

## 19th Annual IBSC Conference



### Unearthing Creativity

Scotch College, Melbourne, 2012

Drew Berry, WEHI, Melbourne: Animations of unseeable biology from TED.com

## Chapel Service

Littlejohn Memorial Chapel

### Unearthing Creativity

## Call to Worship

## Hymn The Old Hundredth

All people that on earth do dwell  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth  
tell  
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed  
without our aid he did us make  
We are his flock, he doth us feed  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise  
Approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise, laud and bless his name alway  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good  
his mercy is for ever sure  
his truth at all times firmly stood  
and shall from age to age endure.

## Prayer of Adoration

-  
Psalm 8 (MSG)

Responsive Reading

-  
ALL

North side

South side

ALL: God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name.

N: Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;  
toddlers shout the songs  
That drown out enemy talk,  
and silence atheist babble.

S: I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,  
your handmade sky-jewelry,  
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.  
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,  
Why do you bother with us?  
Why take a second look our way?

N: Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,  
bright with Eden's dawn light.

S: You put us in charge of your handcrafted  
world,  
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,  
Made us lords of sheep and cattle,  
even animals out in the wild,  
Birds flying and fish swimming,  
whales singing in the ocean deeps.

ALL: God, brilliant Lord,  
your name echoes around the world.

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Scripture Lessons

from  
Hosea 11 and Matthew 13

How can I give you up, Israel?  
How can I abandon you?  
Could I ever destroy you as I did Admah,  
or treat you as I did Zeboiim?  
My heart will not let me do it!  
My love for you is too strong.

I will not punish you in my anger;  
I will not destroy Israel again.  
For I am God and not a mere human being.  
I, the Holy One, am with you.  
I will not come to you in anger

Hosea 11:8,9. GNB

"God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic - what a find! - and he proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

"Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

"Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."

Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

Matthew 13:44-52 MSG

## Drama

Winston and Jane

from  
George Orwell's 1984  
featuring

Ned Schloefffer and Siobhan Lane

## Hymn O Son of Man

O Son of Man, our hero strong and tender  
Whose servants are the brave in all the  
earth,  
Our living sacrifice to thee we render,  
Who sharest all our sorrows, all our mirth.

O feet so strong to climb the path of duty,  
O lips divine, that taught the word of truth,  
Kind eyes that marked the lilies in their  
beauty and heart that kindled at the zeal of  
youth

Lover of children, boyhood's inspiration,  
of all mankind the servant and the king;  
O lord of joy and hope and consolation,  
To thee our fears and joys and hopes we  
bring.

Not in our failures only, and our sadness  
we seek thy presence, comforter and  
friend.

O rich man's guest be with us in our  
gladness,

~~O poor man's mate, our lowliest tasks~~

## God's Kingdom: crucible of creativity

"Treasures New and Old"

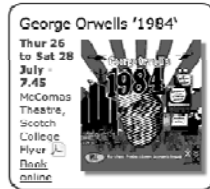
"Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is  
like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on  
anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

## The Law of Moses

- The Burning Bush or God's Problem with Pharaoh
- God's question to Moses
- identity, income, influence
- Pharaoh dealt in 'commodities' not 'fidelities'
- justice and freedom were missing

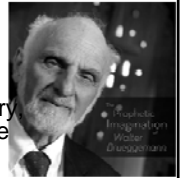


## George Orwell's 1984



## Prophetic Imagination

- The Prophetic Imagination - challenging Israel's Kings
- Fidelity to Moses - justice and freedom
- king's lacked fidelity, valued commodity
- and they stifled dialogue and created monologue
- prophets creatively using poetry, song, drama to create dialogue
- summoning an 'alternative community'



## Jesus

- His message was an alternative community, a 'kingdom of God'
- His entire ministry pointed this way
- 'I will not come to you in anger' where did God's anger go?
- Love must be sacrificial - Jesus laid all claims aside. (Phil 2) He took our grief for his own.

## Jesus' community

- His alternative community - his 'kingdom of God' is animated by 'Holy Spirit'.
- This is the creative, redeeming and restoring Spirit of God.
- Jesus himself offers all the resources we need, old or new, through his Spirit.



## Christians Unearthing Creativity

- GK Chesterton, Dorothy Day, JK Rowling
- CS Lewis - and the Inklings - the Rabbit Room in Nashville
- Francis Collins (Language of God) & NT Wright ('fpr Everyone' series) - Genesis

Notice how empire and Gnosticism go together. Gnosticism arises under empire, because when you are powerless to change anything about your world you are tempted to turn inwards and suppose that a spiritual, inner reality is all that matters. Carl Jung put it nicely if chillingly: who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakens. Welcome to the world of navel-gazing. That's why second-century gnosticism arose when it did, following the collapse of the final Jewish revolt in 135 AD. And the empires of the world are delighted when people embrace gnosticism. Again in the second century the people who were reading the *Gospel of Thomas* and other books of the same sort were not burnt at the stake or thrown to the lions. That was reserved for the people who were reading Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the rest. There is a massive lie out there at the moment, which is that the canon of scripture colludes with imperial power while the gnostic literature subverts it. That is the exact opposite of the truth. Caesar couldn't care less if someone wants to pursue a private spirituality. But if they go around saying that all authority in heaven and on earth is given to the crucified and risen Jesus, Caesar shivers in his shoes. And going around saying that is at the heart of Christian mission, which is sustained and energised by scripture itself, the book that will keep not only individual Christians but whole churches steadfast and cheerful in that mission when everything seems bent on blowing them off course.

