



ARCAID - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR AGM 2021

When we met for last year's AGM on Zoom, I suspect I wasn't alone in thinking that our next AGM would take place in the Parish Centre as it has done for over 30 years. Yet once again, we are meeting virtually, and whilst grateful for the technology that makes this possible, we would probably all prefer to be together as a group of Arcaid supporters. Maybe next year.....

The work of Arcaid is fundamentally very simple - to send funds to communities, organisations and occasionally to individuals who are in great need. If you look at the list of projects Arcaid has supported in the past year, the vast majority contribute to the most basic human needs: food, shelter, health, education. Arcaid has supported feeding programmes for children whose only daily meal is often provided by their nursery or school. We have responded to a number of requests for medical equipment, medicines, physiotherapy for children with cerebral palsy, health education programmes, some of which were Covid-related. Our speaker will tell us about a medical charity in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains which we have supported. We have sent money to 2 hospices, one in Kenya and one in Zambia to help with the provision of end of life care in patients' homes by trained palliative care staff. For a number of years Arcaid has sent a donation to Serenity Home, a hospice in southern India, where nuns from the Sisters of the Destitute order care for 70 terminally ill patients. As its name suggests, Serenity Home has given quiet compassion and care to poor people at the end of their lives and Arcaid trustees readily agree to support this worthwhile institution.

Since it began, Arcaid has supported educational programmes and responded to requests for help with school fees. We're all aware that education and training can be a 'passport' out of poverty and whether we support young children's primary schooling or vocational training in sewing or baking skills, we trust that Arcaid has in some small way enabled a handful of children and young people to become self-sufficient and in time, provide for their families.

We were approached by an NGO in Cambodia, the Disadvantaged Cambodians Organisation, to send money for food to families whose breadwinners had been deprived of any earnings due to Covid restrictions. Some of these families rely on pickings from rubbish dumps for their survival and during lockdown, even those were not accessible. More recently, Arcaid responded to a request from the same organisation to rehouse families who are being forcibly moved out of their current squatter camp by developers. The money we sent will provide each family with a dwelling and a piece of land on which to grow food for themselves and to sell their crops for a small income.

So Arcaid, or rather you, our generous donors, have contributed to the provision of food, shelter, healthcare and education for a number of people in different parts of the world. A drop in the ocean of need of course but making a huge difference to those whom you support. On behalf of the trustees and especially the beneficiaries, I would like to thank most sincerely,

all those who give regularly to Arcaid and those who make occasional donations, some of which have been incredibly generous. Unlike many charities, Arcaid's income has increased in the past year thanks to the kindness and generosity of our donors – thank you all so much.

Finally, I would like to thank all the trustees for all the work they do for Arcaid - attending Zoom meetings, following up on projects and writing and reading countless emails. A special thank you to Mark for dealing with every aspect of Arcaid accounts and to Fiona who, as secretary keeps the Arcaid 'show' on the road. Sadly, two trustees are resigning this year - Mary Nolan and Nora Tarrant after years of service on the committee - in Mary's case, many years. Sincere thanks to them both. Very many thanks also to Brian Fernando who has audited our accounts for over 10 years and grateful thanks to Sean Collins who has taken over as our auditor.

The work of trustees and the generosity of donors enable Arcaid to continue to offer a little help to people who have so much less than we do.

Mariola Boyd

November 2021