

FROM A LOFT



August 2009



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all,

The year is now well advanced and I trust that for our students it is proving to be a fruitful time with lots of new learning and discovery in your studies.

In this edition you will find information about our Graduation Ceremony and our 2009 graduates. Whilst that occurred back in April, for those involved there remain vivid memories of a significant occasion. Our congratulations go to this year's graduates.

Over the last two years the Ecumenical Board and the Academic Committee have been engaged in an on-going exercise of strategic planning that has looked at the future "positioning" of EIDTS. This has included a consideration of the continuing relevance of the name "Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies" (or EIDTS) and the structure and content of the L.Th qualification itself.

With the mid-year evaluation forms that were sent to students this year we included some additional questions concerning the relevance and continuing use of the name. We were grateful for the responses that were made to those questions. They were of considerable assistance to the Board and Academic Committee in their considerations. At its meeting in October the Board will be considering the options that are open to it and how it might progress from this point.

Another task that has exercised my attention in recent weeks has been the submission of our application for funding through the Tertiary Education Commission. This has been an interesting exercise. As part of that submission we are required to demonstrate how our courses equip our students with an appreciation of the cultural and spiritual values within New Zealand society, and to show that studying with EIDTS equips our graduates to obtain both voluntary and paid positions in their community. We will therefore be asking some further questions with

our end of year course evaluations to provide information on those matters. Whilst this may feel like a further imposition on our students we trust that it will not be too arduous – and we will also be providing for these questions to be responded to on-line.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these issues please feel free to contact me directly.

I trust that your studies over the rest of this year will continue to challenge, inspire and inform you in your life and work.

Bruce Hansen

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS 2010

Residential Schools planned for 2010 are:

"Introduction to Biblical Studies"

Home of Compassion Centre, Island Bay, Wellington, 20 January to 23 January

This school is provided for students enrolling in the courses "Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures" and "Introduction to the New Testament". The school serves as an introduction to each of those courses and also as an introduction to study with EIDTS. Students attending this school acquire information that will assist them with either or both of these courses.

Whilst we highly recommend this school it is not a compulsory part of either course.

Tutors: Dr Kathleen Rushton, Dr Margaret Eaton

"Homiletics"

Adcroft Retreat Centre, Christchurch, 25 January to 28 January

This school is compulsory for all students enrolling in Homiletics.

Tutor: Rev David Grant

"Introduction to Pastoral Theology"

Bishop Julius Hall, Christchurch 6 July to 8 July

This school is a compulsory component for the "Introduction to Pastoral theology" course

Tutor: Rev Dr Mary Caygill

GRADUATES



ANTOINETTE BARTKUS

Antoinette Bartkus was born in Christchurch and as a child attended an Open Brethren Sunday School. As a young girl in the Every Girl's Rally she received national recognition for

her achievements in Bible Memory verse and good behaviour.

As a teenager Antoinette attended the local Friday night youth group at the Burwood Anglican parish and was later baptized and confirmed by Bishop Allan Pyatt in the Christchurch Cathedral.

At age 17 Antoinette commenced her nursing training at the North Shore Hospital. She later worked in a clerical position in the signals section of the NZ Army at Burnham. It was while on holiday from that position that she met her husband Steven. It was when their first child was still young that Antoinette says that she experienced the Holy Spirit in her life.

Antoinette later returned to Christchurch and sang in the choir at the Anglican Church in Sumner before the family moved to Auckland.

More recently Antoinette has studied at Canterbury University where she achieved a double major in Classics and Religious Studies and a BA Honours in Russian. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Science.

Antoinette combined her study with EIDTS with her university Classics and Ancient History papers and found that the EIDTS Greek and Hebrew Scriptures courses linked well with her other studies. She felt encouraged by the way in which the EIDTS courses linked her to the Bible and by the way in which the Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand course linked in to places with which she was familiar.

We congratulate Antoinette on completing her Licentiate in Theology



JUDITH EATON

Judy Eaton was born in Ashburton and grew up on the family farm at Coldstream. When Judy was only 7 when her father retired from farming and the family moved to Diamond

Harbour.

On leaving school Judy commenced work with the Canterbury District Health Board as a trainee Medical Laboratory Technologist and studied at the Christchurch Polytech.

Judy and Colin were married in 1977. They have two children and when the younger child started school in 1990 Judy returned to part-time work in haematology at the Canterbury Health Laboratories. She continues to work in that position.

