



Annual Report 2017-2018

WEC UK's review
of the year.



WEC UK exists to take the good news to the peoples and nations who have yet to hear it: the good news that Christ came to bring forgiveness of sins and peace with God, and to displace hatred with love.

We are thankful to God for his faithful provision over the past year. In all our needs, God has once again shown himself to be sufficient.

We are thankful, too, to everyone who has encouraged us, prayed for us and given to resource our work. All of the efforts to reach the unreached mentioned within these pages are only possible because of your support.

Finally, we are thankful to everyone who has served with us in the noble task of sharing the good news of Jesus with people who do not yet know him. The work continues, but the gospel is still good news, and our God is still faithful.

Our mission

To work together with the UK church to mobilise, train, send out and support workers who will see churches established and flourishing amongst the remaining unevangelised peoples of the world.

Our vision

Crossing cultures to make disciples

Starting churches where there are none or few

Praying to see Jesus known, loved and worshipped

Our values

Being devoted to Christ

Relying on him

Denying ourselves to follow him

Serving together in love

Our strategy

Pray for unreached people groups, for the world, for all aspects of WEC ministry

Engage the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Disciple people to become whole-hearted followers of Christ.

Mobilise people and churches to become involved in the global mission.

Recruit people to serve with us amongst the unreached in the UK and overseas.

Support our members and teams to be fruitful in life and ministry.

Yesterday, today and forever

Looking back over WEC's activities this year, it's wonderful to see the sheer range of our members' strategies to share the gospel. Our members teach English to asylum seekers, run fun and inspiring camps for children, train believers to use radio for evangelism, and meet the most basic needs of people displaced and traumatised by war – they do whatever is necessary to share Jesus with the people around them, in a way which is relevant and compelling.

Our strategies are adaptable and our structure is, too. After moving our headquarters and relocating our UK-based staff to smaller clusters all over the country, this year has seen WEC UK settle into a new way of operating. We've begun to make new connections within the communities where we are based, and started to achieve greater effectiveness in reaching the unreached, in the UK and overseas.

Some aspects of our work are flexible and can be changed. And that's the way it should be. But other things remain constant. WEC's mission is one of those constants. We aim, as we always have done, "To see Christ known, loved and worshipped amongst the unreached peoples of the world". This is in WEC's DNA, we believe it is a sacred calling and it will never change.

Likewise, God never changes in his faithfulness to us. The Bible assures us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrew 13:8) and this has been our experience. Many of our 252 full-time members have been in mission for decades and will testify that God has walked with them throughout those years. There are always challenges in mission, but God never fails in guiding us, providing for us and helping us to meet the challenges that face us.

We move forward into the coming year, ready to innovate and to adapt our approach to ministry depending on what is most appropriate to particular communities. But we also hold fast to the truth of the gospel, to WEC's enduring calling and to the faithfulness of the one who calls us.

John and Pauline Bagg
WEC UK Directors

Stories of our activities in 2017-2018

Asylum seekers helped

Neighbours Worldwide aims to reach unreached ethnic groups in the UK. Ultimately, we want to lead people to faith in Christ and disciple them. This work includes standing with individuals as they go through the long and stressful process of applying for asylum.

One particular married couple, both young believers, were refused leave to remain in the UK and had just a few days to leave their accommodation. Cut off from any further benefits, they faced being destitute. The NW team prayed, asking God to intervene in this situation.

"Neighbours Worldwide stand with individuals as they go through the process of applying for asylum."

God's solution was that the eviction letter the couple had received was ruled 'unlawful' – they were allowed to stay in their accommodation after all and their benefits were reinstated. It's unclear how common this kind of ruling is, but it seemed a miracle both to the couple and to the NW members supporting them.

The wife is from a strong muslim family background but she has been sharing her christian faith with her parents. After her mum in Iran had an operation, NW team members had the opportunity to pray for her healing over WhatsApp.

