



**Research Conference
Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Mihi Whakatau & Morning Tea: 9:30-10:30am

**Rāwiri Auty: Baptists are complicit in the colonisation of Aotearoa New Zealand
10:30-11:10am**

Historically we Baptists have kept somewhat distant from conversations around colonisation due, at least in part, to the relatively late establishment of the Baptist Union when compared to other denominations. However, this neglect of engagement hides an ugly truth: that, both through action and inaction, Baptists are complicit in the colonisation of Aotearoa New Zealand. In this presentation Rāwiri will draw on his Masters thesis "Baptist Māori Speak: Ko ngā Kōrero o Ngāi Māori Iriiri", reflecting on specific moments in our Baptist past that demonstrate Baptist compliance to colonising norms, and challenging our Māori/Baptist engagement going forward.

**Sandy Kerr: A Case Study of Bicultural Theological Education—Carey Baptist College
2013-2019 11:10-11:50am**

In 2013 when Carey set a strategic priority to “develop a bicultural focus in our leadership training, for the benefit of all cultures” we offered five courses with an obligation for students to engage with some aspect of redeeming our past from the negative impacts of colonisation. This year we are delivering twelve courses spread across our programmes. While it may have been possible in 2013 to progress through a Bachelor of Applied Theology encountering this indicator of bicultural theological education in only a few places, in 2019 a student will encounter these issues at many points in their studies at Carey. This case study project completed in July 2019, provides a layered view of the development of bicultural leadership training at Carey Baptist College since the priority was set in 2013. The project is qualitative and multi-methods, weaving together ethnographic data with literature, a document review and interview data. The primary aim in the first stage of the research was to identify key markers of bicultural theological education, from the literature. The markers then became a lens in the second stage, used to help detect changes to Carey’s curriculum and pedagogy and identify potential future trajectories. The third stage involved writing these together with my own story, experiences and observations of biculturalism at Carey.

**Andrew Brown: The Principles of Spiritual Growth: A Proposal Based on Dallas Willard
and N.T. Wright 11:50am-12:30pm**

The local church is the 'business' of forming mature Christ-followers, but do we actually understand how this process takes place? Anecdotal evidence suggests that we have a lot to learn. Willard and Wright are leading exponents of virtue-based character development. This talk will examine the three critical areas they believe will help Christians become more effective in their spiritual formation.

Lunch 12:30-1:30pm

Jaimee Poole: Reading Literature Theologically**1:30-2:10pm**

Within Western philosophy, including Christian thought, the purpose of literature has been discussed for millennia, from Plato to the early church fathers to the present. The rejection of God which is inherent so much of the literature of the late 19th century onwards compels a secondary question to become important: not only what is the purpose of literature, but how can this purpose contribute to the Christian faith or should literature be abandoned? This paper will show the value of all literature in contributing to a theological understanding of human experience and develop a methodology for reading in a way that allows literature to contribute to theology without the imposition of Christian doctrine where it was not intended. With the work of T. S. Eliot the method of juxtaposition will be briefly demonstrated to provide an exemplar and illustrate the value that reading literature theologically can contribute to theological study.

Ian Yong: Malaysian Chinese Christian, Wealth, and the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia**2:10-2:50pm**

Chinese churches and Anglican churches in New Zealand seem to display a monocultural mindset that creates a mentality of the 'other' whether defined in terms of language, culture, and theology. One of the differences seems to extend to the beliefs and attitudes towards material possessions and wealth. In particular, the understanding of wealth and teaching on tithing or offering in both the Chinese churches and the Anglican churches seems to be a difficult or a rare subject. The topic about wealth is important for Malaysian Chinese at the socio-economy and political level but not much can be found in publication on this topic for the church or Christianity. Even for the Anglican Church, the theology on wealth does not seem to be an obvious topic of importance. This paper argues that for the Anglican Church of New Zealand to consider mission and ministry among the Malaysian Chinese Christian, the topic of wealth deserves serious consideration.

Glenn Melville: Motivating Pastors to Pursue Emotional Health Through a Christocentric Theology of Emotion**2:50-3:30pm**

Pastoral work can be stressful and emotionally demanding. To be effective and achieve longevity in the profession a pastor ought to be emotionally healthy; however, research indicates that pastors experience a high incidence of emotional exhaustion, depression, anxiety, vulnerability to misconduct, and low scores in emotional intelligence competencies. Theological beliefs regarding emotion have been identified as a barrier to pastors actively pursuing improvement in their emotional health. It has been proposed that the answer to impacting pastors' emotional health is found first in impacting theological thought. This paper proposes that human emotion that has been marred by the fall is not only redeemed at the cross, but also perfected through the incarnation of Christ, the first-born of the new created order. As we seek to imitate Christ in our emotional lives, we become more fully human and fulfil our vocation to know God and live as God's representation within creation.

Poroporoaki