



Newsletter Spring 2011

A Time to Weep ... A Time to Dance.....



As Koheleth famously said (Ecclesiastes 3:1): 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven ...' On occasions it is 'a time to weep,' at others 'a time to dance' (v 4).' As, we look back over the past six months of College life, there is so much about which to 'dance' and to give thanks to God; so much to encourage and enthuse about, and you can read of these good stories inside – stories of the granting of University Title to UHI; of the licensing and ordination of former students; of academic successes; of books being written; testimonies being given; and, the call of God coming to individuals and families. We rejoice with those who rejoice.

But, I am also conscious that, as I write, for many of you, as for some of our students, this is 'a time to weep,' and, in the body of Christ we cannot but weep with those who weep. Our Saviour was, of course, a man who knew what it was to weep floods of tears with, and over, those whom he loved and who reciprocated that love. (John 11:35,38). But he also knew the deep, heart-wrenching pain of weeping over those whom he loved with all his heart but who rejected his love. We see this, for example, in Luke 19:41: 'As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies.... will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you".'

Jesus' heart was broken because of the ignorance and blindness of the people of Jerusalem: that society that should have known better; that society that had had ever opportunity of grace. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because its people could not see or understand the way of peace, salvation, wholeness and completeness that a whole line of Old Testament prophets, and now the greatest Prophet of all as well as the Incarnate Word, had brought to them. Jesus wept because they 'did not recognise the time of God's coming' to them; but he wept too because of what they were going to miss out on; and he wept because of what their chosen route would bring them. Yes, Jesus saw the judgement and destruction of Jerusalem coming, and he spoke about it out of a broken heart and through tear-stained eyes – is there any other

way to speak of coming judgement?

And what did Jesus do? He kept on loving them, serving them, and teaching them the truth with boldness and unrivalled authority, until Jerusalem threw him out; until they excommunicated him, transfixing him to the cross 'outside the city wall.' Meanwhile, '... [Jesus] did not retaliate ... he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly' (1 Peter 2:23). What an example!

In these days, those of us who find ourselves in the company of the weeping prophets (e.g., Jer 9:1), and in the company of a weeping Saviour, heart-broken at the condition of the church we love and serve, would do well to develop the patience of the prophets (see James 5:10). It is natural to be impatient for God to act. Let us, instead, be spiritual, and patient, and let God do the judging in his time. And, meantime, perhaps he will even surprise us with the blessings of a new dawn! Should that really be such a surprise? 'Rejoicing comes in the morning' (Psalm 30:5); 'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted' (Matt 5:4). For Jesus there was the 'joy' of resurrection, glory and Pentecost. Can it be any different for the weeping, broken Body of Christ today?

Changes in the Board of Governors and Trustees



At the May meetings of the Board of Governors and Trustees the Reverend Alex Murray (photo), who has been Chair of the Board of Governors of HTC and also of the Trustees for the past 17 years since the college was set up, officially retired/resigned from the Chairmanship. A dinner will be held in honour of Mr Murray towards the end of June.

Mr R Murray McCheyne was appointed as the new Chairman. Mr McCheyne, Director of Murchison Law in Inverness, has been a Board member for three years and was appointed Vice-Chairman last year.



He has an active role in several other Christian organisations in the area, including the recently-formed charge of St Columba's Church of Scotland in Inverness. And, for those of you who are wondering: yes, he is of the same family as the 19th century Scottish theologian of the same name!

The Reverend Donald Maciver, retired Free Church minister and part-time Programme Leader for the Access Course, was appointed as the new Vice-Chair.



PhD Successes

Jonathan Mackenzie has successfully completed his PhD on 'The will of God in the mind of man in Reformed Theology'. Jonathan is a part-time pastoral assistant at Culloden Baptist Church and will be completing his studies at the Scottish Baptist College in the coming year.

Mike Rasmussen has successfully completed his PhD on the Psalms. Mike is on the faculty of Redeemer Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas where he is Dean of Ministerial Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology.

and Doctor of Ministry Successes

Scott Kirkland has recently returned to Scotland from the Bahamas, where his dissertation focussed on looking towards a Presbyterian church in the Bahamas. Scott will take up a new post at Maxwell Mearns Castle Church of Scotland in Glasgow.

Scott Middleton's dissertation focussed on 'the American evangelical Christian church's view of masculinity and its impact on the twenty-first century; with Jacob as a case study'.

Bill Parker's DMin dissertation focussed on 'purity, power, and the missing mark of the church'.

News from Students and Graduates

Ross Collins [BA (Hons) 2010] will be licensed in Carrick Fergus, Northern Ireland, 5th June.

Ross Macaskill [BA (Hons) 2008 and MTh 2010] has been ordained and inducted as minister of Knock (Garrabost) Church of Scotland in the Presbytery of Lewis.

