

Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2009

Praise be to the ... Father ... who has blessed us

‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.’ You will recognise these words as the ones with which the apostle Paul begins the first main section of his letter to the Ephesians (1:3ff), returning thanks and praise to the Father who is the great Source of all things. More about the Father below, but for the moment, we at HTC want to acknowledge the Father’s goodness to us and his blessing of us afresh over these past months, and much of it through you, his beloved people, in many parts of the world who have caught the vision with us of what the Father wants to do in and through HTC and have responded to this vision with prayerful and generous hearts. Thanks in no small part to this God-given generosity, HTC managed to make a very small profit of £6,000 by the end of the financial year (end July).

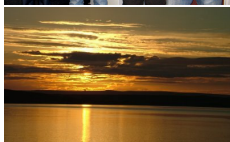
Abba! Father!

The Fatherhood of God is something that has been much in my thoughts in recent times and not just in preparation for a series of HTC evening classes and other preaching and teaching opportunities (see elsewhere in this newsletter for details). Indeed, the motivation has been in the other direction. It is my sense that the Fatherhood of God is a teaching that needs to be more fully appreciated, and a reality that needs to be more fully experienced, that has moved me to search the scriptures again on this whole subject in my preparation for preaching and teaching.

As I look back over my Christian life, I find myself wondering why I didn’t hear very much at all about God the Father, and, if I’m not mistaken, I’m not alone in that experience. Certainly, in our Scottish and Highland churches, the Fatherhood of God is not a teaching that has received very much attention, generally speaking. So it is a teaching that really needs to come to the fore. And who knows but that in the next significant phase of the church’s spiritual reformation, renewal and revival in Scotland this is a teaching and a spiritual reality that will be at the very heart of our experience, worship and mission as a church.

We ourselves need to know more fully what it means for us as Christians to be children of the heavenly Father: to be assured of his eternal and unchanging love towards us; to enjoy the wonderful liberties and privileges of his family; to have freedom of access with confidence into his presence at any time, in any place and circumstance in life; to know his care and concern for us each day; to experience his protection and provision; to understand the loving and fruit-bearing nature of his discipline in our lives; and to be confident that he will never disinherit us, but rather bring us into the fullness of our inheritance at last – participation with the blessed and glorious Trinity in everlasting life and kingship over the whole of creation.

We also need to proclaim to, and share with, others these great liberating truths that they too may come to know Him as their Father and experience the freedoms



Letter from the Principal (continued from previous page)

and privileges of sonship.

Some of you may recognise the above lines as, in measure, a reflection of chapter 12 of the Westminster Confession of Faith's brilliant summary of the bible's teaching about 'adoption.' If you haven't read it recently, let me encourage you to do so soon. And whether we have read it or not, may we all, under the Father's blessing and by His enabling, live in a fuller appreciation and experience of the realities of which it speaks.

Jamie in Poland

The International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) is a networking community of nationally-led student movements, committed to being partners in global student witness. IFES exists to reach students in every nation with the gospel and to send them into the world to bear witness to Christ and his teaching. The IFES national movement in Poland is called Chrzescijanskie Stowarzyszenie Akademickie (ChSA). It is 20 years since the fall of communism and the establishment of the first registered Christian organisations in Central and Eastern Europe. In a region where Christianity has been oppressed for many years, where the national churches are young and believers are few, ChSA works to reach students in Poland with the gospel. In the 20 years since the formation of ChSA, its ministry has grown from virtually nothing to include student groups in around 60% of the cities with a university. ChSA held its 20th anniversary conference on the 23rd – 25th October and Jamie Grant, Vice Principal, who worked with ChSA for seven years from 1990, gave the morning Bible readings (in Polish!) at the conference.



Hector in South Australia

For three weeks over the end of July and the beginning of August, the principal was in Adelaide at the invitation of Coromandel Valley Baptist Church, where our former HTC colleague, Rev Dr Noel Due, now ministers. As well as preaching on one of the Sundays, Hector gave a series of three addresses on the Book of Haggai at the Church Camp weekend which was held in Victor Harbour. He also spoke at a number of other church events, including a Men's Breakfast, a mid-week house group, and the Timothy Fellowship. The presence and blessing of God experienced on each of these occasions was quite palpable, deeply humbling and wonderfully refreshing. After the recent loss of his wife Bev, it was good to have time alone with Noel too to talk, pray, laugh and weep. Hector also had the chance of catching up with other Australian friends who have been at the college in the past, including Winston and Pam White (library work), and Liz Priest (a former student) and her dad, Don.



