2010 Boston Conference
Edinburgh 2010

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2010Boston Conference
The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity

November 4-7, 2010

To be held at several Boston Theological Institute consortium schools and related churches and facilities, primarily along the “Green Line” of the Boston trolley system.

Seminary students and faculty from all over the world, but particularly as based in the schools of theology, seminaries and university divinity schools of the Greater Boston (USA) area, will hold a conference sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), the consortium of such schools. (A similar meeting was held in 1910 in Boston shortly after the one in Edinburgh.) The BTI envisions a conference that will come toward the end of 2010, offering a summation and analysis of the previous “Edinburgh Conferences.” The conference in Boston, with the theme “The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity,” will reflect the student and academic character of its setting. This conference will be an opportunity not only to interact with key mission leaders but will also include workshops welcoming student participation at a variety of points, particularly around the leading themes of the Edinburgh mission process. The goal of the conference is to discern a vision for what might constitute mission in the twenty-first century, a mission that stands in the trajectory of Christian witness from the earliest days of the church and is inclusive of matters relating to human flourishing, reconciliation, faith in the future and conducive of religious liberty. Dr. Dana L. Robert will be the opening keynote speaker at 2010Boston. Dr. Liz Parsons and CGCM Fellow Dr. Jesudas Athyal are on the planning team for the Boston conference. Doctoral student Ruth Padilla DeBorst, Christian Reformed missionary in Costa Rica, will also speak at the Boston conference. Please join us in Boston in November, 2010!

For more information, please see: www.2010boston.org

Race and Justice in Urban Sustainable Development

By Septemmy Lakawa

On March 3, 2010, in conjunction with a class on mission and development offered by Dr. Elizabeth Parsons, the CGCM sponsored a presentation by Mr. Charlie Lord of UrgentVC, an urban energy and development firm entitled Race and Justice in Urban Sustainable Development. Mr. Lord began his informative and fascinating presentation by sharing the ways his faith has influenced his vocation in environmental law, particularly his involvement in the Environmental Justice (EJ) Movement. Presenting the results of his recent research, entitled Environmental Justice: the Origins of Environmental Inequity: Race as a Rule in Organized Complexity, Mr. Lord discussed the correlation between race and inequity in urban communities. Using a case study on hazardous waste practice and its relation to zoning policy in Baltimore, his research showed the way segregation is embedded in such policy. Using a ground-up and community-based approach in questioning the disparity in the race-based community, the research found that race, not poverty, is the driver in the distribution of inequity in zoning districts in Baltimore. The research also affirms the conviction that environmental issues need to be linked with human rights issues. The group discussed how best to raise awareness of the moral and ethical implications of this study.
CGCM Sponsored Luncheon and Reports from the World Parliament of Religion

By Travis Myers

On February 23rd the CGCM hosted a free lunch conversation with three members of the BU School of theology (Dr. John Hart, Karen Leslie Hernandez, and Anne Hillman) about their participation at the 2009 World Parliament of Religion in Melbourne. Boston Theological Institute director Dr. Rodney L. Petersen, who moderated several panel discussions at the Parliament, joined the discussion as well. All noted the Parliament’s broader inclusion of practitioners of indigenous religions and its celebration of indigenous earthkeeping practices. About fifteen members of the BU School of Theology community attended the luncheon.

History of Missiology Website Launched at http://digilib.bu.edu/mission

The Boston University School of Theology Library has launched a new digital portal to provide free online access to classic texts in the history of Protestant mission thought. Books and other publications covering mission theology, theory and strategy that have been digitized are indexed with biographical articles about the authors. This initiative builds on early efforts to digitize the library’s collection of mission materials as a part of the Open Content Alliance and in collaboration with the Internet Archive.

Digitized texts include writings on mission theory, practice, and history, and include published journals, photographs, and biographies of significant figures in the history of Protestant mission. These documents offer glimpses into the beginnings of Christianity around the world, the emergence of indigenous forms of Christianity and the encounter of missionaries with non-western cultures and other religions.

The principal focus of the project is to provide access to the work of Protestant missiologists relevant to the modern missionary movement. With the permission of the editor, Gerald H. Anderson, and the publishers of the Biographical Dictionary of Christian Mission, many biographical articles reproduce entries in the Dictionary. Full-text biographical articles from the International Bulletin of Missionary Research are also available via the website. Other articles represent original research by students of the history of missiology at Boston University. The website continues to grow as new materials are digitized and indexed.

Handbook on Popular Spiritual Movements in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia Project

By Septemmy Lakawa

On September 22-25, 2009 the Center for the Study of Christianity in Asia (CSCA) of Trinity Theological College (TTC) in Singapore held its first workshop on the TTC Handbook on Popular Spiritual Movements in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia project. The Center for Global Christianity and Mission is a supportive partner of this project through the participation by Dr. Charles Farhadian (BU alum) as co-editor, Dr. Dana Robert as a consulting editor, and the Rev. Septemmy Lakawa as participant in the process of designing the project.

Under the leadership of CSCA director, Dr. Michael Poon, the workshop brought together a small group of mission theologians, scholars, and ethno-musicologists from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and the USA. The group oversaw the creation of a time line for the project (2009-2013) and a website, which focuses on the development, the process, and the accomplishment of the project. The website can be accessed through the authorization of Dr. Michael Poon. One highlight of the project is to provide an access to and from the rich diversity of local Christian narratives in the three Southeast Asian countries, which can reveal another dimension of so-called Southern Christianity.

Two STH graduate students affiliated with the CGCM, David Scott and Daryl Ireland, will participate at the second workshop held at TTC in August 2010.

From left: Michael Poon, Ito loh, Septemmy Lakawa, Robert Hunt, Roger Hedlund, Charles Farhadian, Malcolm Tan, John Roxborough. Photo courtesy of John Roxborough.
CGCM Faculty, Alumni, and Student News

Recent Publications

Books:


Articles:


Recent Dissertations

Gift Makwasha, *Not Without My Ancestors*: A Christological Case Study of the Shona Ancestor Cult of Zimbabwe

Pat McLeod, “An Historical and Theological Analysis of Campus Crusade for Christ’s Evangelistic Practice in Two American University Contexts”

Gary VanderPol, “The Least of These: American Evangelical Parish Missions to the Poor, 1947-2005”

Blogs:

Andy Crouch, “Culture Making” (www.culture-making.com)

Titus Leonard Presler (www.tituspresler.com)

Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas Consecrated Bishop of Connecticut on April 17th

Douglas is the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA and associate priest at St. James Episcopal Church in Cambridge. He completed his Ph.D. in missiology at Boston University in 1993.

Please visit the CGCM Website at www.bu.edu/cgcm/ for current news as well as past newsletters.