

# N E X U S

*the ACT Research & Scholarship Magazine*



## **The Bookshelf**

Recent Books on Peace

## **Faculty Fireside**

Where I ask some faculty a friendly question.

## **Docility in Action**

extract by Tom Kimber

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Michael Brautigam

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News

JUNE 2023



# JUNE 2023

*from  
the  
editor*

The first 2023 NEXUS has the theme of peace.

rachel ciano - yes

ruth sutcliffe

Tom Kimber - yes

Megan Powell du Toit

Editor, NEXUS  
ACT Publishing Manager  
Editor, *Colloquium* journal





# THE NEXUS BOOKSHELF

*This issue we look at recent and upcoming books about peace. Blurbs adapted from publisher descriptions.*

## 2022

Shawn & Marlena Graves, eds, *The Gospel of Peace in a Violent World - Christian Nonviolence for Communal Flourishing*, IVP, 2022.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of peace: peace between God and humanity, peace among humans. And yet it can be difficult to see that peace in our broken, violent world.

In this volume, Shawn Graves and Marlena Graves have gathered contributions from theologians, pastors, and practitioners on the importance and implementation of Christian nonviolence in today's world. The vision they cast not only responds to the realities of war and conflict but also offers a broader, deeper understanding of peace that addresses topics such as race, gender, disability, immigration, the environment, food scarcity, and more—a holistic shalom **that** is evidence of God's presence.

Jonathan C. Augustine, *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion*, Baker Academic, 2022.

Recognised speaker and church leader Jay Augustine demonstrates that the church is called and equipped to model reconciliation, justice, diversity, and inclusion. This book develops three uses of the term "reconciliation": salvific, social, and civil. Augustine examines the intersection of the salvific and social forms of reconciliation through an engagement with Paul's letters and uses the Black church as an exemplar to connect the concept of salvation to social and political movements that seek justice for those marginalized by racism, class structures, and unjust legal systems. He then traces the reac-

tion to racial progress in the form of white backlash as he explores the fate of civil reconciliation from the civil rights era to the Black Lives Matter movement. This book argues that the church's work in reconciliation can serve as a model for society at large and that secular diversity and inclusion practices can benefit the church. It offers a prophetic call to pastors, church leaders, and students to recover reconciliation as the heart of the church's message to a divided world.

Richard Lints, *Uncommon Unity: Wisdom for the Church in an Age of Division*, Lexham, 2022.

Our world is facing increasing hostilities. Political and cultural differences rage, even among people who otherwise show goodwill. And the church is no stranger to extreme polarization, theological backbiting, and political squabbling. Jesus's prayer in John 17—that the church be one as he and the Father are one—seems increasingly unattainable.

But what if Scripture actually provides the key for thinking about unity in diversity?

In *Uncommon Unity: Wisdom for the Church in an Age of Division*, Richard Lints explores the nature of diversity and how Christians can think more clearly about unity in an increasingly polarised age. Drawing on theological, historical, and sociological resources, Lints exposes problems with the inclusion narrative of democracy and shows a better way forward for fostering unity in the midst of extreme diversity. If we are to think rightly about diversity, wisdom is required for the church in our late modern world. Through wisdom, Christians can display real unity in diversity and bear witness of the God who made them for himself as diverse members of his one body.





William G. Witt & Joel Scandrett, *Mapping Atonement: The Doctrine of Reconciliation in Christian History and Theology*, Baker Academic, 2022. **2023**

What do we mean when we say that “Jesus saves”? Unlike the doctrines of the Trinity and Christology, there is no ecumenical consensus regarding the Christian doctrine of the atonement. Instead, there are a number of divergent atonement theologies found in various streams of the Christian theological tradition.

This introduction maps the biblical, historical, and theological terrain of the doctrine of the atonement. Beginning with the early Christian era, the book traces the origins, development, and divergent streams of atonement theology throughout the Christian tradition and proposes key criteria by which we can assess their value. The authors introduce essential biblical terms, texts, and concepts of atonement; identify significant historical figures, texts, and topics; and show how various atonement paradigms are expressed in their respective church traditions. The book also surveys current “hot topics” in evangelical atonement theology and evaluates strengths and weaknesses of competing understandings of atonement.

Chuck Mingo & Troy Jackson, *Living Undivided: Loving Courageously for Racial Healing and Justice*, Baker, 2023.

As the church and as a country (USA, ed.), we’ve often neglected and avoided addressing the impact and ongoing reality of racism. We have been more focused on order than justice, more concerned with social media posturing than solidarity, more committed to judgment than repentance. But God’s people are called to more. We need to lead the way to true racial healing, solidarity, and justice. And we need two things to do it: courage and love.

Through enlightening history and eye-opening personal stories, *Living Undivided* will equip and empower you with the biblical, transformative tools you need to move from just hoping and wishing for racial justice to actionable change that makes an observable difference in your life and the lives of churches, neighbourhoods, and cities.

In this season of division and injustice, this book opens up a clear path to a better future.

Shireen Morris & Damien Freeman, eds., *Statements from the Soul: The Moral Case for the Uluru Statement from the Heart*, La Trobe University Press, 2023.

In this ground-breaking collection of essays, diverse religious leaders and thinkers come together to advocate for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Contributors from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities powerfully convey why a First Nations voice to parliament is necessary not only legally and politically, but also morally. Drawing on their unique spiritual beliefs, they argue that the Uluru Statement offers a profound opportunity to heal the wrongs of the past and ensure a better future for all Australians. A rallying cry of support across religious and political divisions, *Statements from the Soul* shows that the Uluru Statement goes to the heart of who we are as a country and is essential to reconciliation.

