & welfare program in Eastern Europe and Asia**<sup>1</sup>
- Funding for **optimizing preaching in N. America** (videos, website development, CD for women)<sup>2</sup>
- Funding of **preaching and pastoral activities in Israel**<sup>3</sup>
- Funding 24-article-coding effort to complete a **web-based, self-directed correspondence course**<sup>4</sup>
- Funding completion and distribution of "Bonds of Faith" **video program (God's Family series)**<sup>5</sup>
- Funding "Faith at Work" **projects in Jamaica** as identified by the CBMA
- Enhance the WCF **website capability and functionality** (e.g., video streaming, online payment)
- Enable **mission fieldworkers to electronically capture & report activity** in the Lord's vineyard<sup>5</sup>
- Expand **website resource offerings** (e.g., seminar presentation material, consultation contact list)
- Support project to develop **tutorial and pastoral CDs** for new/isolated brethren and small ecclesias<sup>1,5</sup>
- Support project to put **Bible Basics course material on video/DVD** (has multi-language potential)<sup>1,5</sup>
- Agreed on the update to the **WCF Seminar offerings** (e.g., new workshop by Sisters for Sisters)
- Continue the work effort of **Russian voiceovers** for the *Middle East and Your Future* video series
- Promote **facility/fellowship use** of Gov. Spottswood Motel (Williamsburg) during winter off-season.

## Going Forward

WCF will continue to fulfill its charter of getting involved in areas where (a) it has been invited (b) there is a real need and/or a worthy project and (c) it has been determined that other sources of funding have 'maxed out' or have simply not been found. WCF will also continue to serve the worldwide family of Christadelphians by means of the services and materials provided by its Resource Center and as offered on its website. For further details about WCF organization, objectives, and activities, see **Overview** on page 2.

There are exciting projects unfolding in the USA, and WCF is glad to be a participant. There are also overseas needs and wants where the funding limit of the supporting organization has been reached, and WCF can cover costs of designated projects and activities that would be otherwise left undone. And then there is the awesome challenge to further the good work started in Eastern Europe & Asia, the details of which are discussed on pages 3 to 4. WCF is positioned and committed to enable this work to go forward.

# Overview 2003

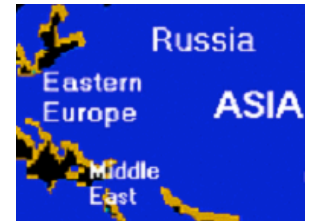


## Compelling Opportunities and Needs

In the last 15 years, the truth of the gospel has been proclaimed and embraced in 36 countries where previously there were no baptized Christadelphians. Of these, 18 are in Europe, 8 in Asia, 8 in the Middle East and 2 in South America. By God's blessing, the Truth is spreading to the farthest corners of the planet.

In the course of this work, Brother Duncan Heaster and his co-workers have distributed nearly 100,000 copies of *Bible Basics* and over 200,000 copies of *Introducing Bible Basics* or its equivalent, in various languages. This has resulted in around 1,200 baptisms, by God's grace. Current average is 3-4 every week.

Most recently, there has been amazing response in Islamic countries like Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Whereas there were only a handful of brethren in Israel a few years ago, there are now 59! Growth in these areas is almost exponential, as new Brothers and Sisters become zealous preachers to their fellows. They use every piece of literature and personal means available to share the gospel. If literature in their native language doesn't exist, brethren (who are capable) do the translations themselves.



As for the effectiveness of efforts to date, the seed planting has been done (and continues!), the sprouting is apparent and the harvesting is in full swing. The more believers, the more enthusiastic laborers. **Now is the time to provide the resources to continue and expand the work** (Matt 25:40, 9:37-38).

Our new brethren need our fervent, personal prayers. Readers will be aware of the situation involving a young married Iranian couple whose conversion to Christianity, flight to Turkey, deportation back to Iran, and imprisonment, torture and execution sentence prompted the prayers of Christadelphians everywhere. That was right and good. During that same time, a fellow Iranian believer named Hamid wrote this e-mail:

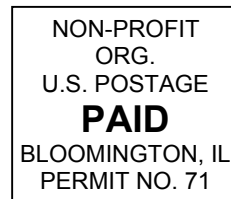
my dearest d [Duncan Heaster]  
when i convert i knew that i will walking in very difficult way. i ignore all the thing in this mortal world . in that time i have every thing best car best apartment in the best part of tehran lots of money a good job and every thing but that time i had not salvation but now i am a refugee without any right jopless nameless but i changed all of my advantages with salvation and i am so so happy now ! i dont want anything else even i oblige to face dead because i am sure that in the kingdom of god i will resurected and jesus give me sal\_vation and eternal life ! in fact in other side of coin i have a lot of thing - new family very very good brother like you salvation being gods children and work for god as a preacher . i try to be like our dear lord although somtimes it is so difficult. i remember when jesus on the cross said : "it finished" .he said that he pass all of the test of god i pray one time all of us pass sucessfully all of gods test.  
please pray for coming our lord jesus very soon god bless h

Thus our new family members also need ongoing communication, pastoral visitation for encouragement and counseling, medical services, clothing, food, re-housing, and expenses due to having fled persecution.

