Create Conference inspires

Andrew Owens, a worker from the Globalscope Roots student ministry in Edinburgh gives us his impressions of his first FCC Create Leaders’ Conference and AGM which was held in March at the Pioneer Centre:

I had never got to do much with FCC before this conference and I wasn’t sure what to expect. The Conference fell at a difficult time of year for us, as it was right at the end of the busiest part of our term, so I came very tired. However, I left the Create Conference inspired by those I met and interacted with during the couple days.

Diversity is the word that keeps coming to my mind and I think back on those couple of days at the Pioneer Centre. Men and women from all over the UK and the world who were passionate about telling others about the story of Jesus filled the conference. I was inspired by the stories of those who were younger than me, who have a desire to tell others about Jesus because they vividly remember what it was like the first time they heard that story. I was inspired by those older than myself (some much, much older) who were reinventing themselves and their ministries in order to relate to those around them.

I was inspired by the stories of God moving in both big and small ways in the very different churches and ministries that were present in the room. I was inspired that ideas were being shared young and old, British and foreign, and male and female. It reminded me like Paul says in Galatians 3, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave not free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” What a beautiful picture of the church: people from all walks of life coming together as one in order to spread the hope that we have found in Jesus.
‘Going the Distance’: FCC Leaders’ Conference & A.G.M.

The recent Create Conference, as Andrew Owens has personally reflected upon on page 1 of this newsletter, was a milestone in beginning to see some of the new potential future that God is building within FCC. The event, which was held at the Pioneer Centre, near Kidderminster, reflected the growing developments of friendship, the engaging expressions of shared life, and the contemplations on the life journeys of leaders from various nations. This helped to frame the event as one of the most important gatherings we have shared together in all our years as FCC.

We were blessed to hear from three key leaders who reflected on their life’s leadership journey: Rev Dr Leonard Lupiya from DFM, Leicester; Pastor Rehoboth Beyene from RFM, Birmingham, and Dr LeRoy Lawson, from the USA (involved over many years in the UK). All three of these men of God provided an honest, engaging, and transparent learning context into how leadership might remain faithful and go the distance until the end. Their passion of faith and faithfulness to God and His mission were evidenced in their stories.

There were also some exciting stories of new opportunities and expressions of mission and church planting from various people, and an important shared time of communion led by Dan Yarnell and David Midzi.

During our AGM, which was held on the first night of the two day conference, welcomed two new churches/missional communities into our growing FCC family: Grace Church, Shirley and Companions for Hope, Birmingham. We also welcomed those who are newly ministering within FCC, and we noted those who were engaged in training for ordination and/or recognition of their ministry within FCC.

In addition feedback on the on-going work of restructuring, was presented and we are pleased to say that Tony Sands has offered his time and expertise to aid us in this important work over the next few months.

Members were elected to our National Leadership Team. The current team consists of: Tammy Aho, Tim Herbert, Martin Robinson, Jan Turner, Hirpo Kumbi, Chris Ibbs, Tony Sands (new chair), Rehoboth Beyene and Andy Hardy. Phill Wallace-Pugh, Tim Aho and Leonard Lupiya are also on the team as observers. Both Andy Vail and Dan Yarnell are also involved as FCC staff. We would value your continuing prayer support for the team as we work towards our new future.

Please note next year’s Create event and AGM will be held 10th-11th April, once again at the Pioneer Centre. We hope you will be able to join us there.

Dan Yarnell
Carrying The Flame

Carrying the Flame was our theme for the conference and the speaker Kelly Wellman inspired and challenged us to "let our light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

The Olympic theme seemed to run right through the whole weekend and we passed the baton to one another and we also sang a song called Lord the light of Your love is shining.

As usual the talents shown of the women that attended was in the entertainment show in the evening of the Saturday with our resident comedians Vicky and Sue our very own Ant and Dec linking the acts.

The weekend culminated in communion which was led by Shirley Eastman.

Next year’s conference will be our 90th birthday celebration and the committee are working really hard on the theme and the programme at moment. Full details will be available in the autumn newsletter.

