



## World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission

# WEA Theological News

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### WEA Charts its Future

#### ***New Interim Coordinator announces a 'Strategic Summit'***

The WEA has announced that Geoff Tunnicliffe of Canada has been appointed Interim International Coordinator to take over leadership of the WEA following the resignation of Gary Edmonds as Secretary General. Since 2003, Tunnicliffe has been Director, Global Initiatives for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, where he promotes partnerships among Canadian ministries committed to a global outreach, as well as initiatives involving foreign-based ministries. He continues to help lead the World Evangelical Alliance's Missions Commission.



*Geoff Tunnicliffe*

He is also involved in a global campaign, in which WEA participates, to mobilize Christians against poverty.

Referring to Tunnicliffe's appointment, Gary Edmonds said, 'The WEA is in very good hands. He is very knowledgeable about evangelical alliances and global realities. From his many years of international ministry, he has developed an ability to understand different cultures and develop collaborative initiatives that advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.'

#### ***Strategic Summit***

Mr Tunnicliffe has announced a 'strategic summit' to help chart the way for the future of the organisation. The Summit will take place in Orlando, Florida, May 1-6, 2005. The first phase will be a WEA Leadership Summit for the International Council, Regional Secretaries, Commission Executives and staff, Affiliate Executives and staff, the WEA North American Council, together with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the National Association of Evangelicals. The second phase, called 'Move the Stones - The Power of Alliance', will feature WEA leaders meeting together with pastors and leaders from North America for mutual dialogue, and to develop the WEA vision and ministry. It is expected that up to 400 people will participate in the second part of the program.

Underlining the importance of this event, the new WEA coordinator said, 'Like no other time in history, God's people are facing major global issues on every continent. And as Evangelicals, we have never had greater opportunities to impact the nations with God's love. That is why the WEA is calling North American evangelical leaders to meet with senior WEA leaders from every major region of the globe for the sake of advancing God's kingdom.' The event is planned to provide attendees with information, encouragement, engagement and the

opportunity to be equipped with greater understanding for the global task.

WEA has also adopted a new logo which is featured in this issue of WEA Theological News.

For further information: [www.worldevangelical.org](http://www.worldevangelical.org) and [gtunnicliffe@worldevangelical.org](mailto:gtunnicliffe@worldevangelical.org)

### Secretary General of World Evangelical Alliance Resigns

Rev. Gary Edmonds, Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), resigned in February 2005, after serving in the post since July 2002. In accepting the resignation on behalf of the WEA's International Council (IC), the chairman, Ndaba Mazabane of Durban, said: 'Gary has been instrumental in helping WEA reflect and draw on its rich history in order to build a strong and viable global movement that is relevant to the 21st Century. We are all indebted to his tireless efforts of connecting and working closely with regional alliances and also for his contribution in giving financial stability to the WEA.'



*Gary Edmonds*

Mr Edmonds has been appointed as Executive Director of 'Churches Together' an organisation formed two years ago by some large local US churches to mobilize North American churches to partner with African counterparts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Geoff Tunnicliffe of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, who is also a board member of Churches Together, said, while Edmonds' change to a new position is a loss for the WEA, 'it allows Gary to pursue his life mission of leading transformation through churches working together'.

In a farewell message, Gary Edmonds said,

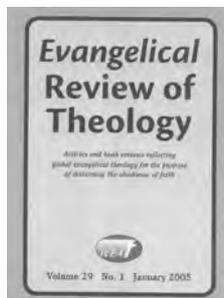
*As I think back over this time, I am grateful that the Lord has used us to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been able to tackle some of the relational dynamics and financial and administrative issues that have impacted the World Evangelical Alliance. Greater clarity regarding the core purpose and structure of WEA is emerging. There is a growing visibility and respect of Evangelicals as a people who are committed to the good of all and are a source of mercy and hope in the nations.*

*For the future, I encourage evangelicals to hold on to three biblical tenets of the faith—affirming that the local church is God's sustaining instrument of transformation in society, that the gospel of Jesus Christ through an equipped people is to touch and transform the whole of life, and that the people of God are to minister in functional and practical unity.*

**Promoting Biblical Truth by Networking Theologians**

## Theological Commission Publishes Documents on the Church, Evangelisation and Fellowship, and on a Theological reflection on HIV/AIDS

The Theological Commission is publishing two important documents in the April 2005 issue of its journal, *Evangelical Review of Theology*. The first is a study and discussion document from the International Consultation



between the World Evangelical Alliance and the Catholic Church on the topics of Church, Evangelization, and the Bonds of Koinonia (Fellowship). This is the last report from a decade long series of talks, and full details of the sequence are printed for reference. As it is a discussion paper, the Theological Commission invites responses from readers.

