

Calvinist Cadet Corps and Calvinettes

(CCC&C)

Esteemed Brothers

Synod 2005 reappointed Rev. Reinier Noppers as Synodical Liaison to the CCC&C. The mandate according to the CCC&C Constitution Article VIII is: "The movement shall report on its activities to the Synod of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand through its appointed deputies."

The past inter-synodical period has seen a slight decline in the movement, with the number of children attending dropping to under 450. However, the total of clubs remaining steady at 17. We are thankful that many members of our churches are willing to give of their time and talents for this work, but would encourage younger men and women, particularly our older youth, to consider getting involved as well!

The National Board currently consists of Paul Lubbers as President, Eddie Van Leeuwen as Vice President, Paula Bangma as Treasurer and Janice Geerlofs as Secretary, all from the Christchurch Presbytery.

Since last Synod, the Counsellors have held three National Conferences, as required in the Constitution. The first was in 2006 at YMCA Camp Adair, in Auckland, the second in 2007 at Blue Skies, Kaiapoi, Christchurch, and just recently in March 2008 at the Boys Brigade Camp, Foxton Beach.

These conferences provide an opportunity for sharing resources, discussing issues that affect the clubs as a whole, and are also put to good use with Counsellor training and Bible study relevant to the needs of the clubs. It is, however, discouraging when many counsellors choose to leave the conference early, particularly when a guest speaker has spent time preparing and given up his Saturday evening to equip the counsellors in their task.

Every three years a national camp is held, this time in January 2006 at Teapot Valley, Nelson. Approximately 270 children, and 329 campers in total, were challenged and encouraged through the activities, fellowship and Bible studies which centred around the theme "Choice 2006", led by Rev Dirk VanGarderen.

Every year the CCC&C is involved in a mission project. Mission 2005 was for the Rahab's Children's Home, Dharwad, India, for which \$6814.00 was raised. In 2006 a total of \$7727.55 was raised to support the New Life Orphanage in Myanmar. Finally, the year 2007 saw the CCC&C supporting the Henry Murray School for the Deaf in Zimbabwe, with a total of \$8844.56 raised during the year.

The committee that puts together the *In Touch* magazine continues to do great work, now in its tenth year. They produce a high quality magazine which includes studies, regular club reports and other items of interest. However, the cost of producing this magazine has been subsidised by the Board for several years now, which is not sustainable in the long-term. Therefore this year the executive voted to increase the page rate to Matrix Typography, recognising that even at the increased rate this work continues to be heavily subsidised, which we deeply appreciate. The subscriptions will also increase to offset a proportion of this price rise.

The ministers of the RCNZ supply studies for *In Touch* and these are greatly appreciated. We continue to encourage ministers to provide these studies when requested, realising that this comes on top of an already heavy workload. Furthermore, if any of the ministers have material they think is suitable, please send it through even if you have not been asked!

The suitability of available material continues to be of some concern, with the original Calvinette material no longer being produced. For a number of years now the Calvinette clubs have been using a combined GEMS/ CALVINETTE manual, but this is also no longer available. The newer GEMS material is not considered as suitable by all clubs, especially in the Bible Study areas. The Board has

been charged with ascertaining the availability of the copyright for the older material with the proposal to reprint this if costs are reasonable. However, should this not be viable, alternative material will need to be sourced or the GEMS material incorporated with some supplemental teaching.

On the whole, most sessions support their clubs, and we are thankful that this work can continue to be done in our churches. Cadet and Calvinette counsellors are committed to their task, and without their dedication this ministry would soon disappear. It is, however, also apparent that some clubs struggle financially, unable to send delegates to the Executive or even at times to meet their ongoing costs. We believe this is a vital ministry in our churches and that sessions ought to be proactive in determining how much financial support their individual club requires.

The CCC&C movement continues to provide a vital ministry within our churches, which incorporates a thoroughly reformed and biblical teaching programme, while at the same developing life skills and friendships. It has also proved to be an effective outreach ministry as community children are drawn in and taught the truths of the gospel, to the praise and glory of God.

On behalf of the Calvinist Cadet Corps and Calvinettes

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Reinier Noppers
CCC&C Synodical Liaison

Recommendations

That Synod

1. *Accept this report.*
2. *Continue to encourage the local churches to prayerfully and financially support their local Cadet and Calvinette Clubs.*
3. *Make available an annual grant of \$500.00 to the CCC&C Board help cover the costs of the IN TOUCH magazine.*
4. *Make available an annual grant of \$1000.00 to the CCC&C Board to assist clubs who struggle financially in sending delegates to the Annual Executive.*