



SUMMER 2010



Dr Jason Curtis

Letter from the Director

In August, 2008 one of our Trustees, Nigel Barge, and I attended a conference near Glasgow called *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalise Your Church*. We were sceptical, but went anyway, more out of curiosity than anything else. We are both glad we went. There are two particular strengths of this ministry that caught our attention. First, the driving principle behind it is church health not church growth; thus, rather than seeking a greater influx of people, a church would ask God how to respond to his mission in their world. We were especially impressed with the second component of the ministry, which is a coaching process, whereby one accompanies a church leadership team through a year-long effort to listen to God, determine where he wants the church to go, develop a plan to get there, and begin to enact that plan.

So, with fear and trembling we launched this endeavour in Torrance Parish Church, hoping that 1) we might see this church become healthier, and 2) we can learn how to contextualise such a ministry in Scotland. We have learnt many lessons and have seen the church being strengthened there, and we also believe God has given us a good idea on how to approach this process in the future. Recently two other churches have approached us hoping that we might do the same with them, so we have launched it in one and will do so with the other in the next month or two.

I find all this very exciting, and believe we are meeting a crucial need for churches in Scotland. However, to complete the picture, I perceived a need to get cart and horse arranged the right way: coaching follows content; action follows inspiration. The reason for this is that it is not a business plan, but rather involves a full commitment on the part of church leadership to these gospel principles. **So, this autumn we will be offering a course, *Building Healthy Churches*, where you will have the opportunity to take a journey through this critical content that serves as the foundation for church health.** Whether or not you want to take your church through the coaching ministry, please consider joining us for this study with a view toward implementing the principles on your own. There is more information on the following page. Do contact us to sign up.

- Jason Curtis, Director

Probationers' Gathering 6th - 8th September 2010



Rutherford House invites ministers and their spouses to the delightful surroundings of Crieff Hydro Hotel. **The aim is very simple – to prepare ministers and their spouses, together, for the challenges of parish ministry.**

Numbers are restricted – please register as soon as possible!

With confirmation you will receive details of a grant of £80 available from Rutherford House and details of accommodation which you are asked to book directly through Crieff Hydro sales department -01764651670. The facilitators are: Rev Neil and Dorothy Urquhart & Rev Terry and Graham Taylor .

To register or for more information see <http://www.rutherfordhouse.org.uk/events/>

" I think this timeout should be required for all Probationers and their Spouses"

"It has been too quick. It has been fantastic, extremely worthwhile and very enjoyable"



What's on

Reminder!

Discipleship & Mission with Dr. Hans Bayer - 10th June 2010

Rutherford House is delighted to have Dr Hans Bayer (Ph.D. University of Aberdeen), joining us for two lectures on 10 June 2010. He is Professor of New Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, U.S.A. Raised in Stuttgart, Germany, he taught for ten years at the German Theological Seminary (FTA/FTH) in Giessen and helped plant an FeG church in Wetzlar. He loves to explore the interface between New Testament interpretation, biblical theology, missions, transformation of contemporary culture, and 'teaching to teach'.



10.30 am Coffee

11.00 am 'Learning and Teaching "Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark" in Dialogue with Contemporary Cultures'

7.00 pm 'What is God doing in the world? The Mission of God in the Message of the book of Acts'

The event is being held at Rutherford House, 1 Hill Street, Edinburgh. There is no charge for this event but we do ask you to register by contacting our office.

15th-17th June 2010 Servants of the Word Conference, Glasgow

A 3 day, non-residential conference, focused on the practical tasks involved in the hard work of the staple of ministry: Bible exposition. For more details go to: <http://www.cornhillscotland.org.uk/>

19th June 2010 '21 Century Disciples', Glasgow

It is Mission Scotland's hope that this will be a catalyst to re-thinking church and leadership in terms of making disciples. For more details go to www.missionscotland.org.uk

4th - 6th October 2010 Ministers' Gathering, Crieff

A gathering of up to 25 ministers at the Crieff Hydro that builds on existing relationships, that sharpens ministries of the Word and that provides practical help and encouragement to ministers. To register or for more information see <http://www.rutherfordhouse.org.uk/events/>

New Autumn Course!

Building Healthy Churches 20th September –29th November 2010

The purpose of the course is to cover relevant topics for church leaders that will help inspire and equip them for serving the church in Scotland. Seminars would be held at Hill Street on Monday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm for 9 weeks starting 20 September with a 2 week midterm break. The cost of the course, including all materials is £90. Though it is not a requirement we encourage you to bring a leader or two from your church, as well. If you would like more details please contact us at info@rutherfordhouse.org.uk

Growing our website to serve you better...



We want to make it easier for you to participate in the life and ministry of Rutherford House so we are creating an online community that allows us to provide more effectively the latest news, events, and prayer needs with you. It will allow us to provide more effectively a variety of resources to interested church leaders and lay folks alike as well as to better encourage and support those seeking to serve the church in Scotland. This part of our website will be launched in early July. We hope you will have a look around and let us know what you think.

