

SOVEREIGN WORLD TRUST Annual Report for 2016



In this report:

- Progress and developments
- Feedback from pastors and librarians
- Serving with partners
- Publishing projects
- Malawi visit

director's letter



Chris Moffett

Dear friends and supporters

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2016. The Trust was founded back in October 1986 which means that we have now been going for three decades. In 1989, when the Trust was barely three years old, the World Wide Web was invented. Of course it has taken many years for the Internet to really take-off, but today, its use is almost taken for granted. This, together with other digital age developments, means that communication has changed dramatically for those of us who live in the prosperous developed nations.

The gap widens

However, this is only partially true for the developing nations that we serve. Only half of the pastors who receive regular mailings from us communicate by email now, some from internet cafés and others using their smart phones. But the other half still communicate by "snail-mail" and their handwritten letters with brightly coloured stamps continue to arrive in our mailbox daily. In some respects the gap between ourselves and a considerable proportion of people in the developing nations is getting wider. At the same time their need is greater than ever.

Steady progress

This has been a steady year for us. In round numbers, we have distributed some 8000 books to some 1200 pastors in 110 nations through individual mailings and by partnering with other ministries and individuals who have taken or sent books to their contacts. Around three-quarters of our recipients are in African nations. The remainder are in India and the Far East. Other resources have been distributed over the Internet. As a result we continue to receive appreciative comments and requests testifying to their relevance and usefulness.

A broader spread of literacy

Another thing that has changed, it seems, is the spread of ability to read books in English. In many nations primary education is delivered in a local language whereas secondary education is delivered in English. With forward strides in secondary education, there are more leaders who are able to benefit from books written for a more educated readership. Yet at the same time there are others who have never progressed beyond primary education and who are much more fluent in a local language. So the Trust is responding by stretching the offer to include more demanding texts at one end and more simplified and basic texts at the other. Some prefer and need literature in their own local language and we are working on that too.

In response to greater diversity, it is appropriate that the choice of books be influenced by local needs and situations, as much as by what is available in the UK. Of particular relevance are books written by local authors whose writings originate within their own cultures.

A bespoke response with an element of choice We have come to realise more and more that what is needed is a highly bespoke and differentiated response. It is this understanding that has underpinned several lines of development this year. Regular mailings to pastors, from now on, will include some books that are chosen for them based on our knowledge and experience, but also at least one title *selected by recipients* from a menu offered in the previous year's mailing. This will

director's letter

enable leaders to choose what they perceive is particularly relevant and suitable for their needs.

To provide this element of choice is not quite so simple as it sounds. It complicates the mailing process enormously. Fortunately, advances in technology - particularly the use of databases - mean that is is now possible to store and plan in a way that was not possible before. We are particularly thankful that our chair of trustees, Andrew Howe, is skilled in this area and he has been helping us with a specially designed database.

Custom designed database

This year the Trust has published two books. One, a 400 page explanation of the Biblical story line (or metanarrative), written for those who have completed secondary education and whose grasp of English is good. *The Bible Inside Out* by Patrick Whitworth will be extremely useful for those embarking on Biblical or theological training. It is a book for reference as well as for reading from start to finish. (See page 14 for more details.)

Publications

At the other end of the spectrum is a 32 page booklet setting out a balanced scriptural consideration of the issue of *Health and Healing*. This has been written by Emmanuel Oladipo, a Nigerian Christian leader and a former international director of Scripture Union. For those pastors who live in communities where the focus is very much on subsistence and who have not benefitted from years of education, it provides a straightforward and accessible treatment of the theme, allowing the Bible to speak for itself. This is the second in the series *What the Bible teaches on...* and aims to bring balance to an area where there is confusion and error. More titles are in the pipeline.

One particular part of the ministry has seen significant progress. That is *second hand* or "*preloved*" books as we prefer to call them. Without doing a great deal to promote this, we have been given a considerable number of used Christian books. These are being catalogued thematically in spreadsheets for mailing to librarians worldwide, who are able to select books in a specific subject area upto a specified weight limit. Not all books are equally relevant and helpful, but we have been delighted by the number of really excellent titles we have been given. Many are out of print. Others are prohibitively expensive. A fuller picture of this aspect of the ministry will be given in our next annual report.

Pre-loved books

Now that a great deal of development has taken place, we need to address the trend of falling income. Going forward we will be seeking to become better known and better connected to people and churches both locally and nationally, and to grant making trusts. If anyone reading this would like to assist in making such connections we would be pleased to hear from you.

