
Newsletter Summer 2010

**Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea –
the LORD on high is mighty.**

Ps 93:4

The House of God/The Gate of Heaven

‘Chan àit air bith seo ach taigh Dhè agus is e seo geata nèimh .../ This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven...’. This is the way in which one of our Gaelic-speaking friends and supporters summed up her experience at HTC’s most recent Teaching Weekend in Stornoway. She was, of course, quoting Jacob’s words from Genesis 28:16ff. These verses record Jacob’s response to the wonderful revelation given to him by the covenant God of his forefathers at the time when he was on the run from his brother Esau, whose birthright and father’s blessing he had acquired by dubious means. At that point, conniving Jacob was scarcely the kind of person we might expect to have been blessed so richly by the Lord. Yet, despite his own sinful and twisted nature and deceitful actions, he was God’s chosen man through whom the covenant line and promises were to be continued, and, at Bethel, God came to him to assure him of all of that. And that, surely, gives encouragement to all Christians who, like Jacob, are ‘children of Abraham’ (Gal 3:7) and heirs of the same promises.

What made Bethel the ‘house of God’ for Jacob was the encounter he had with the living God, an encounter initiated by God himself and in which Jacob was quite passive. What made the recent Teaching Weekend a veritable ‘Bethel’ for our friend and for many others present was, similarly, a gracious visitation from the same covenant God.

Over the weekend, there were times when the ministry of the word of God seemed to be contested and we were conscious of the need to pray for that word to have ‘free course’ (2 Thess 3:1); there were also moments when the word appeared to be running freely and swiftly to its God-ordained goal; and there were precious moments when we were conscious of the closeness of the Lord, particularly towards the close of the Saturday evening session, when there was a tangible sense of the Lord’s dwelling among

us. As on each previous occasion when I have experienced God in this way, the congregation was reduced to a pregnantly holy stillness and silence, broken only by the occasional sob and snuffle as we were awed in the presence of the Father's holy but gracious presence. This experience surely anticipates the ultimate dwelling of God with men in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev 21:3f). It is also of a piece with what God's people have experienced in times past in both the Old Testament (see, for example, Ps 63:2) and the New Testament (see Acts 2:43a; 2 Thess 1:5), as well as in the annals of church history, particularly at times of revival. At such times all human activity – even the most holy and priestly activity – ceases before the awesome glory of the living God (see Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:11). I wonder if we ought not to expect – as did our forebears – at least some measure of this to be our experience more often in our regular worship services?

Perhaps the Lord will yet graciously bless us with a season of spiritual renewal in our land in which we will no longer be strangers to such encounters with His living Presence. Perhaps, here and there, we have even begun to experience just the first few refreshing drops of these 'showers of blessing' (Ezek 34:26) falling. The apostle John could say (John 1:16) that 'from the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another,' or, as we might say, 'wave upon wave of grace'. But as those of us brought up near the ocean know, there are waves and waves: some that ripple up the sand ever so gently on calm days; others that crash against the rocks with tremendous force; and others still that come tsunami-like, with unspeakable energy, carrying all before them. I wonder, could a wave of God's grace of such magnitude yet wash over our churches and this nation in cleansing and renewing power? We, of course, are no more worthy of such blessing than the sin-laden Jacob was of a Bethel experience, yet, by the grace of his covenant faithful God, Jacob found himself at the house of God, the very gate of heaven, the connecting point between heaven and earth. In Christ, are we not permanently in that place of blessing (John 1:51)?

Departures... Fiona Cameron

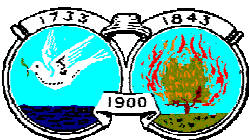
It is with sadness that we report that Fiona Cameron will be leaving the HTC staff team. Fiona has been offered a job in a solicitors office in Inverness and she will start there in June. She has been a skilled and committed member of the HTC team for eight years working mainly as PA to the Principal, though her role has included many other tasks too! We wish her well in her new post and are confident that she will be an asset to her new colleagues, as she has been to us over the years.

... and Bill Wallace

At the April meeting of the Board of Governors the Rev Bill Wallace, formerly of Pulteneytown & Thrumster Parish Church, Wick, and now retired in Ballater, came to the end of his period on the Board. We are grateful to Bill for his support of the work of the college and also for his wise and considered input into the work of the Board over the years, and we wish him and his wife, Jean, good health and continued fruitfulness in retirement.

