

FROM A LOFT



March 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings to you all at the start of a new academic year

In reality our year started back in January when we held three Residential Schools. All three of these schools were well received by the students and were helpful in “getting the year underway.”

This year for the first time we offered a Residential School in Theology. For some years we have offered a school in Biblical Studies -- which has allowed students enrolling in Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures and Introduction to the New Testament to meet their tutors, get a feel for the course and what is required, and learn something about the expectations and challenges of distance study. This has proved helpful to those who have attended and so it was decided to offer a similar opportunity for students commencing their work in Theology. This was a good chance for students to be introduced to theological thinking and how to go about reading and writing within this area. It also helped to clarify what is expected to meet the requirements for completion of the courses in this area.

Now it feels as though we are really into full swing as registrations have been flowing in and students settle down to reading and writing.

This year also sees the start for a number of new members on our staff. David Grant has joined us as the tutor for Homiletics while Stephen Garner, Tricia Carter, and Deborah Bower join us as Moderators. We welcome all of these people and trust that they will find their work with EIDTS to be pleasurable and satisfying.

Our registrations this year are also looking very “healthy” at this stage. We currently have some 88 students enrolled to take 150 courses.

And now our annual Graduation Ceremony approaches. I hope that some of you may feel able to join us at Bishop Julius Hall in Christchurch on Friday 9 April when we will recognise the achievements of our graduates. This is always a good occasion and it is appreciated when some of our current students are able to join us for this.

May I wish you all a good year of study. May it be a time of learning and growth for each one of you.

Bruce Hansen
Director

CONGRATULATIONS



We at EIDTS were delighted to hear that the Rev Dr Allan Davidson had been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2010 New Year Honours.

Allan was the writer of the course material for CHC102 *Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand* and also the author of the textbook *Christianity in Aotearoa* which is a standard text in most New Zealand theological colleges. With Peter Lineham he also co-authored *Transplanted Christianity: Documents Illustrating Aspects of New Zealand Church History* which is the second textbook for CHC102. Allan is the author of a number of other significant books on New Zealand church history including *Selwyn's Legacy: The College of St John the Evangelist, Te Waimate and Auckland, 1843 – 1993* and he contributed to *Presbyterians in Aotearoa 1840 – 1990*, and *Shaping a Colonial Church: Bishop Harper and the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch* as well as contributing articles to the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biographies*.

Allan grew up in Hokitika and undertook all his education there before moving to Dunedin where he studied history and theology at the University of Otago and the Knox Theological Hall. On graduating Allan was ordained within the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and served in parishes in Timaru and Christchurch. Allan undertook post-graduate studies in Chicago and gained his doctorate from the University of Aberdeen. His doctoral work was based on evangelical missionary attitudes to India. Allan then taught at Rarongo Theological College in Papua New Guinea before taking up a position as Lecturer in Church History at St John's Theological College in Auckland in 1982.

More recently Allan has held the position of Director of Postgraduate Studies in the School of Theology at the University of Auckland. He retired from that position at the end of 2007 and presently holds the position of Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Theology and at St John's College.

We congratulate Allan on the recognition that this award gives to his work and thank him for his on-going support for the work of EIDTS.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF IN 2010

This year we have a number of people joining us on our teaching staff at EIDTS:



David Grant has accepted the role of Tutor for Homiletics (MM205). David began his working life as a carpenter before studying for ministry at the University of Otago and at Princeton Seminary. For eight years David was a Consultant in the Department of Parish Mission and Development within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. He has served in rural and provincial parishes and most recently was the minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in Dunedin. Prior to commencing his ministry at Knox Church David undertook a semester's study with Walter Brueggemann at the Columbia Theological Seminary in the USA and following that in 1998 published his book *Grant Us Your Peace – Prayers from the Lectionary Psalms*



Patricia (Tricia) Carter will be our Moderator for Leadership in Ministry (MM210). Tricia holds a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Theology with Honours from the University of Auckland. Her Masters thesis was on "Models of Ministry: Episcopal Influences on Ministry in the Diocese of Waikato 1926-1986". Tricia began her working life in the British Civil Service and worked in human resources, community social work and education before entering ministry. She was ordained as a deacon in 1996 and priested in 1997. Tricia has served in parishes in Auckland, Otorohanga and Waitara and is currently Archdeacon of Parininihi and acting Archdeacon of Waitomo in the Diocese of Waikato. In addition she serves as the Special Projects Officer in the Bishopric of Taranaki with a focus on church development.



Stephen Garner has accepted the role of Moderator for Introduction to Theology (TS101). Stephen is a graduate of the University of Canterbury with an MSc in Computer Science. He also holds a BD from the Bible College of New Zealand and a PhD in Theology from the University of Auckland. Stephen is the undergraduate advisor at the School of Theology at Auckland University and teaches in the area of practical theology. Stephen has research and teaching interests in science, technology, ethics, spirituality and popular culture and the intersections of those with theology. He is currently a member of the Interchurch Bioethics Council.



Deborah Bower has agreed to be our Moderator for Introduction to New Testament (NT101). After completing her secondary schooling Deborah travelled both within New Zealand and overseas and worked in a variety of roles and occupations before returning to Christchurch in 1993 to attend the University of Canterbury. From there she graduated with a BA in Classics and Medieval Studies. Deborah then worked as a Bible Society representative in Otago and Southland before beginning her theological studies at Otago University. Deborah is currently completing her PhD in Biblical Studies looking at the Cornelius narrative in Acts and the links with that and the passages in Luke that pick up the conversation with Isaiah

BEST WISHES



Our best wishes go to Ken Booth who is to be married to Bee Bryant in a service at Glenorchy on 24 April. Ken and Bee (and Ken's late wife Beverley) all attended primary school together in Invercargill. Following Beverley's death Bee and Ken have linked up again and have now made the decision to make this commitment for their future. Bee's family were linked to the beginnings of the church in Glenorchy and it seemed an appropriate place for them to return to for this occasion. Bee will now join Ken on his overseas trip which is planned for May this year when they will be travelling to Europe and Turkey and on to London to visit family. We wish Ken and Bee well for their travels and for their future together.



Our good wishes also go to Mary Caygill who on 1 March was inducted as Presbyter and Superintendent in the Christchurch Central Parish and Mission. Mary will be based at the Mission office and parish church in Durham Street Christchurch. For Mary this represents a return to her "former lives" as a social worker and parish presbyter after a number of years teaching at Trinity Theological College and the University of Auckland. In that time Mary was Principal at Trinity and in 2009 was Acting Head of the School of Theology at the University of Auckland. We wish Mary well as she picks up the reins at the coal-face of Mission and parish ministry.