

# Seminary of the 3rd Age

2023

*Crossing boundaries  
and  
expanding horizons*

March 2nd 7pm **JASON JOHN - OUR PLACE IN CREATION**  
The Creation story and the place of humankind

**The theme for March Sunday Afternoon Sessions:**  
**People on the Edge**

MARCH 12th 2pm **SEX INDUSTRY NETWORK**  
Sex work today

MARCH 19th 2pm **CHERYL AXLEBY**  
Black lives matter

MARCH 26th 2pm **MARGARET GUNN**  
A cry went up in the desert

Video podcasts of Sem3A presentations can be found on the ELC website at  
<https://effectiveliving.ucasa.org.au/podcasts/>

## PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY NETWORK of SA

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## Committee 2023

Janeen Barker  
Jonathan Barker  
Esmond Dowdy  
Peter Fuller  
Norm Habel

Maureen Howland  
Fergus McGinley  
David McKirdy  
Don Sinnott

## SEMINARY OF THE 3RD AGE

### An invitation to attend the March 2023 Series

#### ***Crossing Boundaries and Expanding Horizons***

Welcome to the sixth year of the Seminary of the 3rd Age. This year's program features a partnership with the SA Uniting Church's Environmental Action Group in providing a forum for their challenging task of engaging the wider church in creation care. The theme of this module is ***Our Place in Creation*** which will be presented in four sessions on the first Thursday evening in March, May, August, and October. The program also continues the Sunday Afternoon Conversations, successfully pioneered in 2022, which will address the theme ***People on the Edge*** during March. You are warmly invited to attend and help launch the Sem 3A program for 2023.

March 2nd      **Jason John**  
(Thurs 7pm)      *The creation story and the place of humankind*

March 12th      **Member of Sex Industry Network**  
(Sun 2pm)      *Sex work today*

March 19th      **Cheryl Axleby**  
(Sun 2pm)      *Black lives matter*

March 26th      **Margaret Gunn**  
(Sun 2pm)      *A cry went up in the desert*

- \$15 each session, \$12 concession, with a 30% discount on general admission for Friends of ELC, or a 25% discount on general admission when booking all four sessions.
- We would appreciate you registering prior to the event, via the HUMANITIX website at <https://www.humanitix.com/au> or via the [Seminary of the 3rd Age web page](#) and click on the booking links. When registering for the first session you can also book for all four sessions.
- Alternatively, you may contact the ELC office on (08) 8271 0329 during its opening hours to make a payment by credit card. The office is open from 10 am to 2 pm, Tuesday to Friday. If you telephone outside of these hours, please leave a message clearly indicating which session(s) you will attend. Another option is to pay by credit card on the night.

With peace and goodwill,

**DAVID McKIRDY**  
Convenor of the PCNet Task Group

## 2023 - "It's a world full of possibilities"

REFLECTION at PCNet Task Group meeting on 7 February

*Esmond Dowdy*

**Final Calvin and Hobbes - Last Comic - by Bill Watterson for December 31, 1995**



**Comic strips** in newspapers have a long history. The strip, 'The Yellow Bird', created by Richard Outcault, is often cited as the first true comic strip. Initially published in 1895 in *New York World*, the colour strip was the first to use speech bubbles and a defined series of panels to create comic narratives.<sup>1</sup>

Over the years, characters such as Charlie Brown, Garfield, Blondie and Dagwood have entertained readers. Bill Watterson, an American cartoonist, was the author of the classic comic strip, Calvin and Hobbes – a favourite of many.

Cont.

It was built around a mischievous boy, Calvin, and his stuffed toy tiger, Hobbes. Interestingly, these two characters were based on real life people.

- Calvin was named after John Calvin, a 16<sup>th</sup> century protestant theologian,
- and Hobbes after a 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, Thomas Hobbes.

**Calvin** was a leading figure in Geneva during the Protestant Reformation. He developed a system of Christian Theology, later called Calvinism, which he wrote up as *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, in 4 volumes of 80 chapters. The four books focused on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.

Various Congregational, Reformed, Presbyterian and Baptist churches were greatly influenced by Calvin, as the chief proponent of their beliefs.

Calvin is known as a great expositor of pre-destination. He said:

*All are not created on equal terms. Some are pre-ordained to eternal life — others are pre-ordained to eternal damnation. <sup>2</sup>*

**Hobbes**, as a philosopher, had a very pessimistic view of human nature. He wrote a book called *Leviathan*, the title being drawn from a dangerous and destructive sea creature that existed from the beginning of the world and ruled over all other creatures of the sea. Leviathan is referenced in a whole range of religious writings, including the Psalms, and the books of Job and Isaiah.

In *Leviathan*, Hobbes writes that in the state of nature the lives of all humans would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”. He believed that in nature, without a central controlling power, everyone is in constant war with everyone else.

Hobbes maintained that the defining principle of all human actions is the constant struggle between fear and hope. He says that either fear or hope is present at all times in all people. <sup>3</sup>

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## **The final Calvin and Hobbes comic strip.**

Watterson stopped drawing the comic strip, Calvin and Hobbes, on New Year's Eve in 1995, and his final comic strip was fascinating. He drew it in the context of snowfalls in New York in December/January <sup>4</sup>

- In the first panel, the boy Calvin remarks, "Wow, it really snowed last night. Isn't it wonderful?"
- His stuffed tiger Hobbes agrees: "Everything familiar has disappeared! The world looks brand-new!" Then, Calvin adds, "A new year... A fresh clean start!"
- Hobbes says: "It's like a big white sheet of paper to draw on! And Calvin replies: A day full of possibilities!"
- Calvin ends with, "It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy..."
- "...let's go exploring!"

In commenting on Watterson's final comic strip, Carl Gregg says:

*There is so much that is hard and broken about our world, but also so much that remains right and true and beautiful and magical.* <sup>5</sup>

**It's a world full of possibilities. And that's what we're looking for  
this year — a world full of possibilities for PCNet.  
Let's go exploring.**

## **Endnotes:**

Information on

**1 comic history** <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-comic-books-1991480>

**2 Calvin** at [John Calvin - Wikipedia](#)

**3 Hobbes** <https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2021/07/14/hobbes-on-the-state-of-nature/>

**4 Final Calvin and Hobbes comic strip** at  
<https://store.gocomics.com/product/calvin-and-hobbes-print-the-last-strip/>

**5 Calvin and Hobbes** at  
<https://www.frederickuu.org/sermons/230108DataGut.pdf> (page 8)



“Did I offer peace today?  
Did I bring a smile to  
someone’s face?  
Did I say words of healing?  
Did I let go of my anger and  
resentment?  
Did I forgive?  
Did I love?’  
These are the real questions.”  
~ Henri Nouwen



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