



Newsletter Winter 2013



'Turn our captivity, O Lord!'

Is there any hope for the church in Scotland? Does it have a future, or are its glory days all in the past, never to return? Reflecting on such questions recently, I was led to consider Ps 126, where the psalmist begins by reminding us of a previous time of restoration in the experience of the Old Testament people of God 'when the Lord turned the captivity of Zion' – doubtless a reference to the ending of the period in Old Testament history known as the exile, and the return of the people of God to the land of promise. The psalmist attributes that great 'turning' of the tide solely to the activity of the Lord (v 1), something that was recognised by Israel's Gentile neighbours (v 2), as also by the whole people of God (v 3): 'The Lord has done great things for us'. And there's little doubt that similar sentiments could be expressed about what the Lord has done across the centuries, and even millennia of time in our own land.



But, if the psalm begins with a reminder of how God had turned the tide in times past, that memory becomes the impetus for prayer that God would do the same – or something similar – again (v 4): 'Turn our captivity, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.' The words at the start of verse 4 reflect very closely those at the start of verse 1, and do so intentionally. The Lord who alone had turned the tide in the past when things looked bleak, is the only one who can ever turn the spiritual and moral tide. I wonder, then, if we ever find ourselves praying this kind of prayer as we look back to the great movements of reformation, renewal and revival that Scotland has known in the past? There's nothing quite like the remembrance of former blessings to inspire us to pray for fresh movements of God's saving work in reformation, renewal and revival in our day.



And, notice the illustration of this turning that the psalmist uses in v 4: 'Like streams in the Negev', the Negev being the name for the desert-like regions in the southern part of the Promised Land. The

fact is, however, that for much of the year there are no ‘streams in the Negev’, at least not streams or rivers as we know them. There are channels in the ground, dry river beds, or wadis, but with no water whatsoever in them. Yet, when the winter rains come, all of a sudden these dry river beds become awash with water; raging floods of water flow along these channels and spill over into the surrounding countryside, and as a result of that, the landscape is quickly transformed. Suddenly, the barren desert begins to blossom. And that’s what the psalmist is looking for here; for God to do that kind of thing again. I wonder if the Lord has brought us to that place in our present concern for the state of the church and of our nation where we’re crying out to him to turn our captivity, to turn the tide?

That doesn’t mean that we are to be inactive other than in the place of prayer. The closing two verses of the psalm make clear that the harvest – of which the psalmist is totally assured! – will not come without the sowing of the seed. So we will keep on sowing the good seed of the gospel right through the dry, difficult and relatively unproductive times. We will do so with tears and even weeping, but we will do so also always in anticipation of the harvest which will come, when ‘we will reap with songs of joy.’

Is God calling you to sow in these difficult times? Don’t put off the challenge of his call until conditions in the churches improve. Your loving obedience now could well be part of God’s plans for the Church’s renewal. Don’t play it safe. As Jesus calls you to follow, do just that. Here at HTC we’re excited about the growing number of younger people – often ‘broken’ through experiences of illness or other difficulties – who are responding to the call of God on their lives to prepare for service in his kingdom and his world. Why not join them? Or, join with us in preparing them for the Lord’s work through your prayerful support.

Hector Morrison, Principal

Staff News

Congratulations to **Emily Hamilton** (registry officer) and her husband Graham on the birth of their first child, Archie. Congratulations also to **Jason Maston** (New Testament lecturer) and his wife Erin on the birth of their third child, Iain.



Anna Stirling (part-time cleaner) has left us to concentrate more on her other job and on family commitments. Anna has been replaced by **Naomi Scott** (nee Nakahashi) who is one of our part-time students.



Shona Gillies has joined our team of part-time Access tutors. Shona will be helping distance learning students on the Study Skills module.

Ordinations, Inductions and Others

Ligon Duncan [HTC trustee] has been elected as chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi.

Ryan King [BA student] was inducted to the pastorate of Grace Baptist Church Wood Green in October.

Michael McKelvey [PhD 2008] has been appointed as assistant professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi.

Dan Paterson [BA 2008] was inducted as assistant minister in the Free North Church, Inverness, in September.

