

## *John Andrew Kirk – CV*

### **1. Personal details**

Married to Gillian Crane - 1968  
Three children; four grandchildren -  
Ordained deacon (1963), priest (1964) (Anglican Church)

### **2. Tertiary education**

University of London (1958-1961) - B.D.  
King's College London (1958-1961) - AKC (Diploma)  
Cambridge (1961-1963) - B.A. (Part III Tripos,  
Specialising in NT)  
London (1971-1975) - M.Phil ('The Use of the Bible in  
Liberation Theology')  
Nijmegen (The Netherlands) (2011) - Ph.D (Christian Mission as  
Dialogue: Engaging the Current  
Epistemological Predicament of the  
West)

### **3. Positions held**

Assistant Curate, Christ Church, North Finchley - 1963-1966

Lecturer in New Testament, Higher Institute for  
Theological Studies, Buenos Aires, Argentina - 1967-1973

Adjunct lecturer: Catholic University of Buenos Aires;  
Buenos Aires Biblical Seminary;  
Kairos Community, Buenos Aires - 1974-1978

Director, Centre for Christian Studies, St. Paul's  
Church, Robert Adam St., London and  
Education Secretary, South American Mission  
Society - 1979-1982

Theologian Missioner, Church Mission Society and  
Associate Director, London Institute for Contemporary  
Christianity - 1982-1990

Dean and Head of the School of Mission and  
World Christianity, Selly Oak Colleges - 1990-1999

Senior Lecturer in Mission and World Christianity, Department of

Theology, University of Birmingham	-	1999-2002
Retired from full-time employment	-	2002

#### 4. Other activities

- Founder member, Latin American Theological Fraternity - 1970
  - Founder member, Argentine Theological Association - 1971
  - Member, Argentine Association for the Study of Holy Scripture 1968-78
  - Founder member, Kairos Community - 1975
  - Representative of the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone, Vth Assembly, World Council of Churches, Nairobi - 1975
  - Co-Founder, London Institute for Contemporary Christianity - 1982
  - Co-Founder, Life and Peace Institute (Uppsala, Sweden) - 1984  
(Member of its International Board 1984 – 2004. This is an international research institute related to the resolution of conflict and peace)
  - Member of the Church of England's Faith and Order Advisory Group - 1980-90
  - Member of the Church of England's Mission Theological Advisory Group - 1985-92
  - Member of the Anglican-Reformed International Dialogue - 1978-84
  - Member of the Council of the South American Mission Society - 1980-88
  - Member of the Standing Committee of the Church's Commission on Mission (CTBI) - 1993-96, 1998-2001
  - Member of the Research Project, 'Towards a Missiology of Western Culture' and co-ordinator of the group on 'Epistemology and Mission' - 1992-1997
  - Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Mission Studies and its Treasurer - 1990- 2004
  - Member of the Board of The Gospel and our Culture Project - 1990-96, 1999-2002
- Internal examiner for Ph.D, ThD and M.Phil theses, University of Birmingham; External examiner for Ph.D and M.Phil theses, Universities of Bristol, Brunel, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Manchester, St Andrews, Wales, Dunedin and Cape Town
- Recognised doctoral supervisor – University of Birmingham, University of Wales, Brunel University, The Free University (Amsterdam), Middlesex University, University of Stellenbosch 1990-?
  - Research Fellow at the International Baptist Theological Centre, Amsterdam - 2010-?

#### 5. Main publications (books)

##### 5.1 Author

- *Jesucristo revolucionario (1973)*

- *Así confesamos la fe cristiana* (1974)
- *Liberation Theology: An Evangelical View from the Third World* (1978)  
(also published in the USA and in Korean in Korea)
- *Theology encounters Revolution* (1980)  
(also published in the USA and in Swedish in Sweden)
- *Theology and the Third World Church* (1981)  
(published in the USA)
- *A New World Coming* (1983)  
(also published in the USA under the title, *The Good News of the Kingdom Coming: The Marriage of Evangelism and Social Responsibility*)
- *Liberation, Oppression and Good News for the Poor* (1984)  
(published in India – the Abraham Malpam lectures)
- *God's Word for a Complex World: how the Bible speaks today* (1987)
- *Loosing the Chains: religion as opium and liberation* (1992)  
(also published in Germany in German)
- *The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission* (1997)  
(published in the USA and UK)
- *The Meaning of Freedom: a study of Secular, Muslim and Christian Views* (1998)
- *What is Mission? Theological Explorations* (1999)  
(also published in Swedish and Korean)
- *Mission under Scrutiny: Confronting Current Challenges* (2006)
- *The Future of Reason, Science and Faith: Following Modernity and Postmodernity* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, May, 2007)
- *Christian Mission as Dialogue: Engaging the Current Epistemological Predicament of the West* (2011)
- *Civilisations in Conflict? Islam, the West and Christian Faith* (2011)
- *Misión bajo la lupa* (2011)
- *The Church and the World: Understanding the Relevance of Mission* (2014)
- *The Abuse of Language and the Language of Abuse* (2019)
- *Being Human: An Historical Inquiry into Who We Are* (2019)
- *To Tell The Truth: Basic Questions and Best Explanations* (2021)

