

Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th May 2010

Frontier, Friendship, Fellowship The Mission of World

Christianity since Edinburgh 1910

Dana L. Robert

Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission
Boston University School of Theology

The 2010 Alexander Duff and Drummond Trust Lectures

The World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, 1910, was the launching point of a phase in Christian history marked by visions of Christianity as a worldwide movement. As Christianity spread beyond Europe and became a largely nonwestern religion during the twentieth century, the goal of "world Christianity" interacted with mission practice. These lectures will explore three themes important for the shaping of world Christianity since Edinburgh 1910 "frontier," "friendship," and "fellowship" and reflect on their continued significance for twenty-first century mission.

1. Mission Frontiers from Geography to Justice

This lecture will explore the changing definitions of the "mission field" from 1910 to 2010, as expressed in the concept "frontier." Is the concept of "frontier" still useful for mission thought and practice in the twenty-first century?

Monday 24th May, 6.00pm

*The University Chapel, University of Glasgow
9 University Avenue, Gilmorehill 12, Glasgow G12 8QQ*

2. Friendship in the Creation of World Christianity

One of the memorable moments at Edinburgh 1910 was the plea by the future Indian Bishop Azariah for "friendship." This lecture will explore the important role of cross-cultural friendships in the formation of Christianity as a worldwide religion during the twentieth century. Does Azariah's call for "friendship" still have meaning?

Tuesday 25th May, 7.00pm

St. Columba's Church, 5 Clifford Road, Stirling FK8 2AG

3. Mission Visions of Worldwide Christian Fellowship

The dream of worldwide Christian fellowship unfolded from Edinburgh 1910 and became embodied in the idea of "world Christianity." This lecture will explore how visions of "world Christianity" during the twentieth century included ideas ranging from the kingdom of God, to political internationalism, global human rights movements, ecumenism, and "taking the whole gospel to the whole world." What is the relationship between mission and worldwide Christian fellowship today?

Wednesday 26th May, 5.30pm

*The Church of Scotland Assembly Halls
New College, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LX*

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A leading historian of Christian mission, Professor Dana Robert has been teaching at the Boston University School of Theology since 1984. Her books include *American Women in Mission: A Social History of their Thought and Practice* (1997), *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History* (co-author 1997), *African Initiatives in Christian Mission: Vol 1 The Mission Churches* (editor, 2003), *'Occupy Until I Come': A. T. Pierson and the Evangelization of the World* (2003), and *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). She has directed approximately sixty doctoral dissertations, and former students hold teaching and ministry positions around the world.

Dana Robert has written the 2010 mission study for the United Methodist Church, *Joy to the World! Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*. She serves on the denomination's Committee on Faith and Order. With her husband M.L. Daneel, an expert on African initiated churches in Southern Africa, Robert directs the Center for Global Christianity and Mission at the Boston University School of Theology. They travel regularly to Zimbabwe for research and outreach.

The Alexander Duff Missionary Lectureship Trust commemorates the interests and achievements of Alexander Duff, missionary, educator and theologian. Alexander Duff's immense influence on Indian culture and society is perhaps better remembered today than his equally important career in Scotland at a time of change and ferment in church and society.

The Drummond Trust was founded by Peter Drummond, a seedsman and influential public figure in Stirling, who pioneered the mass distribution of religious tracts in the 19th century. His nephew was Henry Drummond the noted theologian and scientist. Today the Trust assists in the publication of Christian books and audio-visual material.

For further information contact:

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