

## **Newsletter Spring 2008**

### **Andrew McGowan appointed UHI Professor of Theology**

Following a meeting of the Academic Titles Review Board of UHI Millennium Institute, the Academic Council has approved the proposal to appoint the Rev Dr Andrew McGowan, HTC Principal, as UHI Professor of Theology.

Andrew already holds an Honorary Professorship in Reformed Doctrine at Aberdeen University and is an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary and a Visiting Professor of Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary. He is also Vice-President of the World Reformed Fellowship.

Everyone associated with HTC shares with Andrew the joy and delight that this Professorship brings. Its award recognises and reflects the esteem in which Andrew is held not only within UHI but also in national and international academic theology circles.

### **John Murray Lecture**

Professor Paul Helm, who will be teaching the 'Calvin & Calvinism' module of the MTh Reformed Theology course during the week 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March, will give a John Murray Lecture entitled 'John Calvin: What's the Big Idea?'

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 7.30pm**

Castle Street Church, Dingwall

**All Welcome. We would love to see a big turnout for this event.**

## Rutherford House Library

HTC is very privileged to have received the library of Rutherford House, the centre for theological study and research, which was established in 1983 by the Scottish Evangelical Research Trust. The Rutherford House Trustees are selling their property in Edinburgh and have kindly donated their library to us. This consists of about 15,000 volumes in total, including 1,500 journals. There are many important titles and journal runs in the collection and it is a great privilege for us to be the recipients.

Two of the existing special collections contained within the HTC library are the theological section of the Fort Augustus Benedictine Monastery Library and elements of the William Temple Collection from the John Rylands Library in the University of Manchester. The gracious provision of the Rutherford House collection will significantly enhance our collection and bring the total of volumes in our library to about 65,000. As well as increasing the resource provision for undergraduate students, the research provision will also be considerably augmented.

More information about the HTC library can be found on the website.

## Professor David Wright

We were saddened to hear of the passing of distinguished church historian and theologian Professor David Wright. Emeritus Professor of Church History at New College, Edinburgh, and specialist in Patristic and Reformation Theology, David Wright built up a substantial personal library including a significant collection of Calvin material. He recently very graciously donated to the HTC Library a large number of volumes by, or relating to, John Calvin, the renowned Reformer. Among these very significant titles are the seven volume biography of Calvin by Doumergue; the multi-volume *Opera Quae Supersunt Omnia* in Latin and French; the Commentaries in English; and many very important monographs on Calvin. It has been a great privilege for us to receive this collection, both because of the high regard and affection in which Professor Wright was held and also because of its intrinsic importance for Calvin Studies at all levels, particularly postgraduate.

## Rosita

We are sorry to announce that Rosita Joseph-Mondesir will be leaving HTC in April. Rosita joined the team last year and indicated to us then that her position in HTC would be short-term.

Rosita's first language is French and she has been doing some French tutoring in the evenings and weekends. She feels that God is moving her career in this direction and that it is now time for her to move on to new possibilities and challenges. She plans to set up a business tutoring in French. If you would like to know more about Rosita's plans her business contact details are

**email:** [info@rojomo.net](mailto:info@rojomo.net)

**website:** [rojomo.net](http://rojomo.net)      **tel:** 07870 581 296



Rosita has been a pleasure to work with and we will miss her from the team here. We wish her God's richest blessing in her new career.

## Vacancy for an Academic Officer

This vacancy arises as a result of Rosita's departure. Main areas of responsibility include general administration, course enquiries and applications, databases, tracking student assignments, committees and arrangements for exams. Further details may be obtained from Mrs Fiona Cameron, PA to the Principal Fiona.Cameron@htc.uhi.ac.uk  
Closing date for receipt of applications is 6<sup>th</sup> March.