Besides these twenty-one books and the contributions listed below, I have written numerous articles for journals and dictionaries, both in Spanish and English. The most recent are:

‘Following Modernity and Postmodernity: A Missiological Investigation’ in *Mission Studies*, Vol. XVII, 1,34, (2000);

‘John Hick’s Kantian Theory of Religion and the Challenge of Secular Thinking’ *Studies in Interreligious Dialogue* (2002).

‘The Confusion of Epistemology in the West and Christian Mission’, *The Tyndale Bulletin*, 55.1 (2004);

‘My Pilgrimage in Mission’ in *The International Bulletin for Missionary Research*, Vol. 28, No.2 (2004)

‘God is on our Side: The Anatomy of an Ideology’ in *Transformation*, Vol. 27, 4, (October 2010).

5.2. Editor (or co-editor)

- *Handling Problems of Peace and War* (1988) (138pp.)
- *Contemporary Issues in Mission* (1994) (89pp.)
- *To Stake a Claim: Christian Mission and the Western Crisis of Knowledge* (2000) (254pp.)
- *A Scandalous Prophet: The Way of Mission after Newbigin* (2001) (325pp.)

5.3. Contributor

- *Hombre Marxista y Hombre Cristiana* (1977) (pp. 11-64)  
(also published in Portuguese and English)
- *The Year 2000 AD* (1983) (pp. 1-26)
- *Decide for Peace: Evangelicals against the Bomb* (1986) (pp. 46-59)
- *Men, Women and God* (1987) (15pp.)
- *Theology in the City* (1989) (pp. 15-31)
- *To Stake a Claim: Mission and the Western Crisis of Knowledge* (2000) (pp. 157-171)
- *Scandalous Prophet: The Way of Mission after Newbigin* (2001) (pp. 115-127)

6. **Current Research Interests**

- Secular Culture and Christian Mission – an examination of the challenges of a secular age to a missionary faith. (This has included the presentation of a paper at Tyndale House, entitled ‘A Secular Age in a Mission Perspective: a response to Charles Taylor’s *magnum opus*’)
- Latin American Contextual Theologies: in particular the nature of integral mission as seen from a Latin American perspective.
- The Nature and Practice of Theology as ‘Missionary Theology.’
- A Theological Interpretation of the current 'culture wars'.

7. **Current membership of professional bodies**

- The International Association for Mission Studies (former Treasurer)
- The British and Irish Association for Mission Studies
- The Latin American Theological Fraternity (co-founder)

8. **Teaching**

My whole working life has been in teaching at either a postgraduate level or in adult education. I have wide experience in teaching in a cross-cultural

situation: teaching in Spanish for twelve years in Argentina and lecture tours in the USA, Africa, Asia, Melanesia and Australasia.

I have taught for some 35 years in an academic environment, including nine years in relation to University of Birmingham programmes and twelve years in adult education at the equivalent of a postgraduate level. Whilst in Birmingham I also supervised a number of people for the degrees of MPhil, ThD and PhD.

Since retirement I have taught as a visiting lecturer in the MA in Contextual Missiology programme of the International Baptist Theological Study Centre (IBTSC) in Prague (now in Amsterdam) and in the Faculty of Theology in the University of Bucharest. I have also been involved at IBTS in supervising a number of research students on their projects. I have also supervised 3 students doing PhD research at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

I qualified as a member of the Institute for Learning and Teaching, the premier pedagogic institution for the University sector in the UK, designed to guarantee excellence of quality in teaching. Owing to retirement, my membership has lapsed.