

Newsletter Summer 2007

Paul Helm & Gerald Bray

We are delighted to announce that Professor Paul Helm and Dr Gerald Bray have just joined the staff of the Highland Theological College in a part-time capacity.

It is due to the generosity of UHI, which is keen to develop the research side of our developing university, that we have been enabled to make these appointments.

Professor Helm and Dr Bray are both well known scholars in the Reformed tradition with many publications to their names. Professor Helm is a philosopher who formerly taught at King's College, London and at Regents College, Vancouver. Dr Bray taught at Oakhill Theological College in London and more recently at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He is currently Director of Research for the Latimer Trust.

These fine scholars will each supervise three or four PhD students and will also teach two MTh modules (or BA Hons. modules) at HTC. We are delighted to welcome them to the team!

United Free Church of Scotland

You will be pleased to know that the United Free Church of Scotland, at its General Assembly, approved HTC as a place of education and training for its ministers.

Following the decision of the APC several years ago and that of the Church of Scotland last year, we can rejoice at this further avenue for service.

Congratulations

To: **Mark Ellis**, former HTC student, who has been appointed as UCCF leader of the Scottish staff and relay team.

To: **Ross MacAskill**, who has been accepted as a candidate for ministry in the Church of Scotland. Having completed his BA at HTC, Ross will now return to HTC to complete his Honours year and then the MTh.

To: **Norman MacKay**, who has been accepted as a candidate for ministry in the Free Church of Scotland. Norman is a graduate of HTC, having studied by distance learning.

To: **William Patterson**, one of our BA graduates, who has been accepted as a candidate for ministry in the Free Church of Scotland. William will now go to the Free Church College in Edinburgh to study again for his BA in Theology.

To: **Mike Rasmussen**, one of our part-time PhD students, who has just been appointed to a teaching position at Westminster Theological Seminary's Dallas campus. This is the second professor that HTC has supplied to Dallas, the first being Dr David McWilliams.

To: **Cameron Rose**, one of our Open Learning BA students, who was recently elected to serve on Edinburgh City Council. It is great to have more Christians involved in the political process.

To: **John Ross**, who is the current Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. The Rev. Dr Ross is a PhD graduate of HTC.

Finance Officer

We are pleased to announce that Marie Ewan has been appointed as our new Finance Officer. Marie took up her post on 2 July.

There will be a transition period through the summer, as Marie takes over from Sandra MacDonald, whose secondment from OMF ends on 31 August.

Sandra has been with us for 5 years and during her time at HTC has gained her BA and has also been involved in developing the Missionary element of the BA course. We wish Sandra well in her return to full-time OMF work.

Marie joins us from Ross County Football Club where she was Finance & Administration Manager for 5 years. She will be a valuable addition to the HTC team and we are delighted to have her on board. Welcome Marie!

Largest Intake of First Year Students for HTC

This year sees our largest intake yet of first year students to the BA course. Student numbers have been rising steadily since the College began, and this semester's intake is very encouraging. Student fees alone do not cover all the costs of running a college, which is why HTC relies upon donations from individuals and churches, but increasing student numbers do bring some financial benefits to the College. Bigger class sizes will enhance learning by way of greater group discussion opportunities. Meanwhile, the tutor to student ratio remains high, providing an excellent environment for learning.

We are also very happy to be able to launch our MTh course this year. With the Study Leave programmes offered by many denominations, the MTh is an excellent 'Continuing Professional Development' opportunity for those who already have an honours degree.

For more information about any of HTC's courses, please contact us.

HTC Annual Meeting & Graduation Friday 26th October 2007 Castle Street Church, Dingwall

We look forward to welcoming Professor Ted Donnelly of the Reformed Presbyterian College in Belfast as the guest preacher. In addition, Professor Donnelly will give the fourth F.F. Bruce lecture earlier in the day.

The F.F. Bruce Lecture will take place at **3pm**.

The Annual Meeting and Graduation Ceremony starts at **7pm**.

All Welcome. Please come along and support our students.

Australia

Professor McGowan will be in Australia for the first part of September as guest preacher at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. In addition to giving lectures at the Presbyterian Theological Colleges in Sydney and Melbourne, Professor McGowan will also speak at a youth conference and preach in various churches.

