

Christian Council for Monetary Justice (CCMJ) Mid-Year Report - July 2010

Greetings members and associates. It was great to see so many of you at our 2009 AGM in October last year, and very encouraging to see your resolve to continue our identity as the CCMJ, in open association with our friends of good faith and good cause.

As you know, the Christian Council for Monetary Justice is in large part formed around the core principles set out so eloquently in the “First Report of the Christian Doctrine of Wealth Committee of the Congregational Union of Scotland” presented to the Union’s Assembly at Dundee on 10 May, 1962, and known colloquially by monetary reformers around the world as the ‘Dundee Report’. This report looks at the financial system from the Christian view of our world of abundance: existing and potential; and it wastes no time showing how the debt-based monetary system not only fails to reflect physical facts, but is at odds with our inalienable rights to well-being, and to develop as human beings. The report is very clear that money should be created in such a way as to always reflect the net positive position of the real world we live in (i.e., not with a net negative of debt) and should be supplied so that production is balanced with the consuming (purchasing) power of the community.

The report concludes that the existing debt-finance system (including the debt-based monetary system) is prejudicial to human well-being, has no justification in the nature of things, as it is contrary to reason and justice, and urges that it is our duty to introduce a system free of these failings.

It is in this light that we, as advocates for a just monetary system, go forward with good purpose.

This year has been another eventful and fulfilling one. A summary and list of some of the engagements with which the CCMJ is associated, through our associates, is given below:

CCMJ ENGAGEMENTS 2009/10

CCMJ examines how debt based financial matters have induced exponential growth over many decades and lie at the root of the systemic dysfunction now evident on many fronts. The weekly London Global Open Table provides a focus from which we network widely with major innovators in monetary and fiscal reform. CCMJ has therefore played some enabling or energising roles in such ways as are hinted at below, albeit in an inevitably inadequate indication of

influence. Reports on other initiatives founded in our conviction that faith is a matter concerning public truth would be gladly received.

Some examples of initiatives currently running:

Environmental Lawyer Polly Higgins - Trees have rights too - made positive link with Chris Cook and CEJ
Dave Hampton - Carbon Coach - Peter Challen helped him widen links
With Coalition for Economic Justice members visited Co-operative Party, The Equality Trust, Respublica, Tax Justice Network, to plan an extension seminar
Encouraged the development of Call4Reform campaign and the publication of the draft Bank of England (Creation of Currency) Act for publicly created money
Peace Child International - Ely Cathedral - Chaired Alpha and Omega event
Wimbledon - Lent Lecture on Exploitation and Exponential Growth
St. James Piccadilly sermon "Insidious evil in three words" - considerable follow-up
Global Co-operative Forum - international networking with Bumstead and Chitty
Supporting events at the Universal Peace Federation - Marsh, Ali
Major contribution to an experimental seminar between progressive agencies to ensure that Land and Money Reform lie within their principles

Associates in CCMJ [some hints in brackets] are presently working to generate a critical mass that can bring attention to Monetary, Fiscal and Land reform with such groups as:

The School of Economic Science [SES] - Challen, Abel, Smith & Bowman
The Money Reform Party - Belsey, et al
Common Good Party - Rodgers, et al
Christian People's Alliance - May
Coalition for Economic Justice [CEJ] and Equality Trust - Smith, Bowman, Abel, Challen
Ministry for Peace - Challen & Harbottle, Diwany, Newman & Keyes
The Gladstone Club - Challen, Belsey
Tax Justice Network - Murphy, Christensen, Sikka, Challen, Bowman
Citizen's Income [CI] - as an aspect of Universal Basic Income [UBI] - Leslie, Palmerton
Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility [ECCR] - Livinoff, Challen, Charles, Ninds
Forum For The Future - Challen, Mellors
Gandhi Foundation - Harbottle & Challen
Human Rights Foundation - Challen, Harrison, Charles
The Royal Society of Arts Living Systems Group - Challen, Conn, Medcalfe
The Royal Society of Arts networking on the UK Financial System - Challen, Farago

