



NYA 09

From 4th – 7th September we attended the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly. Organised by Mission and Discipleship Council, the weekend was held in Stirling University campus – a picturesque setting for the theme “Field of Dreams”. This was Catherine’s 7th year and Jamie’s 4th!!



Although the majority of delegates are connected to a Church of Scotland, young adults from anywhere in the UK or Churches overseas are welcome to attend. This year we had representatives from the United Reformed Church, Denmark, Barcelona and Nigeria! There was also a delegate from a Church of Scotland parish in London – one of two in the city.

Every year a special guest leads the weekend’s worship. This year’s guests were Immanuel Gospel choir, a Swedish group of 25 singers and keyboard player. Performing all over Europe, Africa and America, Immanuel Gospel Choir has even supported musicians such as Sarah Brightman! You can visit their Swedish website at: <http://www.immanuelgospel.se/>

A new addition to this year’s programme was long lunches. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, everyone was given a packed lunch and several options to choose from for the three hour period: Careers, Theology 101, Consultation – come and change the Kirk, Sports, Movie, Worship or Gospel Choir. We both chose the Gospel Choir workshop for all three days. Learning warm-up exercises, a mixture of negro spiritual, gospel and Abba songs, Immanuel Gospel choir invited us to join them on stage for their Sunday night concert.

The Golden Duck Awards were held on Saturday evening. This consisted of a red carpet, awards ceremony and ceilidh. During the night of appreciation, Dr. Steve Mallon (recently promoted to Council Secretary, Mission & Discipleship) received a Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising his work in starting and developing the National Youth Assembly to what it has become today. A huge Abba fan, a group of ‘secret singers’ was formed especially for the occasion, singing a Cappella Abba medley, you can view the video at: <http://cosyblog.wordpress.com/> Jamie was one of the ‘secret singers’, and was amazed they practiced and performed a five-part unaccompanied piece in under 24 hours!



At our gala dinner, a jazz band provided background music. Afterwards a collection was taken for Glasgow Lodging House Mission, raising £3810. The charity was introduced by Mark Johnstone, Convenor of Mission & Discipleship. LHM was founded by Glasgow Presbytery as a retreat for homeless people in 1909. In this its centenary year, it provides a café, access to shower facilities, emergency clothing store, help and support from care staff, chaplaincy service and education and activities programme.

Catherine and Jamie McIntosh