



Edinburgh 2010 Newsletter - August 2009

Dear Reader,

Edinburgh 2010 provides a lot of opportunities to engage yourself in mission related topics. The **Study Process** is well on its way, but still welcoming new contributors. Our **website** is changing and growing on a daily basis, offering background information on past and future **events** in the Edinburgh 2010 spirit. This September a **Youth Online Consultation** about Edinburgh 2010 themes takes over our **facebook group**, and will hopefully inspire young people from all over the world to witness to Christ today.

Our newsletter keeps you up-to-date on new resources, mission events, and all other news related to Edinburgh 2010. 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 our newsletter please let me know.

The next edition of the Edinburgh 2010 Newsletter will be published on September 10.

Kind regards

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Communications Officer
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A new Paradigm for Mission

An Interview with Dr. Daryl Balia, International Director of Edinburgh 2010

Dr. Balia took up his position of directing the Edinburgh 2010 project in 2007. He holds degrees in theology and public administration which he studied in his native South Africa, Germany and the United States. An ordained minister of the Methodist Church, he also taught missiology for ten years and worked in Nelson Mandela's government for seven years promoting public ethics and national integrity.



Dr. Balia, you are the International Director of Edinburgh 2010. What exactly is your task?

It depends on when the question is asked as my tasks continuously evolve. When I assumed duties in April 2007, as project manager, it essentially involved setting up an elaborate project infrastructure to operate within the university system but broad enough to attract global interest from churches and mission agencies around the world. Over the past two years I think we have succeeded in generating a strong level of interest in our study process which is meant to underpin preparations for the 2010 conference.

Much more could have been done, of course, had more resources been secured but we've had to compete with a wide range of interests and agendas at a time of economic recession and mission fatigue. Many of our study consultations are taking place at this time, and we shall publish a comprehensive volume of essays on all our themes by the end of this year.

And what have you done before taking up this position?

I moved to the UK in 2005, first to work for an interfaith organisation in Oxford, and later at the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies in Birmingham before coming to Edinburgh. I used up a lot of my spare time here to finish a book on fighting corruption which has just been published by SPCK. The book deals a lot with my work in moral regeneration in the Mandela government in South Africa, which is still home for me.

Why is Edinburgh 2010 such a special project for you?

I was a student participant at the 75th anniversary celebrations which were held in Edinburgh in 1985, but even before that, my grandfather's pastor, the Rev. John Rungiah, was himself a delegate at the 1910 conference and he came to Edinburgh from my home village. So much for the nostalgia bit, but what really excites me about Edinburgh 2010 is our hope to develop a new paradigm for mission in the 21st century. I don't think we live in a world where one cap can fit all, but I am confident of a very diverse gathering of people from almost all the representative stands of Christianity to meet and reflect together on how best to respond to God's Mission for our generation.

A Look Back

Who attended the 1910 World Missionary Conference?

In June 1910 more than 1,000 delegates were invited to Edinburgh to take part in one of the most defining gatherings in the entire history of Christianity. In his book *Edinburgh 2010: Springboard for Mission* Ken Ross describes the background of attendees:

"176 missionary societies and boards sent delegations - 59 from North America, 58 from the Continent, 47 from the United Kingdom, and 12 from South Africa and Australia. The delegates were overwhelmingly British (500) and American (500). Representatives from continental Europe were a small minority (170). Very few (though very significant) were the delegates from the 'younger churches' of India, China and Japan. There were no African participants nor were there any from Latin America nor from the Pacific Islands.

It was an entirely Protestant event. No one was invited from the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Churches (though correspondence was sympathetically received). The Pentecostal movement which was beginning at this time was also underrepresented. The participants were overwhelmingly male despite the fact that women were already making a massive contribution to the missionary movement. While the participants were struck by their diversity, from a longer historical perspective it is striking how limited was their range. Such was the impact of the event, however, that it stimulated the imagination to think of a still more widely representative gathering. Wardlaw Thompson of the London Missionary Society confessed: 'I long for the time when we shall see another Conference, and when men of the Greek Church and the Roman Church shall talk things over with us in the service of Christ.'"

