

Boston Theological Institute

Andover Newton Theological School • Boston College Department of Theology • Boston University School of Theology • Episcopal Divinity School
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary • Harvard Divinity School • Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology • Saint John's Seminary • Weston Jesuit School of Theology

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*George H. Williams, Harvard Divinity
School Hollis Professor of Divinity,
Emeritus, Dies at 86*

George Huntston Williams, Hollis Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Harvard Divinity School and a resident of Belmont, Massachusetts, died on October 6 at Mount Auburn Hospital. He was 86.

Williams, one of the founding spirits of the Boston Theological Institute, was noted for his specialization in Church History and what he came to term the "Radical Reformation," as well as the tremendous diversity of his scholarly expertise, which spanned Medieval, European, and American religious history.

Williams was born on April 7, 1914 in Huntsburg, Ohio. The son of a Congregational minister who later moved his ministry to the Unitarian Church, Williams followed his family through several moves all over the country. He completed undergraduate studies in 1936 at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. He then attended Meadville Theological School, which was federated with several seminaries surrounding the University of Chicago Divinity School. He graduated with a B. D. in 1939. His B. D. thesis was on sin in the writings of Paul Tillich: *Priest, Prophet, and Proletariat*, was his first published writing (1939).

On a Cruft Travelling Fellowship, Williams studied at the Catholic Institute in Paris, where he remained through the beginning of World War II. He fled Europe and returned home to be ordained in the Church of the Christian Union (non-denominational) in Rockford, Illinois in 1940.

Williams soon left pastoral ministry and be-
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**Bishop Talibuddin, Church of
North India**

***Addressing Conference
Reconciliation 2000***

**"A Pilgrimage of Hope... For a Change
of Hearts"**

Church of North India Bishop and one-time journalist, Ernest William Talibuddin, will be one of many to share stories of forgiveness, reconciliation, and restorative justice at the conference, Reconciliation 2000, to be held on the campus of Andover Newton and in area churches in Newton Centre, 25-28 October. Bishop Talibuddin will be joined by others from India, such as Baptist theologian Dr. Manskhosat Kipgen, and those from regions as diverse as Australia to Rwanda, from Romania to Northern Ireland, and from Chile to the streets of Chicago.

Bishop Talibuddin has also shared in City of Boston, a ministry grounded in the work of Christ, that has changed the social face of a city once riddled with youth violence.

Bishop Talibuddin will speak in the Asia
Continued on page 3 -- Bishop Talibuddin

came a lecturer in Church History at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. At the same time, he began work on his Th.D., which he would complete in 1946 at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In 1947, after a brief return to Berkeley, Williams assumed a post at the Harvard Divinity School.

At the Divinity School, Williams taught
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Church History. He first served as Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History (1956-63) and then as Hollis Professor of Divinity (1963-1980). He was Acting Dean of the school from 1953-55, during which time he edited *The Harvard Divinity School: Its Place in Harvard University and in American Culture* (1954). During his tenure as Dean, he attracted two men to the school who would later become deans – Krister Stendahl and Samuel Miller. Williams retired from Harvard Divinity School in 1980 after 33 years as a valued teacher, mentor and member of the community.

Among his most widely-read works are *Wilderness and Paradise in Christian Thought* (1962); *The Mind of John Paul II* (1982); and the third edition of *The Radical Reformation* (1992), along with numerous articles and essays about Medieval, Reformation, European, and American Church History. His interest in languages and peoples, and as a proponent of the “minority” voice, made him a defender of life in all its forms from biological differentiation to the world of human communities. He was not a disinterested historian.

Williams was president of the American Society of Church History and of the Society of Reformation Research. He was chairman of the North American Committee for the Documentation of Free Church Origins (1962-1982), a director of the Unitarian Historical Society, and a governor of the Congregational Historical Society.

