



BASS
British Association
for the Study of Spirituality

research ~ education ~ practice

First international conference
“Spirituality in a Changing World”
Tuesday 4 May – Thursday 6 May 2010

Keynote speakers biographies

Linda Woodhead

Linda Woodhead is Professor of Sociology of Religion at Lancaster University and Director of the £12m AHRC/ESRC Research Programme on Religion and Society. She has written on the decline of the churches and the rise of alternative forms of spirituality in the west, and has recently completed a book on religious emotion. Other books include: *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion is Giving Way to Spirituality* (with Paul Heelas, Blackwell, 2005) and *An Introduction to Christianity* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

www.lindawoodhead.org.uk

Bob Neimeyer

Robert A. Neimeyer, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology, University of Memphis, where he also maintains an active clinical practice. Neimeyer has published 23 books, including *Meaning Reconstruction and the Experience of Loss*, and serves as Editor of the journal *Death Studies*. The author of over 300 articles and book chapters and a frequent workshop presenter, he is currently working to advance a more adequate theory of grieving as a meaning-making process. Neimeyer served as President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and Chair of the International Work Group for Death, Dying, & Bereavement. In recognition of his scholarly contributions, he has been granted the Eminent Faculty Award by the University of Memphis, and made a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

<http://webmac.com/neimeyer>

Rebecca Nye

Dr Rebecca Nye combines her career as an academic researcher, speaker, author and trainer on children's spirituality, with sharing her passion for an innovative approach to spiritual education called 'Godly Play'. Rebecca was responsible for the introduction of Godly Play to the UK (also to Germany and Finland), and has helped to establish widespread use of this challenging praxis in schools, churches, home groups and even theological training. A

notable development in the UK has been the uptake of this approach in adult contexts. Rebecca conducted a landmark research study of children's spirituality (see *The Spirit of the Child*, Nye with Hay), and was also responsible for developing the Psychology and Christianity project at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge (see *Psychology for Christian Ministry*, Watts, Nye and Savage). Rebecca has had research posts, from research assistant to Reader, at the universities of Birmingham, Nottingham, Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin. Currently she teaches and supervises in the spirituality and education area on a freelance basis at a number of UK universities. She has three children, one each at preschool, primary and secondary, and lives in Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Harold G. Koenig, MD, MHSc.

Dr. Koenig completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University, his medical school training at the University of California at San Francisco, and his geriatric medicine, psychiatry, and biostatistics training at Duke University Medical Center. He is board certified in general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine, and is on the faculty at Duke as Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Associate Professor of Medicine. Dr. Koenig is founding co-director of the *Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health* at Duke University Medical Center, and has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion, with nearly 350 scientific peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and 40 books in print or in preparation. His research on religion, health and ethical issues in medicine has been featured on dozens of national and international TV news programs (including ABC's World News Tonight, The Today Show and two episodes of Good Morning America), nearly a hundred national or international radio programs, and hundreds of newspapers and magazines (including Reader's Digest, Parade Magazine, Newsweek, Time, and Guidepost). Dr. Koenig has given testimony before the U.S. Senate (1998) and U.S. House of Representatives (2008) concerning the benefits of religion and spirituality on public health, and has given many seminars and workshops on the topic.

<http://www.spiritualityandhealth.duke.edu/about/hkoenig/index.html>.

His latest books are (1) *Faith and Mental Health* (2005), (2) *In the Wake of Disaster* (2006), (3) *Spirituality in Patient Care, 2nd edition* (2007), *Medicine, Religion and Health* (2008), *Religion and Spirituality in Psychiatry* (2009).

Ursula King

URSULA KING FRSA is Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Bristol. Educated in Germany, France, India and England, she has lectured all over the world and published widely, especially on women and gender issues in religions, interfaith dialogue, spirituality, and on Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. She has held several visiting chairs in the USA and Norway, and been awarded honorary doctorates by the universities of Edinburgh, Oslo, and Dayton, Ohio. In 1996 she gave the Bampton Lectures at the University of Oxford, published as *Christ in All Things. Exploring Spirituality with Teilhard de Chardin* (SCM Press, 1997). Other publications include *Women and Spirituality: Voices of Protest and Promise* (Macmillan 1993), the illustrated biography *Spirit of Fire: The Life and Vision of Teilhard de Chardin* (Orbis Books, 1996), *Christian Mystics. Their Lives and Legacies Throughout the Ages* (Routledge, 2004), and most recently *The Search for Spirituality: Our Global Quest for Meaning and Fulfilment* (Canterbury Press, 2009).