## Preaching and Pastoral Program

The Lord's work begun in Eastern Europe and Asia must continue. While not the only mission area in the world needing workers and money, it fits the WCF criteria of definitely being a worthy cause and having no funds available from other sources. Therefore, WCF has committed \$110,000 every 6 months for the next 18 months, with a one-time \$150,000 for housing. Expecting quarterly expenditure reports, there will be a semi-annual review to determine if funding can be extended on the same basis. WCF strongly supports the proposed Bible-based model of a 4-stage program, whose key approaches and objectives are outlined below:

1. **Initial development of interest** □ done by press adverts, leaflet distribution, contacts spreading the message, the Internet, placing *Bible Basics* in libraries; focus on the individual, push into new areas; provide Bibles and produce literature in the native language of our contacts. [allocate \$30,000 / year]
2. **Tutoring/following-up contacts to baptism** □ continue global tutoring network & follow-up processes; currently have 2,000 active contacts who generate 10 letters/day + many emails; gather contacts together for Bible Schools; hand over responsibility for local preaching to local converts. [allocate \$50,000 / year]
3. **Seeking spiritual development of those baptized with the aim of forming self-sustaining, independent ecclesias** □ supply new Brothers and Sisters with literature, exhortations, materials etc. so they can teach their families systematically about the Truth; urge them to write about and share their feelings and Bible studies, fund and enable attendance at Bible Schools in Eastern Europe. [allocate \$60,000 / year]



4. **Caring for the specific material needs of those baptized** □ the breakup of the USSR caused major social upheaval and instability, including persecution of ethnic minorities; this has caused very substantial welfare demands; homes are required for displaced brethren, where they can live and find work; issues like conscientious objection alternatives and relocation trauma must be addressed; picking up transport costs is vital. [\$50,000/yr, \$30,000/yr for running homes, one already purchased for \$65,000]

### **Bonds of Faith Video Program**

The *God's Family Around the World* series continues with this 5th installment, subtitled "Scenes from a Russian Bible School". Produced and directed by Bro. Steve Johnson, it features a number of fascinating stories on how God has worked in the lives of our Brothers and Sisters who have come out of the wreckage of the USSR. It demonstrates the realities of starting life all over, and how faith in the Lord Jesus Christ conquers all. The video is scheduled to be mailed this June to all ecclesias in North America.

### **Online Fieldwork News**

You won't have to wait for a videotape to come to your ecclesia to learn about what God is doing in Eastern Europe and Asia. You will be able to go to [www.wcfoundation.org](http://www.wcfoundation.org) to read weekly field reports. Comparable to the current Carelink messages, these reports will detail the real-life happenings in mission countries, and you will gain a better understanding of the challenges & opportunities facing fellow believers.

If plans work out, there will also be video clips periodically on the website so you can see your brethren in context, hear their words and share the feelings of lives transformed by God. Although separated by language and geography we are all one in Christ, and can help in their hour of need (1Cor 16:1).

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### **Other Special News**

#### **Response to India Video**

Many complimentary and encouraging comments were made about the program; these two illustrate:

- Very informative and good quality. A real insight into the work in India. (NZ)
- This is an exceptionally beautiful video -- maybe the best one yet! It is truly thrilling to view the growth of the truth in India. Our society is very materialistic in almost every way. How inspiring to see people with so little of material things, yet so hungry for the Word of God. (US)



#### **New WCF Director**

Bro. John Pople of the San Francisco Peninsula ecclesia has agreed to join the WCF Directors.

### **What You Can Do**

You can *personally get involved* in the program above by your focused prayer (cf. website reports) and by volunteering your time and expertise in support tasks (e.g., sending greetings to new converts, materials to a fledgling ecclesia). You can also participate in the other page-1 projects. For more details, contact WCF.

You can *financially contribute* to WCF through cash donations, stock transfers, or charitable trusts. **Contact WCF Treasurer** Ray Pratt (335 North Western, P.O. Box 86, Deland, IL 61839; phone 217-664-3511; e-mail: [rbpratt@mchsi.com](mailto:rbpratt@mchsi.com))