Walk for Africa

Thank you for supporting HTC's Sponsored Walk of the West Highland Way.



They were blessed with good weather and virtually no midges!

Thanks to everyone who filled in a sponsor form. The money should now be sent in to Marina MacKenzie at the HTC address.

It took Andrew McGowan, Principal, Hector Morrison, Vice Principal, and Fraser Jackson, IT Technician & Library Cataloguer, six days to successfully complete the 96 miles from Milngavie (near Glasgow) to Fort William.



If you did not have an opportunity to sign up but would like to make a donation for Africa, there is still time. Please send cheques (made payable to Highland Theological College') to Marina. Please clearly mark your donation 'West Highland Way'.

The sponsor money raised will be divided between the **Dumisani Theological Institute & Bible School** in King William's town, South Africa, where our former HTC colleague Professor Alistair Wilson is the Principal, and **Zomba Theological College** in Malawi, where Dr Bruce Ritchie, Minister in Castle Street Church of Scotland, Dingwall, used to teach.



Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School, based in King William's town, South Africa, provides theological education and training for the churches of the Eastern Cape of South Africa. It is the only institution providing this type of study at degree level within a radius of approximately 300km. Dumisani represents the interests of various churches, including the Free Church in Southern Africa and the Free Church of Scotland.

The Institute began in 1979, when its main emphasis was lay training and the provision of basic literature in English and Xhosa. It now offers diploma and degree level courses. Currently there are some 57 enthusiastic students (21 full-time and 36 part-time) studying mainly at degree level, 3 full-time academic staff and 4 administrative staff.



Zomba Theological College in Malawi

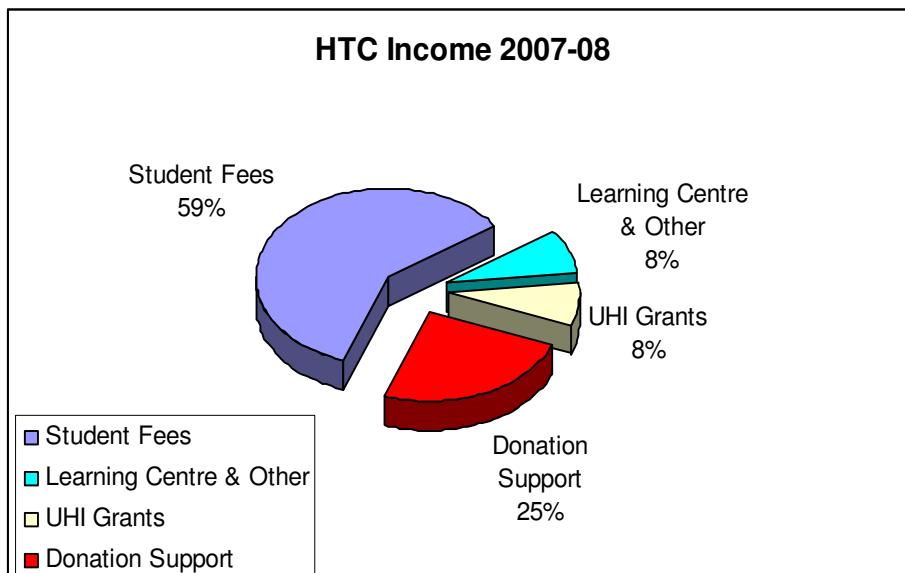
Malawi, described as 'the warm heart of Africa' because of the friendliness of its people, has a population of approximately 12 million, with about 90% living in villages in the Bush. Poverty, famine, illiteracy and HIV/AIDS affect a large percentage of the population. Christianity came to Malawi in the 1880s when a group of Scottish Presbyterians set up a mission on the shores of Lake Malawi. Zomba is the former capital of the country and seat of government (Lilongwe is now the capital). Zomba Theological College was founded in 1977. The church is growing in Malawi but faces many challenges, most notably the adherence of so many Christians to traditional tribal customs that often conflict with various church doctrines. This presents a real challenge to the teaching and understanding of Christianity in Africa.



