

Karam Forum Global Session, Jan. 20/21, 2021, Zoom chat log

00:05:17 LICC - Dave Benson: yes
00:05:27 Kara Martin: Hey all
00:08:39 LICC - Dave Benson: I think you'll need 'spotlight' for that, as 'pinned' only affects your screen
00:26:11 Kara Martin: Welcome all
00:28:31 Kara Martin: Welcome everyone
00:28:46 Keith Mitchell: Hi Kara
00:28:52 Scott Rae: Good to see all of our friends from down under!
00:29:02 Gary Heard: Hi everyone!
00:32:56 Kara Martin: We will get started now
00:33:05 Peter White: I'm going to have a very shaky connection.. I'm at home on the farm and don't have great internet connectivity
00:39:30 Kara Martin: Poor you Peter. Thanks for being here
00:51:48 Andrew Sloane: CPX give us some excellent examples of reading culture well and seeking to engage it.
00:52:22 Kara Martin: <https://www.publicchristianity.org/>
00:56:18 Keith McPherson: Can we meaningfully listen to people without engaging with their physical and temporal needs too? Do we need to consider a clearer integrated mission?

How can Bible colleges incorporate some of these concepts in Units already taught?

01:05:22 LICC - Dave Benson: • From life to the Bible, standard to INTEGRATION and PRACTICAL THEOLOGY work – but perhaps seen as second class theological disciplines
01:05:40 LICC - Dave Benson: If people aren't reading their Bibles a lot, then *why*? What is it about how we've taught them to read their Bibles and engage Scripture, that has led to this notion that the Bible won't be helpful. What can we do to shift that?
01:05:47 Ian Hussey: Life to bible is so much more difficult than Bible to life!
01:06:02 LICC - Dave Benson: • Not enough Bible used in gatherings – gives implicit message you need an expert ... • Need group Scriptural engagement and space to bring their stories
01:06:14 Scott Rae: Life to bible requires a degree of biblical nimbleness that is hard to develop
01:06:17 Gary Heard: The ability to theologically reflect is poor
01:06:23 Paul Oslington: If all your students come from the evangelical cultural, bubble then seminary is further retreat into this, then what sort of bible teaching are you going to get?
01:06:36 Gary Heard: ... compounded by a degree of biblical illiteracy
01:07:50 Andrew Sloane: I wonder whether we also need to focus on particularity in the text and context--we often generalise/go for high-level concepts, rather than looking at the fine-grain of the text, and the contexts in which we work...
01:09:46 Peter White: Some of the issues in my mind....
• Lack of training and pipe-lining of people in our churches.
• Lack of confidence in our people – they have watched the 'professional theologians' for so long and are intimidated (for example in our local congregation people unwillingness to read the Bible publicly or pray in the local congregation.
• Reading culture is not even on the radar... people haven't been equipped to read the world they live in (some of this comes through our schooling system, and our universities have become a sausage

factory preparing people for the workplace but not practices of thinking etc. This plays into the 'equipment' that theological students take into college.

01:10:09 Ian Hussey: Practical Theological Reflection Questions

Descriptive Movement: What is happening?

1. The Contextual Question:

What was the context of this issue or event?

2. The Reflexive Question:

What baggage am I bringing to this issue or event?

3. The Perspective Question:

How would others see this issue or event?

Interpretive Movement: Why is it happening?

4. The Social Science Question:

What wisdom from social science can help explain what is going on?

5. The Elder Question:

What wisdom from elders can help explain what is going on?

Normative Movement: What ought to be going on?

6. The Theology Question:

How can theology inform what ought to be happening?

7. The Tradition/History Question:

How can church tradition/history inform what ought to be happening?

8. The Exemplar Question:

How do exemplars inform what ought to be happening?

Correlative Movement: Where is the common ground?

9. The Affirmative Question:

How do the movements affirm one another?

10. The Challenge Question:

How do the movements challenge

01:10:19 Paul Oslington: I wonder if the evangelical bubble and biblical illiteracy issue are related. If church is about conformity to a certain culture and following a particular leader, then why do you need to read the bible?

01:10:52 Ian Hussey: 10. The Challenge Question:

How do the movements challenge one another?

11. The Synergy Question:

How do the movements build on one another?

Pragmatic Movement: How might we respond?

12. The Orthopraxy Question: What is orthopraxy relating to this ministry issue or event?

13. The Action Steps Question: What are two specific action steps that can be taken towards orthopraxy?

14. The Ethical Question:

What is professional, safe and ethical practice related to this issue or event?

15. The Formation Question:

How have I been formed into the image of Christ through this exercise in Practical Theology?

01:13:54 LICC - Dave Benson: In case you've not seen David Brooks' article on some of these tensions - worth a read: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/10/collapsing-levels-trust-are-devastating-america/616581/>

01:17:15 LICC - Dave Benson: Amen

01:19:13 Peter White: What sort of leaders have we developed for our churches and from our churches who head into 'the world'? In many circles there seems to be a crisis given a number of people leaving the pastorate.

01:19:35 Kara Martin: Another good question Peter. I'm sure you have some ideas

01:20:10 Peter White: Val Ling would be a helpful person to have in the room on that particular issue... but yes I have some ideas!

01:20:25 Kara Martin: Val's a friend ;-)

01:21:02 Keith Mitchell: Thanks Peter. The rise of secularisation has been a challenge to theological colleges and the training of pastors for long term ministry.

01:21:39 Gary Heard: Does Mal Meninga play AFL??

01:21:54 Kara Martin: Rugby league :-)

01:22:17 Peter White: You are stirring a VERY big pot my Victorian (Mexican) friend!

