

FROM A LOFT



MARCH 2008



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all at the start of another year of study.

For some of you this will be your first experience of studying with EIDTS. For others it will be a very familiar "way of life" with study squeezed in in the early morning and late night hours on top of work, family, church and other commitments. Whatever your circumstances I trust that it will be a stimulating and challenging year with the opportunity to expand your knowledge and deepen your understanding.

For some of us this year began "early" with Residential Schools held in January in Biblical Studies, Homiletics and Worship and Liturgy. Each of these schools had its own interest and particular focus and purpose. You will read about the Biblical Studies school elsewhere in this edition. We began this school as an experiment last year but already it has proved its worth. My only concern is that as it is intended for people "starting their journey" with EIDTS it is often hard for us to know in advance who this will include. If you do know people who might benefit from studying with EIDTS I would recommend this as a good way to start. Perhaps you could begin now to "prepare the ground" and encourage them to think about this for next year!

As I write we have 117 students enrolled to study 154 courses. This number will no doubt increase over the next few weeks. Already it represents the largest enrolment that we have had in recent years. However one change that we have noticed has been that more students are enrolling for one or two specific subjects that they need for their parish work, or for some qualification within their church, and a smaller number are enrolling for the full L.Th. Whilst this is good as EIDTS is here to serve the needs of the churches, it is also sad to feel that the L.Th is no longer the end-goal for many of our students. I would like to think that the qualification itself still has value in our students', and other peoples', eyes.

In this edition you will find notes relating to three of our tutors who completed their time with us last year. Each of them has given valued service to EIDTS and will be remembered with affection and gratitude by their students. Our tutors remain the "lynch pin" in our organisation and I want to express my thanks to them.

It is this engagement between student and tutor that is of the essence in EIDTS and I hope that this year's students will take full advantage of that opportunity.

May I wish you all well for an enjoyable and profitable year.

Bruce Hansen

BOARD NEWS



Our congratulations go to **Jill van de Geer** who at the Methodist Conference in November 2007 was elected as President Elect for the Methodist Church in New Zealand.

Jill has had a long association with EIDTS and was involved at the time that EIDTS was formed. She is currently one of the two representatives of the Methodist Church on the Board and served for a term of three years as the Chairperson. Jill has been a strong supporter of the work of EIDTS both personally and in her role as General Secretary of the Methodist Church.

We extend our good wishes to Jill as she "winds up" her role as General Secretary of the Methodist Church and prepares for her new role as President Elect.



Kingsley Sampson recently retired from his position as Registrar and Education Consultant at the Salvation Army's Booth College of Mission in Upper Hutt. Kingsley and his wife Barbara are now living in Christchurch where we hope that

Kingsley can find some more time for writing and reading. It will also mean that as Chairperson of the Board Kingsley will be "nearer to the action" for the work of EIDTS – as well as being nearer to their grandchildren. We wish Kingsley and Barbara every blessing for their "retirement".

Judith Christensen was recently appointed as the second representative of the Salvation Army on the Board. Judith had a career in nursing before entering the Salvation Army as a commissioned officer some five years ago. She holds a PhD in Nursing and has tutored in Nursing Studies at the Wellington Polytech and at Massey and Auckland Universities. Judith is working at the Booth College of Mission in Upper Hutt within the Officer Training Programme and in the post-commissioning studies. We are pleased to have Judith working with us on the Board.



BIBLICAL STUDIES RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

In 2007 EIDTS began a Residential School designed specifically for students enrolling in "Introduction to the New Testament" (NT101) and/or "Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures" (HS101). It was felt that as most students commence their studies with EIDTS by taking one or both of these subjects then this would be a good opportunity to introduce the students (i) to their tutors, (ii) to the subject/s that they are about to study, and (iii) to the procedures and expectations that EIDTS has for its students.

2007 saw a small group engaging in this "new venture". As that proved to be successful the Residential School was repeated again this year. From 24 to 26 January 14 students gathered with their tutors Kath Rushton and Margaret Eaton for three days at the Home of Compassion Conference Centre in Island Bay in Wellington.

Denise Keen commented on the School as follows:
Hebrew Scriptures 101 and New Testament 101 Residential School was held at the Home of Compassion Island Bay Wellington near the end of January. I reside in Upper Hutt so I decided to travel in and out each day. However most of the participants had travelled some distance to be there so they "lived in". Either way we were treated to fabulous hospitality by the Sisters of Compassion. Everything about the school was wonderful from the company, the teaching, the accommodation, the wonderful Wellington weather (not being biased at all) and of course the food! I arrived not really knowing what to expect but settled in quickly introducing myself over morning tea to the other students who had made the commitment to study with EIDTS. We gathered together for worship and then got stuck in to the business for which we had all come. We were not to be disappointed with Margaret Eaton and Kath Rushton leading us with excellent teaching and discussions. Bruce Hansen chipped in every now and again just to let us know he was there! The sessions flew by and before we knew it we were off navigating our way to the dining room for another fix of superb home cooked -- and in many cases home grown -- food. The EIDTS team were generous and let us have a couple of hours for a well earned rest during the afternoon, some slept, some found a quiet spot in the gardens to contemplate while others who were more energetic walked down to the beach.

