PUBLIC LECTURE:
Textual Abundance:
Marketization of the Bible

To be held at the
Centre for the Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville
Thursday, 21st August 2014, 7:00 pm

The King James Version, once an undisputed universal script, has given way to a number of Bibles designated to attract specific audiences. Now there is a Green Bible, a Gay and Lesbian Bible, an African Bible, An Amplified Bible, a New American Bible, a Youth Bible, The Bible in Cockney and a People’s Bible. The universal script has not only fragmented into several splinter Bibles, but, far worse, it has become closely allied to the entertainment industry presented as an easily consumable commercial object. What this lecture tries to do is to look at the post-modern, post-colonial fate of an artefact which emerged as a shining example of modernity and the book of the British empire.

Presented by R. S. Sugirtharajah, Emeritus Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics, Department of Theology and Religion at University of Birmingham.

He was born in Sri Lanka and had his postgraduate education in India and the UK. He is author and editor of significant volumes on biblical studies. He is particularly known for two pioneering works. One was his introduction of a new critical category to biblical studies, namely postcolonial criticism which has been receiving wide recognition both within and outside the discipline. His application of this critical category has helped to create for the discipline a new interpretative environment.

The second ground breaking work drew attention to marginal interpretative voices not normally visible or heard in mainstream circles. The volume which encapsulated this stance and with which he seems to be especially identified is Voices from the Margin (1991; revised and expanded in 2006), a Catholic Book Award Winner.

His work ranges across many disciplinary borders and has been translated into Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Malay. Among his editorial responsibilities, he is the Series Editor for the Bible and Postcolonialism series published by Continuum. Besides his academic work, he contributes a regular cultural column for a leading Tamil journal in Chennai, India. He has also published a collection of short stories and a volume of essays in Tamil.

He is in Australia as a JD Northey Lecturer within the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

Entry cost is via donation.
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