



Annual Report 2021



Sovereign World Trust

Biblical teaching for Christian leaders in the poorest nations

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Rising to the challenge...

Chris Moffett, Trust Director



Welcome to our Annual report for the year ending 2021.

The primary purpose of our annual reports to supporters is to say 'thank you' for your part in helping Sovereign World Trust over the past year. Your prayers, financial support, your practical help and your words of encouragement are very much appreciated by us and indeed by those who receive our books. We are thankful to all you individuals, churches and grant making trusts.

Very often, our annual reports find their way into the hands of those who are interested to know more about what we do and potential supporters because they provide a good 'snapshot' of the work. So, if that fits you, welcome also and please join in!

In 2021, Covid continued to be an ongoing global challenge. The necessary restrictions, and most especially the suspension of many worldwide services, severely curtailed our usual activities. However, we did not take advantage of the government's furlough scheme and put our activities on hold, because we saw this as an opportunity to refocus our activities and tackle things that we would not ordinarily have time to do. This report explains how, and I hope when you have read it you will see, as we do, that our experience has been that of Romans 8:28; God working all things for good.

The two main areas we have tackled are firstly, the reconfiguring of our mailing arrangements to align ourselves with the requirements of our courier – Fedex – which threw up just a few challenges (!) – see the feature *To him who overcomes...* on pages 12 - 13. The other was the initiation of a publication project to provide material aimed at facilitating emerging and potential leaders – the Mark Project described on pages 10 and 11.

This year our interview feature on pages 7 to 9 is with Calvin Eaton, son of the late Michael Eaton. Calvin has become one of our trustees. He is working from Kenya on the Mark project with myself and also hopes to do something similar with Romans.

Sometimes people ask about the books we send. Page 14 has a description of some of the books we have dispatched recently and about which we continue to get feedback.

Also included in this report is a comment on the Trust's income trend and a brief note on a change to our charitable status.

We hope that the varied contributions in the following pages will be of interest and encouragement to you and give you confidence that your support for Sovereign World Trust is well founded as we continue to move forward with our vision and mission in an ever changing world.

I would like to place on record my gratitude to the Sovereign World Trust family over the past year. Tony Miles-Prouten and his fellow trustees Paul, Mike and Calvin for their insightful input. The staff team: Olga, Natalie and Violette for their perseverance and cheerful service. To Marion, our new volunteer helper, who came along just at the right time. Together we serve God to whom be all the glory.

Chris Moffett

News from the nations

Stories from last year from our recipients continue to inspire us to support them in their missions. Some are working in unimaginably difficult conditions, and this was made all the more challenging when Covid struck. Yet they still find the time, energy and creativity to bring God's word to their communities.

Africa

Evangelism, outreach and football

Early in 2021, prior to an extension of Covid restrictions in Nigeria, we heard from Trust recipient, Rev Nelson. The Reverend brought news of his church convention and outreach which 'kicked off' with an eagerly contested football match. The Trust has supported the reverend with books over many years and these are used as part of his teaching and outreach trips.



"Greetings from Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. I consider it a great to share with you some of the activities and events we are doing during this...season. Our church, Gospel Express Evangelical Church, just concluded its 2020 annual convention with the theme ABLE GOD.

The convention opened with a friendly football game. We planned and organised this game to use the opportunity to tell the youth about Jesus Christ and to distribute tracts and literature and Bibles. We distributed more than 300 resources; 150 Bibles, both English language and vernacular or native language Bibles. In total 35 young people came to faith in Christ through this exercise.

The competition was successful from the starting point to the end. As you know in every game there must be a winner as well as loser. Thus, Atai Nto Obo FC (in yellow) scored four goals while Gospel Express Football club scored zero.

There were several other activities and events such as leadership training for church leaders and pastors, medical

outreach, water baptism for new converts and a communion service on Sunday morning. Everything went very well. Thank you for your continued prayers. In Christ."

Rev Nsibiet Nelson

Innovative ways of bringing God to the villages, Malawi

Always encouraging to hear from Pastor Enock who, with his team from Christian Resource Ministries, regularly takes God's word and practical assistance to the remote villages of Malawi and Mozambique.

The pastor and his team were once again on the road last year and send thanks for our support and prayers. Their trip was extended this time as a breakdown meant they had to spend an unnerving night in the bush. The team have been determined to find new and innovative ways of bringing God's word to the remote villages and on this trip they took with them all the equipment needed to play a film about Jesus to the villagers - books as well, of course!

For one of the villages, a brand new road meant that the team's vehicle was the first ever to reach the village. Meanwhile, to get to other villages the team needed to leave their vehicle and walk or use canoes to make often perilous river crossings.





Innovative ways...continued

"We are so thankful to the Lord for His great mercies as by any means we were able to reach those unreached places with the Good news of our Lord Jesus Christ," Pastor Enock prays.

On their way back home the team visited one village without a church and were able to plant a church here. Pastor Enock asks us to: *"Please keep Zosuma village in prayers that the Lord may send more brothers and sisters in the Lord to strength and encourage brothers and sisters there to stay in faith."*

The pastor is delighted to report that many children were also reached with the good news of God's word. In total, the pastor and his team saw 1087 people in 15 villages come to Christ for the first time, with many being *"renewed in their*

faith and encouraged in the Lord." Many villagers were given Biblical teaching materials and Chichewa Bibles, with glasses gifted to those who were struggling to read them. In addition to spiritual gifts, the villagers were also given hand-wash materials and some medicated soap as health workers had recommended.

Bible college focus, Uganda

Aba Foundation Bible College is one of many Bible schools and colleges we support in Africa and throughout the world, as we try to help equip the leaders of the future.

Recently, Director and Lead Pastor of the college, Rev Dr Joseph Kiyimba, shared the college's graduation news. Some of the students are pictured. Of course, it is always uplifting to see the students graduating, but this is particularly inspiring given the disruptions and challenges of the past two years.

As Rev Joseph explains, despite the pandemic the goal of ABA Foundation Bible College has continued to be to equip students to enable them to minister the word of God to others. Indeed, the vision of ABA Foundation Bible College continues to be to give its students the foundations of the word of God, to prepare them to do the work of the ministry and to train those called to full time ministry.

The college offers Diplomas, Bachelor's Degrees, Masters Degrees and Doctorate Degrees that are awarded under the International Association of Bible Institutes (IABI). "The goal is not to hand out awards, but to disciple God's people for preaching and teaching the word of God."

The subject areas are extensive, and include: Bible doctrines, blood covenant, the character of God, Christian stewardship, discipleship, healing, evangelism, foundations of faith, the Holy Spirit, introduction to ministry, obedience, practical ministries, prayer, righteousness, understanding authority, New Testament survey and much more.

The college also ensures that at the time of graduation, each student is also equipped with enough material resources for preaching and teaching for many years to come. Graduated students therefore leave with a vast library of materials they can use in their future ministry.



Throughout the pandemic, when it was impossible to send books overseas, the Trust continued to send digital teaching letters to those recipients who could get online. We received so many messages of gratitude for finding a way to continue to reach recipients:



Hi SWT! All through these trying moments your emailing bible teaching messages had been so supportive in my personal studies and life, as well as my preaching and teaching ministries both in radio and home cell fellowships. Thank you!