We look forward to a visit from Noel in May of next year when he hopes to be across in Scotland for some teaching ministry. He should be preaching in the Inverness area on the 9th May; in Aberdeen, at Gilcomston South Church of Scotland, on the weekend of the 16th and in Stornoway, at an HTC Teaching Event, the following weekend. More details will be available as soon as they are confirmed.

Scripture

From time to time we are asked whether HTC has a position with respect to Scripture and, if so, what that is. HTC's position on Scripture was set down in the Articles of Association of the Highland Theological Company Limited back in June 1999, to which all members of the company subscribe, and is as follows:

All Scripture is self-attesting and being truth requires the human mind wholeheartedly to subject itself in all its activities to the authority of Scripture complete as the Word of God standing written in the sixty-six books of the Holy Bible, all therein being verbally inspired by Almighty God and therefore without error.

Earlier this year, at its April meeting, the Board of Governors re-affirmed wholeheartedly and unreservedly this statement of faith with respect to Scripture.

Mike Bird, New Testament Tutor



It is with regret that we announce the departure from HTC of Dr Mike Bird, our New Testament tutor. A native of Queensland, Australia, Mike joined the HTC family in July 2005. He recently accepted a teaching position in The Bible College of Queensland and expects to make the move from Scotland back 'down under' over the Christmas holiday period in time for the start of the Australian academic year. Mike is a prolific writer and has authored numerous books and journal articles, as well as being an avid 'blogger'. Mike is married to Naomi and they have two daughters, Alexis and Alyssa, and a son, Markus.

Kevin Sinclair, Learning Centre Manager

We also announce, with regret, the departure of Kevin Sinclair from the HTC team. Kevin joined HTC in June 2003 as our Learning Centre Manager and has contributed to the life of the College in numerous ways. As well as co-ordinating the activities of the Learning Centre, his patience and wide-ranging knowledge of HTC and UHI policies have made him an excellent student advisor. Kevin has also been called upon to help out with all manner of tasks, from reception duties to helping erect scaffolding! He has for the past two years been seconded on a two-day-a-week basis to the UHI Lifelong Learning, Student Support and Development team and it is to this team he now moves permanently. Although he will no longer be a member of the HTC staff, Kevin will still be based in the College because his new line manager, Dr Iain Morrison, Head of Lifelong Learning, Student Support and Development, has his office in HTC.



A' gluasad gu Inbhirnis/ Peter Murray Moves to EO, Inverness



Air sgàth 's gu bheil HTC na phàirt de dh' UHI, tha grunnan bheag de luchd-obrach UHI suidhichte nar colaisde, nam measg tha Pàdruig Moireach, a bhuineas dha Leòdhas. Tha Pàdruig air a bhi còmhla ruinn an nis fad sia mìosan 's e ag obair air pròiseict thaobh gnòthaichean na Gàidhlig. Ach a nis tha e a' gluasad gu oifisean UHI ann an Inbhirnis 's tha sinne 'guidhe gach beannachd air Pàdruig aig an àm so. Bha e dòigheil's dèidheil nar measg, 's bi ionndrainn mhòr air.

New UHI Leadership Team

UHI Millennium Institute (UHI) has appointed Lewis-born Professor Matthew MacIver CBE, as the chair of its board of governors. Professor MacIver is the former chair of the Gaelic development agency Bòrd na Gàidhlig and retired chief executive and registrar of the General Teaching Council for Scotland. He replaces Colin MacKay CBE, a former consultant surgeon and past president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, who retired at the end of September after seven years as chair of UHI. At the same time, Mr James Fraser has been appointed principal of UHI following the retirement of Professor Bob Cormack. Mr Fraser joined UHI as deputy principal and secretary in September 2002 having previously been secretary at the University of Paisley. This is the first year in which UHI has awarded its own degrees, having gained taught degree awarding powers, and it was a great joy for us to have James present the Higher Education awards at our recent graduation ceremony (see graduation photo: James is at the front right). We look forward to working closely with James and Matthew at this exciting stage in the development of UHI, when a new university with its own distinctive structure and curriculum finally emerges in the Highlands and Islands.

