

# Universities and Colleges

## David Spriggs

Dean of Studies



We are seeking to enhance the value of *The Bible in Transmission* for our readers by opening up various avenues for further research and reading. We are doing this with the cooperation of the universities and colleges with whom we are developing relationships and partnerships in order to advocate for the Bible in Higher Education.

### Chester University have an interesting selection to offer us.

#### Hope and climate change

Hope in the context of climate change was the subject of this Methodist/Baptist/URC report drafted by David Clough on behalf of an ecumenical study group: [www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/higf-studyguide-100909.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/higf-studyguide-100909.pdf)

#### Hope and 'posthuman' future

Elaine Graham offers a book which is exploring the narratives of hope for a 'post human' future. It explores the impact of digital technologies on the way we talk about what it means to be human, and within that the varying responses of pessimism/optimism – whether technologies will enhance our human capabilities or diminish and enslave us.

*Representations of the Post/Human: Monsters, Aliens and Others in Popular Culture* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002); ISBN 0719054427.



#### Hope in recovery programmes

Wendy Dossett and a team of Chester University-based researchers, are reflecting on the role of hope in drug and alcohol recovery. They are investigating the transformative spiritual experiences of those in 12-step recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, many of whom attribute their ongoing sobriety to a higher power. Wendy's article 'Addiction, spirituality and 12-step programmes' in *International Social Work* 56.2 (2013) reports some of the early findings of the Higher Power Project ([www.chester.ac.uk/higherpowerproject](http://www.chester.ac.uk/higherpowerproject); Twitter @higherpowerproj). For a more general introduction see her short article in the Spring 2013 issue of *QAADRANT* (go to [www.qaad.org/qaadrant/spring-2013/](http://www.qaad.org/qaadrant/spring-2013/)). Wendy spoke about the spirituality of those in recovery from addiction on *Beyond Belief* Radio 4, March 18th at [www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/belief](http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/belief)

#### Hope for church growth

David Goodhew of Cramner Hall, Durham has set up a centre for the study of church growth.

They held a significant conference in September 2013 (see [www.dur.ac.uk/churchgrowth/research/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/churchgrowth/research/)). David has also edited essays on church growth, *Church Growth in Britain: 1980 to the present* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012); ISBN 978-1409425779 (hbk).

#### Newman College

T Harvie, *Jürgen Moltmann's Ethics of Hope: Eschatological Possibilities for Moral Action* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009); ISBN 978-0754664819.

Tim Harvie takes up the ethical implications of hope theology which had been surprisingly undeveloped before the 1970s and 1980s. He pays particular attention to how the eschatological dimension of Moltmann's thought might provide a framework for moral action in such spheres as global economics.



#### Exeter University

##### The environmental crisis and hope

See C Southgate, *The Groaning of Creation: God, Evolution, and the Problem of Evil* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008), chs 6–7; ISBN 9780664230906; and, *Greening Paul: Rereading the Apostle in a Time of Ecological Crisis* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2010), chs 6–8; ISBN 978-1602582903.



There is also some helpful material from the Beyond Stewardship project online at <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/theology/research/projects/beyondstewardship/>

TJ Gorrings's, *The Common Good and the Global Emergency: God and the Built Environment* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011); ISBN 978-1107002012



##### Hope and the transition project

Tim Gorrings is directing a two-year AHRC-funded project on the Transition Town movement, working with Michael DeLashmott

and Justin Pollard. The research seeks to clarify the spiritual and value assumptions underlying transitioning, to compare them with those of the Christian tradition, and to see what each can learn from the other. See [www.transitiontowntotnes.org/2012/06/values-in-transition/](http://www.transitiontowntotnes.org/2012/06/values-in-transition/)

Siobhan Garrigan's work on community/religious reconciliation in Ireland, especially *The Real Peace Process: Worship, Politics and the End of Sectarianism* (London: Equinox, 2010); ISBN 978-1845536930.



##### The contribution of the arts to hope

See TJ Gorrings, *Earthly Visions: Theology and the Challenges of Art* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2011); ISBN 978-0300162806.

For those wishing to explore hope and the arts, Cliff College is running a new part-time HE Diploma in 'Creative Arts, Mission and Ministry' which can also be completed as a BA in Mission and Ministry. The course is designed for those involved in the creative arts who are seeking to relate their artistic work to Christian mission and ministry. For further details please see [www.cliffcollege.ac.uk](http://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk) or contact the Programme Leader Ian White on [i.j.white@cliffcollege.ac.uk](mailto:i.j.white@cliffcollege.ac.uk).

#### Heythrop College

Sahaya Selvam and Martin Poulson have written an article entitled 'Now and Hereafter', in which they examine recent developments in the psychology of hope from the perspective of religion, particularly Christianity. Available online at <http://publications.heythrop.ac.uk/1827/>

#### CMS

For a completely different approach, take a look at <http://pioneer.cms-uk.org>, find their blog section and type in Gavin Mart, Andrea Campanale or Kim Hartshorne, to find out how these pioneer missionaries are exploring hope through arts, festivals and innovative community projects, respectively.

*David Spriggs*