We all went out for dessert and coffee to Strawberry Fare on Friday night (like we really needed to!). Another excuse to socialize with everyone was far too tempting -- like the scrumptious desserts most of us devoured.

All in all, the residential school was extremely worthwhile, introducing us to our tutors and to other students and most importantly providing us with the essential tips and tricks to successful distance study. Thanks go to the EIDTS team who organized the school and of course also to Bruce, Margaret, Kath and to everyone who was there. Thanks for your inspiration, your support and for the fellowship.

Other comments from those attending included "It has given me a new enthusiasm to continue study." "Makes one feel much more a part of EIDTS." "Very helpful" "It has encouraged me to look at scripture through different lens." and "I'm recommending it [the school] to other students."

We hope that this will now be a regular feature in the EIDTS "programme" and that other students commencing their studies with EIDTS will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.



Standing: Bruce Hansen (Director), Sam Bate, Megan Herles-Mooar, Susan Slaughter, Joyce Lavender, Gail Milner, Sharyn Parker, Carol Brook, Jennifer Campbell, Margaret Eaton (Tutor), Barbara Coles

Kneeling: Murray Wills, Margaret Garland, Vicki Snow, Denise Keen, Hiueni Nuku, Kathleen Rushton (Tutor)

If anyone has a copy of Andrew Wilson-Dickson's
A Brief History of Christian Music
 (Lion Publishing, 1997)

which they would be prepared to loan to a student,
 or sell, please contact Sue Haley 0800 667 969

GRADUATION

Our Graduation Ceremony will be held this year on Friday 28 March at 7.30pm at the St Mary's in Merivale Lounge on the corner of Church Lane and Papanui Road in Christchurch.

The speaker will be the Revd Dr Doug Pratt who is Director of the Religious Studies Programme at the University of Waikato and Canon Theologian in the Diocese of Waikato. His subject will be "Vocational Integrity: utility, plurality and faith".

This year's graduands will be:

Scholar in Theology: Laurie Barber

Licentiate in Theology (with Honours): Garth Stevenson, Susan Daly

Licentiate in Theology: Heather Lindauer, Trevor Fisher, Bruce Fowler, Carolyn Wilson

Associate Diploma in Biblical Studies: Pamela Laytham

Associate Diploma in Theological Studies: Jeffrey Haines

With this newsletter you will receive an invitation to the Graduation. We would like you to accept this as a personal invitation to attend. If you are able to be present please contact Sue Haley on 0800 667 969 or at edits@xtra.co.nz. This will assist us with our catering arrangements for supper.

NZQA AUDIT

As part of the compliance regulations for educational providers EIDTS is audited from time to time by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

The aim of the audit is to see that we are a "sound and stable" provider, that we have effective quality management systems in place, that students can have confidence in the material that is provided to them, that our staff are appropriately qualified and equipped for their work, and that we are achieving our goals and objectives as an education provider.

The content of the audit falls under nine sections with some fifty three requirements to be met.

Our audit took place in September last year and we were pleased to be advised that we had met all the requirements of the audit.

The frequency of these audits is based on the confidence that the auditors have in each institution. Where there are uncertainties or concerns about the competence and robustness of a provider the audits are held more frequently. The maximum time between audits is three years. We are pleased that we have received the maximum term before our next audit -- which will take place in three years time.

This outcome can be seen as a confirmation of the work of our Board, Academic Committee and staff.

FEE INDEMNITY FUND

Each year students are asked to complete a form for the Fee Indemnity Fund. This is a requirement for all Private Education Providers to ensure that should the provider not be able to deliver the full course then the student's fees will be refunded for that part of the course that remains incomplete.

The situation arose a few years ago where a large private provider had to go into dissolution and its students were unable to complete their studies --- and lost the fees that they had paid. In that case the Government stepped in to assist the students. However that was done at some cost to the government and steps have now been taken to require providers to hold the students fees in a fund that can be protected should the provider "fall over".

We at EIDTS have a sum of money invested as a Fee Indemnity Fund through Mr Patrick Fraher a chartered accountant who holds that money on the students' behalf. Students are therefore asked to provide the details that will allow Mr Fraher to control that fund for their benefit.

