



Report to College Council

June 2015

Aims and Objectives of the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre

The Spirituality and Worship Research Centre (SWRC) was announced, and a director appointed in the first half of 2015. The Centre is still in its beginning stages, and beginnings are interesting and plastic times. As yet there is a very informal structure for the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre, although it is anticipated that various committees will be put in place to support the work of the Centre. So no board has met to consider mission statements, nor has the scope of projects it will involve itself in been defined in any way, and no policies are in place about how researchers become involved in the activity of the Research Centre. All of these things will be developed over the next few months, taking due consideration of how the other research Centers become structured and what policies they put in place. But even now some things have emerged that are likely remain constant through future discussions of the aims and objectives of the Centre.

First, the Centre has been designed to be interdisciplinary and inter-institutional. It is to be a place where researchers from Avondale and around the world can work together on research relating to matters of spirituality and worship. Spirituality can have many different meanings. At this stage of its formation, the Centre is understanding this concept in a very broad manner. At the very least it would incorporate any matters relating to religious experience (particularly Christian religious experience, and hence also the inclusion of worship in its scope), matters relating to intangibles associated with literary and artistic expression, the intangibles associated with the special character of religiously based and founded organizations, and the place of the spiritual in the life of the whole person.

Second, the Centre will be actively seeking out research that will contribute to the Academic Sphere, defined broadly. As a Centre associated with a Tertiary Institution with a strong interest in research, it will seek out research grants and foster research into areas that are most likely to produce reportable academic research. Naturally dissemination of the results of research will be not confined solely to the sphere of Academic Publications, but the value of research is only enhanced if it is reported in a manner that is academically rigorous.

Third, the Centre will seek out research that will contribute to the work of the Christian Church, and to the enhancement of the social capital of society.

Finally, the Spirituality and Worship Centre will, by its very existence, highlight the continued importance of the spiritual heritage of Avondale College of Higher Education. One of Avondale's defining characteristics is that its education is founded on and incorporates Christian values, particularly those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The First Meeting of Interested Parties

After the opportunity to promote the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre to the Avondale Faculty, an invitation was sent out to all interested lectures and administrators at Avondale to come together to its “inaugural brainstorming session.” The invitation was extended to:

- Those with ideas for research projects that could be associated with the centre (all ideas welcome)
- Those who are already researching in an area that is associated with Spirituality and Worship (however loosely).
- Those who could be interested in joining a team working on research projects associated with the Research Centre
- Those who would like to just hear what is going on

There were a gratifying number of lecturers and research students who attended. Each in attendance shared some of their research interests that related to the scope of the SWRC. The following is a very brief summary of what was shared:

- Rob McIver, Director – Two ongoing large international research projects for General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, one in area of tithing (where Spirituality is one of the scales significantly related to tithing behaviour), the other on the special character of Adventist Institutions.
- Carolyn Rickett – Interested in medical humanities, spirituality and end of life care
- Daniel Reynaud: Interested in chaplains in World War One, and in religion and the Bible as literature.
- Darren Morton – Interested in where spirituality fits in general wellbeing
- Ewan Ward – Interested in the science-faith interface and all things spiritual
- Grace Paulson – Interested in the Bible and literature
- Jason Morton – Interested to become involved in the research project on fasting
- John Skrzypaszek – Interested in Spirituality and culture, as well as the early period of formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Kevin de Berg – Has had a long term interest Christian spirituality and science. Kevin was the founding editor of the journal, *Christian Spirituality and Science*, a publication of Avondale Academic Press, and now edited by Lyndon Rogers.
- Lindsay Morton – Interested in the work of the research centre.
- Lyell Heise – Has had a lifelong interest in Spirituality and Worship
- Maria Northcote – Working with Malcolm Anderson, Doug Hill (CSU), Brian Hemmings (CSU), Russell Kay (CSU), John W. Fisher (Federation) on a project entitled, “An investigation of the contribution of spiritual engagement to student academic life skills and resilience.”
- Marian Moroney – Interested in worship and music
- Peter Beamish – Currently working on a research project that is looking at measures of wellbeing of high school student, including their spirituality and how it contributes (or not) to their general resilience; planning a project which will consider the Spirituality of University Students and their denominational identity.
- Steven Thompson – interested in intersection between Biblical Studies and ancient ideas regarding health and wellbeing and religious ideas.
- Yvanna Phillips – Studying the effectiveness of Adventist television, video and film media intended for outreach purposes.

