

# FROM A LOFT



JULY 2008



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all.

This newsletter comes to you at the mid-point of our academic year.

That allows us to look back over the first part of the year – and in particular to our Graduation Ceremony – and to look forward to the rest of the year and to our plans for 2009.

Included in this publication you will find information on a number of this year's graduates, along with their reflections on what it has meant for them to have studied with EIDTS. I hope that you will find that to be of interest to you. I am always impressed as I look at our graduates each year. For most of them graduation represents the culmination of a number of years of study which has been undertaken alongside, and over and above, their other commitments to their local parish and community and to their families and often in conjunction with full time employment. I always find that an amazing accomplishment. I also find it interesting to reflect on the rich diversity in their personal lives and activities.

A number of our graduates this year were unable to attend the Graduation Ceremony. Laurie Barber was in hospital at that time. We are pleased to know that he is now recovered from his surgery and will be travelling in Europe with his wife as you read this newsletter. The distance from Russell to Christchurch and the ill-health of her husband prevented Heather Lindauer from attending. We were pleased to know that Robyn McPhail as a former Board Chairperson was able to present Heather with her certificate at a "private" ceremony in Russell on 26 June. Likewise Trevor Fisher was unable to be present and we recognize that for Trevor this was the completion of a project begun many years ago as a student at St John's College.

I trust that as you read this newsletter you will look at the information relating to the Residential Schools that will be offered in 2009. In particular the school for "Introduction to Biblical Studies" is an excellent "way in" for students looking to commence their studies with EIDTS. If you know of people who might be encouraged to study with EIDTS next year I hope that you will bring this to their attention.

And now it is time to open our books and pick up our pens as we commence the second half of this year. I trust that it will be a profitable time for all of you.

**Bruce Hansen**

## BOARD NEWS



Jill van de Geer has been a representative of the Methodist Church on the Board for a number of years and recently completed her term as Chairperson. At the meeting of the Methodist Conference at Wesley College, Auckland, on 8 November Jill will be installed as the President of the Conference. We congratulate Jill on this appointment and wish her well for her time in office.



Jenny Wilkens, who for the past four years has been a representative on the Board from the Anglican Church, resigned her position when she moved from Christchurch to a position as Canon-in-Residence at the Wellington Cathedral at the end of July. We thank Jenny for her work on the Board.

## 2009 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

In 2009 we will again be holding a Residential School in Biblical Studies. This school is offered for students enrolling for HS101 "Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures" and/or NT101 "Introduction to the New Testament". The school also gives a good introduction to the requirements and expectations of studying with EIDTS. If you know of students who might be considering commencing their studies with EIDTS in 2009, or who might be interested to study either of the courses involved, please encourage them to attend this school. The Residential School is not a requirement for either of these courses, but it is of immense value to people entering their study in this area.

Our 2009 Residential Schools will be:

### **Introduction to Biblical Studies**

Wednesday 21 January (6.00pm) to Saturday 24 January (12 noon)

Home of Compassion Study Centre, Island Bay, Wellington  
Tutors: Kathleen Rushton and Margaret Eaton

### **Reading Women in the Bible**

Tuesday 27 January (10.00am) to Friday 30 January (12 noon)

Bishop Julius Hall, Waimairi Road, Christchurch  
Tutor: Judith McKinlay

### **Introduction to Pastoral Theology**

Tuesday 7 July (10.00am) to Thursday 9 July (3.00pm)

Bishop Julius Hall, Waimairi Road, Christchurch  
Tutor: Mary Caygill

## GRADUATES



**Laurie Barber** was born in Palmerston North and grew up in Shannon where he attended the Shannon Primary School and later Horowhenua College.

After completing a Diploma in Agriculture at Massey Agricultural College Laurie worked at home on his father's farm. However he always struggled with a sense of call to ministry and after 2 years he moved to Christchurch where he completed a BA at the University of Canterbury before commencing his theological studies.

Laurie studied at the Knox Theological College in Dunedin and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1964. He served for 4 years in the St Mark's parish in Palmerston North during which time he completed an MA in History from Massey University.

