

# mission MATTERS

Issue #3 June 2012



Uniting College  
for Leadership & Theology

## Who is the missiology stream?

From July, Rosemary Dewerse Steve Taylor, Andrew Dutney, with Nichola Shaw providing administrative expertise. A network of part-time lecturers, researchers and practitioners is emerging. These include Ian Coats, Michelle Cook and Darren Cronshaw.

## 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.

## New Missiology Director & Post-Graduate Coordinator in 2012!

In this edition we welcome a new Director of Missiology and Post-graduate Co-ordinator. Rosemary Dewerse has a PhD in leadership formation with a focus on intercultural (across cultures and generations) ministry. She has 12 years teaching experience, in three different cultures (Maori, Central Asian, New Zealand). She plans to begin from Semester 2, 2012.

"Jesus Christ modelled a faith that was biblically and critically engaged, practical, creative, contextually relevant and transformational. I count it a privilege to encourage, nurture and seek to empower others to do likewise."

Tēnā koe. Nga mihi nui ki a koe! My name is Rosemary Dewerse and I am very excited about the prospect of joining the team at the College in their work of helping to form missional leaders for the Synod of South Australia.

I applied for the role because of words like 'integration,' 'innovation,' and 'action-reflection' that frequently appeared on the College's website. These concepts are a key part of who I am and try to be. I was also impressed to discover a theological institution that was courageously seeking to train church leaders for the mission context we find ourselves in, a challenging task. I very much enjoyed meeting staff and students and a few members of the Synod in a recent visit and feel privileged to now have the opportunity to give and receive.

I am the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and as I grew up in Aotearoa New Zealand we served in small-town, urban, and rural settings. My mother came from Methodist stock, so both hymnals featured in my upbringing, and as a university student I attended a Presbyterian/Pacific Island Congregational Church, which I happened to later get married in. My husband Roelant is the son of a Kiwi missionary nurse and a Belgian father who met and married in Africa. He grew up in a Christian community they helped to begin when they arrived Down Under. As their missional edge, they have sought to provide space and hospitality for people needing the love and acceptance of a stable family setting. Both our families have a long history of commitment to local and world mission and engagement.

I began my working life as a high school music teacher and music is still part of my life blood, but I have long felt a call to helping form leaders for the church. After some years of study, tutoring, lecturing, and curriculum design work in England, Central Asia and Aotearoa, I have most recently been working for Maori Anglicans in a theological institution operating completely from within their worldview, an unusual and wonderful



opportunity. All of my experience has been rich and given me a deep passion to see church and education settings making the most of the gifts that genuine engagement with difference brings. A justice streak feeds into this, as well as a love of learning and a curiosity about life and people in general. My PhD, which interviewed people standing with their feet in two or more cultures, Catholic, Protestant, liberals through to evangelicals, brought much of this together for me and I look forward to sharing what I have learned with you as together we seek to serve, in God's name, the wide variety of people we find in the South Australian context. It is my hope that we might be able to do this with imagination, compassion, and an openness to the transformation such work will inevitably engender in us. I look forward to being part of the conversations, experimentation and story-making!

We will move in mid July to Adelaide, bringing with us our daughter Mereem (7) and son Jean-Luc (4). We would appreciate your prayers for our transition, especially for the children, who are looking forward to the adventure but are also aware that they leave grandparents, wider family and friends behind.

Mā te Atua tātou e manāki.

May God bless us all.

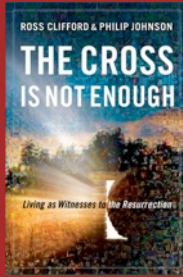
Rosemary Dewerse, June 2012

*Mission Really Matters* is produced by the missiology stream of Uniting College for Leadership & Theology to spark conversation, share resources and promote training.

