

FROM A LOFT



MARCH 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to you all as we commence another year of study. For those of you for whom this will be your first year with EIDTS I trust that it will be a good and rewarding experience. For those of you who are “returning” I am pleased to welcome you back and I trust that your study this year will again be challenging and rewarding.

The year has started well with over 100 students enrolled for 143 courses. Both of these figures are slightly up on the comparative figures from this time last year.

This year we are offering two new courses “Methodist Studies” (CHC 2053) and “Spirit, Church and the Christian Life” (TS203). The material for “Methodist Studies” has been written by the Rev Dr David Bell who will also be the course tutor. The “Spirit, Church and Christian Life” course has been written by the Rev Dr Clive Pearson, Principal of the Uniting Theological College in Sydney, and will be tutored by the Rev Dr Ken Booth. Students will be able to access the study material for “Methodist Studies” on a CD as well as through the normal written resources.

The course material for NT202 “Gospel of Luke” and NT2032 “Johannine Writings” has also been re-written and updated.

In this edition of “From A Loft” you will find information on a new venture that is being trialed with Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea. Six of their third year students will study CHC206 “Church and Society” under the oversight of a member of the Newton staff. Their work will then be marked by Terry Wall the EIDTS tutor. We hope that this will prove to be a helpful way in which we can work with Newton College in making EIDTS courses available to their students.

Another new venture this year was the Residential School held in Wellington in January for students enrolling in HS101 “Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures” and NT101 “Introduction to the New Testament”. This was an optional event and no

credit was granted for participating in the Residential School. The intention was to allow students to become familiar with the course material, meet the tutors in these courses, and to gain an understanding of the requirements for distance study.

You will also find in this newsletter information on the Graduation to be held on Friday 13 April at Bishop Julius Hall in Christchurch. As we do most of our work by distance and rarely meet face to face this is the one occasion when we gather as a community. If any of you are able to be present at that occasion I would encourage you to attend both to support to our graduands, and as an opportunity to meet others in the EIDTS “family”.

I trust that the year has started well for you and that your time with EIDTS will be enjoyable, stimulating, informative and satisfying.

Bruce Hansen
Director

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 2007 Graduation Ceremony will be held at Bishop Julius Hall, 90 Waimairi Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm on Friday 13 April.

The speaker will be the Rev Dr Ken Booth recently retired Director of Theology House in Christchurch and a Tutor and Academic Committee member for EIDTS.

This year we will have a smaller number of graduates than is usual but we invite all interested to share in supporting them at their graduation.

This will also be an opportunity to recognise the contribution that the Rev Gavin Munro has made as a tutor for EIDTS and as a theological teacher. Gavin retired as an EIDTS tutor at the end of 2006 after some 10 years.

Our operating as a distance learning programme does not allow us many opportunities to meet face-to-face. We look forward to sharing in this personal way with as many of you as possible.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

From 18 to 20 January seven students and two tutors met at the Stella Maris Conference Centre in Wellington in a Residential School that was held as an introduction to Biblical Studies. This was a pilot project to introduce students to study with EIDTS and to Biblical studies in particular.

The school was led by Margaret Eaton the tutor for "Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures" and Kathleen Rushton the Tutor for "Introduction to the New Testament".

In deciding to hold this school the Academic Committee were mindful that most students when enrolling with EIDTS for the first time choose to study either "Introduction to the New Testament" or "Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures" (or both of these). It was felt that by holding a school centred on Biblical studies this would give students the opportunity to "get on board", and also provide a preview of what lay ahead in their studies both in these and other subjects.

Those who attended mentioned the value in meeting fellow students ("this made us feel that we belong to a community of scholars"), and the usefulness of discussions on study skills and essay writing and the expectations that EIDTS has of its students. Others described it as an excellent springboard for their year's work and one stated "it makes distance studies less 'distant'". One student said "I feel a lot more confident and I'm excited about my programme." All participants agreed that the school had lived up to (and exceeded) their hopes and expectations. Most felt that it had also been a good opportunity to meet the tutors. "It will make it a lot less intimidating to contact them [during the year]."