Evangelist Odwar, Uganda

Asia

Church planting and mission outreach, India

Particularly in light of the events of the last two years, any communication from one of our long-standing recipients we have not heard from in a little while is greeted with a big smile in the Trust office.

In August we heard from one such recipient, Pastor Paul from Mahanaim Ministries in India. Despite the severity of the pandemic in India, Pastor Paul wrote that his ministry was ready and hoping to receive books from the Trust as soon as we were able to send them and that he would be able to put them to good use.



Mahanaim Ministries is a Church planting mission movement working in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Telungana, Rajasthan and Odisha, through some 59 career missionaries. Mahanaim Ministries was founded in 2000 by Pastor Paul who came to Christ from a traditional Hindu family. Following engineering college he was moved to plant a church in his own tiny village and his ministry was born.

Today pastors from Mahanaim Ministries bring the gospel and Bible teaching to those in hostels, hospitals, prisons, gypsy camps and many other challenging and sometimes far reaching locations. In addition to its outreach, the ministry also has a library with thousands of Biblical teaching books, and resources for the training and support of its pastors and missionaries.

Books have now been despatched to Pastor Paul and the team.

Street evangelism, Philippines

As the world learns to live with the Covid pandemic, stories of how our recipients are adapting to minister to their communities continue to emerge. In the Philippines Trust recipient, Michelle Misoles, brought news from Light Church in Mati.

During the pandemic, members of the church took God out onto the streets as they embarked on a programme of street evangelism within their local community. For this they needed to gain permission from the local authorities and Covid protocols were strictly adhered to, for example, the wearing of face masks.

Meanwhile, after a prolonged hiatus, Michelle was delighted to report that Sunday worship resumed and the team will be using resources received from the Trust to help in their efforts.

Michelle sent us a selection of photos showing the evangelism team at work out on the streets and in local schools.



It was quite tough to work from home during the pandemic...I am thankful to God for the way He preserved and protected us during this time, though work has been tough. God has been faithful... Thank you to all of you for the resources that continue to bless many lives.

Pastor Michael, India

The rest of the world

While many of our recipients come from African and Asian countries, we also receive numerous requests from pastors and libraries from Europe, the Pacific and South America. The following story shows just how far some of our books travel.

Books to the distant Solomon Islands

Few parts of the world have been untouched by Covid, but back in March last year, with only 18 confirmed cases and no deaths, we were thankful to hear that our friends in one of our most remote destinations had been largely spared the effects of the initial spread of the pandemic.

The Solomon Islands comprise six main islands and more than 900 small islands which are located to the east of Papua New Guinea and north west of Vanuatu. Honiara is the capital of the Solomans and it is from here that we heard from long-time Trust recipient, Dr Hilton Togara earlier last year.

Writing from the Society of St Francis of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Dr Togara wrote to us to tell us what the arrival means to his ministry.

“Peace and love of God be with you all in your daily mission.

The books I continue to receive from Sovereign World Trust

have uplifted my ministry. The books really help me in my study of theology in seminary. These books really support any study especially if we are undertaking research and writing assignments.”

The majority of the population in Solomon Islands are Christians, with a large number belonging to Protestant churches. As Dr Togara describes:

“In the Solomon Islands over the last 200 years so many have converted to Christianity after early missionary work in the islands. Today, the teaching of the gospel is desperately needed and sources of material are so very welcome in order to further educate our local communities. The main ministry in the Solomon Islands, and the goal of pastors or priests, is to teach and preach through the gospels. I so appreciate your kind support with the provision of Biblical teaching books – to receive such gifts is unusual. I pray for your ministry. That it will continue to spread the good news of Christ through this blessing of books. Thank you. Love and prayer.”



Pointers for prayer

For the year ahead

Thank you to all those who mention the work of the Trust in their prayers or their churches' prayers. Here are some pointers for the forthcoming year:

- Thanks to God for allowing us to continue with our mission and vision despite the challenges that we have faced in the last couple of years.
- For continued improvement and enhancement of our digital resources.
- That the supporters, recipients, trustees, volunteers and staff of Sovereign World Trust will all enjoy good health and protection.
- That God will guide us in our work to produce relevant and engaging resources for the leaders of the future.
- For Covid to be on the retreat as further innovations are made into the treatment of this and into effective vaccination for all.
- At the time of writing, for peace in Ukraine.
- That we will be able to access additional financial support so that Sovereign World Trust can continue to support disadvantaged pastors and leaders everywhere.

In conversation with...

Calvin Eaton, Trustee - No ordinary journey

Calvin Eaton joined the Sovereign World Trust's Board of Trustees in January 2021. Born and raised in Africa, he is the son of the prolific writer and preacher, the late Michael Eaton. With his background and understanding of Africa, and his Christian experience, Calvin is uniquely positioned to offer insight and expertise as Sovereign World Trust addresses the challenges of an ever-changing world. His story, as we might imagine, is no ordinary story.

We caught up with Calvin just before his latest trip into rural Kenya...

Calvin, can you tell us a little about childhood and growing up in Africa?

My three siblings and I were all born in Zambia. My mother was born in Kenya so was no stranger to life in Africa. She and my father met in London, and they came out to Zambia where my father became pastor of Lusaka Baptist Church. My early years there were very happy. To us it seemed normal but I guess it was anything but. After a brief spell back in England we came out to Kenya and my father moved to Nairobi Baptist Church.

Can you remember when you first came to Christ?

I remember feeling the presence of God very strongly at an early age and the exact moment I came to Christ. I was sick and my father gave me a cassette of Mark's Gospel. As the audio came to the time of the Crucifixion, I knew that I had to respond. I'd

had a lot of Biblical teaching through my father's ministry but having experienced God's presence even though I was so young, I was able to receive and understand this and the Lord was able to work through me as I grew. I felt His presence all through my schooldays. Moving around, we went to about ten different schools; it was challenge trying to make new friends each time. Nowhere felt like home, and we learned to become very adaptable; but through all this and later I felt that God had His hand on me.

What was it like living in South Africa?

Later we moved to South Africa where there was still apartheid at this time. This was quite traumatic for us as we were used to the more relaxed approach of what we thought of as 'proper Africa'. We all learned a lot in South Africa, and with hindsight it is amazing to reflect on my father's teaching legacy had its main influence in South Africa. God certainly works in mysterious ways as I look back at a really challenging time but one which was to bear so much fruit later.

In my mid-teens, we moved back to Kenya and, as a family, joined the Chrisco Church, a strong Pentecostal church where I felt the presence of God so incredibly strongly.



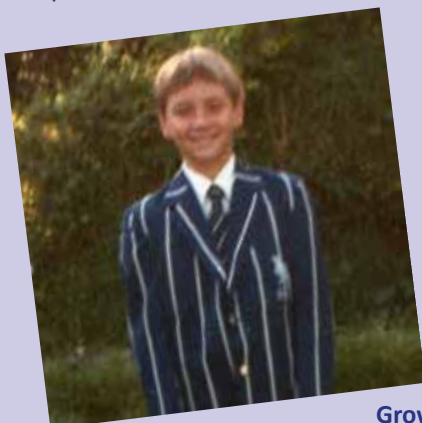
Growing up as Michael Eaton's son couldn't always have been easy; did you always agree with your father?

