

Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Visit of Dr R. S. Sugirtharajah and Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah
12th-28th August 2014

Program:

16th August 2014 from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

@ Koornang Uniting Church

An Evening with Sugirtharajah and the Sri Lankan Community in Melbourne

By Invitation Only

18th – 19th August 2014

The Holy Cross Centre 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe, Victoria

Decolonizing the Bible & Christian Theology

Abstract: Why does the Church need to consider Postcolonial theology? How does Colonialism affect our readings of the Bible?

These are some of the questions we will be exploring at the '**Decolonizing the Bible 'and Christian Theology'** Retreat with Professor R. S. Sugitharajah. Though we live in a postcolonial world, many colonial attitudes still continue within the Church, as evidenced by the attempts to impose a so-called 'orthodox Christian theology' across the widely varying contexts and cultures.

According to postcolonial theologian Steve Hu, "Until theologians can engage and listen to multiple perspectives and utilise post-colonial insights, our theological enter-prise will remain provincial at best, with our theologies developed only for the Western ghetto. Such theologies will also be powerless to speak to the contexts of our globalised world."

Organised by: Cross-cultural Mission & Ministry Unit, Commission for Mission

20 August 2014: Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah presenting a paper at the UFT Lunch time Seminar - Venue: CTM; 1:00 -2:00 pm

Mohandas Gandhi and John Hick on Religious Pluralism

Abstract: In the present-day multicultural context, religious pluralism continues to be a contentious issue. This paper focuses on two eminent thinkers whose perspectives on religious pluralism have attracted much attention: Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869–1948), known to the world for his nonviolent campaign against British rule, and John Hick (1922– 2012), a renowned British philosopher of religion and theologian. My primary aim is to identify and explore significant correspondences in their thinking on religious pluralism, rather than engaging with the contentious debate their positions on religious pluralism have ignited in Western Christian theological discourse. Situating them in their respective contexts, this paper attempts to draw attention to concurrences in their notion of religion, concept of Truth/Real, and approach to conflicting truth-claims.

20 August 2014: (3.00 pm - 4:30 pm) Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah –
Closed discussion on Interfaith Dialog (April Robinson in charge);
Venue: Synod Offices – 130 Little Collins Street

21st August 2014 @ J D Northey Lecture – at CTM, 7:00 -8:00 pm The Centre for
Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, Victoria

Public Lecture: Textual Abundance: Marketization of the Bible

Abstract: The King James Version, once an undisputed universal script, has given way to a number of Bibles designated to attract specific audiences. Now there is a *Green Bible*, a *Gay and Lesbian Bible*, an *African Bible*, *An Amplified Bible*, a *New American Bible*, a *Youth Bible*, *The Bible in Cockney* and a *People's Bible*. The universal script has not only fragmented into several splinter Bibles, but, far worse, it has become closely allied to the entertainment industry presented as an easily consumable commercial object. What this lecture tries to do is to look at the post- modern, post-colonial fate of an artefact which emerged as a shining example of modernity and the book of the British empire.

Organised by: The Centre for Theology and Ministry

22nd August 2014 from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

The Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, Victoria

What is Postcolonialism? Why it is important for the Church to pay attention to it?

Dr. Sugirtharajah to speak to candidates and recent graduates

Organised by: The Centre for Theology and Ministry

22nd – 24th August 2014

Whitley College, University of Divinity, 271 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria

Claiming Sovereignty : Theological Perspectives

*Jointly Organised by: The University of Divinity, Whitley College, the Centre for Theology and Ministry,
and the Commission for Mission of the UCA*