Laurie later moved into military chaplaincy and served at Linton and in Singapore and Vietnam.

On returning from Vietnam Laurie returned to academic study and completed his PhD with a thesis on the life and work of Dr James Gibb and the influence of Gibb both within the Presbyterian church and in the wider community.

In 1975 Laurie was appointed as Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Waikato and later became Associate Professor of History and Dean of Humanities. Laurie retired from his professorship in 2000.

On his retirement Laurie returned to parish ministry. He was appointed Director of preaching at the St James Anglican Church at Kerikeri and worked in training Local Shared Ministry teams in the Far North. In 2002 he was appointed as Stated Supply in the Kaeo/Kerikeri Union parish and presently serves with his wife Petra in the St John's Union parish in Opotiki.

Laurie is the author and co-author of some ten published books and over 130 articles and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

In 2006 Laurie commenced his work for a dissertation for the Scholar in Theology with his work "The God Children: A history and assessment of Co-operating Ventures" which looks at the history and struggles of Union and Co-operating parishes under the Plan for Union of the negotiating churches and their decision not to proceed with that Plan.

*When asked what this study had meant for him Laurie responded: "Whatever provoked a retired Professor of*

*History to re-invent himself as a parish minister and to begin an S.Th? His long-term interest in Union parishes and Uniting congregations was a factor, and his loyalty to the ecumenical movement in a post-ecumenical age." He added "This advanced diploma deals with the history, reflections and outlines a possible future for Uniting congregations. I hope it will be studied. I thank the Very Reverend Bruce Hansen and the Reverend Canon Professor Douglas Pratt for their advice. I recommend the S.Th to those who need to keep up with their post-graduate studies.*



**Susan Daly** was born in Huntly and grew up in the small community of Waihou about 5 kilometres out of Te Aroha.

Susan's family had Baptist connections but as there was no Baptist church in Te Aroha a neighbor took Susan and her brother to the Salvation Army Sunday School. Both Susan and her brother have continued that connection.

After leaving school Susan went to work in the regional office of Inland Revenue at Te Aroha.

Some years later she moved to Wellington to undertake her Officer training with the Salvation Army.

Susan and her husband Gordon have served with the Salvation Army for over 30 years and have worked in New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Chile and Fiji. They are presently serving in Fiji where Gordon is the Divisional Commander and is responsible for all the Salvation Army churches, social services and training in that country. Susan has responsibility for the women's ministries, including sewing programmes, kindergartens, and child sponsorship as well as some personnel matters.

Susan commenced her studies with EIDTS in 2002 and has managed to fit her studies in with all her other duties.

*Susan comments: "Living outside New Zealand, it has been a great help to me to be able to do distance study with all the reading materials supplied. The studies provided me with mental stimulus, and gave a focus to my Biblical study. I benefitted personally from the subjects and have found them useful in my work."*

## GRADUATES



**Garth Stevenson** was born and raised in Christchurch,

Garth says of himself that he came to faith through the influence of godly parents and through his association with the Christchurch City Corps of the Salvation Army. His family had always been associated with the Salvation Army and Garth was active in the Youth Group, the band and the drama group at the Christchurch City Corps. At 16 Garth enrolled as a Senior Soldier.

After leaving school Garth studied at Lincoln College and gained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Canterbury University.

After a brief foray into the rural scene as an irrigation sales engineer with Arthur Yates & Co in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty Garth returned to Christchurch where he trained as a teacher.

He taught maths at Linwood High School for a short time before responding to the call of God and moving to Upper Hutt in 1989 to the Booth College of Mission to train as a Salvation Army Officer.

It was during his time at Booth College that Garth commenced his study with EIDTS.

His study has continued through his marriage to Suzanne, the arrival of two daughters, and through various changes of appointment as a Salvation Army Officer, including periods of service in Fiji and Tonga.