No, but what my father did teach us was how to interpret the Bible and having had the foundation of theology from him, I was able to use this to interpret and form my own responses. One thing though, I never managed to win a theological argument with my father; not one! He always had an answer and always had more in terms of church history. Such was the breadth of his knowledge.

So what happened when you finished your schooling in Kenya?

After school, I came to university in London to study Environmental Science and at the same time joined Kensington Temple, very much an international church. This was a time of great learning for me. It almost felt like university was secondary as I gained this other education in the church. At university I became head of the Christian Union and by the time my university course ended, I felt a pull to study at the Kensington Temple Bible School (now the International Bible Institute of London).

Later, with my Environmental Sciences degree behind me, my next plan was to go and work with a water project in Thailand. However, this was delayed, so I travelled visiting my father in India where he was preaching, then going on to Bangkok and a Christian conference



Growing up in Africa

where I was first introduced to the idea of cell church*. Cell church would be something that would have greater significance for me later on.

After that, I went to visit with the charismatic missionary, Jackie Pullinger, in Hong Kong living in one of the drug rehabilitation centres and experiencing how Jackie helped addicts with her 12-step rehabilitation programme and the powerful help of the Holy Spirit. It was quite an eye-opener.

All these travels sowed seeds in me that grew later on. Throughout my 20s I was absorbing so much.



In the Tsavo National Park, Kenya

The Thailand water project never did happen (and probably God had a hand in this) and so I found myself back in Kenya and at Chrisco Church. Previously, during my university holidays I had been very moved by the Youth Group at Chrisco and how powerfully I had felt God at work with the youth here. At that time, as I left a meeting with the youth leaders, one of them gave me his card and as he handed me this I literally felt a 'click' in the Spirit as if God was in this situation. Now I found myself back in Kenya, and lo and behold the leader who gave me his card turned up on my doorstep one day. This was the start of a very important relationship, both in terms of our youth work but also I began to understand how powerfully God was moving in Kenya at this time. Alongside our youth work, we implemented the cell church model, for example in the slum areas, seeing a tremendous growth in terms of leadership in the young people we worked with. It felt so important seeing grass root cells flourish and I felt incredibly strongly that everything I had learned from my

father's ministry, at Bible school and throughout my travels was leading up to this time.

And later you moved back to the UK from Kenya?

I knew I could not stay in Kenya indefinitely so in the 1990s I began to work in software and moved back to London for about 11 years, undertaking a variety of business roles and resuming my worship at the Kensington Temple. At this time Kensington Temple were moving into a cell church model and this extended my knowledge of the dynamics cell church – I could see the power of this if the natural resistance within the congregation can be overcome.

In 2008 the financial crisis hit and at the time I was working for Woolworths plc in Human Resources. This was a devastating time for many as we had to let 27,000 employees go. Many in the UK were struggling financially and I could have been one of them had the Lord not taken care of me. As I walked out of Woolworths on my last day, I had a call from my uncle who had received a letter for me – it was a large cheque from the Inland Revenue which would keep my head above water financially and gave me the space I needed to think about my future. I very much felt at this time that I wanted to finish my uncompleted course at the Kensington Temple Bible School, so I returned there and subsequently worked as the Dean for a couple of years



Teaching on a mission trip

But subsequently you were drawn back to Kenya once again?

Yes, I made the decision to return to Kenya and work for my brother's business. It was a very difficult decision to leave my work and

life with Kensington Temple and move back to Africa and to the commercial world, but I felt a pull to do so. Subsequently my brother died in tragic circumstances and I was able to be there to support my parents and hold things together at his company. Naturally, my brother's death had a huge emotional impact on our family and then just three years later my father died.

How did you come to take on the stewardship of your father's legacy?

My father's death was an understandably emotional time for our family but after travelling a little I came to the realisation that I was uniquely placed to become more involved with his books and their impact. I always had an interest in publishing and writing, and I had to find a home for a library of some 4000 of his books too.

It was at this time that my personal connection with Sovereign World Trust began as I went to visit many of my father's publishers to discuss his legacy. Sovereign World Books was one of these publishers and, of course, Sovereign World Trust was born from this. So I met Chris Mungeam of Sovereign World Books (his wife, Jan, started Sovereign World Trust) and Chris Moffett of the Trust. The importance of my father's books, especially for their relevance in Africa, could not be overstated and his single volume Branch Commentary, which at that time remained unfinished, was of particular significance. So I worked with Langham publishing to get this finished. But many of my father's works were important in Africa, and especially South Africa which had been so impacted by his teaching, so it was important to ensure access to his books here so the important work of discipleship and teaching could be continued.

So, to date what do you think the impact of your father's legacy has been?

He has left a legacy of theological interpretation and teachings distilled into easy to read chapters and I and others that were connected to his ministry feel it is important to ensure the widest possible access and application of those writings.

Africa has the fastest growing population in the world and its working population will by 2040 outstrip that of China. My father's books have proved ideal for discipleship in Africa, with their sound theology, backed up by a simplified, easy to understand approach. With the *Preaching Through the Bible* series and the *Branch Commentary* there is little room for misinterpreted messages.

Meanwhile, it is becoming clear to some Christian teachers in Africa that congregational church discipleship is not working effectively in Africa, and that there need to be new approaches to discipleship here especially in the rapidly urbanising cities. There is a great opportunity to take my father's work and mould it to this environment through various approaches including small group application and learning institutions.

Interestingly through Covid it was difficult for many of the congregations to continue and many churches remained closed for long periods varying from country to country. Some countries like Tanzania did not close at all. So it was the churches that had smaller groups and developed online ministries did flourish. Of course, it is not that congregational church is wrong, certainly not but perhaps this small group discipleship which feeds into the main congregation is where God is leading us.

The increase in population will mean that there will be a huge groundswell of youth coming through, so it is vitally important to produce material and resources which can help them to grow and learn on their spiritual journey – they are the leaders of the future. And there is a strong Christian heritage in a number of African countries e.g. Kenya, Nigeria. There is a huge opportunity for discipleship, especially within urban areas where access to technology can help. We need to find people who are trained and able to disseminate the messages in our workbooks and resources. We need to tap into the social approach, Christianity is a social thing. As John Wesley said: "...we understand holiness to be social."

So working with Sovereign World Trust (amongst others) towards

having the ability to apply this teaching in an urban social context is the goal. The cities of Africa are growing fast; they are modern, they are hungry for learning, they are tech-savvy and they are increasingly educated – and English is the language of business. All this plays to our approach. Sadly, if the gospel doesn't grow something else will, so



With friends on a recent mission trip

we must keep in mind that the church needs to engage with society as a whole, and all its problems.

What does the future hold?

We are moving forward with developing resources supplementary to the *Preaching Through the Bible* and the *Branch Commentary* and are working to hone the approach.

As I am here on the ground with our target audience, it is easier for me to test this approach. Every day we are getting closer to understanding the most effective use of this material and who is using it to the greatest effect. This enables us to experiment.

We have plans, for example, for Chris Moffett to try out our new Gospel of Mark Workbook over Zoom with some people locally. Technology is such a help to us, and God is in this with us and is helping us to work it out.

