

**REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008**

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd”. Mt 9:36

The word compassion carries the idea of *feeling* in the pit of the stomach. John brings out a similar idea saying – *“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”* 1Jo 3:17. In many ways evangelism is the out-working of a heart that is moved with compassion. The multitude is seen as weary, scattered, and in need. Compassion opens the heart to try and meet that need.

The Evangelism Committee has been exploring ways in which the Church can meet the needs of those who have no commitment to Christ Jesus. At the 2007 General Assembly the Committee gave an appeal to congregations to write for assistance to the Committee to help them explore ways of reaching out to their local area. One congregation responded to this call by arranging a day conference with myself and Mrs Laura Mackenzie [our Youth worker] as well as a meeting of the Session with myself and Rev A Ford to look at ways of continuing ministry and evangelism during a time of ‘vacancy’.

One idea discussed was the possibility of encouraging congregations who do not have a minister to consider bringing in someone to assist them in evangelism. It was felt such a person could benefit the congregation in various ways and possibly be involved in preaching and encouraging the congregation in evangelism.

Apprenticeship Scheme

Mention was made of the ‘Apprenticeship scheme’ which enables people to train in evangelism. In one scheme the Apprentice is fully supported by the local congregation both in evangelism and in Biblical study. Such developments in the UK have not only challenged young people but also been fruitful for the church. Could some of our own young people be encouraged to assist in evangelism on this type of scheme? Home-grown evangelists!

Evangelist

The Committee is still discussing the possibility of employing a person who would enable and encourage not only individual congregations in the work of outreach, but also the wider Church.

Distance Learning.

The Distance Learning course on Evangelism [ICC] One young person has started the course this year and another person is considering doing the Module. If anyone is interested please write to the committee.

The Living Room.

The Committee supported in the outreach work in Drumchapel by funding Mr James Haram for six months. The Drumchapel congregation is very grateful for the support given not only from the committee but also from the wider Church.

In the name of the Committee

ROBERT O OWENS
GRAHAM G BROWN
JOHN O FULTON

Convener
Vice Convener
Secretary