PhD Successes

Steven Adamson is a lecturer in church history at Sangre de Cristo Seminary, Colorado. Steven's PhD research was on the apologetics of Thomas Chalmers and his viva was held in October.



Keith Loftin is assistant professor of humanities at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Texas. Keith's PhD research was on 'Time and Eternity: A Study of the 'Accidental Temporalist' View' and his viva was held in November.



Vivas for several more PhD students are to be held over the coming weeks. We hope Steven, Keith and the others will be able to attend the Graduation Ceremony in 2014.

Postgraduate Programmes

We have four full-time on-campus MTh students this year as well as a number of part-time students who attend campus on the week-long teaching blocks. The first module of the session is an introductory module and students start thinking about their dissertations. Other modules running this session are: Romans in the Reformed Tradition (Dr Jason Maston), Calvin and Calvinism (Prof Paul Helm), Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation (Dr Nick Needham), Method in Reformed Theology (Prof Paul Helm) and History of Reformed Theology (Prof Gerald Bray).



It was good to have our PhD students present at the annual PhD Conference in October at which Dr Phil Ziegler of Aberdeen University gave a lecture on Discipleship.

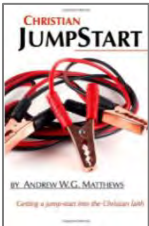
Any enquiries about post-graduate study should be directed to the Registry Officer.

Publications and Conferences

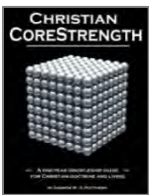


Clifford Boone [PhD 2010] 'Puritan Evangelism' published in September 2013 by Paternoster 'Studies in Christian History and Thought' Series, ISBN 1842277847. Cliff is the senior pastor of Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church, Pennsylvania. This book is based on the research carried out by Cliff for his PhD thesis.

Jamie Grant, vice-principal, spoke on the topic of Mission in the Old Testament at the Annual Conference of the United Free Church of Scotland in Dunblane in August.



Jason Maston, NT lecturer, attended the British New Testament Conference at St Andrews in August. He will be attending the Annual Meeting of the *Evangelical Theological Society* in Baltimore, USA, in November where he will be presenting a paper entitled 'How Wrong Were the Disciples about the Kingdom? Thoughts on Acts 1:6'. Immediately following the ETS meeting he will be attending the Annual Meeting of the *Society of Biblical Literature* in the same city.



Andrew Matthews [former PhD student] *Christian JumpStart: Getting a jump-start into the Christian faith: 1* (ISBN 978-1483948423) and *Christian CoreStrength: A one-year discipleship guide for Christian doctrine and living: 2* (ISBN 978-1484033289). Both were published in April 2013 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

Robert Shillaker, systematics lecturer, attended the Rutherford House Dogmatics Conference in Edinburgh in September.

Open Learning Conference Day

The twice-yearly Conference Days are held on a Saturday in October and March. They are held predominantly to provide distance learning students (many of whom are working on weekdays) with an opportunity to attend the campus, meet lecturers and fellow students, hear a lecture and use the library. Visitors also attend, some just to get to know more about the college, others with a view to commencing studies.

The lecture at the Oct'13 Conference Day was given by Rev Dr Innes Visagie, lecturer in pastoral and practical theology. His lecture was entitled '*Spiritual Practices – overcoming the split between theology and spirituality*'.

The date of the next Conference Day is Saturday 15th March 2014.

Graduation and Awards Ceremony 2013

The service was held in Castle Street Church of Scotland, Dingwall. Fiona Larg, Chief Operating Officer & Secretary of UHI, presented the UHI awards along with the Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie, chairman of the board of governors of HTC. Following the presentation of awards, the Reverend Iver Martin, minister of Stornoway Free Church and recently appointed principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh, preached on the theme 'Direction, Vision, and Purpose for Life and Ministry'.



Access Certificate in Christian Theology

This award is given to those completing Access to Christian Theology within two years.

Peter-Edmund Conroy, David Crowe, Luke Dale, Christopher Davidson, Joanna Kerr, Jacob Marker, Elizabeth McHugh, Mark Selway and Kerrera Wilson were presented with this award.