How are you finding your work on the Sovereign World Trust Board of Trustees?

This is no doubt a challenging time for the Trust. Great work has been done but there remains much to do.

We need to make the most of our current opportunities. The stock of my father's books is diminishing, so we are asking ourselves, what is the next stage? What is the future?

Looking back, has it been a challenge being the son of Michael Eaton?

Yes, it can feel like you have to live up to something, a real sense of expectation, but there are many more pros than cons. In taking my father's legacy forward, I want to be true to his work but also to my own experiences with God, and my own learning and opinions. As the Bible says: "...to whom much is given, from him much will be required." Luke 12:48.

And finally, a few informal questions...

How do you like to relax? Any hobbies?

I love to go travelling on safaris. I am generally interested in all things 'tech' with my software background. And I collect maps – geography is a passion – and a love for photography plays into this. Slightly unusually, I also love to watch sailing videos (for example, the round the world yacht race) – perhaps an inherited yen for a life at sea from my mother's family who were all in the navy.

How about a favourite book?

I really enjoy reading history and geo-political magazines.

A favourite film?

Would you believe, *Inception* starring Leonardo DiCaprio – it's so clever.

And do you have an inspirational Bible quote that resonates at the moment?

'...the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace'. Romans 8:6.

Thank you, Calvin, for sharing your story. We hope that those who read it will pray for you.

* Cell church. This is when a church based on small relational-group discipleship with trained leaders who bring together the group for worship, Biblical instruction, fellowship, prayer, encouragement, and ministry. So each small group is defined by the relationships contained within that group with a view to reaching their non-members. All the small 'cells' come together on a congregational level from time-to-time, but the church is really defined by its cell or small groups which lie at its core. The centre of gravity of the church lies in the cells.

Project Mark

Over the years we have consistently given a lot of thought to what titles to send and in what form, not least because of the steadily increasing costs of freighting books long distances. The Trust has always kept a close eye on language - for vocabulary and culture for appropriate examples and illustrations.

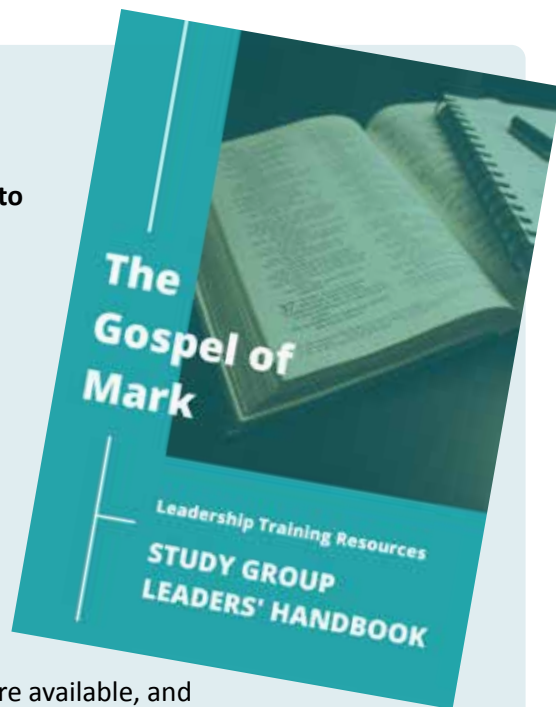
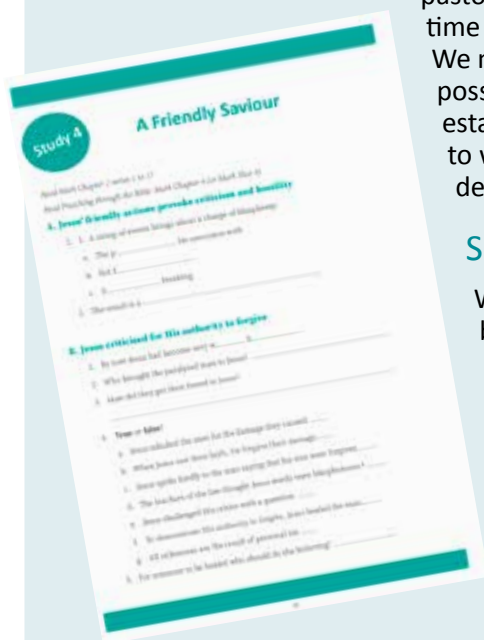
Clarifying the need

Recently we've been giving particular thought to two other aspects. With longevity being around 20 years less in Africa than European nations, we recognise that we need to get resources to people while they are young. The leaders of tomorrow are still in education. They may not yet see themselves as future leaders, but they are.

A second consideration is the format of material. In the past we have sent books – originally written for a Western readership, because they have been in plentiful supply. Our starting point has been the books that are available, and these have been narrowed to those that would be most suitable for a developing world context. Certainly, we have received a great deal of feedback to bear witness to the value of this approach. But the world of Christian publishing has changed, and we've been asking ourselves whether we need to change too.

Starting with the needs of our recipients

If the starting point for our thinking is the needs of recipients, might it be possible to develop or adapt resources with their specific situations in mind? Is this the time to consider a more bespoke approach rather than off the shelf? Typically, rural pastors will have had relatively little formal education or formal training in ministry. Usually, they are pastor-farmers working with their hands to feed their families. They have neither the time nor space for as much study and preparation as their Western counterparts. We need to send materials that will give them what they need as efficiently as possible. The skill and the habit of personal study time is not something that is well established in their lives. But without effective teaching they are very vulnerable to wrong ideas and influences. They need teaching with both content and format designed to take account of this situation.



Small groups - the most effective context for learning

We, together with others we know working in an overseas-missions context, believe that small groups with a facilitator-leader provide the most effective context for learning. In such an environment people can respond to and ask questions, share experiences and insights, be stimulated to think and be challenged. Learning is a social rather than a solitary experience. This is what Jesus did with his disciples. Having taught the crowds, he would take his group of twelve aside and teach them in more depth. Very often he would respond to a question with another question and in this way build understanding and insight in the minds of his followers. With these thoughts in mind, we have started working on developing material in a format designed to be used in a small group setting.

Supplement not replacement

This innovation is not a substitute for teaching books of proven value, rather it is a supplement. A helpful analogy might be that of a digestive supplement which aids the absorption and assimilation of the nutrients in a meal - to make it more digestible. When Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch who was struggling to understand what he was reading in Isaiah, he journeyed with him for a while and helped him to "get it". When Jesus walked alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he opened up the scriptures to them so that all became clear. So we see the need to stimulate the development of small group training by providing resources specifically designed for participants and facilitator - leaders. Three relatively recent developments - print on demand, the growth of the Internet and the use of smart phones are very timely in helping us to do this. Our starting point has been with Michael Eaton's *Preaching through the Bible – Mark*. This series has proved a very popular resource over the years. Working with Calvin Eaton, the late Michael Eaton's son (who is based in Kenya), we have been working on a personal - study workbook and leaders' handbook. See the separate feature - *In conversation with Calvin Eaton* on page 7.

