

FROM A LOFT



MARCH 2009



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all.

To those of you for whom this is your first year of study with EIDTS I extend a warm welcome. To those of you for whom this is “another year along the way” I welcome you back. For all of you I trust that this year will be an opportunity to gain new insights and understanding in your journey of faith and learning.

A few weeks ago my wife who teaches as an itinerant music teacher in secondary schools said to me “We are half-way through the first term already”. That brought me up with a jolt as I realized how quickly the weeks are slipping by.

The year had an early start for a number of us in EIDTS as two Residential Schools were held in January. One was held in Wellington. This school in Biblical Studies was led by Margaret Eaton and Kath Rushton who are our Tutors in Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures and Introduction to the New Testament. The school served not only as an introduction to the two courses involved but also as an introduction to studying with EIDTS. This was a good opportunity for people to gather and to make a concentrated start on their year’s study. The second school was held in Christchurch and was led by Judith McKinlay. This school was part of the course Reading Women in the Bible. This was a more advanced study and allowed the participants to grapple with the reading and understanding of the Scriptures. Those who participated in both of these schools reported that they found them to be challenging and worthwhile.

From looking back to looking forward I realise that it is now only a few weeks to our Graduation Ceremony which will be held in Christchurch on Friday 17 April. This is always a significant time in the life of EIDTS. For the graduates it represents the completion of a number of years of

hard work and dedication to their studies and for both the students and the tutors it is often the first time that they have met face to face. One of the interesting things about distance studies is that both students and staff often feel that over the years they have come to know each other closely without ever having met in person. Often the Graduation Ceremony offers that opportunity. That gives it an added significance.

I always look forward to the Graduation Ceremony. It represents the culmination of many years of hard work and it brings a sense of recognition of the part that staff and students play in the life of EIDTS.

For those of you commencing that journey and those “on the way” I wish you well for this year of study.

Bruce Hansen

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 2009 Graduation Ceremony will be held at Bishop Julius Hall, 90 Waimairi Road, Christchurch on Friday 17 April at 7.30pm.

This year’s Graduation Speaker will be the Rt Rev John Bluck, recently retired Anglican Bishop of Waiapu.

John has had a long association with EIDTS as the Tutor of our Homiletics course. He held that position for some 17 years prior to his retirement at the end of 2008, at the same time as he completed his term as Bishop of Waiapu. We are delighted that John has agreed to be our Graduation Speaker.

If any of you are able to join with us for this occasion you will be most welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS



Heather Lindauer

Our congratulations go to Heather Lindauer who was awarded the QSM in this year's New Year's Honours list.

Heather graduated with her L.Th at our 2008 graduation but was unable to attend due to her husband's ill health. She later received her Diploma from the Rev Dr Robyn McPhail a former Chairperson of the Board at a special occasion in the Russell parish.

Heather was born in the U.K. Her mother came from Suffolk and her parents met when her father, a New Zealand airman, was stationed in East Anglia during the war. The family moved to New Zealand when Heather was two years of age. Heather trained as a primary school teacher in Auckland and gained her BA from Auckland University.

After teaching at Ponsonby and Kawakawa Heather took a position at Russell and it was there that she met Lynton.

In Russell Heather has been the curator of the Russell Museum for 20 years and has been involved in the community as a Justice of the Peace, a volunteer Ambulance Officer, a marriage celebrant, and as chaplain to the Russell Primary School. Within the local parish she has been active as a deacon and a priest within the Local Shared Ministry Team. In 1993 she committed herself to taking one paper a year with EIDTS and she completed her L.Th in 2007.

We congratulate Heather on this public recognition of her work within the community and church.

Lisa Emerson

We also acknowledge the award granted to Dr Lisa Emerson, another EIDTS student, who in the 2008 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards won the Prime Minister's Supreme Award. Lisa is a senior lecturer at Massey University's School of English and Media Studies.

The Tertiary Education Commission granted nine Sustained Excellence Awards in 2008 and in a distinguished field of tertiary educators Lisa gained the supreme award.

In presenting the awards at a ceremony at Parliament Buildings the Hon Pete Hodgson the then Minister for Tertiary Education said "No matter what their area of expertise, these winners are committed, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and expert in their chosen discipline."

We congratulate Lisa on this award and trust that she may still find some spare time to continue her studies with EIDTS

GOOD WISHES



At the end of 2008 the Rev Janet Marsh tendered her resignation as Tutor of TS202 "Christ and Creation". Janet had tutored this course since its inception and had

also assisted in tutoring "Introduction to Theology".

Janet and her husband Alex Webster made the decision to leave their parish commitments in Tauranga and move to Warragul, Victoria, Australia to be closer to their eldest daughter and her family. In her letter of resignation Janet stated "I have really enjoyed the agony and ecstasy of EIDTS and will certainly miss the sense of camaraderie. .. It has really been great being a small part of the venture."

We thank Janet for her contribution to EIDTS and wish her and her family well as they make this transition.