Looking forward

We hope you enjoy reading the pages that follow. They tell in words and pictures about the pastors who receive books from us. For those of you who have been supporting us financially, we hope that you will be encouraged by reading about what you have been helping us to do. If you're new to the Trust and would like to partner with us, there are some suggestions on page 15. A special word of thanks to those who pray for us. It is your intercession, behind the scenes, that enables us to keep going. We are very grateful. A special world of thanks also to those who have sent anonymous donations or who have said "no receipt necessary." May God reward you!

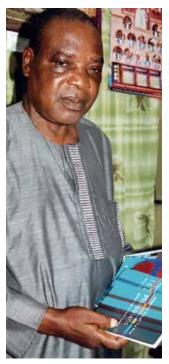
Thanks to....

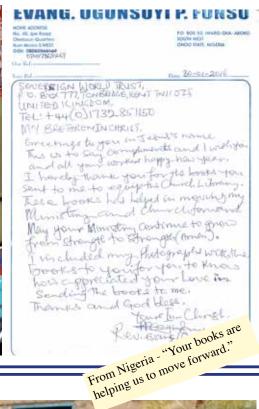
Chris Moffett Director Sovereign World Trust March 2017

from around the world

"This is say compliments and I wish you and all your workers a happy new year. Thank you for the books you sent me to equip the church library. These books have helped us in moving my ministry and church forward. May your ministry continue to grow from strength to strength. Amen. I have included my photograph with the book to you for you to know how appreciated your love is in sending these books to me. Thanks and God bless Yours in Christ

Rev Evang Ogunsuyi PF"









"I write to thank you so much for the books you send me. You have contributed so much through your books to the growth of our church from 7 people with one pastor to 187 within the last four years and a Sunday School of 137 children."

These pages give a glimpse into the type of letters we receive. Some run into several pages and these pastors clearly put a lot of thought into their comments and feedback. In their replies they share their joys, their dreams, their plans and quite often their frustrations with the challenges they face. One of the many challenges is the provision of finance for their children's education. In most nations primary education is free but secondary education is not. That means that pastors of small rural churches need to work extra hard with their hands to provide for their families in addition to caring for their churches. The poorest live in thatched homes without electricity, so life is basic. All this and they find time to read books and and write to us!

in their own words

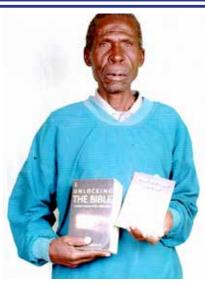


This pastor, whose church has a wide range of activities and programmes, has made five first choices from the selection offered! We won't be able to send him all of them in one mailing, but it is good to know that all would have been well received.



Interest integered by the SWT

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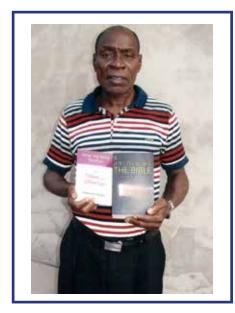


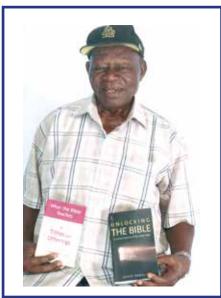
This pastor has made a specific request for books by Charles Colson. That is because one edition of the Trust's email teaching letter reviewed Colson's book *Loving God*. The books themselves are not written for a developing world readership, but the theme of that book is very relevant for Christians everywhere.

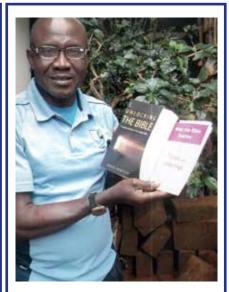
"Thank you very much for the parcel of books which was sent to me containing Unlocking the Bible and What the Bible teaches on Tithes and Offerings, which I received on 25th May 2016. These are very educative, informative and well detailed and it is easy to grasp the information laid down in them by teacher or preacher.

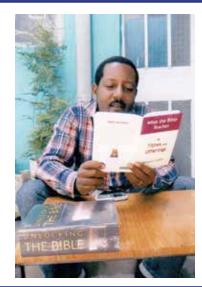
I have recently been invited to be an evangelist of a newly formed church called the Church of Jesus with Love at a new branch in Nakonde. These books and many others that I have received from you are a big help though I am having a big challenge in this new work for God. I am asking you if you would kindly send me books on FAITH. And also Born Again, Life Sentence and Loving God by Charles "Chuck" Colson. I ask for books because they are easier to keep rather than tracts. If possible other books as well to help me in this new field."

