

PLANTING LIFE!

A gathering for church planters and planners
in Bath, 17-19 November 2009

www.mission21.info

PRESS RELEASE for immediate release

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Mission21 explodes in tweets and conversations

Too often when you hear about the church in the secular media the focus is on division. It was refreshing therefore to see honest and frank discussions overcome divisions of churchmanship, style, race, gender and age at **Mission21**, one of the UK's largest church planting gatherings.

More than 200 people, mainly church planters, attended from across the UK church scene and beyond. This was reflected in the variety of names leading **Mission21**, including Billy Kennedy of Pioneer, Bishop Graham Cray of the Anglican Church, Steve Barber of Vineyard, Martyn Atkins of the Methodist Church and Daniel Akhazemea of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Nigerian-born church planter Emmanuel Ironguru called for black and white churches to "understand what we are fighting for and why we should stand with each other. Not many Christians are racist. We just don't understand each other."

Bishop Graham Cray underlined the reason why churches need to work together in new ways: "The biggest group of people we have to reach largely don't know the story and have had no connection with any church of any denomination in their lifetime."

The exchange of ideas wasn't limited to the many face-to-face discussions that took place in Bath 17-19 November. Around 300 "tweets", as the 140 character Twitter text messages are called, were sent about **Mission21** during the 48 hour event. One tweet expressed what unified those at the event: "in heaven there is no Asian church, no African church, only the church of Jesus Christ".

Experienced practitioners facilitated discussion-based workshops such as planting across cultures, planting 24/7 disciples, and planting in the city. Specialist sessions dealt with issues including re-planting churches and planting for the young.

Mission21 was sponsored by Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Council for World Mission Europe, Together in Mission and the Group for Evangelisation.

More at www.mission21.info

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