

Main study themes

The titles for each of the main study themes identified for Edinburgh 2010 are listed below. Click on each link to take you to information about the topic, papers presented, and the group report for the conference. Post your comments on the report under each theme.

Study themes

- 1. Foundations for mission**
- 2. Christian mission among other faiths**
- 3. Mission and post-modernities**
- 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**

The study groups are globally diverse, and each includes people of many different Christian traditions and representing a variety of institutions and organisations. Each is tasked with identifying some key questions, highlighting developments since 1910, giving case studies, identifying key priorities for Christian mission, and making strategic recommendations. Groups have worked to integrate the work on each theme from around the world for a pre-conference publication and for discussion at the Edinburgh 2010 conference itself. Each study group is also disseminating its work in other ways appropriate to its process and finding creative ways of communicating to the grassroots. Their work is recorded on this site.

Part II: Transversal topics

Also in 2005-2006 it was recognised that a number of 'transversals' are needed, i.e. important themes which will run like a thread across all the main study themes. From 2009 onwards the transversals are being developed and integrated with the main study themes. The following 'transversals' have been identified.

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

Part III: Regional and confessional study processes

Recognizing the worldwide character of the Church today, institutions, networks, agencies and churches in different parts of the world are contributing to the Edinburgh 2010 study process in

whatever way is best suited to their particular circumstances. Some groups are participating by bringing a regional or confessional perspective to the Edinburgh 2010 mission themes. The research Coordinator is collecting the outcomes of these different study processes from around the world.

The study process at the conference

Background

The Edinburgh 2010 study process has been working since 2008, and the 2010 conference in Edinburgh marks a new and important stage in it. At the conference those taking part in the international study process will engage with representatives from the worldwide church to explore what challenges the study process may bring to the life of churches over the years to come.

The study process has been centred on nine main themes, which are complemented by seven transversal topics, and supplemented by regional, confessional and other study processes. Studies and consultations have taken place in all continents and the process is as inclusive as possible of churches and Christian mission networks. Further details, including many papers submitted, can be found on the study process section of the Edinburgh 2010 website, www.edinburgh2010.org.

Each of the groups working on the nine study themes has produced a report. These, together with contributions on the transversals relating to women and the Bible, form the raw material for discussion at the conference. This has been published as *Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today* (Regnum Books, 2010), edited by Daryl Balia & Kirsteen Kim. Copies have been mailed to all conference delegates. The volume is also available for purchase from Regnum Books (<http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum/>) and Amazon. The full text is available for download (pdf file) from the website. The separate reports are available under each study theme, and comments are invited online.

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). Details of these and other publications are available on the Edinburgh 2010 website (under 'Resources').

At the conference it is intended that the material already disseminated will be subjected to rigorous critique from various transversal perspectives and engaged with by church and mission delegates from

around the world, and from various denominational perspectives. This will open up the study process and move it forward. The work done on each theme will be further developed and there will be cross-fertilization of themes with each other.

Aims

In Edinburgh on 2-5 June 2010, study will take place in the context of the spiritual life of the conference. The aims of the conference study process are to:

- Make clear the changes in mission thinking since 1910
- Create a new vision and spirituality of mission to inspire Christians in churches and mission bodies
- Encourage networks and alliances across regions (especially the North-South divide) and confessions for common witness
- Give guidelines on mission practice and identify priorities for church and mission leaders
- Highlight issues for further research and reflection
- Result in commitment to continue the spirit of cooperation

The tangible outcomes of the study process of the conference are intended to be:

- Shared ownership of common calls/commitments for the Sunday celebration
- A record of the key issues and priorities identified, with some indication of which are felt to be most urgent
- A listeners' report prepared by a listening group
- Reflections on the conference by three invited delegates
- Audio-visuals used in the conference which can be posted on the website
- A conference report, including presentations at the conference and a record of the discussions

The aims of the study process of the conference will be accomplished through nine timetabled sessions over the three full days at the Pollock Halls. These comprise three plenary sessions and six parallel sessions in which delegates will be divided into three groups.

