

CONNECT

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

issue 14 / AUTUMN 2018

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BST 1943-2018

FAMILY ON A MISSION



Meet Daniel and Megan Grandemange. High school sweethearts and parents to 9 month old, Sophia. Daniel and Megan first met in Year 11. They were engaged, married, and celebrated both of their 21st birthdays in 2010. Daniel is currently completing his Bachelor of Ministry at BST, with Megan graduating with a Diploma of Ministry earlier this year.

It was in 2013, an opportunity arose for Daniel and Megan to go on a short-term trip to Northern Thailand with an organisation that specialised in helping human trafficking victims. Within the first 48 hours of being in Thailand, Daniel turned to Megan and said, "I could live here," which came as a surprise to both of them! It was during this first trip to Thailand that Daniel and Megan first felt God calling them toward mission.

Daniel and Megan returned to Thailand in March 2015 for a year, learning the language and joining in with the team's regular ministry. This included weekly English teaching, visitations, outdoor adventure ministry and running weekly kids outreach programs. Daniel was also involved in extensive renovation works and, along with a team, planted a new church congregation.

Daniel and Megan believe that God has called them to serve as part of a team of Church planters in Southern Thailand, where they will be working alongside the Thai Christians in facing the unfinished task of reaching south-east Asia's millions for Christ with OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship).

According to Daniel and Megan, choosing to study at BST has been a big part of their journey in helping them to prepare for their mission. For Daniel, who recently returned to Thailand for a 4 week cross-cultural placement with OMF, "the missiological subjects were most practically useful during this trip to Thailand because they helped me to interpret cultural situations and they have particularly helped to increase my CQ (cultural intelligence)." Megan said that her time at BST "further cemented a solid foundation of the Gospel and helped in being able to communicate with people from other nationalities and work alongside people from diverse denominational backgrounds."

BST's Centre for Asian Christianity (CAC) has helped further equip Daniel and Megan by bringing

over scholars and guest lecturers with experience in Asia. "CAC has provided invaluable connections and resources which have given a unique perspective on issues and have helped inform us of the needs and current trends within contemporary world missions." Daniel says.

Daniel and Megan are aware of the impending challenges ahead including raising a family in a different culture and the distance from their loved ones. They are, however, optimistically cautious knowing that their family has been called and that God is sovereign. Megan recognises, "It will be a different lifestyle to that which either Daniel or myself grew up with, however, there are many other great things about growing up as a third culture kid (TCK). We hope and pray that Sophia grows and develops well despite our uncertain future."

Daniel will complete his Bachelor of Ministry at the end of next year. From there Daniel and Megan plan to move to Thailand and begin 'taking God's word' to Asia through their ministry with OMF. Please pray for Daniel, Megan and their daughter, Sophia, in this important time of preparation.

Please give by **30 June** to support our Building Fund and leave a brighter college for future generations.

Visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate to give to our Building Fund.



HINDERING LITTLE CHILDREN

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON,
BST PRINCIPAL



In my New Testament class last week we reached chapter 9 of Mark's Gospel, where Jesus gave an indication of the importance and value he placed on children. It was counter-cultural in his day and confronting for us today.

In the same week, a graduate of the college, Paul Tuxworth, came to BST and provided two training sessions in child protection. Paul has extensive experience in child protection issues, particularly on the mission field. It's not the first training he has provided. It's not the first time we have walked away deeply disturbed by the reality of how children have been treated in our society and in our churches. Tragically, he has plenty to work with from his own experience. And the Royal Commission has documented our widespread and abject failure to value and protect little ones.

Of course, when cases of historical sexual abuse come to light we focus on the perpetrator. We tend to focus on and be fascinated by their story: their emerging pattern of disturbance and deviancy; previous convictions; grooming behaviour and their victims. To our horror, Paul explained that too often such abuse has been enabled by the complacency and carelessness of churches and their leaders. In a number of cases, there were opportunities for leaders to offer help that may have prevented the worst of the abuse. In some cases, Christian leaders destroyed evidence or hindered investigations.