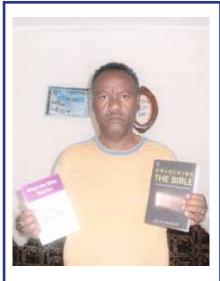
Ethiopia, Nigeria and Cameroon

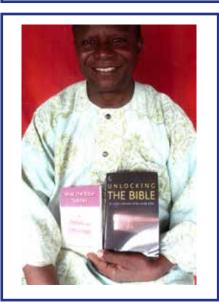


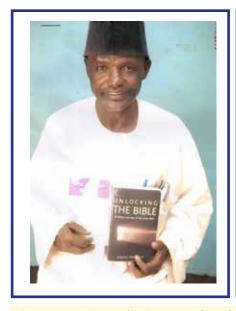


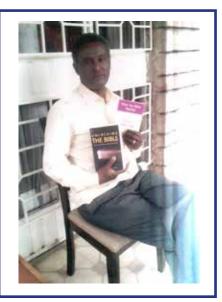


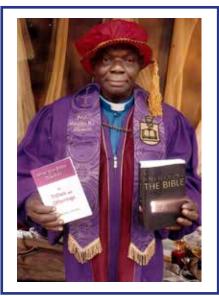










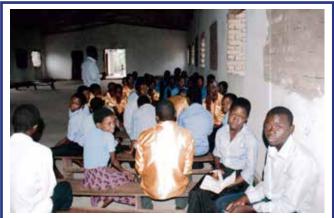


The pastors who received a copy of David Pawson's Unlocking the Bible and Emmanuel Oladipo's Tithes and offerings...

photos from around the world

















and their congregations who benefit from the understanding and insight these books have provided for their pastor.

pastors speak..



"We received your package of 9 books on September 29th. They are all useful and wonderful spiritual books - great tools to help us. Thank you so much. We are praying for you."

Calvary Evangelistic Ministry P. O BOX NK BOI Nkawkaw. GHANA, WEST AFRICA

27s. February, 2016

Dear Wooderful Christian Friends

THANKS AND APPRECIATION.

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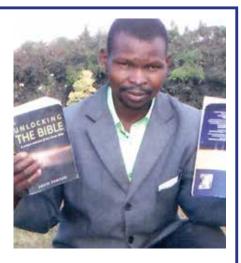
There is the south.

These books produce life in my soul From Malawi and in the church...

"Dear Bridget

Thank you for the wonderful books. They are great to my soul, church and everyone around the village.

I am able to provide good teachings the more you are sending them, the more you are producing life in my soul and the church.



For example, last week I was teaching about the angry brother, a topic I have never taught before. I had,, been preaching about the prodigal son, but now I can understand the Bible, because of your books. I can see Jesus Christ on every page of the Bible all this is because of *Unlocking the Bible, Preaching through the Bible, a journey through the Bible.*

You are doing a really great work in Malawi. More especially me because I could not manage to buy books. They are only found in Lilongwe, very far for me and even buying is a big problem for me. We have a church building but we need plaster and a floor but I hope all will be OK by next year."

bulk shipments



One of our trusted partners Mark from Nigeria, visits England every few years. He puts together collections of books and arranges for them to be shipped home on a container. He then returns home to meet the shipment when it arrives.

The books are divided into small collections and transferred to bags which registered church leaders collect. Each recipient needs to provide a reference from an overseer or a bishop who can vouch for their ministry so that Mark can be confident that books are going to those who really need them.

Another of our partners, Richard, visits Kenya and Uganda a couple of times a year. Like Mark above, he arranges for books to be shipped by container. Then he visits to meet them and takes them himself to trusted leaders often in remote places.

Richard gives us useful feedback on the books and their usefulness which he gains from conversations with pastors.





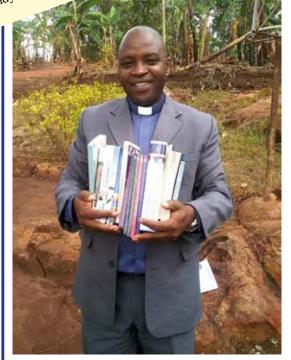
Here we have a shipment of some 700 books put together for a teaching conference. This is a very efficient way to get books into the hands of pastors.

The operation has to be well planned in advance to synchronise the arrival of the books with the conference dates.

projects

A meaty collection of books for a church leader studying away from

home...