With a foreword by Noel Pearson and preface by Henry Pinski. Contributors are Sabah Rind, Wesam Charkawi, Fiona Jose, Sardar Ajmer Singh Gill, Prakruthi Mysore Gururaj, Bhikkhu Sujato, Stan Grant, Antonios Kaldas, Ralph Genende, Russell Broadbent, Karina Okotel, Kanishka Raffel, Peter Comensoli, Anthony Ekpo, David Saperstein and Rowan Williams.

Fernando Enns, Nina Schroeder-van 't Schip & Andrés Pacheco-Lozano, eds., *A Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace: Global Mennonite Perspectives on Peacebuilding and Nonviolence*, Pickwick, 2023.

This edited volume includes contributions by scholars, ministers, artists, and NGO workers from around the world who are interested in topics of Mennonitism, peacebuilding, and theologies of nonviolence. The papers published together here reflect the richness and diversity of peacebuilding interests and approaches within the current global Mennonite family and offer interdisciplinary explorations of peace and conflict with attention to historical, theological, and lived perspectives.

The book includes papers based upon research and insights that were shared at the Second Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival (2019) at Mennorode in the Netherlands. The find-

ings presented here are structured thematically with attention to key points of current concern and research—including, among others, studies on historical and current peacebuilding efforts pertaining to migration and refugee care, ecological justice, gender justice, interreligious dialogue, church-state relations, and racial justice.

### **Forthcoming**

Matthew Barrett, *The Reformation as Renewal: Retrieving the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church*, Zondervan Academic, forthcoming.

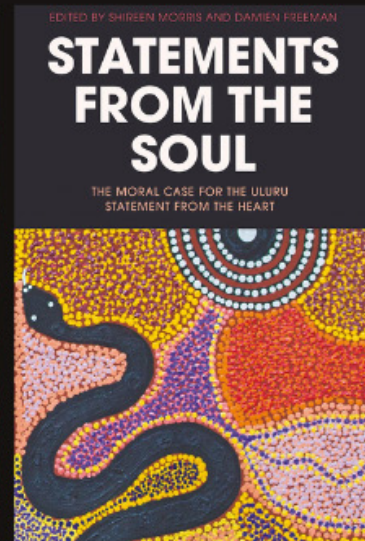
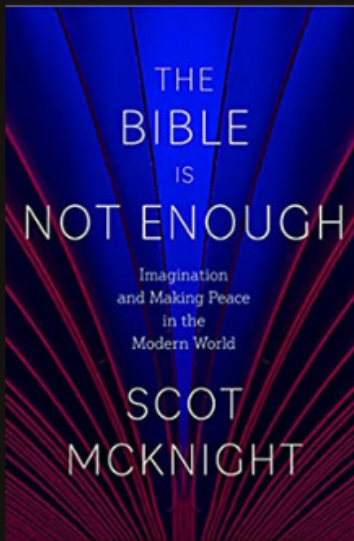
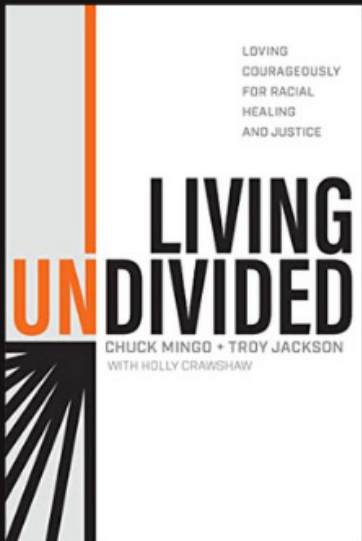
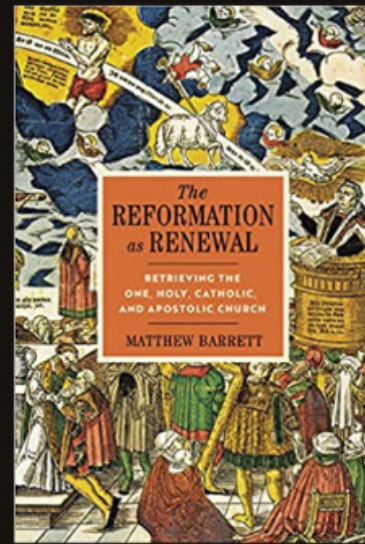
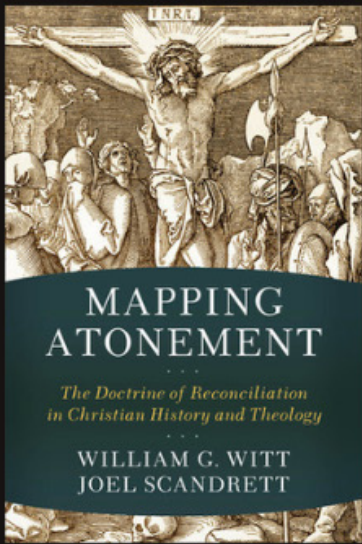
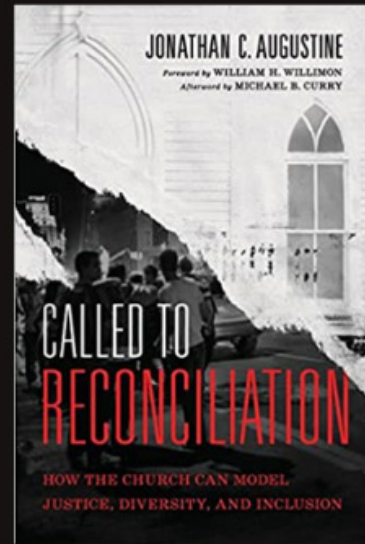
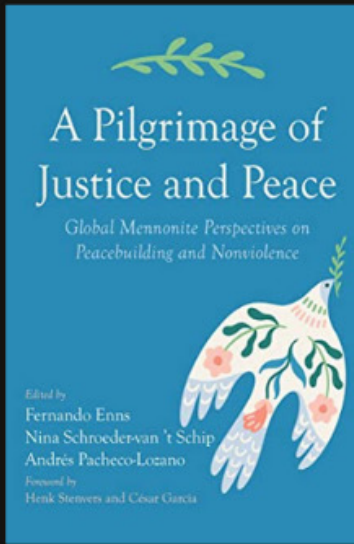
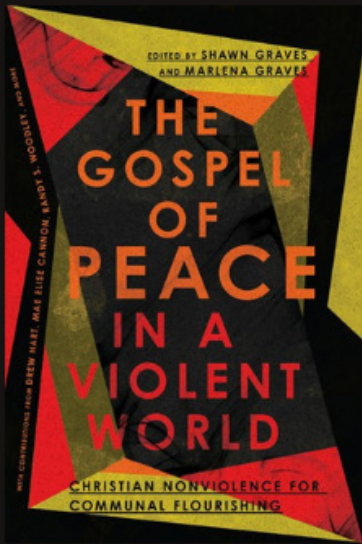
A holistic, eye-opening history of one of the most significant turning points in Christianity, *The Reformation as Renewal* demonstrates that the Reformation was at its core a renewal of evangelical catholicity.

