

***SCOTTISH BAPTIST LAY PREACHERS'
ASSOCIATION***



PREACHING STATISTICS 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

“With a dazzling range of divinely imaginative options, God invented and decided to use preaching to impact His world. It is prophetic, transformational, incarnational and diverse”.

Michael Quicke, 360 Degree Preaching

With Quicke's words very much in mind, we will, from a spiritual perspective, never know the lives which have been touched, the people who have been encouraged, the men, women, boys and girls who may have come to faith through the ministry of the Association and the proclamation of God's Word. Our call is to be faithful, for if we are faithful in sowing the seed of the Word, then who knows where the seed may fall.

From a statistical perspective though, we make and made in 2016, a hugely significant contribution to not only Baptist life and witness in Scotland, but in many other areas too. To measure it in pure statistical terms is to almost take away from the immeasurable spiritual aspect and eternal impact, but suffice to say in 2016, the Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers Association conducted 1,700 services in a wide range of settings..

That said, we ought never to get hung up on or see numbers as the primary barometer, informative though they are and can be in and of themselves, but rather we ought to humbly reflect and give thanks to God for the immeasurable spiritual impact of 1,700 services in terms of kingdom work done!

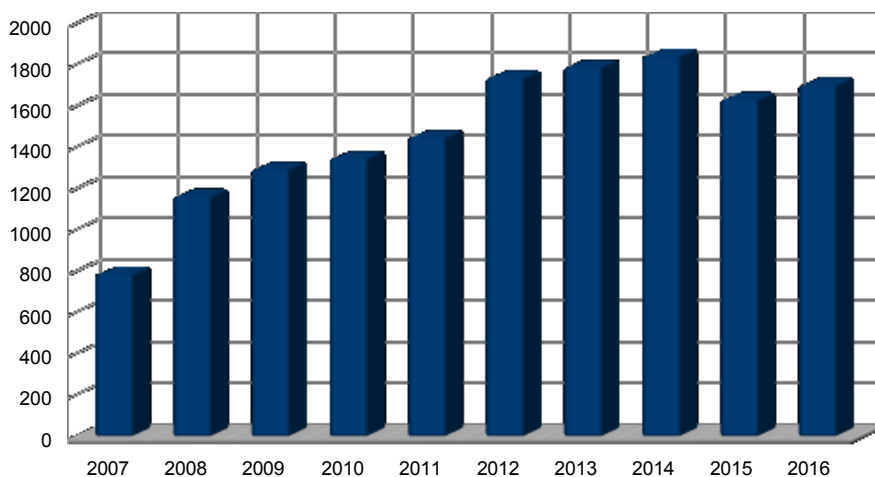
Our spiritual impact is immeasurable, that is true, yet our statistical impact in our conducting of 1,700 services exactly in 2016 (over 1,600 services for the fifth consecutive year) still remains around 1,000 more than the number the Association conducted a decade ago and for many years before then, the comparative figures for previous years being:-

- For 2015, a total of 1,630 services
- For 2014, a total of 1,840 services
- For 2013, a total of 1,787 services;
- For 2012, a total of 1,735 services;
- For 2011, a total of 1,447 services;
- For 2010, a total of 1,345 services;
- For 2009, a total of 1,292 services;
- For 2008, a total of 1,161 services;
- For 2007, a total of 784 services;
- For 2006, a total of 539 services

The bar-chart below shows the number of services taken by Association members over the last 10 years:-

The 1,700 figure is based on a 100% response rate, the figures for previous years being:-

- For 2015, a response rate of 100%
- For 2014, a response rate of 99%
- For 2013, a response rate of 98%;
- For 2012, a response rate of 98%;
- For 2011, a response rate of 98%;



- For 2010, a response rate of 96%;
- For 2009, a response rate of 94%;
- For 2008, a response rate of 86%;
- For 2007, a response rate of 91%;
- For 2006, a response rate of 57%.

Of the 1,700 services undertaken:-

- 952 (or 56%) were in 100 Scottish Baptist churches;
- 254 (or 15%) were in 127 evangelical churches of varying denominations and types;
- 224 (or 13%) were in the environment of care homes;
- 91 (or 5%) were in the context of funerals!;
- 48 (or 3%) were in primary or high schools;
- 43 (or 3%) were international in nature;
- with the remainder at conferences, camps and in prisons!

Of the 952 services undertaken in 100 Scottish Baptist churches,:-

- 559 (or 59%) were on a Sunday morning;
- 4 (or 0.5%) were on a Sunday afternoon;
- 202 (or 21%) were on a Sunday evening;
- 178 (or 19%) were midweek meetings/events of various kinds
- 9 (or 1%) were at other times (Friday night, Saturday morning/afternoon, etc)

For previous years, the comparative figures were:-

- For 2015, 950 services in 106 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2014, 1,227 services in 109 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2013, 1,051 services in 106 Scottish Baptist Churches
- For 2012, 1,099 services in 104 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2011, 896 services in 99 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2010, 743 services in 98 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2009, 813 services in 94 Scottish Baptist churches;
- For 2008, 775 services in 96 Scottish Baptist churches

With 162 churches forming the Baptist Union of Scotland, this means the Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers' Association was, in 2016, involved in preaching in 62% of them. Primarily, though not exclusively, the figures are higher where the church was/is vacant and/or where there is already a lay preacher presence/preaching team.

Insofar as the variety of other evangelical churches are concerned, we conducted in 2016, 15% (or 254 services) in them, as compared to the fact that:-

- In 2015, we conducted 19.8% of our services (or 324 services) in them;
- In 2014, we conducted 18.4% of our services (or 339 services) in them;
- In 2013, we conducted 28.5% of our services (or 510 services) in them;
- In 2012, we conducted 18.7% of our services (or 326 services) in them;
- In 2011, we conducted 23.4% of our services (or 340 services) in them;
- In 2010, we conducted 18.8% of our services (or 253 services) in them;
- In 2009, we conducted 22.8% of our services (or 295 services) in them;
- In 2008, we conducted 26.1% of our services (or 303 services) in them;
- In 2007, we conducted 26.9% of our services (or 211 services) in them.

Put simply, our 2016 statistics serve as crystal-clear evidence of the extent to which lay preachers are being used, not just within a Scottish Baptist context, but across a wide spectrum of settings. We are also now regarded by many churches as the 'first-stop-shop' when it comes to the provision of pulpit supply. We have a credibility and a respect we've worked hard to gain. Supported by the BUS Ministry Development Coordinator, we, last year, initiated a programme to intentionally support, with sustained and systematic ministry, smaller Scottish Baptist churches, which already four of our churches are on board with.

In no small measure the fore-mentioned has come about as a result of the healthy and intentionally supportive relationships the Association has worked tirelessly to cultivate among Scottish Baptist churches over the last 10 years, principally through personal contact and promotion at the BUS Assembly. We will strive to continue to do so - to grow good relationships with churches - so we serve and support them well.

In 2017, we want to actively encourage and will indeed take every opportunity in actively encouraging all Scottish Baptist churches, large, medium or small, traditional, mainstream or contemporary, to draw on the ripe and rich resource that is the Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers' Association, so our usage increases year on year, secondary always to that which we are committed to bringing, enabled by the Holy Spirit, through the prophetic preaching of the Word.

GLEN P CARTWRIGHT
General Secretary

February 2017