



Media Release from Macquarie Christian Studies Institute (MCSI)

Bringing Faith to Life ~ Putting Faith to Work

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Big Minds Address the Big Question

World-Renowned Cosmologist and Prominent Bishop Discuss the Future of the World

An internationally renowned cosmologist/physicist and one of the world's greatest theologians will be publicly sharing their contrasting perspectives on one of life's biggest questions: **Does the World Have a Future?** at a forum in Sydney on Tuesday, March 14.

Professor of Natural Philosophy, **Professor Paul Davies** and Anglican Bishop of Durham, **Rt Rev Dr NT (Tom) Wright**, Member of the House of Lords, will be addressing a public forum at Robert Menzies College, 136 Herring Road, North Ryde. The event is part of the week of events featuring Dr Wright presented by the **Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SEC)** (Ancient History Dept.) and **Macquarie Christian Studies Institute (MCSI)**, both based at Macquarie University.

Prof Davies from Macquarie University is a theoretical physicist and cosmologist by profession, but now works in astrobiology, a new field of research that seeks to understand the origin and evolution of life, and to search for life beyond Earth. Dr Davies is well-known for pondering the big questions of existence and has written several books and articles on these topics, as well as making television series. For details see: <http://aca.mq.edu.au/PaulDavies/pdavies>

Rt Rev Dr NT (Tom) Wright – one of the five most outstanding theologians in the world according to *Christianity Today Magazine* – has written more than 40 books and over 250 articles at scholarly and popular levels, including the multi-volume *Christian Origins and the Question of God* and the *For Everyone* series of popular commentaries on the New Testament. He has recently written *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (700+ pages), widely regarded as the best book on the subject. As well as encyclopaedic expert on ancient texts, he is a lively writer and speaker able to communicate profound ideas and cutting-edge scholarship to a broad audience. He has had numerous appearances on radio and TV, including devising and presenting programmes in both media.

Director of MCSI, Dr Gordon Preece, said that bringing Dr Wright for the first time to Australia would encourage people to take an honest historical look at the New Testament and the claims made for and against it. It would also enable those interested to prepare themselves for the debates that may be generated by the release of the *Da Vinci Code* movie in May. Dr Wright will be giving several public addresses in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane during his first visit to Australia. His Sydney events also include addresses on *Decoding 'The Da Vinci Code'* and *The Historical Jesus*, and a workshop on *Hope in a Hopeless World*, from March 13 - 18.

Visit www.mcsi.edu.au for details, see attached or contact MCSI on 9850 6133 for a brochure or email integrating@mcsi.edu.au.

Dr Preece said that in another step towards making scholarly theology more accessible to society, MCSI will be offering a new interdisciplinary university subject **Decoding The Da Vinci Code and Dan Brown** (open to all) next August focused on discussing the issues raised in Dan Brown novels. Like all its subjects, MCSI 290/390 is open to the general public as well as university students. **MCSI subjects are approved by both Macquarie University and the Australian College of Theology** so its subjects can be cross-credited to other institutions. Online units are also available. MCSI helps people to apply Biblical wisdom to contemporary life through workshops, events and university-accredited subjects. These can be for credit, interest only or cross-credit and are designed for 'workplace' Christians, yet open to all.

For more details on this or other MCSI workshops, events and subjects, visit www.mcsi.edu.au or call 02 98506133.

Media Interviews / to arrange to attend any of the events:

Nadja Leffler – general inquiries – 0414670913 - or for interviews: MCSI Director; Dr Gordon Preece (02) 9850 6133.