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## FFF Update #3 (August 2001)

News & Information from FaithFutures Foundation, Inc.

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*An occasional newsletter from FaithFutures Foundation, Inc.*

Please note that this is a distribution-only service.

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### **1. Those quiet August days (daze?)**

The northern summer sees life move into vacation mode for a great many people, including members and friends of FFF. Many forms of organized public activity move into a seasonal lull. School yards fall silent. Church programs are suspended for the summer. Even internet discussion groups slow down!

Development of the FFF web site has also slowed a little this past month. That has been partly a reflection of these cyclical patterns, but it has also been due to a seasonal increase in activities "down under" as university teaching commitments cut into my time available for working on projects relating to the Foundation.

Despite the August days/daze, information and other materials awaiting publication on the FFF web site has continued to accumulate on my desk. Some of these will be featured in this issue of FFFUpdate.

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## **2. TCPC leader welcomes FFF**

James R. Adams, founder of [The Center for Progressive Christianity](#) and a member of the Advisory Panel for FaithFutures Foundation, has welcomed the formation of FaithFutures Foundation. He writes:

Progressive Christians everywhere will welcome the appearance of the FaithFutures Foundation. Although the founders of FFF have an interfaith perspective, most of the resources they have made available on their website are particularly useful to people who have taken a liberal approach to following Jesus.

[Jim Adams continues ...](#)

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## **3. Membership & Donations**

The Foundation has welcomed a number of new members during August, and we have also been grateful for the financial support given or promised. Summary membership data and financial information will be published on the FFF web site at regular intervals. The first of these reports should appear during October following the end of the September quarter.

Online forms are available for [memberships](#) and [donations](#).

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## **4. Creating & sustaining local circles**

One of the primary objectives of the Foundation is to strengthen local grassroots organizations actively engaged in the process of re-shaping religious beliefs and practices in the light of new information from our rapidly expanding knowledge. The long term value of FFF will be judged by its success in doing that, rather than in the fascinating array of resources that are accessible through its web site. We have people with expertise in consultation and development roles in religious settings who are available to assist you in forming or strengthening such local circles. If you would like more information, please contact us: [office@faithfutures.org](mailto:office@faithfutures.org)

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## **5. Study Guide for Dom Crossan, *Birth of Christianity***

A study guide for Dom Crossan, *The Birth of Christianity*, will soon be available through the FFF web site. This guide was prepared by Susan Curtis and has been tested in several local adult education settings. The study guide will be available as master copies, in PDF format, with

permission to reproduce for local use. A portion of the purchase price will be retained by FFF for its own funds. Keep an eye on the FFF web site for full details.

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## 6. *Jesus*database

Work on the [JESUSdatabase](#) is continuing. At least 2 or 3 clusters (as identified in Dom Crossan's inventory) are added to the online collection each week. This involves gathering the full texts for each occurrence of the cluster, as well as reviewing the historical judgements of selected scholars for brief notes. Where possible, the full voting details of relevant Jesus Seminar sessions are also included. Don Spencer, a Canadian FFF member, has offered technical assistance to make the project available in formats that support full text searching, indexing, etc. That is greatly appreciated and should enhance the value of the collection for users.

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## 7. OHT resources

The resource collection within the FFF site now has a growing set of masters for overhead projector transparencies ("OHT"). The set has begun with materials prepared for workshop and university classes, and will be continually supplemented as additional materials become available. To preserve document design features, these are all available as [PDF files](#).

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## 8. Video resources

Early work is underway to create a directory of video materials for use in educational and other settings. The idea is to provide reviews of video materials, in addition to information about their availability. [You can help us](#) by providing information about video resources that you have used, including comments on the contents and suitability for particular settings. Thanks.

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## 9. What's happening?

Check the [Events](#) page on the FFF web site for information on coming events, including the public schedules for Marcus Borg, Dominic Crossan and John Shelby Spong.

[Tell us](#) about other events that should be listed.

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## Postal addresses for FaithFutures Foundation

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**Your interest and support is greatly valued.  
Please help make FFF known among colleagues and friends.**

Prepared by Gregory C. Jenks  
Executive Trustee, August 2001

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