In the sixteenth century Rome charged the Reformers with novelty, as if they were heretics departing from the catholic (universal) church. But the Reformers believed they were more catholic than Rome. Distinguishing themselves from Radicals, the Reformers were convinced they were retrieving the faith of the church fathers and the best of the medieval Scholastics. The Reformers saw themselves as faithful stewards of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church preserved across history, and they insisted on a restoration of true worship in their own day.

Scot McKnight, *The Bible Is Not Enough: Imagination and Making Peace in the Modern World*, Fortress, forthcoming.

The Bible offers a beginning. But the Bible itself has become another tool of the “humane.” The audaciousness of the Bible has been tamed—tamed and then co-opted. All too often the Bible is weighed against itself, allowing extreme to mitigate extreme. But that is not how the Bible works. The Bible takes a stand by pressing for one end of the extreme, sometimes even pushing the other end off stage. The Bible did so in the past because the times called for it. And that is exactly what the Bible does today, regarding peace. The Bible imagines a peaceful world and then insists upon improvisation to realise that peace.





# FACULTY FIRESIDE

*Q: What are you reading?*

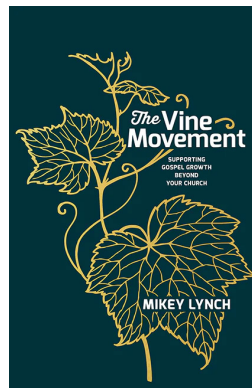
**DAVID MITCHELL (Part-time Lecturer in Biblical Theology, Trinity Perth)**



[Chris Watkin - \*Biblical Critical Theory\*](#). It will be a significant book for the next decade or so in the accessible yet scholarly. I wish it had a bit more of a discussion about the meta-approach.

[\*The Vine Movement\*, Mikey Lynch](#). Theological, practical and very ambitious in discussing how church and parachurch could, should and do work in our modern moment. His [\*The Good Life in the Last Days\*](#) also makes this list because I was reading it with my student committee, I thought it was a good book for young people as they navigate the direction of their lives.

I reread the [\*Cross of Christ\*](#) by John Stott. I can easily see why it has multiple printings. The last section could do with some reworking especially for a new generation seeking to apply the cross.



I also reread [\*Center Church\*](#) by Tim Keller. I can't understand how some people don't like Keller because he's trying to do good, contextualised ministry. He's clear on what matters and what doesn't when it comes to serving God, the church and the world.

I've just started [\*She Deserves Better\*](#) (Gregoire, Lindenbach, & Sawatsky). I suspect that this will be another really popular book and deserves my

attention because of that alone. But I suspect that there are things I need to be aware of and learn more.

I've also got to get started on Torrance's [book on \*The Atonement\*](#). I loved his one on incarnation when I read it at College, so I'm hoping this will be in the same ballpark.

**RACHEL CIANO (Lecturer in Church History, SMBC)**

I'm particularly gravitating towards books that make me laugh and feel light at the moment.



[David Attenborough, \*Trials of Life: A Natural History of Animal Behaviour\*](#)

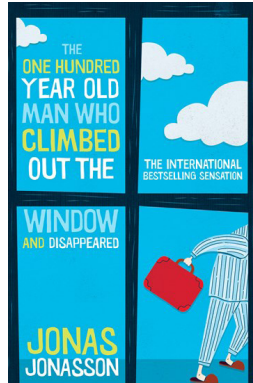
The astoundingly clever and sometimes hilarious behaviour of animals that Attenborough details in "Trials of Life" never has me failing to marvel at the God who wonderfully made them, and also convince me that God loves a bit of humour - he's baked it into his creation. Attenborough would not even come close to acknowledging the Creator of these creatures, but his clear fascination with them and love of them is contagious. As well as humour, there is comfort as I read - comfort in the knowledge that if God takes care of the Amazon knife-fish, the gopher tortoise, and the fungus gnat, then God will take care of me (think Matt 6:26). Plus I can always hear Attenborough's calming voice in my head as I read his written words - there's comfort in that too!





[Jonas Jonasson, \*The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared\*](#)

I've been a bit slow coming to this one, but it has been such a fun ride! It is absurd, slightly dark but playfully light, Swedish comedy (helpfully translated into English!) of the grand adventure of a one hundred year-old man who did just that - climbed out the window of his retirement home to head off into the unknown. You follow not only his new, hilarious adventures, but his old ones too, and as such it is a humorous romp through twentieth-century history including Franco's Spain, Oppenheimer's bomb, Communism's footprint, and so on.