*Garth comments: "Studying with EIDT was quite a long journey for me. I completed my first paper in 1990. A variety of appointments since then meant that the flexibility available to me through EIDTS was extremely important. I could study areas of interest to me but also at times and in ways that fitted my changing circumstances. I always appreciated the input of tutors and particularly their helpful responses to my assignments."*

*The LTh programme has enabled me to continue to grow as a student, but more importantly, as a follower and server of Jesus Christ. The LTh journey has sharpened my mind, deepened my faith and enriched my ministry. Thanks for the ride.*



**Bruce Fowler** was born and grew up in Auckland in a family of six children. As a youngster he and his brothers and sisters attended Sunday School at the Ellerslie Anglican parish. Bruce remembers those times warmly and he also remembers enjoying the Bible in School classes at primary school.

After leaving High School Bruce served as a mess steward with the New Zealand Army in Vietnam. On returning from Vietnam Bruce went to the Auckland Teachers College and taught for a few years before trying out self-employment as a shopkeeper on Waiheke Island. In 1981 Bruce joined the Probationary Service and served in the Corrections Department as a probations officer and as a criminogenic programme facilitator. It was while working at the Corrections Department that Bruce met his wife Bindu.

Bruce and Bindu were married in 1993 and Bruce has found it interesting and stimulating to share with Bindu in her Hindu faith.

In 1998 Bruce decided to explore his own faith and beliefs in more depth and commenced his studies with EIDTS.

*Commenting on his studies with EIDTS Bruce said: "When I began my studies all those years ago, I had a vague interest in theology but had never taken any academic steps to further my knowledge and understanding. As I have progressed through my papers my interest has progressively heightened. I have enjoyed the "mix" of topics and the work and research required to complete the assignments. The genuine interest and input from my various tutors ensured that I always felt that my efforts had been fully considered. Theology proved to be an interesting amalgam of history, sociology and a touch of psychology."*

*The LTh course has given me the desire to look further into the whole history and impact of those Bible stories I was taught as a child. I feel that I can now discuss my faith with a little more understanding than previously. More importantly, it has planted in me the urge to dig even deeper into my religious heritage. My theological "journey", I feel, has only just begun."*

## GRADUATES



**Heather Lindauer** was born in Colchester UK, the result of a wartime marriage between a Suffolk woman and a NZ airman stationed in East Anglia.

Heather came to New Zealand with her parents as a two year old and this country has been home for her ever since.

She grew up in Auckland and attended Epsom Girls Grammar. After leaving school and gaining a BA in English and History at the University of Auckland Heather trained as a primary school teacher at the Auckland Teachers College.

She then taught in primary schools in Ponsonby, Kawakawa and Russell. It was at Russell that she met and married Lynton Lindauer.

Lynton and Heather spent 12 years oyster farming and processing in Waikare Inlet and Orongo Bay near Russell and for 20 years Heather was the curator at the Russell Museum.

In Russell Heather has attended the historic Anglican Church. She was ordained as a deacon in 1994, and priested in 1998 as part of the Local Shared Ministry team at Russell.

In 1993 Heather began to take a paper a year towards an LTh.

Heather has been involved in the community at Russell as a chaplain to the Russell primary school, a Justice of the Peace, and a Marriage Celebrant, and was until recently a volunteer Ambulance Officer.

*Studying with EIDTS meant that I was able to study at my own pace, and suited my other commitments. EIDTS offered an opportunity to not only take papers that particularly interested me, but also ensured that my study was broad and comprehensive. Living in a rural area it has been great to have access to highly qualified tutors as well as study guides and readings. The support of my congregation has been helpful too. Above all it stretched my mind and even wrestling with the shape of an assignment was fun !*



**Carol Wilson** was born and grew up in Sydney and Woollongong in Australia. Her family was involved in the local Anglican parishes where her father was a Lay Preacher and Carol was a member of the Sunday School and Youth Group and later taught in the Sunday School.

After leaving school Carol worked as an accounting secretary.

In her early twenties Carol came to New Zealand on several occasions on working holidays arranged through the THC. On one of these ventures Carol was visiting friends she had made and there she met Ross.

Carol and Ross married and settled on Ross's family farm at Tokarahi in the Dansey's Pass in North Otago. They have now been farming there for 35 years.

