

cgcm News

Center for Global Christianity & Mission



THE CHANGING CONTOURS OF
WORLD MISSION & CHRISTIANITY



THE THIRD LAUSANNE CONGRESS
ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

Edinburgh 1910 Centenary Celebrations

Global Events Involve Those Associated with the Center for Global Christianity & Mission

The centenary of the 1910 Edinburgh World Missionary Conference has convoked conferences, meetings, and celebrations around the world. Professor Dana L. Robert and students associated with the Center for Global Christianity & Mission at Boston University's School of Theology have been participants in several gatherings. John Kaoma, who received his doctorate from the School of Theology this September, was one of nine Anglican delegates to the Edinburgh 2010 meeting in June. In

October, Ruth Padilla Deborst, a doctoral candidate, led a plenary Bible exposition at the third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Cape Town. Alumni Heigo Ritsbek and Casely Essamuah were also actively involved in Cape Town 2010.

Dr. Dana L. Robert, co-director of the Center for Global Christianity & Mission, has taken a highly visible role in several of

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Professor Dana L. Robert provides the opening addresses for centennial celebrations in Edinburgh, Utrecht, and Boston

the events. Describing 2010 as the convergence of her academic, professional, and ecclesiastical vocations, Robert travelled widely and spoke extensively on Global Christianity and Mission.

Invited to present the Alexander Duff and Drummond Trust Lectures in Scotland, Professor Robert explored the changes in Christian mission since 1910 through the themes of frontier, friendship, and fellowship. Lecturing in Glasgow, Stirling, and Edinburgh in May, she spoke successively about mission frontiers moving from geography to justice, the role of friendship in the creation of world Christianity, and the mission visions of a worldwide Christian fellowship. Her lectures are currently being revised and prepared for publication.

Shortly thereafter, Robert delivered the opening keynote address at the centenary Edinburgh 2010 Mission Conference: "Witnessing to Christ Today: Mission and Unity in the 'Long View' from 1910 to the 21st-Century." Speaking to the most diverse ecclesiastical gathering in the modern history of the Church, Robert framed the conference by describing the inseparability of mission and unity, Christian hope and humility. In a conscious reprisal of the



Edinburgh 1910 Conference, the meetings that followed were designed to be working sessions around the theme of mission for the 21st-century. Observing the broad range of Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal, independent and

uniting churches represented from 60 nations, Professor Robert remarked that the conference reflected how "the world church is a multi-directional network of mutuality, rather than a post-colonial bilateral partnership or set of projects."

After a brief respite on the island of Iona—famous for its history in Celtic mission—Dr. Robert resumed her speaking itinerary. In the Netherlands, she twice addressed the assembly gathered to celebrate "Edinburgh 1910-2010: Mission in the Era of World Christianity." The event was jointly organized by Dutch Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical and university organizations.



This fall, Dana Robert will return to the podium during the 2010 Boston festivities. Since the Boston event commemorating Edinburgh 1910 is primarily oriented towards seminary students, she will provide the opening address, "Students and the Global Mission Movement."

Handbook on Popular Spiritual Movements

In August, two doctoral students associated with the Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Daryl Ireland and David Scott, traveled to Singapore to participate in a workshop on popular spiritual movements in Southeast Asia. The workshop was hosted by Trinity Theological College in Singapore. In addition to attending the workshop, the trip also provided both scholars a chance to pursue research related to their doctoral work.

The workshop is part of a larger project coordinated by Michael Poon, Director of the Center for the Study of Christianity in Asia at TTC. The overall goal of the project is to publish a handbook on popular spiritual movements in Southeast Asia that will meet the needs of students and professors in both the church and academy. The CGCM has

cooperated in this project by involving Dr. Dana L. Robert as consulting editor, BU graduate Charles Farhadian as an editor, and by supporting graduate students Ireland, Scott and Septemmy Lakawa in writing case studies on Christianity in the region.



