

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PLENARY AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Prof. Mark Strauss, BA (Westmont College), MDiv (Talbot School of Theology), ThM (Talbot School of Theology), PhD (University of Aberdeen)

Mark Strauss has been Professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary San Diego since 1994. He has also been a Member and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Bible Translation for the *New International Version* since 2004. His publications on the Gospels and Bible translation issues include 'The Gospel of Mark' in the revised *Expositors' Bible Commentary* (2010), the *NLT Study Series: John. Meet God Face to Face*, with Gary M. Burge (2009), *How to Choose A Translation for All It's Worth. A Guide to Understanding and Using Bible Versions*, with Gordon D. Fee (2007), and *Four Portraits, One Jesus. An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels* (2007).

Monday 4 July 11.30am

'Translation as Communication: The holistic and functional nature of language and its implications for contemporary Bible translation'

Biblical scholars study Greek and Hebrew texts under a microscope, which tends to promote an atomistic approach to language. While the most common offence for pastors and teachers is the tendency toward lexical fallacies (etymological, anachronistic, etc.), there is a more subtle tendency by scholars to forget that words and sentences are part of larger acts of communication, in which the function of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In this lecture I will discuss the communicative function of language and its implication for the translation of various linguistic and pragmatic entities, such as collocations, idiom, connotation and implication.

Monday 4 July 7.00pm: A public lecture co-sponsored by the Bible Society, Australia

'Bible Translation and the Myth of Literal Accuracy'

There is a strongly held conviction amongst many Christians – certainly in America, and probably more widely - that the most accurate translation of the Bible is a literal one. Phrases like 'word-for-word precision' and 'literal accuracy' appear frequently. Using examples from contemporary English and other contemporary languages, this lecture will seek to challenge this notion.

Tuesday 5 July 11.30am

'Gender Wars and Bible Translation: a report from the trenches'

My research and writing on translation began in the arena of gender language, and this continues to be a topic of interest. So in this session I will 'tell my story', deal with some of the key issues in the debate, and probe some of the political, social and ecclesiological issues involved (particularly on the American scene). This issue teaches us a great deal about the cultural dimensions that are involved in Bible translation.

Archbishop Dr Mark Coleridge, BA (University of Melbourne), LSS (Licentiate of Sacred Scripture, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome), DSS (Doctorate of Sacred Scripture, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)

Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn since 2006, Mark Coleridge lectured in Biblical Studies and served as Master at the Catholic Theological College within the Melbourne College of Divinity. He was the Founding Editor of the highest-ranked Australian theological journal, *Pacifica: Australian Theological Studies*. The Archbishop has a long-standing interest in biblical and liturgical translation and is currently Chairman of both the Roman Missal Editorial Committee (since 2004) and the International Commission for the Preparation of an English-language Lectionary (since 2006). He is also a member of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Monday, 4 July, 1.30pm

‘Words between Worlds: Missal, Bible, Mission’

I will begin by reflecting on my involvement over recent years in the re-translation of the Roman Missal, sketching something of what I have learnt in the process. I will move then to reflect upon the translation of the Bible, with specific reference to the King James Version and to the lectionary project in which I am now involved, asking what the KJV might teach us about biblical translation in our own time. I will then reflect upon the way in which liturgical and biblical translation are related to the mission of the Church, focusing upon how mission itself is an act of translation.

ROUND TABLES

Wednesday 6 July, 9.00am: ‘Challenge and Innovation in Theological Education’

Chair

Dr Geoff Treloar: Executive Registrar and Senior Lecturer in the History of Christianity, Alphacrucis College; Visiting Fellow, School of History and Philosophy, University of NSW. Geoff’s principal area of research, the interaction of Christianity with modern social and cultural developments, includes an interest in the history of theology and theological education in Australia.

Presenters

Dr Charles Sherlock, Executive Officer, ANZATS: ‘Learning and teaching systematic theology: case studies’

In this presentation Charles Sherlock uses specific case studies to explore how students can be enabled to assess and integrate material in areas they (may) have strong ideas about, such as Scripture, election, ministry ... viewed in theological terms.