The Access Course and the UF Church

Recently, we heard from the Ministry Committee of the United Free (UF) Church of Scotland that they are recommending to their General Assembly (9th – 11th June) that the church should adopt HTC's Access Course in Christian Theology as one of their main training options for part-time unordained ministry assistants (known at present within their denomination as pastors). The communication indicated that 'during a review of 14 training providers the Committee was very impressed by the range, content and flexibility of core introductory courses offered at HTC. This is exactly the kind of preparation which we believe our candidates should receive.' Several years ago the UF Church validated HTC as a training provider for Ministry of Word & Sacrament candidates. At present, two students from the denomination are pursuing the BA degree with HTC.



ICRC and WRF

In the middle of March and at the invitation of the Free Church of Scotland, the Principal attended a conference in Edinburgh organised by the European arm of the International Conference of Reformed Churches. Many good contacts were made. It was particularly gratifying to meet up again with Dr Clay Quarterman of the Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine who did his PhD with HTC some years back. The Seminary is a ministry of the Union of Evangelical Reformed Churches of the Ukraine. More details can be found at <http://www.ersu.org>.



Just after Easter, the Principal was back in Edinburgh for a meeting of the General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship which was attended by delegates from all over the world. Again, it was good to catch up with a number of our supporters and friends from the US (Ric Cannada, Roy Taylor, Sam Logan and Paul Gilchrist amongst others) and Australia (Bob Thomas, Robert Benn and Allan Harman), but also a real joy to discover a similar work to that of HTC being done in small, struggling seminaries across the world in places like Myanmar, India, and various countries of

Africa. Among the highlights of the Assembly were inspiring addresses given by Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi of the Anglican Church in Uganda, and by Dr Os Guinness; also a concert of praise led by Keith and Kristyn Getty.



It was a particular joy to meet up with another HTC PhD graduate, Dr Jack Whytock of the Haddington House Trust in Canada (see <http://www.haddingtonhouse.org>). One of the main purposes of Haddington House is to assist colleges in the developing world by offering visiting professors of theology, and in keeping with that purpose, each year Dr Whytock spends significant periods of time teaching at colleges such as Grace Bible College, Nakuru, Kenya, and Mukhanyo Theological College in Zambia (see <http://www.mukhanyo.co.za/>). It is very heartening to see the impact, however small, that such graduates of HTC are having on the spread of the gospel through the nations, and on the preparation of the next generation of preachers and pastors in a variety of countries.

Noel Due's Visit

The eagerly anticipated visit from Noel Due, our former colleague and friend, has now passed and we look back with great gratitude to the Lord for all that was accomplished in a variety of church settings over these past few weeks of activity, which included Teaching Weekends in Aberdeen and Stornoway, as well as one-off preaching events in Dingwall, Tain, Inverness and Barvas.

It was a great joy to renew fellowship with Noel and also to share with the Australian contingent who accompanied him for at least part of the time. But, through these events it was also good for HTC to reconnect with many of its supporters, particularly in Tain and Lewis, and to move out into new territory through the Teaching Weekend centred on Gilcomston South Church of Scotland in Aberdeen. Over these weeks many folk spoke of the blessing and benefit they had received from the ministry of God's word. Audio files of the various sermons and talks are available on the HTC website at <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/audlist.htm>. Some of the talks can also be downloaded from the Gilcomston South website and from the Stornoway APC Church website.

As we begin to pray and plan for next session's programme of events we simply want to be led to those places where the heavenly Father would have us minister. With such a small staff base, we are somewhat limited in what we are able to do, but if you sense that we might be of benefit to your congregation, then do at least get in touch and, together, we can prayerfully seek the Lord's will.

The Life & Work Inverness Presbytery of the Church of Scotland Report

Each month the Life & Work, the magazine of the Church of Scotland, carries a feature on one of its presbyteries. In the June edition the report is from the Presbytery of Inverness. In the centre of that report it was good to see the significance of HTC being acknowledged in these words: 'the creation of the Highland Theological College in Dingwall ... means that there are now four students attached to parishes in the presbytery as part of their training to become Church of Scotland ministers. That could have a spin-off in encouraging candidates to consider seeking a charge in the area. Having a college on the doorstep training ministers is seen as a benefit to the presbytery.'





Cape Town 2010: The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization

The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (Lausanne III) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 16th – 25th October 2010. Held in collaboration with the World Evangelical Alliance, the Congress will bring together 4,000 leaders from more than 200 countries to confront the critical issues of our time – other world faiths, poverty, HIV/AIDS, persecution, among others – as they relate to the future of the Church and world evangelization. Thousands more leaders will participate in the discussion on the issues through the [Lausanne Global Conversation](#) (a website set up to ‘discuss’ topics online) and at remote Congress sites through the [Cape Town GlobalLink](#).

