

**PIONEERS OF CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING HONOURED BY
CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING COUNCIL**

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The pioneers of Christian Broadcasting in the UK, who opened up the airwaves to the Christian message, have been honoured by the Christian Broadcasting Council.

The trailblazers, who made a way for Christian broadcasting in the UK and worldwide, were given Gold Exploits Awards at the Christian Broadcasting Council's annual conference in Buckinghamshire.

The winners were: God TV; Cross Rhythms; Premier; SAT7; Trans World Radio; GNBA (Good News Broadcasting); Feba (Far East Broadcasting Association); Revelation and Genesis TV; United Christian Broadcasters; HCJB (Heralding Christ Jesus' Blessings); and Gareth Littler of the Centre for Christian Broadcasting.

'Fifteen years ago it seemed impossible that Christian radio or TV could be licensed in the UK,' said CBC Chair Olave Snelling. 'Christians were banned from holding an independent broadcast licence for Christian programmes and music.'

'Fast-forward to 2009, and due to the enormous effort of individuals and organisations – and the power of prayer – Christian media is a reality, and a huge industry worth well over £30 million.'

'We know that literally hundreds of thousands of people are benefiting from Christian programming to build up their faith, while many outside the church are being introduced to the Christian faith.'

The CBC conference was held at Latimer Conference Centre in Chesham, Bucks. Speakers included Rev George Hargreaves, leader of the Christian Party, barrister and Christian lobbyist Andrea Minichiello Williams, writer Denis Wrigley, and leading academic Professor William Wagner.

The theme of the conference was 'Confronting Giants, Applauding Excellence, Encouraging one another.'

Keynote speaker Pastor Celia Apeageyi-Collins summed up the conference message to Christian broadcasters as: 'May God give you in the media something that replaces the current culture. And may God give you partners from the new generation. May God open all of your eyes to see who your successors are. Send your sound into the future. Leave a legacy.'

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NOTES TO EDITORS

CBC was established in 1983, following a meeting in the House of Lords. CBC has fought behind the scenes and lobbied Parliament for freedom for Christian broadcasters. It continues to campaign for freedom of speech as legislators seek to restrict debate and discussion of controversial issues that have a direct bearing on Christian faith and witness.

The CBC conference took place on November 27.

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