

Rural Evangelism Network

February 2013

www.ruralevangelism.net

The National Forum for Churches and Mission Agencies
concerned for the evangelisation of rural Britain.
Encouraging good practise through sharing knowledge and experience.

2013 Conference—Sharing Insight and Experience

Over the years REN has held conferences, collaborated on publications, arranged various consultations, and generally sought to advance the work of God in the rural areas of Britain. We have explored such things as Alpha, Fresh Expressions, Church Planting, Messy Church and other initiatives within rural situations.

At this year's conference we are going back to basics. The Network comprises representatives from national Churches (at both national and regional levels) and representatives from evangelistic agencies that either specialise in rural evangelism or undertake rural evangelism as part of their ministry. To this central core we added representation from organisations that resource rural evangelism. **The purpose for the Network is to enable the sharing of insight and experience.**

So that is what we shall be doing on March 13th and 14th in Selly Oak. Together we shall explore the nature of the challenge of rural evangelism today, we will hear what is taking place, learning from what works (and possibly what does not work), looking at the situation from both church and organisation perspectives. We will also reflect on the various other bodies with which the Network engages as we seek to draw up a strategy for the coming years. Within the mix there will be times for biblical reflection and prayer together.

Such opportunities to confer together about our core purpose have been rare in recent years so it is my hope that as many of our member bodies will be represented as possible. We need the knowledge and wisdom from a wide a selection as possible.

If you are already booked in then you should have recently received an email from me with information about the venue and programme. If you are planning to come but have not received that email please make contact as soon as possible via ren@ruralmissions.org.uk or 01858 414930.

If you are not able to attend personally please try your hardest to ensure that a suitable deputy can attend. We still have a number of free places available.

Venue: BMS International Missionary Centre, Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham

Date: 13 & 14 March 2013

Time: Lunch time to lunch time

Cost: One representative can come free. An additional representative fee is £60.

Further details from: REN Administration (see over for details)

Barry Osborne, REN Secretary

Sharing Together in God's Mission

REN Business

As part of our 2013 Conference in March we will hold our AGM. It will be more appropriate to hold this on the Thursday morning after we have had sufficient time to explore contemporary issues for rural evangelism in Britain.

A copy of the constitution can be downloaded from our website at www.ruralevangelism.net.

On the agenda for that meeting will be the task of appointing committee members and officers. Some will be willing to continue to serve but we have three retirements notified. It has been our practice to ensure that the committee adequately represents the two core constituent bodies (national Churches and evangelistic agencies). Happily committee meetings can be managed on-line and require very little time.

It is important that committee members and officers recognise the responsibility to carry out their functions in a generous spirit that seeks the good of all members and represents their interests fairly.

The Next Big Conference

We have already been in discussion with others through the Churches Rural Group to consider the possibility of sharing in a major conference in the near future. We have been pleased to participate in such joint ventures in the past, though some REN members have felt that evangelism has become marginalised within a wider agenda. The nature of a future major joint Conference will be considered in the business session in March. We need your views please.

Meet Jerry Marshall



Jerry Marshall is the new CEO of the Arthur Rank Centre taking over from Gordon Gatward. Jerry is an entrepreneur and has a background in agriculture and engineering. Jerry is quickly settling into his new role and we welcome him into REN. Jerry will be present at the 2013 Conference.

Meet Martin Robinson



Dr Martin Robinson will be providing the biblical reflections during our 2013 Conference.

The author of several books on mission, he is Principal and Chief Executive of Springdale College: Together in Mission, with responsibility for theological aspects.

RURAL EVANGELISM NETWORK 24 Hour Conference for All Members 13/14 March 2013 International Mission Centre Selly Oak, Birmingham

Easy access by road or rail, off street parking, good fellowship and good food, various useful sessions for rural evangelism, resources, one free place (full board) per member body.

Details are on www.ruralevangelism.net

Rural Evangelism Network

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Make Good Use of Internet Evangelistic Resources

Are you making links to internet sites designed for seekers? Two that are supported broadly by UK Churches are www.christianity.org.uk which is run by the Christian Enquiry Agency, and www.rejesus.co.uk. The two sites differ significantly as they cater for different kinds of visitors.

Please forward copies of this news letter to key people in the Church or Organisation you represent. (e.g. General Secretary, Rural Officer, Secretary for Evangelism) and to other churches and colleagues. You can download a copy of this newsletter at www.ruralevangelism.net.