Where our funding comes from in 2007-08

HTC is heading for another big intake of undergraduate students. This is great news for our overall funding for the coming session, as this will be nearly 60% of our income. Around half of our student fee income will come from bursary and self-funded students such as Access, Open Learning and International students. The other half will come direct from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) and via UHI from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

However, it will take much more than these student fees to keep the College living and growing. UHI Grants for academic operations and developments will contribute a further 8%, as will the Learning Centre and other smaller income streams.



This year, we again need 25% of our income to come from all those faithful folks who support us so well by their donations. In the past year to July, you gave generously over £150,000. Without that kind of support, HTC simply could not continue. Our auditors tell us so every year! We are, in a very real way, dependent on God for His provision for this work, through His people. We hope that you will be greatly encouraged by the blessing and fruit the work of the college is experiencing and will join with us through your giving and your prayer.

HTC Delivers Classes to Scottish Colleges



Not everyone is able to move to Dingwall for one to four years to study the BA in Theological Studies. Another option is to study the BA by Open learning from home. This, however, doesn't suit everyone either, so HTC makes the BA available through colleges across the Highlands and beyond.

Students studying by the 'remote' method are treated as full or part time students in the same way as those

in Dingwall. Thanks to a grant from UHI, all of HTC's classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, computers and video conference facilities. Students at remote sites are able to take part in classes in the same way as those on-site. They see the same notes, take part in class discussions and watch their lecturer in the same way as those at HTC. When the class is over they can continue to interact with their fellow students with the online discussion boards and student community.

There are also opportunities for 'remote' students to come to HTC for a day, a week or one of our 'teaching weekends', so that they can actually experience life at the college and meet their fellow students and lecturers face to face. Even where this is not convenient, host colleges provide very similar student facilities to those offered by HTC.

Colleges where you can study the BA by Video Conference are: Argyll College, Inverness College, Lewis Castle College, Lochaber College, Moray College, North Highland College, Orkney College, Perth College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Shetland College. Perth College is particularly useful as it opens up the option of studying at HTC to many people in central Scotland as commuting from the central belt is easy.

If you would like to know more about these options please contact the Academic Officer on 01349 780000 or at htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk

MTh in Reformed Theology

This taught MTh is intended to provide students who already have a degree in theology with an opportunity to study Reformed Theology to a deeper and greater extent than is possible at undergraduate level. It will particularly attract those with an interest in the rise and development of the Calvinistic tradition. It begins in October and students will complete a number of modules before writing a dissertation. Each module will be taught in an intensive one-week block in Dingwall.

Modules will include the following: History of Reformed Theology (Dr Gerald Bray); Scottish Covenant Theology (Professor ATB McGowan); Calvin & Calvinism (Professor Paul Helm); and Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation (Dr Nick Needham).

Anyone who is interested in registering for the degree should contact the Academic Officer on 01349 780000 or at htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk

Charitable Status in USA

HTC is a designated Scottish charity and UK taxpayers can contribute to the College using the Gift Aid scheme. We are delighted to announce that HTC now has charitable status in the USA, so that tax payers in the USA can also make tax deductible donations to HTC.

In order to achieve this, it was necessary to create a charitable foundation in the USA. This foundation, a 501(c)(3) in the official jargon, is called 'Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc.' and is registered in the State of Georgia. We are hugely indebted to a lawyer friend in Atlanta, Kirk Susong, who has put in a tremendous amount of work to create this foundation and then to have it recognised by the Internal Revenue Service. We are delighted that he has not only created the Foundation but has agreed to chair the Board of Trustees.

The inaugural Trustees of the Foundation are Kirk Susong, L. Roy Taylor, Lewis Bell, Allen Curry and Andrew McGowan. Roy Taylor is the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America, Lewis Bell is a lawyer in Jackson, Mississippi and Allen Curry is a Professor at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Any US taxpayer who wants to make a tax deductible donation to HTC should make a cheque payable to: 'Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc.' and send it to the following address: 1327 Peachtree Street, Apt. 903, Atlanta, GA 30309. Thank you.

- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- If you have an email address and would like to receive communications that way instead of by mail it could save us a lot of money.
- If you know of anyone else who would like to be kept informed of HTC's work please encourage them to send us their details so that we can mail or email them too.

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HTC is a constituent partner of
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