

CTM Newsletter No. 17 Advent and Christmas 2023

Greetings from the trustees of CTM! We pray that Christmas will be a time of blessing wherever you are, and whatever your circumstances and situation.



This triptych, depicting the full sweep of God's purposes in Jesus Christ, was designed as a background to reflections during Christmas celebrations. Having made a home in our neighbourhood, through His life, death and resurrection God lifts us up with Him to the heights of His throne.

Since the last newsletter in 2021 we have all been navigating life through the Covid pandemic, and into the "new normal". CTM has been no exception, and it has taken time to identify how best to nurture and develop the seeds sown around the world since 2001.

The website is a key hub of the process, and it is being updated and reshaped. In the process we are asking those it seeks to serve, how it can be improved. So please let us have your thoughts.

There are now two new trustees, Lucie Hutson and John McNeill, and they were part of a face-to-face meeting in November, the first for many months. Lucie is keen to develop communication in the movement using social media, and John has offered to help catalogue CT resources on the website.

John Collier, who served for many years as the honorary company secretary of CTM, produced the Consultation Reports accessible via the website, and edited *Toddling to the Kingdom*, has been working on two collections of CT papers that are planned for electronic publication next year. One seeks to connect with churches and practical ministry and mission, the other with seminaries and theologians.

There has been a lot of "child-attentive" theological research and writing since 2020, including, *Child Theology: Diverse Methods and Perspectives*, edited by former trustee of CTM, Marcia Bunge (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2021). In time we hope that the website will provide links to all such work resources.

Perhaps the most significant development has been the introduction of the online *Exploring Child Theology Groups*. There have been three in 2023 (March, April and October), and a series is planned for 2024 and beyond. We hope that these will be the first of many conversations and invite contributions that will help develop existing thinking and practice.

At a time in human history when so many, including millions of children are suffering before the eyes of the world, not least in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Ukraine, the need for robust Child Theology, forged in the crucible of suffering has rarely been more evident. We invite you to be active agents in the process.

In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace,

Keith White