

Persuasive Communities

Giving people reasons to believe is not the work of one person. It needs to be done by the whole church. The trouble is that in most European cities the churches are divided and relatively small. How do we move from maintenance mode to mission mode? One suggestion is that like minded people in different churches work together in persuasive evangelism. In this seminar we look at some examples of how Christians can work together as a persuasive community in their cities.

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life) and *The Dawkins Letters*. The latter has resulted in him being invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (26), Becky (24) and Emma Jane (15).

I. Introduction

1. The Task
2. The Opportunity
3. The Problem

II. The 'Solas' Model

1. Society
2. Science

3. Café

4. Music

5. Art

6. Medicine

7. History

8. Media

9. Philosophy

10. Church

III. How do we begin?

1. Prayer

2. Pub

3. Proclaim

4. Prepare

Suggested Reading

Quench – Solas

DA Carson - *Telling the Truth* – Zondervan, 2000.

Chester and Timmis – *Everyday Church* – IVP – 2011