The second report by Dr. Phil Marshall of Australia on a theology of HIV/AIDS was originally presented to a conference of theological educators in South Africa, and subsequently revised by the author using input from the conference and elsewhere. It too is presented as a 'work in progress' with reactions welcomed. As it stands, it offers a comprehensive theological framework for Christians to consider as they respond to this enormous problem facing the world.

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All issues of ERT from Vol 1 (1977) to Vol 27 (2003) are available on the Theological Resource Library CD-ROM (v. 2.0) available from the editor. (Details—<http://www.worldevangelical.org/cdresource/lib.html>)

## PhD program at NEGST

Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) is commencing a PhD study programme in 2005. The programme, which lasts forty-eight months, will take doctoral students through an eighteen-month research colloquium and devote the remainder of the time to dissertation writing. It focuses sharply on providing a high quality doctoral study programme on the continent, where the African voice and the social, political, economic realities Africa currently faces, are the focus of research attention. The PhD will be in biblical studies or Bible translation. Graduates will provide faculty for theological institutions and translation consultants across Africa. Applications are in process now for joining the first cohort.

Admitted students must come sponsored from an organisation which is committed to release them for the duration and also to absorb them back into service again. The programme of studies is intensive and full-time.

NEGST will host African and international scholars regularly throughout the four years, including Professors Howard Marshall (Aberdeen), Andrew Walls (Edinburgh), Robert Gordon (Cambridge), and Dr Chris Wright of Langham Partnership International, Gordon Wenham, Gordon McConville and others.

Application forms are available from [PhD@negst.edu](mailto:PhD@negst.edu), or [admissions@negst.edu](mailto:admissions@negst.edu), or from NEGST PhD Applications, PO Box 24686, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya.

## ICETE's Next International Consultation

International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) takes pleasure in announcing that its next International Consultation for Theological Educators will be held 7–11 August 2006 in Singapore. The Consultation is intended for theological educators from throughout the ICETE community worldwide. The Consultation will focus on the implications of emerging global Christianity, the 'New Christendom,' for evangelical theological education. Further details will be announced as they become available. Institutions that are part of the ICETE constituency are urged to begin plans now to be represented at the event.

ICETE's International Consultations offer a unique opportunity for face-to-face professional interaction and reflection among evangelical theological educators globally. The first ICETE Consultation took place in Hoddesdon, UK, in 1980. Subsequent consultations have taken place in: Chongoni, Malawi; Seoul, Korea; Wheaton, USA; Bangkok, Thailand; Katydata, Cyprus; and Unterweissach, Germany. In recent years the events have been held on a triennial basis; the most recent Consultation was at High Wycombe, UK, in 2003.

*ICETE News Jan 2005*

## Latin American Theological Educators Meet

The 5th General Assembly of the Latin American Association for Evangelical Theological Education was held in Lima, Peru, the third week of October 2004. The 73 participants came from Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, USA, Jamaica, Britain, and Peru. The theme of the event was 'Biblically Based and Socially Contextualized Leaders'. Principal speakers were Dr. Steve Finamore from TearFund UK, and Dr. Carlos Pinto from Brazil. The Evangelical Seminary of Lima, ably led by Dr. Don Smith, provided the hosting venue.

ICETE's global community was represented by Dr. Dieumeme Noelliste (President of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology), and Dr. Larry McKinney (Executive Director of the North American-based Association for Biblical Higher Education), both of whom made presentations. AETAL presently links 155 theological schools throughout Latin America. The AETAL Director is Ms Vera Brock of Brazil.

Further information on AETAL may be obtained from: [sbpv@opv.org.br](mailto:sbpv@opv.org.br)

*ICETE News Jan 2005*

## Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology now on CD-ROM

The editor of *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology* is pleased to announce the release of all articles from the 41 issues of AJET—1982 to 2002—on one CD-ROM.

The complete text of AJET for 21 years provides an in-depth look into African Theology and the Church—an invaluable resource for your personal or institutional library.

**The cost is only US\$20.**

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For further information, contact: [ajetjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:ajetjournal@yahoo.com)

## TC welcomes new member from Brazil

Dr. Claus Schwambach of Brazil was appointed as a member of the WEA Theological Commission at its 2004 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. As an outstanding young leader of the church in Latin America, the TC is pleased to welcome him to the team and looks forward to his participation and contribution.