For over 20 years Carol has held a position as a Lay Minister within the Anglican parish at Duntroon. When her children had grown up she decided to enrol with EIDTS with the intention of equipping herself better for that role. Once she had started her studies Carol decided to carry on. She says that she has enjoyed her studies and learnt much that has been helpful to her.

*Of her studies with EIDTS Carol says: My studying with EIDTS was a pleasure and a privilege because both the staff and tutors were so accommodating and understanding of my individual needs. Being a farmer's wife means we have seasonal busy times so having the whole year's programme available to me meant that I could work to my own timetable and fit the study around our busy times. Not having to drive to lectures or to be available on certain days each week also made doing the course more manageable. Coming from the often-drought prone region of North Otago meant that I spent many hours reading and note-taking while minding one end of a mob of sheep grazing the roadside. I found that the course both enhanced my knowledge with such papers as "New Testament" and "Anglican Studies" and stimulated some deep thinking with papers such as "Creation Spirituality" and "World Religions" and I appreciated the discipline of completing the set readings and meeting the due dates for essays.*

## GRADUATES



**Pamela Laytham** grew up within a deeply committed Anglican family and as a child attended the Holy Trinity and St John's Anglican Churches in Invercargill. At St John's Pamela sat with the other children in the front pew under the watchful 'grandfatherly' eye of Archdeacon Lush.

Pamela attended Southland Girls' High School and Otago University. She gained an M.A. with honours in History, with English as a second major. After graduating she taught for a year at Columba College before undertaking secondary teacher training in Christchurch. Following her marriage to Erik Pamela spent a number of busy, fulfilling and peripatetic years when she taught infant classes in small Southland country schools at which her husband was the head teacher.

Four years as a full-time mother followed, including a year in London when Erik was awarded a teacher-exchange, before Pamela resumed her chosen career-path as a teacher first at Southland Girls' and then at James Hargest High School.

In 1991 Pamela and Erik retired to Cromwell where Erik became the parish organist and Pamela was encouraged to seek ordination as an Anglican Priest. That led to Pamela resuming study and enrolling with EIDTS in 2002.

Pamela is a non-stipendiary priest in the Upper Clutha Anglican parish and is responsible for most of the services at Cromwell.

Of her studies with EIDTS Pamela says: "When in retirement I was ordained to the priesthood, the EIDTS course, "Introduction to the New Testament" was enough to convince me that after years of Sunday snippets from the lectern, current biblical studies could have much to offer.

*I have enjoyed the challenges each course has offered, as gradually I learned to 'see' with new eyes and to work with new disciplines. I have also enjoyed meeting the minds of my tutors, under whose aegis the bible became for me a library of books, full of fascinating characters and archetypal themes, a hugely rich and enriching collection of poetry and myth, story and song, history and mystery, gospel and polemic, narrated from many points of view, and capable of being read and analysed using any number of academic approaches. Feminist studies freed me to find new perspectives (the story of Adam and Eve will*

*never be the same!), and discovering the insight and 'humanness' of Prophets then and now, and the power of the story to create theological understanding, has been both enabling and liberating. Yes, grappling with the difference between hermeneutics and exegesis, symbol and metaphor, method and methodology, and spending hours at the computer writing assignments sounds like hard work. But it was also fun.*

## NEW COURSES IN 2009

EIDTS will introduce two new courses in 2009

"Ministry with Youth" is a course being written by John and Bonnie Heberton using resources out of their long and extensive involvement in youth ministry.

"Interfaith Engagement" is a course written by Douglas Pratt. This course addresses our involvement in a multi faith environment. CHC208 "World Religions" will be a pre requisite for this course.

## GRADUATION ADDRESS

The speaker at our Graduation ceremony was the Rev Canon Dr Douglas Pratt. His address was entitled "Vocational Integrity: Utility, Plurality and Faith"

If you would like to access that address it can be found on our website at [www.eidts.ac.nz](http://www.eidts.ac.nz)

## STUDY AND WRITING GUIDE

In October 2007 the EIDTS Study and Writing Guide was revised and updated. Some significant changes in the content and layout of the guide were made at that time.

