

Whitefield Christian Trust

Working to provide housing for long serving Christian workers

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April 2015

More on the back, but first a letter from Sally:

Dear Friends

2014 was a year of significant change for WCT. We are growing significantly and the Lord has blessed us in many ways. So we have been considering the long term implications. The Trust has now been able to help over 30 people buy their own homes. At the moment there are 9 properties throughout the UK in our name and a further 17 purchased with our funding assistance. What started as a small venture in 1992 has become important to many people. We have drawn on the joyful words to Isaiah : *"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."*

We have also been able to take advantage of changes in legislation to modernise our structure. Whitefield Christian Trust has become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is half way between a traditional charity and a company . The principles that triggered the original initiative, still remain and we are still registered with the Charity Commission. However as the Trust has evolved, the administration involved in the registration of properties in the names of Trustees and the consequent legal work as Trustees change, has become a challenge.

This new legal structure means that properties are registered in the name of the Trust rather than the Trustees. The CIO can enter into contracts in its own right and its trustees will normally have limited or no liability. This will give more long-term stability for those friends with whom we share properties. The Trustees, the principles and the procedures remain the same. The Lord is our help and strength. We are as always committed to help Mission Partners returning after long service to find housing in an area they choose and to live in a stress free retirement.

Thank you for your part in this, thus far and in the future.



Sally Phillips, Chair

More from WCT

Changes in Trustees

We are delighted to announce that Judy Acheson has joined the Board of Trustees. We were able to help Judy as she moved back from The Congo in 2011 so she will bring practical experience with her. She is no longer a beneficiary. Sadly Tim Voltzenlogel has left the Board to concentrate on his parish.

We are looking for additional Trustees who can broaden the wisdom and expertise of the Trustees. If you know of someone, including yourself, who might suit, please give them a nudge in our direction.

Helping New friends

We saw a steady stream of enquiries in 2014 and in the first 3 months of this year the rate seems to have increased. Several people have accepted offers of help but have decided to stay on in their countries of service for a little longer. We hope to help them when they are ready.

One person who is returning this year is Edith with AIM and leaving AIC Missionary college in Kenya this May to retire in UK after over 25 years of service. She writes:

'I'll be making my home in Blackpool, the town where I was brought up, and plan to be involved with a number of ministries in my home-church so won't be idle! With the help of the Trust, I expect to purchase a small property in the town, with a guest room, so 'Karibuni sana'!

'I find it hard to believe that retirement is just around the corner! It will certainly take me a while to get used to living in the UK again on a more permanent basis but I am confident of the Lord's leading and feel quite excited about being involved more fully in the ministry of my home-church. I'm so thankful to the Whitefield Trust for making it possible for me to purchase a property in the UK which will greatly help me to settle down and continue serving the Lord.

PLEASE HELP

We mentioned that we are seeing a steady stream of applications. We maintain strictly the criteria that we spell out on our website when considering candidates. Some people fall outside and we can point them elsewhere for advice. Some people however seem to fit our aims well but whom we cannot help for lack of immediate funds. **If you feel able to help them and others yet to apply, please get in touch or use the information on our website.**

Legacies

Making a legacy to WCT will ensure that your generosity will continue to benefit Missionaries after your death. Legacies are generally exempt from inheritance tax and these gifts can be exempt whether you make them during your life or as part of your Will.

A gift in your Will could be tax free for us and might reduce the amount of inheritance tax your loved ones may have to pay. Please consult a trusted advisor or Solicitor on this. We should be very happy to answer any questions and there is a form on our website for you if it helps.

Emailing our newsletter

We are very keen to keep in touch with our supporters and friends. Sadly postage and production is becoming increasingly expensive. If you are happy to receive emails please let us know by emailing : contact@whitefieldchristiantrust.co.uk and we will pick up your email address from that.