In 2010 the World Church invited more than **250 delegates** to gather in Edinburgh - many more will be able to participate virtually or attend one of the many **local events**. The stakeholders of Edinburgh 2010 committed themselves to appoint as delegates 60% from the global south, 50% women, and 20% under the age of 30. By implementing this policy the General Council wants to ensure that World Christianity is represented accordingly.



What's New?

Edinburgh 2010 East Africa Conference Statement

From 26 to 28 May 2009 an ecumenical team of 46 Church leaders, theologians, scholars, clergy and lay people from East Africa met at the Carmelite Community Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference was the culmination of a year long study process on one of the Edinburgh 2010 themes, "Christian Communities in Contemporary Contexts". The conference statement is now available [online](#).

Cuba Conference Statement

From 22 to 26 June representatives of churches and ecumenical organisations from 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries met in Matanzas, Cuba, for a Commemorative Conference of the 80th Anniversary of the Hispano-American Evangelical Congress of Havana. The Cuban Council of Churches and other organisations had invited to discuss the conference theme, "Towards a transformative mission and evangelization of the Latin American Protestant churches at the beginning of the 21st century". To read the conference statement please follow this [link](#).

Youth Online Consultation



The Edinburgh 2010 Youth invites you to take part in an Online Consultation about the nine study themes. Our [Facebook group](#) will serve as platform for this consultation, which starts on September 16 with a discussion about the following topics: Foundations for Mission, Christian Mission among other Faiths, Mission and Postmodernities. For more information follow this [link](#) or download the [event flyer](#).

Follow us on Twitter!



The latest Edinburgh 2010 news are now available on Twitter. Twitter is an internet service for friends and colleagues to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? So tell us what you do, follow tweets about 2010 resources and events, tweet back and start tweeting with each other. To follow us on Twitter please click [here](#).

Study Process Update

'Sinking Foundations': Some Groundwork for Theme 1

In 1910, the obligations of world mission were taken for granted by Western churches. One hundred years later it is a different matter. A British and Irish contribution to Theme 1 - Foundations for mission - played on that altered state of affairs at a conference, '[Sinking Foundations](#)'. The ambivalence of the title was intentional. During a time of reconstruction, European Christians need to excavate secure groundwork to justify their place in the emerging global Christian movement.

The July conference was part of a wider consultation, jointly sponsored by groups of ecumenical, evangelical and academic students of mission, seeking to identify the beliefs which drive missionary engagement in and from these islands, and how far these beliefs actually shape the way this engagement is pursued. The study has three parts, and the conference met to reflect upon findings so far. First, an

analysis of the websites of mission agencies and promoters examined how they present their cause; secondly a questionnaire sought to identify the way church and mission leaders are thinking about key issues in contemporary mission – justice and reconciliation, the kingdom of God, evangelism and salvation, proclamation, development and the poor, other faiths, the hope of heaven and the role of the church; and then thirdly, the results of this survey were followed up with representative interviews teasing out how mission by British and Irish Christians is being reconfigured.

What the study has shown so far is that reverberations within Western churches rumble on in different attitudes to their missionary task, along with a general reluctance among Christians to confront those differences. The conference began to weigh the characteristics of three approaches to mission – participation in the *Missio Dei*, a primacy given to proclamation, and hopes for transformation through the gospel. There will be much of interest in the results of the empirical survey with which the study began, but their significance should ultimately be measured by how far they help drill down into theological 'Foundations for Mission' which Edinburgh 1910 did not feel itself able or required to expose.

Rev. Dr. Philip H.E. Thomas
BIAMS Study Secretary

Events & Opportunities

22 September 2009

Book launch party at the Centre for the Study of World Christianity

Time: 4.30-6.00pm, Venue: New College, Edinburgh (UK)

New College and the Centre for the Study of World Christianity invite you to the launch of the two latest books on Edinburgh 2010.

