

G4G AGM
Wednesday 22nd September 2021
Victoria Hall @ 7 p.m

Attendance: Brian Boyd (Chairman), Tom Morrow, Espeth Morrow, Mr and Mrs Rowe, Rob Rowe, Mary Buchan (Remote), Alan Gorvett (Remote), Jim Buchan.

Open with prayer/ Welcome – Brian Boyd/Alan Gorvett

1. Minutes of 2020 AGM – Jim Buchan

A copy of the Minute for the 2020 AGM was made available which has been available to view on the G4G Website for some months. Rob Rowe proposed that these were a true reflection of the proceeding and Brian Boyd seconded this motion. The Minute was then adopted by all those present.

2. Trustees Overview – Brian Boyd

Brian noted that our future at our current premises is uncertain but that he has received “positive vibes” based on a recent conversation with people from Deeside Christian Fellowship who are currently using the building as an outreach centre. We have trust for the future and need to leave this in Gods hands.

Brian then referenced the annual trustees report to OSCR. He noted that G4G is achieving a wide range of objectives. He also deferred to Rob to comment on the technical developments which are listed there and these are beyond his own comprehension.

Brian read from the report an overview of Gospel4Grampians objectives. He then turned to scripture and said that we cannot really know the impact when God word is spread but that through G4G service many people can be reached and that the words they hear may be those that God wants them to hear.

He reminded those present that we have a faithful God who will accomplish his objectives through the actions of his people. Sometimes we may not see the fruits of our efforts but God does so we should be encouraged to be faithful and continue the work. We should not underestimate what God can achieve.

3. Financial Report – Tom Morrow

Tom presented the financial report for the last year.

See the income/expenditure table below – the most major investment was the computer upgrades which were covered without need to dip into the reserve account. We have sufficient funds to maintain operations but it would be good if we can sign-up more members/supporters.

	2020	2021
Income	£	£
Members Donations	2160	2165
Other Donations	3182	1672
Quiz Night Kemnay	-	-
Gift Aid Received	-	816
Sale of Cards/Calendars	873	746
Total Income	6215	5399
Expenditure		
Telephone and Broadband	736	687
Computer Upgrades	157	2378
Broadcasting Licence	604	677
Computer Maintenance	692	692
Office Insurance	438	438
Web Hosting/Streaming	213	-
Electricity	240	240
Office Costs/Equipment	-	-
Calendars	284	279
Total Expenditure	3374	5391
Surplus(loss) for Period	2841	8

4. Directors Report – Rob Rowe

Rob presented his report for the year past year as follows.

Overview

It's been a year of celebration, contrasts and growth and hope.

We celebrate 15 years of broadcasting as on 1 June this year. We began broadcasting on 1st June 2006, just after midnight from our home in Mastrick. The urgency to make the Gospel known is more convincing than ever before as I firmly believe these are the very last days. The content and sentiment of this report bears this out.

Broadcast

When I looked at the figures for our on line broadcasts between the period September 2019 – Sept 2020, Last year, I was able to report a very sharp healthy rise in listener stats .

Our figures this year September 2020 – September 2021 have worked out to around 56 % of last years numbers of listeners.

Listener Hours are 43% down on last year and standing at 84, 119 listener hours

Mean listener hours are also down by 1:21 hours from 6 and now stand at 4:39 hours

Essentially, we are broadcasting a similar content and ratio of music/speech and programmes.

In the last year, although we had a long list of listeners in 162 countries- many of these recorded only 1 listener. For the purposes of this meeting, I'm taking 10 listeners as the lowest figure. These account for 72 Countries. A high number of people tuned in for less than 5 minutes.

Top 5 listener Countries this year include

Nigeria 633 listeners

Philippines 701 listeners

US 4451 listeners

UK 6707 listeners

There is an un-identifiable location recorded which accounts for 693 listeners.

Podcast

Figures were peaking during the 2019–20 period – even exceeding 1200 listeners during the month of March 2020. These fell back quite rapidly to between 0 and 200 downloads a month but have been starting to pick up. In August this year, the numbers were over 200 downloads again at 202 downloads. We currently have 1096 podcasts available to download with 18,822 downloads.

Although these lower figures are disheartening. The figures might be explained in part by the public perception to the 'pandemic' and the wide range of media on offer. It has been clear to me that he who shouts loudest may have the public ear. We can ask questions.

How can we as an organisation communicate in a way that breaks through the 'noise' ?

Most importantly, are we communicating The Gospel clearly?

Statistics are, as I am finding out only part of the picture. When I considered these figures, I had real heart knowledge to be very honest and present these as they are. Much more important is the impact these broadcasts and podcasts are having.

