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TC Executive Director Principal Redcliffe College



Dr Rosalee Velloso Ewell, who has served as Executive Director of the WEA Theological Commission for six years, has become Principal of Redcliffe College, commencing in September 2017. For the foreseeable future she will continue to serve the Theological Commission of the WEA.

Dr Ewell, who was born into a pastor's family in São Paulo, Brazil, was Professor of Ethics and Biblical Theology at the South American Theological Seminary, Londrina, Paraná, Brazil. She is also the New Testament editor of the forthcoming Latin American Bible Commentary and is currently working on two writing projects - one is a theological analysis of major mission and evangelism documents of the past 120 years (co-edited with the TC's Senior Advisor on Evangelism, John Baxter-Brown). The second project is on the doctrine of God, to be published in the Langham Global Theology series.

Dr Ewell, who holds the degrees of BA, MA and PhD, also worked with Lausanne's Theology Working Group and was on the Cape Town Commitment drafting team.

Dr Ewell lives in Birmingham, U.K. with her husband, Sam, and their three children. They are active in various community groups and in finding meaningful activity and employment for some of the men mentored by Sam, who also works as a chaplain at the prison near their home in Birmingham.

Having served as a Trustee for the past three years during a significant period of change and development for Redcliffe, Dr Ewell has stepped down from this position to join the staff team in leading the College into the future. In announcing the appointment, Redcliffe College, which was founded 125 years ago to train women for cross-cultural work, said that her appointment resonated especially well with the College's heritage, its heartbeat and its continued commitment to making high-level training accessible to those in mission and ministry, wherever they are. The previous principal was Rob Hay who is moving to a new role within the Anglican Diocese of Leicester.

Bishop Martyn Snow, the Chair of Trustees for Redcliffe College, said, 'I give thanks to God for calling Rosalee to this significant role. Redcliffe has been through some big changes in the last couple of years and Rosalee has been a part of that journey. Now she will lead Redcliffe as we deliver flexible mission training around the world. Her considerable reputation as an academic who is deeply committed to partnering with God in both local and global mission is a huge asset and I look forward to seeing how God uses her in this role.'

Redcliffe College is located in the Cathedral Close in the centre of Gloucester, UK and has hubs around the world. For more information, see www.redcliffe.ac.uk



Schirmachers teach at Lahore, Pakistan

Thomas and Christine Schirmacher, both professors serving the World Evangelical Alliance, have recently lectured at The Full Gospel Assemblies Bible College, Lahore, established in 1967 and serving about 200 Full Gospel churches. The visiting lecturers from Bonn, Germany, praised the school for giving female students such a prominent place. While Christine Schirmacher encouraged the female students to learn as much as they can, using their gifts and talents for taking over responsibility for the future of the world around them,

Thomas Schirmacher addressed the male students: 'Women should develop the gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit as much as men.'

Principal Rev. Dr. Liaquat Qaiser said, 'There are about 45,000 adult members in the FGS churches. 500 pastors, evangelists and Christian workers have been trained through the Bible College.' A Christian monthly magazine named 'Satoon-i-Haq' (Pillar of Truth) was launched in 1985. A Bible Correspondence School was established in 1970 that has reached millions of people. Twenty six Christian books in Urdu and ten Gospel tracts have been published.

Promoting Biblical Truth by Networking Theologians

World Evangelical Alliance in Peace Initiative



At the end of a speech on principles of peace-making at a Vatican conference on ‘Ethics in Action,’ Prof. Thomas K. Johnson, WEA Ambassador to the Vatican, publicly shook hands with the Iranian Shiite Ayatollah Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, a prominent international spokesman for his variety of Islam. Johnson said this was a public offer from the World Evangelical Alliance to send senior representatives to work on peace with any government or any major religious body that finds itself in conflict with evangelical Christians.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher, Associate Secretary General of the WEA, said in further explanation, ‘The WEA is now appointing people to represent us in relation to other religions and governments, and, until these people are appointed, either Prof. Johnson or I can go wherever we are needed. Commissioner Christine MacMillan, our WEA Associate Secretary General for Public Engagement, and Prof. Dr. Johannes Reimer, our WEA Director of Peace and Reconciliation, are also available and will be eager to lend their considerable expertise.’

