

October 2011

Dear Friends of the Chair of Christian Thought,

It is past time for me to write this annual letter reporting on another year in which I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving in the Chair of Christian Thought at the University of Calgary. It is appropriate that I should write this during Thanksgiving week because there is much to be grateful for.

I am pleased to report that this past December the Chair received a significant gift specifically dedicated to “topping up” the funds available to cover the annual cost of the Chair’s salary and program. This means that we can once again run a full program of events, including both public and on-campus lectures. This gift also means we have four years in which to work towards a fully endowed Chair of Christian Thought. Rev. Bill Wiegert, chair of the Advisory Council, and Jim Wilson, past chair of the Fund Development Committee, join Dean of Arts Kevin McQuillan and me in expressing our profound gratitude for this timely demonstration of support.

There is also good news on the publishing front. My colleague Tinu Ruparell and I are putting out a book that includes contributions by twenty-five past Christian Thought lecturers. It is entitled, *Christian Thought in the Twenty-first Century: Agenda for the Future*, published by Cascade Press, an imprint of Wipf & Stock in Oregon. It will be available for sale at Chair events in the new year.

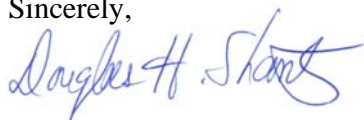
This past year the Chair hosted some stimulating Christian Thought lectures, including reflections by Anne Moore on Women in the Early Church and by Calgary Religious Studies Graduate Students who presented papers on the theme, *How Christian Faith Adapted to the Age of Enlightenment Reason*. Last February I gave a talk at Christ Church, Elbow Park on the subject, “The Church & the Academy: What an Historian of Christianity can offer the Church of Today.” Be sure to visit the Chair website to find pdf files of past lectures:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/christchair/previous_events

This year got off to a great start with Professor Gordon Campbell’s talks commemorating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. If you missed the lectures, you can still buy his book at U of C bookstore: *Bible: The Story of the King James Version* (Oxford, 2010). On October 17 and 18 Peter Erb lectures on the recently beatified figure of John Henry Newman, reflecting on his path to sainthood and his famous book, *The Idea of a University*. A third event this fall is an art exhibit, featuring the Zen Photography of Thomas Merton, to be held in the Little Gallery at the University of Calgary from October 31 to Nov. 11. In the new year you will want to take in Dr. John Rook’s lectures on “The most radical way of treating homelessness and the ills that go with it...” The lectures are at Grace Presbyterian Church on January 30, 2012 and the following day at U of C.

I want to thank you for attending these events and for supporting the work of the Chair.

Sincerely,



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