

### *Director's Word Sept 2019*

Dear friend,

In the past week the global imagination has been captured by schoolchildren campaigning for swift and profound action to address climate change. The science points to increasing global warming and ecological disaster. While politicians formulate short term policies most likely to see them re-elected, a growing movement globally is more concerned for the long-term stewardship of the planet, with schoolchildren showing us the way. In July, our Tuesday lectures were dedicated to creation care. (Download the OCMS app if you want to listen to them.)

Some years ago, Peter Harris, president of Arocha, told me how at one UN meeting he was told, 'you Christians are the only ones who can make a difference because of what you believe'. Stewardship of the blue planet was entrusted to humankind as early as the first chapter of Genesis. Mastery over and care for the good gift of creation is the first great commission and, as far as I know, has not be rescinded.

The responsibility of stewardship is not confined to the planet. We are each called to steward the person, gifts, relationships and ministries God has given us. A few days ago, we celebrated my mother's life. She stewarded all God

had given her and left a rich legacy in Bible translation, new ways of doing mission and in countless lives she impacted through her calm, compassionate and hospitable presence. This personal stewardship is a joyful invitation to increasing transformation into the likeness of Christ (Col 3:10)

Stewardship is also a community responsibility. As an OCMS community we are together called to steward the vision, reputation, health and resources God has given OCMS, not just for now but for those who will follow us. For this reason, the Council took the decision some months ago that we must do something to steward the beautiful St Philips and St James property. We are now actively exploring renovation and building possibilities. This is a tremendous responsibility. Please pray with us in this early and most important stage as we seek to discern not just what we need now but what we may need in the future so that the OCMS building will enable mission research and scholarship for the next generation.

Thank you for sharing in the stewardship of OCMS.

Paul Bendor-Samuel



### Farewell and Welcome

Bill and Ky Prevette left OCMS at the beginning of July after 18 years as part of OCMS. Bill gained his PhD from OCMS in June 2008 and joined the faculty in March 2010. Larger than life, extrovert, fun and welcoming and all flowing from a genuine servant heart and concern for the well-being of others, Bill has not only served multiple cohorts of students but has also opened up OCMS to so many people. How many visitors have been introduced as FOB (Friend of Bill) and how many of them have ended up applying to join our programmes as a result of his enthusiasm and persuasion! Ky's calm and gentle presence had been a constant and reassuring feature, whether returning books, welcoming and, often, hosting visitors, leading chapel prayers or a host of other quiet acts of service. We miss you both! We had a farewell event on June 21<sup>st</sup>, which was well attended. Amongst the farewell gifts was of course...



My name is Dr Anne Margaret Moseley and I have recently joined the faculty at OCMS as a part-time research tutor with special focus on Action Practitioner Research. I completed my PhD journey in January this year at Warwick University with the Warwick Religious Education Research Unit, and I am looking forward to working in an environment which brings together faith and action in dynamic and creative ways.

I am a primary school teacher by training and have been working in UK schools for over twenty years. For the last ten years I have been developing my skills as an educational researcher with subject specialism in Religious Education and intercultural learning.

For the last 5 years I have been based in California with my husband David who has been working with an electric vehicle start-up company. We have two children Abigail (27) a water engineer in Cardiff and Ben (25) who has just completed his F2 medical training based in Leeds. I am enjoying the delights of being back in the UK with cream teas and rainy days!

I am Chris Morton and am American, married with 3 teenage children. I got my PhD through the Nazarene Theological College. I have served 20 years with the Navigators in various fields and operations (primarily research roles) and moved to Oxford in April 2018.

