

mission

REALLY
MATTERS

Issue 1 October 2010



Mission Really Matters newsletter aims to **Spark conversation. Share resources. Promote training**

Who is the missiology stream?

Currently Steve Taylor and Andrew Dutney. A network of part-time lecturers, researchers and practitioners is envisaged. Into 2011, this includes Sandra Jayasinghe, who will co-teach a new topic exploring the Spirit in mission and Nichola Shaw providing administrative expertise.

What is missiology?

Missiology is the study of the nature, purposes and acts of God the Trinity and their implications for the being, character and calling of the Church in the world. Missiology includes the study of theological method, social and cultural analysis, systematic theology, church history, apologetics, public theology, theology of mission and evangelism.

God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to
change the world.
To know the need of it. To deal
with the pain of it. To feel the
joy of it. To undertake the
journey without understanding
the destination. The art of
gentle revolution. Amen.

Michael Leunig, *When I talk to
you*, Harper Collins



Mission Really Matters is a newsletter produced by the missiology stream of
Uniting College for Leadership & Theology

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A book to savour...

Kirsteen Kim, "Joining in with the Spirit," Epworth Press, 2009 is an accessible introduction to mission studies today. It offers a theological framework for mission and argues passionately for mission as neither global, nor local, but both. Highlights are the chapters that start with insights from contemporary mission in Africa, Korea and India. A healthy reminder that the missional God is up to so much more than patching up a declining Western church.

DVD's to watch...

"Faith Stories" and "Mission Stories" are two recent resources. "Faith Stories" encourages simple and effective ways to share faith stories. "Mission Stories" is designed to help groups discern their focus and develop a shared language around mission. They are short group courses, including DVD and a manual. Best of all, they are Australian made. Available through Mediacom (<http://www.mediacom.org.au/>)

An image to ponder...

The Blake Prize (www.blakeprize.com.au/) is one of the more prestigious art prizes in Australia. Since 1951 a prize has been awarded annually to art that explores religious awareness and spirituality. With over a 1,000 entries in 2009, the winner was artist Angelica Mesiti, for a piece titled "Rapture."

The 8 minute video portrays concert goers at the Big Day Out. The absence of sound allows the viewer to contemplate the faces of young people which, essentially, are in rapture.

Watching the video raises a number of "mission" questions. First, the growing prominence of popular culture in the world of contemporary thought. To quote the Sydney Morning Herald, "How videos killed the painting stars."

Second, what skills do we as Christians need in order to engage in this spiritual search, happening outside the church?

Travels...

In April-June, Andrew Dutney spent time in Turkey, Scotland and France. One highlight, among many, was being part of the centenary of the World Missionary Conference. For Andrew, many of the intuitions that have guided the changes at Uniting College were confirmed. The conference said it was "critical" that theological education be re-visioned missionally, making Missiology the integrating theme for all aspects of theological education.

The conference also regarded it as "critical" that Spiritual formation be given the same weight as intellectual training. The conference gave particular attention to new directions in theological education such as:

- The development of learning communities throughout the church, not only in a theological college
- Mentoring, spiritual direction, intentional community life as ways of theological teaching, learning and formation
- The need for western churches to learn from the new approaches to theological education and formation that are emerging in the majority Christian world

In September, Steve Taylor spent ten days in the United Kingdom, presenting a research paper at the Evaluating Fresh Expressions Research Consultation. He also spent time networking, both in relation to Pioneer Leader training and developing of ecumenical partnerships for Mission-shaped ministry course. The full report can be found on his website www.emergentkiwi.org.nz

Upcoming - Keep an eye open in 2011 for

A Missional Masters

The existing Master of Ministry degree, offered by Adelaide College of Divinity, provides the space for a specific focus on missional leadership.

Participants can take all the components of the existing degree - coursework, guided reading, programme seminars and a ministry practice project - and approach them from a missional leadership focus. A separate cohort of learners is envisaged. Participation in this cohort will mean working on missional change within one's own ministry context. Growth as a missional leader is then fostered by a combination of coaching, guided reading and peer cohort support.

If you are a person whose initial training did not include a focus on mission and leadership, if you want to enhance your missional leadership skills, and if you understand the value of collegial support in cultivating change in your ministry context, this offering might be for you. The plan is to pilot this course in 2011. In order to ensure quality coaching, we are expecting to enrol five participants annually. Prompt expressions of interest are encouraged, to Steve Taylor at Uniting College.

Mission-shaped ministry

Mission shaped ministry is a one year part-time course equipping in planting and sustaining fresh expressions of church, currently running ecumenically in over 30 centres across the UK. The course is for leaders and members, clergy and lay people, learning side by side, who want to focus on either preparing to start a fresh expression of church or because they want their existing church to be more mission-shaped. It has been hugely important in developing a mission mindset in the UK context.

In November a discussion is being hosted regarding offering ecumenical Fresh Expressions type training starting here in Australia. The discussion currently involves folk from the Diocese of Adelaide, Uniting College, Diocese of Canberra, Church Army, Uniting Synod of NSW, Vic/Tas and South Australia.

The initial idea is to look at offering an Australian variant, potentially starting in Adelaide in mid-2011.