We left the seminars determined to be people who foster increased awareness and education in churches, more effective prevention strategies and more informed responses to allegations. We also left the seminars with the sobering reminder of the darkness of the human heart and our capacity for exploiting people for our evil

desires. Some of our students have begun quizzing their church leadership with "What measures are in place?" and "Who is the designated Child Protection Officer?"

At BST, we long for our graduates to be capable of providing leadership in this area. Anyone who has been involved knows the personal cost and distress involved. But we know that, having failed so badly, the churches now need to provide leadership in this area and reflect the value that Jesus placed on little children. Please pray for our students, that they will process the training they have received constructively. Please pray for the faculty as we reflect on the best way to provide further training. Thank God for Paul Tuxworth and his ministry while you are at it.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

A little later in Mark's Gospel, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14) Too often in school and church contexts children have been victims of much worse than being hindered. In cases of abuse, not only the victims, but the family and many in the community have been hindered from coming into God's kingdom. The way they have been treated simply contradicts the precious value they have in Jesus' eyes.

If you would like to invite Richard or other BST faculty to guest speak at your church or event, please contact info@bst.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3870 8355.



REFORMATION STUDY TOUR

with Richard Gibson
19 September — 7 October 2018

We are excited to be conducting the first BST Reformation Study Tour. Join our principal, Richard Gibson, on the trip of a lifetime, 19 September - 7 October 2018, as we visit key sites in the European Reformation. We'll be visiting the cities of Rome, Luther's Wittenberg and Calvin's Geneva, just to name a few. Don't miss out on this incredible travel/study opportunity!

You can register your interest by calling (07) 3870 8355.



You are invited to join us at our inaugural fundraising dinner for the Centre for Asian Christianity. Come on the journey with us as we unveil our new brand and explore the ongoing vision and purpose of the Centre in becoming a leading centre for research, and for equipping and resourcing Christians for contextual Asian ministry.

You will hear inspiring testimonies from our students and partner organisations and have an opportunity to invest back into the life of the Centre and the BST community.

You can buy your tickets at bst.qld.edu.au/cac-dinner

HONOURING

OUR

DISTINGUISHED

GRADUATES



Noel Newton

Noel Newton received the Distinguished Graduate award on 30 August 1997, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to pastoral ministry within the Churches of Christ and of his deep concern for the Kingdom of God in Queensland.

In May this year, Noel is celebrating 50 years of ministry after graduating from what was then the Queensland Bible Institute (QBI) in 1968. According to Noel, "Bible College was a wonderful preparation for the ministry with great teaching, along with the joy of living on campus with many others." After graduation, Noel began serving the Lord at Acacia Ridge Church of Christ for four and a half years, until marrying Patricia Dunstan in 1972, also a QBI graduate (1970-72). Noel and Tricia then moved to Southport to take up the position of Senior Minister of the Southport Church of Christ where, together, they served for 19 years. Under their leadership, the church grew from 100 to 1,000 and became the largest Churches of Christ in Australia. Noel also planted churches at Burleigh Heads, where he ministered for 5 years, and Nerang, and was involved in setting up three retirement villages and a home for runaway teenagers.

In 1998, Noel and Tricia became missionaries with Campus Crusade for Christ Australia and were appointed as the National Ministry Leaders for JESUS: Gift to the Nation (the JESUS Film). Over the next 11 years, they travelled throughout Australia and, with the

cooperation of the churches, over 1,000,000 Jesus Films were distributed into homes across the nation.

Their latest and final ministry is as Directors of Great Commission Ministry. Their vision is to reach every home in Australia with a presentation of the gospel with the booklet "Is there a God and can I live forever?" This campaign has already reached over 500,000 people in Queensland with the goal to reach another 190,000 homes in Tasmania this year.

Noel gives all thanks to God for two wonderful years at QBI, "because it was the springboard that landed me in the deep end of ministry with Churches of Christ and, together with my wife, I have had the thrill of seeing what God can do as you make yourself available to him."

