

Annexes for Mission Scotland report

Annex 1 Interview Notes

The following individuals were interviewed as part of the research undertaken for this report. Each contribution was extremely valuable and helped to shape and from the nature of this report.

Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive of the Bible Society in Scotland; Mission Scotland Board Member

Ruth Walker, Senior Director of Customer Experience, Scottish Enterprise; Mission Scotland Board Member

Fiona MacDonald, formerly St Pauls and St Georges Church, Edinburgh; Mission Scotland Board Member

Jill Morrison, Dietician; Mission Scotland Board Member

Fred Drummond, Evangelical Alliance Scotland, Mission Scotland Board Member

Peter Neilson, Mission Consultant

Paul and Esther Ede, Urban Expression, Glasgow

Thoughts from Interviews

These are some thoughts that have arisen from the interviews undertaken during this research.

- What is mission? Mission Scotland has a defined mission statement which is open to varying interpretations and differing emphasis.
- Mission Scotland needs strategies to connect... to whom... from where to what?
- What is the main focus of people's lives in 21st century? For some it's work places. Mark Greens' work plays an important role here – this could be supported and built upon in Scotland as a starting point for mission?
- For some it's round the dinner table with a good bottle of wine – conversing about issues - topical issues, difficult issues – but for Christians there needs to be some kind of un-biased place to work out how to think about relevant issues – debt, homosexuality, materialism... not to formulate the “right” answer – to enable open conversation and debate.

- Jesus told stories and asked questions. Today our churches and Christian organizations try to tell us how to live dogmatically, and how to think and respond. Rather than encouraging us plainly to trust and accept Gods love.
- Can Mission Scotland promote “conversations” on topical issues, with no conclusions or agreed “position”?
- Need a better understanding to some very specific questions about Christians / non Christians lifestyles and views on, for example secularism, money, church, debt, sexuality, relationships. This could be done through a mixture of focus groups, anonymous questionnaires to different groups of people, including the 20’s and 30’s group in a professional church, 20’s and 30’s in a socially disadvantaged area, students – Christians and non Christians.
- The message is that Christians in their 20’s and 30’s today lead lives that are very similar to their neighbours and are not distinctive in their values, money situations, material possessions. They sit through church on a Sunday morning hear a message that they know they cannot live by and then go back out into their lives for the rest of the 6.5 days of the week. Therefore bringing the gospel to people in a different way, with a new context need to be thought about, needs to be really challenging.
- Mission Scotland has a role to play here in changing the thinking all together.
- Mission Scotland is very strategic body. Its main focus is 20’s and 30’s in the church – to work with them and equip them.
- Evangelism – could be a social network programme of events to help bridge the gap between church and culture. But if that means trying to change the church, or trying to get people to come to churches, then maybe that battle is too far gone. People want spiritual meaning, to connect with God, what a framework to base lives upon – can Mission Scotland help them achieve that?
- Is the “church” too far gone to change?
- Scotland poorest communities are excluded economic and social opportunities. They are also excluded from Christian witness.

Annex 2 Examples of “Other” Forms of Christian Expression

This is a short synopsis of interesting initiatives happening in some churches and beyond churches. It shows the variety of new forms of mission and church like activity that are happening, though not all of it active in Scotland. A list of other organisations is provided to highlight where others are active.

Churches:

- Churches that are growing are those associated with ethnic minorities. This may be because worship and church is very linked to “belonging” and cultural expression. It may also be due to some ethnic groups coming from a more Christian background than is here in Scotland, such as African countries and Poland.
- Pentecostal churches and community based churches seem to be growing, especially in inner city areas. These churches, such as Destiny are involved in wide areas of people’s lives, running credit unions, social support functions, education. They are NOT Sunday only churches – the churches that are growing seem to pervade every aspect of their members lives. Destiny Church in Glasgow is a large thriving contemporary church with “something for everyone”. It includes lively music, social action ministry, bible school, marriage courses and much more. This church does seem to offer something for everyone and is growing.
- There is a feeling that the Traditional Christian Church in Scotland is very “feminine” – choirs, coffee mornings and flowers. There is a crisis in strong male role models. The appeal of Islam to Scottish males is growing.
- Church without Walls is a Church of Scotland initiative to change mindsets and generate a recognition that churches should be out in the community, not just within a building.
- The Hillsong Church movement is a vibrant international expression of church in a very post modern context. Click on the web side to taste the music, and see the breadth of things happening. This is another example of a big growing dynamic church touching many aspects of aspects of people’s lives. It buys into the concept that we desire “experience”.
<http://www2.hillsong.com>