Workbooks and leaders' handbooks

So, what are these study books like and are there any that are available already? Are we in danger of reinventing the wheel? In short, nothing we've seen quite ticks all the boxes. Used alongside an existing book they are designed to help readers understand and extract the benefit of what they have read. For most readers, processing written English requires a lot more effort than for their western counterparts. The starting point is the matter of recall and attention. Chapters begin with straightforward *complete the sentence* exercises – sometimes called Cloze exercises. These would not be appropriate for a Western readership who would see it as 'a primary school approach'. To check understanding there are *true/false* questions where the reader needs to make a judgement. Then there are application questions which begin to bridge into life and experience. Finally, there are questions requiring reflection, the need to analyse and link with existing knowledge and understanding – putting it all together. Those of you who are teachers will recognise the influence of Bloom's taxonomy in all this.

The higher-level questions are more open-ended. For this reason, we are producing a leaders' handbook offering suggested responses and other comments to help. This also includes some guidance on how to lead groups. We believe that this approach will help to develop English language skills as well as spiritual understanding, and has the potential to promote deep learning.

One of the advantages of starting with Michael Eaton's *Preaching through the Bible – Mark* is that we have been able to embed the text in the workbook. This is much more convenient.

We are not aware of anything available that does precisely the same thing that would work in the developing world. But it is interesting to note that the idea of a study workbook to run alongside a major text is something that others are doing. N T (Tom) Wright, for example, one of the most prolific Christian writers of our time, has produced a workbook to run alongside one of his major texts - although this is at a very much higher level and would not be suitable for our pastors. Certainly, many authors add questions and points for reflection at the end of each chapter (but seldom answers).

Trialing, improving and local printing

One of the benefits of digital printing is the option to produce small print runs. This means that it will be possible to improve the workbooks in the light of experience, perhaps adjust questions, clarify or delete. We take inspiration from the example of James Dyson who had over 5000 prototypes before he launched his dual cyclone vacuum cleaner! Print on demand technology is well established in Kenya which is where Calvin Eaton is based, and we already have copies of the first workbook printed and being used and evaluated. It is quite easy to have the workbooks on mobile phones and tablets and to download copies for printing selected pages. With the widespread use of Zoom, 2022 is a season in which we can do things that were impossible before.

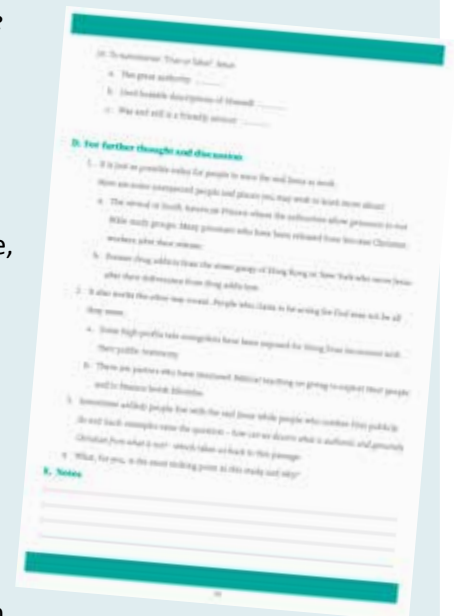
Small groups

The question arises, of course, and where are these groups? There are various possibilities. Existing groups in schools, colleges and churches - some of which run training courses. In all of these there is an established way of doing things which may work better with some rather than others. We think that they will work best when put together specifically for this purpose - new wine in new wineskins.

When the first books are ready, we plan to offer some Zoom groups – so the participants would not necessarily need to be in the same location or even be known to each other. With the right coordination, groups could even be international. We hope and pray that those who have been through the course as participants will then go on to facilitate another group to multiply the impact widely.

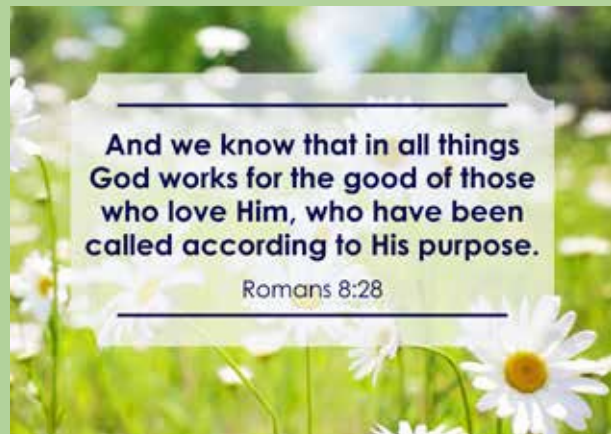
A work in progress

This is all just a beginning. We've made a good start and with God's help, and the prayers of his people, we hope that next year we'll be able to bring news of impact and positive benefit. It's worth reflecting that it is the Covid season that has given us the space to work on these ideas.



To him who overcomes...

In every generation God's people have faced challenges of various sorts and these have taken different forms through the ages. The churches in Asia to which John wrote the book of Revelation lived in an age when the Roman Empire presented powerful images of might and glory which were deceptive because they were based on exploitation, cruelty, and economic oppression. Christians meeting in small groups in homes must have felt very puny and powerless in the face of their experience that 'might was winning'.



The pressures to give-in, give-up or compromise must have been enormous. But John encouraged them individually to overcome and to know that God had made wonderful promises to them. He encouraged them to know that despite the worst that Satan could unleash, Jesus will return as a victorious conqueror and heaven and earth will be totally and gloriously connected.

The Hebrew Christians were also suffering challenges and the temptation for them to return to their former Jewish customs and beliefs and abandon Jesus was very strong. In other churches there were challenges to unity - people seeing things differently and falling out with each other. Paul reminded them to strive earnestly for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. One of the biggest challenges the first Christian's faced

was to understand and explain things to Jewish believers - what should be different and what should be the same. Paul and Peter faced this challenge in Galatia.

After the New Testament era there were more seasons of challenge as Christians with Jewish roots spread widely into places with a very view of the world and culture. Here there were challenges to present the faith in categories that people would understand and to explain what God is like and who Jesus is.

And over the following centuries as the church changed from a persecuted minority to a state endorsed religion there were many challenges in the areas of doctrine, unity, persecution, faithfulness and purity. So facing challenge and the need to overcome is part of the Christian life.

Add to this the challenges which go with being a human being - living with bodies that get old, facing pandemics, international conflicts and war, the threat of global ecological disaster, and economic hardship, it's not hard to understand that challenge should not surprise us. We need to cultivate a mindset that is prepared for challenge as we play out part in the advance of the Kingdom of God on earth. Two very helpful scriptures that we can mediate on, stand on and incorporate into our praying are Romans 8:28 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.



And yes 2021 has been a year of challenge for Sovereign World Trust, though it should be said, nowhere near as painful as those faced by our forbears! We have not been able to continue with business as usual and yet we can say that in line with Romans 8:28 God has worked the situation for good and in line with 1 Corinthians 10:13 God has supplied extra help when we needed it. We believe the faithful prayers of our intercessors has played a part in this and so to encourage you what follows is a brief account.

On the trials and tribulations of overseas mailings.....

...if only it was as simple as 'slapping' an address label on a packet of books. Not so!