Canon Darlington from Tanzania contacted us earlier in the year asking for help with books for his theological studies.

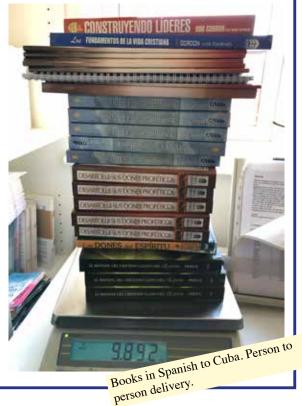
He provided details of the courses he has been taking and we were able to send a number of books on pastoral themes as well as doctrine.

Darlington is studying in a college far away from his family, and so together they are making a real sacrifice in order to progress his studies. The majority of pastors on our regular mailing list live at home and also work on their small-holdings to feed their famillies. That means that they do not have a great deal of time to read. For this reason it makes it worth sending a really substantial collection to someone like Darlington who, for this season at least, has more time than most for study.

A month before Christmas we received a phone call from a group planning a trip to Cuba. "Do you have any books in Spanish?" they asked.

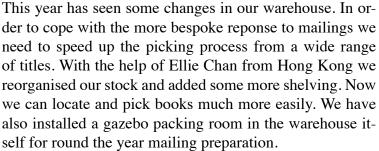
Through further discussion we learned that they were visiting five pastors and could take 10 kg of books in their luggage. We put together five sets of books - a grand total of 9.89 kg and arranged for them to be delivered to a UK address. These included titles by Bob Gordon, Derek Prince, Jack Hayford and Michael Eaton.

Our next annual report will have news of how their trip went and the response to the books. It's great to be able to work with partners who put books into the hands of pastors. In this way we can be sure that books reach those who need them most.



photos from around the world



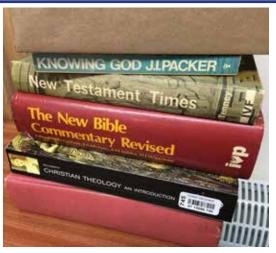






In October we received an email from the librarian of a newly formed library serving a group of colleges in Melanesia. They were struggling to find texts to match a range of courses they were planning to deliver.

In subsequent correspondence the librarian identified some particular themes and needs to which we were able to respond with titles from our second hand (preloved) collection. Among them Alistair McGrath's *Introduction to Christian Theology*; *The New Bible Commentary* - for the whole Bible in a single volume; a background to the New Testament; *The New Bible Dictionary*; Bob Gordon's books on the *Foundations of Christian Living* and the classic *Knowing God* by James Packer.



We continue to receive many excellent preloved books and place them with great care in good homes!

Preloved books relocated to a new home on the other side of the world.

Malawi - return visit



Bornwell Yona who coordinates the libraries in the Salima area as well as pastoring his own church.



This library (green arrow) is located in the office of a pastor of a larger church. The library provides an opportunity for the pastors of different churches to come together and to support and encourage each other.



In June, Chris Moffett and his wife Olga spent 10 days in Malawi visiting our partners in Starfish Malawi based in Salima, a town about an hour's drive from the capital Lilongwe. Bornwell Yona, one of the Salima pastors (pictured left), is now the library coordinator and he has been very active in taking things forward.

Following on from the founding of the successful and oversubscribed library and resource centre in Salima, in 2014 Starfish Malawi established six more satellite libraries round Salima. These enable pastors to access books without the necessity of giving up virtually a whole day to travel there and back. Chris visited all six with Bornwell and by talking to pastors and the librarians was able to get a good feel for how they are working, which books were being used and their future needs. The main conclusion was that there needs to be more books in their local language, Chichewa, for those whose knowledge of English is not strong. This is a similar conclusion to Tanzania where the language is Swahili. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of really appropriate material in Chichewa, so all this points to the need to work with pastors to develop or translate material specifically designed for their situation. Of course, this presents a number of challenges. Translation requires someone who has both a good command of English and Chichewa, and has the time and availability to participate in such a project. With most communities living at a subsistence level, many pastors are fully occupied providing for their families and leading their churches. Some financial support to release participants would help to make it happen in a reasonable time frame.

Libraries are located in churches and sometimes pastors' homes, whichever provides the most secure location. In one of them, the Ikea bookcases that we provided had been severely damaged by hungry termites. So, we will be sending out replacements and arranging for termite proof paint to be provided. We also agreed that we would provide 3 more libraries for villages to the north. Two are ready to go on the next container.