Naomi's story

A WEC member in Central Asia reports: "Over the past five years, I've got to know Naomi – a young woman from the mountains – and shared the gospel with her, on and off. A couple of years ago, she came to live with me for six months, observed how I live and learned more about Jesus. This January, she joined us for a month-long camp. The camp allowed her space to piece together all the things she had learnt of Jesus so far. As the camp ended, she gave her life to Jesus."

"As the camp ended, she gave her life to Jesus."

70 years of prayer for mission

Glasgow's WEC prayer group is still going strong after more than 70 years. Jeanette has been a longtime stalwart of the group and now leads it with her husband:

"I first attended the Glasgow prayer meetings when they were at the mission training college. I remember being encouraged to pray a one-sentence prayer for the missionaries. This was how I first learnt to pray for mission members. When I myself became a missionary, this faithful group prayed for Douglas and me as we went out to Congo. We really appreciated their support."

"Glasgow's WEC prayer group is still going strong after more than 70 years."

Stories of our activities

Middle East outreach

A WEC member in the Middle East is serving people displaced and traumatised by war. He and his team contribute to the practical needs of displaced people, who are often without adequate food and shelter. The team have also been involved in organising 'Children in Crisis' training, equipping others to serve children who have experienced traumas of different kinds. In this way, the team have extended the impact of their work.

Answers to prayer after five years

A WEC member in Central Asia reports: "I've been visiting my friend Deborah in her village in the mountains for five years. Each time I've been there, I've prayed for opportunities to share the good news with them, but nothing seemed to open up. This January, we had a camp in the city for teenagers and somehow ten young people from that village had heard about it and came. This was my opportunity to share openly with these young people! As the month went by, God reminded me of those times I had been walking around their village and praying for opportunities."

God at work among Iranians

WEC members in two different towns in England have thriving Bible study and discipleship groups for Iranian men. One of these groups, in the West Midlands, has been going well for two years, with as many as sixteen attending. A separate group for Kurds has formed out of the Iranian group, with three members recently getting baptised.

In another location, more than 300 Iranians have been part of a single church community, over the past six years, with 285 professing faith in Jesus. So how has this staggering growth been possible?

"300 Iranians have been part of a single church community, over the past six years."

"The group members do all the evangelism!" says WEC member Tony. "For example, they invite newcomers from English classes to the group. It's also down to 'DNA' – you grow what you are. If we have an urgency to share the gospel, it transmits to group members."

Having meetings in Farsi is an important factor, too. The group members are able to talk, worship and study the Bible in their own language, which helps them to feel they belong and that they're safe asking difficult questions.

Wonder Week

We were delighted to play an active role in 'Wonder Week', a campus outreach at Warwick University, led by the Christian Union. Our Short Term team provided speakers and support personnel for five evening meetings, aimed at international students. The speakers shared perspectives on topics relating to the gospel, and afterwards talked and prayed with students, helping to answer some probing questions and making themselves available to help in any way they could.

Throughout the week, we saw several students express an interest in exploring who Jesus is and one even became a Christian. Another student had a particular desire to learn more and asked to meet with one of the Short Term team in a mentoring capacity – this relationship has continued, well beyond the mission week itself.

"A number of students have expressed an interest in short term mission placements."

'Wonder Week' has created opportunities for WEC members to disciple several Christian Union members, and to increase their involvement with the Christian Union in the coming year. A number of students have expressed an interest in short term mission placements, too.

Betel Scotland

For over 20 years, Betel has had the vision to open a centre in Scotland, to help address the nation's huge drug problem. In January 2017, the Watermill Hotel in Motherwell became available and was purchased with the help of funds donated by a retired businessman. A team of Betel members came from various centres in England to make the new premises fit for purpose.

There have been several setbacks. A great deal of work was needed on the building itself, securing planning permission proved difficult and a number of team members left over the course of the year. However, Betel Director Kent Martin remarks that the new centre has received more support than any other from local churches.

"For over 20 years, Betel has had the vision to open a centre in Scotland, to help address the nation's huge drug problem."