Following the success of this "pilot" venture this school will be offered again in 2008. The one dilemma that remains is how we can advise students of this opportunity early in their course and in time for them to incorporate this into their January "holiday" plans. That may be a "small" problem in the light of the benefits that were so obviously gained by those who attended.



Back row (l to r): Kim Hall (Christchurch), Garth Cant (Christchurch), Bruce Hansen (EIDTS), Jessie Moffitt (Cheviot), Margaret Eaton (Tutor)
Centre: Franco Vaccarino (Palmerston North), Kathleen Rushton (Tutor)
Front: Katrina Graydon (Greymouth), Titia Boeren-Broekhuizen (New Plymouth), Sonja Schlebusch (Auckland)

BATCH, PCANZ, LOM, EIDTS AND ALL THAT

On 10 December, 2006 Barry Kelk, an EIDTS student was ordained at the Maori Hill Presbyterian Church, by the Presbytery of Dunedin. Here he writes of his journey – thus far.

Who would have thought that I would ever have been ordained as a minister. Well it happened on the 10th of December last year and all of the above played a part.

Forty months ago I began to lead a small group, following a dream I had had a year earlier to plant an outreach congregation in the local school hall. I began this with the blessing of the local Presbyterian congregation where I had been a member and elder for a number of years. This new church would be called [B@tCH](#) (Breakfast at the Coronation Hall). People came from all around to see what this was about. Most have stayed. A problem arose. What to do about the sacraments, baptism and communion? My minister at Maori Hill helped with this but in the end he said "You should be doing this."

Enter the PCANZ (Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand). Some years ago the PCANZ had created a type/style of ministry where a person could be trained and ordained within their local context. Someone like myself known and accepted within the community, a bit long in the tooth, and no intention of shifting (family, mortgage, job/business), and yet sensing a call to ministry, and in a context where there was a need for some alternative ministry. Local Ordained Ministry (LOM) it is called. The concept

allows for recognition of life experience, and previous leadership experience and training are taken into account.

Following the usual assessment, discernment, committee consideration and the necessary authorisation I was accepted for training. But where and how to train? I had a business to run (I was non-stipendiary), and a church to grow. Getting to lectures was not going to happen. My attention was drawn to the EIDTS programme. Late in 2004 I started my first EIDTS course.

I thoroughly enjoy my study with EIDTS. I have attended two Residential Schools and found both to be most rewarding and to be recommended. The papers I have studied so far have really helped shape and form the sort of teacher I am and what I share with the B@tCH family. To be honest I would have been in real trouble without this training and education. (You can only fly by the seat of your pants for so long!) I have the feeling that the Tutors really want you to succeed, and some, like Bryden Black, wrote more back to me than I wrote to him. I don't get the feeling of 'Ivory Tower' education at EIDTS. The Tutors are very thoughtful, realistic practitioners who know their subject. There is still a way for me to go. I know that I will be an EIDTS student for a number of years yet.

My hope is that the links between the PCANZ and the EIDTS team can continue to be strengthened.

Thank you to EIDTS for the major part that you play in my on-going development. I cannot imagine that I would ever have been ordained without you.

Barry Kelk



Rev Barry Kelk (left) with the moderator of the Presbytery of Dunedin, the Rev Geoffrey Skilton at his ordination on 10 December 2006

NEWTOWN COLLEGE

Over the past two years EIDTS has had conversations with Br Justus van Houten the Principal of Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea who had enquired if it would be possible for students from Newton College to include an EIDTS course as part of their study.

This year six fourth year students at Newton have enrolled in CHC206 "Church and Society". The students will undertake their study at Newton College under the guidance of a member of the Newton staff. They will then submit their work for assessment by the EIDTS Tutor, the Rev Dr Terry Wall.

This course was written by Terry Wall for the New Zealand situation, however it is hoped that the final assignment can be adapted to allow the Newton students to apply their learning to their own situation.

