

Springdale College: Together in Mission

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Springdale College: Together in Mission Student

I hope that 2010 has been a good year for you, personally and in your ministry setting.

Many of us will have had difficult times over the last year and if that is your experience I hope that you have known something of God's comfort and inner renewal in the process (2 Cor 4: 7-18).

We have had various challenges at Springdale: TiM, but we are ending the year on a very positive note. Both the BTh and the MA have been validated - Martin Robinson, David Lawrence, Andy Hardy and Vicky Elliot worked very hard to make this possible. The BTh has a growing number of students (with the London College of Theology being the latest partner organisation). The MA is running with around 40 students on 4 sites.

The wider picture in the UK also holds much encouragement. Since 2005 church attendance has actually been increasing and attached to this email is a report for 2010 that also contains positive news. It concerns the Methodist Church and it is noteworthy that there are nearly 900 fresh expressions of church that are underway within that denomination.

Please do contact us by email or phone if you have any queries about your studies.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2011

Richard Roberts
Course Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A LETTER FROM MARTIN ROBINSON	2
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
BOOKS FOR FREE!	3
SHARE YOUR STORY	3
YORK ST. JOHN	4
WALES	5

Dear Friends

Just to add a few words to the thoughts that Richard Roberts has already offered, I wonder how many of you picked up on the press release at the weekend to the effect that the church is growing in the UK? The press release centered on two elements. The first was the increase in church planting (and replanting) especially in relation to the Anglican church. The rise is not huge but its significance lies in the reversal of a long term trend of decline together with the impact on helping overall church membership figures to rise.

Together in Mission first came into being to encourage church planting in all of the denominations. The training programme (and especially the MA in Missional Leadership) was designed to help develop leaders that would be enabled to plant and replant churches. I have been personally encouraged by the numbers of students who have done precisely that.

Overall church attendance is rising, and there is increasing evidence that wherever denominations and networks of churches give attention to church planting, that rise accelerates. The greatest amount of church planting activity has taken place amongst Pentecostal groupings. It is not an accident that the Pentecostal churches have grown at an astonishing rate to some 300,000 people.

We can be encouraged as we enter a New Year that there are increasing indicators that suggest we are seeing the tide beginning to turn. Together in Mission and the Springdale College students are part of that mighty movement.

Martin Robinson



<http://missionlaure.wordpress.com>

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



BOOKS FOR FREE!

Would you like to have the following books (to keep or to give away)?

- ◇ The Missional Leader - Alan Roxburgh
- ◇ Invading Secular Space - Martin Robinson
- ◇ Planting Mission-Shaped Churches Today—Martin Robinson
- ◇ Mentoring Matters—Rick Lewis
- ◇ Winning Hearts, Changing Minds—Martin Robinson
- ◇ Metavista - Martin Robinson and Colin Greene

We would like to give these books to you once you have successfully introduced a friend or colleague to the MA course.

Can you think of someone who might benefit from having the knowledge, imagination and the tools that the MA provides? Why not point them to our website and suggest that they might like to attend a regional day as a free taster? If you have someone in mind let us know - once they are registered the books will be sent to you.

MENDELEY

Steve Jones from Exeter has pointed out that www.mendeley.com is worth a look. It helps you organise references etc.



STORIES WANTED

If the MA has made a significant impact on your thinking or your ministry we want to hear from you. We would like to know where the course is hitting the mark and we also want to collect a series of stories that we can include on our website. Send your any stories to me:

richard@sdcol.org.uk

YORK ST. JOHN STUDENTS

ASSIGNMENTS

I hope that your first assignment is going well. Please do make use of the fact that your regional tutor can look at a full draft of your first essay before you submit it. Send it by email in order to receive helpful comments. Remember to consult the essay guide on moodle for things like referencing. There is also a useful glossary of theological terms at the end of the handbook.

