

FROM A LOFT



9th August, 2002

Volume 2 Issue 3

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am happy to have this opportunity to send greetings to the readers of "From A Loft". It is just six months since I took up my position as Director of EIDTS. Those six months seem to have flown by and I'm surprised at how much has happened in that time. In common parlance it has been "a steep learning curve". However I am loving it all.

One of the first "public" occasions that I was involved in in my new role was the Graduation Ceremony on 26 April -- along with the Annual Meeting of the Board that took place earlier that day and the Tutors' Training Day that followed. That was quite a weekend -- not only for me but also for the graduates and others who took part in that ceremony and for the Tutors who were present for the graduation and training event the next day.

What has impressed me most in this work has been the commitment of so many people. I am impressed by the quality of the people who write our study guides and undertake the task of being tutors and assessors for our courses. They are some of the top Biblical and theological scholars and teachers in our country. Most of them are already extremely busy in their particular institutions and organizations, and yet out of their love of their subject, and their readiness to assist others in learning, they are prepared to go the second mile and share their knowledge and learning in this way. It was great to work with such a group at the Tutors' Training event and to feel that these people are part of our EIDTS community.

And then there are the students. I admire people who are so committed and so well organised that on top of their work and other activities they will include in their schedule a time for study. Seeing the graduates at our ceremony in April (for some of whom this has been a journey of up to 10 years) was both humbling and inspiring.



My role as Director finds its meaning in the context of such a community. I hope that you feel something of that same "connectedness" as you read this issue of "From A Loft". I hope too that you will visit our Website (which is beginning to take shape at www.eidts.ac.nz) and that you will be encouraged in your own work as part of this community.

Bruce Hansen

Summer Residential Schools 2003

Bishop Julius Hall
90 Waimairi Rd Christchurch

Eve to Mary Magdalene:

Reading Biblical Women.

Residential component for the LTh course

Mid day Tues 21 January 2003 - Mid day Friday 24 January 2003

Tutor The Rev Dr Judith McKinlay

Who are the women who appear in the Bible and what are they doing there?

How do we read them?

How do we remember them?

This intensive course, with its assignments to follow, provides an opportunity

- To focus on some of these women whose roles are pivotal in the biblical narratives
- To explore both the ways in which the biblical authors portrayed them and the ways in which we as readers interpret them.
- To consider the power and ongoing significance of some of the feminine imagery used as literary tools by the biblical writers.
- To discuss the role of these texts and their interpretations in our lives today.

There is a wealth of writing pouring off the presses on these topics. This is a chance to join in the conversation.

Music & Worship

Residential component for the LTh course

Mid day Friday 24th January - Mid day Monday 27th January

Tutor Professor Colin Gibson

- Music and its contribution to worship.
- Different musical forms
- Images used in hymn writing
- Development of new resources for liturgy.

For further information apply to

Sue Haley
Academic Registrar
P O Box 12286
Christchurch

Graduates of 2001



Tutors (from left): Rev Graeme Nicholas, Dr Raeburn Lange, Rev. Dr Kathy Orr-Nimmo, Rev. Terry Wall, Dr Brett Knowles, Rev. Dr Robyn McPhail, Dr Margaret Eaton, Rev. Dr Harry Swadling, Rev. Gavin Munro, Mrs Mary Petersen, Rev. Bill Bennett, Rev. Colin Brown, Rev Dr Judith McKinlay, Rev. Dr Ken Booth, Dr Kathleen Rushton RSM.

Graduates (from left): Rev. Margaret Carr, Rev. Vilma Loader, Rev. Paul Dyer, Rev Jane Davison, Rev. Jill Lander.

Graduation hymn

“Take My Gifts”

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
Now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
From the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion,
Juice that makes the wine of God;
Spiced with humour, laced with laughter-
Flavour of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure,
Taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer-
Gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen,
Talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others
In the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.
—Shirley Murray

Prayer for the Graduates led by Revd Dr Dame Phyllis Guthardt

- Leader God of Mystery
You share with us your understanding and wisdom
- All Give to these graduates the generosity to share their knowledge and resources.**
- Leader God of creativity
You share with us your sense of excitement.
- All Give to these graduates a vision that will sustain them in all seasons of their lives.**
- Leader God of Endurance
You share with us your confidence in goodness.
- All Give to these graduates the perseverance to remain faithful in time of trial.**
- Leader God of the Journey
You share with us the promise of new possibilities.
- All Give to these graduates the willingness to take the risks of new beginnings.**
- Leader God of Community
You share with us the nourishment of your presence.
- All Give to these graduates such quality of service that others are drawn to you.**
- Leader God of Love
You encircle us with tender care
- All Hold these graduates always in integrity and hope.**