Plenary sessions

The plans for the plenary sessions, which will be video-streamed and podcast via the website, are as follows:

Plenary 1: 'Mission in long perspective', Thursday 3 June 2010, 11.00am-12.50pm

This session will illuminate the conference theme in the light of one hundred years of mission since 1910. Dr Dana Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Boston University School of Theology, will give a keynote address, which will be followed by several complementary perspectives recognising different histories and current contexts.

Plenary 2: 'Mission worldwide', Friday 4 June 2010, 11.00am-12.50pm

This magazine-style session will include four case studies of contemporary initiatives in Christian witness, exploring the question 'What is mission?' The case studies are:

- 'Christian spirituality and the diakonic mission of the Yoido Full Gospel Church', Rev. Dr Lee Young-Hoon, Senior Pastor, Yoido Full Gospel Church, Seoul
- 'Ecumenical charity as Christian witness', Dr Tony Kireopoulos, Senior Program Director for Faith & Order and Interfaith Relations, National Council of Churches USA
- 'A missing mission? The "Budding Ecumenism" Formation Project of the Centro Pro Unione', Dr Teresa Francesca Rossi, Associate Director, Centro Pro Unione, Rome
- 'Mission to the North: Challenges and prospects', Dr Fidon Mwombeki, Executive Director, United Evangelical Mission, Germany

These will offer real engagements in current contexts and comments will be invited from the floor.

Plenary 3: 'Towards a common call', Saturday 5 June, 8.00-9.30pm

This business meeting will conclude the conference study process by highlighting key issues and priorities for the churches, reflecting on the debates of the conference, and gathering consensus around a common call to be made at the following day's celebratory worship service.

Parallel sessions

The conference study process will be informed by presentations in the plenary sessions of the conference but will be focused on processing the results of the main study themes. Two consecutive sessions will be allowed for work on each theme, and these will be arranged in three tracks according to the following table. Delegates are being asked before the conference to select the track they would like to follow.

Day	Sessions	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
3 June	2.15-4.00pm 4.30-6.00pm	1 Foundations for mission	5 Forms of engagement	2 Mission among other faiths
4 June	2.15-4.00pm 4.30-6.00pm	8 Mission and unity	4 Mission and power	6 Theological education
5 June	11.15am-1.00pm	9 Mission	7 Christian	3 Mission and

	2.15-4.00pm	spirituality	communities	postmodernities
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Each theme will follow a programme worked out by the conveners of the study groups in consultation with invited chairpersons. Each theme will be approached in a different way, utilising different resource people representing transversals and regional and confessional studies.

The aim of the parallel sessions is to debate and refine the key issues and priorities raised in the pre-conference report by hearing diverse perspectives and working in small groups. Delegates are expected to have read the relevant reports before coming to the conference and are asked to bring their insights to share.

Issues and priorities arising from each track will be reported briefly in the final plenary by members of the conference listening group. Delegates will also receive a more detailed record of the proceedings.

Follow-up

Inputs to the parallel and plenary sessions, and records of the discussion will be posted on the website and further online comment will be invited. Selected highlights of the conference study process, together with conference and online contributions which bring in new perspectives not already reflected in the preparatory volume, will be published in a conference report before the end of 2010.

Regnum Books is planning an Edinburgh 2010 series, which will include publications by many of the groups working of the main study themes, books on transversal topics and volumes emerging from regional and confessional study processes. Many of these will be co-published on different continents. Further details will be available shortly.

The Edinburgh 2010 website will bring together all the different parts of the study process before, during and after the conference. The site already includes many of the papers submitted on different themes and topics, and it is intended that by the end of September 2010 it will include a complete record of the process. This will provide an invaluable resource for those wishing to continue the discussions initiated by Edinburgh 2010.

Individual study groups may choose to continue their work in other ways after the conference, perhaps through the International Association for Mission Studies (www.missionstudies.org). New groups and networks may well be formed as a result of the conference as new issues emerge. One such group will be working to repackage the study material in a more 'church-friendly' way to encourage its wider dissemination.

The conference study process is not intended to be the last word on any of the issues but it is hoped it will help provide guidance, stimulate further reflection, and encourage common action by the churches at this significant point in the history of God's mission.