Muslim/Christian dialogue on the human condition - Shakespeare, Challen, Yearsley, et al
Mission in London's Economy [MiLE] - Challen, Driscoll, Reindorp, et al
United Nations Association - UNA - SE region - Challen, Barker
The Kitchen Table - East London - Challen, Knowles, Driscoll
Pastoral Theology - economic module on Quantum Theology - Chelmsford - Challen
World Development Movement [WDM] [Cable] - Challen and Diwany, May
Lay Readers in Church of England - Yearsley
Global Co-operative Forum Project [GCF] - Bumstead, Lawrence, Burke, Rapp, Challen
Universal Peace Federation [UPF] - Yaseen, Marsh
GlobalVision2000 - Yaseen, Challen, Marsh
Zaccheaus2000 - Nicolson
Fasting for the Globe with London Islamic Network on the Environment [LINE] - Challen, Hussein, Diwany
The Moral Maze - Southwark Cathedral November 2009 - Challen and Diwany
Southwark Diocesan response to employment crisis - Alexander
Congress of World Faiths - Challen, Marsh, Ali, Braybrooke
Formation of IMRO - Morrison - seemed to run into the ground
EcoQuakers Ireland - Weekes
Compass conference 12/6/10 - 3 reps present among the 1000 - Charles, Dyson & Stamper
The Finance Lab - contact made with nine new study groups
Mission to Iceland - Martin, in association with friends

Papers/books submissions of significance in and to the network:

Prophecy and Recession for MiLE - Challen
Challenge of faith on finance for The Bible in Transmission - Challen
Bromsgrove scene setting for annual conference - McConnachie, Challen, Walton, Martin
Regular correspondence with NZ DSC - Whitmill
Conference - Fiscal & Monetary Reform as a root of Systemic Change - Smith, Wrigley, CEJ
A view of Capital as Wealth for Ekklesia - Challen
The missing link in Inter-faith dialogue and action for Akio Matsumara -Challen
The financial capture of religion - Hudson
Martin Hattersley - Canadian contact
Lawrence Bloom - Laboratories for sector and global change
Chris Cook - Equity based capital widely disseminated
Writing and Teaching of Rodney Shakespeare on a Modern Universal Paradigm
Work on a Universal Basic Income - Field, Leslie, Triggs, CEJ, Palmerton, Abel

Work on Winstanley by George Heron
Website for St. James Piccadilly
Quilligan, *"The Commons and Integral Capital"* and *"People sharing resources"*
Bunzl - *"Solving Climate Change - A Noospheric Agreement"*
Ostrom - Nobel Prize - resonant with covenant theology
Selby - reprint of *"Grace and Mortgage - the language of faith and the debt of the world"*
Krugman - Global Petition - 2500 signatures 62% by PhDs
Weekes - *"The Economic Crisis - a Quaker response"* Woodbrooke Journal, Spring 2009 [Woodbrooke Quaker Studies Centre, Birmingham]
"Against Usury - resolving the economic, ecological and welfare crisis" Van De Weyer - Challen
"Quantum Theology - the Spiritual Impact of New Physics" O'Murchu
"Integral Vision" - Challen
"The Corporate and Social Transformation of Money and Banking" (Palgrave Macmillan, out October 2010) - Lietaer, Mouatt, Shakespeare, Challen

In addition, recent developments include the CCMJ and the Global Justice Movement collaboration on the complementarity of monetary reform and land (resources/property) reform (and experimental seminar held on 24 June 2010).

So much of all our activity depends on volunteers and we should be thinking about the future continuity of the organisation and associations, which need resources.

In the midst of so many connections and opportunities for our enabling ministry, one thing we fail to do is to fund-raise. The truth is that CCMJ is very very low on funds, and cannot continue to do its work, certainly not extend it, as the present crisis and its dangers and opportunities enlarge week by week. Unless we're all willing to stretch beyond our usual capacities and beyond our annual membership dues to CCMJ, so as to make a significant contribution to keep this servant ministry enterprise going, much insight and effort could be wasted. It's that simple: no money means no staff means no one to carry out co-ordination or implementation of any of the wonderful ideas expressed and developed in our networks.

We need your help, and we need it now! We'd like to hire a little part time administrative help, but unless a substantial sum can be raised, we just can't afford to do it. Is there any way you can help? If so, please send a cheque to CCMJ, c/o Dr. Desmond Cumberland, 6 Lancaster Close, Ash Vale, Surrey, GU12 5ST

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, **Reverend Canon Peter Challen**