

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

Name: Mark Seymour Roques
Email: mark@realitybites.org.uk
Date of Birth: 23rd August 1956
Marital Status: Married
Citizenship: British
Health: Good

Education

Master of Philosophical Foundations, (MPhilF)
The Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, Ontario, 1983-86.
Courses included epistemology, ontology, theology, biblical foundations, philosophical foundations, history of philosophy and political theory.

Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, (Cert Ed)
The University of Bristol, Bristol, Avon, 1981-82.
Major: Modern Languages
Minor: English

Bachelor of Arts with Second Class Honours (First Division), (BA) in Philosophy.
University of Bristol, Avon, 1977-80.

Enrolled for one year's study of French and German, Bristol University, 1976-77.

Three 'A' levels - French (Grade A), German (Grade A), Economics (Grade E) and nine 'O' levels. Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree, Hertfordshire, 1967-75.

Employment and Related Experience

Director of RealityBites with Thinking Faith Network. September 2005 – April 2023

I am now retired.

Adult Courses Delivered through Thinking Faith Network

The Bible in Six Acts: How does the Bible story unfold from Genesis to Revelation?

Talking about Faith: Equipping you to talk confidently about Christian faith. Seven sessions which help Christians to understand and engage with pagan religions, eastern religions, new age beliefs and secularism.

Dangerous Faith: Sharing the gospel with confidence and creativity. Five workshops that present a creative storytelling approach to mission and evangelism.

Ideas have Legs. Seven sessions that help Christians to understand the key thinkers that have shaped the western world. From Plato to Dooyeweerd.

Biblical Ways of Knowing. Six workshops that explore different ways of knowing and presents a biblical perspective on wisdom and knowledge.

Daily Faith: Following Jesus Monday to Saturday. Serving God as an accountant, opera singer, French teacher, plasterer, diplomat and missionary.

English classes for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. I have created and delivered a Christian storytelling course that helps refugees learn conversational English and presents the Christian faith through creative storytelling.

Feedback to courses: "Mark's personable style of teaching and use of humour and story telling made the sessions intensely engaging. I would highly recommend this course."

My work with RealityBites focuses upon the use of storytelling and imagination in the communication of the Christian faith.

I have developed a series of lectures and workshops for Sixth Form Religious Education conferences. Titles include:

Mafia Stories and the Problem of Evil
Celebrity Culture, Trafficking and Responsible Citizenship
Lottery Winners, Money and Religious Faith

Feedback from a sixth former: "Thank you for your speech today. I'd say it was the best enrichment session we've had so far. The topic/discussion was very intriguing and quite engaging."

I have written and developed a 120 unit story curriculum for the TLG JourneyMakers ministry in Bradford. Endorsement below.

"TLGJournemakers is a ministry that runs after school clubs in order to reach children with the gospel of Jesus. We are delighted to partner with RealityBites in this work. Mark Roques has crafted an amazing four year syllabus for us using his fascinating stories. The

response from both the volunteers and the children has been so encouraging. Thank you so much RealityBites!" Rachel Dawson, Director TLGJourneyMakers

I have written and published a book *The Spy the Rat and the Bed of Nails: Creative Ways of Talking about Christian Faith* which unfolds a creative, storytelling approach to mission and discipleship. Here is some of the feedback to the book:

"Mark is one of the most brilliant gospel communicators I know. He challenges, provokes and inspires us to find creative ways to share with others. I loved this book and you will too!"

Mark Russell, Chief Executive of Church Army

"Storytelling is a vital part of communication - especially in evangelism. Mark's book goes further and blends story with persuasion and insight. This will be a real resource for many."

Elaine Storkey, Sociologist, Author and Journalist

"This is a brilliant book. Mark shows us how to communicate the Christian faith in a fresh, original and compelling way."

Mike Hill, Bishop of Bristol

*"Mark is an astute philosopher... and his new book, entitled *The Spy, the Rat, and the Bed of Nails*, is a brilliant introduction to the rationale and art of storytelling in a postmodern world as an entrée to communicating the gospel."*

Richard J Middleton, author, professor and theologian

"I love the style of this book. Stories spark imagination and open up life. Mark Roques gets this and helps us get it. Like Jesus he tells stories which light up what God's like and about. He makes sharing faith a draw."

John Thomson, Bishop of Selby

"This book is a great exemplar of the power of humour and story in sharing the gospel. It winsomely exposes the false worship in the worldviews of others and forces us to examine our own 'sub-gospel' ideas."

Ken Dickens, Principal of the National Institute for Christian Education, Australia

I have lectured for more than thirty different organisations as part of my work for Thinking Faith Network.