There have been two particular challenges that we have had to overcome with God's help during the year of 2021. The first has been the change-over to a new system – not of our choosing, and the other Covid suspensions and

delays. We have taken our stand on Romans 8:28 in these circumstances and we can indeed see good coming out of both. To give our supporters and intercessors some insight into what has been involved, here's the story in brief. The freight company we have dealt with for many years was taken over by the large international company FedEx who work in partnership with other partners for their operations into the developing world. They required us to produce a mailing label using their on-line software which accepts data (including destination, weight, dimensions, contents and value) in a very particular format. The degree of correspondence with our own database was minimal so the option of using special integration software was not appropriate. We really had to start from scratch, a time-consuming manual exercise.

Fedex's address database from which is printed the special bar-code labels you see on Amazon packages for example, is exceedingly choosy about the format of addresses. There has to be a city and there must be a post code. Many of our recipients who live out in remote rural areas have a small township in a region. No city! Many African countries do not at present, have a post code system, although some are introducing them in stages. So, we have had to adopt a creative and bespoke approach to these destinations. Marion S. our volunteer helper became highly skilled at tracking down the information we needed with the help of Google, but it was quite a painstaking process. This also gave us an opportunity to correct some errors and typos that had crept into the data over the years. Sometimes transcribing a handwritten request can be tricky. The great news, of course, is that in the future what took 20 minutes in 2021 will take just 2 minutes going forward! Equipped with a new thermal label printer it was hugely exciting to see the roll of shiny bar code labels being produced in seconds - somehow a visual reward for all the hard work. We must get out more!



The new system has the bonus of integrating what was previously a separate customs label with the address label automatically, so another bonus for the future. Another benefit moving forward is that it will now be possible to produce mailings comprising different size packages and parcels. In the past we have had to process requests in batches. Everyone in the batch received the same combination of books. So this means that we can cope with choice and the integration of preloved books more easily. Another change concerns the collection of mail. In times past these would be large collections of several hundred every 6-8 weeks involving a special pick-up to the Basildon depot. Under the present system, FedEx will collect from us at a day's notice a few boxes at a time – even if we're not in the office. So we will be able to get to a place where our response time is much quicker.

It was certainly much easier for us to make this transition during a year when mailings were suspended. We had time to deal with all the teething troubles.

Covid suspensions and delays have caused headaches. Books to Zimbabwe – okay. Books to Zambia – not okay. We packed all the books ready to go but set aside those needing to wait. We still check with the list each week. At the time of writing there are 14 nations with a non-operational service.

All of this has taken place against a background of rising prices and Covid surcharges. Although FedEx's pricing structure is much more favourable to us sending a couple of books (typically for £5), there are some curious anomalies. The same package going to Ethiopia costs £13.



The bottom line... we are reaching a position which is much better suited to the needs of the 21st century. We thank God for helping us and we're trusting that the new arrangements will last us for many years to come! And we thank God that he brought along Marion S. whose help has been invaluable. As a former parish administrator, recently retired and having moved into Hadlow, she contacted us at the beginning of the year offering help. Without her calm and efficient contribution, life would have been much more challenging.

There are many ways in which the Christian life is one of overcoming with God's help. This, for us, was one of them.

Book Choices

Each year, we carefully select books for our pastor mailings which are both relevant to the issues and potential pitfalls that our recipients may face in their daily ministries and leadership, and also are compelling and encouraging for them personally. Fortunately, we have a sizeable and varied stock of titles from which to choose. Here are two of our selections which will give an insight into our approach.

Breaking the Leadership Bottleneck

One of the books we've sent out recently and for which we've received some very positive responses is *Breaking the Leadership Bottleneck* by Paul Weaver.

The basic thrust of this book is that church leadership is about equipping others to serve God and to release them into effective ministry. This requires a particular set of skills and intentional action. It doesn't happen automatically.

It's a book with questions for reflection, anecdotes based on the author's extensive experience and bullet point checklists. Here's just one of them:

Seven steps for beginning the process of equipping:

1. Have a heart to impart what you know to others, remembering that everything you have was given by God
2. Make time to share what you know with someone else
3. Be open and vulnerable
4. Select people who are teachable
5. Trust them with responsibility
6. Hold them accountable for their lifestyle
7. Be prepared to let go and release them into their ministry when they have learnt the lessons

This is a particularly important line of teaching and training in parts of the world where the church is expanding, and new leadership is needed. It is also important for those parts of the world where church leadership is seen as a route to status, significance, and power. Sadly, insecure leaders tend to want to keep tight control. These lessons are best taught and learned within the context of church life rather than formal college training.

We have a few spare copies if any reader is interested in reading this title (and used copies are available on Amazon).

First Steps Walking with Jesus

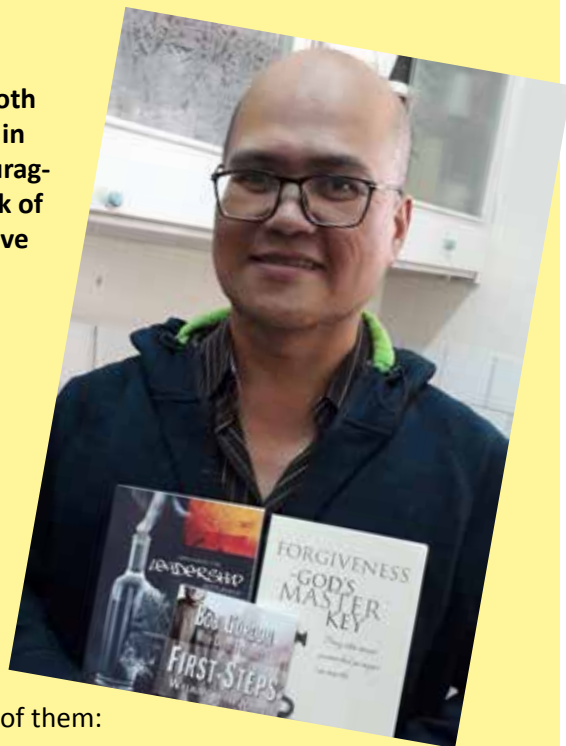
First Steps Walking with Jesus by Bob Gordon is a compact book of 60 pages written in straightforward language outlining ten basic-essentials for any new Christian's growth and maturity as they walk with God.

The importance of this book is totally out of proportion to its size! Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. This book explains what should happen after someone has accepted the gospel so that this can happen.

The ten chapters are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The Work of Jesus | 6. Fellowship with Other Christians |
| 2. For God so Loved the World | 7. Spirit, Soul and Body |
| 3. I'm Going God's Way Now | 8. The Power of the Holy spirit |
| 4. Reading God's Word | 9. What to Watch Out For |
| 5. Prayer: Two Way Communication | 10. Witnessing: Disciples in Action |














There are questions for further thought and discussion at the end of each chapter so the book can be used for personal study but also for mentoring and groups. It's compact size, we are told, is a real advantage because it will easily slip into a pocket. (Many Christians also have mobile phones with Bible Apps which makes life very convenient.) This is not a book which will be left stuck on someone's bookshelf!



Get involved

There are many ways to get involved in our work and to make a real difference to the lives of church leaders, pastors and their communities in poor and remote areas across the globe.