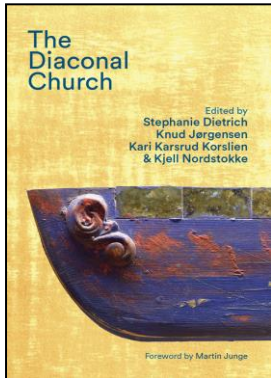
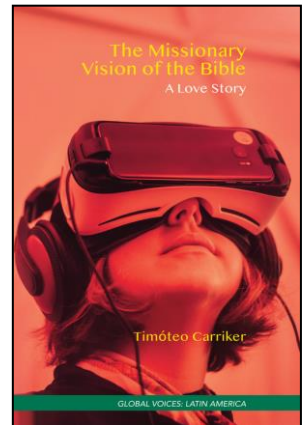


I actually have been visiting OCMS since 2010. When we moved here, I was excited to be a ten-minute walk from OCMS. So I came in February this year to volunteer in any capacity I could, thinking more along the lines of cleaning and restacking books, but was invited to help Mark with the GSP project and to sit in on student seminars on Wednesdays. I love to serve in behind-the-scenes ways and wish to carry on doing this as I take on the house tutor role. I do an amazing job on dishes, floors, and dusting.

### New Regnum Books

#### **THE MISSIONARY VISION OF THE BIBLE: A Love Story** **Timóteo Carriker**

The Missionary Vision of the Bible treats the foundational plot of the Bible as the story of God's love for the world and the mission of his people to live out and proclaim this love. The emphasis is on the coherence of the biblical message from the beginning to the end.



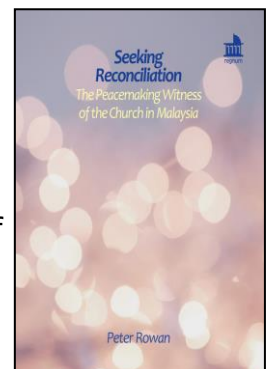
#### **THE DIACONAL CHURCH** **Stephanie Dietrich, Knud Jørgensen, Kari Karsrud Korslien & Kjell Nordstokke, Editors**

This book is the third volume on diakonia published by Regnum Books. It follows: *Diakonia as Christian Social Practice: An Introduction* and *Diakonia in a Gender Perspective*. For those who believe the church must be active in the world, seeking to heal and struggle for justice, this is the essential guidebook and toolbox for diaconal practice.

#### **SEEKING RECONCILIATION: The Peacemaking Witness of the Church of Malaysia**

##### **Peter Rowan**

This is an abridged version of Peter Rowan's Regnum Book, *Proclaiming the Peacemaker*. With a history of racial violence and in recent years, low-level ethnic tensions, the themes of peaceful coexistence and social harmony are recurring ones in the discourse of Malaysian society. In such a context, this book looks at the role of the church as a reconciling agent, arguing that a reconciling presence within a divided society necessitates an ethos of peacemaking.



### Orality Conference (September 26-28)



The International Orality Network and Oxford Centre for Mission Studies hosted a conference from September 26-28 entitled: Back to Orality: Embodying Jesus in Post-Textual Europe. More than fifty academics and mission practitioners gathered from Europe and beyond, including countries such as Sweden, Kosovo, France, Germany, Turkey, Croatia, and America. The conference was a mix of keynote addresses, round-table discussions, and practitioner presentations, designed to stimulate discussion on issues pertaining to four identified oral groups in Europe: primary oral learners such as the Roma, diaspora groups, the oral digital culture, and secondary oral preference learners. On the opening night, many people were surprised regarding the extent of orality in Europe, as demonstrated by Grant Lovejoy's research during the keynote address.

One particular highlight over the three days was Nik Jungheim's signed presentation where he explained the inextricable intertwining between deaf culture and sign language. Following that, he took the attendees through the interactive process of developing a Biblical passage into sign language. Attendees were offered an opportunity to grapple with some of the provocative and stimulating issues emerging from the various presenters in the round table discussions. Conversations ranged from the relationship of text to orality, the question of how digital interaction can be embodied, and how non-oral learners can best minister to oral-preference learners. The final sessions directed the attendees to consider action plans for the future which spoke to both their learning points and the further questions raised by the conference. All in all, this interactive conference was a fruitful time of exploring both the challenges and possibilities of mission to the oral communities in Europe.

#### THANKS FOR READING

We hope you've enjoyed our updates. Even though we can only feature a few people and events each time, we love sharing glimpses into the work here at OCMS. Do send us your own news; we love hearing from you.

OCMS is a charity and depends on the generosity of God's people. To make a donation to OCMS, please use account number: 12043799; sort code: 16-10-15; IBAN: GB84 RBOS 1610 1512 0437 99; swift code: RBOS GB 2L.

God bless you abundantly.