

## Newsletter Spring 2010

### Principal's Letter



In our previous newsletter I wrote about the important place that the Fatherhood of God has come to have in my own thinking in recent times. Meantime, my thoughts have continued to focus much on this whole area of the Scripture's teaching, not least in preparation for a Teaching Weekend on the theme in Skye, and also for an evening class in Inverness.



These events are now past, but I continue to explore the wonderful riches of the Scriptures on our relationship with God, which is so often described in terms of a Father-son relationship. Two texts that are very significant in helping us to understand that relationship more fully are Matthew 3:17 (and its parallels in the other Gospels), and John 14:31. Taken together, these texts highlight the fact that the Lord's Father-son relationship with us is intended to be one of mutual love.



In Matthew 3:17, a voice from heaven – surely that of the Father? – was heard to say: 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' Of course, we are not surprised to hear that the eternal Son of God is the 'Beloved' of the Father, for 'God is love' and the three Persons of the blessed and glorious Trinity have eternally experienced fullness of love in the inner relationships of the Trinity. But, here, the man Christ Jesus is 'Son of God' in other senses too. He stands in the waters of baptism as the new Adam, head of God's new humanity and royal head of his new creation. He takes his place there also as the fulfilment of all that Israel was intended to be as Son of God (Exodus 4:22), and also as the Messianic King (see 2 Samuel 7:14).



In these roles the Father acknowledges Jesus as 'my Son.' But in each of these roles, Jesus Christ is representative of all his people, of all who will belong to the new Israel of God, to the new humanity and to the new creation. So, what all Christians hear in the Father's voice at the Jordan is a wonderful acknowledgement on the part of the Father that we are his children! Along with that, there is the additional assurance that we are loved by him, every bit as much as Jesus is! And, even more, 'in Christ' the Father is 'well pleased' with each of us. What dignity that gives to each Christian! What encouragement! Is this the way you think of God as Father? One who is not ashamed to acknowledge you as his child; One who expresses his love for you so clearly, as well as his delight and pleasure in you.



The other side of this relationship is seen in John 14:31, a wonderful little verse in which Jesus says: 'the world must learn that I love the Father ...' Here we see what the true human response to the heavenly Father is to be. We are to respond to his love with love – love which shows itself, as did that of Jesus, in loving obedience to the Father. May we ever grow in our knowledge and experience of these mutual bonds of eternal covenant love.



### Welcome to Jason Maston, New Testament Tutor



As we all know, the first time we meet someone lasting impressions are made. These first impressions can lead us to make assumptions about one another, assumptions that may or may not be true. I struggle with the first meetings largely because I am a shy person. So my reaction is either to say too much or too little. So, please excuse me if I give you too much to read here, and if there is not enough, you can always write or email.



I am from the USA, and I was raised in Kansas City, Missouri. I attended Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, for my undergraduate in 1997. There I met my wife,

Erin, and we were married after completing our studies. We moved in 2002 (just two weeks after our wedding) to Fort Worth, Texas, for me to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. There I completed an MA in theology with a focus on the New Testament. After selling most of our possessions and living with family for a few weeks, we moved in September 2006 to Aberdeen for me to start PhD studies under Prof. Francis Watson. With an interesting twist, I transferred as a student to Durham University in September 2007 when Prof. Watson took a new post at the University. The odd thing about all this is that I chose Watson and Aberdeen Uni over Durham. In the end, I finished under Watson's supervision and with a degree from Durham. My viva was held in September 2009. This date marks the end of my formal education, much to my wife's relief!

During the last year of my studies, I was Student Worker at Hebron Evangelical Church in Aberdeen. When asked what I did, I usually described the job as 'hanging out' with students, or more accurately, drinking lots of Starbucks coffee. I have a deep commitment to the church, and I hope to instil in my students a passion for learning and thinking about theological and historical issues as a service to the people of God.



My wife worked as a primary teacher in Texas and during our time in Aberdeen. On the 1st of April, 2008, she gave birth to our first child, Andrew Connor. Just before moving to Dingwall to start this position, our second child Kathryn Isabella, called Kate, was born on the 25th of January 2010. That makes us two for two on holidays as Andrew was born on April Fool's Day and Kate on Burn's Day. My wife is eager to stay at home raising our children and very glad that I now have a real, full-time job.

These events have been marked throughout by God's mercy, and in looking back over them, I can see how he has guided each stage to bring us finally to this place of service. What the future holds, only he knows, but it is with much excitement that we step forward.

