

What are we training women for? By Fran Kirby

Published in the Latimer Blog on 24 -25 September 2021

[1] 'Frontier Unreached Peoples,' Joshua Project, <https://www.joshuaproject.net/frontier>. Accessed 21/09/21.

[2] These numbers are based on results from 42 churches. See p. 11, 'Ministry Training Survey 2021,' 9:38, <https://ninethirtyeight.org/download/ministry-training-survey-2021/>. Accessed 21/09/21.

[3] 'She needs you to fix the leaky pipe,' Nay Dawson, <https://naydawson.com/2021/05/23/she-needs-you-to-fix-the-leaky-pipe/>. Accessed 21/09/21. See also this Twitter thread, in which Nay and others discussed the question and reported similar experiences/observations: <https://twitter.com/rsloan431/status/1395370460137893892>. Accessed 21/09/21.

[4] See 12:39 and onwards in 'Maximise 2021: Interview with Carrie Sandom,' 9:38, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5hOQxcfGd4>. Accessed 21/09/21.

[5] For the FIEC churches, see 'Churches – FIEC,' FIEC, <https://fiec.org.uk/churches>. Accessed 21/09/21. All FIEC churches must ratify the FIEC's Doctrinal Basis, as well as agree to abide by the following ethos statement: 'Women in Ministry,' FIEC, <https://fiec.org.uk/who-we-are/beliefs/women-in-ministry>. Accessed 21/09/21. For ReNew churches, see 'Churches,' ReNew Conference, <https://www.renewconference.org.uk/churches/>. Accessed 21/09/21. ReNew's doctrinal basis (which includes an affirmation of complementarianism) is available here: 'Statement of Faith,' ReNew Conference, <https://www.renewconference.org.uk/statementoffaith/>. Accessed 21/09/21.

[6] By 'clear', I mean that the page satisfied the following criteria: • I could find it! • it showed an obvious distinction between staff and volunteers; • it implied that all relevant personnel were listed. For the second bullet point, I looked for reference to certain terms (e.g. 'staff', 'volunteer', 'paid', 'unpaid', 'full-time', 'part-time', 'pastor', 'minister', etc.). For the third, I only included churches whose 'Who's Who' page did not solely include the pastor, but also included other staff and/or elders or deacons.

[7] For the purpose of this research, I counted all staff members whose jobs were pastor/teacher or involved the following ministries: youth, children's, women's, men's, internationals, music, counselling, students, community and evangelism. I did not include those whose jobs were solely administrative or manual.

[8] This is based on data from 42 churches as well as 8 Ministry Training Courses. See p. 3, 'Ministry Training Survey 2021.'

[9] See the following interview: 'Elisabeth Smyth: 261 Months with FIEC,' FIEC, <https://fiec.org.uk/news/elisabeth-smyth-261-months-with-fiec>. Accessed 21/09/21. Elisabeth, reflecting on over 20 years with the FIEC, remembers their prayers for 'a new generation of men for ministry.' She says, 'We didn't pray for a new generation of women for ministry, but God has given more than we asked!'