



‘Visions of the Good Life: Salvation in the Twenty-First Century’

- Practical Theology, Missiology and Church Polity Conference
- *When:* 8-10 June 2022
- Theological University Kampen | Utrecht
Where: Broederweg 15, NL-8261 GS Kampen, the Netherlands *AND ONLINE*
- International Academic Conference organized by the [Centre for Church and Mission in the West](https://churchandmission.nl), which seeks to draw together scholars with a variety of theological approaches to research on mission, ecclesial practices and church polity
- The main topic of this conference is connected to the CCMW’s research programme, ‘Salvation in the Twenty-First Century’
- *Registration* for this conference: <https://churchandmission.nl/ccmw-2022-conference-registration/>

Conference Programme

Wednesday June 8, 2022

Time	Activity	Location
15.00 - 17.00	Arrival and registration, and welcome with coffee and tea	Hall Theological University (TU)
17.00 - 18.00	Drinks and dinner	Garden/Hall TU
18.00 - 20.15	Official welcome, conference chair Devotional opening Lecture 1: Clive Marsh, ‘Why Salvation Matters... for Church, in Mission and for Society’ In this lecture Clive will introduce us to the topic of salvation in the context of today’s Western societies. Building on his recent work (<i>A Cultural Theology of Salvation</i> , OUP: Oxford 2018), he will	Nieuwe Kerk (“New Church”)

	<p>explore cultural repertoires of salvation and their significance for theology, the potential relationships between soteriological views and missional practices, and the importance of thinking through our ideas of salvation for the vitality of missiology and practical theology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants <p>Closure of the day</p>	
20.15 - 21.00	Drinks	Hall/Garden TU

Thursday June 9, 2022

Time	Activity	Location
08.45 - 09.15	Coffee and tea	Hall TU
09.15 - 10.45	<p>Lecture 2: Cathy Ross & James Butler, “Who then can be saved?” Perspectives on a lived theology of salvation among Fresh Expressions in the UK’</p> <p>Together with her colleague James Butler, Cathy will discuss operant views of salvation in fresh expressions in the UK. What do these initiatives want to achieve in terms of salvation and/or soteriology? Which views of salvation and the good life inspire them, implicitly or explicitly? How can we reflect on this as from a theological point of view? This is an important topic, especially in the light of recent criticisms of fresh expressions both in the UK and the Netherlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants 	Nieuwe Kerk
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee and tea to go, heading towards seminars/short paper sessions	
11.15 - 12.15	Seminars/short paper sessions 1 (each session is moderated by someone who is responsible for every session in that particular classroom)	Classrooms TU
12.15 - 13.15	Lunch	Garden/Hall TU

13.15 - 14.45	<p>Lecture 3: Harvey Kwiyani, 'Europe's New Evangelists: Exploring African Pentecostal Soteriologies in a Post-Christian World'</p> <p>In his lecture, Harvey will introduce us to the implicit and explicit views of salvation among African Pentecostals, particularly the African Diaspora in the West. Many of these Christians have come to Europe with an explicit purpose: to reconvert the continent. What does that imply in terms of soteriology? He will explore issues such as the 'evangelisthood of all believers', the interaction of various soteriologies that animate missional practices in Europe, such as African Pentecostalism in relation to (British) evangelicalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants 	Nieuwe Kerk
14.45 - 15.15	Coffee and tea to go, heading towards seminars/short paper sessions	
15.15 - 16.15	Seminars/short paper sessions 2	Classrooms TU
16.15 - 16.45	Soft drinks and snacks	Garden/Hall TU
16.45 - 18.15	Guided tour through the historic centre of Kampen	
18.15 - 19.30	Drinks and dinner	Garden/Hall TU
19.30 - 21.00	Seminars/short paper sessions 3	Classrooms TU
21.00 - 21.30	Evening prayer (with live music) and closure of the day	Nieuwe Kerk
21.30	Drinks at a local café (optional)	

Friday June 10, 2022

Time	Activity	Location
08.45 - 09.15	Coffee and tea	Hall TU
09.15 - 10.45	<p>Lecture 4: Nigel Rooms, 'Participating in the flow of God: Church development and salvation'</p> <p>In this lecture Nigel will connect his work in church development – essentially long-term, slow and deep cultural change in the hidden 'tectonic plates' of congregational life – with contemporary notions of salvation working especially with some of the categories embedded in Liberation Theology, Clive Marsh's, <i>A Cultural Theology of Salvation</i> (OUP, 2018) and the apophatic tradition (only by negation do we attain union). Salvation at the boundary of the porous 'missional' church can</p>	Nieuwe Kerk

	<p>take many and complex forms grounded in the mysterious <i>here and now</i> of lived experience and spiritual practices in community as well as the future promise of the reign of God arriving towards us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants 	
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee and tea to go, heading towards seminars/short paper sessions	
11.15 - 12.15	Seminars/short paper sessions 4	Classrooms TU
12.15 - 13.15	Lunch	Garden/Hall TU
13.15 - 14.45	<p>Lecture 5: Christopher James, ‘Salvation as Life Together: Ecclesial Embodiments of the Good Life in North American Cities’</p> <p>Based on his ongoing research into North American city churches, Christopher will discuss explicit and implicit views of salvation in new church plants that focus on neighbourhoods. These so-called ‘Neighborhood Incarnation churches’ seem to have found a way beyond worn-out dichotomies such as ‘evangelical’ vs ‘liberal’ by adopting a praxis model of mission and embracing a specific geographic territory as their ‘parish’. Which operant soteriologies are found in these churches and how does this help us to reflect on missiology and practical theology in the West?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants 	Nieuwe Kerk
14.45 - 15.15	Coffee and tea break	Garden/Hall TU
15.15 - 16.45	<p>Lecture 6: Stefan Paas, ‘The ministry of reconciliation: In Search of a Post-Christendom Soteriology’</p> <p>Building on recent research into fresh expressions of church and ‘regular’ church practices, and reflecting on previous lectures during this conference, Stefan will present some building blocks for a contemporary soteriology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response • Questions/Conversation with all participants <p>Closure of the conference</p>	Nieuwe Kerk
16.45 - 17.30	Soft drinks and finger food	Garden/Hall TU

