

Contemporary Christianity
Annual Catherwood Lecture in Public Theology 2015

When words fail: religious literacy and post-multicultural possibilities

16th APRIL at 8.00 pm (Tea and coffee from 7.30pm)
Venue: The Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GF
(Served by Metro bus route 9)



How do we reach out in compassion, and avoid a tabloid-type reaction to other faiths, whilst standing up for values that are important in our society (values often derived from a Biblical faith)?

Come and explore this together!

Speaker: Dr Jenny Taylor

Jenny is a cultural analyst, journalist, author and founder of Lapidio Media, a consultancy specialising in religious literacy in world affairs. Jenny has reported from areas of conflict and poverty all over Asia and Africa, deciding to specialize in Islam and secularization. She speaks and writes on the connection between faith and culture, on which she has addressed parliamentary, Commonwealth and media gatherings. From 1988 to 1994 she was the editor of GO, the magazine for Interserve. She co-authored the book Faith and Power (1998), along with Professor Lamin Sanneh of Yale, and Lesslie Newbigin. She is a member of the Evangelical Alliance's Theological Advisory Group.



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CATHERWOOD LECTURE 2015

When Words Fail – Dr Jenny Taylor

Response – Dr Gladys Ganiel

In Northern Ireland, with its own political issues and our relatively homogenous society, the need for engagement with wider world issues has often been obscured. Yet these issues are in our news every day. We all rely on journalists for local and world news. How can we know that we are getting a fair reflection on increasingly complex issues?

As our own political situation changes and Northern Irish society becomes more diverse, we need an understanding of how to better engage with people of different cultural and faith backgrounds. This is an issue we shouldn't avoid. Religious literacy means, essentially, catching up with the significant shifts in British and Irish secular culture that are already upon us. How can we do this constructively?

Increasingly, the journalists Jenny talks to share her view that religion is too serious to have only a passing acquaintance with it. Truth is out there, and it's our duty to find and tell it. This lecture will help us on this journey.

To get the discussions and conversation going, we will have a response by Dr Gladys Ganiel, Research Fellow in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's University Belfast and author or co-author of four books on evangelicalism and conflict, and the emerging church movement. There will then be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Sir Fred Catherwood, in whose honour this lecture was inaugurated in 1998, died peacefully on 30th November 2014. This is the first lecture to be held in his memory since... he has run the race and completed the course, and today in "higher Service". We honour his memory, and there will be a short tribute to Fred during the evening programme.

TEA and COFFEE will be served at the commencement of the evening.

Further information:

- www.lapidomedia.com/about-us
- www.interserve.org.uk
- www.contemporarychristianity.net

