Injustice and unrest proliferate. Divided society crumbles amid unsolvable challenges. Alienation and fear perennially prosper...again. In 410 AD, Romans faced what to them was the unthinkable when Goths sacked their ‘eternal city’. Turmoil abounded — pagans blamed Christians for their ‘Christian times’. Christians roiled by dismay asked why God had allowed catastrophe. Both believed Rome to be exceptional. Augustine waded into this angst and toxic mix with his *City of God*. It challenged the mythic ideas and misplaced loyalties of both the pagans and the Christians, offering a vision of society that might prove sage in our own fraught times.

Moving to Oxford from the USA in 1999, Stan Rosenberg founded and directs SCIO and develops research projects that serve the CCCU and its members. On the academic staff of Wycliffe Hall, he is a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford. His scholarship ranges between exploring the relations of science and religion and investigating early Christian history and theology with a particular focus on Augustine.