



ROCK NEWS



Chairman Bill

Bill Brown has chaired The Rock since it began in 2003, and has been the major force in seeing the vision become a reality. Rock News interviewed him.

Bill, what is your professional background?

I started working life as a design engineer and moved into manufacturing in my first management/supervisory role as a young graduate. I have been in varying management roles since, spending the last 20+ years in Human Resource management. My final employer was the US global giant - General Electric.



What have been the most exciting developments for The Rock since 2003?

Setting up The Rock was a very bold and challenging venture by Stirling Baptist Church, and shaping it to be what it is today has been most exciting. Remaining true to the original vision has taken us into many of the ministries anticipated for the project, such as to youth, families and the business community, but also into new territory. The Rock is providing the administrative back-up for the Stirling homeless help scheme called 'Start-up' (*featured last month in Rock News*), and we are developing a partnership with Heart to Heart. (*see below*). Focussing on the needs of prisoners and their families in our local prisons, The Rock is collaborating with others to start a Community Justice group, particularly challenging because of the political interest. We are still researching other areas where there is a recognised local need.

And what the most challenging?

Stirling Baptist Church has been steadfast and generous in its support for the project, and we have great support from Stirling Council and our politicians. One of our most challenging tasks is to hold on to our original support base at the same time as moving into new areas of service, seeking wider support and networking effectively with others providing community services. It would be easy for the founding members to feel that, now it is established and vibrant, they were no longer needed. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Did anything in your professional life prepare you for these challenges?

Yes. 40+ years in management is a pretty good help, but I think far more important would be the influence of my Christian faith on my professional life. My management ethos was grounded on my firm belief in the importance of each person employed, irrespective of job title and rank. This was a view often challenged by the 'them-and-us' brigade, so there were times when one had to swim against the management tide because of Christian convictions. It is an ethos I value in The Rock too.

You are well-known as a passionate Christian. How is this passion expressed through The Rock?

We have a Biblical mandate to work for justice and peace in our society and that is what we seek to do in The Rock. Although Christians generally have an excellent history of social action, Evangelicals like myself need to be open to working to a wider social agenda than we may have done in the recent past.



The Rock hopes to partner with this Callander-based charity to extend its ministry to Stirling. Heart to Heart aims to 'bring hope to those affected by divorce and separation' through both one-to-one and group support. The Rock is also exploring, along with CAST (the Rock's Youth programme), the relevance of this ministry to young people whose families have gone into relational meltdown.

Group support consists of six sessions addressing •Effects of the Past, •Communication & Conflict Resolution, •Forgiveness, •Moral and legal issues (including a Christian perspective), •Relationships and Boundaries with ex-partners and children and •Moving On (being single, dating, sexuality and remarriage). More information at www.hearttoheart.org.uk.

Client comment: "I don't feel so isolated."

Opportunities @ The Rock

- **Pray** for the community: Wednesdays 7.15—8.00 am in The Rock Centre.
- **REFRESH Seminars:** Welcomers, catering team, reception, programme planning, chairing.
- **Money Matters:** Budget coaching, presenters (training provided).
- **Website Administrator.**
- **Marketing**
- **Start-Up** Donations of household goods welcome. If you have a few hours a month to spare, Start-Up needs volunteers for packing/transporting goods, diy, befriending and supporting homeless individuals and families. Contact your church Start-Up rep. Or Christine at The Rock.
- **Heart to Heart Wanted** - people interested in any aspect of this development.
- **Youth team (CAST):** sport, art, dance, music, getting to know the youngsters.

Interested?

Contact Christine.

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