Graduates

Ministry Certificate

Hugh R James Pascoe –*In absentia*

Ministry Diploma

Anthony Francis Hased –*In absentia*

Licentiate in Theology

Jennifer Jane Davison
Jillian Ruth Lander
Vilma Grace Loader

Licentiate in Theology (Honours)

Edith Margaret Carr

Scholar in Theology

Paul Dyer

An introductory extract from the address given by the Rev Dr Keith Carley EIDTS Graduation Ceremony, Christchurch, Friday 26 April, 2002

E nga mana (to the honoured)
E nga arohatia (to the beloved)

Tena koutou, tena koutou,
Tena tatou katoa

Among the honoured people that I have just greeted I include the tutors, the Board of the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies, the recently retired Interim Director and the new Director, the Registrar and members of the Academic Committee, as well, of course, as the students who will be receiving awards this evening, and the families and friends who are celebrating their success at this time. Those who support people who are studying are always crucial contributors to the outcome. Thank you for your part in making the graduating students' achievements possible.

I also addressed you all as 'the beloved' - if my Maori is correct. You are all, each and every one, arohatia 'loved by God,' but I'll say more about that later.

All that is by way of an Overture. Let me continue by asking where you spent last Saturday evening... I spent it in the Auckland Town Hall. There were jaffas all around, but none rolling on the floor, thankfully. It was an occasion that repeated what some of you might have experienced in Christchurch or Wellington in the previous week or ten days. James Judd conducted the NZ Symphony Orchestra in a concert featuring compositions by Dvorak, Shostakovich and Rachmaninov.

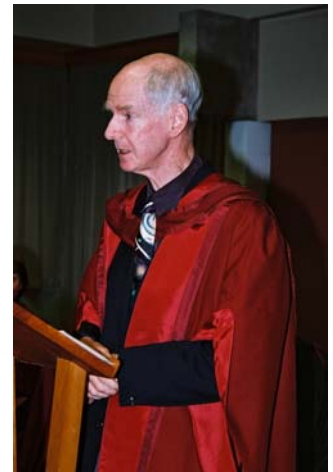
Part of the programme was familiar—such as Dvorak's 'Carnival Overture', played at a fast and furious pace. Shostakovich's 1st Violin Concerto I'd not heard before, and how Vadim Repin got through the solo part without breaking a string as he'd done in an earlier concert was minor miracle. The vigorous, sometimes jarring, static chords may reflect something of the mood of Russia under Lenin in 1948, when the Communist Central Committee attacked and humiliated the country's best known composers for their

bourgeois ways. And then the Rachmaninov - his 2nd Symphony, composed in 1908, before the Russian revolution. Thought too romantic for its time, it was only occasionally performed without cuts until the composer's work became more widely appreciated in the 1960's and later. What contrasts in the brooding themes of the first movement; the pulsating vigour of the second, with its hint of the traditional 'Days of Wrath' theme of Zephaniah 1:15; the lyricism of the third; and final soaring climax in the last movement. Here's an extract from the second movement (here music was played)

But why go on about a concert that not all of you will have heard and when some of you may be more interested in rap than Rachmininov?

Well, I've been giving some thought to the task the EIDTS Board has given me to produce a course on the Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures. After considering several possible approaches, it seems the best model might be that of a symphony. A man called Vern Poythress has already coined the term 'Symphonic Theology'. His small book bearing that title (*Symphonic Theology*, Zondervan 1987) is more concerned with systematic theology as a whole than with the Hebrew Scriptures, but he suggests that among the Hebrew Scripture themes that would be prominent in a symphonic theology would be the covenants, the temple, the holy land, and the various modes in which God appears - as warrior, king, and so on.

As those of you who have dabbled in the area will know, no one yet has discovered a theme in the Hebrew Scriptures that embraces their whole content, and nor are they likely to. Poythress helpfully reminds us that any two people may perceive the same event or object quite differently.