### **... and Trish Rigby, Part-time Receptionist**

I was, or so I thought, the most unlikely candidate to be 'called' (and it had to be by God!) to study the scriptures in a formal setting. At the time I was very involved at various levels in our local church. I had one primary school child and one toddler. Life was pretty hectic.

Hector Kinnen, a trainee lay reader, came to our church on placement. He made a huge impact on many through the preaching of the Word and many lives were changed. Until then I had never heard of HTC (or 'Highland Theological Institute' as it then was, and based in Moray College).

For a time I tried to ignore the deep stirrings in my own heart to actually contact the College myself and find out more. I had a mountain of reasons not to, but as many students - both past and present - have found, when the Lord has something specific for us he doesn't let go until we respond! I made the phone call in fear and trembling..! Noel Due, the tutor who headed up the Access Course at that time, wasn't available. 'Great, off the hook', or so I thought! A sign I wasn't meant to do this course at all. But Noel called back later the same day. I knew as soon as he began to explain about the course that it was something I had to do. Fearful or not, God was in it.

I began my studies by Open Learning. I was able to meet with the other students and my tutor occasionally, which was really helpful and very encouraging. It wasn't long before it was made clear to both me and my husband that the Lord wanted me to commit to studying the course full-time. After a lot of juggling and persuading family that it was the right thing, my studies began full-time.

The Access Course was for me an amazing journey of faith and, having spoken to other students, many found it to be so. I didn't find it easy. Indeed, my tutors would testify to my absolute consuming fear of exam situations and on a couple of occasions I had to be prayed and guided back into the class room!

I completed the Access Course and went on to full-time BA study! Again there were occasions when my tutors had to pray me back into the exam room!! In both Access and the BA, the course work was excellent; clearly presented and easy to follow. The content, though hard for me at times, I found deeply challenging but very enlightening. The tutor support and support from other students was very often what

kept me going when I was struggling. They went the extra mile. Being prayed with and prayed for makes a world of difference.

HTC has been one of the most challenging places and experiences in my life but it has also been one of the most rewarding. I can honestly say that it has been a privilege for me to study here. And the blessings continue for me... The Lord has recently opened up the way for me to work part-time here. I help in Reception, which is great for meeting and encouraging people along the way, and I also give tutorial support to the Access students, again a great privilege for me.



Where the Lord calls he does equip and enable..... so I would encourage anyone who has been thinking about theological study to call us and find out more about the courses..... and see where the Lord leads you on your journey of faith.....

### **Board of Governors – Comings and Goings**

At the September 2009 meeting of the Board of Governors of HTC, the Board received with regret the resignation of the Revd. Alistair Malcolm from his position as Vice Chair of the Board. Alistair joined the Board in January 1997 and for over twelve years was a diligent member of the Board, serving as Vice Chair for most of that period. Along with our Chairman, the Revd. Alex Murray, Alistair guided the Board wisely through a period of the college's significant growth, which included some difficult and turbulent times. Mr Murray deeply appreciated the support he enjoyed from Alistair. Over the years Alistair has encouraged a great deal of support for the college from the leadership and membership of Inshes Church where he is minister so that today Inshes Church remains one of the strongest supporters of HTC. We are deeply grateful for Alistair's years of faithful service, and pray that he may continue to know much blessing on the closing years of his ministry in Inshes.

At its most recent meeting, the Board was delighted to hear that Mr R Murray McCheyne, a solicitor practising in Inverness, had accepted the invitation to be the new Vice Chair. We are delighted with this appointment and wish Murray well in his new role within the Board. It seems quite fitting that in the Highlands of Scotland, where the name Robert Murray McCheyne is still revered, we should find ourselves with his namesake on our Board of Governors! Murray, as he prefers to be called, is in fact descended from a brother of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish divine, McCheyne, whose *Memoirs and Remains* and other books of sermons are still avidly read by many Christians.



### **Jamie at OMF Youth Conference**

Jamie Grant, Vice Principal, gave the Bible readings at the OMF Youth Conference held at Lendrick Muir in January. The theme of the event was 'Ready, Steady, Grow' so Jamie's talks – based on the Psalms – addressed the spiritual growth of the individual, growth as a community of God's people and the expansion of the Gospel-community to include people from 'every tribe and tongue and nation'. The participants at the conference were also able to hear fascinating presentations about OMF's work in Cambodia, Japan, Thailand and amongst 'third culture kids' (missionary kids, in old money!). Jamie enjoyed engaging with this group of students and young graduates (including some from the Highlands) who are passionate about the spread of the message of God's grace to people who have not yet heard about Jesus. The OMF Scotland Team and many other missions agencies do a great job of encouraging a missions vision in the Scottish churches.