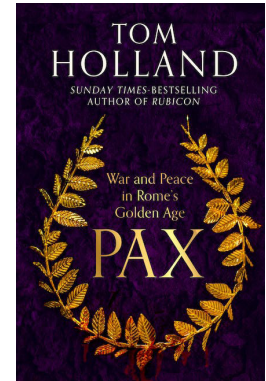
is

[the Nations](#)

Nicholas Wolterstorff, [The Mighty and Almighty](#)

Jamie Smith, [Awaiting the King](#)

A few weeks ago I made a [video](#) about a stack of books I've been reading this year. Hoping to get stuck into [Simon Gathercole](#) vs. [Francis Watson](#) on the non-canonical Gospels (Both put out a 2022 book, Ed.). Also pinning for Tom Holland's new book [Pax](#) (forthcoming, Ed.) about the second century Roman Empire.



**MIKE BIRD (Academic Dean, Ridley)**



I'm reading William Dalrymple's [The Anarchy](#) about the British East India Company take-over of India.

Also reading a lot of political theology including:

Oliver O'Donovan, [The Desire](#)

[o\\_f](#)

# DOCILITY IN ACTION

*Tom Kimber*

Extract from ACT Monograph Series, Wipf & Stock, 2019  
 Picture Saint Thomas Aquinas by Fra Bartolomeo. Wikimedia Commons

## TOWARDS A REDISCOVERY OF DOCILITY<sup>1</sup>

I find wisdom in the writings of Thomas Aquinas and his brief mention of a virtue that is rarely talked about in our times: the virtue of docility. The chief mark of docility is the willingness and readiness to be taught by others. Docility seeks true knowledge and understanding, and is considered the foundation of all other virtues as well as the foundation of our development as rational beings. Aquinas applies the virtue to the old as well as the young, to both teacher and student.<sup>2</sup>

...

## DOCILITY IN ACTION

My thoughts turn to a couple of passages of Scripture. First, the reminder that Paul gives us in 1 Cor 8:1 that “knowledge puffs up.” Who of us has not experienced that? In our places of learning and understanding, every one of us needs to be aware of the tendency to grow in arrogance and to think that our way is right and our knowledge is correct. It is a safeguard for all of us to keep in mind that as we continue to learn, we need to consciously strive for humility toward others with an attitude of openness and receptivity. The posture of being willing to learn is essential in us. Second, I love the picture of Jesus in Matt 18:3–4. In response to the question, “Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus replies, “Truly, I say to you, unless

you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” I think there is much more to these verses than conversion. Jesus is teaching us about greatness in his kingdom—not just how to enter the kingdom, but how to live and grow and mature in his kingdom. It makes me wonder, in the light of my reflections on virtue, what does a young child have to teach us older, more mature men and women about what it means to be great in God’s kingdom? Barber suggests that docility is the natural disposition of a child.<sup>3</sup> So how do we continue to nurture that in ourselves and in those whom we are training? What does Jesus’s lesson about children teach us about the way to encourage virtue in ourselves and others? I think there are two important lessons.

First, it is important to understand the place of the child in Jewish society. Here is a person—and yes, a child *is a person*—who has virtually no importance in society. They are not to be taken seriously, and certainly not to be looked up to and admired. Yet Jesus places this child in front of these disciples and calls him or her “the greatest in God’s kingdom.” In this, Jesus is teaching us something very important about children in Jewish society. It indicates a sense of respect for even those whom society would consider the least. It bestows a humanness on those whom society would consider less than human. It teaches us about our own attitudes toward those who are not only different from ourselves, but whom we would consider less than ourselves. In God’s eyes, they may be greater. And secondly, children teach us something about what it means to continue to grow in virtue in God’s king-

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1 I am indebted to my former student and teaching assistant, Nathaniel Warne, for inspiring me to reflect on this topic. I am also indebted to my colleague, Michael Bräutigam, for his assistance in providing resources and endless conversations that have helped to refine my thoughts.

2 Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II.2, 48, 1.

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3 Barber, “Docility, Virtue of Virtues,” 121.





dom. There is a natural inquisitiveness, a disposition toward acceptance and simplicity in children that is winsome and attractive. But, as Barber would remind us, there is an original docility—a willingness to be taught and a desire to continue to learn. In considering these thoughts, I want to note four areas of implication for those who influence others in the church and in society.

First, in education and classroom teaching. Transformational teaching must go far beyond facts and information. Edmund Pincoffs suggests that in education we must not so much train people to make decisions but focus on excellence of character.<sup>4</sup> Emphasising the virtue of docility and the host of other virtues that naturally flow from it, including honesty, compassion, and justice, will nurture a common quest for truth in community. These thoughts have already begun to spawn ideas about how to bring a deeper awareness of virtue and training for virtue in my classroom teaching. Certain forms of discussion, debate, and classroom interaction can foster the skills and attitudes needed to enter the world of another person for the purpose of deeper understanding and engagement with their ideas and thoughts. How often do we actually listen to the full argument a person is presenting before we form an opinion? Docility leads us to listen deeply and fully

before we construct a rebuttal. It leads us to ask questions before we make statements. Yet, in our world this kind of response is becoming increasingly rare.

Second, in pastoral theology. The essence of compassion is to “feel with” another person. Yet, as pastors we are often trained to have the answers for whatever situation might come up. Understanding a theology of virtue helps us to take seriously the encounters and experiences of everyday life and to enter into the suffering of others. It helps us to find the connection between pastoral theology and spiritual theology—framing much of my responsibility as a pastor within the incarnational example of Jesus who entered our world and experienced fully our brokenness and took on our shame, yet with an ultimate view toward redemption and fulfilled hope.