Dr Jamie Grant, Vice Principal of HTC, hopes to attend the Congress in Cape Town. He will take the opportunity of being in South Africa to spend some time at Dumisani Theological Institute and help with teaching for a week. If someone feels able to contribute towards the cost of travel that would be greatly appreciated.

GlobaLink sites are remote sites all around the world (churches, bible colleges, theological institutions, mission organizations, etc) that will participate in Cape Town 2010, giving church leaders and people interested in evangelization the opportunity to be part of the Congress.

- view key documents
- video and audio streaming of Congress events
- participation in a global conversation with others on key issues
- ability to give feedback to the Cape Town Congress (GlobaLink sites can interact with the Congress rather than just observe it)

HTC is a registered GlobaLink site. What this involves will become more apparent in the coming weeks but our intention is to contact local church leaders in the next few months. Meanwhile, please let us know if you would like to be part of Cape Town 2010 via our GlobaLink participation.

Student & Graduates News – Congratulations to...

PhD Ian Clark successfully completed his PhD, subject to the usual minor corrections. Ian’s thesis title is *The Significance of the Humanity and Divinity of Jesus for his Heavenly Session*.

Doctor of Ministry Rev **Richard Gibbons**, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, South Carolina, successfully defended his Doctor of Ministry dissertation *Preaching Luke & Acts in the Post-Modern Age* on 15th April. The Doctor of Ministry degree is run in partnership with Reformed Theological Seminary and Richard will graduate from RTS in Charlotte, North Carolina. Richard used to work for the Church of Scotland and was based in Inverness before moving to the USA.



MTh Reformed Theology Both of our full-time students on the 2009-10 MTh programme, **Ross MacAskill** and **Teck Wah Low**, have successfully completed their course work and dissertations and will be presented for graduation this September.



Ross, now probationer minister in Inverness East Church, has passed with distinction. Teck Wah is a pastor in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We have a number of part-time MTh students still working on modules and



dissertations and we hope that some may complete in time to be presented for graduation this year.



Baby news **Ross MacAskill** (BA graduate; MTh student) and his wife Irene on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Abbi Isobel, on 28th February (top). **Stuart Farmes** (BA student) and his wife Elizabeth on the birth of another son, Caleb, on 4th March (centre). **Morven and Philip Magee** (both BA graduates) on the birth of a son, Daniel, on 26th March (bottom).

BA (Hons) Theological Studies

Recruiting now
for Sept 10 start!

The BA (Hons) Theological Studies programme provides a broad knowledge and understanding of the main disciplines of Christian theology, and the personal and professional capabilities required for a variety of ministries and other professions. The course is centred on three main themes: **biblical studies, theological/historical studies** and **applied studies**. Students are taught to engage critically,

objectively and fairly with a wide spectrum of theological viewpoints, although the course reflects the evangelical and Reformed ethos of the College. All the tutors have practical experience of ministry and are actively involved in church work. Students can choose from a variety of work placements, such as *congregational work, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, hospital chaplaincy, overseas mission and relief work*, and are encouraged to follow an area of personal interest in their project work.

HTC has been approved by a number of denominations, including the Church of Scotland, as a provider of education and training for Ministers and Readers.



Minimum entry requirements: five SCE passes, including three at Higher grade. Other access routes are also available, including HTC's **Access Course in Christian Theology**. Particular consideration will be given to mature students who may not have the formal qualifications but whose work experience may give evidence of ability to complete the course. Contact us for more details.

Core modules (shown in **bold** font) are compulsory, while optional modules are available for student choice at each level. The predominance of core modules in level 1 ensures that all students have a broad acquaintance with each of the main disciplines before specialising; there is an increasing element of student choice as progress is made through the various levels. Full-time students normally complete four modules per semester (eight modules per academic year); part-time students complete fewer.

