

FROM A LOFT



December 2003

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all.

For those of you who have been studying with EIDTS in 2003 this issue of *From A Loft* will arrive along with your year's marks. I trust that this will represent a satisfactory and happy conclusion to your year's work.

For all of us at EIDTS this year has been a busy one.

For the Board it has been a year involving the development of documents and statements to comply with the Government's requirements for the Charters and Profiles process. This information will be used by the Government to determine which providers will receive public funding as from 2005. That has not been an easy or straight-forward process, and like all providers we will await the outcome of that with a sense of "anxious anticipation".

Our Academic Committee has also been busy. Over the past year we have continued to develop and extend our range of courses. In 2003 we introduced our first 'on-line' course. CHC 2052 *Presbyterian (Reformed) Studies* was delivered via the Web and allowed students to respond and interact by email. We have also offered Residential Schools in the middle of the year as well as in the summer vacation period, and in 2004 we will be offering schools in Napier and Auckland as well as in Christchurch. We hope that in these ways we are making our courses more accessible and relevant for our students.

During 2003 we also developed our relationships with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Otago and with the School of Theology at the University of Auckland. As a result students will now be able to gain credits towards a B.Theol. at these universities when they have completed designated LTh subjects.

You will also find included with this newsletter a copy of the EIDTS brochure that was distributed to parishes in October and November. This was an attempt to make our courses more widely known. If you would like further copies to share with your friends and parishioners please contact our office.



Already 2004 is shaping up to be another year with new developments and new challenges. I hope that you will be back to share that venture with us.

Bruce Hansen

GRADUATION 2004

The EIDTS Graduation Ceremony will be held in the Margaret Wood Study Centre at Bishop Julius Hall, 90 Waimairi Road, Christchurch at 7.30 pm on Friday 16 April.

This is an occasion for all who are associated with the work of EIDTS and we would be pleased to see you there.

The Graduation Ceremony includes the presentation of Certificates and Diplomas to EIDTS graduates as well as those who have studied under the Associate in Christian Ministry programme. There will be a Graduation Address and supper will follow.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO B.THEOL DEGREE

In the 2004 Handbook on page 33 reference is made to transferring from an L.Th to a B.Theol at Otago University. Since the Handbook was published an agreement has also been reached with the School of Theology at Auckland University to offer Transfer Credits for L.Th subjects.

In both cases the subjects that will be accepted for credit towards a B.Theol degree will be HS101 Intro to Hebrew Scriptures; NT101 Intro to New Testament; CHC101 The Church in History 0 – 500; TS101 Intro to Systematic Theology; and MM102 Intro to Pastoral Theology.

We hope that this will provide options for students who commence their studies with EIDTS and then wish to transfer to a degree programme.



Thankyou, Dame Phyllis

Members of the Ecumenical Board and its Academic Committee joined with Tutors to say thankyou to Rev Dr Phyllis Guthardt on the eve of the Tutor Training Day this year.

Dame Phyllis was a foundation member of the Academic Committee. For a number of years Dame Phyllis has combined the roles of Chancellor of the University of Canterbury and Chair of the EIDTS Academic Committee. Both the university and the ecumenical institute have paid tribute to Dame Phyllis as an educator and a leader.

Phyllis was born and educated in Nelson and left school at the age of 16 to work in an office. She was later selected for the one year teacher training course, taught as a primary teacher and then candidated for training as a Methodist Minister. She was the first woman to be ordained in New Zealand and began her Circuit Ministry in Riccarton. She completed her BA and MA degrees in English as a part time student in Auckland and Canterbury before going to Cambridge University where she gained a PhD in Biblical Theology.

In 1985 Phyllis was the first woman to hold the office of President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand and in the following year she was elected as a President of the World Methodist Council. Throughout this time she served as a Parish Minister – in Hamilton and Riccarton Methodist Parishes and Knox Presbyterian Parish in Christchurch.

Dame Phyllis has thus combined a commitment to parish ministry with academic leadership as a scholar, as Chaplain to Waikato University and as Chancellor to the University of Canterbury.

In 1993 Phyllis was awarded the highest honour which could be bestowed on a New Zealander – she became a Dame of the British Empire. In 2003 she was made an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Canterbury.

“Phyllis was at her best at our graduations”, said Professor John Burrows at the university ceremony, “she shook over 7000 hands on this stage and made every graduate feel special”.

Members of the Ecumenical Institute echoed these sentiments: “We thank you for the wisdom, the creativity, the words and the silences you have brought to the Academic Committee”, said Garth Cant, “and the grace and the eloquence and the empathy and the warmth you have brought to our graduations.”

Sue Haley reflects on the contribution which Phyllis has made to our life:

Phyllis was instrumental in the development of the graduation ceremony from an informal event into the occasion we appreciate today. Margaret Wood and I were always so grateful for her generosity of time and wisdom, so graciously giving her support to the Institute during the years from its infancy to coming of age.

Dame Phyllis lives in retirement at Governor’s Bay, on the shores of Lyttelton Harbour.

Garth Cant

COURSE EVALUATIONS

With their end of year results students will be sent an evaluation form for each course in which they have studied.

We ask you to complete these and return them to the Academic Registrar.