Ian MacLeod, Stornoway, has been appointed to the new full-time position of Evangelism Coordinator with the Western Isles Free Church Presbytery, commencing 1st August. Ian felt called to this type of work during his time of study on the *Mission* module in the BA programme.

John Marker was ordained and inducted as minister of the Congregational Church in Avoch, Ross-shire, in December.

Donald Morrison, Lewis, started a new part-time outreach post in Central Scotland with two CofS congregations - Condoratt and Cumbernauld Old.

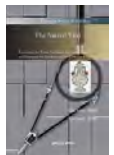
Gordon Murray [BA 2003] has been accepted as a candidate for APC ministry.

Alex Stewart [Access 2006] will be licensed in Kyle Free Church, 24th June



Staff Publications

The Sacred Text: Excavating the Texts, Exploring the Interpretations, and Engaging the Theologies of the Christian Scriptures. (Gorgias Précis Portfolios, 2010). Edited by Michael Bird and Michael Pahl with contributions from Jamie Grant and Robert Shillaker.



Article by Jamie Grant in the first issue of the new journal Southeastern Theological Review entitled 'Determining the Indeterminate: Issues in Interpreting the Psalms.'

http://sebts.edu/files/STR_articles/Determining_the_Indeterminate.pdf

Chapter by Jamie Grant entitled: 'The Hermeneutics of Humanity: Reflections on the Human Origin of the Laments' in the collection '*A God of Faithfulness: Essays in Honour of J. Gordon McConville on his 60th Birthday*'. (London: Continuum, 2011).



University Title for UHI

The 2nd of February was an historic day for Highland Theological College UHI as *UHI Millennium Institute* became the *University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)*. The achievement of university title by UHI is the culmination of years of work by many people and the realisation of a long-time ambition for the region to have its own university to support economic development and to help sustain rural and island communities.

UHI comprises thirteen colleges, specialist institutions and research centres spread across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, an area twice the size of Wales. It uses information technologies to link together students and staff to bring access to higher education to dispersed communities.



Highland Theological College UHI was founded in 1994, at the early stages of the 'UHI Project' by a group of ministers and businessmen who had the vision that a theological college would be part of the proposed university. Amongst that group were the Reverend Andrew McGowan, the Reverend Hector Morrison and the Reverend Alexander Murray. HTC grew up at the same time as the UHI Project so has been part of UHI almost from its start. HTC's staff have been heavily involved in the development of curriculum and also academic quality assurance and standards in UHI over the years and have contributed significantly to the success of UHI and its progress towards university title.

One of the smallest colleges in the UHI network, HTC has one of the highest proportions of research activity in UHI and its staff and students are regularly invited to speak at national and international conferences. The reputation of HTC has drawn students from all over the world, putting Dingwall clearly on the world map. The current cohort includes students from the USA, Japan, New Zealand and Belarus.

There was media coverage over the whole Highlands and Islands area in February to mark the special occasion and a 'celebration day' is planned for the 25th of August. Special events will take place including the formal presentation of the robes to the Vice-Chancellor and the presentation of the new mace – a symbol of university authority – by our sponsor universities: The University of Aberdeen, The University of Edinburgh and The University of Strathclyde.

One thing that I think it is important for our supporters to realise is that the staff of each of the colleges within UHI continue to be employed, paid and under the authority of their own college and are not paid by the university. This autonomy, of course, is one of the attractions of UHI for HTC as we remain in complete control of our staffing. However, HTC salaries are very modest compared to that paid by other colleges in UHI, and we will always be reliant on support from the Lord's people to enable us to continue to operate. This is all the more the case now as we move into a three year period of severe cuts in university funding, as in many other areas of public life.

Having a university in the Highlands and Islands will bring great opportunities for the area – educational, economic and socio-cultural. It is a very exciting time for UHI and we are privileged to be part of it. It is our hope and prayer that HTC's involvement in UHI will also help to bring spiritual and moral renewal to the area, and beyond.

New Logo for HTC

The new UHI logo was unveiled on 2nd February. The graphic represents the hills, seas and lochs of the area. Each of the partner institutions making up the UHI network has designed a new logo. Each logo is unique, representing the geography or subject area of that institution, but they follow the same overall style of the UHI corporate logo. HTC's new logo is revealed in this edition of the Newsletter. We hope you like it!



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd

We are grateful to *Bòrd na Gàidhlig* for their assistance in funding the design and implementation of our new logo.

Sabbatical Studies at HTC

“Earlier this year I was engaged in sabbatical studies researching ‘The Centrality of Preaching – Past and Present’. The study incorporates the theology of preaching; examining the inspiration of scripture; preaching in the canon of scripture and throughout history; the conflict in preaching; and the objective of preaching.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in his book ‘Preaching and Preachers’ said, ‘To me preaching is the highest and greatest and most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called.’