At the end of my report, I will be reading out a testimony as a note of hope. This speaks of the impact one of our programmes is having.

Programmes

We are a Gospel Radio station so getting the Good News of Salvation offered by Jesus Christ Son of God in line with Jesus's command in Matthew 28, verses 18-20 is very important - to go out into all the world and preach the good news to all men.

Since late 2019, we have been working towards making the essence of The Gospel, expressed by John 3:16 – “For God So Loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so whoever believes shall not perish but have everlasting life” available in languages from across the world. These are now available in 36 different languages so that people listening might hear in their language and accept the Gospel for themselves. Our Your Gospel project does this. This month we added Shona of Zimbabwe, Xhosa of South Africa and Zimbabwe and Zulu of South Africa. Your Gospel is mainly broadcast at the top of the hour every hour and they are available as podcasts

With Matthew 28 verses 18-20, our 15th Birthday and our listener stats in mind, I looked earlier this year at our programming. Is our programming fulfilling our goal to broadcast The Good News of Salvation? We can always improve. The second step in this direction has resulted in Gospel4You.

Gospel4You is a weekly program with a Gospel theme inspired by a scripture and prayer. We feature Your Gospel in three languages throughout the show, 1 or two testimonies which show God at work in people's lives, Kingdom Come presented by Fergus Buchan and a time of prayer centred around the core scripture for that weekly program.

For an outlet, Gospel4Grampian Radio and podcasts is the first place to start. In addition, I wanted to celebrate 15 years of broadcasting and make the station better known so I looked to see whether it was feasible to purchase air time on European Gospel Radio which broadcasts on the Nexus Radio platform on Short and Medium Wave and on line with coverage over Europe, N Africa and The Middle East. I found it was doable. This was started as an experiment with the first program being aired on 12 April this year.

Having checked the prices recently, its even more reasonable than I thought. £31.55 for 59 minutes. That works out at - 53 p per minute or under the price of a Cappuccino Coffee for 5 minutes. This is exceptional value for the opportunity to reaching over 100 million people of which 60 to 80 million people speak English. Even if only 1% listen that's still over 1 million more people than we would have had who get to hear and experience the Gospel for the first time and find out about Gospel4Grampian Radio.

The Trustees had said last meeting that while they applauded my zeal and the thought, I should have spoken to them before starting- Fair enough!. I can only say that I believe this that this work is of God and I get a deep Peace when I do this. In addition, I had thought since the last Trust meeting that I was in arrears with payments for the air time. It now appears since the last payment that Air time is now paid up to 11th December. I have contacted European Gospel Radio for direct listener figures relating to the program and any testimonies from it. Gospel4You is broadcast on a Monday evening at 8 pm Central European Time on 7290 kHz (41 m Shortwave), 918 kHz Medium Wave and on line. Gospel4You is broadcast on Gospel4Grampian on a Friday evening at 7 pm and is podcast.

The program goes further than that as through our podcasts, it is picked up by a Pastor in Uganda who has used it to inspire his church, children and local pastors. You will hear his words read later in the report.

With regard to making sure that Gospel messages can be heard in different languages, I am in contact with several African pastors from different African Countries through a Whatsapp channel Gospel4Africa. These pastors are using the platform to communicate with each other, Encourage pray, recording and sending short Gospel messages from 10 to about 30 minutes. We host these on the podcast site – a repository which the pastors can access and send on to many people in their country and beyond. It needs to be said that at this point all these pastors have God's love in their hearts, The Gospel and welcome even this opportunity.

Other programmes we broadcast include;

- Hearing is Believing,
- Great Bible Stories – from a dramatized bible,
- Your Story - testimonies of God's work in people's lives
- Weekend book club
- Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers

The music we broadcast is an eclectic mix from the following genres; hymns, instrumental, classical, Scottish, Jazz, Blues and Worship.

What we now need are presenters who can help to bring it all together. This is something in the radio industry known as continuity and is employed at most radio stations. To have continuity and presenters able to run this on Gospel4Grampian would be great. Two programs we produce - Gospel Café and Community Elements are good examples of this. We have a good software playout system Myriad which is more than capable of achieving this and with a few more improvements will be up to date.

Myriad Hardware and Software

Gospel4Grampian is running the latest version of Myriad Payout Software which uses Windows 10. To get there, early on in lockdown, the system was upgraded with 2 new computers with improved memory and the computer with the main audio on it was upgraded to 12 GB RAM memory. This new memory makes the computers run much faster. Tasks such as saving a program after an edit or exporting a podcast now take seconds instead of over 10 minutes or more. One computer was taken out from service at the station with two computers now able to do both play and broadcast the audio. The redundant computer is still in service as the Webstats computer. Jim runs this from his office in Kemnay.