Missions reps frequently visit the college and our students were encouraged by the recent visit of the Scottish Missions Tour where reps from Mission Africa, CEF, WEC, Interserve and OMF presented opportunities for both long and short term service in various parts of the world. As part of that event, David Miller from International Christian College in Glasgow gave an excellent talk on cross-cultural issues. We are grateful to this group for continuing to including HTC in its tour of the Scottish Universities. National and world mission is an important part of the vision of HTC and we seek to encourage a missional attitude amongst our students wherever they might end up serving the Lord.

## Visit of Rev Dr Noel Due

As indicated in our previous Newsletter, we are looking forward to a visit in May from the Rev Dr Noel Due, one of our former colleagues on staff here at HTC, who has been senior pastor of Coromandel Valley Baptist Church in South Australia since he moved on from the College in the summer of 2004. Noel will be accompanied on at least part of the trip by about a dozen members of his congregation, some of whom have already visited HTC.

While Noel is keen to catch up with old friends and colleagues during this trip, his intention from the beginning has been to make himself available for as much ministry of God's word as was felt appropriate, particularly in the areas where his ministry has been much appreciated in times past. He has also kindly agreed to preach and teach under the auspices of HTC, being still an Honorary Teaching Fellow with UHI. It is anticipated that one or two of the HTC tutors will also share with Noel in the Teaching Weekend.



We include below a list of venues and dates of his preaching and teaching engagements, and would encourage you to put these in your diary and come and share with us in one or more of these occasions as you are able to.

### Inverness & Ross-shire

Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> May	preaching at College Worship, 12 noon
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Dingwall Baptist Church, 7.30 pm
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Tain Church of Scotland, 7.30 pm
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Inverness Inshes Church, 7.30 pm
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Culloden Baptist Church, 10.30 am
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Kinmylies CofS, 6.30 pm

### Aberdeen

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> – Sun 16<sup>th</sup> May      Gilcomston South CofS

### Lewis

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> May      Barvas C of S, 7 pm  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> – Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> May      HTC Teaching Weekend in Stornoway APC Church

## Thursday Worship Events

During second semester this year, we are having a particular focus on the broad area of Mission and Evangelism during our Thursday worship event (meeting from 12 noon for about one hour). As we have done in the past for some of our Mission lunches, we would like to open these events up to interested local people. The schedule of meetings at present is indicated below. In case of cancellations and to ensure availability of spaces, please phone the college (01349 780000) beforehand to indicate your intention to attend.

February 25<sup>th</sup>    **Mike Moore** will introduce the work of Christian Witness to Israel.  
March 4<sup>th</sup>        **Ian Polworth** will share with us something of the work of Road to Recovery, a group with which he is involved in Madras Street, Inverness.  
March 11<sup>th</sup>      **Steve Aisthorpe** – CofS Highland area organiser for evangelism.  
March 18<sup>th</sup>      **Craig Dyer** will speak about Christianity Explored.  
March 25<sup>th</sup>      **Mark Hadfield** will introduce the work of Street Pastors.  
April 15<sup>th</sup>        **Duncan Macpherson**, minister of Hilton CofS, Inverness, will give us an insight into MSM (Mission Shaped Ministry), a new course that he's helping to run with John Drane and others in Inverness this year.  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>        **Roddie Rankin**, minister of Kyle & Plockton Free Church will share with us some of the challenges and opportunities for evangelism in a rural parish.  
May 6<sup>th</sup>          **Ian Pennicook** - New Creation Teaching Ministries, NSW, Australia.

## Student & Graduates News

Congratulations to...

**Ros Clarke**, PhD student, who has won one of four inaugural bursaries from the Erasmus Fund (these bursaries are awarded to PhD students from the UK who are working in biblical studies);

**Jonathan MacKenzie**, PhD student, who won the 'Best Student Presentation' award at the UHI Postgraduate Conference in Thurso;

**Cliff Boone**, who successfully defended his thesis on 'Puritan Evangelism: Preaching for Conversion in mid-seventeenth century English Puritanism as seen in the works of John Flavel'. Cliff's completion brings to an end HTC's association with the University of Wales, Lampeter, for the supervision of PhD students;

**Ian Hewitson**, who successfully defended his thesis on 'The Justification Controversy at Westminster Theological Seminary. The Years 1974-1982';

**Jason Hood**, who successfully defended his thesis. Jason is HTC's first part-time student to complete under UHI's relationship with Aberdeen University. Amazingly, he wrote about 100,000 words on the genealogy in Matthew 1! 'Matthew 1:1-17 as a Summary of Israel's Story: The Messiah, his Brothers and the Nations'.