The 1,000 word reflective exercise needs to relate the theory of one aspect of your learning to your ministry context. I realise that the example given in the induction material is perhaps a little on the introspective side! This is because of the subject area (self-awareness) and most reflective exercises might be a less personal. This exercise needs to pass but is not graded.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- ⇒ Springdale College requires two assignment submissions: one electronic copy and one hard copy.
- ⇒ When submitting assignments electronically, please ensure that the assignment cover sheet, found in the MA Resources folder on Moodle, is not attached as a separate document, but is pasted at the top of your assignment.
- ⇒ Please email electronic copies to: MAsubmissions@sdcol.org.uk where you will receive an automated receipt. If you do not receive a response please submit your essay again. Please do not send electronic copies to any members of staff - the administrative team are automatically forwarded your submission.
- ⇒ Please ensure you complete as many of the fields on the cover sheet as possible, particularly the word count and plagiarism declaration. It is paramount that you sign your name (handwritten or typed for either submission is acceptable) for plagiarism.
- ⇒ Please make sure that you do follow this procedure very carefully and double check your paperwork. If we have to return it to you for something as basic as a signature we have no choice but to record it as a late submission and deduct marks.
- ⇒ Hard copies must be posted either before the deadline or on the deadline itself. In all instances, please obtain a certificate of posting or a receipt from the post office which shows the date of postage. Although most post receives a postmark once it has been collected from the post box (a stamp with the date on), this is not always the case. Should we receive a hard copy after the deadline date, with no postmark and no proof of posting, we will have to record it as a late submission and deduct marks.

Ask a friend to the RSN

Because the course is practical in nature it is a great help to do it with other members of your leadership team, organisation or others in ministry locally. If you would like to bring someone for a taster day, please let me know. I will contact them with details and send them the course materials for that day.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Richard: Richard@sdcol.org.uk

- Director of Studies (MA)

Bob: Bob@sdcol.org.uk

- Vice Principal

Pete: Pete@sdcol.org.uk

- Web/Administrative Support

Theresa: Theresa@sdcol.org.uk

- Administrative Support

Rachel: Rachel@sdcol.org.uk

- Fees/Accounts

We would encourage you to contact one of the above members of staff with any queries.

WALES STUDENTS

Essay Hints

Here are some hints that might help in completing specific assignments. They will help you to avoid common mistakes:

Essay on managing conflict 5CN / 2H: The verbatim has been completely revised and updated. Remember that you need to be familiar with a specific change management model and apply it to the situations you describe.

Retreat 2DN / 6H: You need to have been on a retreat to do this question! This should be away from home and follow a well established pattern (either guided or self-directed). Some 'time out' to rest and read does not count. The reflection needed is not just a description of what you learnt - it needs to be a critique (critical reflection) of your time and it should include mention of writers such as Merton, Keating and the Desert Fathers, for example.

Mentoring 5FN / 6D: Remember that the course is not a professional training in mentoring, so please ensure that you have a clear understanding of the process and boundaries (and, in particular, that mentoring is not directive). This is important as it is an ethical issue.

Please ensure that if you are undertaking a research question that you have some awareness of research methods. The dissertation guide could be useful for this.

Finally, please contact us if you need some support in your studies and we will see what we can do.



INTRODUCING THERESA DEAKIN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Theresa has recently joined Springdale College as an administrative assistant. She is married to Toby and graduated from Leeds University in July 2010 with a BSc in Psychology-Sociology, with a particular interest in criminal behaviour.

Initially a volunteer at Springdale College, Theresa officially joined the team in September. Her roles include processing essays, responding to student enquiries, assisting in the admissions process, producing the MA newsletter and taking minutes at meetings. Theresa is excited about the work that SC: TiM is doing and is enjoying the journey that she is embarking on with the team.

Her interests include cooking and watching films and television series. Her favourites include The Lord of the Rings and House.

Springdale College: Together in Mission

Rowheath Pavilion
Heath Road
Bournville
Birmingham
B30 1HH

Phone: 0121 458 5240



SpringdaleCollege

Together in Mission