Should any students wish to contact Mr Fraher directly regarding this money his address is P O Box 11384, Sockburn, Christchurch. He may also be contacted by telephone on (03) 343 3350 or by e-mail at Patrick@patrickfraher.co.nz

CONGRATULATIONS



We were pleased to hear that Geoff Haworth's book *Marching As To War? The Anglican Church in New Zealand during World War II* has now been published and will be launched in Christchurch and Auckland over the coming weeks. This has been a long-term project for Geoff as he began it as a PhD research project whilst he was still in his parish in Pukekohe. Over six years he interviewed 37 people and sourced information from diocesan archives, parish records, sermons, broadcasts and private letters. The book contains much of interest not only to Anglicans but to any interested in the complex issues that war creates for churches and the wider community. The book is published by Wily Publications and can be ordered from 41 Bellevue Avenue, Papanui, Christchurch or by email to gmrhaworth@xtra.co.nz. We are pleased to see Geoff's work come to fruition and are grateful that he manages to give time to chair the EIDTS Academic Committee in amongst all his other writing, church and community commitments.

STAFF NEWS

THANK YOU

Three of our Tutors will not be continuing in that role in 2008 and we thank each of them for their years of service with EIDTS and for the time and commitment that they have given to working with our students.



Howard Pilgrim has been a tutor with EIDTS since its inception in 1993. He trained and worked as a secondary school teacher before (and whilst) studying for his BD and PhD from Otago University (both of which he undertook by distance studies).

Howard was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1986 and worked in the Cashmere and Lyttelton parishes in the Christchurch Diocese and as chaplain to the Christchurch prison. He taught biblical studies as a lecturer at the College House Institute of Theology in Christchurch from 1989 to 2002 and by distance with EIDTS. In 2002 Howard took some “time out” to complete his PhD and then returned in 2007 to tutor the EIDTS “Matthew” and “Corinthians” courses.

We are grateful to Howard for his long and faithful service to EIDTS and its students and wish him well as he continues his ministry as vicar in the Holy Trinity parish in Gisborne.



Bryden Black commenced his work with EIDTS when he came to Christchurch from Melbourne in 2000. Bryden brought to this work a wide and diverse experience having lived and worked in Zimbabwe and Australia -- as well as having studied at Wycliffe Hall

in Oxford where he undertook his theological training and gained his PhD under Alister McGrath. Bryden brought that breadth of experience and learning to his teaching, as well as combining all of this with his “other job” managing the family farms in Canterbury. Students will recall Bryden’s careful and lengthy notes to their assignments as he shared with them his wide experience and broad reading. One student even said “Bryden’s notes often seemed longer than my assignment”. We thank Bryden for his commitment to EIDTS and its students and wish him well as he takes up a non-stipendiary teaching position on the staff at St Christopher’s parish in Christchurch – and continues his farming in the (presently) very dry North and Mid Canterbury.



Catherine Jones is a professed member of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary and since 1970 has taught in Fiji, Algeria, Mauritania and throughout the Pacific. This experience brought her into contact with Hindus, Muslims, Bahai and Sikh and saw her living in Algeria at the height of the civil war. This led to her interest and involvement in Muslim-Christian dialogue and enriched her teaching of students. Those who studied with Catherine appreciated her gentle spirit, her wise comments and her ability to bring her wide experience to her teaching. We wish Catherine well as she commences her new role as Assistant to Archbishop John Dew in Wellington.

WELCOME

Whilst thanking Howard, Bryden and Catherine for their work with us we also welcome Rod Mitchell and Susan Smith who have joined us as our tutors in “Introduction to Theology” and “Women in Christian History”



Susan Smith is a member of the Sisters of our Lady of Missions and recently retired from her position as a lecturer in the School of Theology at the University of Auckland. Susan is now involved in adult education programmes both in New Zealand and in the Asian provinces of her congregation. Susan studied at Canterbury University and in Rome and New York before undertaking her doctorate through Auckland University. Her book *Women in Mission: from the New Testament to Today* was published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll New York last year. We are delighted to have Susan working with us.



Rod Mitchell graduated in economics and management from Otago University before studying for ministry within the Presbyterian Church. He then completed a Diploma in Pastoral Studies from Birmingham and an MA in Christian Education from Richmond Virginia. Rod served in a parish in Wellington and tutored at the Polytechnic before studying for his doctorate from Los Angeles. He has worked as a university chaplain and more recently was chaplain to a secondary school in Sydney before returning to “retirement” in Dunedin. We are pleased to have Rod as our tutor in “Introduction to Theology”