*So, I greet you
once again
E nga arohatia
May you hear,
each and every
day, the voice
that calls you
"my beloved
daughter", "my
beloved son",
and may your
awareness of
your identity
bring you
fulfillment
beyond even the
success of this
day.*

-Rev Dr Keith Carley

The Graduates of 2001

It has taken me a long time to get L Th—10 years in fact. I started with Keith Carley at St. John's, who was a great encouragement to me at the time. Next year came EIDTS and years of tapes from CHIT, and finally resource books and tutor.

I have enjoyed every bit of it - even sweating it out in the laborious way I manage to produce an essay.

John Shallcrass taught me the value of exegesis in the Gospel of Luke unit. That changed my way of appreciating the Bible and has made a difference to the way in which I prepare a sermon. To him also I owe starting to learn a language—Hebrew in particular—beginning with his wife Mary Lloyd Shallcrass, and continuing with Barbara Bancroft.

What came out of learning Hebrew?

1. The best marks I have ever had in my whole life (thank you Barbara)
2. A better understanding of translations of the Bible, and a desire to do my own translation of some words at least, when preparing a sermon.
3. From Advanced Hebrew onwards, of teaching Hebrew locally.
4. Meeting and marrying Antonin—Wellington Institute of Theology—its Librarian.

Christian Spirituality with Clarice Greenslade was a delight which resulted in getting one, and then a second icon; and with three friends walking a soul-friend

path together—a kind of group spiritual direction, for two years. Christian Ethics, in contrast, was often “blood, sweat, toil and tears”, but again very well worth the doing—thanks David Capel Rice.

I have gained some excellent books—some of which still need reading; and there are more units that I want to do. For me, heart and mind, spirit and brain go hand in hand. While I breathe - in heart and mind - I am alive!

Officially, I am “retired clergy”, having been 13 years chaplain at Wellington Hospital, and prior to that, 23 years a Sister in the Community of the Sacred Name.

Margaret Carr



Studying for L Th.

I began studying for a Licentiate in Theology in 1997. This was after I became a licensed lay worship leader, at the suggestion of the interregnum priest at that time. I had not been to university and it was a long time since I'd been at school. But thanks to the encouragement I received I attempted my first paper, and passed. The following year I sat two papers, and the third another. I was then accepted to train as a part time non-stipendiary priest and completed the remaining eleven papers between 2000 and early 2002.

I have enjoyed the five years spent studying with the EIDTS and have learnt much. Not only about the subjects I studied, but also to discipline myself to settle down each day to study. While my children are adults, I am a farmer's wife and life on the farm had to be juggled to fit in with the study schedule, and assignments. I found the tutors very helpful in their comments, and valued knowing I could approach them if I needed. For some of my papers I had had a fellow student in my area, and it was helpful to have each other for discussion.

I hope to be able to sit some other papers with EIDTS. I have found what I have learnt so far stimulating, and I would like to continue my education. I have also been fortunate to have a supportive husband, who was also a great proof reader. I began by doing a few papers out of interest, and completed the L Th. In response to a calling to the priesthood. This was not something I had anticipated when I began, and so it has been a journey of growth in so many ways.

Jane Davison



A Distant S.Th

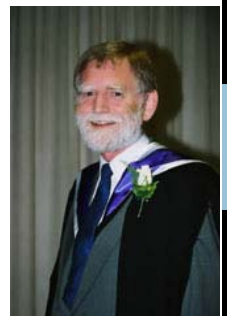
It seems a long time ago since I completed my L.Th somewhere around 1968. However one thing about the learning process is that it just keeps begging to continue. In 1999 I was fortunate to have study leave and found my thoughts and reflections building into a considerable word stack on my computer. They were thoughts that arose from a number of training laboratories I attended along with mentored theological reflection and reading about the 'theological meaning' of the experience. I prefer to learn this way rather than a full formal programme.

The notes and writing were largely intuitive and undisciplined and really cried out for more attention.

The S.Th offered by EIDTS was a perfect fit. It offered me a structure and some disciplined support along with a supervisor to arrange those thoughts into some order and to gain clarity about my questions. The support system was sufficient without being over bearing or too controlling, and was flexible enough to allow my own wondering room to flourish.

The S.Th was perfect for my needs and was a really respectful way of dealing with some insight and growth that has taken place since those days in 1968 when I first emerged with my L.Th.

Thanks EIDTS
Paul Dyer



The Graduates of 2001

' It seemed as though it could never happen!

To complete L.Th. had seemed such an impossibility, three and a half years ago, but it is now finished and the Diploma is on my wall to prove it!