Some of our supporters give a regular donation to the work of the Trust, while others are generous with their time or in prayer. *No gift or offer of help is too small.*

<p>Donate</p> <p>There are many ways in which you can give to our work on a regular or one-off basis, with or without Gift Aid.</p> 	<p>Credit / Debit Card</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>You can donate to the work of the Trust using your Credit or Debit Card now. Alternatively you can use your PayPal account if you have one:</p> <p>www.sovereignworldtrust.org.uk/donate</p>	<p>JustGiving</p> <p>Using JustGiving offers a “no-fuss” means of giving a regular or one-off gift to us.</p> <p></p> <p>You can choose to Gift Aid your donation. For first time users there is a simple set-up procedure. Please visit: www.justgiving.com/sovereignworldtrust.</p>	<p>EasyFundraising</p> <p>Join EasyFundraising and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online. It won't cost you a penny extra so please help us to raise funds. Depending on the store this can be as much as 15%. Simply visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sovereignworldtrust/</p> <p></p>
<p>Online banking</p> <p>With online banking, it is easy to set up a regular donation to the Trust. Regular donations are very welcome as they help us to plan. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, please ask us for a form so that we can make a claim. Contact us for our bank details.</p> <p></p>	<p>Leave a legacy</p> <p></p> <p>Leaving a gift in your will or giving in a loved one's memory ensures a long-lasting impact. Such gifts are much appreciated. They often come unexpectedly out of the blue and can be the key to unlocking projects that we cannot fund from regular giving.</p>	<p>Prayer</p> <p>Prayer underpins our ministry and we regularly send out prayer information sheets to our prayer partners.</p> <p></p>	<p>Volunteer</p> <p></p> <p>Helping with packing sessions or offering more regular support in our office or warehouse really makes a difference to our work.</p>
<p>Donate books</p> <p>Donating your second-hand Christian books to us can offer them a new lease of life in the grateful hands of our recipients or as part of our fundraising pre-loved book sales.</p> <p></p>	<p>Event fundraising</p> <p></p> <p>Take part in or host an event to raise funds for our work. You or a group of friends or colleagues could choose to raise funds for one of our specific projects.</p>	<p>Mailing list</p> <p>By joining our mailing list, you can keep up to date with the progress of our work and see the impact of your support.</p> <p></p>	<p>Spread the word</p> <p></p> <p>Telling friends, colleagues or church groups about our work and encouraging them to get involved can really make a difference.</p>

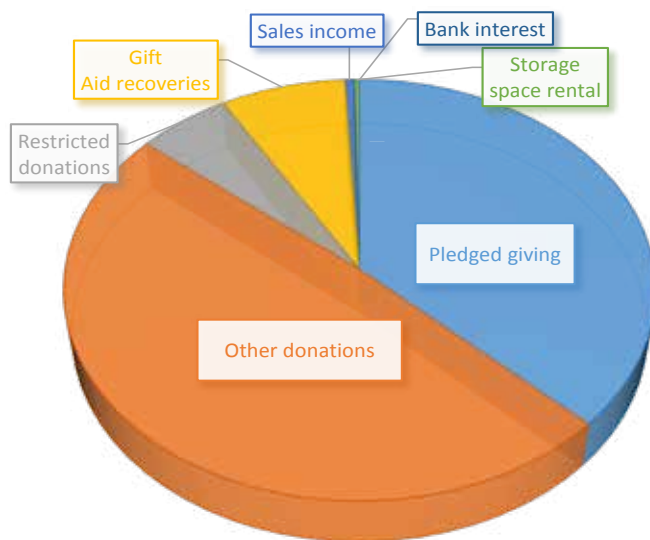
Financial summary

The information below is based on our draft accounts. Our fully examined accounts, which include a Trustees' Report, will be posted on the Charity Commission website for those who wish to see them.

1. What are our sources of income?

We are hugely grateful for the financial support we receive from a variety of sources. The table below gives a breakdown of our income. Approximately a third was pledged giving by individuals, some of which is restricted to particular projects. We received other donations from regular donors including a number of churches and grant-making trusts. The Gift Aid scheme provided 7.5% of our income. We do not employ a fundraiser as such, but one of our team is responsible for promoting awareness of the Trust through our website, Facebook, annual report and newsletters.

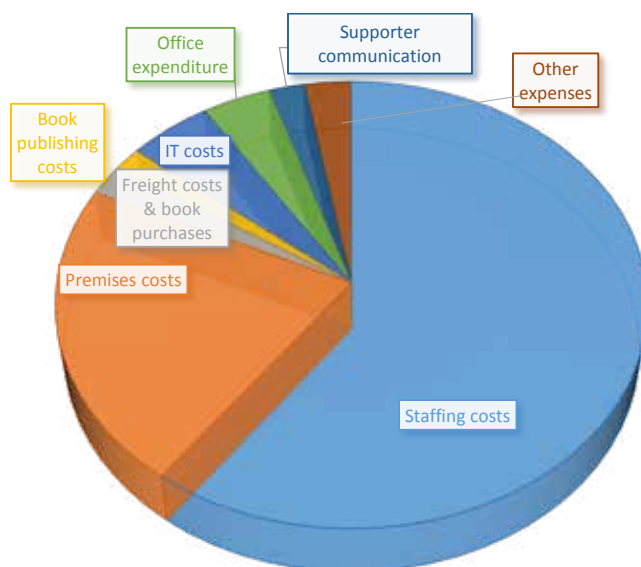
CATEGORY	£
Pledged giving by individuals.	17,820
Other donations from individuals, churches and grant-making trusts.	23,485
Restricted giving towards particular projects specified by the donors.	2,685
Gift Aid reclaimed from UK tax payers.	3,585
Sales income from publications. We sell books which we have published ourselves – in particular, <i>Preaching Through the Bible</i> by Michael Eaton.	274
Storage space rental - another small charity rents a small area of storage space from us.	150
Interest.	5
TOTAL	48,004



2. How do we spend the money you give us?

A breakdown of our spending is set out below with a pie chart to show the relative proportions. For obvious reasons expenditure on mailing has been lower for the second year running. At the time of writing in 2022 the spending has increased considerably as we catch up with our mailing programme.

CATEGORY	£
Staffing costs - for 4 members of staff equivalent to 1.25 people, including pension contributions. We also benefit from the generous help of volunteers who give their time so freely.	23,794
Premises costs - for our office space and warehouse rental, including council tax and utilities.	8,666
Freight costs and book purchases - this year the majority consists of book purchases in particular <i>The Branch Exposition</i> .	851
Book publishing costs - this year <i>The Bible Student</i> in Swahili.	685
IT costs.	1,985
Office expenditure - office running costs and postage.	1,628
Supporter communication - mailings of newsletters and annual report.	851
Other expenses - various other costs e.g. accountant's fees, bank charges, subscriptions.	1,114
TOTAL	39,574

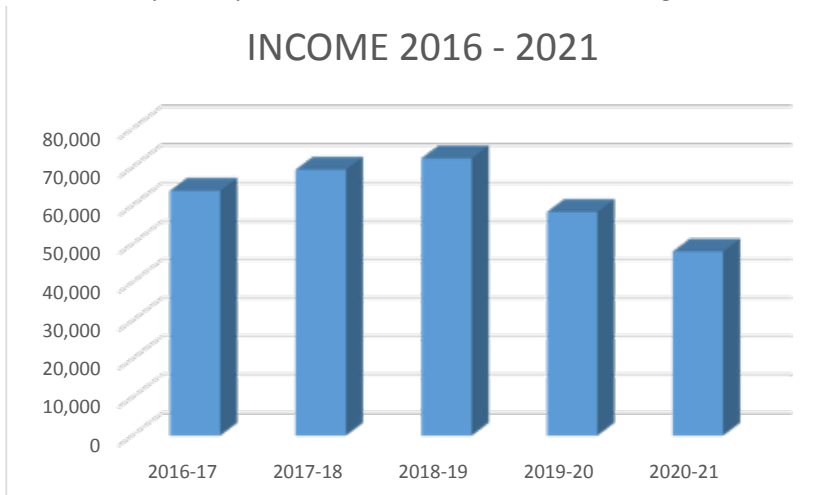


Thank you

Very special thanks to all anonymous donors and to those who say "no acknowledgement needed" and also to those who have raised their regular monthly donation. We much appreciate your thoughtfulness.

