

## REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009

*“A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.”*  
1 Corinthians 16 v 9

*“Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”* Ephesians 5 v 16

In Revelation chapter 3, we read about the church in Philadelphia, and, unlike others, that church did not receive any rebuke. Instead, there was encouragement to keep on keeping on. There is acknowledgement that they have little strength, and that, from a worldly perspective, they might not think that they have much to offer. However, there is the encouragement that, in front of them is an open door through which they are expected to pass.

Such thinking is surely relevant to ourselves today. We are but a small denomination. Many people in our congregations might feel that they have nothing to offer in the way of reaching out to other people. But as the old saying goes, “little is much when God is in it.” Could it be that there are many doors of opportunity that we might share the good news of the Gospel of Christ with others? Are there not areas in which we can serve the Lord if we will but go forward in His strength?

### THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has spent time discussing the purpose of its existence. The belief is that the function of the denominational Evangelism Committee includes the need to support, encourage and equip local congregations in mission and evangelism. Congregations need to be encouraged to look at the communities in which they are placed and to discover the connections which already exist. There is also the challenge which needs to be issued to congregations regarding how they might build new links with their communities in order to communicate the Gospel.

There is a strong belief that congregations need to be encouraged in this work. We believe that evangelism can become almost automatic as people allow the Lord to work in their lives. The Committee is aware of the need to impact and inspire congregations. There is a great danger that all our energy is spent on keeping the institution going, when our commission is to spread the good news of Jesus with other people.

### SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM

The School of Evangelism took place over six sessions during the last winter. The Committee has been pleased to learn of the interest shown and would wish to thank everyone who has been involved in any way. The challenge, though, is that what has been shared might be an encouragement regarding the need to share the message of salvation with a needy world.

### ICC COURSE

It is understood that only one person is actively following the course in evangelism which was produced by St John’s College, Nottingham, and which is offered by the International Christian College in Glasgow. There is a feeling that some people might find the coursework rather heavy. However, the Committee believe that people in leadership should be encouraged to consider the course, and if there is a more positive response,

opportunities could be provided for participants to meet together to share experiences. The Committee believes that the ICC course could be used as a follow-up to the School of Evangelism for those interested.

## **COURSES IN EVANGELISM**

The Committee has recently considered the following courses in detail:

### **i) Blowing your Cover**

This is a unique and fresh approach to evangelism, which is designed to equip and release churches to confidently share their faith in a natural way. "Blowing your Cover" is designed to allow you to add your stories, your personality and your flavour of church into the course and to make it your own.

This course uses a number of video clips, and there is also plenty of scope for input from local leaders. There is material for leaders to use and workbooks for participants. People are allowed to think about what suits them best, and also to pray for those with whom they naturally come into contact.

### **ii) Heralds Trust**

Heralds Trust offer a number of resources including their ['Each one bring one' programme which involves a week of mission](#) in a local church or group of churches and ['Prepare2share' weekends](#) which are residential and [aimed at helping people in the local church to prepare for mission](#) and evangelism. Grants may also be available from "Heralds Trust" to assist people to attend these residential courses.

## **EVANGELISTIC RESOURCES**

The Committee is grateful to Rev Archie Ford for his input in sharing his thoughts on some resources which are available to assist us in evangelism.

## **ASSISTANCE IN EVANGELISM**

The Committee continues to discuss the possibility of employing someone who would be available to enable and encourage individual congregations as well as the whole church in the task of mission and evangelism.

## **LINKS WITH CONGREGATIONS**

### **i) Drumchapel**

There continue to be encouragements at the Living Room where James Haram and Laura MacKenzie continue to serve. We pray for the ongoing work of making contacts with individuals and sharing the Gospel with them.

### **ii) Perth**

Communication has been received from the Interim-Moderator of Perth asking about the possibility of them having a part-time person to assist them in reaching out to their community. The Committee is conferring with the Presbytery of the North, the Ministry Committee and the kirk session and congregation at Perth.

The Committee has a burden for all the congregations within our denomination, not simply those listed here. We regard ourselves as a resource in evangelism and would invite congregations to make contact if they feel in need of support and encouragement. We are here to assist you.

In the name of the Committee

GRAHAM G BROWN

JAMES D NEIL

JOHN O FULTON

Convener

Vice-convener

Secretary