

# Lecturer – Old Testament



**It is exciting to announce that Dr Csilla Saysell will commence as Old Testament lecturer at Carey Baptist College in 2013.**

*“I have always found the Old Testament exciting with its colourful characters, often flawed and weak, and yet achieving mighty things for God. Despite popular belief of a vengeful and harsh God in the OT, I am frequently touched by how gracious, compassionate and stubbornly faithful He proves Himself to be on its pages and how the OT beautifully illustrates the costly divine self-sacrifice that Jesus demonstrated on the cross.”*

Csilla is a respected emerging Old Testament scholar who will contribute significantly to the ongoing development of Biblical Studies at Carey. She has completed a PhD in Old Testament at the University of Durham, under the supervision of Professor Walter Moberly. Csilla has a MA in Theological Research from Durham, and a BA from the London School of Theology. She also has a Teaching Degree in English and German (for secondary school education). Csilla writes, “*My PhD dissertation was on the expulsion of the foreign women in Ezra 9-10, a narrative often seen as legalistic, racist and inhuman. I considered how one might understand such a controversial story and what there is to learn from it from a Christian faith perspective.*”

Csilla has been lecturing in Old Testament and Hebrew at St John’s College, Nottingham, and has

also been a guest lecturer at Cranmer Hall at Durham University. Her research interests include aspects of the postexilic period and Second Temple Judaism as well as biblical hermeneutics and theology. Forthcoming publications include: ‘*According to the Law: Reading Ezra 9-10 as Christian Scripture* (JTI SS; Eisenbrauns, 2012) and ‘*Deuteronomy in Ezra-Nehemiah: The Intermarriage Crises*’ in Philip S. Johnson and David Firth (eds.), *Interpreting Deuteronomy* (IVP Academic, 2012)

Csilla (pronounced Sheila) originally comes from Hungary but lived in India for three years as a child, worked in Israel in a Christian hostel with an outreach to travellers for a year, and in England for a mission to international students in the UK for another. Csilla has spent the last eleven years in England. She writes, “*I very much look forward to teaching at Carey and equipping students for ministry so that they will have an informed faith that knows the Scriptures and understands why we believe what we believe. It is my desire to make the world of the OT come alive for students so that they might recognise how its sometimes shocking stories can speak meaningfully into our present-day experiences as Christians.*” Much of Csilla’s practical ministry has been in the area of international students. She helped shape the course material “Explore” (similar to Alpha but with international students in mind), and has written a course entitled “How to Read the Bible Better” (designed to help people within the local church develop basic exegetical skills). Csilla is married to a Kiwi called Phil.

We are looking forward to Csilla joining the Carey community – it is exciting to see the team of emerging scholars that God is bringing together at our College!

Charles Hewlett  
**Principal**