All students enrolling with EIDTS in 2008 should have received a copy of the revised guide with their course material.

If you did not receive a copy please contact the Academic Registrar and we will arrange for a copy to be forwarded to you.

The revised Guide has also been posted on the EIDTS Website and may be accessed there at [www.eidts.ac.nz](http://www.eidts.ac.nz).

## STAFF NEWS



We were delighted to hear that Doug Pratt (Course writer and Moderator of CHC208 "World Religions") has been awarded a Doctorate in Theology from the Melbourne College of Divinity for his thesis "Interfaith Engagement in Interreligious Dialogue in the life and work of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican 1960-2000"



Our congratulations go to David Cappel Rice who was installed as Bishop of Waiapu in a service held at the Napier Cathedral on Sunday 8 June. We are pleased that David has agreed to continue in his role as Moderator of "Christian Ethics" with EIDTS.



We were sorry to hear that Lynne Wall had recently resigned from her position as Ralston Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Trinity Methodist Theological College due to ill-health. Lynne has been a Tutor and Moderator for EIDTS for a number of years and also served on the Academic Committee. We wish Lynne well for her recovery.

There were a number of "movements" within our staff team at the start of 2009.



We were grateful that Lynda Patterson agreed to take up the position as Tutor for "Matthew" (NT204). Lynda was recently appointed as Director of Theology House in Christchurch and had previously been the Moderator for this course.



We were also pleased that Gillian Townsley agreed to take up the position of Tutor for NT 205 "1&2 Corinthians". Gillian is presently working within Corinthians for her PhD at Otago University. Like Lynda Gillian had also been the EIDTS Moderator for this subject.

We were also grateful that Elaine Wainwright and David Coles have agreed to accept the roles of Moderator for NT204 "Matthew" and CHC2051 "Anglican Studies" respectively. We appreciate having them working with us in those positions.

## THANK YOU JOHN



John Bluck's "career" has taken him from a childhood in Nuhaka to Christchurch and the University of Canterbury followed by theological study in the U.S.A. He has worked as the Editor of *New Citizen* the then paper of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, and then in Geneva as Director of

Communication and Editor of *One World*, the magazine of the World Council of Churches. John returned to Dunedin as Professor of Pastoral Theology and Communication of the Gospel at the University of Otago and the Presbyterian Theological Hall. In 1990 he was appointed as the Anglican Dean of Christchurch and in 2002 was consecrated Bishop of Waiapu.

For eighteen years John has been the EIDTS tutor for "Homiletics". When he announced his retirement as Bishop of Waiapu John also indicated that he wished to relinquish his position as a tutor with EIDTS. We are most grateful for the work that John has done as a tutor and for the immense experience and knowledge that he has shared with his students and the inspiration that he has given to so many "budding preachers"

Of his time with EIDTS John writes:

*When I graduated from teaching full time students at a theological college down south to tutoring part time students through EIDTS, I had no clue how rewarding that would be. Eighteen years later and coming to the end of my service, it's time to say what a good thing we've got going here.*

*The model of distance learning developed by EIDTS, especially when it's based around intense, short term group work face to face then continued through one to one contact back home, where the pace and style of learning can be constantly adjusted, has huge benefits in a country as small and extended as ours, and in churches as fragmented and scattered as ours still are.*

*Out of the vacuum, (some would say debris) left behind by a Plan for Union and two attempts at a structured ecumenical movement, EIDTS continues a spirit of theological partnership in the educational arena where it matters most. Denomination bound training for ministry and gospel exploration is always second best to doing it ecumenically. Teaching something as subjective as preaching has posed big challenges for a distance learning operation. I hope for the 300 and some students who have been through the EIDTS course that we've made some progress.*

*For me personally, it's been a privilege to be part of it all. Having sat through a live sermon from each of the students, on a common text for each course, I have yet to hear anyone's offering repeated.*

*That says something about the infinite richness of the Gospel, and the creativity and imagination of Kiwi preachers when they claim the confidence and the gifts they've been given.*