Level 1 Modules	Level 2 Modules	Level 3 Modules	Level 4 Modules
Early Church History Former Prophets Greek Grammar Introduction to Pastoral and Practical Theology Introduction to Systematic Theology Jesus and the Gospels New Testament Introduction Pentateuch Worship	Doctrine of Scripture Exploring Other Faiths Greek Grammar Greek Texts Hebrew Grammar Integrative Approach to Counselling in the Pastoral Setting Introduction to Counselling Theory Medieval Church History Old Testament Prophecy Pauline Theology Person and Work of Christ Placement Protestant Reformation	Amos (Hebrew) Doctrine of God Greek Texts Hebrew Texts Luke – Acts Old Testament Themes Placement Preaching Project Reformed Apologetics Romans Scottish Church History Wisdom Literature	1 Corinthians (Greek) Biblical Theology Christian Communication in a Postmodern World Christian Ethics Dissertation Exploring Christian Spirituality Genesis (Hebrew) Hermeneutics Person and Work of the Holy Spirit Psalms (Hebrew) Quest of the Historical Jesus Reformed Theology

Qualification gained if you finish at the end of this level:

CertHE Theological Studies	DipHE Theological Studies	BA Theological Studies	BA (Hons) Theological Studies
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Contact Angela Spence in the Academic Office for application/enrolment details.

UK and EU students on the BA programme may be eligible for SAAS funding www.saas.gov.uk; other grants and bursaries may be available depending on personal circumstances. Contact Barbara MacPhail in the Finance Office for fees and funding advice.



Induction for the 2010/11 session takes place on Friday 3rd September; classes commence on Tuesday 7th September.

- **Full-time or part-time**
- **Study on-campus or at home**
- **Option of just selecting individual module(s) for interest only**

Bankers Order

You can use this form to make donations to HTC by Standing Order. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI ~ High Street ~ Dingwall ~ Ross-shire ~ IV15 9HA**

Bank/Building Society _____

Name of Branch _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Pay: Unity Trust Bank (Sort Code 08-60-01) for the credit of: Highland Theological Trust Account 20229489

I wish to make a regular gift of £ _____ monthly / quarterly / annually (delete as appropriate)

starting on _____ (date) and continuing until I give notice in writing. The instruction supersedes any existing Standing Order in favour of Highland Theological College.

Name of Account Holder(s) _____

Sort Code

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Account Number

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Donor's Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Gift Aid



You can use this form to increase the value of your gift to HTC by about a third. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI ~ High Street ~ Dingwall ~ Ross-shire ~ IV15 9HA**

I declare that I wish all my donations to Highland Theological College (unless I specify in writing) to be treated as Gift Aid donations. This applies to all donations made by me from April 2001 until I give notice in writing.

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Notes:

- You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that HTC reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for every £1 you give).
- You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC.
- If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that HTC reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return.
- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid Tax Relief ask the Finance Officer at HTC, or ask your local tax office for Leaflet IR65.
- Please notify HTC if you change your name or address.

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Supporters in the USA

Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc. is a 501(c)3 public charity organised in 2007 solely to receive donations from US taxpayers and distribute their funds to HTC in Scotland. Since FHTC handles all the record-keeping and oversight requirements imposed by the IRS on donations to foreign charities, they are also able to offer a tax-deduction to any individual who would like to donate to HTC. If you would care to become a 'Friend of HTC' by making a donation, please make the check payable to: 'Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc.' and send it to:

Friends of HTC Inc., c/o Kirk Susong, Chairman, 1327 Peachtree Street, Apt 903, Atlanta, GA 30309

In return, you will receive a letter-receipt confirming your donation.

Other Ways to Help

Cheques should be made payable to ‘Highland Theological College’ and sent to Highland Theological College UHI, High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9HA.

Are you in a position to extend an **interest-free term loan**? Please contact the College Secretary or Finance Officer if you can help in this way. Telephone +44(0)1349 780000

Endowments and legacies will help significantly in establishing the work of the college for years to come.

Can you spare a few hours per week? We have a number of faithful and reliable **voluntary staff** who help in numerous ways around the College, for example in the Library and at Reception. We’re often looking for help with general housekeeping duties and exam invigilating. And we have a big garden...!

In everything we do we seek God’s guidance and help. **Prayer** is fundamental to the work of HTC.

Thank you. Your financial and prayerful support is greatly appreciated. God has blessed the work of HTC. In all things, we rely on the faithfulness and provision of God through His people for sustaining His work here.