Sally Faulks
Great Francis Street Church of Christ, Birmingham.

See: http://christianwomensfellowship.blogspot.co.uk/ for a further report and photographs.

FCC Facebook Prayer Weekend

The recent Pentecost weekend (13th-16th May) provided a further opportunity for all those connected with FCC to join together in a national time of prayer for our network and its various ministries. This was the third year for this event which connects users of Facebook, as well as churches and local gatherings, to participate in this shared on-line experience. Hosted once again by Central Avenue Christian Church in Wigston, Leicester, Phill Wallace-Pugh, the minister, ably facilitated the entire event.

During the event, a Celtic spirituality theme provided focus and structure.

Participants from various parts of the UK and the world joined in during the weekend. The main time of involvement was on the Saturday, but there was on-going involvement throughout the event. Due to the various time zones worldwide, it was deliberately kept ‘live’ until lunch-time on the Monday.

The great value of this type of event is that it enabled anyone with access to Facebook to participate at any point during the time period.

We offer our heart-felt thanks to the Wigston church, and especially Phill Wallace-Pugh for their sacrificial service to encourage and enable prayer in this way.

We plans to continue this as an expression of national prayer for all those connected to the FCC family. Next year’s dates will be once again during the Pentecost weekend (2nd-5th June 2017). Mark your diaries and plan on joining in ‘on-line’ or hosting a local event in your church or area.

Dan Yarnell
‘No Limits’
FCC Connect
Celebration
Sat. 16th July 2016

We are excited that our annual FCC Connect conference will be soon be taking place at Rhema Faith Ministries, 48, Smith Street, Hockley, Birmingham B19 3EN. This year’s theme is ‘No Limits’, focusing on the God who enables all His mission by His Spirit to be fruitful. It will be held in the newly opened Rhema Faith Ministries church building in Hockley, which is only a short walk from the Jewellery Quarter National Rail station and Metro stop. We will also be ordaining/recognising new leaders from those who have been involved in our ministry training for ordination and recognition.

Along with great worship, fellowship, seminars, and resources, we are especially pleased to have Mike Royal as our guest speaker. Mike is a very inspirational leader and speaker. He has been working in various pioneering ministry for many years as is noted below. His wisdom, humour and insight will help us within FCC and our local communities to express the love of Jesus more clearly and radically.

He also leads on Church Engagement, heading up a team of UK based advisers and training facilitators for the Cinnamon Network, which is making it as easy as possible for local churches to help people most at need in their communities across the UK. Mike is a leader, speaker, a social entrepreneur, policy adviser and a passionate communicator on issues of children and young people, educational exclusion, and how congregations can better engage in church based social action. Mike has a first class honours degree in Urban Planning and a Masters Degree in Black Theology from the University of Birmingham. He is currently working closely with local and central government agencies focusing on these issues.

He also sits as a Non Executive Director on a number of NGOs working in Birmingham and East and West Africa. Mike was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2010 (FRSA). Mike lives in Birmingham and has been happily married to Viviene for over twenty years. A few hours a week working as a Mental Health Chaplain keeps his feet firmly grounded in reality!

Mike is a co founder, former National Director and now Non Executive Director of TLG The Education Charity, an award winning organisation working with children and young people at risk of exclusion from school through early intervention programmes and setting up Alternative Provision Schools and Early Intervention initiatives throughout the UK.

Leadership Training for community development projects:
The Cinnamon Network of which Mike Royal is a part, are offering one day Leadership Training courses around the country for individuals and/or teams involved in social action projects.
To find out about courses near you, visit: http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/clt/
Jeff Fife of Brazil will testify about his experiences at our last Global Gathering in Goiania, as well as reporting on the mighty work of God through his multinational River of Life Ministries.

The leader of the churches in Poland, Andrej Bajenski, will proclaim what Jesus is doing in Europe, and we will be greatly blessed by the message of Oscar Muriu of Nairobi Chapel, who speaks often of the persecuted church (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i3JTFaVXxw).