I was invited by Christian Education National (CEN) to be a keynote speaker at their International Transforming Education Conference in Melbourne, July 2015. I spoke on Imagination and Storytelling.

I was invited by the Spanish organisation ERE to speak about Christian communication and storytelling in July 2014 in Madrid.

I was invited by CEN to speak at two conferences in Adelaide and Melbourne on Christian communication in April 2014.

I was invited by Christian Schools Australia to be a keynote speaker at their conference in Perth, July 2013. 900 teachers attended the conference.

I was invited by CEN to speak at a conference in Melbourne April 2013 on Worldviews and Storytelling. 600 teachers attended the conference.

In October 2012 I delivered six lectures on the theme of 'Ways of Knowing' at the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute in Taraunga, New Zealand in partnership with the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE).

In June 2012 I delivered four lectures for Christian Education National in the Sydney and Canberra areas. My lectures were focused on Christian pedagogy and storytelling.

In July 2011 I delivered two lectures entitled 'Education, Pedagogy and Storytelling' and 'James Bond, Rat Worship and Postmodernism' at the International Transforming Education Conference in Darwin, Australia.

In October 2011 I delivered a ten minute lecture to 600 youthworkers entitled 'James Bond and Rat Worship' at the Youthwork Summit which can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjmxBp-RxHg>

In December 2009 I delivered a series of lectures at a conference in Seoul, South Korea which was sponsored by IAPCHE. My lectures focused on culture transforming Christian pioneers.

In 2007 I was commissioned by Urban Saints to write a 70,000 word Story/Worldview course.

RealityBites on the Radio

'Christmas Away Fans', a Bradford-based radio series, was shortlisted for the Sandford St Martin Awards - the awards for religious programmes which are presented at Lambeth Palace each summer. On Christmas day 2014 I delivered five football monologues on the Pulse (West Yorkshire radio station) to approximately 136,000 listeners. I told the story

of Jesus' birth through the lens of five football fans from England, France, Germany, Spain and Russia. This radio work was done in partnership with Reach Beyond.

Lecturer/Tutor for the Church Army. September 2011 - August 2012. Two days per week. I was involved in delivering various modules (with other tutors) for Church Army in partnership with York St John. These included:

Foundation Degree in Evangelism

1THB52 Foundations in Working with Others
1THB53 Foundations in Contextual Evangelism
1THB54 Christianity as a Pioneering Faith
2THB51 Religion and Faith

Foundation Degree in Theology and Ministry

1THB02 New Testament
1THB06 Introduction to Christian Ethics
2THB02 Communicating the Christian Story

Tutor for the Sheffield School of Ministry 2009 - 2014.

I was involved in training readers for the Church of England in partnership with York St John. Courses included Communicating the Christian Story and Introduction to Christian Ethics.

Foster Carer for Leeds City Council Jan 2016 - present

My wife, Anne and I are now Supported Lodgings providers for young people. We have cared for a young man from the Sudan and we are now looking after a young man from Eritrea.

Self-employed Teacher, Lecturer and Writer. August 2001 – August 2005.

I was employed by the West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies to write and present conferences for their Thinking Space programme. I also presented Sixth Form Religious Education conferences for the Damaris charity. These conferences were focused on the moral, cultural, spiritual and social development of young people. During this period I appeared in a Channel Four documentary *Hallowed be Thy Game* which was broadcast in January 2005. This television work was connected to the publication of my book *Fields of God: Football and the Kingdom of God*.

Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Drive, Bath. January 1990 - July 2001.

Teacher of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Taught GCSE Religious Studies, 'A' level Religious Studies and 'A' level Philosophy. I developed a course for the Sixth Form entitled 'Music and the Meaning of Life' which explored the connection between religious beliefs and the lyrics of contemporary pop music. I have also devised a course for Year 9 based on my book *The Good the Bad and*

the Misled: True Stories Reflecting Different Worldviews for use in Secondary Religious Education. Other activities include sport, a Justice and Peace group and conducting assemblies.

Christians in Education, Cambridge. 1987-89.

Research Consultant. I wrote a book about curriculum from a Christian perspective.

Avon County Council, Department of Education. March 1987 - April 1988.
Supply teacher.

Connaught College, Bath. September 1987 - December 1988.
Taught Religious Studies 'A' level.

Institute for Christian Studies (ICS), Toronto, Ontario, Canada. September 1983 - July 1986.

Christian Worldview Teacher. September 1984 - May 1986. Taught two non-credit courses for the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and ICS at the University of Toronto entitled Christian Worldview. Associate editor of the academic Newsletter *Anakainosis*. September 1985 - September 1986.