The conference was attended by numerous Catholic officials, a retired President of the European Commission, a senior representative of the United Nations, a representative of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and representatives from most of the world’s major religious traditions. This conference is part of a new multi-year initiative in response to the perception that religious persecution, religious violence, religious extremism, endless wars in the Middle East, and the related refugee crises are not only at extreme levels but could lead to further wars. The two-day meetings will be held once every three months, usually at the Vatican.

Prof. Thomas K. Johnson is the author of *Human Rights: A Christian Primer*. The second edition was jointly published in 2016 for the WEA and a Vatican-based think tank.

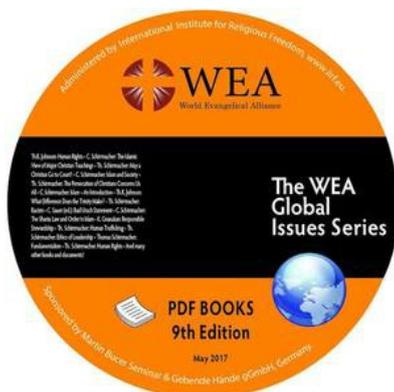
Global Ecumenical Theological Institute 2018

The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) 2018, a global ecumenical short-term study and exposure programme, will be held in conjunction with the World Mission Conference in March 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania. The first event of this kind was held in Busan, South Korea in 2013 where the participation of young theologians from a variety of countries and church traditions sparked a fresh attention for new forms of experiential theological formation.

As an ecumenical theological education event, GETI 2018 is designed for approximately 120 advanced students in theology and related academic fields with an interest in gaining insights into the ecumenical movement’s current debates on understanding and practicing mission in various regions of the world. GETI 2018 is engaging with the World Mission Conference’s theme *Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship*. The student participants will explore together on how the Gospel is translated into their different cultures and contexts, and on ways in which they feel called and moved by the Spirit to transform the world. The venue lends itself for a first-hand experience in one of the most vibrant contexts of world Christianity.

The main event, the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, to be held 8-13 March, 2018, is the long tradition of the International Mission Council and the World Council of Churches’ (WCC) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), organized every decade. The conference will understand mission as a multivalent activity, including joyful witness in word and deed to the person of Jesus Christ and his gospel; commitment to working for justice and reconciliation among all peoples and within all of creation; and participation in interfaith, secular, and ecumenical dialogue that seeks mutual understanding and common witness. It will celebrate the unity of all peoples as it marvels at their God-given diversity. It will reflect thoughtfully on various issues of missionary practice and seek new ways of being faithful to God’s mission in the world with the leading of the Spirit. For more information, click [here](#).

Free WEA TC Books and Journals



The Theological Concerns Department of the World Evangelical Alliance has for years distributed a CD with many books on theology, world religions, as well as several journals. It is updated regularly.

The 9th edition of mid 2017 just published contains the whole WEA Global Issues Series, the whole WEA World of Theology Series, all editions of the International Journal for Religious Freedom, the Journal for Islam and Christianity, and many other books in English and a small number of books in French and Spanish.

Bulk copies of the CD for conferences, seminaries and friends of WEA are available for free on request. A list of contents is available [here](#) and the full content (328mb) may be downloaded from [here](#). For more information, contact Martin Warnecke (martin.Warnecke.TS@iirf.eu).



Registrations open for ICETE Consultation

Registrations are now open for the Global Consultation conducted ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Education) to be held 29 October-2 November 2018 at Westin Playa Bonita in Panama City, Panama.