Dr Graeme Chatfield, Associate Dean, Australian College of Theology: ‘HDR supervisors as teachers and learners’

After receiving his PhD from Bristol University in 1993, Graeme Chatfield taught Church History at Morling College 1996-2007 and has supervised research masters in Church History and professional doctorates in ecclesiology. Since joining the Australian College of Theology as the Associate Dean in

September 2008 one of his primary responsibilities has been the development of the research profile of the ACT at large. In this presentation he will reflect on the place of teaching and learning for HDR supervisors.

***Mrs Diane Hockridge, Distance and Online Coordinator, Sydney College of Divinity:
'Taking the distance out of distance learning'***

The past decade has seen great change in the ways in which higher education courses are delivered. The 'correspondence' or study package method of distance education is long established, but methods of flexible delivery and online learning have been increasingly adopted in the wider higher education sector and by theological institutions. Some theological institutions, however, have chosen not to engage in forms of learning that are not primarily face-face due to concerns about whether distance learning is effective for the kind of communal and formational learning that is central to theological education. The changing environment for teaching and learning raises questions about teaching and learning theology by distance: Can we do it well? What's the best way to do it? What do our students want and expect?

This presentation will address these issues and suggest how theological education might make use of new approaches and technologies to take the distance out of distance learning.

Dr Len Smith, Principal, Emmaus Bible College, SCD: 'The world at our door'

We are familiar with the idea of distance or remote students, typically taught by some or other means from a central educating hub. Modern technology, however, now makes it possible to bring a lecturer working in a remote location, whether within Australia or beyond, into a classroom, where a group of students may function as if in an ordinary face-to-face situation. This presentation explores the challenges and possibilities of this new world for theological education.

Wednesday, 6 July, 1.30 pm: Current Issues in Missiology and Mission

Chair: Dr David Claydon: Canon of Cairo Cathedral, Egypt, and St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney; Moderator for Evangelism and Mission with the Australian College of Theology. David's roles have included: Director of Scripture Union for Australia and Pacific Islands; Federal Secretary of the Church Missionary Society; President of the United Mission to Nepal; and Senior Advisor to the Lausanne Movement. David has also published in the area of cross-cultural mission.

Presenters:

***Mrs Robyn Claydon, Vice-Chair of the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelization:
'Current Challenges and Opportunities for Mission'***

Based on her own theological training and her experience in Christian ministry and leadership training especially for women worldwide, and using biblical and life examples, Robyn Claydon will explore the opposition and challenges to mission from the earliest times to the present day, the opportunities offered in the past and the present, and actual and potential consequences of ongoing mission, including suffering.

Dr Stuart Devenish, Lecturer in Missiology and Spirituality at Booth College, SCD: 'Remissionalization: the great new need of our time'

Western Church leaders in the twentieth century expressed the optimistic goal of winning the world for Christ within the short term, but it is now clear that Christianity in the Western world has entered a phase of *general emergency*. It has lost its once unassailable position as the bulwark of Western society to become increasingly marginalized and the West is becoming a mission field in its own right. If Christianity is to re-awaken, and if remissionalization is to occur in the highly secularized Australian context, how will it happen? This presentation explores the potential of missiology, which drew its life from overseas cross-cultural situations, to address key questions for the home situation.

Dr Richard Hibbert, Lecturer in Missiology, Sydney Missionary and Bible College, ACT: 'Why do people leave churches? A case study from Bulgaria with missiological implications'

Missionaries and Christian workers get excited about people coming to faith in Christ and churches multiplying, but some are faced with stagnation or decline. This is the current situation among Muslim-background Turkish-speaking Roma churches in Bulgaria. Richard Hibbert will outline his ethnographic research into why people have left churches and suggest implications for other contexts.

Dr Patrick McInerney, Lecturer in Missiology, Catholic Institute of Sydney, SCD: 'The role of dialogue in mission'

Vatican II is widely regarded as a 'watershed' in relations between Catholics and believers from other religions. It set in motion a process of practice and development in teaching that advanced over the next forty years and is still ongoing. Patrick McInerney will trace these developments through some of the key teaching documents of the Catholic Church. These form a resource for a more whole-hearted embrace of dialogue in all its dimensions, ecumenical, inter-religious, intercultural, religious-secular and ecological.