



Edinburgh 2010 Newsletter - July 2009

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of the Edinburgh 2010 Newsletter. A lot has been achieved during the past four weeks. The Edinburgh 2010 Events Committee met in the Scottish capital to further shape the programme of next year's conference. Our Facebook group is growing, and so are plans for 2010 events around the globe.

This newsletter keeps you up-to-date on new resources, mission events, and all other news related to the Edinburgh movement. Please feel free to forward the information to anyone who might be interested. If you have any news or events you think would be appropriate for inclusion in the Edinburgh 2010 Newsletter please let me know.

Best wishes

Jasmin Adam

Communications Officer
jadam@cofscotland.org.uk

A Unique World Church Project

Edinburgh 2010 is a project of the World Church. It is governed by a General Council made up of 20 representatives from the Evangelical, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Protestant Christian traditions, and has authority to decide all matters of strategy and policy. The project is co-ordinated by an International Director who is employed by the University of Edinburgh.

The governance of Edinburgh 2010, sometimes raised as a question, 'Who owns and is in charge of the project?', is a complex one and continues to be a challenge to those of us closely involved in the project.



The General Council is the supreme body responsible for Edinburgh 2010 and decides its strategy and policy. It was established as an international body and met for the first time in September 2006. It has met twice since, once last year and again in April this year. The council was the product of much careful planning by the Towards 2010 network which started preparation for Edinburgh 2010 in 2000, and it draws its authority from the fact that it represents all the main parts of the worldwide Church family, Evangelical, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Protestant. The General Council has set up an Executive Committee to meet more regularly, together with several committees tasked with carrying out various aspects of Edinburgh 2010.

The General Council is not a legal entity in its own right and as such under UK law (where the project is based) cannot employ staff, or operate a bank account. This created problems that needed to be solved thoroughly. It was considered too difficult to make the General Council into a Trust with its scattered members of Trustees. So the responsibility for employing staff has generously been met by the University of Edinburgh, who employ the International Director, Dr. Daryl Balia, and also by the Church of Scotland who employ the Communications Officer.

Both the University and the Church have insisted that no financial liability whatsoever will be incurred in employing staff. This means that staff costs have to be paid for, and guaranteed, in advance. The University of Edinburgh has agreed to organise the June conference next year under the direction of the General Council's Events Committee. The University's Office of Lifelong Learning will help to administer the conference and will be paid a fee by the project for doing so. The Church of Scotland is acting as banker, gathering in funds, paying invoices, and providing basic management accounts for the project. Again, the Church has made it clear it cannot accept any financial liability for Edinburgh 2010.

It can be seen from this structure of governance that it is crucial to the success of Edinburgh 2010 that the World Church in its various parts accepts responsibility to fund the work adequately. Hence our widespread and ongoing appeal for funds.

It is important to state that Edinburgh 2010 is uniquely a project of the World Church represented by the General Council. It is not solely a project of the World Council of Churches (WCC), nor of the Church of Scotland, nor of the University of Edinburgh. It should be pointed out that this project is, of course, of limited duration and will come to a close soon after the June celebration next year.

Rev. Andrew Anderson
Chairman of the General Council
andrew@pilrig.fsnet.co.uk

A Look Back



One hundred years ago missionary leaders from around the world travelled to the very Northwest of Europe. They met in the Scottish city of Edinburgh to explore and discuss perceptions and strategies of evangelization. The outcomes of this gathering changed the life of many people around the world, and laid the foundations for the Protestant ecumenical movement.

But why of all cities did this unique event happen in Edinburgh, and not in one of the bigger European or North American capitals like London, Paris or New York? The records of the 1910 conference help us to find an answer to this question:

"Edinburgh was a fitting place of meeting. In the earlier missionary enterprise which evangelised Europe no country was more prominent than Scotland, and no country has in proportion to its size contributed to the evangelisation of the world during the last century so large a number of distinguished and devoted missionaries. The beauties of the capital of Scotland, as well as the romance of history clinging to its ancient castle and palace and buildings, made it an attractive gathering-place for those from other lands; the hospitality of its citizens transformed the city for them into a Christian home; and the bright sunshine, which was broken only by a brief thunderstorm one afternoon, enhanced the welcome of the city and the comfort of the members in attending the meetings." (*The History and Records of the Conference. World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh 1910*)