01:22:17 Gary Heard: Then we need to seek forgiveness... ;-)

01:22:31 Kara Martin: hahaha

01:23:13 Kara Martin: What holes in our theology have been exposed in this season that need to be addressed? To be relevant in the 21st C

* Do we have an adequate theology of suffering? Theology of fear?

* New ways of delivering content. What is the essence of the church? New forms of mission? Holding forms loosely? New ideas of spiritual formation?

Are racial issues different in Australia? National issues of slavery/stolen wages

What do theological colleges need to do to address blindspots in Australia in terms of our history of racism?

01:23:16 Andrew Sloane: I expect most of you have come across it, but just in case, see Common Grace <https://www.commongrace.org.au/tunein>

01:23:49 Keith Mitchell: Amen Andrew to common grace

01:32:00 LICC - Dave Benson: How are our theological colleges responding to the SBNR (spiritual but not religious) disenfranchised? We seem heavily invested in mainstream models

01:33:56 LICC - Dave Benson: To Ian's point on blind-spots, it links back to our failure to listen well

01:34:12 Gary Heard: We need to realise that theological education addresses issues which are being asked in the wider community. Are we able to re-shape theological education to broaden beyond denominational and church interests.. the broader questions of spirituality?

01:36:03 Andrew Sloane: Adding to Tom's point about theology of suffering, I wonder whether we need to incorporate vulnerability and finitude into our theological anthropology, and question our culture's fixation on (rational-cognitive) agency?

01:36:30 Peter White: On the issue of working alongside our First People I have been working to develop Indigenous Education and Schools that work to bridge the gap... our history as a nation looms large in that conversation but the greatest issue and one that has been pressed on me) is the need to sit with our brothers and sisters and listen to their stories (Ian's point above)... but I believe that's an issue as we aim to deal with any group.

01:38:00 Donald Guthrie: What can be learned from majority world theologians and theological colleges? About suffering with joy? About abiding and bearing fruit? About equipping the saints in and for whole life discipleship?

01:40:14 Thomas Kimber: Great question, Donald. I think we have much to learn from majority world pastors, theologians.

01:41:32 LICC - Dave Benson: One of our colleagues gives a diverse reading list, but requires citing one source at a minimum

01:41:58 LICC - Dave Benson: For the collated Australian College of Theology 2018 report, see <http://bit.ly/ACTFaithWorkReport>.

For these summary slides on the 'past' of Faith-Work Integration in Australia, see http://bit.ly/FWI_PastPresentFuture.

For the Oikonomia Network 'Suggested Rubric for Understanding Change in Theological Education', see <http://bit.ly/ON-Rubric>.

See <https://transformingvocation.org/> for all Conference presentations and papers.

01:53:48 Peter White: I thought 'they' had the accent!

01:54:04 Kara Martin: :-D

02:02:10 Scott Rae: Kara—Can we get access to all these slides from both you and Dave??

02:05:39 Peter White: One of the issues as I see it is that we have a crisis of leadership... we need to consider how we develop people to lead God's people but more importantly to equip people to lead in the world... people who are authentic leaders, culturally aware, self-aware and able to read others well (developing EQ).

02:06:28 Keith Mitchell: Amen Peter. CQ and EQ are important aspects for leaders to develop.

02:08:13 Andrew Sloane: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/catalyst/>

02:08:32 Andrew Sloane: <https://www.commongrace.org.au/>

02:09:22 Andrew Sloane: <https://www.lausanne.org/content/lga/2015-03/micah-challenge-international>

02:10:37 Paul Oslington: Part of our problem in an Australian setting is the separation of theological education from the rest of our educational system.

02:11:20 Greg Forster: There's more than one way to separate the different kinds of schools - some of those hallways are *really* long, if you know what I mean

02:12:12 Kara Martin: Hahaha

02:13:22 LICC - Dave Benson: A good start - faculty discussions around a book like <https://www.amazon.com/Life-World-Theology-Makes-Difference/dp/1587434016/>

02:13:50 LICC - Dave Benson: Volf, Miroslav, and Matthew Croasmun. For the Life of the World: Theology That Makes a Difference. 2019.

02:15:08 Keith Mitchell: I have to go now but thanks to Kara, team and contributors for today's session. Much appreciated. Blessings to all.

02:15:11 LICC - Dave Benson: Clarity on leading with WISDOM is a key need

02:15:19 Kara Martin: Thanks Keith :-)

02:16:39 Paul Oslington: agree completely Peter.

02:19:16 Gary Heard: Perhaps we still need to address a more fundamental question... what is education for? Information? Skills? Character formation? Leadership equipping? We are still unclear about that in the theological sector.

02:20:23 Peter White: Its not just an issue for the theological sector... the whole sector from early childhood education through to tertiary education is in a deep hole on this one... not helped by our policy makers

02:20:52 Gary Heard: Agreed Peter. Some portions of the sector are much further ahead...

02:21:13 Lindsay McMillan: Thanks Scot for your observations.

02:21:15 Donald Guthrie:ATS (North American accreditor for theological schools) adopted new standards in summer of 2020. Significant central focus on formation. We are looking forward to observing what this means for us all.

02:22:22 Peter White: So when are we bringing Greg to our shores to help work on his accent???

02:23:27 Lindsay McMillan: This has been a wonderful opportunity and highly valuable insights Well done to Kara and Greg..

02:28:12 LICC - Dave Benson: While it's rather liberal, I suspect Don Browning's framing for theological education as a whole (fundamental practical theology where every discipline has a place therein) is a way forward for bi-directional life and theology: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fundamental-Practical-Theology-Descriptive-Strategic/dp/0800629736/>

02:30:37 Kara Martin: That last point is very rich Greg. Reimagining our own vocation