



## "ENGAGING THE UNIVERSITY" CONFERENCE

"Universidad Nacional Mayor de **San Marcos**" (UNMSM)

June 16-17th 2017 - Lima, Perú

### BIBLICAL IMAGES

**Terry Halliday**

Biblical images give a strong metaphorical perspective on our presence within universities.

Here are some starting-points.

**Salt** – adds distinctive flavor to institutions – all in which we participate

Dwell for a moment on the metaphor of “salt” for university teachers.

a) Think of salt as *condiment*

Making something bland a little more flavorful

e.g., rote teaching

b) Think of salt as *chemistry* – an ingredient in a kind of social transformation/emergence effected by heat, margination?

c) Think of salt as *preservative* – keeping something that could go bad stay safely edible

Ensuring that teaching critical thinking, for instance, stops short of cynicism.

Being sure that key ideas, fundamental questions, do not get lost or trivialized

**Light** – expands our understandings

-- as a *laser* – burns deep into a problem

-- as a *broad beam* – sheds knowledge on a wide front

-- as a *giver of life* – creates new ways of understanding, thinking

**Yeast** – the chemical effect of making inert/passive elements rise

Something arcane, plain, technical becomes something wonderful, glorious.

It quickens our spirits.

We respond in excitement

**Our challenge:**

- How do we add salt, light, yeast?
- How do we breathe the gospel – our faith – into the conversations, into dialog, into the whole university?

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