A 50% discount applies for registrations lodged and paid for before 1 Feb 2018. This means ICETE members from the majority world will cost US\$150, and from the non-majority world, US\$200. A payment of half the total fee is payable on lodgement and the rest by the cut-off date. Spouses who register together pay only a single fee if paid by the discount date.

Accommodation rates are \$125 per person per night double, and \$150 per person per night single room. There is also a special rate for pre- and post-consultation stays. Registration and bookings can be made at this [website](#).

The theme of the consultation will be, 'The sacred/secular divide and theological education'.

ICETE is a global community, sponsored by nine regional associations of theological schools, to enable international interaction and collaboration among all those concerned for the enhancement of evangelical theological education worldwide. It is a Global Partner within the World Evangelical Alliance. The International Director is Rev Dr Riad Kassis (Lebanon) and the website is <http://www.icete-edu.org/>

Unity and Collaboration: Moving Forward in Nepal

By Dr. Abraham Saggi, Dean, AGST Nepal

Over the course of several centuries, countless missionaries and Christian tourists have dreamt, prayed for, and toiled to see the church planted in Nepal. Finally, with the dedicated efforts of Western mission agencies, individual missionaries from India, and the Nepali Christian diaspora, a vibrant and growing church emerged in the late nineties. The church grew exponentially and with that so did the challenges and problems.

It is worth noting in such situations that the sustainability of a growing church depends on quality training programs for evangelists, pastors, and leaders be it formal or informal. Unfortunately, the ongoing theological training programs available did not match the expansion of the church. There was definitely the need to train next generation leaders for Nepal—and this was not a job for just one man—or institution, for that matter.

To meet this need, theological institutions needed to work and venture together and create a consortium. This consortium came to be known as the Nepal Theological Academy, now Asia Graduate School of Theology, Nepal (AGSTNP).

AGST Nepal was conceived as a response to the need to train next generation leaders for Nepal—and is a reflection of the desire of our Master that his children be united and together engage in his mission, as seen in John 17. It was four years ago that five theological institutions—Nepal Theological College (NTC), Satobato; Nepal Ebenezer Bible College (NEBC) Jorpati; Nepal Presbyterian Theological Seminary (NPTS), Sunakoti; Nepal Baptist Bible College (NBBC), Immadole; and Evangelical Presbyterian Theological Seminary (EPTS), Baisapati—united, with the encouragement of Dr. Bruce Nicholls, to make quality training possible.

With the birth of this consortium, several committees were likewise organized for purposes of curriculum development, research, publication, short term training programs, and holistic developmental activities for students. And just recently, ATA has accredited its M.Div. program for which we are deeply grateful.

This consortium hopes to equip leaders across the nation for and from the next generation, and we hope to do so in the following three ways: i) through formal programs such as M.Div., M.Th. and, in the near future, doctoral studies; ii) capacity building programs such as seminars, lectures, training programs; and iii) holistic development programs such as seminars, inter-seminary sports, essay competitions, community events, and personal mentoring.

Furthermore, with the approval of the leaders of ATA, AGST Nepal will be offering an M.Th. program beginning July 2017. We have already granted admission to 11 M.Th. students, six of which are taking Practical Theology while five are taking Intercultural studies. But we do not stop here.

We go on dreaming further and hope to start M.Th. and doctoral programs in several disciplines and develop faculty for existing seminaries where qualified residential teachers are scarce. Our goal is to see at least two member institutions of the consortium starting their own M.Div. program, allowing the consortium to concentrate on the M.Th.

We are definitely moving forward and as we do so we remain sensitive to the various needs of the theological community, the church, and society; and we pray that we will stay together, learn together, grow together, and witness to our Lord together.

Transitions - Editorial and More!

Former TC member and Executive Director of the WEA TC, Dr David Parker (Australia) reflects on his 30 years involvement with the TC as he concludes as Editor of ERT and TN. For a more detailed account of the TC, see his history, 'Discerning the Obedience of Faith' (World of Theology Series, 3)

Writing this piece is my last responsibility for the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission. As announced earlier, with the October 2017 issues, I am concluding as editor of this newsletter and of the TC's journal, *Evangelical Review of Theology*. This completes more than 30 years of involvement.

