The period between last summer and now has seen some big challenges for Commission.

To clarify, since spring last year the Executive Committee and Trustees of Commission have been discussing a new project which would see Commission creating podcasts, which would range over a wide spectrum of Christian issues in our part of the world, and of course via the net to the rest of the world! A big change from long range short waveband broadcasting, the norm when Commission was founded nearly fifty years ago!

This would be a major change of direction, and some felt that we needed to have someone specifically tasked with making this project work, and paid for a period to kickstart the process by producing the podcast on a regular basis. Commission is highly regarded for the quality of the Bible Drama, and therefore any other “product” needs to be of a high standard. None of the current team have skills in that area. Up until now all producers have been volunteers.

This has been the subject of much debate as not all at Commission were in favour of the project.

As a result, and due also to the tragic deaths of two of our experienced Trustees, Commission has had to find some new key members of the executive team, and replacements for the departed Trustees.

We now have a new treasurer, and hopefully will soon once more have access to the (considerable) resources Commission has accumulated over more than ten years. We also have brought on to Committee a new minutes/secretary and a former team member to facilitate the technical side of this project. Studio 2 is to be upgraded so that it can work “live on line”. Studio 1 (the drama studio) will remain as is.

Whether there will be drama in some form on these new podcasts is still under discussion, but this will require a further producer if we are to keep our Bible drama going as well. And five radio stations still want Commission Bible Drama and broadcast it worldwide. So it is definitely NOT stopping –yet!

Also, our building now needs someone to look after the day to day elements, cleaning, fixing small problems, etc., but also someone to look after things like alarm system contracts, dealing with bigger issues such as electricity and insurance. We are still trying to find someone for these tasks.

Which brings me to the second issue. In early January, I was planning to edit “Miriam” , the last series recorded in late 2022, and complete a new series I’d been working on. However, I developed a trapped nerve in my neck. This was very sore, severely limited my driving ability and has lasted until quite recently. I was also told to stay away from extended computer work! It is easing now but effectively two full months have been lost, hence the delay in starting any new drama.

 We hope to begin casting a new series soon, but it will still take time to complete the post production work needed, script edit new material and all the other things that need updating, such as updating the radio stations which use our programmes, and including this website!

In the meantime, Drew Gibson of our drama team has been working with a small team on an idea for a new children’s series, for which we hope to record a pilot soon; it will be a “magazine” style with a mix of elements - story, song, and speech. It will be 15 minutes long and we hope to produce this on a rolling schedule for Trans World Radio, who have shown an interest in it.

There may be other developments as we go further into the year.

Please remember Commission in your prayers.

Colm Flanagan

Head of Programmes