Rev Professor Derek Thomas

We were delighted to welcome to the College for the Graduation Service the Rev Professor Derek Thomas from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, along with his wife, Rosemary. Derek and Rosemary managed to squeeze their visit to HTC in at the end of a family holiday, and we had the privilege of having Derek preach at Graduation a very appropriate and realistic message on 'Motives for Ministry' from 2 Corinthians 4. Derek was one of the first of HTC's PhD graduates back in 2000, and his PhD thesis was published subsequently by Christian Focus in its Mentor Series under the title *'Calvin's Teaching on Job: Proclaiming the Incomprehensible God'*. It was completed under the supervision of our former principal, Andrew McGowan. (In the graduation photo Derek is seated front left).



Graduation 2009

Certificate in Christian Theology

Angus Bradley is from Skye but now lives in Inverness. Angus worships at Inverness East Church and is a member of the Inverness District Male Voice Choir and also Highland Harmony. Angus completed his studies by Open Learning.

Access Certificate in Christian Theology

Gregor Ferry is from Fife. He has a real interest in the growing church in East Asia and has relatives who are missionaries in Thailand. Gregor studied full-time on-campus and has progressed to Level 1 of the BA programme. **Joyce Fraser** lives in Evanton and attends Kiltearn Church of Scotland. Joyce's daughter Lindsay completed the Access Course some years ago. Like Gregor, Joyce was a studied full-time on-campus student and has progressed to Level 1 of the BA. **Stuart Gamble** is originally from Essex but now lives in Embo, Dornoch. Before retiring, Stuart had a busy career in the legal profession. Stuart was a full-time on-campus student. **Sheila Munro** from the Black Isle worked in banking for many years before leaving to bring up a family and work in her husband's business. Sheila studied on a full time basis here at the College. **Marwyn Webster** is a retired nurse from Caithness. She also studied on a full time basis here at the College and has progressed to Level 1 of the BA.

Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies

Alan Bowie from Inverness studied full-time at the College. Alan is married to Shevonne, a former BA graduate of HTC. **Thomas Cromie** from Newry in County Down is a retired Civil Servant and an Elder in Rathfriland Reformed Presbyterian Church. Thomas studied by Open Learning. **Derek Morrison** lives in Inverness and worships in Inverness East Church. He was an officer in Northern Constabulary for over 25 years and Branch Secretary for the Northern Branch of the Christian Police Association. Derek completed his Cert HE as part of his training for the Readership of the Church of Scotland. **Lindsay Rodgers** from Tain is a registered general nurse. Lindsay studied by Open Learning and has gone on to do further study at Aberdeen University.



Diploma of Higher Education in Theological Studies

Jennifer Burns, originally from Ayrshire but now living in this area, studied by Open Learning. **Mark Ellis**, Dundee, worked with OMF until 2005 and is now Team Leader of UCCF in Scotland. **Joy Fraser-Hall** from Garve began her HE studies after completing the Access Course in Christian Theology. **Sheena MacLean**, Inverness, is involved in Chaplaincy Assistance at Raigmore Hospital as a result of a placement done with HTC. **Alexandrea Wallace-Stewart** is originally from Italy and now lives in Inverness. She is married to Pete and they have two young children.

Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies

Alexander Mackenzie is from the Isle of Skye but now lives in Inverness where he worships in Hilton Church of Scotland. Alexander studied on a full-time basis here at the College. **Scott Paton**, Aberdeen, studied by open learning and attended the regular BA/Access conference days held in the college. He has been accepted as a candidate for the ministry of the Baptist Church in Scotland and is now in the final stages of training for Baptist Ministry, doing some modules at the Scottish Baptist College. **Steve Potts** is a former joiner who lives in Dallas, Moray. He is a candidate for the Church of Scotland ministry, presently completing his final student placement training prior to commencing his probationary year. **Peter Wilson**, Beaulieu, completed the Access Course at HTC before commencing BA studies. He attends Dingwall Baptist Church and is involved with his son in planting a new Baptist fellowship in Beaulieu.

Bachelor of Art with Distinction in Theological Studies

Graeme Lawson from Linlithgow has worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators in West Africa. Having completed his BA, Graeme is now studying part-time for an MTh in Biblical Studies at the University of Edinburgh. **Duncan Porter** lives in Bearsden and is an elder at St George's Tron Church of Scotland. He is a Consultant Surgeon in Glasgow and studied for his BA in theology by Open Learning.

Bachelor of Art with Honours (First Class) in Theological Studies

George Craig is a General Practitioner in Edinburgh. George's very high standard of achievement earned him not only a First Class honours degree in Theology but also the title 'HTC student of the year 2009'.

MTh Reformed Theology

Leonard Cazaly is the first student to complete this new programme in HTC's portfolio. Len previously completed his Honours degree with HTC in 2007 then returned to HTC as a part time lecturer on the Access and BA courses as well as teaching evening classes. He is a lay reader in the Church of Scotland and is also actively involved with the work of the Scottish Bible Society.