3. Income trend

Please see section on page 18 for a detailed discussion on this. We especially appreciate our volunteers who donate their time to support us in a number of ways. We are aware that in many instances your giving is sacrificial and is motivated by a deep concern for God's world mission agenda.



Income 5 Year History	
Year	£
2016-17	63,855
2017-18	69,349
2018-19	72,308
2019-20	58,321
2020-21	48,004

This summary is based on the draft accounts which, at the time of printing, are being prepared for our independent examiner. A full copy of the final financial report for the year ended September 2021 will be available on request or may be downloaded from the Charity Commission Website.

For information

Sovereign World Trust's accounts are independently examined by Trevor Lane, as a director of M N Jenks & Co, 72 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6DP.

Our bank account details are:
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Sort Code 40-52-40 Account Number 00016733

Legal and Administrative details as at December 2021

The charity was constituted by a Declaration of Trust dated 03 10 1986. The objective of the Charity is to promote the advancement of the Christian Faith, which we do primarily by distributing Christian literature.

Trustees as at December 2021

Tony Miles-Prouten (Chair), Paul Caneparo, Calvin Eaton and Mike Fawcett.

Principal Office Addresses (UK)

PO Box 777, TONBRIDGE, Kent, TN11 0ZS (for mail)
2 The Granary, Goblands Farm Business Centre
Cemetery Lane, Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0DP (for deliveries)

Tel: 01732 851150 (which will provide a redirected number if the office is unmanned).
Email: chrism@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk

Adjustment to our Charitable Status

Sovereign World Trust was founded and registered with the Charity Commission in 1986 by Jan Mungeam. In 4-years-time it will be 40 years old.

Since that time a new type of charity structure has been introduced – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The trustees of SWT have decided to change to this new structure. The chief benefit to us is that the trustees of a CIO are not personally liable should the charity run into financial difficulties. This removes one of the potential barriers to the recruitment of new trustees. It may also facilitate applications to Grant Making Trusts for project funding because what we do is now more visible on the Charity Commission website.

This will have no impact on our day-to-day operations. Nor will it affect donors or donations. We will still be able to claim Gift Aid and we will continue to submit independently examined accounts to the Charity Commission.

We have been given a new charity number: 1198177.

Gift-aid donors

Sovereign World Trust is very grateful for the Gift Aid scheme. Those who give under this scheme have completed a declaration which we hold on file. Every 6 years we ask donors to update their declaration.

If your position has changed and your giving no longer qualifies for Gift Aid, please let us know. Similarly, if you now pay tax and wish Sovereign World Trust to benefit please do tell us so we can send you a Gift Aid Declaration form and begin claiming.

Sovereign World Trust - a sober assessment of the Trust's finances

Our financial summary pages show a declining income trend over the last three years which is a cause for concern. God has provided for the needs of the Trust over many years, and we have been giving prayerful thought to how we should respond.

The explanation of the immediate decline was the result of a major supporting church reassessing its priorities for giving to mission and another church's inability to sustain its commitment. Had these both continued, our income would have remained flat. We are grateful to both churches for their season of partnership with us. Whilst our regular committed donors have remained faithful and generous, it is true to say that they are not getting any younger and indeed we have received a number of letters from family members to say that sadly they are no longer with us. The younger generation of Christians and indeed churches have different priorities for their giving. Sometimes they tell us that they prefer to give to ministries whose objectives are more material and tangible and the benefits more measurable.

There are three obvious questions; and these are our responses.

1. Should we be making more effort to raise funds from other sources?

Our small staff (4 people equivalent to 1.25) is entirely focussed on doing the work of the Trust and the essential tasks of its administration. We do not have capacity for major fundraising initiatives.

2. Does this indicate that SWT is coming to the end of its course?

The need is as great as ever and requests for resources continue to reach us. We don't see many others doing what we do. We have no sense that our work is done or that others are taking up the challenge. The church in the developing world is in desperate need of balanced teaching and the church is growing in the poorest nations. So, we really don't think it's time to call it a day!

3. Should we be finding other cheaper ways to distribute literature?

We do indeed use the Internet – but the clear message through the Covid season has been that our recipients still need and want physical books. That being so, the future lies in printing overseas (as will be the case for the Mark project).

Clearly, we are in a very different season now. The Christian publishing industry has contracted hugely in recent years. People's reading habits are different. People's giving preferences have changed.

We have significantly reduced our costs in recent years. We are a lean and fit organisation. We will be relying more on volunteer help in the future. We do make use of new technology wherever possible although our recipients do not have as much as we do. The fact remains, we do need more income to continue to do what we do.

Prayer to God our provider has always been a core value of the Trust. "Ask and it shall be given to you." Matt 7:7 "pressed down, shaken together and running over." Luke 6:38.

In 2018 our income was boosted by a generous legacy. We had no idea that this was coming. God has a way of surprising us. Perhaps this will happen again. In the past, we have received generous support for projects from grant-making Trusts. Within the limits of time available, we will be making bids to finance the Mark Project.

Our conviction is that God does want us to continue and that he will provide us with the necessary resources, even in a time when there is a cost-of-living crisis! Please add your prayers to ours as we continue to give good teaching books to hungry pastors. If you are aware of any church, family, individual or group who might look favourably on our mission, vision and values, we would be so grateful if you could advocate on our behalf – for the sake of our recipients. Finally, to those supporters, whose financial support for the Trust is sacrificial and costly - thank you so much for standing with us.

Thanks to your support...

...we continue to be able to provide aids to Biblical teaching across the world



Sovereign World Trust

Mailing address: PO Box 777, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0ZS

Delivery address: 2 The Granary, Goblands Farm Business Centre, Cemetery Lane, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0DP
(visits by appointment)

Tel: 07411 278637

Email: chrism@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk

Website: www.sovereignworldtrust.org.uk

For information

Our Annual reports are written for the benefit of our partners and supporters to say thank you and to give an account of our activities during the previous year.

But they are also written for those encountering the Trust for the first time and who are interested to know more about us and what we do.

We hope you'll enjoy (or indeed have enjoyed) reading all about Sovereign World Trust and our work in this report. And when you've finished with it, please do pass it on for someone else to read.

Sovereign World Trust

www.sovereignworldtrust.org.uk