Peter-Edmund, Christopher, Joanna, Jacob, Mark and Kerrera had all studied the course on-campus; the others had studied by distance learning. Many of our Access students continue their studies by progressing on to the BA Theological Studies programme. This year is no exception, with Peter-Edmund, Mark and Kerrera now on the first year of the BA. Christopher is also continuing his studies but at the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing the first year of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Josephine Burgess, Elizabeth Clarke, Katharine McPhail, Heather Paton and Anne Stoddart were presented with this award.

Diploma in Higher Education *with Distinction* in Theological Studies

The Diploma is given to those completing two years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Nicholas Wager gained the award with Distinction.

Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing three years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Chris Bowerman, Scott Brennan, Gavino Fioretti, Richard Graham, Paul Kinnaird, Morag MacLeod, David McCaig and Sheila Ramsay were presented with this award.

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing four years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

James Blackwell, Moraig Lyall and Michael Power were presented with this award.

Other UHI Programmes

In addition to having theology students, HTC hosts students on a number of other UHI programmes. These students normally receive lectures by video-conference from other UHI colleges. (Reciprocal arrangements exist whereby theology students can access their classes at other colleges, eg Lews Castle and Perth.)

Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics: Sylvia Campbell

Bachelor of Arts in Scottish Cultural Studies: Elizabeth McLean



Additional Awards

HTC Endeavour Award

This award was donated by a former HTC student who wishes to remain anonymous. It is awarded to students who have had to work particularly hard to overcome difficult circumstances during their time of study or who have shown particular progress. This year the award was presented to David Macartney. David has shown exceptional courage, commitment and determination during the past year. His wife is seriously ill and he is a very busy dad to two lively young children. He works long hours, often night shifts, as well as being a full-time student. He also has the additional responsibilities of being a Church of Scotland ministry candidate. Despite all this he has managed to keep on top of his studies and achieve good grades. He is a very worthy winner of the Endeavour Award.



HTC Student of the Year

Morag MacLeod first came to HTC as an Access student. After completing the Access course she continued her studies then part-time on the BA programme. She has combined her studies with running her own hairdressing business in Skye as well as very busy involvement in her local church and community. During her time as a student Morag has had to deal with complex and difficult challenges in her own life and that of close family and friends. Morag is one of HTC's best ambassadors – she is always ready to tell everyone about how her time at HTC has helped her grow and develop as a Christian and she loves encouraging others to support the college and consider taking a course. She is a great motivator and has been a source of help and support to fellow students. Morag is a very worthy winner of the UHI award of 'HTC Student of the Year'.



UHISA Teaching Awards

The UHISA (University of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association) Teaching Awards are held annually and are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their appreciation for a member of staff who has enhanced their student experience. Awards are made in eight categories and cover the whole UHI partnership (thirteen colleges and research centres). We were thrilled to learn that two of the eight awards were to be presented to HTC staff.

Outstanding Student Support

This award recognises that the student experience is impacted by a whole range of staff, not just teaching staff, eg student support, librarians, administrators.

Martin Cameron, HTC Librarian, won this award.

Most Inspiring Lecturer

This award recognises lecturers who inspire students to achieve as much as they can through their approach to teaching and their engagement with both students and subject content.

Hector Morrison, HTC Principal, won this award.

HTC is one of the smallest colleges in the UHI partnership and our students make up less than 1% of the total number of students in UHI so it's brilliant that HTC featured so strongly in the UHISA awards. It's good to see that the high standards that we set and work to on a daily basis are recognised by our own students and by students across the wider UHI partnership.



Celebrating 20 Years

In February 1994 two Church of Scotland ministers, Andrew McGowan and Hector Morrison, met in Elgin with Dr Robert Chalmers, chair of the University of the Highlands and Islands Project, to explore how a proposed theological college might become part of a future university of the Highlands and Islands. That meeting was the start of something big! Events moved on rapidly and within just a few months Highland Theological Institute (as it was then called) had begun.

2014 will be HTC's 20th anniversary year and to mark this monumental milestone in the life of the College we hope to hold a number of special events, including:

March, Saturday 1st, Teaching Day, Kyleakin, Skye

This will have a strong mission focus and has been timed to take place the same weekend as the commissioning service for Morag MacLeod before she heads overseas as a missionary with OM.

