

## 2010 MAINSTREAM CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Everyone who attended the conference was asked to share their thoughts on the experience. Many thought it was the best conference they had been to; very few concerns were expressed.

Here are some of the comments received:

### Overall impressions

It was a great Conference: Good Teaching; Great Fellowship; God-centred Worship

*I loved it. I haven't been for several years, and the whole thing was a blessing to me. The venue has changed considerably since I last came – it's very good!*

A very worthwhile expenditure of time and money. A spiritual treasure trove opened up, to wonder at and receive from.

*Had a great time - God really met with me and it's fantastic to have the opportunity to respond to God in such a safe environment.*

This was my first conference and I came with one of my elders. We were both overwhelmed by the challenge and inspiration of the speakers and are determined to bring more people next year.

*Excellent conference. Very challenging/encouraging/faith building.*

A real sense of God's presence and an opportunity to be fed and ministered to myself; a real time of blessing and encouragement.

*After 2009 it is difficult to imagine how it could be better....It was!*

Very good, well organised and good mix of formality and informality

*A truly precious time aside from the daily routine, to seek and find God, and to enjoy fellowship with like-minded people. As well as enjoying time with brothers and sisters from around the country, this is also valuable time for our leaders to enjoy spending time together and hearing from God together. This is the fifth year I've been to Mainstream, and it has become a highlight of my year.*

It was the most significant conference I have attended

*This was the first MS that I had been to and both my wife and I enjoyed it thoroughly. Great to have time to spend with other leaders, both in our own church and to meet others, and to come and BE and not DO as is usual with me.*

Great venue, clean, welcoming, good rooms and food.

*Good food both spiritually (most important) and physically! Great to meet old friends and new, to spend time worshipping God and receiving from him - to take some time to listen to Him and to pray through issues*

### Conference format

Great. I really liked the order in which things were done, and the time allowances seemed just right.

*Thought it was put together very well with a good mix of plenary sessions and optional seminars.*

I like the balance of events; I didn't feel overburdened with the need to rush and attend one thing after another. The pace was good.

*Felt a little rushed here and there but when there is a lot to chew on it is likely to be so.*

Very good. The mix of substantial input, space and opportunity to meet others works really well. Loved the mix of plenary session topics too.

### Speakers

I found Malcolm Duncan motivational and funny – just what I (and the group I was with) needed at the start of the day. He set the tone of God's agenda for the day with me.

*Stimulating and challenging.*

Impressive. Great contrasts again. Very helpful insights and much to consider.

I found Malcolm very stimulating, Grace very challenging, and Gavin refreshing.

### **Worship**

I have never enjoyed worship anywhere so much as here. I would like to have had longer worship / prayer sessions as this is where we get to really be in God's presence.

*Helpfully brought us into awareness of God's presence.*

Thought it was amazing - sensitive/ challenging/ good mix of songs ... Really sensed the presence of God not just the emotion of the experience.

*No worship time seemed to replicate any other - each time we worshipped in song it felt like we journeyed together in God's presence.*

Uplifting and truly opening the door to heaven.

*Amazing - a touch of heaven and of God*

### **Options**

I went to hear Grace Turner. I could have listened to her all day – it's so rare to find someone who is charismatic and yet no-nonsense in practicalities. I came away reminded of how I need to pray this year, with increased faith in God, and lifted in Spirit.

*Found both very informative, to the point and confirming*

### **The best thing about the Mainstream Conference was...**

Meeting with God.

*Spending a day out with my leadership team where we had time to laugh together as well as mull over the sessions we had been to.*

The pastor who sat with us at dinner and encouraged us in a way he can't have been aware of the balance of powerful and anointed teaching, Spirit-led worship, and opportunities for personal ministry.

*Stretching and provoking worship and teaching, we have come back refreshed and inspired.*

The sense of shared journey with God's people.

*Meeting God in the presence of colleagues and friends*

Being fed by the Holy Spirit through the various gifted participants.

*Being surprised.....again! Thank you all for your commitment to us.*

Finding out that the questions and situations we face are very similar to other fellowships! - encouraging and challenging at the same time.

*All of it! If I had to pinpoint anything, it would be the time to spend apart with God. The times of ministry in the plenary sessions and the extended worship times are invaluable. being in place with other church leaders: learning, being encouraged, and challenged to trust God in taking risks for His Kingdom*

The Word spoken with passion, authority, theology, and application (is that 4 things?)

### **It would have been better if...**

*I hadn't fallen on black ice on the way in. I like to look at it as a prayer opportunity for others.*

It went on for longer.....maybe not!!!

*List of churches represented with rough size and community environment to enable contact to share experiences with similar fellowships*

Would have liked maybe a bit more "realism" in the reports from the various ministers and churches in that it would maybe be encouraging (in a strange way) for ministers to say we are having really tough time and feel on our own. They are most definitely NOT alone but sometimes need to hear this. Conversely, great to see how God is moving in different situations.