

**Inspiring Missionary Disciples**  
**17 October 2009**



Northern Baptists gathered under the theme of 'Inspiring Missionary Disciples' as Jonathan Edwards addressed them at their Assembly in Stockton on 17th October. Almost 160 were there to hear Jonathan call them to be faithful to the example of Jesus by being courageous in mission, but to do so only with the daily inner renewal of the Holy Spirit. In our commitment to mission Jonathan said we need to be imaginative and dedicated. He led the opening Bible Study, gave a major address and led the closing communion service. The day began with worship being led by David Lennox, which was one of his last acts as Association Secretary before retiring this month. The Assembly said farewell to David and also to Cath Mawson, who had served the three northern associations (NBA, NWBA and YBA) as BMS World Mission Co-ordinator. John Claydon led the gathering in paying tribute to both of them for their energy and commitment to the service of the association. Cath has served the BMS for over 17 years. David has served the association as Northern Baptist College Regional Tutor for 13 years and Association Secretary for 12. David's drive, vision, fellowship and deep sense of mission have been a gift to the Association.

This was a significant assembly, not only as farewells were said to key members of the association team, but also the new Association Moderator, Ray Richardson, chaired the session that saw new vision and mission statements being adopted. These statements recognise the passion and commitment to mission of the association and the commitment to serve together in the work of God's Kingdom, seeking to be creative in mission and to facilitate effective ministries. The assembly also heard news of developing links with the Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association in Texas as John Singleton spoke of the sense of expectancy and excitement within the churches regarding possible mission exchanges, Chris Bambrough, the Association's new Youth Specialist challenged them about the role of young people in church leadership.

John Claydon