Edinburgh 2010. Mission Then and Now, edited by David A. Kerr and Kenneth R. Ross, is the first book to systematically examine the eight Commissions which reported to Edinburgh 1910 and gave the conference much of its substance and enduring value. **The World Missionary Conference. Edinburgh 1910** by Brian Stanley is likely to become the standard academic study of the epoch-making 1910 conference. The launch party starts at 4.30 pm in Rainy Hall, **New College, Edinburgh**. Refreshments will be provided. To register for the event, please contact Jasmin Adam on 0131 2255722 or email at **jadam (at) cofscotland.org.uk**.



3 October 2009

Roots and Fruits: Retrieving Scotland's Missionary Story

Time: 10am-4pm, Venue: New College, Edinburgh (UK)

The **Towards 2010 network** invites you to the third of three Day Conferences on the Scottish context of Edinburgh 1910. Speakers include Rose Dowsett ("The Evangelisation of the World in this Generation"), Stephen Smyth ("The Gift of the Scottish Experience of Ecumenism") and Andrew Walls ("Scotland and Mission 1709-2009"). The conference fee of £10 includes the cost of a buffet lunch. If you wish to attend the Towards 2010 conference, please contact Rev. John Wylie at **info@towards2010.org.uk**.

11-13 June 2010

Conference on World Christianity - Call for Papers

Venue: Liverpool Hope University (UK)

The Andrew F. Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity at Liverpool Hope University is pleased to announce its third annual conference on World Christianity from 11 to 13 June 2010. The organisers invite paper and panel proposals on a specific topic related to the theme of the conference, "Christian Unity in Mission and Service". Full panel and individual paper proposals are due on or before Friday, 18 December 2009. For further information please visit our [events section](#).

New Mission Resources

A Springboard for Mission?

Edinburgh 2010: Springboard for Mission

By Kenneth R. Ross

(2009), ISBN: 978-0-86585-008-8



The World Missionary Conference of Edinburgh 1910 was an epoch-making event. *Edinburgh 2010: Springboard for Mission* provides an overview of the momentous 1910 conference and analyzes the many streams of development in global Christianity which flowed from the first Edinburgh conference. This primer on the importance of Edinburgh 1910 and the forthcoming 2010 conference looks both at the achievements and downfalls of the past as well as pushes the Christian mission movement forward to the future. As Kenneth Ross writes in this volume, "the centenary of Edinburgh 1910 is an occasion which challenges the global missionary movement to re-gather and take stock again of how it stands in relation to its task."

Time has come for the mission movement to gain new momentum and definition for the task ahead. Edinburgh 2010 truly has the potential to serve as a new springboard for mission.

By kind permission of the publishers, William Carey International University Press, this publication is also available for download [here](#). For more information visit the [publisher's](#) website or follow this [link](#).

Evangelisches Missionswerk Yearbook 2009

Jahrbuch 2009 - Mission erfüllt?

Published by Missionshilfeverlag

(2009), available in German only



The 1910 World Missionary Conference was a once-in-a-hundred-years event. The conference made a huge impact on churches all over the world, and laid the foundations for the modern ecumenical movement as well as initiatives like IMC and national consistories. The centenary of the conference has given reason to critically discuss what mission means today. The **EMW** Yearbook 2009 takes a look at the history and future of mission, the ongoing international study process and explains the Edinburgh 2010 study themes. Please note this publication is available in German only. 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.

'They set off privately by boat for a lonely place.
But many saw them leave
and recognised them and came round by land,
hurrying from all the towns towards the place,
and arrived there first.
When Jesus came ashore, he saw a great crowd,
and his heart went out to them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd,
and he had much to teach them.'

Mark 6:32-34



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

Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to see as you see. Inspire us with your own Spirit of compassion and love. May our hearts too go out to the many who today seek safety, healing, assurance and purpose in life. Call us again as your disciples to learn together your way of mission. Enable us to reverence and encourage all those who live with faith in your presence and celebrate your glory. Together we will praise you.

Amen