Digital Russian Methodist Archive

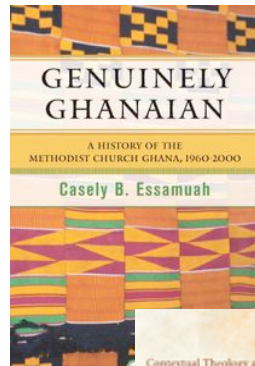


In a collaborative effort, the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary in Moscow is cooperating with the Center for Global Christianity & Mission, and the Boston University School of Theology Library to establish a new digital archive of Russian Methodist history (<http://digilib.bu.edu/russianmethodism/about/>). The first documents that will be available are a unique collection of early Methodist material from the Russian Methodist Church in Harbin, Manchuria after the Russian Revolution of 1917. Other materials are currently being identified for inclusion. The goal is to make rare documents widely accessible to students and scholars alike, as well as to provide current Russian Methodists with a more thorough understanding of the history of Russian Methodism.

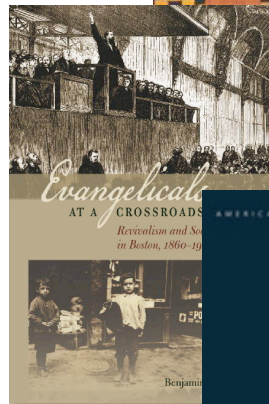
The digital Russian Methodist Archive is a significant addition to the online resources the CGCM offers for the study of Christian history and mission. Other expanding digital collections include the History of Missiology and a photographic archive of African Initiated Churches. See <http://www.bu.edu/cgcm/projects/> for more details about these and other projects.

Four Alumni Associated with the CGCM Publish Their Dissertations in Fall 2010

Casely Essamuah has published *Genuinely Ghanaian: A History of the Methodist Church Ghana, 1961-2000* through Africa World Press. The book explores the evolution and consolidation of the Methodist Church in Ghana after independence, and is especially attentive to the issues of contextualization in the midst of Ghanaian identity, Akan culture, and Methodist Missionary theology. Casely Essamuah is currently the Compassionate Outreach Pastor at Bay Community Church in Annapolis, MD.



Benjamin Hartley's (ThD, 2005) *Evangelicals at a Crossroads: Revivalism and Social Reform in Boston, 1860-1910* will be released by the University of New Hampshire Press in December, 2010. It details the little known history of the latecomers to Boston's religious scene: the Methodists, Baptists, and Salvationists. Hartley is attentive to the contested nature of revivalism and social reform within the evangelical community in postbellum America. He is currently associate professor of Christian mission at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University in Philadelphia, PA.

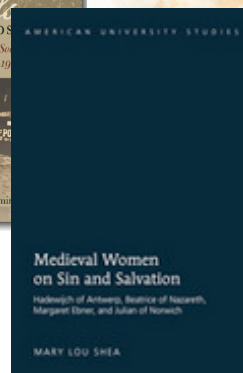


Angel Santiago-Vendrell (ThD, 2008) has released *Contextual Theology and Revolutionary*

Transformation in Latin America: The Missiology of M. Richard Shaull through Wipf and Stock. The book introduces the revolutionary missiology of Presbyterian missionary M. Richard Shaull, whose teaching and writing on social change, prophetic Christianity, and the Christian use of Marxist analysis preceded the emergence of the formal schools of liberation theology by two decades. Santiago-Vendrell details the significance of Shaull both for his impact on Latin American theology and his involvement in Catholic-Protestant relations after Vatican II. Santiago-Vendrell is assistant professor of Mission at Memphis Theological Seminary.



Mary Lou Shea's (ThD, 2006) *Medieval Women on Sin and Salvation: Hadewijch of Antwerp, Beatrice of Nazareth, Margaret Ebner, and Julian of Norwich* was published by Peter Lang. In examining the mystical writings of these four women, Shea argues that they each expressed their religious experiences in relational, somewhat unconventional, but clearly orthodox



categories. Shea underscores the continuity in their theology with Anselm of Canterbury's, but allows them to inflect such matters as the Fall, sin, the soul, and the incarnation with their own distinctive voices. Shea is currently associate professor of the history of Christianity and mission at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA.