



Church of Scotland
National Youth Assembly
7th - 10th September 2007



Falkirk Presbytery sponsored me to attend the Youth Assembly in Dundee. This was my fifth time there, although this year was slightly different! For the first time, the event took over the whole Apex City Quay hotel - filling every room with the 300 Youth Delegates and several members of NYA staff!

This year's theme was Now, Next, Later. Each day began with Morning Prayers, where I chose and read the Bible readings. There was then a Thought for the Day, followed by Worship. The rest of the day was spent at Seminars or Human Library Sessions when we explored various topics such as the Bible, Worship, Prayer and Young People.

There were four debates this year on the topics of CrossReach, Sexuality, World Mission and the Parish Development Fund. After a presentation on the topic, the Youth Assembly split up into Small Groups where the issue was discussed further and then we all came back together to debate it. I was a Small Group Leader for the first time this year which I really enjoyed.

As well as being a Youth Delegate, I was also working at the NYA. The Scottish Bible Society is a major sponsor of the event, so I was involved in some of the competitions we ran over the weekend and spent some time on our stand talking to people about our organisation and selling Bibles.

Two special events this year were the annual Gala Dinner and Ceilidh and an Alternativity Service. At the Gala Dinner there was a collection to raise money for the Nansato Nursery Trust in Malawi. £5100 was raised and the money is still coming in! The Alternativity Service involved us celebrating Christmas! We had a full Christmas Dinner, complete with crackers and carols, which was followed by a Nativity play and a presentation on how much waste the celebration causes each year and how we can change that, by making Christmas simpler and reducing it's environmental impact, for example by buying fair trade produce.

The weekend ended with an interview with the Moderator of the General Assembly and then Communion.

I really enjoyed the Youth Assembly - I learnt so many different things and it was great to meet old friends and make new ones!

Catherine McIntosh