### Ordination and Induction of Dr Rob Barlow

The ordination and induction of Dr Rob Barlow took place in The Round Church, Bowmore, Islay on 28<sup>th</sup> January. The Round Church is one of the churches in the linked parishes of Kilarrow and Kildalton & Oa in the Presbytery of Argyll. We wish him every blessing in his ministry there. Rob's route into parish ministry has not been altogether straightforward, as he describes below:



*I was accepted for training as an auxiliary minister in the Church of Scotland back in 2003. I needed to sit a prescribed set of theology modules with a major Scottish secular university. Initially my studies progressed well but I soon noticed that some fellow students struggled with the modules. I became concerned that training ministers, readers and others in theology at secular universities, where many (but not all) of the lecturers discount much of the substance of the Bible, was bound to cause problems for some students.*

*My training progressed well and I asked to transfer to training for full-time ministry at the beginning of 2008. HTC had, by this time, been approved as a training centre for the Church of Scotland so I opted to transfer to HTC to complete my studies.*

*I had to complete by the end of 2009 if I was to meet the age limits specified by the Church of Scotland.*

*In order to fit everything in it was necessary for HTC to spend some considerable effort looking at possible modules versus my previous studies. Fortunately a study route was found and I was able to start at Easter 2008.*

*I completed successfully my degree studies last summer and I have to say that the period I have spent at HTC has been just brilliant. There is a serious intellectual rigour to the studies but this is always liberally sprinkled with faith. To be able to study Paul, for example, from the angle of faith rather than from a secular viewpoint has been inspiring. The opportunity to work with other students from different churches and backgrounds has also been very rewarding.*



Rev Dr Rob Barlow and with his wife Gwen pictured with Rev George Campbell (left) and Rev Ian Currie (right).

*I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to study theology in a faith-based college and it is reassuring to know that HTC and its staff are there so that I can continue to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience they have. I commend students to consider HTC as a place to study theology.*

*Rob Barlow BSc MSc PhD C.Sci C.Chem MRSC*



## Glencalvie Challenge



The Glencalvie Challenge is a charity fundraising event for walkers, runners or bikers over seventeen and a half miles of estate roads through mountainous terrain from Black Bridge in Ross-shire to Glencalvie Lodge in Sutherland. It is organised by the Rotary Club of Inverness-Culloden and teams are encouraged to take part to raise funds for their own chosen charities. Last summer a team of intrepid walkers from HTC raised funds to support both HTC and Dumisani Theological Institute in King William's Town, South Africa. Like HTC, Dumisani Theological Institute depends on donations from

churches and individual supporters. The HTC team, four students and five staff, raised sponsorship money of £1317. Ian Kinghorn, president of Inverness-Culloden branch of the Rotary Club, visited HTC in January to present the cheque. Alistair Wilson, principal of Dumisani, was home in Scotland over the Christmas/New Year period and was delighted to be present to accept a cheque for £700 towards the work in South Africa. At the beginning of December, Alistair and his wife, Jenny, visited the college, when Alistair led us in worship, speaking from the Book of Jonah. During a shared lunch he and Jenny then went on to share with us something of the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute and their wider Sunday School training programmes.



From left: Ian Kinghorn,  
Alistair Wilson, Hector Morrison

## Access Course in Christian Theology

The Access Course has two main functions: 1) as an entry course before embarking on the BA programme, and 2) as a stand-alone course for anyone who wants to study the Christian faith but not at degree-level. Many have studied Access just for their own interest, without the intention of progressing to further theological studies.

- For anyone who wants to study the Christian faith. Suitable for those new to the faith and those who are long-established in the faith.
- No formal qualifications are required for entrance onto the course. Particularly suitable for those wishing to study the Christian faith but who do not have the necessary qualifications for entry to HTC's BA Theological Studies degree. Other institutions may also recognise this course as an appropriate entry qualification to degree level courses in theology or other disciplines.
- Age is no barrier – previous Access students have included school-leavers, pensioners, and all ages in between.
- Great for school-leavers who wish to take a year out before going to university.
- Work at your own pace. Complete the whole course successfully within two years to gain the 'Certificate of Access in Christian Theology' (you will then be eligible to apply for our BA in Theological Studies degree, if you wish) or if you take more than two years you will gain the 'Certificate of Completion'.
- Available by full-time and open learning modes. For those studying by open learning, a pack of materials clearly details how to proceed through the course. The reading for each unit is carefully set out, and students will be guided through a set of activities and instructed when to return written work to their tutor. Personal tutorial support is available to all students, and there is the opportunity to meet with other students at regular Conference Days.
- Six modules, each comprising 15 units. Each unit takes about 4 hours to complete.
- You don't have to study all the modules. If you want, you can choose individual module(s) without committing to studying the whole Access Course.
- Registered with ILA Scotland. If you are eligible for ILA funding you could use it to pay for Access modules. To find out more about the ILA scheme see [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk) or telephone 0808 100 1090.