Third, in global theological conversation. Over the past century we have seen a major shift in the global church. Whereas in the early 1900s the slogan of mission was “From the West to the rest,” now the perspective is “From everywhere to everywhere.” The church in the majority world is growing and maturing while the church in the West is in decline. Yet, to what extent are we listening to one another across the boundaries of our societies? How are we as missionaries and theologians doing at listening to and learning from the majority world church? Do we still view ourselves as the experts from the outside coming in with the answers,

<sup>4</sup> Edmund L. Pincoffs, quoted in Michael Barber, “Docility, Virtue of Virtues,” 120–21.

or can we learn to approach our brothers and sisters from other cultures with an attitude of openness and the question, “What can I learn from them?”

David Bosch observes that every one of us is “inclined to incarcerate the gospel within the narrow confines of his or her own predilections . . . We are irresistibly pulled towards oneness and reductionism.”<sup>5</sup> We often hear in the Bible what we want it to say. And so, we must combine our listening to the Bible and the Spirit with listening to one another. This, of course, requires true humility and the laying aside of sectarian labels. In our humility, we must admit that none of us is self-sufficient and that we need the wisdom and experience of the global body of Christ. Indeed, as Jesus said, it is in our humility and ability to listen to and love one another that the genuineness of our faith would be proved and observed.

Fourth, we must understand our calling and our role as influencers in society. Those of us who work in theological higher education often think about the needs of the church and how we can train and influence a new generation of pastors and church leaders. But what is our responsibility to the larger society of which we are a part? We should consider Jeremiah’s words to his people in exile: “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jer 29:7). Too often, we have shirked our responsibility to influence our society in ways that contribute to the general good of all people. O’Donovan suggests that good exists in the world as an expression of God’s own goodness.<sup>6</sup> Growth in virtue is not merely the application of a new set of actions, it is a new way of *being*. *In other words, habituated virtue is incarnational. I believe that theologians, ministers, and students of the Bible*—and thus, virtually every believer—has the opportunity and the responsibility to enter more fully into the suffering of others as an expression of Jesus’s own incarnation. We must consider the impact on society not merely through our words and opinions, but in our example of humble listening, compassionate caring, and our refusal to resort to names and labels in our desire to express the loving grace of Jesus.

The virtue of docility has the power to turn adversaries and enemies into advocates for one another who

join together in seeking truth. Rather than defending ideologies, docile men and women recognise the mystery of learning, discover the emotion of suffering with and responding to others, and humbly admit the limits of human understanding. Can you imagine a world where people listen more than they speak? Where we desire to know others more than make ourselves known? Where we value the different other as a fellow human created in the image of God.

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- Barber, Michael. “Docility, Virtue of Virtues: Lévinas and Virtue-Ethics.” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 38, no. 2 (June 1998) 119–26.
- Bosch, David. “An Emerging Paradigm for Mission.” *Missiology: An International Review* 11, no. 4 (October 1983) 504.
- O’Donovan, Oliver. *Finding and Seeking: Ethics as Theology*. Vol. 2. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

5 Bosch, “Emerging Paradigm for Mission,” 504.

6 O’Donovan, *Finding and Seeking*, 71–72.



# CALLS FOR PAPERS & AWARDS

[Paul in his Jewish and Graeco-Roman Context, SCD Research Conference](#), October 26-27, 2023. Proposals due by 20 June 2023.

[Fellowship of Biblical Studies 2023 conference](#), 26-28 September 2023 in Sydney. Proposals due by 14 July 2023.

[God Beyond Ideology: Rediscovering Theology through Narrative. CGAR \(SCD\) conference](#), 28-29 September 2023. Proposals due 30 July 2023.

[The Australian Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies \(AIOCS\) 2023 “Beginnings” prizes, essays on Father Matta al-Miskin](#). Submissions due by 2 October 2023.

Baptists and Education, [International Conference on Baptist Studies](#), 7-10 August 2024, Cambridge UK. Proposals welcome from now.

Christ College journal [Gospel Leadership](#) is open for submissions. It aims to encourage and equip church and parachurch leaders by focusing on Reformed theology as it impacts their gospel ministry.

The [ISCAST Journal](#) has been relaunched and is looking for submissions.



# ACT PEOPLE'S PROJECTS

*Rachel Ciano (SMBC), Ruth Sutcliffe (CC), Michael Bräutigam (MST)*

**Our faculty are often awarded fellowships or similar, allowing them to work on particular projects.**

Two of our faculty currently have an ADM fellowship. ADM stands for Anglican Deaconess Ministries, whose object is to equip and encourage women to serve Christ. One of our affiliated colleges, Mary Andrews College, is part of ADM.

An ADM fellowship is for 6 months or one year, and provide for Christian women to work on a focused project. Fellows are given office space, bursary and professional development opportunities.

This year, two ACT women ADM senior fellowships. Dr Ruth Sutcliffe, who was an awarded an ACT PhD last year, and Rachel Ciano, who lectures at SMBC. Other ACT women who have had fellowships include Dr Ruth Lukabyo (Youthworks), Grace Lung (BST) and Dr Louise Gosbell (MAC).

I took the opportunity to ask both women about their fellowships.

**Rachel:**

My project focuses on the radical nature of the gospel and its transformation of society, demonstrated specifically in religious ministers being allowed to marry as part of the Protestant Reformation. It specifically focuses on the practice and protest of clerical marriage in the English Reformation. I am examining the reasons for the protest against clerical marriage in England in the sixteenth century, for the protest itself reveals conceptions in society around the gospel, holiness, marriage, family and women.

The fellowship is giving me space, physically and

mentally, to think, research and write. I get to do this amidst other women who are doing the same thing, and hearing about how their projects are developing is a wonderful part of the working day. Post fellowship, I hope to continue teaching, researching and writing in this area, and want to keep connecting the stories from history with people's stories today, so we can live more wisely and fruitfully here and now.

