

# mission MATTERS

Issue #5 February 2013



Who is the missiology stream?

Currently Rosemary Dewerse, Steve Taylor, Jo Fulton and Andrew Dutney, with a growing network of adjunct lecturers and contributing practitioners. In 2013 these include Tracy Spencer, Ian Coats and Sean Gilbert. Nichola Duggan provides 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.



## Walking on Country

The year started by giving those who spent four days in February Walking on Country much to ponder. Five candidates, two family members, a colleague from Uniting Communities, and Rosemary went to Njarrindjeri country and were graciously hosted by Uncle Marshall, Uncle Bruce and Aunty Kathy at Kalparrin, Uncle Tom and the Mob at Camp Coorong, and Uncle Clyde at Raukin. We were told many stories – dreaming stories and stories of colonizing history – learned how to weave baskets, learned where to find bush tucker and medicine, heard of projects bringing hope for change, and walked the land along the amazing Coorong. Anu nginti!

Tracy Spencer facilitated and organised the whole trip and did a superb job of guiding us through a journey of decolonisation. Aunty Denise provided the important glue between cultures and encouraged contextual theologising. Both challenged us and helped us to reflect deeply and modelled an openness and care that welcomed honesty and growth.

Lou Smalbil, husband of MOW Jo, wrote the following reflection in response:

*God looked down upon the lands of Australia and saw that things were not well with the Land and its People and something had to be done.*

*God looked more closely and saw a Mob of good people who each had stories to tell,*

*but they were scattered across the Land, so they were brought together.*

*People from the coastal area of Queensland, from the lands of the Snowy Mountains, from across the waters to New Zealand, and from the red sands of the interiors, and they came from the southern coastal areas and the plains of the hills. They were black and white, students and teachers, young and old, male and female but they had all come to learn and experience the ways of the land.*

*They listened to the spirits of the great River, the Coast and of the Lakes.*

*They learned about the past, the care of the surroundings, the injustices placed upon the First People of the lands.*

*They also learnt that the past could not be changed but the present and future is where change can take place.*

*God saw this and called upon the Creator to gather these people, and with one big hand the Creator picked up these people and moulded them into a tall strong tree that produced beautiful brightly coloured flowers and a sweet tasting fruit that attracts the birds and animals of the area.*

*The seeds of the fruit are carried far and wide some falling onto fertile soils others not, but in time more trees grow and more seeds are produced, all learning and carrying away the stories of the good people and in time the Land becomes well and also the People of the Land. Then God looked down and said, "all is good."*

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

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## Post Graduate Update

The mission stream Masters course is growing in numbers. The majority of participants are now from interstate.

This semester a group of the Missional stream will be holding a Church: Rethink Tank to explore resources and people pushing the envelope on understandings and practices of the church. We intend to push the envelope ourselves...

## Conferences to look out for in Adelaide:

*The Postsecular City: Implications for congregations and their community engagement*, September 24-26, 2013. Keynote speaker is public theologian Dr Chris Baker from the UK.

*Margins and Diversity*, Australian Association of Mission Studies, October 2-5, 2014: a great opportunity for us to host and meet missiologists and mission practitioners from all over Australia and beyond.

Note them in your diary!

## Who's where and what's up in 2013?

**Andrew Dutney** has just completed with students an intensive on Uniting Church Heritage and Polity. Twenty-four came from within SA and interstate. Impressive!

**Steve** is on sabbatical until mid-April and now has enough material for **two** books on Fresh Expressions/Emerging Church. A highlight has been interviewing Rowan Williams (just retired Archbishop of Canterbury) under whose leadership Fresh Expressions began in the Anglican Church in the UK. A contract with Eerdmans is in the pipeline.

The **Missional stream** of the Master of Ministry continues to gather. Experiencing discussion and work done by this group is always very stimulating. We are seeking an outlet for publication of their best work.

**Reading Cultures** happens first semester online. Sean Gilbert and Rosemary are facilitating and looking forward to taking students on a journey through their own landscape.

In the middle of the year **Rosemary** will lead an intensive, Multicultural Worship, Leadership and Mission (8-12 July). Aunty Denise will join us on the first day and, hopefully, other voices during the week. A book Rosemary is working on with MediaCom will accompany the course and be more widely available. Working title: 'Breaking Calabashes: Becoming an Intercultural Community.' Look out for it!

Another book (coming out around June) will be **Nga Kai-rui i te Rongopai: Seven Early Māori Christians**, a project Rosemary has been working on toward the 2014 bicentenary of the arrival of the gospel in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Semester two **Steve and Tracy Spencer** will co-lead **Introduction to Christian Thought**, while **Rosemary and Jo Fulton** will take students on a whistle stop tour through church mission history exploring communities who sought to be salty and the lessons they hold for us today in **Mission Then, Mission Now**.

Keen for your small group to do some study? You could host a VET level unit in Equipping, or Engaging in Culturally Appropriate Mission (focus on faith-sharing) or Engaging with People from a Different Religious Background, available through the Adelaide College of Divinity. Contact **Nichola Duggan** at [nichola.duggan@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nichola.duggan@flinders.edu.au)

