

Beauty For Ashes 2010 – Dundee Seminars

1) Dealing with challenging behaviour

If you work with children and young people whose behaviour you find challenging, this seminar is for you! Come to interact, share stories, swap ideas and pick up suggestions for good practice. We'll delve into social context, conflict behaviour, possible responses, boundary setting, personal survival strategies and God's perspective on reaching out to children and young people.

Matt Hall is a trained social worker who has been working with at risk young people for 19 years. For the past decade, Matt and his wife Diane have been involved in a community youth work ministry reaching out to children, young people and families in the Easterhouse area of Glasgow.

Jenny Abbott enjoys getting alongside challenging youngsters in her work as SU Scotland's Urban Ministries Co-ordinator. Prior to this she worked as a Child and Families Social Worker, and before that studied Spanish and Portuguese. She loves socializing, walking and travelling.

2) Modelling Forgiveness

When things and people in life cause hurt, anger and upset, how do we tool young people up to break free from the things that hold them back? How do we actively encourage young people not only to forgive others but to choose forgiveness for themselves?

Throughout this session we will be trying to answer those questions, learning from each other and focusing in on some resources which will help us to engage the young people we work with, discovering freedom in Christ!

Sandra Blair has worked for Youth for Christ for over 4 years. As Youth Work Resources Coordinator she has the pleasure of promoting YFC's Resources (Rock Solid, RS2, Mettle to name a few), and training and equipping Youth Workers across Scotland. She has 7 years experience of working within secondary schools along with local church based youth work. She loves reading books, hanging out with friends, drinking coffee and watching 24!

3) Church in gang culture

No this isn't a seminar on how to deal with various cliques on a Sunday morning, but an honest look at how the church responds to many of our young people today who feel more at home in a gang than in any other situation. For them the sense of belonging goes so far that they would lay down their lives and freedom for their friends. Looking at case studies from Neil's work in the East End and accounts from young people in the community we will share our experiences of finding common ground and how we as a church can partner other organisations in our communities to show the young people another way of life.

Neil Young has been leading church youth work for over 16 years. Now youth project manager for a small Church of Scotland in the North East of Glasgow, Neil has witnessed both the horrors of gang culture but the successes that positive church work can have. Neil is director of Bolt FM a youth led radio station, based in St. Paul's Church. Bolt has been showcased by COSLA (Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities) as best practice of community engagement in dealing with antisocial behaviour in young people.

4) Sustaining your spirituality on the frontline: Review, renew, revive

Helping vulnerable youngsters and their families can be rewarding, but also exhausting. Do you find yourself running around trying to help everyone, only to find yourself spiritually, physically and emotionally drained? This seminar will look at the importance of reviewing our priorities, renewing our relationship with God, and reviving our team support in order to be people who can bless others whilst taking care of ourselves.

Gena Wilson has been in Glasgow since 1996, mainly working with young people in both a traditional church setting and out with the traditional church. During the last 8 years she has been team leader of ImpactGlasgow, a Christian charity seeking to create different expressions of church in the context of urban deprived areas, hoping that young people and adults would be able to experience Jesus and the Gospel in a way that is clear and relevant to their lives.

5) Building the bonds of attachment: an invitation to share experiences of separation, loss and how love grows

Come and hear the story of how *The Growth of Love* developed in the context of Mill Grove. Come to share your experiences and listen to others; and learn together that with God's empowering we can help emotionally damaged children to love again.

Keith and Ruth White run Mill Grove, which since 1899 has not only been the White family home, but also home to over 1,200 children who have not been able to live in their own families.

6) Back to school

As Christians, we are often frustrated that there aren't as many young people in our churches on a Sunday as we'd like. So why not think about taking the church to the place where young people spend the biggest part of their day - and go Back to School? Let's take time together to reflect on opportunities that exist for churches to serve local schools as well as to consider some of the practical implications.

Andrew Thomson has worked as Scripture Union's Regional Worker for the North East and Shetland since 2008. Before this he and his family lived in Northern Ireland where he worked in residential social care with 16-20 year olds. He is married with three children, and enjoys a bit of Sci-Fi!