

Asian Concern

Newsletter Autumn 2005

Convenor's Letter

My Dear Friends

Since our last Newsletter the big event, which is reported on by Manish Subhash below, has been our First Scottish Asian Christian Convention.

This has been in the planning for some years, and finally took place with some 60 delegates attending.

We were greatly blessed with our outstanding Guest Speaker, Mr Ram Gidoomal CBE from London. It was an inspiration to have him with us.

Our world has been forced by international terrorism into increasing confrontation, east

versus west, Moslem versus Christian. We did not need the London bombings to remind us of this. But our Asian Christian friends have a wonderful opportunity to minister healing and reconciliation in this unhappy situation.

Rooted in their own Asian communities and culture, they nonetheless relate lovingly to the white churches. What a witness! And we are deeply thankful. So our Convention's theme, *Is Christ for the Asians?*, was relevant indeed.

There is other news.

Our Fieldworkers, Solomon and Angela, have moved to a new

house in Musselburgh. Please note their new telephone number, [WEB EDIT]. We wish them and the children, Jesse and Rachel, God's richest blessing in their new home.

We have a new website! Look up the link for Asian Concern on:

www.greensidechurch.org

Lastly, another first for us is the All Nations Service to be held at Greenside Church at

6.30 pm on Sunday 4 December. Representatives from many of the ethnic and immigrant churches in Edinburgh and district will be taking part - 'a taste of heaven' as someone has commented.

Come along and enjoy a great witness to all we share together in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord!

Yours in Jesus Christ
Andrew Anderson
Convenor

First Scottish Asian Christian Convention

September 10th saw the First Scottish Asian Christian Convention taking place at Greenside Parish Church in Edinburgh. The Convention was the fulfilment of the inspiring vision of one of Asian Concern's founding members, Subhash Joshi, who tragically died suddenly in May 2001. At last, after much preparation and planning, it took place, and was dedicated to Subhash's memory.

It was felt by all those involved that the timing of the Convention was right and, given the current global tensions, as well as those closer to home, namely those arising from the July 7 bombings, the theme, *Is Christ for the Asians?* was particularly appropriate. Asian Christians have a unique place in our national community at this time, and a great opportunity to promote understanding and reconciliation.

The Convention ran from 10 am - 4 pm. We enjoyed lively worship, provided by Pastor Mahboob's Group from Glasgow. We held a series of workshops, *Christianity for the Hindus* led by our own Biren Rongong, *Christianity for the Moslems* led by Father Mark Aziz and Nabil Ramzy, and *Christianity for All* led by Pastor On Hing of the Edinburgh Chinese Church.

Our Guest Speaker for the Convention was Ram Gidoomal CBE. He is a businessman and entrepreneur, and is founder chairman of South Asian Concern, and he and his delightful wife Sunita had travelled up from London to be with us. He has written several books on cross cultural issues including *Sari 'n' Chips* and *Chapatis for Tea*. He stood for Mayor of London with the Christian Peoples Alliance, and at one time lived and worked in Perth, Scotland.

Ram's address was for many of us the highlight of the day. He spoke on his own personal experiences and how he has dealt with being an Asian Christian. His wisdom, knowledge and wit made a great contribution to the success of the occasion.

Of course no Asian event would be complete without food and a lot of those who attended appreciated the time to fellowship with the other delegates over rice and curry!

The topics discussed raised many questions and it was felt that all who participated in the convention took something away with them.

Manish Joshi

Urdu Services

every 3rd Sunday of the month at 3 pm in
Greenside Parish Church

Prayer Meeting

Every 1st Saturday of the month at
10.30am at [WEB EDIT], Musselburgh

The members and friends of Asian Concern
invite you to a

Christmas Mubarak

with conjurer, music, Christmas message, supper

Saturday, 10th December 2005, 7-10pm

The Calton Centre, 121 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh

Further information from Solomon & Angela Daniel [WEB EDIT]:
info@greensidechurch.com

Asian Concern, Greenside Parish Church, Royal Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5AD

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