BOARD NEWS

There have been a number of changes in the personnel on the Board in recent months and a number of the members of the Board have taken on new roles and responsibilities within their churches and teaching institutions. In particular we welcome the Rt Rev Dr Graham Redding to the Board as a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Revd Martin Davies representing the Anglican Church. We note too some significant positions to which members of our Board have recently been appointed.



Jill van de Geer

At the annual Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand in Auckland in November, 2008 Jill van de Geer was installed as President of the Methodist Church. Jill had been General Secretary of the Methodist Church for 10 years and retired from that position at the end of 2008. Jill was one of the “founders” of EIDTS back in 1992 and has been active on the Board since that time, including a term as Chairperson. We wish Jill well in her work as President and are happy that she is continuing as a member of our Board.



Mary Caygill

The Rev Dr Mary Caygill completed her term as Principal of the Trinity Methodist Theological College at the end of the 2008 academic year. At that same time she also completed her term as a Methodist appointment on the Ecumenical Board of Theological Studies. We thank Mary for her contribution to the work of the Board. Along with her work at Trinity College Mary has also been on the staff of the School of Theology at the University of Auckland. In the absence of Professor Elaine Wainwright who is overseas on study leave in 2009 Mary has now been appointed as the Acting Head of the School. We wish Mary well in this new position and are pleased that she will also be continuing as the EIDTS Tutor in Pastoral Theology.



David Bell

With Mary Caygill’s resignation as Principal of the Trinity Methodist Theological College the Methodist Conference has appointed the Rev Dr David Bell as the new Principal. We congratulate David on his appointment and look forward to working with him in his new role. We are pleased that David will be remaining as a member of the Board and as the Tutor for “Methodist Studies”.

The **Rt Rev Dr Graham Redding** has been appointed to the Board as a representative from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand to replace the Rev Dr Geoff King. Graham is the Principal of the Presbyterian Church’s Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and in November, 2008 was elected to be Moderator of the Presbyterian Church. We are grateful that Graham has been willing to accept this position on the Board and also to accept appointment as Moderator for the EIDTS course TS203 “Spirit, Church and the Christian Life”. This course relates closely to the area in which Graham studied for his doctorate at the University of London. We welcome Graham in these dual roles and are grateful for the skills and learning that he brings to these positions.

The **Rev’d Martin Davies** has been appointed as an Anglican representative on the Board following the resignation of the Rev’d Jenny Wilkens. Martin is the Ministry Educator for the Diocese of Waiapu and brings to the Board a wide experience of the practice of ministry as well as an understanding and appreciation of ministry training.

IN MEMORIAM



ALBERT MOORE

MA, BD, PhD
26.2.26 - 23.1.09

Those of us in EIDTS who knew Albie Moore were saddened to hear of his death in Dunedin on 23

January at the age of 82.

Albie was born in Wellington and studied for the ministry within the Presbyterian Church at the Knox Theological Hall in Dunedin. Following the completion of his studies at the Theological Hall and at Otago University Albie travelled to Manchester University where he studied for his PhD. He returned to be the Presbyterian minister in Tapanui from 1955 to 1964. It was there that he met and married Alexa and where their two children were born.

After further study in Chicago and a time of teaching at Indiana University Albie returned to Dunedin in 1966 to take up the position of foundation lecturer in Phenomenology of Religion at the University of Otago. Twenty five years later he retired as Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies.

Albie served for a number of years as the EIDTS Tutor for “World Religions”. He was passionate about teaching and was himself a lifelong student and avid learner. In his work at the university he combined his love of art and religion and established himself as a world authority on religious iconography.

We in EIDTS will remember Albie with great affection and with gratitude for the personal interest that he took in his students and the encouragement that he gave to so many of us.



HARRY SWADLING

BA, BD, DrScRel
21.11.35 - 2.10.08

Harry Swadling was born in Wellington and trained and worked as a pharmacist first in a pharmacy on

Lambton Quay and then in his own business in Karori. He served on the Wellington Pharmacy Guild and was active in promoting Project Concern – a medical aid abroad service. It surprised many of his colleagues when he then chose to leave pharmacy to follow a call to ordained ministry within the Presbyterian Church.

Following his studies in Dunedin Harry and his wife Irene travelled to Strasbourg for his doctoral work leading to his dissertation on “Sin and Sinlessness in the First Epistle of John.”

Harry served in the parishes of Duntroon, Mt Albert, Nelson and Khandallah and was appointed to a number of national committees within the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. Following his retirement from parish ministry in 2000 Harry and Irene travelled extensively and enjoyed visiting their children and grandchildren.

For a number of years Harry was tutor for the EIDTS course in “Luke” and was Moderator for the “Johannine Writings” course. He was diligent in his marking and took a personal interest in his students. One of Harry’s last acts as he lay ill in the hospice was to complete the marking of a student’s assignment.

We are grateful for the willing way in which he shared his scholarship and gave his time to support our students.