Malawi - return visit

The final two days of the visit were taken up with a pastors' training conference in Salima. This was held in an Assemblies of God church for around fifty leaders from a variety of churches and denominations. On the first day Chris gave them an overview of the book of Romans. Although there are now quite a lot of visitors going to Malawi offering training of various types, most of this focusses on practical issues such as church planting and evangelism. It is only in Bible Colleges that pastors experience systematic Biblical exposition. So this type of teaching was relatively new to most attendees. The second day was taken up with questions and answers on issues arising from the first day. The topics raised were, as one would expect, all very practical, for example some relating to pastoral challenges resulting from divorce and remarriage, others concerning divided loyalties when one spouse is a Christian and the other not.

Christians in an African culture experience very different challenges to those we face in Britain. Family ties play a much more significant role in their lives. There is no state pension provision for the elderly and children are expected to provide care for their parents and take them in when they are frail and unable to look after themselves. Families tend to be large. A daughter who gets married and sets up a new home with her husband may be expected to take in a younger brother or sister to relieve the pressure on the parents. For the newly-weds to refuse, saying that they feel they need some time to adjust to married life, would be to invite conflict. That would fly in the face of cultural expectations. How such issues are managed is important. It is one thing to be asked to take in a younger child. It is quite another to be told by your parents that you must do so, and have them arrive at your door! Of course, closer family ties can also bring great blessing. For couples who marry and have their children while they are young, grandparents are available to help in their upbringing, perhaps allowing the mother to pursue educational opportunities that would otherwise be impossible.

Hearing about these challenges is a potent reminder that we need to select books that are culturally approropriate.



Books are signed in and out and borrowers are asked to provide a comment so that their usefulness can be monitored.

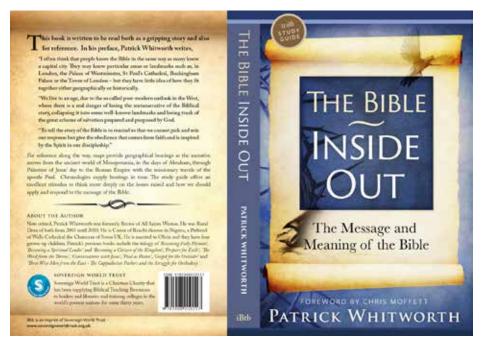


Olga with a group of pastors. In some churches husbands and wives share the pastoral ministry which allows the husband to take on a broader role, perhaps travelling or overseeing a number of churches.



These pastors live in a village about an hour's drive from Salima, but not having transport themselves they would have to make the journey by bicycle. So having a small collection locally in a pastor's house makes a great deal of difference to them.

publishing projects

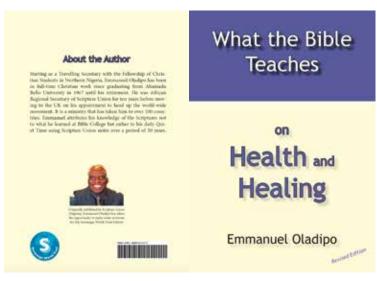




Patrick Whitworth with his wife Olivia

The week before Christmas saw the launch in Bath of Patrick Whitworth's latest book *The Bible: Inside Out*. Published by the Trust under its iBtb (International Biblical Teaching Book) imprint, in a single volume of 400 pages, it sets out the Bible narrative from beginning to end in one sweep. Although there are a number of books giving introductions to the books of the Bible individually, there isn't anything quite like this popularly available. For those coming to the Bible without much background, this is going to be a hugely helpful book, because it shows how the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments fit together in God's unfolding purpose and plan. Its theme is particularly important for cultures where the traditional function of religion is to manipulate God (or the gods) into doing what people want, rather than to respond to an invitation to participate in God's purposes. We are very thankful to Patrick, formerly Rector of All Saints Church in Weston, Bath, for investing his time in this project which we believe will help to cultivate balanced understanding.

We will be sending copies out to a number of theological colleges beginning with two in Tanzania, one copy for each student and member of teaching staff. We will also be sending out copies to some 500 libraries in the new year. Copies will be available for sale in the UK and this will generate funds to send more copies out to the nations. It will be available for on-line purchase.



Another publishing project completed this year is the second 36 page booklet in the *What the Bible Teaches* series by Emmanuel Oladipo, originally from Nigeria.