MPhil

Steven Robinson is from Co. Antrim and is a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Steven currently lives in Hungary and his thesis topic was Protestantism in Hungary.

PhD

Jerrard Heard, Mississippi, took for his area of studies the sacramental theology of George Gillespie. **Ian Maddock** is Associate Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in New Haven, Connecticut. His thesis title was 'A comparison of Two Methodist Preachers: John Wesley and George Whitefield'. **Bill VanDoodeward** is from Indiana but is now working at Patrick Henry College in Maryland. Bill's Thesis title is 'The Marrow Controversy and Seceder Tradition: Marrow Theology in the Associate Presbytery and Associate Synod Secession Churches of Scotland (1733-1799)'.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

HTC Student of the Year: **George Craig**.

HTC Progress Award: Awarded jointly to **Emily Bunn** and **Eileen Miller**.

Hope Trust Prize: Awarded jointly to **Ross Macaskill** and **Scott Paton**.

Student News

Of the full-time students completing the Access course in the 2008/09 session, three have continued to further studies on the BA programme: **Gregor Ferry**, **Joyce Fraser** and **Marwyn Webster**.

Ross MacAskill – BA (2008); MTh student – has begun his probationary period in Inverness East Church under the supervision of Andrew McGowan.

Stewart Mackay – BA (2003) – congratulations to Stewart and Maggie on the birth of their son, Caleb Yang. Stewart is currently in army chaplaincy training, due to join his unit in January.



Malcolm Maclean – BA (1999); DMin (2001) – was inducted to Greyfriars-Stratherrick Free Church, Inverness, in July.

Adam and Michelle Oellermann – BA students – congratulations on the birth of their son, Daniel Adam.

Scott Paton – BA (2009) – is pursuing further studies at the Baptist College and has been accepted as a candidate for the Baptist ministry.



Iain Sutherland – DMin student – has moved from Fordyce Parish Church, Portsoy, to Gillespie Memorial Church, Dunfermline.

HTC Student of the Year

Dr George Craig, a general practitioner in Edinburgh who combined his demanding career with studies for a BA honours degree in theology, is this year's HTC 'student of the year'.

Academic officer Angela Spence said: "George is an exceptional A-class student and consistently produces a phenomenally high level of work, while also dealing with a demanding career as a doctor. His work in the last two years has been of postgraduate quality. He is a very worthy 'student of the year'".

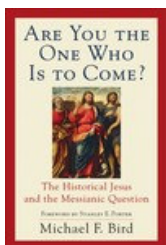


As a Christian keen to develop his faith, George has always been interested in theology. He explained: "The degree was recommended to me, but I never expected to finish it. I thought I would dip into some of the modules. Then I got hooked – the course was really enjoyable and very stimulating, and I found myself studying regularly over five-and-half-years. It has been hard work, particularly during this last honours year, but the great thing about the course is the flexible learning methods. The course materials were of exceptionally high standard, and the support was fantastic."

During an 18-month sabbatical from his practice, George spent a semester working at the college. "The library there is very well stocked and librarian Martin Cameron was very helpful indeed", he said.

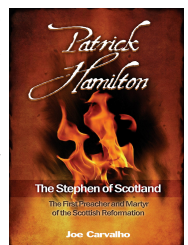
George is originally from Aberdeen and has been a GP for 14 years. He and his wife, Alison, a family planning nurse, have two grown-up children.

New Titles



'Are You the One Who Is to Come? The Historical Jesus and the Messianic Question' by Michael F. Bird. In this book, Michael Bird argues that Jesus did in fact claim to be Israel's messiah. Paperback, ISBN: 978-0-8010-3638-5

'Patrick Hamilton: The Stephen of Scotland (1504-1528). The First Preacher and Martyr of the Scottish Reformation' by Joe Carvalho (DMin student). See www.patrick-hamilton.co.uk for more information about this book. Paperback, ISBN: 978-0956364005.

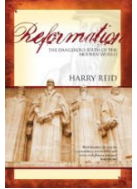


Calvin sculpture presented to HTC



'*Reformation: The Dangerous Birth of the Modern World*' by historian and former Herald editor Dr Harry Reid has been published this year to coincide with the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. HTC was pleased to host Dr Reid for much of his research for the book and was delighted to learn that, as a thank-you gift to the College, he had commissioned a sculpture of the theologian and pastor John Calvin. The bust was made by Edinburgh-based sculptor Allan Ross and is mounted in the Boardroom in the College. Dr Reid said: "Everyone at the college was very friendly and helpful

to me, and I was very impressed with the library there. I wanted to show my appreciation and felt this would be a most appropriate gift." (left, Mr Allan Ross, Sculptor; right, Dr Harry Reid, Author).