He was also a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the North American Patristic Society, the Medieval Academy of America, the American Historical Association, the Catholic Historical Association, the Renaissance Society, the Greater Boston Reformation Colloquium, the Gilmanton, New Hampshire Historical Club, the Dante Alighieri Society, the Boston Minis-

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A Pilgrimage of Hope... For a Change of Heart

October 25-28, 2000

Sponsored by Reconciliation Networks of Our World (RNOW) at Andover Newton Theological School and Area Churches

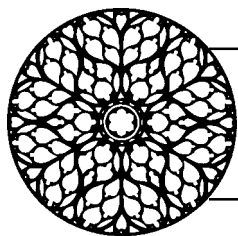
See page 3 for a brief bio of one of this conference's featured speakers.

South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission presents:

“LONG NIGHT’S JOURNEY INTO DAY”

We are very excited to announce the Thursday, October 26th **Boston premiere** of the Sundance award winning film, “Long Night’s Journey Into Day”. The film, which features the work of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will be followed by a discussion lead by the filmmakers and local experts. General admission is \$20, student tickets are \$10. To reserve tickets, please call South Africa Partners at (617) 482-1317.

South Africa Partners, an organization committed to promoting sustainable relationships between South Africa and the United States, will be the principal beneficiary of the film benefit. If you would like more information about this organization, please view their web site: www.sapartners.org.



Full newsletter & calendar at
www.bostontheological.org

Bishop Talibuddin, *continued*

plenary, scheduled for Saturday morning, October 28, from 10:00-12:00 at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. He will also participate in a forum entitled "Healing Communal Violence" on Thursday, October 26, from 1:30-3:30 in Lutheran Church of the Newtons, both churches adjacent to the campus of Andover Newton Theological School. The forum on Thursday will include Bryan Hamlin, regional director of Moral Re-Armament and David Little, Professor and Director of Harvard's Center for the Study of Values in Public Life, as well as others.

Ernest William Talibuddin began his professional career with *The Statesman*, New Delhi, and was then ordained priest in the Anglican Church. In 1986 he was consecrated Bishop in the Church of North India. Having participated in several assemblies of the World Council of Churches, in international conferences on Christian and Jewish affairs, and as *Acharya* of *Christa Prema Seva Ashram*, in Puna, Talibuddin has pursued a ministry of reconciliation in a variety of contexts. For the past quarter of a century he has worked with a Joint Council of the Church of North India, Church of South India and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church to foster spiritual renewal, mission and evangelism, leadership, socio-economic and political concerns of the oppressed and marginalized, inter-religious dialogue, and structural change in his society. His work with the Centre of Studies for Social and International Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral, Coventry (UK) has shaped his approach to the meaning and work of reconciliation.

The plenary and forum in which

Talibuddin is involved is one of a number led by internationally-renowned speakers representing the six inhabited continents of the world. These will be interspersed with additional workshops on topics taken up by the approximately 50 featured speakers from throughout the world as well as New England. For more information on the conference, visit the web site at www.reconciliationnetworks.org or call the local conference office at 617-527-9399.

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ters Club, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, among many others.

He received many awards and honors throughout his career, including being chosen as a Guggenheim Fellow and IREX scholar, and made decorated knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II.

The nature of Williams' work is probably best captured by Jaroslav Pelikan, Sterling Professor of History, Yale University:

*Too interested in theological typologies to be a strict historicist, yet too conscious of historical ambiguity to be a systematic theologian, George Huntston Williams, 'hundred-handed, Argus-eyed,' has helped those of us who have only two hands (plus a computer) and two eyes (plus bifocals) to see the mystery a bit more deeply – and therefore to see how apophatic and ineffably mysterious it must always remain. (From Pater and Petersen, *The Contentious Triangle: Church, State and University*, Truman University Press, p. 13.)*

Professor Williams will indeed be missed by the BTI community.

Calendar of Events

October 25-28. **“Reconciliation 2000: An International Conference.”** Sponsored by Reconciliation Networks of Our World (R.N.O.W.). Registration fee: \$15. Contact info: (770)939-4351 or (617) 527-9399 or email at charmn1@Banet.net.