Each year we need to show evidence of the student evaluation of our Courses. These evaluation forms are the best evidence that we have for this. They also provide indicators as to where we need to “attend to” our course material and delivery and where the material needs updating or upgrading.

We are grateful to those who fill in these forms and return them to us!

Community News

Board News



We welcome **John Daniel** to the Board. John has been appointed by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand for whom he works as a Co-

Director of their Mission Resource Team. John is based in Dunedin. His area of work covers the South Island and includes working alongside the staff at the School of Ministry at Knox College.



We were saddened to hear of the tragic death of the two daughters of **Eric Fairbrother's** nephew in a house-fire in Hastings in August.

Eric and her brother John were involved in conducting the funeral.



We extend our good wishes to **John Salmon** who completed his term as Principal of Trinity Theological College at the end of July. We are

pleased that in his "spare time" John is currently re-writing our course in Christian Ethics.



We were sorry to hear that **Paul Dyer** a former member of our Board had required major heart surgery at the end of May and we are pleased to know that he is now recovering well.

Academic Committee



The retirement in April of **Phyllis Guthardt** from our Academic Committee (see article) was an occasion to look back through the Minutes of that

Committee. The first meeting of the Committee on 16 July, 1996 showed a membership of: Revs John Latham, Colin Brown, Anna Gilkison, Drs Phyllis Guthardt, Paul Trebilco, Ken Booth, Canon Viliami Tohi, and the Venerable Margaret Wood. The secretary was Sue Haley.

In 2003 John Latham, Ken Booth and Sue Haley remain on the Committee and have been joined by Drs Judith McKinlay, Kath Rushton, and Garth Cant, and the Revs Terry Wall and Bruce Hansen. The years of service given to the work of this Committee reflects the dedication of those who serve EIDTS in so many ways.

Tutors



We congratulate **Mary Caygill** (Tutor and Course Writer for MM102 Pastoral Theology) who at the Methodist Conference in October was

elected to succeed the Rev Dr John Salmon as Principal of the Trinity Theological College in Auckland.



David Bromell (Assessor in Pastoral Theology) recently moved from his position as Superintendent of the Methodist Mission in Christchurch to accept a position as Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Social Development in Wellington.



Following the publication of his book *Relational Deity: Hartshorne and Macquarrie on God*, University Press of America, in 2002

Douglas Pratt

(Assessor and Course Writer for World Religions) has this year published *Rethinking Religion: Exploratory Investigations*, ATF Press, Adelaide. Copies of these books are held in the EIDTS office.



Phil Dyer (Assessor for History of Christian Spirituality) has recently published his second book on spirituality entitled *The Four Paths – A Pilgrim's*

Guide to the Universe. Phil has recently moved from his parish in Oxford, North Canterbury, and is presently based at the Wangapeka Study and Retreat Centre in Nelson.



Susan Thompson

(Assessor for Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand) who completed her PhD from Auckland University in 2002 was mentioned on "the Dean's List" at her graduation.

This is a special award for the top ten theses presented at the university in 2002. Susan dissertation was entitled "Knowledge and Vital Piety: Methodist Ministry Education in New Zealand 1840 – 1988"



We congratulate **Alan Davidson** who has for a long time been a supporter, advisor, and tutor, and course writer for EIDTS, on his appointment as Director

of Post-Graduate Studies in the School of Theology at the University of Auckland.

Graduates



We were sorry to hear of the death of the **Charles Shortland** on 5 September 2003. Charles who graduated on 12 January, 2003 had completed his studies knowing that he had a terminal illness but wanting to finish his L.Th which he began at St John's College in the 1960's. His Graduation at the Te Renga Paraoa Marae in Whangarei was a significant occasion for him and was recalled by Bishop Te Kitoi Pikaahu when speaking at Charlie's funeral.



We are pleased to note that two of our graduates from 2002 were ordained in a service at the Christchurch Cathedral on 29 November. **Jane Davidson** will be working in the Fendalton parish in Christchurch while **Jill Lander** will be a priest at St Michael and All Angels parish also in Christchurch.



E-Learning

In 2003 we presented our first course based on the Internet.

This was the course CHC 2052 "Presbyterian (Reformed) Studies" which was tutored by the Rev Dr John Roxborough.

The students came from Ashburton, Auckland, Napier, Wellington, and Cromwell and "kept in touch" through a weekly posting on the Internet. Each Monday John posted material for that weeks work and the students responded "on-line". There were also three written assignments that were completed off-line and forwarded for assessment.

In this way the course was covered in an 20 week time span made up of three 6-week blocks with a "week off" between each block.

At the end of the course the students expressed enthusiasm for the experience and remarked on how much they had appreciated the opportunity to work in association with others. Some noted that there had been times when they had had difficulty maintaining the weekly commitment when other things had arisen that had required their attention. However they all felt that it had been worth the effort. One student said "Though we did not meet each other I have found it helpful and supportive to have the others on the internet to discuss ideas with and receive fresh insights on each topic", while another stated "The email discussion was enriching".

The course will be offered again in 2004 commencing in May.

Merry Christmas

We hope you have enjoyed being a part of EIDTS in the year of 2003.

From the Loft on Marley's Hill we wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

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