Possible Research Projects

The brainstorming session generated a number of useful ideas and suggestions for possible research projects. The most important of which was that urgent attention be given to establishing a presence on the Web for the Centre so that, amongst other things, researchers can announce projects, and recruit interested parties into their research teams. Many suggestions were made for possible research projects. Among the ideas suggested by those who are at the stage of recruiting a team of researchers were:

Daren Morton: (1.) Dataset of Adventist health and lifestyle survey. A MoU with division regarding access to the data is already in place and the data has been collected. The project focuses on children and spirituality. Profile data – baptized, from Adventist home etc. This data is presently untapped. (2) Had second meeting with Adventist retirement who are interested in growing the idea of Adventist distinct on positive wellbeing with intervention to be used as a pilot for other sites. Look at concepts and meaning, strengths and services.

Ewan Ward: (1) an interdisciplinary study on fasting and the physical/spiritual aspects of fasting; (2) an interdisciplinary study on the balance between negative prognosis from medical practitioners and keeping hope and faith alive in face of statistics and a negative prognosis. Looking at faith in God to heal patient which could be explored more. Work could include the interview patients, however, ethics will be a lot of work and project will take a lot of work and planning. This project would be conducted long term.

Peter Beamish: (1) a project which will consider the spirituality of University students and their denominational identity; (2) Spirituality and the community and whether people are becoming disenfranchised with the denominational processes. Looking at how spirituality works in the community and what are the components that make that up. It is evident that there is a growing disconnect; (3) Attachments between children and their parents. Studies already in how they are attached and how this relates to spirituality and education nexus. Great interdisciplinary approach.

Lillian Kent [via email]: There is a good opportunity for collaboration between the SWRC and the Lifestyle Research Centre. In particular the CHIP data has a number of items which could be investigated from the perspective of spirituality.

Those who are interested in any of the above projects should feel free to contact the principal investigators.

Previous and Expected Publications

The Centre has only begun operations (or to echo the words of Winston Churchill – “begun the beginning of operations”) so can only report publications that have been in the area of Spirituality and Research that have already been taken place. What is interesting to note is how much research and scholarship activity already exists in the area. For example, two researchers have taken the trouble to share with the director which of their own publications relate to the work of the Research Centre, and they are included here by way of interest:

Spirituality & Worship Research & Scholarship: D Reynaud 2010

Nicholls, Rhys and Reynaud, Daniel. ‘An ideological reading of *Uncle Arthur’s Bedtime Stories* using Critical Literacy,’ in *Teach, Journal of Christian Education*, 4:1, May 2010, 47-52 **refereed journal article**

Faith of the Anzacs. It Is Written Oceania/Adventist Media Network. 23 minutes. Channel 7, 25 April. Research, screenplay, co-presenter. Winner, Silver Angel Award 2011 National Television, for Excellence in Media. Also winner Australian Cinematographers Society NSW & ACT Bronze Award, **Documentaries, Cinema & TV: Mal Hamilton, creative work**

Brothers in Arms: Anzac Chaplains. It Is Written Oceania/Adventist Media Network. 23 minutes. Channel 7, 25 April. Research, screenplay, co-presenter, creative work

Faith of the Anzacs. Sydney: It Is Written Oceania/Adventist Media Network, 2010, **monograph**

Fernandez, Jane and Reynaud, Daniel. 'Sacralised Violence: Religion and the Anzacs in World War One,' at *Divining the Past*, Evangelical History Association, Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, 23 July 2010, conference paper

Reynaud, Daniel and Patrick, Arthur. 'Idealisation, Conflict and Maturation: The development of Seventh-day Adventist historiography,' at *Divining the Past*, Evangelical History Association, Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, 23 July 2010, conference paper

2011

'Fighting Mac: the story of William McKenzie,' *Signs of the Times*, 126:4, April 2011, 5-8, popular journal article

Reynaud, Daniel and Patrick, Arthur. 'Idealisation, Conflict and Maturation: The development of Seventh-day Adventist Historiography.' *Lucas: An Evangelical History Review*, 2:3, June 2011, 5 – 18, **refereed journal article**

Reynaud, Daniel, Manners, Bruce and Perry, Graeme. 'Hope Channel: An initial study on the Adventist church's television channel in Australia.' Consultancy Report. 8 June, Adventist Media Network, Wahroonga. Consultancy report

2012

Fighting Mac: the story of William McKenzie. It Is Written Oceania/Adventist Media Network. 23 minutes. Channel 7TWO, 25 April 2012. Research, screenplay, co-presenter, creative work