Other Organisations

- The Coracle Trust – a charity based in Edinburgh seeking to provide people with a context to learn and explore the meaning of Christian life in the everyday world. Tackling topical issues such as male spirituality, motherhood in an informal setting. This seems to be a small, but very effective set up. Is it an organic model that could be replicated across a variety of communities and geographies? The Website is excellent, keeping people up to date with meetings and ideas.
<http://coracle.pmhclients.com/>

- The Iona Community – an ecumenical Christian Community seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today’s world. Sixty years old, but still very relevant today.
- <http://www.futurechurch.org.nz/links.html> this website lists a number of new modern international churches that are expressing themselves outwith the traditional “church model”.
- Urban Expression is an urban mission agency that recruits, equips, deploys and networks self-financing teams pioneering creative and relevant expressions of the Christian church in under-churched areas of the inner city. A new community is being established in Glasgow, led by Paul and Esther Ede. Living in the community is key, building cross- cultural relationships. Honesty and openness are critical in building relationships. <http://www.urbanexpression.org.uk/>
- Evangelical Alliance – www.eauk.org – active in promoting mission and evangelical expression
- Care for the Family – www.careforthefamily.org.uk very active in highlighting family issues from a Christian perspective. They have a good website and regular magazine highlighting topical issues, and promoting events across the country. Recent issues have included debt, divorce, teenage drug issues.
- UCCF – www.uccf.org.uk - very active Christian witness to students, with a strong presence on campuses around the country. Other similar, but distinctive organisations include the Navigators, Campus Crusade for Christ, YWAM and Youth for Christ.

Annex 3 Sources and References

Scottish Executive – various sources of information and data available including social services data, economic information, social trends etc.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002> - Scottish Household survey. Looks at basic household stats, levels of volunteering, marriage etc

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/17592/9080> - Scottish Government - general stats, 2001 census

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/> - institute of public policy research – The UK’s leading progressive think tank “challenging ideas – changing policy” is the think tanks strap line. Including the economic impact of immigration to the UK, “Who are we – Identities in Britain”

Regional Trends, a National Statistics publication produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It brings together data from a wide range of sources from within government and outside sources. The ONS is responsible for compiling, analysing and disseminating economic, social and demographic statistics in the UK. (www.statistics.gov.uk)

Institutes of research – Christian and not

<http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/> - new teen survey

<http://www.sirc.org/> - Social Issues Research Centre – an independent research organisation based in Oxford quote from their web page “Belonging – the notion of belonging or social identity is a central aspect of how we define who we are. We consider ourselves to be individuals but it is our membership of particular groups that is most important in constructing a sense of identity.

Issues discussed include “The new rules of female friendship and communication” and “Intelligent design. SIRC combines experience in research and publishing

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/publications/ajm/looking-at-the-big-picture.pdf> - mori research on social trends in next 20 years

<http://pewresearch.org/topics/socialtrends/> American research into behaviours and attitudes of people and their lives – families, community, health, finance

<http://www.emic.biz/consult.html> this research centre has been utilised by Shell, and other major corporations to look at social trends and help inform their long term strategy

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/istu/index.shtml> International social trends Unit within MORI looking at trends form around the world. Interesting topical issues mentioned on their web site include “Age and Disengagement”

<http://www.licc.org.uk/> London Institute for Contemporary Christianity “Helping you to make a difference as a Christian in today’s world. Addresses topical issues relevant to Christians today

The Henley Centre – www.hchlv.com/ The Henley Centre Headlight Vision provides intelligence, consultancy and research solutions to blue chip clients and governments around the world.

<http://www.urbanexpression.org.uk/> Not to be confused with the world's leading handbag company!) Urban Expression is an urban mission agency that recruits, equips and deploys and networks self financing teams pioneering creative and relevant expressions of the Christian Church in under-churched areas of the inner city

<http://www.barna.org/> Barna Research, an American based research group highlights a number of topical issues on their web site headlines, including “New generation express its scepticism and frustration with Christianity”; “Born again Christians remain Sceptical and divided about Global warming.”

Research Journals and Articles

http://www.bustedhalo.com/faith_guides/mass6.htm - an online magazine for spiritual seekers in their 20's and 30's

<http://www.covchurch.org/blogs/wc-blog/posts/20-and--30-years-olds> The evangelical covenant church –based in USA & Canada