Dr. Schwambach [clcrschwambach@ceteol.com.br] is General Director of the Faculdade Luterana de Teologia (FLT) in São Bento do Sul SC, located in the south of the country. He is also Coordinator of Post-graduation Studies, and has recently become General Editor of FLT's theological review *Vox Scripturae - Revista Teológica Brasileira*. He holds the Bachelor of Theology from his own institution which was formerly known as Centro de Ensino Teológico (CETEOL), and has studied at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tuebingen, with doctoral studies at Friedrich-Alexander-Universitaet Erlangen-Nuernberg.



He is Brazilian by birth and is married, with the three children. He has worked as a missionary in Timbó/Benedito Novo (Brazil) with the Missão Evangélica União Cristã and also in the Casilla Dos of Paraguay with Union Evangelica del Paraguay. He joined FLT in 2002 as a part-time professor of Systematic Theology, a post which he now holds on a full time basis. He has published many academic and popular theological and biblical articles in Portuguese and German. His dissertation is *Rechtfertigungsgeschehen und Befreiungsprozess. Die Eschatologie M. Luthers im kritischen Gespräch mit der Eschatologie südamerikanischer römisch-katholischer Befreiungstheologie von L. Boff und J. B. Libânio*

## Lausanne 2004 Forum Reports to be Published On-Line

Reports from the 2004 Forum on World Evangelization held in Pattaya Thailand will soon be available on-line, according to LCWE's International Director, Tetsunao Yamamori. He said, 'Our goal is to reach as broad an audience as possible with the results of the Forum but in a different way than we have published in the past'.

Mr. Yamamori reported that Lausanne and the Billy Graham Center have agreed to work together with the BGC functioning as a communications arm of Lausanne. The main publication will be the Newsletter which will be produced electronically once a month from early 2005. He also announced an attractive magazine about Lausanne and the 2004 Forum in several languages, to be available in early 2005. This will be supplemented by a video as well.

The reports from the Issue Groups at the 2004 Forum held at Pattaya, Thailand will be produced online in English, and in other languages depending on the availability of translators. An electronic version is planned for later. In addition, a full 1600 page Compendium of all the reports is planned, which will be useful for libraries, mission headquarters, academics for classroom use, and anyone who wishes to keep a bound copy in his/her personal library. It will be published by William Carey Library, Pasadena, Calif. More information: [www.lausanne.org](http://www.lausanne.org)

*LCWE E-Newsletter - December 2004*

## Langham Assists Solomon Islands Seminary

Langham Partners Australia (LPA) in association with its parent body, Langham International, is marshalling special assistance for a seminary in Solomon Islands which has suffered from the significant social unrest which has hit the isolated country in recent years. Communications with the outside world suffered and the Christian community lost many of the links that were previously available to it. With the assistance of other South Pacific nations, including Australia, many of the problems are being addressed.

Through Patrick Cole, an Australian working the Solmons, LPA has made contact with Bishop Pattenon Seminary (BPS) to bring extra financial support. BPS, founded in 1970 and located on Guadalcanal Island, trains ministry candidates and other workers for the Church of Melanesia (the Anglican church in the Solomons), together with ministry candidates for other denominations. It offers diploma and certificate level courses. In 2004 there were 120 full time students, with 80 studying the diploma course and the remaining 40 studying the certificate course. However, BPS has no internet connection, and the library needs additional resources.

LPA has organised a Langham Literature grant, to be underwritten by the Australian body, which is also looking for other ways to assist the seminary. BPS is also seeking Greek New Testaments and Hebrew Bibles to meet the needs of its biblical languages students.

Because LPA considers the role of BPS in Solomon Islands to be so strategic, it will continue to assist this work and will also look for opportunities to establish links with other seminaries and colleges in the South Pacific who train men and women for Christian ministry.

Langham Partners Australia News (adapted) [wendy.toulmin@langhampartnership.org.au](mailto:wendy.toulmin@langhampartnership.org.au)

## Task Force on Theological Education to Publish its Findings

A Task Force set up in 2003 to study 'The Theology of Theological Education' is about to publish its findings in a special issue of Evangelical Review of Theology (ERT). Led by Dr Brian Edgar, Visiting Professor at Asbury Theological Seminar, the Task Force was appointed by the Theological Commission and the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) as a result of track on the topic at a consultation held at High Wycombe in 2003.

The papers will be published in the July 2005 issue of ERT, and cover a variety of perspectives, and include the keynote address of the Consultation by Professor Miroslav Volf of Yale Divinity School, 'Dancing with Wolves'. The concern for the topic arose out of the ICETE 'Manifesto on the Renewal of Theological Education' which calls for the educators to 'take immediate and urgent steps to seek, elaborate and possess a biblically-informed theological basis for our calling in theological education, and to allow every aspect of our service to become rooted and nurtured in this soil.' The papers prepared by the Task Force provide a solid basis for this task.