Keynote speakers

Dr James Butler is a lecturer and assistant coordinator of the MA programme at the Church Mission Society, and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Roehampton. He teaches and researches in the areas of mission, ecclesiology, and practical theology. He is currently working on research into lay pioneers and into the experience of ‘faith learning’ in churches. Recent publications: Butler, James, ‘Prayer as a Research Practice?: What Corporate Practices of Prayer Disclose about Theological Action Research’, *Ecclesial Practices*, 7.2 (2020); ‘The “Long and Winding Road” of Faith: Learning about the Christian Life and Discipleship from Two Methodist Congregations’, *Practical Theology*, 13.3 (2020), 277–89.



Rev. Dr Christopher James is associate professor of evangelism and missional Christianity at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses in church planting and theology & culture and directs the Master of Arts in Mission and Discipleship. He holds degrees from Wheaton College, Fuller Seminary and Boston University School of Theology. His book, *Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil: Theology and Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2018) has received several recognitions and been reviewed in a dozen academic journals. He is currently engaged in research of the ecclesial ecology in Dane County, Wisconsin, where James is a leader for two grant funded initiatives, Missio Madison and Awaken Dane. In addition, he is conducting collaborative research on the development of ‘city-gospel movements’ in U.S. cities.



Dr Harvey Kwiyani is a Malawian mission-theologian currently teaching at Church Mission Society in Oxford, England. He is also the CEO of Global Connections, a network for evangelical mission in the UK. His research focuses on African Christians in Europe. He has authored several books including *Sent Forth: African Missionary Work in the West* (Orbis, 2014) and *Multicultural Kingdom: Ethnic Diversity, Mission and the Church* (SCM, 2020).



Prof. Clive Marsh is Principal of the Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham (UK). He is a lay person and an accredited preacher in the Methodist Church, was Vice-President of the British Methodist Conference 2019-20, and has been in theological education, in university and church settings, for over 35 years. He is from Liverpool and has since lived in London, Sheffield, Rotherham and Leicester, as well as spending valuable time as student and tutor in Germany, the US and Zimbabwe. He has published several books on Christology, and on theology’s interaction with popular culture. His most recent works are *A Cultural Theology of Salvation* (OUP 2018), summarized in the booklet *What is Salvation For?* (Grove 2021) and, with Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, *So What’s the Story? A Resource Book for Christian Reflection and Practice* (DLT 2019).



Prof. Stefan Paas is J.H. Bavinck Professor of Missiology and Intercultural Theology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Professor of Missiology at Theologische Universiteit Kampen | Utrecht, and Research Associate at University of Pretoria, SA. He is director of the Centre for Church and Mission in the West, and author of several books on mission in the secular West. Among his recent English publications are *Church Planting in the Secular West: Learning from the European Experience* (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids 2016), *Pilgrims and Priests: Christian Mission in a Post-Christian Society* (SCM: London 2019) and 'Reconciled Community. On finding a soteriology for fresh expressions', *Ecclesiology* 17/3 (2021). He is currently preparing a book on soteriology in the context of mission in the West.



Dr Nigel Rooms is an Anglican priest, missiologist (ThD, Birmingham University, 2008), practical theologian and vegetable gardener. He works part-time for the Church Mission Society enabling churches in post-Christian Britain to change their deep culture towards embodying the mission of God in their beliefs, attitudes, and action. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. In his freelance work he is the editor of the journal *Practical Theology* and the co-editor of *Ecclesial Futures*, a researcher, facilitator, theological educator, and spiritual director. He is the author of several articles and books, including the recently co-authored *Crossing Thresholds: A Practical Theology of Liminality* (Cambridge: Lutterworth, 2021) and *Fuzzy Church: Gospel and Culture in the North of England* (Durham: Sacristy, 2021).



Dr Cathy Ross is Head of Pioneer Leadership Training at CMS (Church Mission Society) and Lecturer in Mission at Regent's Park College, Oxford. She comes from Aotearoa/NZ. Until mid 2010 she managed the Crowther Centre for Mission Education at CMS and was the J V Taylor Fellow in Missiology at Regent's Park College, Oxford. Until 2016 she was the General Secretary of the International Association for Mission Studies. She has previously worked in Rwanda, Congo, and Uganda with NZCMS. Her recent publications focus on mission and include *The Pioneer Gift* (with Jonny Baker, London: SCM, 2014), *Mission on the Road to Emmaus*, (with Steve Bevans, London: SCM, 2015), *Missional Conversations: A Dialogue between Theory and Praxis in World Mission* (with Colin Smith, 2018), *Imagining Mission with John Taylor* with Jonny Baker, London: SCM, 2020) Her research interests are in the areas of contextual theologies, World Christianity, feminist theologies and hospitality. She is Canon Theologian for Leicester Cathedral.

