

The Westminster Tradition

Commentary to Statement of Contribution & Expenses for the year AD 2009

In a year when the world went through a tough period financially, God's people were not spared. Our contribution received, mainly in the form of tithes and offerings, decreased some 23% from 2008. It was chiefly due to the economic climate that those who had contributed considerably were not able to give as much this year. Besides, certain brethren who had previously given substantially left their jobs for further education and relocation.

Notwithstanding, God's people in divers countries did their part to support the work of God in their own ways. Monetarily wise, the overseas brethren, particularly from Australia, Northern Ireland, United States, sent in part of their tithes and offerings to offset the expenses especially for the overseas mission work.

More significantly, while contribution suffered, the capital of faith did not diminish; our pastor was mindful and careful that the work of God be not halted. As the work of God had seen an increase numerically and spatially, there is a need to facilitate the preaching of the Gospel in tangible ways. The significant scaling of expenses from 2008 to 2009 in overseas mission work is a mere reflection of our long-term investment (especially in Nepal and the Philippines) and vision for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Moreover, we had to fund the increasing frequent overseas trips made by the missionaries so as to nurture the sapling churches, discounting the fact that many brethren went on mission trips at their own expense. It is worth noting that funding of our missionaries cover only transportation cost, they pick up the tab for all other expenses incurred in their travel. In addition, the Abrahamic generosity and hospitality of those who hosted them also helped defray their cost.

Indeed our God is Jehovah Jireh! For while we faced a fiscal drought of sorts, the corn gathered in the good years tided us over.

Hannah Grace Thomas reporting on behalf of our treasurers , Rebekah Swee (JB), Phoebe Job (JB), Theophilus Ong (KL) and Hephzibah Chai (KL)

THE WESTMINSTER TRADITION

Statement of Contribution and Expenses for the year ended 31st December AD 2009

	2009		2008	
	SGD	% of Total	SGD	% of Total
CONTRIBUTION				
Tithes from				
Singapore	183,960	71	240,184	71
Malaysia	15,059	6	40,241	12
Australia	11,720	5	5,583	2
UK	4,367	2	-	
USA	5,984	2	2,085	1
(a) Subtotal	221,090	85	288,093	85
Offerings from				
Singapore	26,645	10	24,381	7
USA	4,260	2	3,275	1
Malaysia	2,631	1	12,985	4
Australia	781	0	650	0
Philippines	25	0	46	0
India	15	0	3	0
(b) Subtotal	34,357	13	41,340	12
(c) Others	4,074	2	9,666	3
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION : (a) + (b) + (c)	259,521	100	339,099	100
EXPENSES				
Overseas Mission Work	320,236	74	59,062	33
Vehicle Maintenance & Servicing	27,394	6	16,936	9
Transportation	25,778	6	34,318	19
Stipends & Charities	18,187	4	30,933	17
Printing & Correspondence	14,770	3	13,904	8
Chapel Rental & Maintenance	14,642	3	17,208	9
Miscellaneous	4,050	1	2,793	2
Telecommunication	3,296	1	3,159	2
Library books & reading materials	3,237	1	3,129	2
TOTAL EXPENSES	431,590	100	181,443	100
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(172,068)		157,656	

Note

Foreign currencies transactions are translated at estimated rates prevailing during the year which are as follows:

	2009	2008
<i>Equivalent of 1 unit of foreign currency</i>		
Malaysian ringgit	0.4120	0.4348
Australian dollar	1.2000	1.3000
UK pound	2.2700	2.1000
US dollar	1.4000	1.5000
Philippine peso	0.0308	0.0323
Indian rupee	0.0308	0.0333