

## Global Leadership Summit

Earlier this year Paisley Methodist Church joined The Willow Creek Association. WCA works to link like-minded, action-oriented churches with each other and with strategic vision, training, and resources. The Association is driven by a calling to serve Christ-following leaders as they build biblically functioning churches—authentic, Acts 2 communities of faith that reach increasing numbers of lost people and grow them into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

The WCA is a not-for-profit ministry, with more than 12,000 Member Churches from 90 denominations and 45 countries. These churches, and others they serve, represent a wide variety of sizes, denominations, and backgrounds, and are ministering in literally every corner of the world.

Since 1996 WCA has held an annual leadership summit which is committed to leadership development and aims to inspire those in any form of church leadership to be the best they can be, using them to encourage everyone around to use their God given gifts in the service of building God's kingdom.

To take advantage of the Willow Creek resources and leadership training we attended the Summit, which took place over two day in St. Paul's and St. George's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh. This grandly titled event was extremely high tech, the speakers came to us via the big screen and linked us to 100,000 other leaders gathered in more than 300 location and 50 countries, its aim to motivate and challenge us. The event was well attended with people from churches around Scotland.

The conference pack gave us a helpful workbook for notes and follow up, and after each session we were given an opportunity to review the talk with the help of a couple of questions in discussion with those who sat around us. We were encouraged to "hear it; understand it; own it; and apply it, as lasting change in leadership comes when you apply these powerful concepts to your situation"

The conference schedule brought us well led worship and international speakers who spoke on a variety of leadership topics: *Leading in the new reality*, Bill Hybles Senior Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. *Managing differently now*, Gary Hamel, Director Management Innovation Lab. *Aids vs. Trade* Andrew Rugasira, Founder and CEO of Good African Coffee. *Jessica Jackley and the Kiva story*, (Jessica is co-founder of Kiva). *Leading the people to the Prodigal God*, Tim Keller, Founder and Senior Pastor Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Manhatten. *Third Culture Leadership*, Dave Gibbons, Founder and Lead Pastor Newsong Church, Irvine CA. *Switch*, Dan Heath, Author, Consultant & Co-Founder of Thinkwell, Chip Heath, Author, Consultant & Professor at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. *Leveraging Your Past*, Wess Stafford, President and CEO of Compassion International. *The Irreducible Core of Leadership*, Tony Blair, (yes our former Prime Minister). *Bono the Church .....Three years Later*, Bono, Lead Singer of U2, Activist in the fight against AIDS & Poverty in Africa. *Against all odds*, Harvey Carey, Founder and Senior Pastor City of Faith Covenant Church, Detroit.

Some of the talks related to international issues to raise awareness in the local church, others in respect of practical church administration and finance and gave team leadership wisdom and guidance. They came both from a biblical perspective and best practice in the secular field. We all found the speakers excellent, fired with passion for the work they do and gave us much to think about and evaluate for our lives and our church. Tim Keller's reputation for interpretation of scripture was eagerly awaited, his insight and presentation on Leading People to the Prodigal God. Andrew Rugasira, expounded the need for fair trade to help the poor rather than long term hand outs to alleviate poverty. Harvey Carey was inspirational as he spoke about starting his church in the poorest zip code in the poorest state in the United States, it has since been identified as one of the top churches in growing people spiritually by Reveal research. He brought insight into how to encourage people to grow, even in tough circumstances. So many of the issues discussed were relevant to the current situation in our own church as we face a massive period of change in respect of premises, attitudes and the culture of our mission not only here in Paisley but throughout the Circuit.

Memorable quotes we took home;

**Vision** from Bill Hybels, session Leading in a New Reality, "**Make bold choices for the church to be church in the 21st.century, the local church has to be the hand of God in our community.**" and of His bountiful promise, "**Claim it and Walk in it.**"

**Practical management** Gary Hamel, session Manage Differently Now, "**generate more new thinking, be bold but humble, focused but flexible, mobilize, connect, support and be highly participatory.**"

**Mission** Jessica Jackley and the KIVA Story of micro finance, A Leadership Case Study, "**Keep a simple structure and build a common purpose. Don't be afraid to start small - JUST START.**"

**Barriers**, in particular spiritual dryness, Tim Keller's exposition of the parable of the prodigal son. Both sons were loved by the Father, lost and invited back in. The younger made his way back, but the elder felt he could not go in and we were asked to look at the attitude of the elder son. What was on the surface looked good but underneath was hardened needing to go to a deeper level of repentance and a new level of rejoicing.

Quote - "**Check out the reasons (*behind*) for your right doings.**" **He asked is religion, morality or legalism holding us back?**

**We need to go beyond Biblical Principles to the Gospel of Christ?**

The whole event was **Encouraging, Instructive and Uplifting**, it is our hope that next year there will be a large group from our church attend, we highly recommend it.

Angela Dobbins, Margaret and David Jackson.