'Fighting Mac: the Anzac chaplain,' *South Pacific Record*, 117:8, 21 April 2012, 14-15. ARPA bronze award, Best Profile Story, 2013, popular journal article

Reynaud, Daniel and Fernandez, Jane, "'To thrash the offending Adam out of them": the theology of violence in the writings of Great War Anzacs,' at *Connections: the Australian Historical Association 31st Annual Conference*, 9-13 July 2012, University of Adelaide, conference paper

2013

'A Christian Aesthetics for the Arts: Creativity and Theology,' in *Manifest: Our Call to Faithful Creativity*. Edited by Nathan Brown and Joanna Darby. Warburton Vic: Signs Publishing, 2013, 7-13, **book chapter**

'The Enigma of Jesus in the Gospel of John,' in *Signs to Life: Reading and responding to John's Gospel*. Kendra Haloviak Valentine, with Carolyn Rickett, Daniel Reynaud, Jane Fernandez and Nathan Brown. Warburton Vic: Signs Publishing, 2013, pp 103-112, **book chapter**

2014

'History, Media and the Christian.' Television interview, Punctul de Plecare [The Starting Point], SperanțaTV, Romania, 26 January 2014. 58 minutes. <http://www.sperantatv.ro/web/daniel-reynaud-26-01-2014/>, **television interview**

'Bennet: Gallipoli Chaplain.' It Is Written Oceania/Adventist Media Network. 23 minutes. Channel 7TWO, 25 April 2014. Research, screenplay, co-presenter, **creative work**

Reynaud, Daniel and Fernandez, Jane, "'To Thrash the Offending Adam out of Them": The theology of violence in the writings of Great War Anzacs,' in *Secularisation: New Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Christopher Hartney. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, pp 134-150, **book chapter**

'Perspectives on 150 years of Seventh-day Adventist historiography,' at *Adventism and Adventist History: Sesquicentennial Reflections*, Silver Spring, MD, January 6, 2014, conference paper

'Conscientious Co-operation: Australian Seventh-day Adventism and the Great War,' at *The Impact of World War I on Seventh-day Adventism*, IAS Symposium, Friedensau Adventist University, May 12-15, 2014, conference paper

'The legend of William McKenzie,' in *Lucas*, 2:7, June 2014, pp 7-36 **refereed journal article**

2015

The Man the Anzacs Revered: William 'Fighting Mac' McKenzie, Anzac Chaplain. Warburton Vic: Signs Publishing, 2015, **monograph**

Daniel Reynaud & Larisa Miler, 'Australian Chaplains at Gallipoli: role, impact and influence,' at 4th International Gallipoli Symposium, Istanbul, 15-18 March 2015

Spirituality & Worship Research & Scholarship: Steven Thompson

Excerpt from an email from Steven Thompson:

I list current research interests which intersect with "spirituality and worship" when taken in a very broad sense. I would be happy for co-researching and co-publishing on these topics.

- I have traced the belief, from classical Greek sources to the present, that drunkenness has a "spiritual" component. This was published in two articles: "'Daimon Drink': Ancient Greek and Roman Explanations for Drunkenness," *Christian Spirituality and Science* 8 (2010) and "Thirst for Spirits? Thirst for Spirit? Two Models to Explain Alcohol's Impact," *International Journal of New Perspectives on Christianity* 1 (2009). More work can be done in this field.
- In the field of healthcare and healing in early Christianity, I have written "Did Jesus, in the Memory of his Earliest Followers, Ever Nurse the Sick?" in Stanley Porter and Andrew Pitts, eds. *Christian Origins and the Establishment of the Early Jesus Movement* (Early Christianity and its Hellenistic Context, vol. 4. Brill, forthcoming). There is more that can be done in this field.
- On the topic of mission in Scripture, I authored *Biblical Missionaries* (Pacific Press, forthcoming), the companion volume to the Sabbath School lessons for July-Sept 2015. I was also contributing author to the lessons themselves for that quarter. There is room for more work in this area.
- On the topic of the practical/spiritual (rather than scientific) implications of belief in the biblical doctrine of creation, I am working on a book exploring the practical and spiritual implications for a hypothetical early Christian who chooses to believe in creation--what difference did such belief make in daily living? It will be an expansion of my chapter "The New Testament Use of the Genesis Text" in Bryan Ball, ed. *In the Beginning: Science and Scripture Confirm Creation* (Pacific Press, 2012). Room here for more work.