May, Friday 2nd, Thanksgiving Service, East Church, Inverness

Sinclair Ferguson will preach at this special commemorative service.

Summer, Teaching Weekend, Stornoway – details to be confirmed.

August, Thursday 28th, Public Lecture, Elgin

Rev Dr Tim Grass will speak on the work of theologian FF Bruce who had strong personal connections with the Elgin/Moray area.

Autumn, Public Lecture, Inverness – details to be confirmed.

Details of all these events, plus possible other events, have yet to be finalised and will be publicised as they are available. Please refer to our website or facebook page for more information. ***We hope that many of our supporters, graduates and students will join us in celebrating at these events throughout the year.***

If HTC has had a significant role in your life ***we would love to hear from you.*** If your life has been changed through your studies, or through attending a teaching weekend, or through hearing a graduate or member of staff preaching or teaching, or in any other way please tell us your story. Over the course of the year we hope to share some of these stories on our website to encourage others. (If you would like to tell us your story but don't want to be featured on the website just let us know).

Our celebrations during 2014 will not just be about looking back over the history of HTC. We will also be looking forward expectantly to what God has in store for us in the future. Please join with us – your support is vital to the ongoing work of HTC.

Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology

Pre-2011 SBET offer: Some old (volume 28 and earlier) back-issues are available at a bargain price. Subject to availability, any two booklets for £4 (UK only) or £6 (outwith UK). Price includes postage. This represents a huge saving on usual prices so hurry while offer lasts. Contact us for availability.

SBET special offer

SBET special offer

Back-issues of volumes 29 and 30 and current issue (volume 31) are available at the standard rate.

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The Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology (SBET) is produced by HTC in association with the Scottish Evangelical Theology Society (SETS). It is available to anybody interested in reading theology articles relevant to the life of the church and can be purchased as one-off individual copies or by annual subscription. Contact us for more details.

College Finances

The running costs of the College are not fully met by the income we receive from student fees therefore we continue to rely heavily on the generosity of our supporters. A big thank you to everyone who has donated to our work and enabled us to finish the 2012/13 financial year with a modest surplus. We are very grateful for your support and appeal to you to continue supporting us, both financially and prayerfully. *Without your support we cannot continue our work.* The generosity of a relatively small number of supporters is hugely appreciated but we desperately need more people to support our work. All donations, small and large, are vitally important. Regular donations make budgeting easier but one-off donations are very welcome too. UK tax-payers can increase the value of their gift by signing a Gift Aid declaration. USA tax-payers can donate through our 501(c)3 public charity 'Friends of HTC'. Thank you.

Places available for Feb'14 start

Students wishing to commence semester 2 modules of the BA programme can start in February. Places are available – contact the Registry Officer for details. Access students studying by distance learning can start at any time of the year.

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 _____

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Pay Unity Trust Bank (Sort Code 08-60-01) for credit of Highland Theological Donations 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) _____

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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 wish all my donations to Highland Theological College (unless I specify in writing) to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that HTC will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

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Donor's Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC. Please notify HTC if you change your name or address. If your circumstances change you can cancel your declaration.



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.

Weekly Mission Meetings

We have regular mission meetings where we have representatives from a wide range of missions; some are large world-wide agencies, others are family or small-team missions. We also invite people involved in various ministries, for example chaplaincy, school work and local evangelism. Hearing about gospel opportunities locally, nationally and internationally often plants seeds in the minds of students and many have used short-term mission trips as a 'placement' module. Some of these experiences have been life-changing for our students.



The *Search for Truth* team who devised and produced 'The God Question' television and DVD series visited in September for one of our weekly mission meetings. They described some of the background to their development of the series and told us about the interviews they carried out with Christians and non-Christians featured in the films. The films are very high quality and good for individual viewing or group use.

Other speakers this semester have included representatives from *European Missionary Fellowship*, *Bible Society*, *Gospel for Asia* and *The Heralds Trust*. During semester 2 we hope to hear from speakers involved in army chaplaincy and hospital chaplaincy, missionaries based in China and Kazakhstan, and several others.

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- 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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A Community of Faith and Scholarship