

News Release

COUNTDOWN TO WHEN HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

THE eyes of the world will be on Edinburgh from June 2 to 6 when Christians from around the globe come to the capital to commit themselves to witnessing to Christ.

Christian traditions from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical and Pentecostal churches will emerge and work out a common vision for mission in the 21st century.

The 2010 Conference marks the 100th anniversary of the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh. The 1910 Conference brought together Christians from different churches to think about the worldwide mission of the Christian church.

Edinburgh 1910 represented the Northern-based Protestant mission movement of the day. But today, however, no one conference in any one place can do justice to the diverse mosaic and richness of local Christian communities seeking to live out the Gospel in their contexts.

According to Ruth Padilla DeBorst, the General Secretary of the Latin American Theological Fellowship, Edinburgh 2010 is vital because “Our world is groaning under the stress of violence and injustice, poverty and hopelessness, HIV/AIDS and ecological degradation. Yet God's reconciling, healing work has not ceased. And God's people here, there and everywhere are called together to be part of that mission.”

The celebration of Edinburgh 2010 and the process leading towards it will be different from the Edinburgh 1910 Conference. Rather than being centred in Edinburgh, a polycentric approach is being taken, both for the study process and for 2010 events which will take place in many locations around the world including Edinburgh. Instead of being confined to the North Atlantic, there is an intentional bias to the South, recognising that Christianity's centre of gravity has moved markedly southwards during the past century. The process aims to be truly worldwide in its scope and show gender and age balance.

Edinburgh 2010 invites Christians worldwide to gather ecumenically in their locality and hold celebration of mission during June.

On the final day of the conference delegates are expected to be joined by 900 local and international visitors for worship. This international and inter-denominational service will be streamed live on the website www.edinburgh2010.org.

There is already a global discussion set on Facebook, Twitter and the Edinburgh 2010 website (www.edinburgh2010.org).

Ends

Note to news desks:

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