When the children were small Judy decided to do some university studies and took some papers firstly from Canterbury University and then from Massey. Her studies included papers in Religious Studies. Judy found those interesting but felt a desire to explore her Christian faith in more depth. In 2000 Judy took one course with EIDTS "to try it out". She has now completed the 15 papers for her L.Th.

Judy is deeply involved in the life of the Belfast-Redwood Anglican parish in Christchurch. She has been a volunteer in the parish office and is part of the team that runs the weekly pre-school music programme for mothers and children. She has also been a parish representative on Synod for the last 15 years and this year commenced co-ordinating the pastoral care team. She feels that her studies with EIDTS have helped her in this work.

Judy says that she has enjoyed her study with EIDTS. The flexibility has allowed her to fit her studies around her family and work commitments and has also given her opportunity to study in areas that particularly interested her.

GRADUATES

Whilst Judy suggests that distance learning is difficult she has found the EIDTS tutors to be helpful and the Residential Schools to have been a great help. She feels that her study has deepened her faith and extended her knowledge.

We congratulate Judy on completing her Licentiate in Theology with honours

**MARTHA PARKER**

Martha Parker was born in Liverpool in England into a traditional working class family where education was valued. Martha was always attracted to learning. She attended primary and grammar school in

Liverpool and then went to Teachers College in Birmingham. Martha returned to Liverpool and taught science and mathematics at the Wallasey High School for seven years.

After a further 7 years at the Childwall Valley High School in Liverpool Martha decided in 1970 to do her O.E. and came to New Zealand intending to spend two years here. She taught mathematics and science at Hamilton Girls High School and completed a Masters degree in Education from Waikato University and a Diploma in Guidance from Massey University. In conjunction with this Martha undertook research with Downs Syndrome babies at Waikato University.

Martha had been baptized as an infant but it was when she linked to the local St Dunstan's Church in Earl Road in Liverpool at about the age of 20 that her spiritual quest really began. There with the guidance of a Spiritual Director a whole new experience opened up for her.

In 1983 Martha moved to teach at Wainuiomata College and there the local priest introduced her to studies with EIDTS. Martha commenced her studies with EIDTS in 2000.

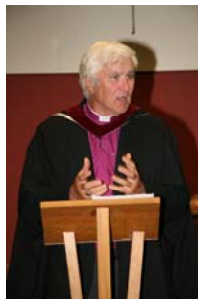
Martha serves on the vestry in her local church and is involved as a liturgical assistant. She is a member of the third order of the Society of St Francis and runs reflective services.

Martha says that studying with EIDTS was challenging but also enjoyable. She says that it helped her develop her critical skills. The Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament studies contributed to her spiritual growth while the Ministry and Mission courses were particularly relevant in combining the theoretical and practical exercises.

Martha says that she is now looking for new challenges including "learning how to preach".

We congratulate Martha on graduating with her Licentiate in Theology with honours

GRADUATION ADDRESS



The Graduation Address this year was presented by the Rt Revd John Bluck. The text of that address, entitled "Swimming in the Sea of Faith", can be accessed on the EIDTS Website at www.eidts.ac.nz.

John, who retired from his position as Bishop of Waiapu (and also as the "Homiletics" Tutor for EIDTS) some 18 months ago shared with us his reflections on the way in which we in New Zealand might symbolise and express our faith in contemporary and contextual images.

We thank John for his contribution to EIDTS over the past 18 years and for his thoughtful and thought-provoking address at our Graduation Ceremony

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



(l to r): Marianne James (Nelson), Stephan Leadbetter (Porirua), Judith Wigglesworth (Wellington), Anne Chrisp (Palmerston North), Susan Goldsack (North Shore), John Mullis (Lower Hutt), Lynnette Lightfoot (Oxford/Cust), Jill Woods (Pahiatua), Mary Caygill (Tutor), Adam Dunford (Lower Hutt), Andrea Ricketts (Porirua), David Bahler (Waikanae), Lynne Heine (Stillwater)

“Introduction to Pastoral Theology”

The “Introduction to Pastoral Theology” Residential School was held at the Bishop Julius Hall in Christchurch from Tuesday 7 July to Thursday 9. Twelve students shared in the school along with the Tutor the Rev Dr Mary Caygill of Auckland.

Comments made by the students following the school included:

The residential school was a wonderful 3-day introduction to pastoral theology. Mary Caygill brought the subject alive with her knowledge, passion and sensitivity. The course provided a clear theological framework for pastoral care, and an understanding of what makes care ‘pastoral’. ... There were many opportunities for participants to share experiences, ideas, and to explore issues together. ... In the words of one of the articles in our course reader, the purpose of pastoral care is to help people gain an understanding of the stories of their lives, to interpret their stories in a new way, and on the basis of that fresh understanding to find their lives transformed.