This project has been made possible through a grant from the Wellington Bequest that is administered by the Anglican Missions Board and we are grateful for the Mission Board's support of this venture.

We are pleased that EIDTS has been able to enter this partnership and we hope that this may be extended in the future.

FEE INDEMNITY FUND

New Zealand private education providers are required to hold a separate fee indemnity fund to provide for any situation where the provider is not able to deliver the full course and students would be entitled to a refund of fees. Such a fund must be held under the oversight of a person independent of the provider.

EIDTS meets this requirement by having a Fee Indemnity Fund held by Mr Patrick Fraher a chartered accountant.

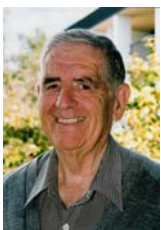
Students will have received a mailing explaining this funding arrangement and enclosing forms for completion. We ask you to return those forms to the EIDTS Registrar at your earliest convenience.

Should any student have any reason to contact Mr Fraher directly his telephone number is (03) 343 3350 and his postal address is P O Box 11384, Sockburn, Christchurch. He may also be contacted by e-mail at patrick@patrickfraher.co.nz. Please note that this is a change of address from that shown on the earlier mailing.

STAFF NEWS



Ken Booth retired from his position as Director of Theology House in the Diocese of Christchurch at the end of September, 2006. However Ken has agreed to continue as a Tutor for EIDTS and indeed has agreed to take on further work as the Tutor for CHC102 "Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand", and TS203 "Spirit, Church and the Christian Life". This is in addition to the other roles that Ken fulfils as Tutor for CHC2051 "Anglican Studies" and MM204 "Liturgy and Worship" and as a member of the Academic Committee. Whilst we wish Ken well for his retirement we also thank him for the considerable amount of work that he continues to undertake for EIDTS.



The Rev Gavin Munro retired as a Tutor for EIDTS at the end of 2006. Gavin who had been involved in teaching the L.Th courses under the previous Joint Board of the Theological Studies commenced his work with EIDTS in 1997. He has been a tutor in NT204 "Epistle to the Romans", NT203 "Gospel of Matthew", and NT205 "1&2 Corinthians" as well as being an Assessor for the other New Testament courses. Students will remember Gavin as a kind, caring and helpful Tutor who was thorough and fair in his comments and astute in his judgements. We wish Gavin and Merle well in their "retirement".



Brett Knowles was for a number of years a Tutor for EIDTS in CHC102 "Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand". Brett combined this with his teaching in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Otago and his own on-going studies. In mid-2006 Brett moved to Australia to take up the position of Director of Academic Resources at the Sydney College of Divinity. We were grateful that Brett agreed to complete his tutoring "by distance" for the 2006 academic year and we thank him for his contribution to the work of EIDTS.



Christopher Honore has been appointed to the newly-created position of Lecturer in Anglican Studies at St John's Theological College in Auckland. We congratulate Christopher on this appointment and wish him well as he commences this work. He will remain as the EIDTS Tutor for MM210 "Leadership in Ministry".



At the Methodist Conference in November 2006 Barbara Peddie was elected as the Vice President Elect of the Methodist Church. Barbara, who is the EIDTS Tutor for TS204 "Christian Ethics", will take up this office at the Methodist Conference in November 2007. We congratulate Barbara on her election and wish her well as she prepares for this role.



Howard Pilgrim previously tutored for EIDTS in the area of New Testament. Since then he has completed his PhD from the University of Otago with a dissertation "Benefits and Obligations: Reading 1 Corinthians 8:6 in Context". We welcome Howard back as Tutor for NT203 "Gospel of Matthew" and NT205 "1 & 2 Corinthians".



David Bell was appointed as the Distance Education representative on the Ecumenical Board at its annual meeting in 2006. David, the Programme Director for Ministry Development within the Methodist Church of New Zealand has now written, and will tutor, the course in "Methodist Studies" (CHC2053) which is being offered for the first time in 2007. We thank David for his work over this past year and for the innovative way in which the "Methodist Studies" course is being presented.