Where our Funding *Doesn't* Come From

We often have to correct people who wrongly assume that our funding is fully in place. Many misconceptions abound. Some of the common ones are:

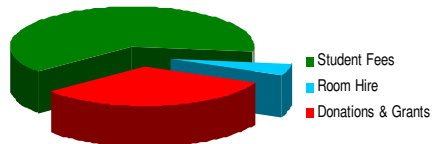
- *‘But you are part of a developing university; surely they (UHI) fund you?’* No! We do get some money back from UHI, but that’s after they’ve ‘top-sliced’ the tuition fees to help pay for shared services across the UHI network. UHI is not a fully-funded organisation and itself requires to seek donation support.
- *‘Doesn’t the Church of Scotland (or any other denomination) fund you?’* No! We don’t receive monetary support from central funds of any denomination. We do receive donations from individual congregations who choose to support our work – and we constantly try to encourage others to support us – but this type of funding is not from the central funds of ‘church headquarters’ of any denomination.
- *‘It’s the education sector; doesn’t the government pay for that?’* No! The government makes a contribution towards the fees of some of our students so we do receive funds indirectly from the government, but not directly in the way that schools do. The contribution the government makes will actually reduce substantially over the next couple of years, obviously affecting us adversely.
- *‘Does the income from student fees not cover the running costs?’* No! Not by a long way! It costs much more to keep a college running than the income from student fees alone generates. See below for more detail.

So Where *Does* our Funding Come From?

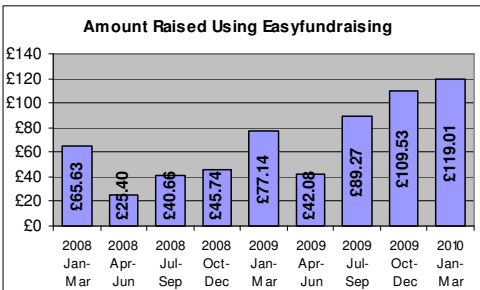
Our largest source of income is student fees. However it takes rather more than these fees to keep the College living and growing. Student fees bring in approximately 63% of our income. Room hire and other small income streams contribute a further 5%. This leaves a shortfall of around 32% of our income and we look to grants and donations to fill this gap.

To date, supporters have regularly and generously given over £160,000 (about \$250,000) each year. Without that kind of committed, sustaining support HTC simply could not continue (our auditors tell us so every year...). Thank you!

We are, in a very real way, dependent on God for His provision for this work, through His people. We hope that you will be greatly encouraged by the blessing and fruit the work of the College is experiencing and will join with us through your giving.



Online shopping



Are you registered with Easyfundraising? Users of the online shopping system have helped HTC raise just over £600. The system takes only seconds to set up, costs nothing and is easy to use. If you haven’t already registered please do so now at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll

and browse the list of online retailers. Don’t forget to use Easyfundraising if you’re booking a summer holiday, renewing car insurance, ordering theatre tickets or simply buying a new CD...

Heating System

Over the summer months (when most of our students are on either placements or vacation) the antiquated, unreliable and inefficient heating system in the back building will be replaced with a new system. This will involve removal of plant which is so large that the building was built around it! Part of the new system will be a magnetic iron oxide removal tank, which is seen as the most environmentally-friendly method of maintaining a clean, healthy system. The project will cost around £20,000 with some contribution towards costs being made through the UHI partnership.

Dates for your Diaries

Keswick We hope to be at the Keswick Convention 24th July – 6th August. If you're at Keswick please stop by the HTC stall and say hello.

Start of Semester Induction takes place on Friday 3rd September; classes commence on Tuesday 7th September. Please contact Angela in the Academic Office for more details.

Graduation Friday 23rd September, 3pm in Dingwall Free Church. All welcome. Please come along and support our graduands.

Cape Town 2010 GlobalLink 16th – 25th October (see main article for more details).

Access/BA Conference Day & Open Day Saturday 30th October. All welcome.

Leisure Classes at HTC

Computing Levels 1A & 1B are ideal for people with no knowledge of computing whatsoever. Levels 2–4 assume a limited knowledge. For more information tel: 01349 780000 (daytime) or 07768 972226 (evening) or email: jack.sutherland@htc.uhi.ac.uk

If you have an ILA account you may be able to do these classes for free! Ask Jack for more information.

Mondays (starting 2 nd August)	10.00 am – 12 noon	Level 1a
	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Level 3a
	3.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Level 1b
Wednesdays (starting 4 th August)	10.00 am – 12 noon	Level 2a
	3.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Level 2b
Fridays (starting 6 th August)	10.00 am – 12 noon	Level 4a
	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Level 4b

French Classes beginning on week commencing Monday 6th September. Please contact Rosita for more information. info@rojomo.net or mobile 07870 581 296. www.rojomo.net

HTC Embroidered Clothing



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

Fleeces £14; Polo shirts £7

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

Rugby shirts also available (not shown) – black only, **£15**

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

Contact Barbara MacPhail for more details:

barbara.macphail@htc.uhi.ac.uk

- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- If you have an email address and are happy to receive communications by email instead of by post it could save us 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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