NT Wright, St Andrew's University, Scotland

Rt. Rev. Professor NT Wright,  
St Andrews' University, Scotland  
from the Rabbit Room,  
Church of the Redeemer, Nashville, May 7, 2012



### THE RABBIT ROOM

The Rabbit Room in Nashville was conceived by Andrew Peterson as an experiment in creative community. The Rabbit Room, the name of the back room of the pub where the Oxford Inklings (including Lewis, Tolkien, and Charles Williams, among others) shared their stories, was begun to encourage contributors who are authors, songwriters, artists, and pastors.

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- Francis Collins (Language of God) & NT Wright ('fpr Everyone' series) - Genesis
- Bono - Kite I'm a man/I'm not a child

**KITE**  
U2 Live at Slane Castle

Something is about to give  
I can feel it coming  
I think I know what it means

I'm not afraid to die  
I'm not afraid to live  
And when I'm flat on my back  
I hope to feel like I did

And hardness, it sets in  
You need some protection,  
the thinner the skin

I want you to know  
That you don't need me anymore  
I want you to know  
You don't need anyone or anything at all

Who's to say where the wind will take you?  
Who's to say what it is will break you?  
I don't know which way the wind will blow  
Who's to know when the time has come around?  
Don't wanna see you cry  
I know that this is not goodbye

In summer, I can taste the salty sea  
There's a kite blowing out of control on a breeze  
I wonder what's gonna happen to you  
You wonder what has happened to me

Was the big idea  
That was the big idea



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In summer, I can taste the salty sea  
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I wonder what's gonna happen to you  
You wonder what has happened to me

I'm a man  
A man who sees  
The shadow behind your eyes

Who's to say where the wind will take you?  
Who's to say what it is will break you?  
I don't know where the wind will blow  
Who's to know when the time has come around?  
I don't wanna see you cry  
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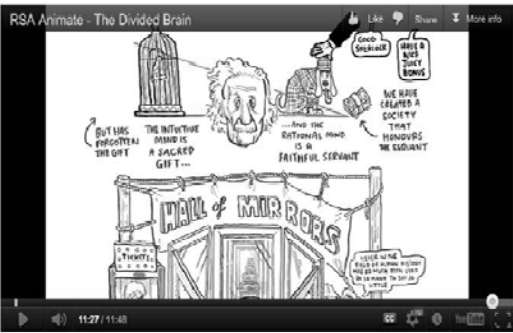
Did I waste it?  
Not so much I couldn't taste it  
Life should be fragrant  
Rooftop to the basement

The last of the rock stars  
When hip-hop drove the big cars  
In the time when new media  
Was the big idea  
That was the big idea

**Bono**  
meets with US Senator  
**Jesse Helms**

\$500M to combat AIDS in Africa  
consider the impact of one meeting

RSA ANIMATE - THE DIVIDED BRAIN





We have created a paradoxical world in which the pursuit of happiness leads to resentment, unhappiness and a proliferation of mental illness. We pursue and celebrate freedom, yet once achieved seek to create rules that strangle that freedom.

We monitor and control everything. We have more information available to us yet create systems in our work that prevent us the time to truly use that information. We jump on the treadmill every day that values reason, rationale and productivity over emotion, creativity and thought.

Things have become more valued than ideas. System has become more valued than humans. We need balance to return.

Albert Einstein observed "The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant" We have created a society that honours the servant but has forgotten the gift.

Iain McGilchrist

While the mission of the institutional church is to preach the Word and produce disciples, the church must disciple Christians in such a way that they live justly and integrate their faith with their work. So the church doesn't directly change culture, but it disciples and supports people who do.

Tim Keller  
Redeemer Presbyterian Church  
New York

Jesus  
exalts fidelity over commodity.

-  
His Spirit is the source  
of creativity

-  
Everything we need  
new or old

Hymn  
Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, o Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night.  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord.  
Thou my great father and I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle-shield, sword for the fight  
Be thou my dignity thou my delight.  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heavenward, O power of my  
power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise.  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart.  
High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright  
heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision O ruler of all.

(Please remain standing for the benediction)

**Benediction**

29 ways  
to stay creative

make lists

carry a notebook  
everywhere

try free writing

get away from the  
computer

quit beating yourself  
up

take breaks

sing in the shower

drink coffee

listen to new music

be open

surround yourself with  
creative people

get feedback

collaborate

don't give up

practice

allow yourself to  
make mistakes

go somewhere new

count your blessings

get lots of rest

take risks

break the rules

don't force it

read a page of the  
dictionary



create a framework

stop trying to be  
someone else's  
perfect

got an idea write it  
down

clean your workspace

have fun

finish something

now over to you!

God bless you in this  
week of conference