Avon County Council, Department of Education. September 1982 - May 1983.
Supply teacher.

Bristol Omnibus Company, Bristol, Avon. April - July 1981.
Bus conductor.

French Government. January - June 1976.
Taught English in a French school.

Books and Articles

Curriculum Unmasked: Towards a Christian Understanding of Education. Eastbourne: Monarch Publications Limited, 1989.

The Good, The Bad and The Misled: True Stories Reflecting Different Worldviews for use in Secondary Religious Education. Crowborough: Monarch Publications Limited, 1994.

Fields of God: Football and the Kingdom of God. Carlisle: Authentic Lifestyle, 2003.

The Spy, the Rat and the Bed of Nails: Creative Ways of Talking about Christian Faith
Leeds: Thinking Faith Network, 2017

“Popper, Darwinism and Third World Evolutionary Epistemology: An Exposition and Critique.” Unpublished Master of Philosophy Thesis, Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, 1986.

“Strawson’s concept of Person.” *Anakainosis* 7, No.3, March 1985, pp.1-16.

"Storytelling, Subversive Questions and Christian Mission: William Sleeman and the Thugs of India." In *Bridging the Gap: Connecting Christian Faith and Professional Practice in a Pluralistic Society*, edited by Bram de Muynk, pp 333 - 339. Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2009

“Teaching History from a Christian Perspective.” *The Christian Teachers Journal* Vol 203, July 2012

“The Name’s Bond. James Bond.” *RE Today* Vol 30 No 2 Spring 2013

"Lottery winners and Christian faith: Using the stories of winners to explore issues of faith with children." *The Christian Teachers Journal* Vol 23 Issue 4 2015

"How Evangelism can be Fun." *Baptist Times*, July 2017 (This article was the most popular reflection in the BT in 2017)

“From Prince Philip to Jesus: Joy in Evangelism.” *Baptist Times*, June 2018

“The Parable of Maradona and the Hand of God.” *Baptist Times*, October, 2018

“Parable of touch wood and the Druids.” *Baptist Times*, November 2018

“Worldview: Transformation of Work.” *Encounter with God, Scripture Union*, Jan – Mar 2019

“Serving God in Schools and on the Street.” *Baptist Times*, March 2020

“Black Lives and Dangerous Ideologies.” *Baptist Times*, Aug 2020.

“Kim Kardashian, selfies and the cult of physical perfection.” *Baptist Times*, September 2021

“Ministry to Senior Students.” *The Christian Teachers Journal* Vol 29.4, November 2021

“Richard Rohr, Mysticism and Neoplatonism.” *Koers (Online)* Vol.86 n.1 Pretoria, 2021

“RE in schools is under threat: introducing a ‘worldview approach’.” *RE Today* Vol 39 No 2 Spring 2022

“Expressive Individualism and Genghis Khan.” *Premier Unbelievable*, 13 October, 2022

“Cannibalism really works for us.” Premier Unbelievable, 28 November, 2022

“Motorbikes and Jesus: How we can engage in cringe-free conversations this Christmas.” Premier Unbelievable, 15 December, 2022

“Zen and the Art of Forest Conservation.” The Big Picture, Issue 03, Michaelmas 2022

“Backsliding Atheists: 3 famous sceptics who doubted their atheism.” Premier Unbelievable, 23 January 2023

“Why are we so obsessed by sex? LGBT, materialism and the revival of Epicureanism.” Premier Unbelievable, 24 February 2023

“What does God have to do with teaching French?” Premier Unbelievable, 20 March, 2023

“Indoctrination: The Potential dangers of Hollywood films.” Premier Unbelievable, 24 April, 2023

“Why is Thor not Happy.” Premier Unbelievable, 7 July, 2023

“Making Sense of the secular humanist worldview.” Baptist Times, August 9, 2023.

“Cobbler turned missionary: How William Carey brought hope to the hopeless.” Premier Unbelievable, 23 October, 2023

“Dooyeweerd, Modal Aspects and Dynamic Evangelism.” Koers (Online) Vol.88 n.1 2023

“Slave Chronicles and Dangerous Beliefs: Discipling Others Through Creative Storytelling.” TFN, 2021

“Windows on Worldviews: exploring secular beliefs in A-level and GCSE Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies.” This resource includes 12 films and the acting skills of two professional actors. For more information go to:

<https://thinkfaith.net/windows/>

Activities and Interests

Football

Philosophy

Storytelling and Christian Education

Imaginative Preaching

Crooning

References

Available on Request