

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you who have prayed, donated, encouraged and otherwise supported HTC during our appeal for £75,000 of matched funding.

We had a significant response to our appeal, with £35,000 being raised within the necessary timescale. The remaining £40,000 will either come from a legacy, which we have been told will arrive shortly, or from a low interest business loan from a public body. Naturally, we will be delighted to hear from anyone who was not able to give previously but would like to help us raise the additional £40,000.

We are, however, greatly encouraged and trust that this money, plus normal giving, together with the changes we are making to staffing and operations, will see us into the autumn without a crisis!

I must say, however, that we do see HTC as an arm of the church, part of its mission. We do not envisage a time when we will not need the help and support of Christian friends. There will certainly be more money coming from UHI as student numbers increase but a significant percentage of our income will always be by donation income. As a result of the Alexander Murray challenge, we now have an additional £3,000 per month coming in, much of it by Gift Aid. This regular monthly giving is the best way to help HTC in the long term.

Thanks again,

Professor A.T.B. McGowan

Academic Development News

Hector Morrison is currently on a UHI-funded sabbatical, working on various themes but particularly on the Book of Genesis. We are very fortunate to have the Rev Dr **Bob Fyall**, Director of Rutherford House, covering Hector's teaching during this period.

Andrew McGowan recently gave two lectures on covenant theology at a conference in Greenville Seminary in South Carolina. He will also give a paper at the Tyndale Conference in July and at the Fellowship of European Evangelical Theologians conference in Germany in August. His sabbatical, during which he hopes to complete a book on the doctrine of Scripture, begins on 1st September.

Alistair Wilson's PhD is to be published by Paternoster Press in the autumn. He is also to be a delegate to the 7th International Consultation of the Scripture and Hermeneutics project in Jesus' College, Oxford in September.

Jamie Grant's PhD is to be published by SBL/ Brill in the summer. He is also to speak at the British RTSF conference in April and give a paper at the Tyndale Fellowship conference in July.

Inaugural Annual Lectures

To mark HTC's tenth anniversary it has been decided to institute two annual lectures, which would be open for our supporters and friends to attend. The lectures will be called the John Murray lecture and the FF Bruce lecture in memory of two very significant theologians with Highland connections. The lecture topics will be in accordance with these scholars' own fields of speciality, namely theological and historical studies, and biblical studies.

It is planned that the lectures should fall on the same day as HTC's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, this year on 1 October and we are very much looking forward to what we hope will be a special day in the life of the College. We are very pleased that Professor Richard Gaffin and Professor Howard Marshall have agreed to give the first of these lectures.



Prof. Gaffin

More details about the times of the lectures and their titles will be available in our next Newsletter and on our website.

Noel Due's Farewell Service

The annual Inverness Teaching Weekend is planned for 23-25 April at Inches Church of Scotland. The theme for this year is "*And every eye will see Him*": *the Return of the Son of Man*. During the weekend there will be a farewell service for Noel and Bev Due. It was deemed a fitting occasion as Noel has played such a large part in the creation of the teaching weekends. The service is scheduled to start at 7.30pm on Saturday, 24 April in the East Church, Inverness, and a warm invitation to attend is extended.

A new book from HTC

This spring sees the publication of the latest book from HTC's Church History Lecturer. Nick Needham's book, called *Renaissance and Reformation*, covers the 15th & 16th centuries giving special attention to events in England & Scotland.

This latest volume is part three of a series entitled *2000 Years of Christ's Power*, of which parts one & two (*The Age of the Early Church Fathers* and *The Middle Ages*) are already. Written for the non-specialist, and illustrated with portraits and maps, this series should appeal to any Christian who wants to explore the lives of believers through the centuries and the events that surrounded them.

Grant recognition: Another step forward for UHI

UHI will receive next year, for the first time, 'full-formula funding' from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council. This will put UHI on a level playing field with other Scottish higher education institutions and universities.

Welcoming the announcement, Professor Bob Cormack, Principal of UHI, said: 'We warmly welcome the increase in funding - which now places us on a par with other higher education institutions and universities in Scotland. This is recognition of the huge progress that UHI has made since becoming a higher education institution in April 2001... The increased funding will be welcomed by all those in the colleges and research institutions in the UHI network, on whom so much of our continued development towards a University of the Highlands and Islands depends.'

The Highland Preaching Conference

The Highland Preaching Conference is a new event to be held in Inverness over 5 and 6 May. It is being modelled on Glasgow's bi-annual Scottish Ministers' Assembly. The guest speakers for this year's conference are Ralph Davis and our own Jamie Grant. Jamie is giving two talks about preaching from the Psalms. Further details can be obtained by phoning (01463) 716843.



An unusual recruitment

Recently one of our third year students was relating how he came to be studying at HTC: 'During a casual conversation in a fourteen-foot boat (if such a thing is possible with the expanse of the Minch peering over your shoulder) Julie Cribb [our Learning Centre Manager at the time] told me of HTC'.

This unusual recruitment led to more surprises for the new recruit, Martin: 'I think that I am probably more surprised than anyone to find myself, at fifty-six, in my third year of a degree in theology after some thirty years of crofting on Scorraig... What has happened since leaves me amazed. I have discovered skills that I would never have thought I had: preaching my first sermon, counselling, the insights of exegesis and the glorious symphonies of systematic theology amongst others.'

This story, while being unusual in its detail, is what HTC is all about - equipping the Christians of the Highlands and Islands (as well as further afield) with a deeper knowledge of their faith and a greater ability to serve the Lord.

'Investors In People' Renewed Approval



Three years ago HTC was assessed and awarded the business accolade of 'Investors in People', and on 10 February once again the assessor visited, to ascertain whether we should still retain the award. The retention of the award was approved, and we were pleased to see in the assessor's comments that the nature of our Christian community is noticed by the business world: '[HTC staff] clearly take pride in what they do and are particularly determined to continue to raise the standard of the services they deliver. Overall, there is a very positive ethos with exceptionally sound relationships amongst and between staff.'

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