October 31, 7:30 PM. **“Interreligious Dialogue and the Catholic University.”** Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, will be speaking. At Boston College, Gasson Hall 100. Contact: Professor Francis X. Clooney, SJ, Boston College, 552 3883 or clooney@bc.edu.

Monday, October 23, 4:30 to 6:30. **“Tradition and Ministry.”** A lecture by Dr. Mary Ann Hinsdale I.H.M., at the Boston College Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. Reception follows. Contact: Kristen Gomes (617)552-8443.

Thursday, October 19, 5:00. **“Heaven is no Holiday: Ideas on Immortality and Eternal Life in the Islamic Tradition.”** A lecture by Dr. Annemarie Schimmel, Emerita Professor of Islamic Studies at Harvard. Call (617)495-8325 for more information.

Monday, November 6, 4:00 to 6:00. **“Translating Buddhist Religious Experience into Social Ethics: A Discussion in Two Parts.”** Part I: Intellectual Approaches. Event will happen at BUSTH, in the Hartman Room (B23). Panelists include Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno (Smith College), Prof. John Makransky (Boston College), and Prof. John Berthrong (Boston University). Contact: Hojo Tone (617)755-9793 or email hojot@bu.edu.

Now until Friday, October 20. **“Recalling Her Story--And Our Vision: An Exhibition of Women in the Ecumenical Movement.”** A special exhibit sponsored by FLT and Anglican, Global and Ecumenical Studies. On display at EDS in Washburn Hall and in Sherrill Hall in the library atrium. Contact: Ian Douglas at (617) 868-3450 or email him at idouglas@episdivschool.org.

Friday, November 10, 12:00pm. **“Leading for Liberation and Long-Term Social Change: Conflict, Disappointment, and Hope in Chiapas: A Presentation by Bishop Samuel Ruiz”** At Harvard University, Memorial Church in Harvard Yard. Sponsored by the Harvard Divinity School and Harvard University Student organizations. For information call

(617)547-9389.

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. **“How can the Sabbath Change Your Life?”** Keeping the Sabbath recognizes the sacredness of time and the importance of “shifting gears” in our busy lives. Rabbi Ephraim Greenberg of Temple B’nai Moshe will explain this hallowed practice and its relevance for busy people today. No fee. At All Saints Parish in Brookline, 1773 Beacon Street. Contact Mary Kay Klein at (617) 738-1810, or ruahspirit@yahoo.com.

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. **“What is Sufi Spirituality?”** Sufi wisdom grew out of the Moslem tradition and is a practice which harmonizes body and soul, incorporating chanting and dance. Reza Antoszewska, a member of the Sufi Order of the West, will lead this presentation of Sufi chanting, praying, and dancing. No fee. At All Saints Parish in Brookline, 1773 Beacon Street. Contact Mary Kay Klein at (617) 738-1810, or ruahspirit@yahoo.com.

Sunday, October 15, 4:30 PM. **“The New Emerson and the Question of Religious Experience.”** David M. Robinson, Distinguished Professor of American Literature at Oregon State University and a leading authority on Ralph Waldo Emerson and his milieu, will give a talk that will be followed by a response from Lawrence Buell, Marquand Professor of English at Harvard, and general discussion, moderated by David D. Hall, Professor of American Religious History at HDS, Andover Hall, in the Sperry Room. To attend, please call (617) 496-5484.

October 17, 2000, 8 p.m. **“A Saint’s Spiritual Testament: St. Peter Canisius, SJ.”** Luce Giard is a professor of history at the University of California, San Diego. Her specialty is the history of science, but her interests range very broadly. She is also the literary executor of the works of Michel de Certeau, S.J. This lecture takes place at **Weston Jesuit, in Sherrill Hall 3A. Please contact WJST for details.**

Do you have items that may be of interest to the BTI community? Please send all announcements to:

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fax: (617) 527-1073

Please be aware that notices of events happening at BTI schools have first priority, and that space and time limitations may dictate what information can be included in our pages.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are open to the public.