## UHI Millennium Institute

UHI is at a critical stage in its development. Four members of the Advisory Committee for Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP) from the Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland, visited UHI in January. Their stated task was to determine whether or not UHI should be granted taught degree-awarding powers (tDAP). The Panel visited several UHI Colleges (including HTC) and then, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, held a series of meetings with UHI Executive Office staff, College Principals, Academic Deans and others. The Panel will now make a recommendation regarding whether or not UHI should be granted taught degree-awarding powers. The general feeling within UHI is that the event went well.

## Peter Mackenzie

We were delighted to hear that one of our 4<sup>th</sup> year students has been called to a pastoral position. Peter Mackenzie has accepted a unanimous call from the members of Bulkington Congregational Church, near Nuneaton in Warwickshire to serve as Pastor from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008.

His ordination and induction are planned for 31<sup>st</sup> May when the Reverend Hector Morrison, Vice-Principal of HTC, will preach.

Peter said, "I am both humbled and delighted by the prospect of serving God in this small congregation. They have a hunger for God's Word, an appreciation of the historic Reformed faith and a desire to see Jesus Christ proclaimed as the only Saviour to their community. I am grateful to everyone at HTC for their efforts over these past years which have helped to prepare me for this exciting ministry."

We wish Peter every blessing in his work there.

## Three continents, three time zones!

The viva for one of our DMin students was held in January. Maybe not such groundbreaking news if it was any ordinary viva, but this one was held across three different continents and three different time zones! The student was here in Dingwall and the two examiners were in the USA and Australia. A first for HTC.

## Scottish Biblical Scholar F.F. Bruce

Following on from his recent book on British Brethren history, *Gathering to His Name*, Dr Tim Grass, Associate Tutor in Church History at Spurgeon's College, London, has been commissioned to write a biography of the Scottish Brethren biblical scholar F.F. Bruce (1910-90). He would be delighted to hear from anyone with relevant recollections, letters, copies of obscure articles, photographs, or manuscript material, and to learn about the impact which Bruce and his writings made on the lives of so many. He would also like to know if you are willing to be interviewed regarding your recollections of Bruce, whether by e-mail or in person. Also, given HTC's connections with Bruce's home town of Elgin, would anyone have memories of his father Peter?

If you think you can help please contact Marina at HTC.

## **Open Day**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March we're holding a BA/Access Conference Day and we would like to invite others to join us too. If you've always wanted to have a look around the College or find out what it's like to be a student here, but have never had the chance, this is your opportunity!

The morning programme for Open Day visitors will be the same as for BA/Access students, starting with Welcome & Registration at 10.30am then followed by Morning Worship, Tea/Coffee break then Lecture. After the lunch break Open Day visitors will be given an Introduction to HTC & UHI then a tour of HTC. They will then join the students for a Tea/Coffee break followed by Afternoon Worship. The afternoon session will end at approximately 4pm.

To find out what it's like to 'be a student at HTC' please come along. Turn up at HTC Reception at 10.30am *and enjoy your day!*

**All welcome. No fee (and no exams, no age limit, no commitment to becoming a student!) Please support us by just coming along.**

## **Mission Lunches**

Throughout the academic year we invite speakers from various mission agencies to come to HTC to talk to staff and students about their work. These talks usually take place at lunch time (hence the name 'mission lunch') 1pm start. Provisional dates for the coming months are:

**28<sup>th</sup> February      Jim Clark, Leprosy Mission**

**11<sup>th</sup> March      Michael Cook, Mission Africa**

**10<sup>th</sup> April      Paul Hammond, WEC (China)**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April      Richard Davies, Africa Inland Mission (Camoros)**

Other dates may be added. See our website for any updates to this list.

**No fee, all welcome.** 1pm (feel free to bring your sandwiches with you).

## **Website makeover**

The HTC website is increasingly being used as a means to find out more about the College. We have given the website a makeover and made it a lot more user-friendly. Please take a look and let us know what you think! The web address is still the same: [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk)

# **'Embers to a Flame' Church Revitalisation Conference**

This conference is aimed at ministers and elders. DMin students could count attendance at the conference towards one of their modules.