In addition to uplifting messages, we will hear testimonies, scripture read in many languages, and will share in prayer together for the world. And the singing! Praise to God will flow in many tongues!

So make your plans to have once-in-a-lifetime experience! Mark your calendar for January 12-15, 2017. Register at http://www.globalgathering2017.com. At that website you will also find hotel recommendations. For more information see worldconvention.org.

But above all, pray for our Global Gathering, for the ministry of World Convention, and for the unity of all who believe in Jesus, so that the world might believe in him.

For a longer version of this article, see http://christianstandard.com/2016/03/the-world-comes-to-india/.

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**Gary Holloway, World Convention.**

If you would be interested in joining a group from FCC to attend this event, please contact the FCC office.
Missio Africanus Conference

Crowther Day: Church Mission Society, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6BZ
on Saturday 4th June, 10am to 4pm.

An opportunity for African and British mission scholars and practitioners to come together to talk about God’s mission in Britain. The main speaker is Prof Andrew Walls, who has been involved in African Christianity and mission studies for well over five decades. Dr Daniel Eshun (Roehampton University) will make a response to Prof Walls’ keynote speech.

The event will include breakout groups and workshops led by Sheila Akomiah (PhD Candidate, Aberdeen), Gabriel Diya (RCCG-Open Heavens, Charlton), Lucy Olofinjana (Evangelical Alliance) and Dr Harvey Kwiyani (Missio Africanus).

Register at [http://missioafricanus.org/tnew/](http://missioafricanus.org/tnew/).
The cost is £30 in advance or £35 on the day.

Every Tribe, Nation and Language: Growing Multi-ethnic Churches

Saturday, 2nd July 2016, 10.00am-4.00pm
Queen’s Foundation, Somerset Rd, Birmingham B15 2QH

A day conference for church leaders seeking to integrate people from different ethnic backgrounds into the life and mission of their churches. Main speakers include Dr Harvey Kwiyani, Dr Tani Omideyi, Rev Steve Hollinghurst, and Rev Gale Richards.

To register follow this link: [http://www queens ac uk/events/every-tribe- conference](http://www.quaens.ac.uk/events/every-tribe-conference). For any further enquiries email: office@birminghamchurches.org.uk.

Registration deadline is 17th June, cost is £15. The conference is jointly organised by: the Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World, Birmingham Churches Together and the Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education.

“Missio Dei” Retreat

Saturday 2nd July 2016, 9.30am-4.30pm
Winson Green, Birmingham.

A one-day seminar developed especially for individuals and groups who need some space to refocus and discern life afresh. A “Missio Dei” Retreat helps you take your own story seriously and then find ways to be better nurtured and express the unique life that God has for you with others. It is a series of exercises, reflections and questions to help identify and express lives for God in a hurting world over two decades.

The cost is £25 per participant with BYO lunch. To book contact: AshleyBarker1969@gmail.com

Mission partnership: Romania

When János Antal of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania, visited Birmingham last year through the Community for Reconciliation, he spoke at a mission evening at Rowheath Pavilion. From his visit two mission partnership opportunities were identified:

1) Younger Hungarian speaking pastors from Romania shadowing FCC pastors in the UK.
2) Young adults from British churches assisting at an English speaking camp for teenagers from the Hungarian speaking minority, being held in Transylvania, 25th-29th July 2016.

We have obtained a grant from the Pollock Memorial Missionary Trust to assist with travel. The first fruits of this partnership will be the visit to Britain from 2nd to 16th June 2016, of Attila Kanya from Camăr (in Hungarian: Kémer), the leader of the youth camp. He will be based at our Centrepoint Christian Church in West Bromwich where he will be shadowing David Marsh.

If a young adult from your church is interested in helping at the youth camp in Romania, 25th-29th July 2016, or if your church is interested in hosting a pastor, please contact the FCC office: fccadmin@btinternet.com.
Church Action Points:

National Living Wage:
Since 1st April, all UK workers aged 25 and over have been legally entitled to at least £7.20 per hour. If your church employs staff, check your responsibilities at: https://www.livingwage.gov.uk/
Staff aged under 25 are entitled to the National Minimum Wage, see https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates for the rates.