WEC Scotland has been privileged to be involved with Betel Scotland from the beginning. Team members have offered practical help with the centre refurbishments, and we go along once a week to lead a Bible study. We look forward to seeing the centre fully operational soon, and to continuing our involvement with this vital work.

Four Kurdish leaders

A WEC member in the Middle East has led four Kurdish men through some advanced learning about leadership principles, the Church, studying the Bible and teaching. This input has been with a view to preparing these men to establish a church leadership team with the local pastor. It was a great joy to see three of them enter into that role with the formal establishment of a leadership team.

Stories of our activities

Pauline's story

"I'm part of the Member Care and Personnel Hub. Admin sometimes feels mundane and unappreciated, but I enjoy it and know that it's very important. I love my role because the MCP Hub exists to support our WEC family, wherever they are serving around the world, and to enable them to remain in their places of ministry, flourishing and effective, for as long as possible. What a privilege! Admin and HR processes may not be glamorous, but what we do is helping team WEC reach the unreached.

"A WEC UK member recently encouraged me by thanking me for providing them with a process and a structure for their sabbatical. They said that they had a friend who was also taking a sabbatical but didn't have any kind of structure or mentor, and they were finding the sabbatical to be frustrating and unfruitful. By contrast, this member had found their structured sabbatical to be a blessing and good preparation for the pending change in their ministry. A simple form and a good set of questions can make such a difference."

Arts Release creative worship

The Arts Release team has held regular creative worship evenings at the Arts Release Centre in Leeds. These evenings have proved valuable, with about fifteen regular attenders finding a joy and freedom in exploring worship outside of their normal church context. It is also providing an environment where visitors find team members to mentor them in creative arts and worship.

The Arts Release team have created a range of musical resources, including multilingual and multi-style songs. And the bands are being increasingly sought-after to enable groups of Christians to worship God, especially groups which include more than one predominant culture or language.

"Arts Release songs are being increasingly sought-after to enable groups of Christians to worship God."

Getting to know the imam

A WEC member in northwest England felt very strongly that he should spend time with the local imam, but the imam was extremely overworked, holding down three jobs to get by.

Our member made this a priority for prayer. A week later, the telephone rang. The imam needed to see him and would come to his house. Can we really share the gospel in closed, resistant communities? Yes. God makes a way.

RW training

The RW team have undertaken six overseas trips this year, delivering training in Sri Lanka, India (twice), Togo, Thailand and northeast Africa. These workshops train local believers to use audio media for effective radio evangelism. Participants were encouraged to consider creative methods of presenting the good news.

Healing in Central Asia

A WEC member in Central Asia reports: "Last April I was praying with a few other foreigners. As we visited a hospital we met a lady who God seemed to draw us to. She was very excited to hear that God knows where she is and what she needs. Over this last year, I've been visiting her village in the mountains. Every time I visit, they gather the neighbours and tell God's story and then they ask me to tell more about Jesus. They have great faith to see people healed as we lay hands on the sick; some have been healed instantly."

ASHA – new arts ministry

The Arts Release team have been looking to expand their work for some time, to include other arts disciplines and direct outreach. So ASHA, a new performing arts group, is a wonderful opportunity and answer to prayer

"ASHA seeks to share God's love with South Asian women, through storytelling, mime, drama and dance."

Based in the West Midlands, ASHA seeks to share God's love with South Asian women, through storytelling, mime, drama and dance. This year, ASHA's performances have included dramatic accounts of the Christmas and Easter stories, as well as a retelling of Joshua and the battle of Jericho, from the perspective of Rahab the prostitute, drawing out themes of God's acceptance, faithfulness and deliverance.

Muslim-background believers baptised

Our members in a midlands town have baptised 30 believers from a muslim background in the last year. Here is the story of one of the men we baptised:

"My father and brother were working for a Kurdish political party. They were both killed by the Iranian authorities and I had to leave the country for my own safety. I began to suffer psychological problems from the loss of contact with my family and from all the trauma I had experienced.