This booklet is very straightforward and practical. It aims to set out Biblical teaching in a balanced manner by working through all the relevant scriptures. It will be included in next year's mailings to all pastors and will be sent to every new enquirer as a starter. It has been specially printed in a size and weight for mailing as a letter. We are very thankful to Emmanuel for his partnership in this project and eagerly await the next in the series on *Prayer and Fasting*.

partnering with us



JustGiving is good for making a regular or one-off gift with or without Gift Aid; www.justgiving.com/sovereignworldtrust will take you straight to our page. For first time users there is a simple set-up procedure. JustGiving is useful for those who support a number of charities and want to simplify their giving through one portal.



The Sovereign World Book Club is a book club with a difference. Subscribers give so that others can receive. We have a special leaflet with all the necessary details.



Giving by text is a great way to give small amounts instantly. Simply text the number **70070** with the message **SOVW07£10** to give ten pounds. This works for an amount between £1 and £10 which is credited to your phone bill.



Most of us use on-line banking these days and it is easy to set up an occasional regular donation to the Trust this way. Our bank details are given in the financial summary on the back cover. Regular donations are very useful to us because it helps us to plan and easy for donors because they don't need to take any more action unless they wish to stop giving. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please ask us for a form so that we can have your permission to make a claim.

giving

easyfundraising .org.uk

EasyFundraising is great for Internet shoppers. If you access Amazon or other on-line stores through EasyFundrasing, and nominate Sovereign World trust as the charity of your choice, then a percentage of your purchase price goes to us. Depending on the store this can be as much as 15%.



Leave a legacy. Many of us have wealth tied up in our homes – which of course we need during our lifetime. A simple alteration to our wills, specifying a fixed sum or a percentage, can ensure that a proportion of our estate can go to causes that we would have liked to have supported more during our lifetime. Legacy gifts are much appreciated. They come unexpectedly out of the blue and are often the key to unlocking projects that we cannot fund from regular giving.

praying



Underpinning this ministry is the faithful intercession of our prayer supporters around the country and overseas. The apostle Paul reminds us to do everything with prayer and supplication. We send out 10 prayer information sheets in the course of each year with items for thanksgiving and items for request. This information can be sent in the post or by email. We really value the work of our prayer supporters.

practical help

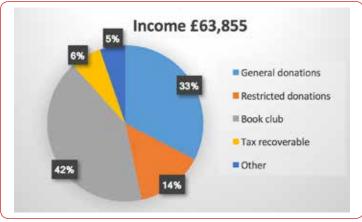
Practical help is something for those who live reasonably near us in Hadlow, Kent. We are grateful for small groups, such as home groups, from local churches who give an evening to come for a packing session.

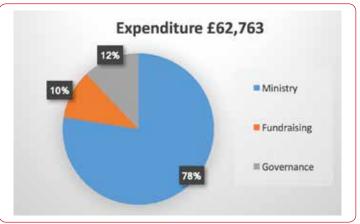
From time to time we have tasks that require a willing pair of hands such as laminating, packing, copying, binding and sorting. We are grateful for those who have given or bring us second hand books. Helping us for a morning relieves our small staff team and makes a real difference. If you would like to explore this possibility, please give us a call: 01732 851150.

financial summary

October 2015 - September 2016

Giving to the general fund totalled £54,950 of which £26,672 was pledged giving. Unrestricted and restricted funds carry forward balances of £5,896 and £23,915.





This summary is based on the draft accounts which, at the time of printing, are with our independent examiner. A full copy of the final financial report for the year ended September 2016 will be available on request or may be downloaded from the Charity Commission Website.

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.

Income and Expenditure 5 Year History		
	Income	Expenditure
2011-12	145,525	137, 470
2012-13	100,125	110,429
2013-14	97,250	92,602
2014-15	71,134	79,840
2015-16	63,855	62,763

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 2015

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.

Registered Charity No: 327284. Sovereign World Trust is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Global Connections

Principal Office Addresses (UK)

PO Box 777, TONBRIDGE, Kent, TN11 0ZS (for mail)

2 The Granary, Goblands Farm Business Centre (for deliveries) Cemetery Lane, Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0DP Tel: 01732 851150

Email: chrism@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk

Trustees as at December 2015

Andrew Howe (Chair), Zillah Harrod, Tony Miles-Prouten, Paul Caneparo

From HMRC - for 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. HMRC have instructed us that they require some additional wording to be included in future declarations and going forward we will do so. For existing donors, who have completed a declaration recently we reproduce the additional wording below concerning the relevant taxes and draw your attention to it. We will assume that this applies but we will not ask you to complete a new declaration at this time.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.