Charitable status & Gift Aid:
Is your church or ministry a registered charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)? If your income is over £5000 a year you ought to be registered. Charitable registration also allows you to claim back tax on donations (known as Gift Aid) and makes it easier to apply for grants. To find out more on the options available, visit https://www.gov.uk/setting-up-charity.
Please note different arrangements apply in Scotland & Northern Ireland.

Workplace Pensions:
If your church employs staff, you will have received a letter from the Pensions Regulator, advising you of the date from which you are required to offer your staff a workplace pension. We are intending to establish one for FCC from April 2017, which we hope to also be able to make available to member churches.

Payroll:
Are you considering employing staff? If so you will need a payroll provider to assist you with calculating Tax & NI contributions and issuing payslips. There are many accountants and others who offer this service. FCC is happy to recommend the services of Rachel Renfrew who provides our payroll service. She can be contacted at: rachel@rachelrenfrew.co.uk.

Church Insurance:
Whether or not you own your own building, church insurance is important, particularly public liability insurance. FCC have negotiated a bulk insurance deal through Access Insurance: to find out more contact them at directly on 0208 651 7420 or tim.wiltshire@accessinsurance.co.uk.

Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults:
You need to apply for a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check for all Church workers, be they paid or voluntary, whose role brings them into contact with children or vulnerable adults. This includes ministers, pastoral workers, youth workers, Sunday school teachers etc.
You can find out more from https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service or contact our Centrepoint Church in West Bromwich on 0121-286 2277 or floH@centrepointchristianchurch.co.uk who offer a DBS checking service.
Different arrangements apply in Scotland—contact Disclosure Scotland www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/ for details.

Useful Resources:

European Union referendum:
The Joint Public Issues Team (Baptist Union, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church & the Church of Scotland) is about to publish their contribution to the debate. “Think, Pray Vote” will explore issues such as sovereignty, the single market, freedom of movement, the environment and more, providing a combination of information, the opportunity for theological reflection and different perspectives from Christians intending to vote. Watch their website: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/

Queen’s Birthday events:
Is your church participating in an event to commemorate the Queen’s 90th Birthday? If so, why not order copies of the new book about her Christian faith to give away? See CPO website for details and for other useful resources.

WW1 Centenary:
Also still available are the replica editions of the active service St. John’s Gospel, re-issued for the 100th anniversary of the First World War. These make an ideal give away at First World War commemorations or remembrance events. See SGM website for details.

Have you found some new useful outreach resources? Please let us know so that we can share them with others.
FCC Coming Events:

‘No Limits’
Connect Celebration: Saturday 16th July 2016.
with Mike Royal.

Create Leaders’
Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, near Kidderminster.

World Convention:

To keep in touch with FCC events visit:

FCC Website: http://fellowshipofchurchesofchrist.wordpress.com/

FCC Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/FoCoC/

Other Events:

Missio Africanus: Crowther Day
“Migration, Mission, and African Christianity in Britain,” featuring Prof. Andrew Walls.
Sat 4th June 2016,
CMS House, Oxford,
See page 6.

Every Tribe, Nation & language:
Growing Multi-Ethnic Churches Conference, Sat 2nd July 2016,
Queens College, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
See page 6.

‘Missio Dei’ retreat, with Ash Barker
Sat 2nd July 2016,
Winson Green, Birmingham,
See page 6.

ForMission College graduation
Sat 15th October 2016:
Lichfield Cathedral, Staffs.
Contact Formission College for details.

New Parish Conference, with Shane Claiborne
Thurs 10th – Fri 11th November 2016:
St. Martin’s-in-the-Bullring, Birmingham B5.
See https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-parish-conference-the-art-of-faithful-presence-tickets-22522051061

Please keep us informed of what is happening in your church or ministry:

Please send your news and coming events information to the FCC Office:
Fellowship of Churches of Christ, Rowheath Pavilion, Heath Road, Birmingham B30 1HH or e-mail: fccadmin@btinternet.com