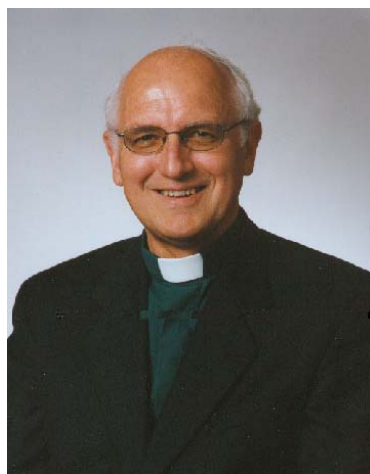


FROM A LOFT

14 March, 2002

Volume 2, Issue 1



Welcome Bruce

The Board of the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies are very pleased to announce the appointment of a new Director, the Very Rev Bruce Hansen. Bruce is 58 years old, a Presbyterian minister who has very recently chosen to retire from Parish Ministry at Knox in Christchurch. He has been Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and this and other interests

have involved him in ecumenical and international roles.

Bruce brings gifts to the position that will be of significant value in the areas of management, raising our profile and networking - within our churches, around New Zealand, in theological and distance education sectors. He comes with ecumenical experience and credibility, and ability to "wrestle" with issues and a sharp and enquiring mind.



Graduation 2002

Bishop Julius Hall

Christchurch

Friday 26th April at 7:30pm

Guest speaker The Rev Dr Keith Carley.

A member of the former Joint Board of Theological Studies, Tutor, Assessor, and writer of the Hebrew Scriptures Study Guide. Keith has been a loyal supporter in the development of the LTh and the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies.



LTh completed? Where to now? Scholar in Theology

The Scholar in Theology is an advanced diploma which enables a student to extend their studies in a particular area of interest. The student is required to research a topic and write a thesis of some 25,000 to 30,000 words. It can be completed in one full time year or spread over two or more years.

The S Th is open to those who have gained an L Th or who have equivalent qualifications. Students should normally have a grade average of B or better in the area in which they wish to specialise.

The review of the S Th programme is almost complete. Contact Sue Haley for further information.



Robyn McPhail-New Chair

It was a very different task that I envisaged when I agreed two years ago to be Chairperson for 2002-2003. 'Off-sider to Margaret' was the apparent job description, a role that appealed for the opportunity to work with a special person of character and passion, and I still feel the loss of that. However, the role I have taken on has its own appeal: to help pilot and support our staff in something that both continues the old and ventures into the new. EIDTS has an open future, with possibilities for development to enable sound and creative theological education to reach all the people and churches who see it.

Working In Children's Ministry??

Consider this course. **Children's Ministry MM209**

*Theology of ministry with children *Insights from child development theorists * Practical aspects of ministering to children



Thanks to Kingsley Sampson

Kingsley Sampson has been a Board member since the beginning of the Salvation Army's involvement with EBTS. That experience, combined with his knowledge of ministry formation and working with government bodies, has been invaluable to the Ecumenical Institute over the last two years. Kingsley has guided us through our first explorations into providing a Bachelor of Theology degree or establishing bridges to other providers. In the time since the death of the Revd Margaret Wood, he has held us together, calmly and assuredly, in the manner of his faith and his commitment to the Gospel.

Thank you Kingsley.



Thanks to Garth Cant

Our grateful thanks go to Garth Cant whose personal skills and academic experience have ensured the Institute has continued to function well and keep its commitments to students, staff and government agencies. Garth has been a Methodist substitute at Board meetings and he quickly picked up the procedures and requirements to ensure a good 'holding pattern' in EIDTS operations. Over seven months Garth has gathered and collated a myriad of files and anecdotes from Margaret's leadership and enabled a smooth transition for our new Director. Thank you Garth.

REFLECTIONS ON A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

It's an invigorating way to begin the year! Take twelve students from around the country, who have never met before, put them in one place together with a tutor, and mix! The students for the residential part of "Introduction to Liturgy and Worship" (MM 204) came from Waihi in the north to Ashburton in the south. They met at College House Institute of Theology from 18 to 22 January. I came back after a holiday and straight into this Residential School.

The intention was to make the most of the interaction that is possible when you get students together. The students seemed to make the most of the opportunity. The school had been devised so that most of the time was spent in sharing insights and ideas, and that is what happened. I expected the students to have done a bit of reading from the course book before they arrived, and this formed the basis for a round of discussions on worship patterns and styles. This was followed up by a briefing on how to be an observer at a service of worship. The students were then sent out in small groups to see what was going on in Christchurch on Sunday morning. After that it was a careful and detailed de-briefing of what they had seen.

Part of the fun of the school was eating together. The catering was done by the local parish, and we were all very well fed. The conversation flowed freely, and we were able to get to know one another better than if we had met only in class. To end the course we all ended up at a local cafe for lunch. L.Th. students spend a lot of time working away in private. Sometimes that can be very hard going. There is nothing quite like meeting with others doing the same course and learning to see things in ways you had not expected, and would never be able to dream of if all you had were your own thoughts and the books in front of you and the occasional comment from a tutor.

Even as a tutor, this was a stimulating exercise. It has been said often that teachers learn more from the business of teaching than they do from studying. I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet with these students and to find such a vigorous and enthusiastic community. Any further contacts during the year will now be personal meetings with those whose stories I know a bit of. It was a delightful way to spend a few days and to share their enthusiasm.

Ken Booth

Tutor for MM204 "Introduction to Liturgy and Worship"

The residential Preaching School this year gathered students from Dunedin to Hamilton. We survived a power shut down on the St Mary's complex for two days, caused by concrete cutters severing a cable they didn't expect to find. The experience of working together on the same text and producing radically different sermons was stimulating. So was an exercise in analysing the hidden messages communicated by the Merivale Mall next door. I returned the key to the building late on Friday night by dropping it through the letter box and heaved a sigh of relief as a long, hard week came to an end. Then to my horror I realised that I'd posted my car keys instead. An already long night suddenly became much longer.

John Bluck

Tutor for MM205 "Homiletics"