I can still gain access to this computer as all computers through Team Viewer, a much more cost-effective option than Logmein the previous platform we used. Team Viewer which allows me access to the computer desktops allowing me full background control of the working of the station.

Other Changes made: It was agreed a few months ago to introduce Myriad Anywhere Pro to allow remote access directly into the Myriad software so that not only files can be uploaded, located, edited, deleted in the background, we can also remotely record directly into individual programmes so making continuity that much easier without even coming into the studio. Presenters can also broadcast live from remote locations with more than one presenter on air at any time. In these days, such a facility is very needed.

The Trustees are largely favourable to an upgrade of storage on the main studio computer. Currently, this is filling up quite fast. This means we can't put on the range of gospel music we have, testimonies, extra programmes and for the future the continuity links between items. These continuity links are known as Voice Tracks.

I will need to refer to Jim to help advise how to set up a 'Clean Feed' from the mixer into the computer. In this case, this means that currently, when I speak for a live link using Myriad Anywhere Pro, I get a disconcerting echo of what I've just said through the headphones. Broadcast Radio who supplied and support the software tell me that a clean feed will sort this issue. I do not have the technical understanding to solve this. We will get there.

Overall, the system has been running well with a few hiccups. Sometimes other tracks and genres are shoved automatically into a program which have not been scheduled. I will need to speak to Broadcast Radio about this. A few weeks ago, one Sunday, while away in Peebles, I was contacted by Stuart Chalmers to say that his program was sounding slow and was blairing. I had to remotely halt the audio. As the remote computer was not responding properly, I had to come into the studio later that day, install a windows update and restart. This seemed to solve the issue.

Volunteers

We have two volunteers of note at present.

Brian who presents Brian's Good News now on a monthly basis. He presents one good news story live. We then talk about it on air. Very often, Brian's Good News generates more community elements. This is very useful for me so I have less to do to search for new subject matter.

Christian Campbell joined us this year. He has been familiarising himself with the vision for the station and the Myriad Software. He comes in when work and church commitments allow.

Rachel McKay has taken a back seat and is not currently volunteering with us having moved to London.

Tayo is another volunteer but has not been in touch for some time to volunteer.

One or two other interested folk were given volunteer and membership forms but have not to my knowledge completed them or sent them back to Jim.

As I am really busy, I'm afraid I can not give much time to regular contact with volunteers but do try to contact when I can. It would be best if our volunteers were self-starters.

Conclusion

This is a very long report but in truth, there is a lot to report. I hope most of it has been uplifting and encouraging and a pointer perhaps to the future.

I'd like to finish firstly by acknowledging our Trustees and their spouses for the way they have served over very many years. Jim for being Secretary, submitting reports, keeping us on the straight and narrow and for his technical expertise, Tom for being our Treasure, Alan and Brian for being there for their advice and encouragement, All these, their many sacrifices. To acknowledge Tom and Elspeth for providing Tea, coffee and Mary for fine pieces.

Thanks are due to our members for prayer, support in kind and financial assistance.

Thanks to our program makers and thanks to the wider community of intercessors without whom we cannot manage.

Now before questions, I'd like to finish by reading out the testimony from Pastor Lameck from Uganda.

"Hi praise God. Am pastor Lameck from Uganda. I thank God for this gospel platform. I started listening to these messages together with the children in our orphanage, this messages helped our orphanage children to be strong and forget about their past and focus on Christ. It has helped them to grow spiritually."

After seeing what these messages has done to our orphanage, I shared with it to some pastors and they were blessed. So, I decided to start a Bible School. We started with 12 pastors but now we have 112 pastors and more are still joining. In our Bible class we always listen to the messages sent to me and pastors make notes then after I give them exams. So I thank God for Gospel4Grampian. Our Bible School is now operating and our orphanage is also operating smoothly.

So children in orphanage have started going to the street and preach the gospel with no fear but because they were encouraged by the messages in this ministry.

I have shared the links with many more pastors in Uganda, each pastor has testimony more so in this lockdown in Uganda. God has enabled them and provided to them in this hard time.

Another pastor and I share this message to our church members because churches are closed members believe and pray with the messages sent to them and receive what they pray for. We thank God for pastor Rob for this.

Lastly in our orphanage there is a boy called Musa who was sick, he got the phone listened to the messages and prayed with the messages then he received the healing completely. he is fine and doing well.

Blessings thanks so much”

By the way I’ve had to tell Pastor Lamech that I am not a pastor but a servant of God. If this is happening in Uganda. Is Uganda unique or is it just possible that the programmes are reaching others that as yet we don’t know about?

That is my report thank you for listening and for your support.

5. Refreshments