**St Columba's Church, Kirkintilloch**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

For more details about the DMin programme or for further information about the conference please contact us or see our website.

## **Online shopping**

There's now a new and easy way for you to help us raise funds for HTC - *simply by shopping online!* easyfundraising is a shopping directory that features over 500 online stores, including



NEXT



All you have to do is use the links on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, *at no extra cost to you*, we'll receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple!

It's quick and free to register and use and you still shop with each retailer in exactly the same way. Many retailers even offer additional discounts and money-saving e-vouchers when you shop using easyfundraising.

If you *already* shop online, why not help HTC at no extra cost from purchases you would make anyway?! The amounts raised may seem low but if 1000 of our supporters even raise £5 a year HTC would benefit by £5000 – a very significant sum indeed to us!

To start simply log on to

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

**<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll>**

and register to support HTC. Then just remember to use the links from the easyfundraising website the next time you shop online! You might even want to set it as your homepage to remind you each time you log on to the internet.

## Theology in the University

Many people today believe that there is no place for theology within a university.

On the one hand, there are those who believe that even if there is a God, we cannot know this God or speak about this God in a rational way. They argue that religious belief is a purely personal experience and we cannot treat the truth claims made by theology in the same way as truth claims made in other university subjects, like physics or mathematics.

On the other hand, some evangelical Christians believe that to become part of a university is to submit to a secular agenda and to compromise the faith. To submit to validation and accreditation, they argue, is to allow secular authorities to determine what is taught. These people believe that theology should only be taught in private Colleges and seminaries.

In his inaugural lecture as UHI Professor of Theology, Professor McGowan intends to respond to both of these arguments and to demonstrate the importance of retaining the place of theology at the heart of the university. The lecture is entitled, ‘Is there a place for theology in a modern university?’ and it will be delivered in June. The date and venue will be confirmed in the next HTC Newsletter.

This lecture will be one of a group of three UHI Lectures on related themes to be held in Inverness. The first lecture is to be given by Professor Richard Dawkins of Oxford University, entitled ‘Science and The God Delusion’. The second lecture will be Professor McGowan’s inaugural. The third lecture will be a response to Dawkins by Dr John C. Lennox, Reader in Mathematics at the University of Oxford and Fellow in Mathematics and Philosophy of Science at Green College, Oxford.

## John Ross

The Rev Dr John Ross, whose PhD on the Scottish Jewish Mission was supervised by Professor McGowan, will be leaving Inverness at the end of the summer to begin work as a lecturer at the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa, whose Principal is the Rev Professor Alistair Wilson. We congratulate John on this appointment and look forward to a further strengthening of the ties between HTC and Dumisani.

## **Grants to help pay course fees**

The Scottish Government has announced new funding for part time students in Scotland. A new £500 grant will be available through the Individual Learning Account (ILA) Scotland scheme. The £500 (per annum) part-time Higher Education grant will be introduced from academic year 2008/09 for new and existing students who earn £18,000 a year or less and who are studying at 50% or more of a full time course.

Students who are not studying the required 50% of a full time course can still receive funding of £200 each year through the existing ILA Scotland scheme, provided their annual personal (not household) income is £18,000 a year or less.

Anyone interested in either ILA funding scheme can check the ILA Scotland website at [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk) or contact Kevin Sinclair at HTC on Kevin.Sinclair@htc.uhi.ac.uk or tel. 01349 780000.

- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- If you have an email address and would like to receive communications that way instead of by mail it could save us a lot of money.
- If you know of anyone else who would like to be kept informed of HTC's work please encourage them to send us their details so that we can mail or email them too.
- Occasionally we find out that people still try to call HTC using old phone numbers (probably from old directories) and consequently do not get a reply. If you still have a note of our old numbers please delete them and replace them with the details below.

**address:** 

**Highland Theological College, High Street,  
Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland IV15 9HA**

**e-mail**  [htc@htc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:htc@htc.uhi.ac.uk)

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**Scottish Company Number: 149728    Charity Registration Number: SC 029190**



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