

JUSTICE REFLECTIONS

EDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2003

Justice Reflections exceeds expectations at the end of its first year of promotion. It appears to fill a gap in the market for people connected with law and order who are thoughtful about the spiritual underpinning to justice issues. Whilst there are many writers on these matters, no one regularly brings such worldwide essays together under one cover.

Long discussions took place with the IPCA Worldwide Steering Committee about its format. Many readers have appreciated its loose style, easily copied and passed around for discussion. The format allows variety of length of essays without spoiling the balance of the publication. *Justice Reflections* has a character of its own not tied to the domain of prison chaplains. Changing it to journal form would necessitate writing an editorial, balancing the length of articles, and including book reviews, correspondence and possibly advertisements - so giving a different feel with less simplicity. Some have said that its present format lessens impact. Librarians say it is a nightmare! Others have said that it could profit from more graphic design; but pictorial additions might be controversial and diminish focus. Further opinions on this aspect would be welcomed. For the moment its pattern is fixed.

Another feature of the original discussions was whether *Justice Reflections* should be exclusively on the Internet. If it were on the Internet there would be no budget because few people would donate for such material. Whilst essays could be downloaded, the Internet does not enable a document, which sets out to be attractive, to be placed in the hand as a gift, sharing ideas from one person to another around the world. Many copies go to prison ministry workers in isolated places without immediate access to Western technology. A printed document can be picked up at leisure and may help busy people read essays which they may not instinctively have downloaded. This may be particularly helpful for those reading English slowly. The existence of *Justice Reflections* also enables three world ministry organisations to demonstrate in one tangible form that they work together. Selected essays may in time appear on the website of IPCA and some may eventually appear in a book. It is intended that the printed form and the Internet should work together.

About 1000 copies go to people who have registered interest in 60 countries. The majority of applicants are from the UK. The diversity of people who have applied is remarkable. Apart from prison connected people, the largest group is judges - followed by bishops! The print run is 2000 enabling many copies to be given away. Africa is the continent receiving the largest number of free copies. The biggest cost is postage. This venture would not have succeeded in its small way without generous benefactors whom it is hoped will remain supportive. In assisting *Justice Reflections* readers who donate are providing encouragement to many in prison ministry who are unable to pay.

The Editor is immensely grateful to colleague volunteers in Lincoln who have overseen the birth of this project - especially Jo Gordon, Stephen Land, Keith Jobling, Matilda Moyo, Kath Taylor, Sheridan Minshull, Bidy and Linda Richardson and Philippa Duce. John Tyror and prisoners working with him in the Print Shop at Leyhill Prison, and the Right Reverend Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester, have been constant supporters. Wider support has come from Pierre Allard (IPCA) in Ottawa, Peter Echtermeyer (ICPPC) in Germany and Ron Nikkel (PFI) in Washington together with the Prison Service Chaplaincy in London.

Justice Reflections is a UK registered charity working for the above three global organisations. It is encouraged locally by several Lincolnshire groups mentioned on the cover. Comments about development of the publication that readers may care to send back with this form would be valued. Suggestions about scripts will always be appreciated. An application form is also enclosed in case it can be given to a friend or local college/library in order to gain further outlets.

Alan R. Duce

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