

Jewels in His Crown, 25-27 June 2010

Conference conclusions

We have come together for the sixth Jewels in His Crown conference, as disciples of Jesus Christ, Asian and non-Asian, from a variety of backgrounds.

As we have worshipped the Lord together through prayer, fellowship, Bible study, music and discussion, we have celebrated our unity and diversity and our commitment to follow Christ and to make him known, especially among South Asians of all faith backgrounds in the UK.

We give thanks for the ten years since the first Jewels in His Crown conference in July 2000. We acknowledge great progress in some areas, while many issues and challenges are the same.

As in 2000:

- The vast majority of the South Asian community has not had the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus in ways that are relevant and appropriate.

We have explored ways forward for the UK Asian church, including different forms such as:

- Asian led, Asian majority churches
- Gatherings for people of particular faith and cultural backgrounds ('MBB', 'yesubhaktas')
- Multicultural churches
- Meetings that focus on young people
- The role of mainstream and traditional churches

1. We affirm the place for each of these and other forms of church, including those centred on common interests. We want to be creative, and willing to change and adapt, in order to be accessible, while remaining true to God's word.

2. We agree that we will not jump to conclusions or pre-judge other models, but respond with grace, respecting their attempts to reach people for Christ.

3. We recognise the resurgence of religious belief and commitment among British Asians of all faith backgrounds, both older and younger, with a commitment to their religious and cultural traditions, as well as spiritual search. We acknowledge that we have not engaged them with adequate relevance, across spiritual, social, cultural and political areas of life.

4. We want to be distinctive, not so much by our 'labels' and community identity as by our love, unity, service, overcoming sin and the quality of our lives.

5. We are grateful for the growing work among young people. We want to support them and we urge church and family leaders to continue to encourage young people in their discipleship. We need to keep on reaching the next generation.

5. We acknowledge that we have been fragmented within our language, cultural, community and denominational groupings.

6. We want to work together for mission as part of the whole church in the UK.

Actions

We commit ourselves:

- a. to work together to demonstrate our unity across boundaries within our Asian communities and with the wider church. Specifically we welcome the formation of the South Asian Forum of the Evangelical Alliance and encourage all to consider joining, as individuals, churches or organisations.
- b. to encourage leadership training among all sections, particularly for young people, for local church Asian leaders, for leaders in the wider church. We welcome the initiatives of BAYNet (British Asian Youth Network) and Naujavan in this area.
- c. to initiate dialogue for strategic alliances and relationships with African and Caribbean churches.
- d. to pray, privately and corporately, for family members who do not yet know the Lord.
- e. to continue to serve with prayer, patience and perseverance.