God has blessed Noel and Tricia with three sons (now married) Lyle and Nadine, Carl and Katrina, Jaye and Madeleine, and five grandchildren. The eldest, Lyle, also a graduate of Bible College of Queensland, has been in Turkey for 15 years.

BST holds another family connection for Noel with his brother, Ken Newton, being the longest serving principal in the history of BST (1977-2001). We honour the achievements of Noel and his wife Tricia for their heart in serving the Lord and growing his kingdom.

GRADUATION 2018

BST's graduation ceremony was held on 27 February. It was a wonderful night of celebration amongst family, friends and our college community. The awards were presented to our graduating students by Dr Martin Sutherland, Dean and CEO of the Australian College of Theology. Our principal, Rev Dr Richard Gibson, spoke

from Romans 12:9-13 exhorting our graduates to be marked by genuine love for the people around them and the God we serve. Please pray for God's continued blessing and guidance over each of our graduates as they seek to take God's word to the world.





REFUGE IN THE OVERWHELM

To the onlooker, theological education might look like a season of sitting still, reading books, and long lunches - a time of relative ease. Beneath the surface though, deep and seismic changes are often afoot. This can also be a time of rapid growth, with all the joy and the pain that rapid growth entails.

Recently I was asked to address students on the challenges of theological study. Here I was coming into teaching theology, but with a fairly recent experience of being on the receiving end as a student too! In that talk, I mentioned one of my favourite books, German theological educator and preacher, Helmut Thielicke's *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. The short book, a series of frank and fearless remarks aimed to ground and humble incoming students, contains some excellent and memorable

"You go to college to do business for God, and he does business on you."

imagery describing the way rapid growth can lead to a kind of overconfidence. When students undergo an intellectual development that outstrips their lived spiritual experience they become like "a country boy with breeches that are too big." In the period of rapid growth that constitutes theological education, we can appear to be growing in ungainly proportions.

In my experience, the rapid growth that occurs in theological education can lead to us not only being overconfident but sometimes overwhelmed. In fact, it's possible to find one's self tending both directions at the same time. As a mentor of mine at my Sydney college said, "You go to college to do business for God, and he does business on you."

To read Mike Thompson's full article, visit bst.qld.edu.au/refuge

Thank you for faithfully giving!

In March, we asked friends like you to help us support our new Centre for Asian Christianity - and you have! We have already received more than \$1,500 in donations, and commitments for nearly \$1,000 a year in regular monthly gifts, which is a fantastic result.

If you would still like to give - even \$5 a month! - please call us today on **07 3870 8355** or visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate and select 'Centre for Asian Christianity'.



E V E N T S

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY
23-27 JULY 2018**

8:30AM-3PM DAILY
BST CAMPUS

This Unit examines the principles and dynamics of spiritual warfare as presented in the Bible. We will zoom in on thorny issues such as demons and Christians, and look critically at contemporary excesses in spiritual warfare. The unit also explores the entire epistle to the Ephesians as offering a paradigm for approaching spiritual warfare.

Dr Scott Moreau

BST MISSIONS CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 28 JULY 2018

9AM-4PM

"NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD"
THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POWERS
BST CAMPUS

Hosted by Richard Gibson, this is a missions conference not to be missed! Our missions conference is open to anyone who is interested in local or global mission or keen to support it.

Dr Scott Moreau & Dr Darrell Bock

GOSPEL AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT (MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY
30 JULY-3 AUGUST**

8:30AM-3PM DAILY
BST CAMPUS

This class covers two topics: the nature of the gospel and thinking through how to represent the gospel in cultural engagement. One of the dilemmas in leading the church is how to relate these two topics, so we will take a biblical close look at both and their relationship, especially how controversial such engagement can be for the church.

Dr Darrell Bock

To register for these events, go to bst.qld.edu.au/events

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

1 Cross Street
Toowong
QLD 4066
Australia

(07) 3870 8355
info@bst.qld.edu.au
bst.qld.edu.au
facebook.com/yourBST

Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland. We are an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, our ABN no. is 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.