"I gave my heart to Jesus. I began to feel better and better inside. I believe Jesus healed me."

"I was admitted to hospital and put on a lot of medication because I was violent. One day, I met a man who encouraged me to come to church. When people prayed for me, I gave my heart to Jesus. I began to feel better and better inside and after some time the doctors stopped all my medication. I believe Jesus healed me."

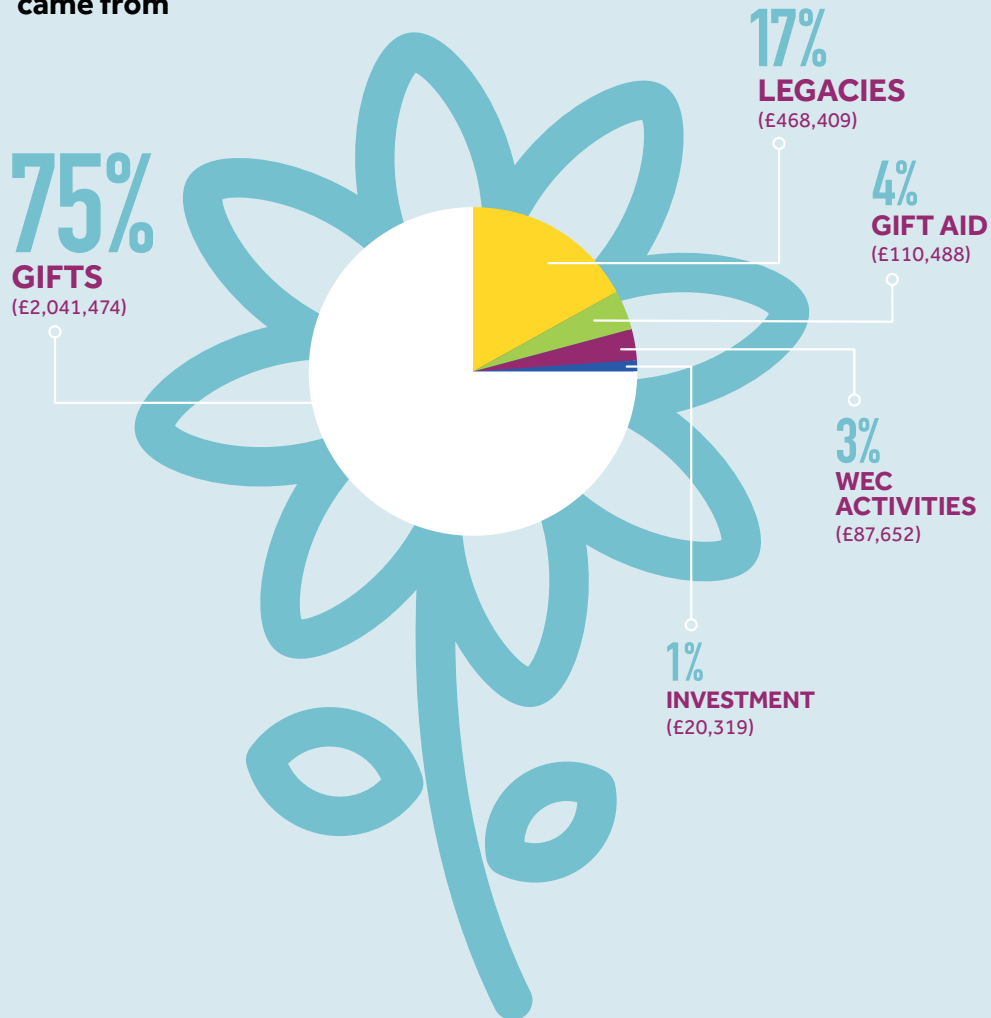
40 Days 40 More Bites

Trudi's new book is a bite-size resource to help readers pray for the world. Trudi's book features fascinating countries to pray for, such as Madagascar and Somalia, and new mission topics: creation care, homeless people and even toilets! It includes fun facts, testimonies, Bible verses and simple prayer points.