*Recruitment onto the Access Course can happen any time throughout the year – contact Angela Spence in the Academic Office for more details.*

## Model Lorries – Sold!

Thank you for all the interest shown in the model lorry collection. A supporter of the College, whose son collects lorries like these, has bought them. We are happy that they have gone to a good home! It's been one of our more unusual fundraising activities and, as well as the money received from the sale of the collection, sparked a number of conversations with many people who maybe wouldn't otherwise have been in touch with the College. It's intriguing to think how God may use some of those conversations in the future?!



## Skye Teaching Weekend

Encouraging, challenging, inspiring, warm fellowship – just some of the phrases used to describe the Teaching Weekend held last November in Kyleakin. Audio files are available on the HTC website at <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/audlist.htm>.

## Exam Invigilators

Semester 2 exams are scheduled to take place on week commencing Monday 24th May. If you are able to spare a few hours during that week to help with invigilating please get in touch. No previous experience necessary! Please contact Angela Spence, Academic Officer.

## HTC Embroidered Clothing



Pull-over hoodies £12; Zip-front hoodies £12;  
Fleece £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](mailto:barbara.macphail@htc.uhi.ac.uk)

## 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's Details:

To The Manager (Name of Bank/Building Society) \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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Donor's Details:

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Dates for your Diaries

**Access/BA Conference Day & Open Day.** Saturday 20th March. Registration at 10.15am for a 10.30am prompt start. Meet the staff and students, see around the College, browse the library, sample a lecture... If you've always wanted to visit HTC but never had a chance before, now's your opportunity! All welcome. Tea & coffee provided but please bring a packed lunch.

**Visit from Noel Due.** See main article for Teaching Weekend details. **Inverness & Ross-shire:** Tues 4th – Sun 9th May. **Aberdeen:** Fri 14th – Sun 16th May. **Lewis:** Thurs 20th – Sun 23rd May. All welcome.

**Thursday Worship Events.** See main article for more details.

## Leisure Classes at HTC

**Conversational French.** New class for Thursday evenings, starting on 4th March. Learners should already have a basic understanding of the use of past, present and future tenses. Ideal preparation for your holidays! For more information please call Rosita on 07870 581 296 or email [info@rojomo.net](mailto:info@rojomo.net)

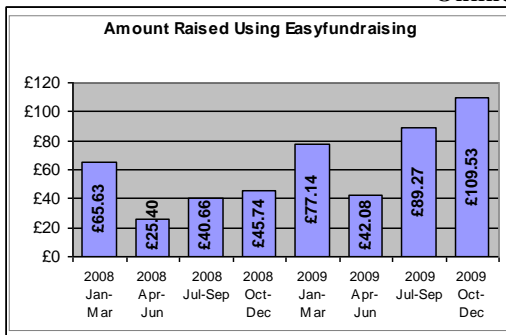
**Computing.** Levels 1A & 1B are ideal for people with no knowledge of computing whatsoever. Levels 2–4 assume a limited knowledge. For more information ☎01349 780000 ✉[jack.sutherland@htc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:jack.sutherland@htc.uhi.ac.uk)



Level 2 class  
Feb 2010

MONDAYS (starting 12 <sup>th</sup> April)	10.00 am - 12 noon	Level 4A
	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Level 2A
	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Level 2B
TUESDAYS (starting 13 <sup>th</sup> April)	10.00 am - 12 noon	ECDL (A)
	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	ECDL (B)
	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm	ECDL (C)
WEDNESDAYS starting 14 <sup>th</sup> April)	10.00 am - 12 noon	Level 1A
	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Level 4B
	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Level 1B
THURSDAYS (starting 15 <sup>th</sup> April)	10.00 am - 12 noon	Level 3A
	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Level 3B
	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm	ECDL Resits

## Online shopping



To date you have helped us raise almost £500 by using the Easyfundraising online shopping system. Thank you! The more people using the system the better. It takes seconds to register, is simple to use and costs nothing. If you're not already helping us in this way please go to

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll) to register. Easyfundraising helps raise funds for HTC when users shop with hundreds of online retailers including The AA, Dell, John Lewis, phones4u, Tesco, Wallis...

- 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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