

## **INTRODUCTION TO E2010**

### **- MEDIA -**

#### **What is Edinburgh 2010?**

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Edinburgh 2010 is an inter-denominational project set up to commemorate the centenary of the Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference, and to provide new perspectives on Christian mission today.

In June 1910, the city of Edinburgh hosted one of the most defining and most long-remembered gatherings in the history of Christianity. The World Missionary Conference drew together more than 1,200 Christians from many mainly Protestant churches to think strategically about the worldwide mission of the Christian church. Participants recognised the need to move beyond colonialism and to welcome the birth and maturing of independent and self-governing churches around the world.

Although there were neither Catholic nor Orthodox delegates present, Edinburgh 1910 is considered to be the birthplace of the modern ecumenical movement. Concerned with advancing co-operation and unity in the study and practice of mission, its most significant achievement was that it raised the vision of the Church as a global reality.

In 1910 Edinburgh was chosen as a conference venue since Scotland had an importance in worldwide mission out of all proportion to its size. The country has produced some of the most celebrated figures in the modern missionary movement: Alexander Duff, David Livingstone and Mary Slessor, to name just a few. And it had established some of the most highly regarded centres of mission work, such as Lovedale in South Africa, Livingstonia in Malawi and the Scottish educational institutions in India.

## **Edinburgh 2010 Study Process & Conference**

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Growing out of 1910, Edinburgh 2010 is a truly global and truly ecumenical project and event. The project is governed by a General Council, made up of 20 representatives of the mainline Protestant, Pentecostal, Evangelical, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christian traditions (see attachment 1: stakeholders). Apart from this international body, many groups and organisations are involved on a local level, including an inter-denominational Scottish coordinating team.

Like in 1910 a study process is at the heart of the project. For the past three years study groups have been working on nine main study themes and seven 'transversal' themes (see attachment 2). Participants of the study process have met for conferences and workshops in places like India, Korea, Germany, West Africa and Bolivia, and are using the Edinburgh 2010 website ([www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)) as a platform for discussion and exchange.

The study process will peak in a five-day conference and celebration, to be held at Pollock Halls in Edinburgh from 2-6 June 2010. Each of the nine main study groups has produced a final report, which has been published as *Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today* (Regnum Books, 2010), edited by Daryl Balia & Kirsteen Kim. This publication forms the raw material for discussion at the conference (see Further Information & Conference Preparation).

At the conference, 100 representatives of the study process will come together and be joined by 200 mission leaders from all over the world. Both the study groups and 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 promoting this policy the General Council has endeavoured that the 'world church' is represented properly.

The conference will conclude with an inspirational celebration on Sunday 6 June. This will be held in the General Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, the historic venue of the 1910 World Missionary Conference. Delegates and 900 local and international visitors will come together to celebrate. The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, will be the guest preacher leading the event together with representatives of other Christian traditions.

## **Follow the Conference Online**

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The aim of the project is a serious, in-depth interaction on both the present and future of Christian mission in different contexts across the world and on specific missiological themes. After all the international preparation and the conference itself, it is hoped the initiative will develop into a global conversation. Christians all over the world are invited to share their thoughts on mission on the Edinburgh 2010 website ([www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)), and to engage in our growing facebook group (Edinburgh 2010 – Witnessing to Christ Today) and twitter community (edinburgh2010).

During the conference, papers, documents, photos, and videos will be made available on the website to a broader public. The facebook group and twitter stream will be used to give immediate updates on key discussions and conference developments. The Sunday Celebrations will be streamed live on the Edinburgh 2010 website ([www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)) to make it accessible to Christians all over the world.

Moreover, the stakeholders of Edinburgh 2010 encourage Christians worldwide to set up inter-denominational events on mission. Already several events are planned for 2010 in the UK, Boston, Tokyo, Cape Town and elsewhere. Local celebrations of mission can be at any time of the year 2010, or on 6 June to link with others around the world. An up-to-date list of events is available here: [www.edinburgh2010.org/en/events.html](http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/events.html)

## **Further Information & Conference Preparation**

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The Edinburgh 2010 website offers a wealth of material on the past, present and future of Christian mission. In the 'study process' and 'resources' sections, papers written by members of the nine study groups, books (as full text download), flyers, posters, videos, and prayers can be accessed and downloaded for free. Some of the material is available in a number of languages including Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and French.

In the past three years each of the nine E2010 study groups has produced a report. These reports form the raw material for discussion at the conference, and have been published as *Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today* (Regnum Books, 2010), edited by Daryl Balia & Kirsteen Kim.

Three booklets giving background to Edinburgh 2010, a digest of the study theme reports, and information about the transversal topics have been written by Kenneth R. Ross and published by William Carey International University Press. Other background to the conference is found in Brian Stanley, *The World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh 1910* (Wm B. Eerdmans, 2009); David Kerr and Kenneth Ross, *Edinburgh 2010: Mission Then and Now* (Regnum Books, 2009); and Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross, *Atlas of Global Christianity* (Edinburgh University Press, 2009).

A list of books and the full text of most of these publications can be found here:

<http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/books.html>

Attachment 1:

**Stakeholders of Edinburgh 2010 and their representatives**

African Independent Churches (Prof. Joseph Otubu)

Anglican Communion (Rev. John Kafwanka)

Asian Pentecostal Society (Dr. Julie Ma)

Baptist World Alliance

Church of Scotland (Rev. Andrew Anderson)

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (Rev. Canon Edgar Ruddock)

Council for World Mission (Dr. Des van der Water)

International Association for Mission Studies (Dr. Cathy Ross)

International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (Femi Adeleye)

Latin American Theological Fellowship (Mrs. Ruth Padilla-De Borst)

Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation (Rev. Blair Carlson)

Lutheran World Federation (Rev. Roger Schmidt)

Orthodox Churches (Prof. Petros Vassiliadis)

Roman Catholic Church (Ms Maria Aranzazu Aguado Arrese)

Seventh Day Adventist Church (Dr. Ganoune Diop)

World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Ms Jet den Hollander)

World Council of Churches (Ms Anastasia Vasileiadou)

World Evangelical Alliance (Mrs. Rose Dowsett)

World Methodist Council (Bishop Heinrich Bolleter)

World Student Christian Federation (Rev. Michael Wallace)

Attachment 2:

## **Study Themes and 'Transversals'**

### Study Themes

1. Foundations for mission
2. Christian mission among other faiths
3. Mission and postmodernities
4. Mission and power
5. Forms of missionary engagement
6. Theological education and formation
7. Christian communities in contemporary contexts
8. Mission and unity – ecclesiology and mission
9. Mission spirituality and authentic discipleship

### Transversals

Transversals are important themes which run like a thread across all the main study themes.

1. Women and mission
2. Youth and mission
3. Reconciliation and healing
4. Bible and mission, mission in the Bible
5. Contextualization, inculturation and dialogue of worldviews
6. Subaltern voices
7. Ecological perspectives in mission