When I applied for Ordination Training, I had no L.Th. papers 'up my sleeve' so had to start from scratch. In my first year of training in the Diocesan Ordination Training programme, I took on only one paper - in fact not realising I could have added another to the one we were studying as a group.

During that year, our Bishop suggested he apply to St. John's College in Auckland for funding for me, in order to let me study full-time at home. (I was the 'bread-winner' and was, at that time, working some 30 hours per week.) The funding was granted, and I became a 'full-time student with a part-time job' as I retained 5 hours weekly in a local Chaplaincy position.

I was very grateful that this was available to me, and a very different life-style then began! I remember consulting with the late Revd. Margaret Wood about suitable papers for that second year, intending to complete perhaps four papers, plus a C.P.E. unit.

Her reply...?

"If you were at St. John's, you'd be doing seven papers!"

"Right!" I thought! " seven papers it shall be!"

And so the discipline began! And, believe me, it WAS discipline! A study schedule was drawn up, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions to keep me on track, and there was such a sense of relief when each assignment left my computer.

And the joy when assignments were returned from tutors, with constructive comment and encouragement. Their personal interest in my work and my journey was so much appreciated.

The following year, with funding again in hand, albeit reduced, I attempted a further 6 papers (including a CPE unit) - and finished finally in March this year, with the last of the 15 papers!

What an amazing feeling, to be free from the tie to the study desk, the computer and the seemingly unending, required reading! But so very worthwhile and a real sense of achievement ensued.

To have left this area and attended at St. John's College in Auckland was not an option open to me, and to have had the opportunity to gain the L.Th. Diploma through EIDTS was a life-saver, enabling me to gain the insights and education I needed for the ministry to which I am called.

I will always be grateful to those who were my tutors, assessors, administrators etc. and who through THEIR experience encourage others like me to press on through!

My learning will never be complete - but this phase of it has been achieved through the provision of EIDTS, and for that, my heartfelt thanks. May God continue to bless this important work and ministry!"

Jill Lander

Deacon.



Studying with EIDTS in a distance programme

The L Th distance learning programme provided by EIDTS has enabled me to train for Ordained Ministry while living at home and working in local parishes. When I answered the call to train for presbyteral ministry I had domestic commitments which prevented me from living in Auckland. Thanks to EIDTS I have been able to undertake theological training from home in Lyttelton.

I believe that studying with a correspondence distance programme also benefits students because the Institute is able to provide tutors who are very well qualified in their subject area, without it mattering where they live in New Zealand. The tutors I have studied with have all been people acknowledged as at the forefront of their discipline area and they have lived in city and country, Auckland to Dunedin. If I had been enrolled in a local programme these people may not have been available to tutor in the subjects I have chosen to study. It has been great to have access to such highly respected scholars.

Regards,

Vilma Loader



Board News

At its meeting on 27 June the Board welcomed two new members the Revd Jenny Dawson and Graeme Nicholas. Jenny has been appointed by the Tikanga Pakeha Ministry Committee as an Anglican representative on the Board and Graeme comes on as a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. They replace the Rev Shirley Bennett who has been an Anglican representative and the Revd Susan Jones who was previously a Presbyterian representative. The Board expressed its gratitude to Shirley and Susan for their contribution to the work of the Board.

Jenny Dawson has a long involvement with Distance Education: she began studying for an LTh in 1974, completed it while having babies and living in rural Nelson, then in the 1990's was asked to write the first Feminist Theology study guide and more recently tutored the Leadership in Ministry paper. She works as the Ministry Educator for the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch and enjoys getting out of the city. Interests include landscape painting, tramping, curiosity, and being involved in the lives of 3 adult children and partner Jim. Ecumenism is very important to Jenny: she currently serves as one of the co-Presidents of the Christian Conference of Asia.



Jenny Dawson
Anglican
Ministry Educator
Christchurch Diocese.

Graeme works now for the Presbyterian Church after sixteen years parish ministry and five and a half years as a Diocesan Ministry Educator in the Anglican Church in Otago and Southland. He is the Presbyterian Mission Resource Team Co-director for the northern South Island and lives in Christchurch. Graeme is married to Barbara and they have three adult children. He loves jazz, sings Barbershop, is developing a walnut orchard and studies organisational dynamics.



Graeme Nicholas
Presbyterian
Mission Resource Team
Christchurch.



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