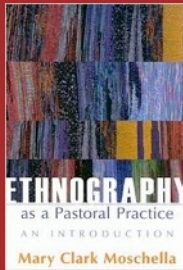
To join the e-mailing list or for further information please contact Nichola Shaw [nichola.shaw@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nichola.shaw@flinders.edu.au) or phone 08 8416 8427

## Reading

Ross Clifford and Philip Johnson, *The Cross is Not Enough: Living as Witnesses to the Resurrection*, Baker 2012. It is a fascinating exploration of the place of the resurrection for the church today. The highlight is the chapter on resurrection images in contemporary culture, with enough material for at least 10 Easter Sunday sermons.



Mary Clark Moschella, *Ethnography As A Pastoral Practice: An Introduction*, Pilgrim Press, 2008 fell across my desk earlier this year. It offers a fascinating approach to change, in which the leader becomes a listener. It is full of practical stories of ministers who listened, who were surprised by what they heard, who fed back to their community what surprised them and as a result, change emerged.



## Serving

A core value for the Missiology stream is serving the local church. So far in 2012 this has taken many different shapes. Some examples include

- Working locally with Denise Champion and Ian Dempster to get communion words from *Uniting in Worship 2* translated into Karna language.
- Leading the annual Uniting World retreat, Sydney
- speaking at Summer Spirit, Perth for the Synod of Western Australia
- inputting and leading worship with rural churches in Robe
- a morning with 13 churches from the Western Suburbs, reflecting on mission in the local church
- providing an academic conference paper on indigenous communion practices at Story Weaving (International Conference on Colonial Contexts and Postcolonial Theology) in Melbourne

## Learning in Semester 2

### Spirit-ed Missiology with Kirsteen Kim

In our complex, plural postmodern world we inhabit a world of many spirits – good, bad, indifferent. These are movements, forces, personalities, cultures we have to negotiate.

This unit will explore how attention to the Holy Spirit in mission enables us to minister faithfully in local contexts while connected to the church worldwide and the greater purposes of God in Christ.

Kirsteen Kim is Professor of Theology and World Christianity at Leeds Trinity University College, UK and author of *The Holy Spirit in the World* and *Joining in with the Spirit*. July 23-27. Available at both Bachelor and Post Graduate level.

### Gift of forgiveness with Rosemary Dewerse and Ian Coats

This topic will explore the Christian theology of forgiveness and reconciliation and the implications for mission and ministry today. Contemporary theological reflection on forgiveness will be applied to contemporary contexts including indigenous peoples, change, conflict resolution, Christian communities and families. Thursday, 6-8pm, Semester 2.

### Leadership as Discernment with Beatrice Panne

Discernment is nested in the heart of faith. Engaging in it helps to grow a life line to the work of the Spirit within, among and around us. It is an indispensable practice when a community seeks God's direction for its mission. This understanding of discernment primarily centers around a finely tuned openness during speaking, listening and waiting towards the presence of God or any promptings of the Spirit impacting the community's decision making. This course will explore key readings in communal discernment and mission, receive input on historic and practical aspects of communal discernment, look at the use of the *Manual for Meetings* as a tool for discernment and workshop ways to apply a communal discernment process to your own ministry context. 27-29 Nov, 9am - 1pm, 3 credit points. Enroll in 1 Guided Reading unit.

These can all be taken for audit or credit through the Adelaide College of Divinity (ACD). Enquire re fees and FEE-HELP

## Resourcing

Your small group could host an Equipping in Culturally Appropriate Mission (focus on faith-sharing) or Engaging in Culturally Appropriate Mission. Both of these are VET level units, available through the Adelaide College of Divinity.

Contact Nichola Shaw at [nichola.shaw@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nichola.shaw@flinders.edu.au)

Your church could host a Bachelor of Ministry topic. In 2013 the missiology stream would like to experiment with running a Bachelor of Ministry topic in a local church. We're looking for a local host, that would network with other local churches. If you'd like to think more about this, contact Steve Taylor

Participate in the missionshaped ministry course, exploring fresh expressions and the mixed economy approach to mission for your community. 11 evenings of input plus 2 weekend gatherings, July to November 2012. For more, see <http://www.missionshapedministry.org.au/>