**Ruth:**

My thesis explored the theology of persecution expressed in the writings of four church fathers in the third century: Clement and Origen of Alexandria and Tertullian and Cyprian of Carthage. My Fellowship project is to write a book for a general Christian readership on the biblical teaching and early church theological reflection on persecution. I began the project last year, but the Fellowship is providing an unparalleled opportunity to devote a much larger amount of time and resources to it than would otherwise be possible. It has also fitted in well with my recent teaching mission in Phnom Penh.

Being able to do "Kingdom work" effectively full time is a dream come true. When I finally arrived in Sydney from Cambodia I found ADM very welcoming and well set up. It was lovely to finally meet my "fellow Fellows" and to really get stuck into the work. I hope to use this God-given opportunity to not only complete this project but to establish myself as a Christian academic and educator, particularly in service to Bible colleges in the Majority World.



## Michael

Another faculty member, Rev Dr Michael Bräutigam (MST), was recently [announced as a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry \(CTI\) program](#), Inquiry on Thriving in Diverse Contexts: A Study Program on Psychological Science for Researchers in Christian Theology, 2023-25.

Michael is the Director of the Centre for Theology & Psychology at MST. He has qualifications in both theology and psychology, lecturing in both. CTI is an interdisciplinary research centre in Princeton, NJ, where they seek to enable theology to make an impact on global concerns. It was founded in 1978 by James I. McCord while he was president of Princeton Theological Seminary.

The current inquiry aims to cross-train theologians in those areas of the psychological sciences relevant to the understanding of what thriving is and can be within diverse and resilient lives of spiritual purpose and moral agency. The program will also function as an experimental teaching and research laboratory to develop open-access digital resources for cross-training in psychological science for research in the theology of thriving.

We look forward to seeing the results of all three projects.



# PUBLISHED BOOKS

## CONSORTIUM

*Recent books by faculty in our affiliated colleges.*

### Department of Bible and Languages

Bird, Michael F, ed. (Ridley) *God's Israel and the Israel of God: Paul and Supersessionism*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2023.

Kok, Michael. (Morling) *Tax Collector to Gospel Writer: Patristic Traditions About the Evangelist Matthew*. Minneapolis, MI: Fortress Press, 2023.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. (MBTS) & Gregory Goswell (CC) *Biblical Theology: A Canonical, Thematic, and Ethical Approach*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023.

Lau, Peter H W. (SMBC) *The Book of Ruth*. Nicot. Edited by Bill Arnold Robert Hubbard. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2023.

Smith, Murray J. (CC) *Jesus: All About Life*. Sydney, NSW: Bible Society Australia, 2023.

Thompson, Alan. (SMBC) *Acts. The Gospel Coalition Bible Commentary*. Edited by Philip Thompson. Gospel Coalition, 2023.

### Department of Christian Thought and History

Jensen, Peter. (YWKS) *The Life of Faith*. Sydney Australia: Matthias Media, 2023.

### Department of Ministry and Practice

Martin, Kara. (MAC), Stephen Judd and John Swinton. *Keeping Faith: How Christian Organisa-*

*tions Can Stay True to the Way of Jesus*. Sydney, Australia: Acorn Press, 2023.

Trist, Richard, ed. (Ridley) *Ministry in Context: A Guide to Theological Field Education and Ministry Internships in Australia and New Zealand*, ACT Monograph Series. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2023.

## BEYOND

Capper, Christy (Wollaston). *The Theological Imperative to Authenticity*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2023.

Crossley, James (MF Oslo) & Robert J. Myles (Wollaston) *Jesus: A Life in Class Conflict*, Alresford, UK: Zero, 2023.

Douglas, Sally (Pilgrim). *Jesus Sophia*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2023.

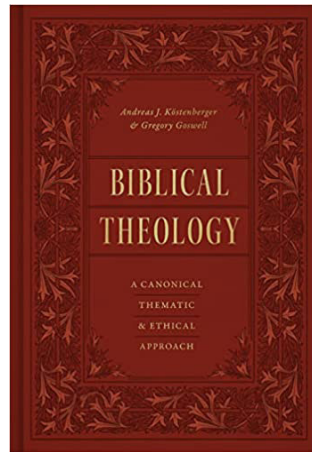
Hibbert, Evelyn. (Angelina Noble) *Multiplying Leaders in Intercultural Contexts*. Littleton, CO: William Carey Library, 2023.

Pryor, Rebekah & Stephen Burns (both Pilgrim). *Feminist Theologies: Interstices and Fractures*. Minneapolis, MI: Lexington Books / Fortress Academic, 2023.

Tombs, David (Otago). *The crucifixion of Jesus: Torture, sexual abuse, and the scandal of the cross*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2023.

Treweek, Dani (Moore). *The Meaning of Singleness*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2023.

Whitaker, Robyn J. (Pilgrim). *Even the Devil Quotes Scripture: Reading the Bible on Its Own Terms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2023.



# OUR TEAM

*as of June 2023*

*Dean & CEO*

Professor James Dalziel

*Executive Assistant to the Dean & CEO*

Rev Ian Packer

## **Research, Teaching and Learning Division**

*Deputy Dean, Director of Research*

Dr Edwina Murphy

### **Research**

*Publishing Manager*

Rev Dr Megan Powell du Toit

### **Teaching & Learning**

*Director of Teaching & Learning*

Rev Dr Ian O'Harae

*Moderation & Inclusion Manager*

Erin Hutton

### **Registry, Quality & Finance Division**

*Chief Operating Officer & Registrar*

Simon Davies

### **Finance**

*Director of Finance*

Vicki Chen

*Financial Accountant*

Mary Ann Navidad

### **Registry**

*Director of Academic Services*

Asanka Gunerathne

*Deputy Registrar*

Diana Tadjudin

*Academic Administrative Officer*

Rebekah Wall

*Academic Services Support Officer*

Jayne Tan

*Academic Administration Officer*

Lissa Philip

*IT Systems Manager*

Witali Klein

### **Quality**

*Director of Quality*

vacant

*Academic Quality Officer*

Stephen Sarkoezy

*Academic Administration Officer*

Lissa Philip

## **OFFICE NEWS**

Neil Ormerod, Cathy Harris and Nathain Secker have left since the end of last year. Neil continues to be available for consultation.

