

Edinburgh 2010

In 1910 over 1,200 Christians mainly from the English-speaking world gathered in Edinburgh as representatives of a wide variety of Protestant mission agencies. It was the third of a series of conferences organised by an International Committee comprising representatives from America, Britain and the European Continent. Why should we celebrate this event?

- It was the culmination of a long tradition of pan-Evangelical ecumenism that had begun during the eighteenth century religious revivals
- It was a superbly organised attempt to present and analyse scientifically the observable facts of Christian missionary expansion and policy
- It was the first mission event Anglo-Catholics in the Church of England had attended alongside Evangelical Protestants
- There was extraordinary spectacle of an Archbishop of Canterbury addressing a non-denominational gathering in an assembly hall of a non-established church
- The first Protestant missionary conference to receive commendatory greetings from a Roman Catholic bishop, Geremia Bonomelli, bishop of Cremona, Italy
- It inspired the Orthodox Churches to begin a wider ecumenical engagement
- It enabled countless Christian missionaries, in attendance at Edinburgh 1910, working in geographically isolated and denominationally limited work to place it in a broader and exciting context
- Its success led to the foundation of the International Missionary Council and national inter-denominational missionary councils around the world.
- It inspired the formation of National Councils of Churches in countries where missionary councils had taken root
- It was the unintended catalyst for the commencement of the modern ecumenical movement and the formation of the World Council of Churches