It began in 1986, when at the invitation of the then Executive Director of the TC, Dr Bruce Nicholls, I was invited to attend the TC Consultation held in Singapore, during which I was appointed as a member of the Commission, representing Australia. It was a lively meeting, with some very prominent people debating not only profound theological issues under the theme, 'Christ our Liberator and Redeemer', but also developments in the role and function of the Commission. Dr Nicholls had been the founding director of the TC but it was the end of his term. The top leadership as well as those who headed up the various sections of the work of the TC was changing. There was also concern that the WEA had instructed the TC to dissociate itself from one of its most successful journals.

My role as a TC member was at first minor, but I looked on with great interest as I participated in the various consultations, study groups and other activities that followed. There were plenty of ups and downs, but gradually I became more involved, especially from 1994 when Dr Nicholls invited me to work alongside him as Book Review Editor for ERT. Then in 1998 I replaced him as Editor. Meanwhile, he and I worked closely together in organising one of the key TC consultations, held in London in 1996, under the theme, 'Faith and Hope for the Future'.

Unfortunately, the expectations of that event, which drew key leaders from all around the world, were not fully realised, due in part to changes in the WEA itself, which often struggled to find a smooth path. Dr Rolf Hille of Germany was appointed Executive Chair of the TC, a position which he occupied faithfully for more than 20 years (apart from a short break around 2000). It was my privilege to work with him in an ever closer cooperation as we sought to steer the TC through more difficult times and to find a new *modus operandi* under the pressure of a reduced budget and increasing complexities. This gradually became clear and for several years we were able to carry a wide-ranging program of publication and consultations (both global and local) with the aim of 'promoting biblical truth by networking theologians.'

We had the vision of engaging with evangelical theologians in all parts of the world to develop biblical responses to key issues they were facing in their own context within the framework of a global evangelical voice. We hoped to see centres of creative theological activity in many different countries with a vigorous and productive interchange of ideas and insights with others around the globe. We were prepared to work with other groups such as the Lausanne theological group, evangelical theological educators, seminaries, missions, publishers and national Evangelical Alliances. We were particularly concerned that the burgeoning evangelical movement in the majority world would be an important part of our work.

I was eventually appointed Executive Director, and Dr Hille was able to resume the normal roll of Chair. Towards the end of the first decade of the new century, it seemed possible to transition to a new generation of leaders who could take this program on and develop it further, especially filling gaps in its regional representation and scope. But then in 2009-2010, there were unexpected changes which resulted in a complete change of structure, direction and method of operation. Even though I had resigned as Executive Director, including all editorial responsibilities in 2009, a sudden emergency saw me once again in the editor's chair, although this time under a new arrangement with Dr Thomas Schirrmacher (Germany) as the new Chair. Now after 8 years more work on ERT, TN and the web site, I am handing over to Dr Bruce Barron (USA).

If the WEA TC has changed extensively during this period, so have evangelicals and the world itself; methods, structures and programs must change as well. But it is a question whether the evangelical theological enterprise has changed for the better in that time. At an early stage in its history, Dr John Stott coined a threefold goal for the WEA, based on some words in Philippians ch 1: *the furtherance of the gospel; the defence and confirmation of the gospel; fellowship in the gospel*. The TC took up the second of these words, and the slogan for *Evangelical Review of Theology*, now completing 40 volumes, 'Discerning the obedience of faith' summed up accurately the distinctive and unique role of that journal, and indeed all of the publications, consultations and personal involvement of the TC.

In this year celebrating 500 years since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, it is appropriate to reassert the purpose of the organisation. There is no lessening of the need for clear well thought out, biblical based initiatives on a global scale showing the power of the gospel to transform lives and give meaning and purpose to the people of the world.

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