### **Congratulations:**

Asanka Gunerathne has been appointed Director of Academic Services, and Diana Tadjudin has become Deputy Registrar.

Megan Powell du Toit has been awarded her doctorate.

Erin Hutton (was Sessions) has remarried and reverted to her maiden name.



# CONFERRALS

January - May 2023



**Abstracts have been edited for length.**

## **Doctor of Philosophy**

Clare Deeves, MST, *Working Together: A Phenomenological Study of the Working Relationship between Women Employed in Complementarian Local Churches in Australia and the Senior Pastors for Whom They Work*

This study takes a phenomenological approach to answering the question “how do women employed in word-based ministries in complementarian, local church contexts experience their working relationship with the senior pastor?” It finds that these relationships are experienced most positively when they are characterised by true partnerships. Such partnerships involve women employed in ministry positions being able to make valuable contributions, having a voice that is heard, and having some measure of personal relationship with the senior pastor in which there is genuine concern for her well-being. Furthermore, such partnerships are found to be built on the senior pastor having particular skills and characteristics, and employing behaviours similar to those associated with both transformational and servant leadership theory.

Clare is Part-time Lecturer in Church History at Trinity Theological College, Perth.

KamalWeerakoon, Morling, *Cultural Hybridity and Covenant Theology: A Practical-Theological Contribution to Reformed Orthodox Missiology*

This thesis is a practical theological analysis of cultural hybridisation amongst Australian migrants from the south Asian subcontinent who self-identify as Christian. It engages with literature on cultural

hybridity, documents real-life patterns of hybridisation, engages with the emerging mission field of subcontinental migrants to Australia, corrects some imprecisions in contemporary missiology, and demonstrates how Reformed Orthodox covenant theology can resource missional responses to cultural hybridisation.

Kamal is an adjunct lecturer at Christ College, Sydney.

### **Master of Theology**

Foo, Wu Kiat, MST, *Confession of Faith of the Israelites: In Search of the Theological Significance of the Short Historical Creed (Deut. 26:5b-9) and Its Parallels in the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh)*.

Confession of faith, also known as a creed, is the foundation of a belief system, especially for the Christian. These creeds are derived from the Scripture to formulate the articles of faith. Christians not only recite the creeds for faith proclamation and as liturgy of worship, but also to distinguish heresy from orthodoxy. According to Gerhard von Rad, the ancient Israelites had a “Short Historical Creed” that involved the recitation of their redemptive history. These narrations of the historical events vary in length, contents and purposes in the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh). As such, the accounts of the historical events in different sections of the Hebrew Bible would demonstrate various motives, as well as their theological significance. Linking these accounts of the historical events as the “Short Historical Creed” with the theological message and motive, the passages in each of the sections of the Hebrew Bible would present various emphases on the confession of faith.

Pang, Chun Kit, MST, *When a Statistician meets Theologians Using Quantitative Analysis (QUAN) – An Investigation with Theological Reflections on MST’s Practical Theological Research*

This thesis is for the project “When a Statistician meets Theologians Using Quantitative Analysis (QUAN) – An Investigation with Theological Reflections on MST’s Practical Theological Research”. The research outlines the thesis that factorial analysis (in broad sense, the use of statistical methods to evaluate the significance of the factors hypothesised in research projects) appears not commonly used in Australian theological colleges’ research with its empirical evidence, focusing on the Melbourne School of Theology (MST)’s findings as an example. This research is to answer the question – “Why did students who utilised statistics in postgraduate research projects at MST for factorial analysis, not apply multivariate analysis in full?” The EDNA (Exploratory-Normative-Descriptive-Action Research) model of practical theology (PT) is used as the research framework.

# ACT PEOPLE ONLINE

NOVEMBER 2022 - MAY 2023

## Podcast and Video Series

Tim Beilharz & Al James (YthWks), [The Effective Ministry Podcast](#)

Mike Bird (Ridley) [Early Christian History with Mike Bird](#), YouTube

Aaron Chidgzey (Morling) [Good Morling Australia](#)

Cameron Clausing, Allister Lum Mow & Murray Smith (Christ College), [Down Under Theology](#)

John Dickson (Ridley) [Undeceptions](#), Undeceptions Network

Michael Jensen (BCSA) & Megan Powell du Toit (ACT) [With All Due Respect](#), Undeceptions Network

Kara Martin (MAC) & Stephen Field, [Worship on the Way to Work](#), podcast.