I am finding this study inspiring and challenging, tracing the nature and development of preaching down the eras, recognizing the great apologists who were immovable in their conviction regarding God’s Word and true heralds in proclaiming its message. Many paid the ultimate price for their belief. The preacher today has a great privilege and tremendous responsibility in that preaching is central to the salvation of the lost, the spiritual growth of God’s people, and above all to bring glory to God. It has been a real blessing attending Highland Theological College and having use of their wonderful library. A blessing also to share fellowship with the faculty, staff and students. In the College there is a high academic standard and an evident atmosphere of spirituality. I would encourage any who are considering ministry or any other sphere of theological study to visit the College or request their prospectus.”

Tom Urquhart, Pastor, Castle Street Baptist Church, Inverness.



Tape Library

For many years the Reverend Trevor Hunt (CoFS minister in Orkney) and his wife, Pauline, ran a sermon/lecture library, building up a substantial collection with many significant preachers’ works available. On retirement and relocation to a smaller house they donated the collection, complete with storage unit, to HTC. Many thanks!

US Trip

During the first two weeks of April, Hector Morrison and Martin Cameron (who, alongside his work as librarian is HTC's Director of International Development) visited the USA to renew fellowship with some of our supporters and friends on the other side of the 'Pond.' This was Hector's first ever visit to the USA but he was wonderfully escorted and ably inducted into American ways – particularly eating establishments like 'Cracker Barrel' - by his colleague, a veteran of many US trips.

It was a real delight to be shown such wonderful, 'Southern' hospitality by, amongst others, Lewis and Ruth Bell and Kirk and Kate Susong, shared also with Roy and Donna Taylor, all of whom help run 'Friends of HTC' in the USA. It was a particular privilege to spend a weekend with Scott and Lisa Maclellan in their home in Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga. Scott and Lisa have a fascination with all things Scottish, including bagpipes and haggis, but they also have a real heart for the work of the Lord in Scotland and have visited HTC on a number of occasions.



Chattanooga from Lookout Mountain

During the trip, the principal spoke at the Twin Lakes Conference at the generous invitation of Ligon Duncan, one of HTC's trustees, and senior minister of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi, where we were richly fed and blessed, through the services and the adult Sunday School – something we could benefit from in Scotland! – on our second Sunday. Another highlight of the visit was the time spent at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) renewing fellowship with Ric Cannada, and meeting his successor, Mike Milton, and other members of staff there who encouraged us much in the gospel and in the work of HTC. The magnificent library facilities at RTS remain a serious challenge to Martin as he struggles with a natural inclination to coveting – in this area of life that is!



Chapel at RTS, Jackson.

We returned home, via the Gospel Coalition Conference, tired but richly blessed and deeply appreciative of all we had received and experienced. In the coming years we look forward to developing these ties of friendship and fellowship in the gospel with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the USA.



From left: Kirk Susong, Martin Cameron, Hector Morrison, Roy Taylor, Donna Taylor, Kate Susong.



First Presbyterian Church, Jackson.



From left: Winston, Lewis and Ruth Bell along with Martin and Hector.

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 25p for every £1 you give).
- You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC.
- Please notify HTC if you change your name or address.
- 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.

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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., P.O. Box 19614, Atlanta, GA 30325

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

Dates for your Diaries

aLive Festival, 9th -18th June, Inverness. www.alivefestival.co.uk

Skye Praise Evening: 7.45pm Sunday 26th June, Kyleakin

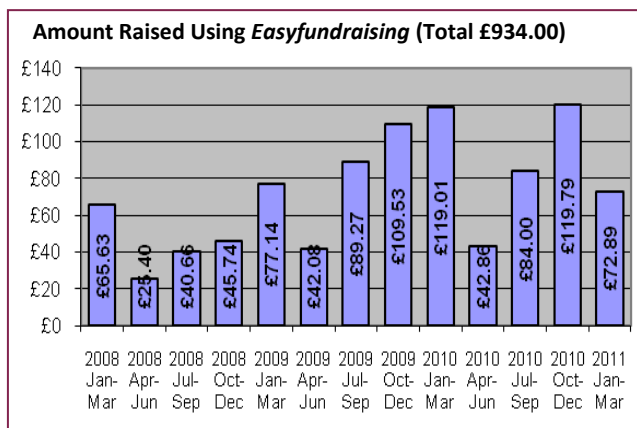
Induction for Semester 1: Friday 9th September, HTC

Teaching commences for Semester 1: Tuesday 13th September, HTC

Graduation & Awards Ceremony: 3pm Friday 23rd September, Castle Street CofS, Dingwall

Online Shopping

Again I want you to consider supporting us through the *Easyfundraising* online shopping system. It takes seconds to set up, costs you nothing, costs us nothing, yet raises money for the College. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll for more details.



- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- It is cheaper to send communications by email. If you are happy to receive communications by email instead of by post please let us know.
- 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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