

GOSPEL WORKERS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

Annual Report for Nine Thirty Eight ('9:38')

For the year 1st January to 31st December 2017

This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. Nine Thirty Eight is a charitable trust (number 109288) and is also known as 9:38.

Aim of 9:38

The aim is to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in particular by encouraging, recruiting and training men and women to be involved in gospel ministry.

Membership

During 2017 the following served as trustees:

Richard Coekin

Mark O'Donoghue (Chairman)

Vaughan Roberts

In addition to the above, the following served as members of the Executive Committee in 2017:

Nigel Styles

Andy Gemmill

Chris Green

Danny Rurlander

Carrie Sandom

Andrew Nicholls

During 2017, the following served as Administrators to the Executive Committee:

Rachel Bell (January–August)

Fran Kirby (September–December)

Objectives

In setting our strategic objectives and planning our activities our Trustees and Executive Committee have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Our objectives for 2017 were:

- to focus on encouraging and equipping student and young workers to devote themselves to Christ-centred decision-making and to consider going into full-time gospel ministry
- to be regional across the country
- to equip and encourage ministry trainees for long-term gospel ministry

Review of the Year

Conferences

The Ministry Trainee Conference

We started 2017 at High Leigh for our Ministry Trainee Conference, where 96 delegates joined a team of 20 church workers for three days of teaching, training and prayer. The conference's theme was 'The Privilege of Prayer' and included three talks by Richard Coekin entitled 'Lord, Teach Us to Pray' and three talks by Nigel Styles entitled 'The Bible Teaches Us to Pray'. These talks were complemented by the teaching skills groups, where trainees (in groups of five or six) took turns giving talks on the subject of prayer. They then received feedback from their peers and from the leader overseeing the group. These practice sessions and the main talks, along with the opportunity to meet peers and church workers from across the country, were again received very positively by delegates and leaders alike.

1000 25:20 (No)

The Ministry Trainee Conference continues to receive trainees from a well-established base of sending churches. We also benefit from the generosity of the churches who lend us their staff for three days and who also, as they can afford, contribute financially to the conference's costs.

The Workers' Conferences

Two Workers' Conferences took place in March 2017 and these were attended by over 80 people. One took place in London at Wilcox House and the other in Sheffield, at Christ Church Fulwood. ~~Nigel Styles~~ Daf Meirion-Jones and Mark O'Donoghue spoke at the former and Paul Williams, Neil Powell and Steve James spoke at the latter. There were three main sessions, as well as a Q&A panel and some time to talk and pray in small groups. According to the feedback we received, the teaching was deemed excellent and really helpful in giving delegates a helpful view of gospel ministry and what steps to take next.

The Student Conferences

All four Student Conferences took place in the autumn term this year, rather than spreading into the spring term. We hope this earlier timing is more helpful for the students, particularly those in their final year – we hope it will give them more time to implement any thought processes which are begun or developed on the day of the conference.

We held conferences in the South-West (at St Leonard's Church, Exeter), in the North-West (at Holy Trinity Platt, Manchester), in the Midlands (at City Church Birmingham) and in the South-East (at Christ Church Kensington, London). The conferences had 33, 28, 10 and 62 delegates respectively. We were really pleased by the numbers who joined us in Exeter, Manchester and London (although we would like to see a larger spread of sending churches in the future). We were disappointed with the low number of attendees to the Midlands Conference but we are conscious that there had only been a six month gap between this conference and the previous one (also in Birmingham). We hope to see a better attendance at the upcoming Midlands Conference, which will take place in Nottingham in November 2018.

All the Student Conferences follow a similar pattern to the Workers' Conferences: three main teaching sessions, along with a Q&A panel (for the North-West Conference) or (for the South-West, Midlands and South-East Conferences) seminars on related topics. According to the feedback we received, the students found the day useful and encouraging, and came away challenged to make the most of their life, whether that meant to pursue full-time gospel ministry, or to serve God in other ways.

Conventions, Advertising & Resources

Conventions

As in previous years, 9:38 attended the 2017 Evangelical Ministry Assembly. We had a stand in the consultation area and an advert in the brochure.

Advertising

9:38 placed general adverts in the brochures for Revive and the London Men's Convention. We also placed a job vacancy advert with Evangelicals Now and with The Good Book Company. Alongside these, we sponsored posts on Facebook (for approximately £7 per post) in order to reach a wider audience. These posts were usually related to the conferences, and were designed to encourage viewers to book places.

Resources

We published 23 new blog posts on our website in 2017. Of these, some were contributed by 9:38 staff and provided updates on the conferences; most were contributed by church leaders and were designed to do one or more of the following things: to encourage and equip those who are considering full-time gospel ministry; to encourage and equip those who are currently Ministry Trainees; and to encourage and equip pastors to raise up the next generation of gospel ministers.

In 2017, we also recorded 14 talks from the Ministry Trainee Conference, the Midlands Conference and the Workers' Conferences, and made them available on our website. On average, each talk has been downloaded 125 times.

We produced two newsletters in 2017. Both were sent out by post and available as downloads on our website. The February edition included a snapshot of one of Nigel Styles's talks at the Ministry Trainee Conference;

the December edition included an article by Danny Rurlander, based on one of the talks he gave at the North-West Students Conference. Both newsletters also included brief descriptions of the preceding and forthcoming conferences, as well as suggestions for prayer.

