

The Faith to Faith Forum of Global Connections



Update: January 2010 – the story of 2007 to 2009

What have we been doing? The move from being Faith to Faith as a separate organisation, to coming under the umbrella of Global Connections in August 2007 now seems a long time ago but much has happened and we are delighted with the way things have gone, as you will see below. Particularly pleasing amongst the developments have been the opportunities to run training days in colleges and the encouragement received from many members.

Events and training

Autumn 2007 – a training day for the Methodist Interfaith Advisers

This event had two main workshops. One was on New Age beliefs in a session called Mind, Body, Spirit – led by Ben Edson, when we also offered the Faith to Faith Study Guide 'The Cross and New Age Spiritualities.' The other workshop requested, was on 'Relating to conservative evangelicals in work amongst the faiths: some Biblical and practical perspectives' led by Richard Sudworth and Andrew Smith. Responses to the whole day were very good.

November 2007 – Global Connections conference

This conference at The Hayes, Swanwick, gave me a good opportunity to introduce Faith to Faith to the Global Connections network of agencies and it was a good time for networking.

June 2008 - Is Evangelism a Sin? Ethical Evangelism in a Pluralist Society

This event held in Warwick, brought an amazingly good response as we looked at the ethics of evangelism amongst Hindus, New Age believers, Muslims and amongst children and young people of other faiths. I think we all learnt a lot that day as people shared their experiences and views. I am grateful to all our speakers – Robin Thomson, Ben Edson, Andrew Smith, John Corrie and Richard Sudworth.

January 2009 - Is Evangelism a Sin? Ethical Evangelism in a Pluralist Society

We ran a teaching and discussion day on the same subject at Trinity College, Bristol for some 70 students, with guest speakers Toby Howarth, Andrew Smith and Robin Thomson. The day was very well received. It was good to have this engagement with students preparing for future leadership roles and ordination and we pray that it will have far-reaching effects in encouraging mission minded and well equipped churches.

February 2009 - Crossing Frontiers – Evangelism with Integrity

In February we took on an already partly planned event at St James' Church, Alperton, Wembley, courtesy of John Root and originally a CPAS event organised by Laurence Gamlen, with support from Robin Thomson of South Asian Concern. The main speaker was the Rt Revd Michael Nazir-Ali and there followed a choice of four workshops. This was the third of a series of events and over 70 people joined us.

October 2009 - Britain – a Christian Country? Faiths, Identity and Insecurity

This event was run in Oxford with speakers Stuart Murray Williams and Phillip Lewis. Attracting 43 people, this event both challenged and encouraged us.

October 2009 - Is Evangelism a Sin? Ethical Evangelism in a Pluralist Society

We ran a further teaching and discussion day on this subject at Redcliffe College for some 47 students. The speakers were Toby Howarth, Steve Hutchinson and Robin Thomson and again, the day was very well received, with some helpful comments afterwards from the students.

Future events

January 2010 - Is Evangelism a Sin? Ethical Evangelism in a Pluralist Society

We have been invited to run a teaching and discussion day similar to that above, just for the students, at London School of Theology, featuring speakers Toby Howarth, Andrew Smith and Robin Thomson on similar topics as previously. With this event we will regard the series under this title as complete and we are very grateful to our trainers for working with us on this.

25 February 2010 - Crossing Frontiers - Growing in a New Faith - Building Up Believers from Different Faith Backgrounds

[This event](#) will take place at St James' Alperton on the same lines as the event in February 2009. The main speaker is Asif Mall and workshops on relevant issues are being planned.

25 to 27 June 2010 – Jewels in His Crown

I am on the [Jewels in his Crown](#) planning committee for a weekend conference for British Asian Christians and Asian churches in the UK and for those working amongst them. The theme this time will be: Which Way the UK Asian Church? And will give an opportunity to consider styles of 'church' appropriate for people from an Asian background. The main speakers are Clive Thorne, Pastor G I Ebenezer and Kumar Rajagopalan.

Autumn 2010

We plan to hold another main Forum event in the Autumn and details will be on the Global Connections website as plans develop.

Other tasks

The e-mail newsletter

This [newsletter](#) has continued but it had been quite difficult to sustain the regularity and in future it will be just two a year, with a brief e-bulletin twice a year, in between. These are the best way of keeping everyone informed of resources, information and ideas. We also have some input into the [Global Connections newsletter](#) on a page entitled 'Mission in the UK'.

Faith to Faith College Database

This database compiled in 2006 and sponsored by the Presence and Engagement initiative of the Church of England, was a database describing the different faiths taught by each Christian College and the method used to teach them. It covered all colleges who chose to respond at the time. Currently, one of the members of the Steering Group is looking at this to consider whether it is worthwhile updating it.

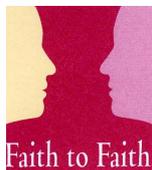
The Steering Group for Faith to Faith

This was initially the same group of people who were the previous Management Group– that is John Corrie, Andrew Smith, Richard Sudworth, Martin Thomas, Robin Thomson and Richard Zair, with the addition of Steve Bell and then of Bryan Knell supporting me from Global Connections. Very soon Colin Edwards joined us in place of Steve. Recently Martin Thomas, Robin Thomson and Richard Zair have moved on and Richard Sudworth remains in the background giving support and advice where needed – he has been a great help to me and a good colleague in the past and has recently written a new course, 'Reflecting on Islam' which is available as a download from our [website](#), along with other courses on different faiths.

Thank you

Many have supported us in prayer and some through financial giving earmarked for *Faith to Faith* – I am grateful and ask for your continued support in this New Year.

Ann Bower



Mission in the UK and Faith to Faith Co-ordinator
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