Some publications in the areas from 2014

1. Cole, R. & Petersen, P. (Eds.). (2014). *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture*. Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
2. Cole, R. (2014). The pros and cons of intertextuality. In R. Cole & P. Petersen (Eds.), *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture* (pp. 3-15). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
3. Fisher, B. (2014). Interactive age-specific strategies for introducing beginner readers to the Bible as an authentic text. In L. Tolbert (Ed.), *Exploring and engaging spirituality for today's children: A holistic approach* (pp. 130-143). Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock.
4. Gane, B. (2014). Building a church that retains its young adults. In K. Hall & S. J. Kidder (Eds.), *Youth speak: The church listens* (pp. 11-26). Lincoln, NE: AdventSource
5. House, M. (2014). Cross-cultural mission as a transformative learning experience. In L. Ball & J.R. Harrison (Eds.), *Learning and teaching theology: Some ways ahead* (pp. 211-216). Melbourne, Australia: Morning Star Publishing.
6. Kent, G. J. (2014). My reading? Your reading? Author(ity) and postmodern hermeneutics. In R. Cole and P. Petersen (Eds), *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture* (pp. 95-114). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
7. Roennfeldt, R. (2014). Our Story as Text. In R. Cole & P. Peterson (Eds.), *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture* (pp.81-88). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
8. Roennfeldt, R. (2014). The Bible as Text. In R. Cole & P. Peterson (Eds.), *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture* (pp.17-25). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
9. Roennfeldt, R. (2014). Trinity: Toward a (Somewhat) Postmodern Perspective. In P. Peterson & R. McIver (Eds). *Biblical and theological studies on the Trinity* (pp.89-100). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.

10. Skrzypaszek, J. (2014). John Harvey Kellogg's concept of the godhead. In P. Petersen & R. Mclver (Eds). *Biblical and theological studies on the trinity* (pp. 193-217). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
11. Tasker, D. (2014). The fatherhood of God. In R. Cole & P. Petersen (Eds), *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of scripture* (pp. 275-291). Hindmarsh, Australia: ATF Press.
12. Thompson, S. (2014). Justice and the bible. In N. Brown & J. Darby (Eds.), *Do justice: Our call to faithful living* (pp. 7-12). Warburton, Australia: Signs.
13. Christian, B. & Kilgour, P. (2014). Faith Formation: Perceptions of Primary and High School Students in Australian Adventist Schools. *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*, 8(2), 20-27.
14. Christian, B. (2014). Values education and faith formation: A neat fit or more? *Journal of Adventist Education*, 77(1), 16-21.
15. Cole, R. (2014). Trouble in Paradise: One Christian Denomination's Contemporary Struggle Reconciling Science and Belief. *Christian Spirituality and Science*, 10(1), 23-32.
16. Bootsman, C. S., Rogers, L. J., & de Berg, K. C. (2014). Infidel Geologists! The Cultural Context of Ellen White's Statements on Geological Science. *Christian Spirituality and Science*, 10(1), 33-60.
17. Fisher, B. (2014). Bible stories in the classroom: The why and the how. *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 77(1), 24-31.
18. Gane, B. (2014). Adolescent faith that lasts. *The Journal of Youth Ministry*, 13(1), 42-61.
19. House, M. & London, L. H. (2014). Sabbath - Opportunity for authentic community. *Davaria*, 2(2), 18-23. Retrieved from <http://www.pau.ac.pg/davaria>
20. Christian, B. & Kilgour, P. (2014). Faith Formation: Perceptions of Primary and High School Students in Australian Adventist Schools. *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*, 8(2), 20-27.
21. Rogers, L. J. (2014). Old Universe But Young Life? *Christian Spirituality and Science*, 10(1), 6-22.
22. Skrzypaszek, J. (2014). The heart of the Seventh-day Adventist health message. *Ministry: International Journal for Pastors*, 86(12), 6-8.
23. Gane, B. (2014). Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church [Review of the book *Teenagers matter* by Mark Cannister]. *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*, 8(2), 62-63.

A Final Word

At the end of the meeting which took place on 7 April 2015, Associate Professor Robert Mclver, the Director of the Research Centre, made the following observation: "I want to thank those that have attended today's meeting. I am still thinking through what the research centre is, but after today's meeting I better understand what the centre is – I have seen your faces, and we are the research centre." I thank everybody who has shown interest in the work of the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre.

Robert K. Mclver, PhD
 Director Spirituality and Worship Research Centre
 Associate Professor Avondale College of Higher Education