# **Cappuccino Culture – Coffee House Apologetics**

Europe is full of coffee houses. Long before Starbucks, stopping for a coffee and a pastry (whether Danish, Dutch or Croissant) was a favourite pastime for many Europeans. Every European city has a café culture. The café is more than a place to get a drink. It is also a place to relax, read, discuss. It is part of the public market place and therefore is a place where Christians can seek to spread the Gospel. The combination of food, drink, people and discussion is one that is very conducive to biblical evangelism. In this seminar we look at how we can reach this café culture. We will also take some time to look at some responses David has received and consider how we might answer.

**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, publs, 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. What is Coffee Shop Culture?
- 2. Coffee in Amsterdam?

### II. The White House Coffee Shop?

1. Why do people go to coffee shops?

2. When is the best time to reach people?

3. What are the advantages of coffee shop apologetics?

### III. Quench

- 1. The Advantages of the Public Meeting Space
- 2. How to Organise Events.
- 3. What is the best format?
- 4. How to speak at Quench events.
  - a. What next? Follow up.
  - b. Some Pitfalls

## IV. Church Coffee Shops?

1. Starbucks in the Church?

2. Real or Instant?

#### V. Why Bother?

#### Suggested Reading

John Gray: *Black Mass*, Allen Lane, 2007 Tobias Jones: *Utopian Dreams*, Faber and Faber, 2007 Andrew Brown: *Fishing in Utopia – Sweden and the Future that Disappeared*, Granta, 2009 Roy Joslin: *Urban Harvest*, Evangelical Press, 1982. Rico Tice: *Christianity Explored*, The Good Book Company, 2005. DVD – *Friends*. Warner Home Video. Tim Keller – *The Reason for God* – Hodder and Stoughton, 2009. Graham Tomlin – *The Provocative Church* – SPCK, 2004 John Stackhouse: *Humble Apologetics*, Oxford University Press, 2002 Thomas E Schmidt: *Straight and Narrow*, IVP, 1995 John Lennox: *God's Undertaker*, Lion, 2009 Paul Copan: *Is God a Moral Monster?* – Baker, 2011 DA Carson - *Telling the Truth* – Zondervan, 2000. AFTERNOON 1.1/Day 1