Although a small country, Scotland had played a leading role in the development of the missionary movement. Its capital is not only nicknamed the "Auld Reekie" (Scottish for Old Smoky), but also the "Athens of the North" recognizing Edinburgh's importance during the Enlightenment. As Ken Ross, Council Secretary for the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, points out, "it had produced such inspirational figures as Alexander Duff and David Livingstone. Scottish missionary work in such places as

Calcutta, Bombay, Lovedale and Livingstonia was widely respected. So missionary leaders from around the world accepted the invitation to travel to Edinburgh for the conference." (WM 28)

In less than one year's time we will celebrate and commemorate the legacy of the World Missionary Conference. Like in 1910 missionary leaders will be invited to Edinburgh for a five-day conference. In 2010 the celebrations will not be limited to Edinburgh however. Thanks to the internet people from all over the world will be able to follow the celebrations online. With the help of our soon to be published Participation Guide Christians of all traditions are invited to organise local 2010 events, thus making Edinburgh 2010 a truly global movement in the name of Christ.

What's New?

Events Committee Meeting in Edinburgh



On 23 and 24 June the Events Committee met in sunny and hot Edinburgh to further shape the programme of the 2010 conference. The meeting was attended by members of local churches and the University, as well as representatives of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). Guided by decisions of the General Council the remit of the Events Committee is to plan the content and flow of the 2010 conference. Administrative support will be given by the Office of Lifelong Learning at the University of Edinburgh.

The 2010 conference takes place from 2 to 6 June at Pollock Halls in Edinburgh. 250 delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the past, present and future of Christian mission. These delegates will be appointed by the stakeholders of the General Council and the Study Process Monitoring Group to assure that both academics and people with a practical interest in mission are part of the convention. Stakeholders were asked to send delegates according to a quota that reflects the picture of today's World Christianity: 60% of delegates should be coming from the Global South, 50% should be women and 20% younger than 30 years of age.

The spiritual ethos of the conference focuses on elements of thanksgiving, penitence and commitment. The hope of the Events Committee is that serious theological reflection will come out of the conference as well as go into it. Beginning with worship and bible study the daily schedule at Pollock Halls commences with three working sessions on the various mission themes and transversals. Each day closes with an evening prayer led by representatives of different denominations.

On Sunday the 250 delegates will spread out to local churches, not only to take part in worship but also to start diffusing their experience and knowledge gained during the past four days. The conference then culminates in three hour worship at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh where delegates will be joined by local and international guests. At least 850 tickets for interested visitors will be available from the Edinburgh offices by the end of this year. The details of ticket release will be published in the newsletter, on facebook and on our website.

By live streaming the Edinburgh 2010 event on the internet the message will hopefully be heard in Christian communities around the globe. The Events Committee hereby invites everyone to join the celebrations by watching online, organising local 2010 events, or simply by praying for our common cause: Witnessing to Christ Today.

How can YOU be part of Edinburgh 2010?

Edinburgh 2010 is more than just a single conference that is taking place in Scotland. It is a movement and series of events that hopefully reaches Christian communities all over the world.



The Global Events Committee wants to invite YOU to be part of the 2010 movement. You can pray for the project, watch the Edinburgh celebrations online, or even organise a 2010 event in your local community. The hope is that next June people in Asia, Africa, America, Europe and Australia are all reflecting on what it means to witness to Christ today. Further information will be provided in our newsletter and on the website.

The Global Events Committee was established in April 2009 by the General Council to coordinate and link up events in the Edinburgh 2010 spirit. Edgar Ruddock (USPG), Ruth Padilla De Borst (Latin American Theological Fellowship), Roger Schmidt (Lutheran World Federation) and Jasmin Adam (Communications Officer) are part of this team. Via Skype and online discussions the committee is currently working on a detailed participation guide. The guide will be available as download from the Edinburgh 2010 website in as many languages as possible.



Facebook Discussion Board

More than 140 members have already joined the Edinburgh 2010 facebook group making it a place where people from different Christian traditions meet and share ideas. Members discuss "Forms of Missionary Engagement" and the website relaunch, or send greetings from Zambia and Greece. From September onwards our facebook group will be a platform for an online consultation on the nine study themes, hosted by the Edinburgh 2010 Youth Committee. To access the online consultation, or to join the Edinburgh 2010 group on facebook, just click on the link or search for Edinburgh 2010.

