

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Lay Preachers

**"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service." (1 Tim 1 v12)**

In Timothy 2 v 6, Paul reminds Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God which was in him. Many commentators believe that this gift is, 'the authority and power to be a minister of Christ.' Timothy is what God has made him by calling him to some particular ministry and by gifting him with appropriate natural and spiritual gifts.

I trust in the past year that as you have continued in the things of God by using the gifts He has given you that He has continued to richly bless you, your ministry and those you have had the privilege of 'preaching' to. We are for ever grateful and thankful for His enabling and equipping, for without Him we can do nothing.

We continue to be thankful to all churches for their continued use of our lay preachers as we continue to preach the Word and the Gospel message. This gospel message has been given to us as a sacred trust, we must share it.

Selwyn Hughes in one of his writings goes on to tell of an illustration which is a favourite of many preachers in America, it goes like this:

*After our Lord returned to heaven, following His death and resurrection, He was asked by the angels what arrangements He had made for the propagation of the gospel on earth. The Lord replied that He commissioned His disciples to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth by word of mouth, and at the same time being examples of the truth they presented. One of the angels said, 'But Lord, these men and women are fallible and prone to weaknesses ...what if for some reason they fail to follow your plan? Surely You have some alternative arrangements for the propagation of the gospel should these men and women not be up to the task?'*

*The Lord looked at the angels and said solemnly, 'If they do not fulfil the task I have given them, then the work will simply not get done. I have no other plan.'*

Let me express my deep thanks and gratitude to those who have served you so faithfully on the SBLPA Committee, who have now 'stepped down', Rev Oliver Martin, Messrs Fraser Mitchell, Bob Leslie and Jim Brownlie.

Oliver served on the Committee as our link with the Baptist Union of Scotland. Since Oliver's resignation, it has been agreed, after dialogue with Andrew Rollinson, the Core Leaders of the Baptist Union and the BU Council that the SBLPA Secretary should serve on Council. He has now duly been co-opted.

I also want to express on your behalf our thanks to Glen Cartwright for all he does as Secretary, to Alan Milnes as Treasurer and Philip Magee Website and IT expert, to the other Committee Members Jim McNulty, Andrew Page and Iain Telfer. Again, let me say, I hope we have served and represented you well and God willing, with His help, will continue to do so.

This past year we've ran 'Connect Four' Lay Preachers Workshops which have been well received and appreciated by those who have managed along. If you can manage along to the remaining one on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Stirling Baptist Church, it'll be great to see you. (I'm sure Glen will say more about this and other items in his report).

(During my remarks as President of this Association at last years AGM in Perth I mentioned in passing my concerns of non attendees. I am grateful and thankful to those who do make every effort to attend our AGMs, but my concern and that of the Committee's is still there)

I'm sure we are going to have a great day, a Spirit filled day on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> as God's Word is opened up to us, as we are enlightened and fed spiritually through Rev Edwin Gunn. A time of fellowshiping together as co-workers in the service and ministry of the Lord.

I'm delighted that Rev Edwin Gunn is our speaker at this year's AGM. I have no doubts that God has a word in season for all who gather.

Hopefully I'll see you at Stenhouse Gorgie, Edinburgh on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Every Blessing

Jim McFarlane  
SBLPA President