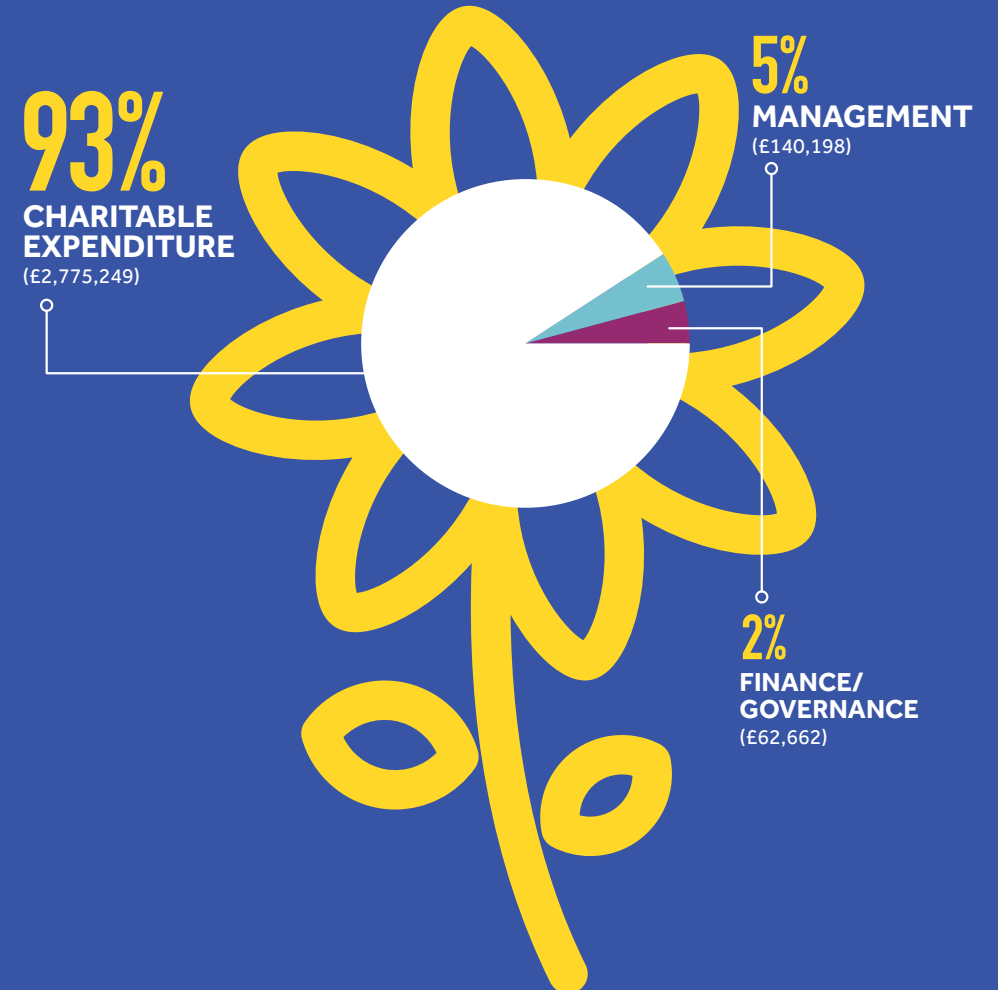
The accounts at a glance

We are very grateful to God and to you for your support in 2017-2018. Funding was provided through donations, legacies and investments. Our income was a total of £2,728,342. We spent £2,978,109 on all of our activities.

Where our money came from



How your money was spent



This is an extract from the full set of financial statements of WEC International UK comprising of the Trustees' Report and Accounts which were approved in September 2018. The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of WEC UK. For further information the Annual Report and Accounts should be consulted – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>.



WEC International UK
PO Box 6461
Coventry
CV3 9NR

twitter.com/wecuk
facebook.com/WECUK
Instagram/wecuk

Registered Charity Numbers
237005 (England & Wales)
SCO37715 (Scotland)

wec-uk.org