Study Process Update

Heart in Seoul: Study group nine's adventure so far

"Mission spirituality and authentic discipleship" wasn't a theme that was directly discussed in Edinburgh 2010, a fact which presents both challenge and opportunity for members of study group nine. Having honed the theme down to an essential two-part question, that being "What motivates and sustains mission?", the core group members, Dr. Cathy Ross, Dr. Wonsuk Ma, Dr. Thomas Harvey and Naomi Rose, travelled to Seoul, South Korea for a consultation on the topic.

During this consultation, held over two days in March, ten people presented papers on the study theme, including participants from Bulgaria, Kenya, India, China, Korea, the Philippines and the United States. Youngnak Presbyterian Church provided superb hospitality for the event. Each presenter was given 35 minutes to represent their paper, which was followed by 15 minutes of feedback and questions. At the conclusion of the consultation, everyone was asked to revisit their papers and incorporate the suggestions made during the feedback time.

Since that inspiring time together in March, the four core group members, who are all based in Oxford, England, have received more papers from around the globe and have set out to compile all the contributions into the required 10,000 word document for Edinburgh 2010. "I think we all came away from the Korea consultation feeling energized by the variety of ideas shared," says core group member Naomi Rose. "Now the challenge is to distil all the information and opinions and come up with a truly international response to the question of what motivates and sustains mission."

Events & Opportunities



27-29 January 2010

Church and Mission in a Multireligious Third Millennium - International Conference

Venue: Aarhus University (Denmark)

Just a wee reminder: Aarhus University, the Faculty of Theology, and the Danish Centre for Contemporary Religion, are bringing together outstanding theologians, missiologists and others from various contexts to analyse current and future challenges in the study of mission. Denmark is ideally located to facilitate a discussion between different traditions, the Nordic, the Continental and the Anglo-American. Papers are invited (5,000-6,000 words) in one of the four main themes of the Conference:

1. Ecclesiology and Mission, 2. Church and renewal for the third millennium, 3. Church in cyberspace, 4. The future of missiology. All proposals for papers will be peer-reviewed by an international committee. Participants with accepted papers will be exempt from paying the conference fee.

The deadline for proposals (300 words) is October 15. For further information please visit the conference website at <http://www.teo.au.dk/churchandmission>.



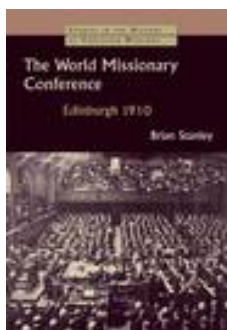
16-25 October 2010

Cape Town 2010

Venue: Cape Town (South Africa)

The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 16-25 October 2010. The Congress, held in collaboration with the World Evangelical Alliance, will bring together 4,000 leaders from more than 200 countries to confront the critical issues of our time – other world faiths, poverty, HIV/AIDS, persecution, among others - as they relate to the future of the Church and world evangelization. In addition, thousands more will participate virtually in the Lausanne Global Conversation and Cape Town GlobalLink before, during and after the Congress. Find out how you can participate in Cape Town 2010 by visiting the event website at <http://www.teo.au.dk/churchandmission>.

New Mission Resources



An Engaging Summation of the 1910 Conference

The World Missionary Conference. Edinburgh 1910

Brian Stanley

(2009), ISBN: 978-1-870345-73-6

The World Missionary Conference in 1910 was a defining event in the history of world missions. Brian Stanley here presents his careful research revealing the compelling story of this turbulent, influential gathering in Edinburgh. This book is both an account of the conference itself and an examination of the Protestant missionary movement as it neared the apex of its size and influence. The World Missionary Conference:

Edinburgh 1910 is an engaging summation of, in Stanley's own words, "the many-sided legacy of the Edinburgh conference, not simply for the history of the ecumenical movement but also for Christian missions and the wider field of Christian discourse on questions of race and culture."

Brian Stanley is the newly-appointed Professor of World Christianity and Director of the Centre for the Study of World Christianity, at the University of Edinburgh, School of Divinity. For further information please visit the publisher's website.

Pray with us

You are invited to join in prayer with all those who look with faith and hope towards the events of Edinburgh 2010.

Take time to listen to the Word of God.

'God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
that everyone who has faith in him
may not die but have eternal life.
It was not to judge the world
that God sent his Son into the world,
but that through him the world might be saved.'
(John 3:16)



To ponder that Word, the source of Mission, and to pray

Almighty and Most Holy Trinity,
We give you thanks for the powerful love which sent Jesus into the world.

Clear the darkness from our hearts and minds, fill us with that power of love,
Make us ready to be sent, in his name and for his mission, everyday.

Amen