It was a great opportunity to bounce off thoughts and reflections in a group setting amongst the other students .. and to get a great deal of concise information, reflections and personal experiences from our tutor which would not otherwise have been available from the readings and set texts. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to attend.

We managed to cover a significant amount in such a short time and it was a valuable way to get an understanding of what we will be engaging in over the next few months. ... Mary generously shared with us some of her wisdom and her many insightful stories. It was definitely a rewarding few days.

There was also the joy to be had in the setting in which the residential school was held—the paths through the bush gardens with the stream and bridges and seats at various places. All generated stories in my mind of seasons and journeys and rest

GRADUATION 2009



Back row (l to r) Rev Dr Robyn McPhail, Rev John Daniel, Revd Canon Dr Douglas Pratt, Dr Raeburn Lange, Mr Chris Caradus, Revd Martin Davies, Rev Dr Keith Carley, Revd John Hebenton,
Revd Canon Dr Ken Booth, Revd Chris Honoré, Prof. Colin Gibson

Middle Row (l to r) Dr Kathleen Rushton RSM, Capt. Dr Judith Christensen, Dr Garth Cant, Dr Margaret Eaton, Rev Dr Judith McKinlay, Ms Gillian Townsley, Rev Dr Rod Mitchell, Rev Dr Barbara
Peddie, Mrs Bonnie Hebenton, Ms Prue Neild, Rev Dr Terry Wall

Front Row (l to r) Very Rev Bruce Hansen, Mrs Sue Haley, Ven Dr Geoff Haworth, Rt Revd John Bluck, Major Kingsley Sampson, Martha Parker, Judith Eaton, Antoinette Bartkus

WITH SYMPATHY

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Beverley Booth on 9 July, 2009. Beverley was the wife of the Revd Dr Ken Booth who is a member of the EIDTS Academic Committee and Tutor for "Anglican Studies", "Worship and Liturgy", "Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand", and "Spirit, Church and the Christian Life".

Beverley had been in hospital in Christchurch for just a week before her death after suffering a major stroke at home.

Ken and Beverley had known each other since their early years in Invercargill where they sang together in the parish choir under the leadership of Ken's father. They had attended university together in Dunedin and together made up the Latin Honours class in their year. They were married in 1966 and have shared their interests and work together over the ensuing years as Ken had served in parishes and taught at St John's College and then at Theology House in Christchurch as well as undertaking his teaching with EIDTS. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken and his son and daughter as they share this loss in their lives.

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We were also sorry to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Isaac Campbell in Mossburn on 6 June. Isaac was the husband of Jenny Campbell who is a student with EIDTS (along with her many other roles in the community and in the Anglican Church). Isaac grew up in Mahia and moved south as a young man. He had been a quiet and strong supporter of Jenny and it was his help around the home and his encouragement that allowed Jenny to carry out her many activities and to undertake her studies. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jenny and with her and Isaac's children at this time.

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Another of our students, Ian Bartlett, also suffered a major bereavement when his daughter, and only child, died suddenly on 22 July.

Ainsley was 46 years of age and leaves a husband and two young sons. Ian who is one of our older students had made the effort to travel from Dunedin to Christchurch to share in our Graduation Ceremony in April and we were pleased to have him with us for that occasion. We extend our deepest sympathy to Ian, his son-in-law and his grandsons.

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Our sympathy also goes to Gavin Munro whose wife Merle died in Dunedin on 20 July. Merle had been ill for some time and had been in care in recent months. We extend our thoughts and prayers to Gavin and his family. Gavin was a tutor and moderator for EIDTS in New Testament from 1997 and retired from that position in 2007.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

As we go to print consideration is being given to providing a residential school for students enrolling in "Introduction to Theology". It is hoped to hold this school in Christchurch from 28 to 30 January. The school will not be a compulsory part of that course

END OF YEAR RETURNS

As mentioned in the editorial we will be asking students to provide additional information along with their course evaluations at the end of this year. Students may complete these evaluations by hardcopy on the forms that will be sent to them with their 2009 results, or electronically by accessing the forms on the EIDTS website at www.eidts.ac.nz

As this information will be useful to EIDTS both for its future funding and for its provision of courses, we hope that all students will take this opportunity to provide us with their feedback.