



THE BONAR TRUST

GOSPEL WORKERS  
FOR THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND  
*Development – funding – resourcing – networking*  
www.bonartrust.org

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“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (*Matthew 9:37-38*).

### Key Highlights – August 2022

#### Growth in the work

The Covid pandemic has brought many challenges, yet in God's goodness the work of the Trust continues to grow with many encouragements.

- Training grants awarded / *projected*:

2025-26	100 grants	£500,000 ( <i>projected</i> )
2024-25	90 grants	£425,000 ( <i>projected</i> )
2023-24	80 grants	£350,000 ( <i>projected</i> )
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>69 grants</b>	<b>£304,000 (actual)</b>
2021-22	61 grants	£254,000 (actual)
2020-21	59 grants	£252,000 (actual)
2019-20	43 grants	£192,500 (actual)
2018-19	32 grants	£136,250 (actual)

- For 2022-23, the Trust received over £400,000 of grant applications. Applying the 'Principles for Funding' resulted in a figure of £304,000 which we are able to fund. This figure is almost exactly in line with projected growth.
- The Trust remains on course to reach its 2025 target recurring annual funding level of 100 training grants, totalling £500,000. This is the level we believe will make a sustainable long-term impact for the gospel in Scotland. The 2025 Strategic Plan has the following annual targets: £350,000 (2023-24), £425,000 (2024-25), £500,000 (2025-26). It is hugely encouraging to see growth in training necessitating growth in funding. Yet it presents an exciting challenge.
- To maximise investment in training, the trust operates a matched funding model with the training church. In addition, a commitment from the Bonar Trust to fund is often the catalyst to generating other streams of funding, e.g. personal or patron support and grants from other trusts. At current levels of Bonar Trust funding, the 'overall' annual investment in people training generated is more than £1 million.

#### Developments this year

- With a core conviction to see people trained in Word ministry, the Trust is committed to funding people training across a broad constituency of churches. This year we are pleased to fund people training in independents churches (including a number in the FIEC), Free Church of Scotland, Brethren, Didasko network, Baptist churches, 20 Schemes and others. The Trust is pleased to support people this year training across Scotland, from the Borders to the Western Isles, in cities, rural communities and in some of the poorest communities. People funded by the Trust are training in / for church plants, revitalizations and established churches. Our vision is to invest in the best people in the best training churches, irrespective of their affiliation, network, location, demographic or kind of church is helping to build a national vision for training.
- The number of training churches grows each year. For 2022-23, the Trust is pleased to partner with 9 new training churches: 3 in Edinburgh, 3 in Glasgow, one in Fife and 2 on the Island of Lewis.

- Aligned to the broad constituency and demographic of training churches, is the range of training providers the Trust partners with. At the Apprenticeship level, Cornhill is the main training provider. For 2022-23, the Trust will fund 25 people studying at Cornhill (£82,000 in total / 27% of total Trust funding). At the Leader in Training level, the main training providers are Edinburgh Theological Seminary (ETS) and Cornhill Pastors Training Course. Crosslands Training is a recent and welcome addition, offering a hybrid of distance learning and in-person teaching. For 2022-23, the Trust will fund 16 people at ETS (£75,000 in total / 25% of total Trust funding), 13 at Pastors Training (£76,000 in total / 25% of total Trust funding) and 5 at Crosslands (£29,000 in total / 9% of total Trust funding).
- All of this demonstrates the Trust's commitment to enabling a national vision for training based on generous gospel partnership. We believe this is vital to gospel progress in these challenging times.
- The Trust continues to play a leadership role in the development of training in Scotland: encouraging churches to see training as a priority, establishing the partnership training model between local churches and external training providers (now the established form of ministry training in Scotland) and developing training pathways and programmes. With more and more people supported by the Trust, now in church leadership, the development of training is now being taken forward by a much larger group of people on the ground in churches. This is very important for organic long-term growth. The Trust's vision for gospel workers for the Church in Scotland is to put the training in the hands of local churches in partnership with external training providers. The Trust does not exist to train, but to facilitate training.
- Leaders in Training funded by the Trust meet together annually for a preaching and leadership conference. These are peer groups of around 12. This is an important component in fostering the gospel partnership that will create a wider commitment to training. There are now five groups, with a sixth to be added in 2022-23. A growing team shares the leadership of these conferences.
- Over the past year, the Trust has undertaken a 'Scaling-up Review' covering governance, infrastructure, resilience, leadership, staffing and succession.

## Future plans

- The Trust will be running a 'Training the Trainers' conference on 14 November in partnership with the Free Church of Scotland.
- The Trust is building a new on-line resources hub for training churches. The first phase of this will be completed in the autumn.
- The majority of the Trust's support is from Gospel Patrons, individuals, Trusts or Foundations giving at significant levels for 3-5 years. While this is a strategy we will continue to pursue in raising the needed support, we also want to expand our broad base of supporters. To that end, the Trust is looking to increase its support base by 100 in 2022, and by a further 100 in 2023-24. People will be invited to support the Trust as prayer partners and give £25 a month, joining with others in making a significant difference to the spiritual good of Scotland. This will increase annual support by £30,000. For 2022, the launch year, this will be matched by a generous gift from the Souter Charitable Trust. We are calling this the 2 Timothy 2 Appeal.
- Events for current and future supporters are being planned - more details to follow.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or comments. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Once again, on behalf of the trustees, thank you for your support.

Warmly in Christ,



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