

**WYSOCS believes** that what goes on in the Kingdom of God is just as important as how to get in! All kinds of study, work and play are included in God's *calling* – opening up whole new vistas to church-goers and sceptics alike. WYSOCS is not revolutionary: it's *reformational* – about redeeming culture. In fact, we find this worldview provides powerful resources for evangelism where traditional approaches are struggling.



## Biblical Foundations

We expect God's Word in Scripture to bear on all our activities, uncover false assumptions and idolatrous practices, approve what is right and help us build an integrally Christian worldview.

We understand that creation in all its parts, however distorted by human sin and its consequences, remains the chosen and treasured possession of God;

that all creation was fashioned by the Word who became flesh, all its structures, natural and cultural, seen and unseen, being upheld by the command of the ascended, reigning Christ;

that by his death on the cross, Christ wins a new creation: a redeemed people in a new heavens and a new earth, that restitution of all things for which the creation waits impatiently as it looks for the return of the King;

that grace does not lift Christians out of creation's order and history, but commits them, with minds renewed by the Holy Spirit, to the stewardship, reconciliation, reformation and healing of every sphere of creation; and

that God calls women, men and children to work and worship, rest and play. The dignity of work, for example, resides in the relationship between the one who works and the One who calls. All callings equally confer office in Christ's Kingdom.

Therefore in every aspect of art, law, home-making, teaching, labouring or any other occupation, we are to work out our salvation in demonstration of Christ's transforming power.

WYSOCS is the WEST YORKSHIRE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES Registered Charity no 271987 [incorporating the International Association for Reformed Faith and Action (UK) founded 1976].

**Board of Reference** Prof. Jonathan Chaplin Prof. Roy Clouser Rt Rev. Patrick Harris Gerard Kelly  
Prof. David Lyon Ranald Macaulay Rev. Alec Motyer Prof. Andrew Sims Dr Jim Skillen  
Dr Alan Storkey Dr Elaine Storkey Prof. Chris Wild Prof. Al Wolters Prof. Tom Wright

West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies Reg. Charity No. 271987 incorporates the International Association for Reformed Faith and Action (UK) founded 1976. Affiliated to the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education.

# Annual Review

for the academic year to July 2011

For 25 years, WYSOCS has provided resources that engage culture and everyday life with an authentically Christian worldview. This year has seen far-reaching opportunities for RealityBites, a wide variety of LifeMatters events and important developments in our project to support postgraduate students: Faith-in-Scholarship.

## Finances

WYSOCS' work is made possible by generous giving of time and money by friends and staff. Mark Roques (RealityBites Director) and Richard Gunton (Development Officer) are each employed at 20% FTE; Mark in particular has given more than this in the last year. A grant of £1000 was received from the Ogle Christian Trust towards the development of RealityBites short films (see p3), and an anonymous gift has enabled progress on the postgraduates' support project. A full financial report is available from the Secretary, David Hanson.

## FAITH-IN-SCHOLARSHIP

*Supporting postgraduates  
in Christian thinking*

Our project to encourage integration of faith and scholarship among Christian postgraduate students was launched with a garden party held in association with the Leeds Postgraduates' Christian Fellowship in July this year. Around 20 postgrads were present to hear a talk by Prof. Andrew Basden on being a Christian academic, winning good feedback. Plans are being advanced for the part-time appointment of a support worker focusing on the north of England.

For more details, see [www.wysocs.org.uk/faith-in-scholarship.php](http://www.wysocs.org.uk/faith-in-scholarship.php).

# LIFEMATTERS

Exploring the richness of our many callings



LifeMatters is a programme of conferences and workshops questioning assumptions that underlie major problems in contemporary culture. Since 1986, these events have explored the impact of worldviews in our many callings, seeking to show how a Christian perspective is vital in every field of study and every area of life.

This year's programme comprised five main events:

- 7-session course on *Islam: The Other Family of Abraham* by Arthur Jones with contributions from Muslims through the Education Dialogue Society (Sep–Dec, 20 attended).
- Two talks at the AGM event by Dr Alan Storkey on *The Failure of Militarism* (9 Oct, 37 attended), looking at motives and ideologies in the arms trade.
- Day conference with four speakers: *The Gospel's Green Light* (26 Mar, 53 attended), looking at Christian motives for environmental care.



- Seven-session course by David Hanson in Sheffield: *The Transforming Vision* (Apr–Jun, 16 attended).
- Summer Lectures by Dr Mary Stewart van Leeuwen (Eastern University, Pennsylvania): *The Sexes and the Kingdom* (10–11 Jun, 39 attended).

Summaries of each event have been posted on the LifeMatters web pages, which now routinely include a series of links headed "Take it Further", in order to increase the value of LifeMatters events as an online resource.

For summaries and recordings, go to [www.wysocs.org.uk/lifematters.php](http://www.wysocs.org.uk/lifematters.php).

# REALITYBITES

Subversive stories about  
the meaning of life



RealityBites is the national training ministry of WYSOCS, working to bring Christianity to life for people of all ages.

Its Director, Mark Roques, has increasingly been invited to speak **overseas**. In October he gave a plenary talk at a Christian teachers' conference in the Netherlands (*Driestar Hogeschool*), and in July he was invited to address the *Educating for Tough Times* conference in Darwin, Australia. While there he also spoke at an academic symposium and was interviewed on Australian national radio. Activities in the UK included:

- Speaking to 140 youth workers at *Imagine2010* conference organized by [www.schoolswork.co.uk](http://www.schoolswork.co.uk) (11 Sep)
- Debating with the Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association on Premier Christian Radio's show *Unbelievable* (broadcast 26 Feb)
- Teaching at Spring Harvest (April)
- Speaking at Premier Christian Radio's *Unbelievable* apologetics conference: "Is Jesus the only way?" and "What about suffering?" (14 May)
- Addressing 300 students from three schools in Gateshead on "Celebrity Culture and the Money God" (6 Jul)

In October the RealityBites **blog** went live, with posts appearing weekly since then. Mark has also developed a new **course**, "Engaging Religion and Ethics" (selling for £25), intended for teachers to use in the classroom.

RealityBites' free online resources were extended with a 5-minute **video** of Mark telling the story of "James Chalmers and the Cannibals", a pilot case for a series of videos for discussion groups. It has been released on *Youtube*, where it had been viewed 1240 times as of November 2011. RealityBites also offers a new freely-downloadable **essay** by Arthur Jones, "Education, Indoctrination and God".

For links to the video, essays and other RealityBites resources, go to [www.realitybites.org.uk](http://www.realitybites.org.uk).