Reformation: The Dangerous Birth of the Modern World

'A new and accessible look at the Reformation in all its revolutionary complexity.'

Saint Andrew Press ISBN:978-0-715-20871-7 Hardback £16.99

Donation of Toy Lorries



Noel Agnew, a long-standing friend and supporter of the College, has built up over a number of years a substantial collection of scale models of lorries. He has donated his collection to HTC and is happy for us to use it to raise funds for the College. If you know of anyone who can help us sell the models please let us know. They are in their original packaging and have their collector's certificates and limited edition numbers. The collection contains around fifty individual items, each in excellent condition.



Exam Invigilators

Exam week for Semester 1 commences Monday 14th December. Volunteer invigilators urgently required! If you can spare a few hours during that week please get in touch.

HTC embroidered clothing now available

From left:

Pull-over hoodies £12; Zip-front hoodies £12;

Fleeces £14; Polo shirts £7

Please add £3 per order to cover postage & packing.

Black, navy, red, white, royal, grey....

Contact Barbara MacPhail for more details.

barbara.macphail@htc.uhi.ac.uk



Leisure Classes at HTC

There are **French** classes on Monday and Thursday evenings, and we are keen to have a day time class as well if there is sufficient interest. These classes are run on a conversational basis and are ideal for people thinking of taking a holiday in a French speaking area. With an emphasis on fun while learning, these classes fill up quickly so let us know if you are interested in joining. To find out about times and levels call Rosita on 07870 581 296 or email info@rojomo.net

We are taking bookings for the next round of **Computing** classes. Level 1 is ideal for people with no knowledge of computing whatsoever. Levels 2 – 4 assume a limited knowledge. If you would like to improve your skills, buy online or correspond with overseas friends, call Jack Sutherland on 01349 780000 to find out more.

Dates for your Diaries

Evening Classes: 'Getting to Know the Father'

Monday evenings 7pm, 26th Oct – 14th Dec, Hilton Church, Inverness. Rev Hector Morrison, Principal.
New faces always welcome.

Public Lecture: 'Jesus Loves Me: the Reformed Doctrine of Assurance'

Christians are sure that God exists, that the Bible is his word and that Jesus loves them. This lecture explores this certainty. How are we sure? And why is there sometimes doubt alongside the certainty?

Fri 20th Nov, 7.30pm, Greyfriars Free Church, Inverness.

Professor Donald MacLeod, Principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh.



Skye Teaching Weekend:

'Abba! Father!'

Fri 13th – Sat 14th November

Church of Scotland, Kyleakin, Skye

Rev Hector Morrison,

Rev Dr Innes Visagie,

Dr Mike Bird

All welcome.

Please contact us for more details.

Friday

7.30 – 9.00

The Father's Love from the Beginning

Saturday

10.30 - 10.45

Coffee/Tea

10.45 - 11.30

The Father's Loving Discipline

11.45 - 12.30

The Father of Jesus is the Father of Christians

12.30 - 1.30

Lunch Break

1.30 - 2.15

'My son has grown up just like me'

– Reflections on Fatherhood

2.15 - 2.45

Time for Questions/Discussion/Prayer

2.45 - 3.00

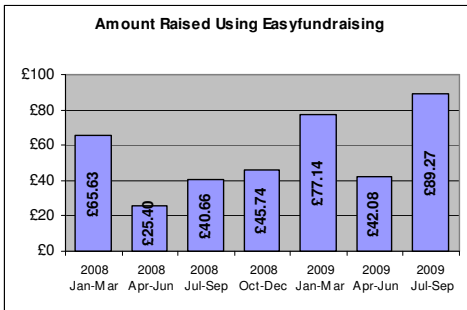
Closing Worship

Online shopping

Over £380 raised by you through the online shopping system! It's money for nothing!

All you need to do is register as a user with www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll and HTC automatically receives a donation whenever you make online purchases through participating retailers. The more supporters using the system the more HTC benefits – at no extra cost to you.

Retailers include: Amazon, Argos, Direct Line, Interflora, M&S, PC World, RAC, Vodafone...



- 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.

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HTC is a constituent partner of
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