Extra copies of this issue of the journal are being produced for distribution to those interested in the theological education. For details contact local ICETE member bodies or the editor (details back page). The deadline for orders is 15 May, 2005.

# The Book Shelf



***In this issue we feature contributed reviews on books on missions.***

***by David Parker\****

***Mission Now: Developing a Mission Lifestyle*** by Trev Gregory (Carlisle, UK: Authentic Lifestyle, 2003. ISBN 1-85078-546-5. 222 pages, paperback)

Here is a challenging contemporary book on mission mobilisation focussed on a lifestyle approach. Gregory describes this as a way of life or style of living that reflects the attitudes, values and actions of a person or group (p. 4). The three parts of the book deal with encountering a mission lifestyle then describing a mission lifestyle for the church and finally developing a mission lifestyle in that order.

The main contributor in Part I, Trev Gregory, starts by laying a biblical foundation for missions and moving the reader through the first chapter of Colossians. The goal is that the reader might understand who he or she is and where he or she fits into God's Kingdom and eternal plan (p. 7). This identity approach is felt by this reviewer to be a key to stimulating individuals in mission, particularly if they see reaching the world as the main theme of Scripture and not just a concern of some people in the church. But Gregory wants identity to move to belief and then on to action. The remainder of Part I defines mission, explains the different types of mission, and challenges the reader to get involved.

Part II consists of eight major articles originally written in 1901 by renowned author and pastor, Andrew Murray (1828–1917) but abridged and contemporised by Gregory. Murray's articles are built around four major theses: 1) Global mission is for the whole church and is the reason for its existence, 2) The role of church leadership is to guide the church in this mission, 3) All preaching and teaching in the church should have this as a goal, and 4) Every leader in the church should seek God's grace to accomplish this global vision. Gregory states that Murray's challenging vision needed to be brought to the forefront again in this way.

Part III is final workbook section developed by Trev Gregory and another contributor, consisting of a plan for a week of prayer for mission, a worksheet to develop a global vision, a plan to develop cross-cultural understanding, guidelines to making decisions about mission, and a section on short term-missions.

This book presents the vision of world missions strongly, particularly the Moravian challenge, To win for the Lamb that was slain, the reward of his sufferings (p. 80). It includes some of the best of Andrew Murray's writings on missions with contemporary challenges by the other two contributors. Serious readers will certainly deepen their missionary commitment

One drawback is the difficulty of determining who is speaking, Andrew Murray or one of the other two contributors. The book is not written by either a missiologist or a theologian but an ordinary Brit with a passion for global mission, young people and Europe. If one is looking for a challenge based on a scholarly approach to missions in the Bible much is available elsewhere. But if one is looking for a heart warming challenge, this is the book.

**Reviewed by Robert J. Vajko, International Church planting Consultant for The Evangelical Alliance Mission**

***Lambs Dancing with Wolves: A Manual for Christian Workers Overseas***, Michael Griffiths, (London: Monarch Books, 2001), 379pp.

Michael Griffiths has produced an excellent manual for cross cultural missionaries to prepare them for what they will face as messengers of the gospel. Using the popular film, *Dances with Wolves* (hence the title) as a thematic outline, Griffiths parallels the experience of the film's hero with the missionary task of connecting with indigenous people to communicate the gospel. It is an innovative approach and no doubt will speak to the younger generation of recruits who are more in tune with media. While at times slightly forced in making the comparisons, nevertheless Griffiths has hit the right note in communicating what are the essential characteristics of effective transmission of the gospel.

There is a banner across the right hand corner of the book that is printed to look like someone penciling a note on the cover. Take this book with you it reads. That was my impression as I read it because while some of the material is crucial before even applying to a missionary society, much of what the book is concerned with will not be understood by the candidate until he/she is actually in contact with another culture.

Having taught missions and having served as a mission executive, I can attest that Griffiths hits all the right notes. He is focused more in this book on relationships to national Christians, a lack he notes in the introduction in his earlier book on the missionary life. The new reality is that missionaries, for the most part, are not in charge any more and the local believers are calling the shots. Therefore the stress on adapting to the culture and working in a team are much appreciated emphases. This is especially true as the dynamics of missions today is that most missionaries will find themselves on a multi-national and multi-racial team as God calls recruits from the non Western world into missionary service.

The questions of singleness and marriage each merit their own chapter and there is a lot of sound wisdom in what is written. In these chapters as in much of the book, there is gold that can be mined for those who remain in their home country. Indeed, with the developed world becoming an increasingly multi cultural scene, study of this manual would benefit stay at homes who find that there are opportunities for cross cultural interaction where they work or live.

**Reviewed by Dr Jim Stamoolis, former Executive Director, WEA Theological Commission**

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