

Prayer Letter November 2018

Dear friend,

GRF is 70

Just a few weeks ago, GRF marked its 70th birthday!

Founded in 1948, at a time of strict post-war rationing of food and clothes. The Berlin airlift was taking place as Soviet authorities cut off ground links, and the Cold War had begun. In India, Gandhi was murdered and the first Arab/Israeli wars took place, following the establishment of the State of Israel and the occupation of Palestinian territories.

And yet, as the women and men of the newly-formed Gospel Radio Fellowship Choir were making their way, by tram and subway, to the Findlay Memorial Tabernacle at Glasgow's St George's Cross, optimism was in the air.

The shared interests of all humankind were recognised as the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also set up the World Health Organisation. The right to health and wellbeing, regardless of personal wealth, was recognised as the British state launched the National Health Service.

It was within this emerging new society that a group of women and men in Glasgow responded to the request from radio station HCJB, broadcasting on short wave from Quito in Ecuador, for a weekly Christian radio programme to be broadcast to Scots (and others) throughout the Americas.

In the decades since 1948, the ever-evolving team of GRF has continued to produce innovative, challenging and award-winning radio programmes which have been broadcast all over the globe. Styles of programmes have changed constantly over the years, as have the opportunities on radio stations which have transmitted GRF's programmes. However, GRF's core principle has endured: the motivation to produce entertaining and thought-provoking radio, presenting the good news of Jesus as a story to live by.

Seventy years on, and full of life, GRF is still recording innovative and challenging audio, currently producing podcasts for listeners throughout the world.

But change continues!

When I last wrote to you in June, I said that we would be taking a short break from recording programmes. Our new landlord had decided to convert the upper floors at 342 Argyle Street, including GRF's studios, to a hotel. As a consequence, we had to vacate the premises which had been GRF's home since 1972, by the end of July.

The leaving of Argyle Street

So, on 31 July we finally said goodbye to the studios. The process was both physically and emotionally demanding but the team rose to the occasion:

- We set aside the necessary equipment for portable recording and record-keeping. Other equipment and files that we would not need in the interim have been placed in storage;
- We selected equipment which we no longer require, to be sold for the best possible price to re-invest in the work of GRF;
- We donated most of our furniture to another charity (the Iona Community) for use in their offices; and
- We consigned to a skip everything of no further use, that we could not sell or give away.

On the evening of Thursday 19 July, team members (past and present) and friends gathered in the studio for a very special act of worship – 'The leaving of Argyle Street.....worship for the journey'. We gave thanks for the past and looked to the future. And at the end we sang, to the tune of 'Ae fond kiss':

*May the God of peace go with us
as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us
firm in hope and full of grace.*

Moving on

The break in production was not long. Since August we have been meeting each week in a room at the offices of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway of the Scottish Episcopal Church, just off George Square in Glasgow city centre. We are very grateful to be able to rent these premises for Thursday evenings. The location and the facilities are most convenient and enabled us to resume recording podcasts almost immediately. We continue to attract new listeners for these, which can be found at www.smallvoice.org.uk

We have also been arranging with St George's Tron Church of Scotland, at the heart of Buchanan Street, the future recording of live podcasts in their main sanctuary, and in January, live concerts featuring musicians and singers who have appeared in previous smallVOICE podcasts (see the flyer enclosed with this prayer letter). If you are in the Glasgow area, please share this with your family, friends and church and plan to come along. We'd love to see you.

Our updated contact details are as follows:

- **Our email address remains the same: the.team@grf.org.uk**
- **Our new postal address is: PO Box 16927, Glasgow G11 9GN**

As we enter into a new and exciting 71st year of GRF's life, we thank you most warmly for your prayerful support. We will update you again soon.

With warm Christian greetings,



Margaret Tooth
Deputy Chair