# A Short Course in Liberation Theology

## Tuesdays 14, 21 & 28 June 2011, 7.30 – 9.00 p.m.

### led by Alastair McIntosh … all welcome (free)

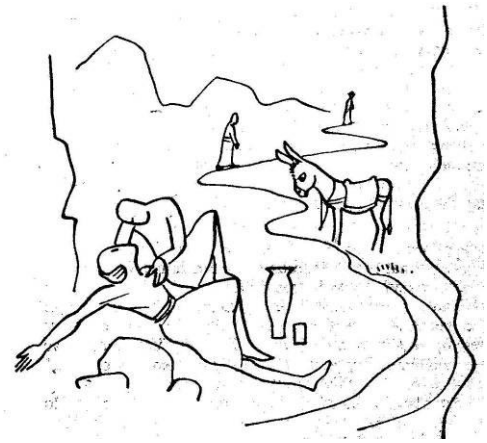
**at the Glasgow Quaker Meeting House**

**38 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow G2 4PS**

*Theology* is the study of "God" – the ground of all being. *Spirituality* is the inner life that releases the flow of the divine into our daily lives. *Religion*, at its best, is the collective celebration of spirituality. But too often it has all got stuck, hijacked, and even twisted into spiritual abuse. This blocks the opening of the way. Such theology fails us, the poor, whether we are so materially, or in spirit. But *liberation theology seeks to liberate theology to liberate our lives.* It means doing theology *imaginatively*.

This course is rooted in but not tied to the Christian tradition. Participants may find it applicable to any faith or none. The 3 sessions are linked but any can be attended on a stand-alone basis. I first developed this course with the GalGael Trust in Govan – not a religious context, but in one where ordinary people struggle with deep issues of life such as poverty, addictions, broken-heartedness, sickness and loss.

The core materials for the course fit onto this one page. What follows are 3 ancient reflections. Use the short versions here, or check out the whole story as referenced. Read the passage out and try to feel your way imaginatively into what's happening, as if you're there as a participant. Together we'll share how the story speaks to us, discerning meanings for today that might be within. This is one way of doing liberation theology – very simple but often very powerful.



1. **Tue 14th June: What Harms our Lives?**
   This sharing explores the roots of human brokenness, both personal and social. Here's the story we'll use. *"This man … lived among the graves. Nobody could keep him tied with chains any more; many times his feet and hands had been tied, but every time he broke the chains, and smashed the irons on his feet. He was too strong for anyone to stop him! Day and night he wandered among the graves and through the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones" (Mark 5:1-20).*

2. **Tue 21st June: What Feeds our Lives?**
   This sharing explores the shift from brokenness to becoming more whole. *"He took the child's father and mother … and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her … 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!' Immediately the girl stood up and walked around … and he told them to give her something to eat" (Luke 8:40-56).*

3. **Tue 28th June: What Are our Lives?**
   This explores some meanings of being human in community, interconnected through the mystical ground of all Being. "*I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in she or he, will bear much fruit" (John 15:1-17).*

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