Jenny Salt (SMBC) [Salt – Conversations with Jenny](#), Hope 103.2

## Print Series

Kara Martin, [Faith At Work](#), Eternity News

## One Off Articles and Interviews

### ABC

November 15 Michael Jensen (BCSA), [“Why have you abandoned me?” Can art speak of hope in a godforsaken world?](#)

April 6 Louise Gosbell (MAC), interviewed on [Disability and the shape of hope](#), Soul Search

### Archbishop of Canterbury Reconciliation Network

March 14 Megan Powell du Toit (ACT) & Michael Jensen (BCSA), On Disagreement: [Grief & Navigating](#), Difference

### Eternity News

April 6 Mike Bird (Ridley), [Raised for Our Justification!](#)

### Political Animals (Jonathan Cole)

February 26 Michael Jensen (BCSA), [interview on Sydney Anglicanism](#)

### The Gospel Coalition Australia (TGCA)

December 19 Rory Shiner (TTC), [My Year in Books](#)

March 15 Rory Shiner (Trinity Perth) [Faithful Christian Organizations: A Better Way to Stay on Course](#)

April 26 Tim Thorburn (Trinity Perth), [Navigating Romance with “Water for My Camels”](#)



## **The Pastor's Heart (Dominic Steele)**

November 29 Keith & Sarah Condie (MAC), [Mental health and the Pastor](#)

January 3 Peter Adam (RTC) [Reassessing the Christian Faith of one of New South Wales' first governors](#)

January 16 Rachel Ciano (SMBC) [Same words. Different worlds. Reaching Roman Catholics](#)

February 14 Peter Jensen (YWKS), interview on [What next for the Anglican Communion & Church of England](#)



# HIGHER ED NEWS

Given the current interest in AI, I have curated a selection of recent articles about its usage in higher education.

## **CAMPUS REVIEW:**

[The AI revolution in higher education: opinion](#)

## **Campus Mail**

[Chatbots get an A \(for average, very average\): It could be that ChatGPT is currently as reliable as it will ever be](#)

## **Inside Higher ED**

[Why I'm Excited About ChatGPT](#)

## **REFORC**

[BullingerDigital: A Powerful Research Tool](#)

## **TEQSA**

[Page of resources](#)

## **The Conversation**

[Students know AI is here to stay and want unis to teach them how to use it](#)

[Why universities should return to oral exams in the AI and ChatGPT era](#)

## **Times HE:**

[Five ways AI has already changed higher education](#)

[AI 'can make higher education personal but we're not ready'](#)

# EVENTS 2023

You can now inform us of events using this [online form](#).

## JUNE

- 3 [Women's intercultural leadership: Angelina Noble Centre](#)
- 6 [Morling: Age of Anxiety: Pastoral Care for People Struggling with depression and anxiety](#)
- 6 [Malyon Open Night](#)
- 7 [Moore: David VanDrunen](#)
- 15 [MAC Information Session](#)
- 20 [SSEC - Edwina Murphy: Examples of Faith and Virtue: Cyprian's Use of the Book of Daniel](#)
- 22 [Morling Open night](#)
- 26 [SMBC Zoom Info Evening](#)
- 26-30 [Moore, John Chapman Preaching Clinic](#)

## JULY

- 2-5 [ANZATS Conference, Context and Tradition, online](#)
- 3 [Morling: Spiritual Warfare - with Dr. Scott Moreau](#)
- 22 [ISCAST: The Scientific and Spiritual Human: Faith for our Genetic Futures](#)
- 26 [Morling WA: Using Creative Resources in Chaplaincy and Supervision](#)
- 26 [Moore, Humility at the heart of Mission](#)
- 28 [Morling: Introduction to Sandplay Therapy - WA](#)
- 28 [FBS Jonathan Thambyrajah on the law in Daniel & Esther; Rev. Dr Tom Habib on John's Gospel](#)
- 29 [The Bridge Info Morning \(SMBC\)](#)

## AUGUST

- 11 [FBS Melbourne Meeting, Rosemary Canavan](#)
- 12 [Morling: Putting Faith to Work Forum, Andrew Sloane](#)
- 14-15 [Annual Moore College Lectures](#)
- 15-16 [Perth Gospel Partnership Conference](#)
- 19 [Trinity Melbourne: Talking about Jesus: Evangelism for the Anglican Church](#)
- 23 [Moore, P&A: Muscular Christianity](#)
- 26 [SMBC Info Morning](#)
- 28 [The Bridge Zoom Info Evening \(SMBC\)](#)
- 30 [Moore: Self-control in an era of self-actualisation, David Hohne](#)

**SEPTEMBER**

- 7 [SMBC Professional Development Zoom Info Evening](#)
- 8-9 [UTC Women, Feminism, and the Future of Theology in Oceania](#)
- 14 [Grief and Loss in Spiritual Companionship with Wellspring](#)
- 18 [TTC School of Theology Annual Lecture](#)
- 22 [ACT Being and Belonging: Disability Conference](#)
- 26-28 [FBS Annual Conference](#)
- 26 [SSEC - Ryan Strickler: A Tale of Two Healers: A Consideration of the Miracles of Christ and the Emperor Vespasian](#)
- 28-29 [SCD SGAR Conference : God Beyond Ideology](#)

**OCTOBER**

- 7 [BCSA Open Day](#)
- 9 [TTC, Information Night](#)
- 9 [The Bridge Zoom Info Evening \(SMBC\)](#)
- 11-12 [TTC Open Lectures](#)
- 18 [Moore: The power and pain of perseverance, Mark Thompson](#)
- 26-27 [Paul in his Jewish and Graeco-Roman Context, SCD Research Conference](#)
- 27 [FBS Symposium: "Wine and wine-making in the Bible and ANE."](#)

**NOVEMBER**

- 2 [Morling Open Night](#)
- 2 [FBS Melbourne Meeting Chris Monaghan](#)
- 3-4 [the cooperative: Trauma, Abuse and The Church - A Conference in Public Theology](#)
- 4 [Trinity Melbourne The Kingdom of God is near: Studies on the readings for Year B](#)
- 11 [SMBC and The Bridge Info Morning](#)
- 12-17 [Global Proclamation Congress](#)
- 16-18 [Laidlaw: Wānanga Symposium: Christianity, the Māori world and Colonialism in Aotearoa New Zealand.](#)
- 17 [SSEC Christmas Function Speaker: Gareth Wearne Topic Luke's Census](#)