Finances & Reserves

Conferences

For the 2017 conferences, ticket prices ranged from £5 to £10 for a day conference ticket (i.e. for a ticket for either the Student or Workers Conferences) and, for the Ministry Trainee Conference, £129 for an early bird ticket and £139 for a standard ticket. These prices are raised each year in proportion to the costs we incur in order to hire High Leigh. Despite the increase in costs, the Ministry Trainee Conference continues to be almost self-supporting, operating at a deficit of approximately £300 per year (calculated over the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years), which is approximately the cost of two standard tickets. The day conferences have been operating at a loss. In consequence, it was decided that we would price tickets for all the 2018-19 day conferences at £10. We also decided to forgo printing and posting paper versions of conference publicity in an effort to make them cheaper; we instead sent out e-copies via our mailing lists. Our long-term aim is to see each conference become self-supporting.

Donations

We have been very grateful for the financial support we have received. In the 2017-18 academic year, twenty individuals or families have given an average of £18.94 a month; two individuals or families have given an average of £1,500 a year; and four churches or organisations have given an average of £1,300 a year. All of these donors have been supporting 9:38 for at least eighteen months. Alongside these regular donations, we received two one-off donations in 2017 which totalled £7,612.56, and £2,366.85 in Gift Aid from HMRC. Towards the end of 2017, we renewed our efforts to secure funding for the appointment of a Director. We are delighted to say that, in addition to the £25,000 which had already been given and designated for this appointment, we also secured pledges for an additional £30,000 (with the addition of £2,500 in Gift Aid). To date, we have received £25,000 of this; the final £5,000 is scheduled to arrive in January 2019. One of the donors has indicated it may well be possible to give a further £5,000 towards this appointment; we intend to make an application towards the end of 2018. Having secured 95.83% of the intended funds, we appointed Andy Harker as Director in the summer of 2018. Part of Andy's role is to raise funds for 9:38 through the widening of our support base in order that we can better serve local churches in the task of raising up gospel workers.

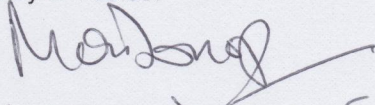
Reserves

In the Trustees' view, our reserves should provide 9:38 with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its objectives for the foreseeable future. The trustees propose to maintain the charity's reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to six months' operational costs (which has increased to approximately £30,000 after the appointment of a Director) and have done so having regards to the manner of operation of 9:38 and its likely funding streams.

Our cash in hand at the end of 2017 totalled £44,902.31. Of this, £25,000 is designated funds for the appointment of the Director. Our fundraising continued through the first half of 2018 in order to raise sufficient funds to appoint the Director as well as to maintain our reserves at a prudent level.

The Trustees will continue to review the amount of reserves, on an annual basis, to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil 9:38's continuing obligations. The Trustees will also have particular regard for our manner of operation, as well as for current and potential funding streams.

Signed by a Trustee:



Print: MARK DONOHUE

Date: 18 October 2018

Administrative Address

Post: 78 Ashburn Road, Stockport SK4 2PU

Telephone: 07908 191697

Email: admin@ninethirtyeight.org

Website: www.ninethirtyeight.org



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

9:38

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2017

Charity no
(if any)

1092881

Set out on pages

2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

M. N. Johnson

Date:

27/9/18

Name:

MATTHEW JOHNSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

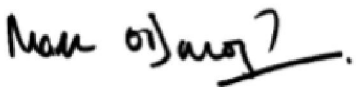
Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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Receipts and Payments									
Receipts (income)		2017	2016	2015	2014				
Conferences		£5,951.00	24,076.20	14,694.80	17,317.74				
Donations		£22,809.32	22,028.76	20,059.94	18,953.71				
Sundry/advertising income		£17,776.49	8,285.52	14,624.21	5415.00				
Total:		£46,536.81	54,390.48	49,378.95	41,686.45				
Payments (expenses)		2017	2016	2015	2014				
Printing and postage		-£1,537.81	-1,532.23	-336.70	-867.76				
Office Costs (Phone, stationery, website)		-£969.65	-1,183.34	-666.39	-596.55				
Conferences		-£15,122.33	-16,172.32	-14,811.94	-11,964.49				
Travel		-£1,060.48	-890.31	-445.76	-86.94				
Sundry Expenses (Other)		-£370.82	-2,127.57	-459.12	-356.99				
HR		-£15,459.73	-17,036.34	-23,696.35	-15,374.21				
Advertising and exhibiting		-£1,585.03	-2,466.18	-469.68	-1,566.96				
Total:		-£36,105.85	-41,408.29	-40,885.94	-30,813.90				
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		£10,430.96	12,982.19	8,493.01	10,872.55				
Assets and Liabilities									
					Value	Details			
Assets		Cash funds			£44,902.31*	Bank at year end			
		Other monetary assets			-				
		Assets retained for charity use			1000.00	Computer, laptop, projector & screen			
Liabilities		Cash funds			-				

* Please note that the cash funds for the 2016 Summary included £9819.50 which was in our PayPal account. This was transferred to our bank account in October 2017.

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees									
Print name					Mark O'Donoghue				
Date					31 October 2018				