

# CONNECT

**BST** | BRISBANE  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

issue 15 /WINTER 2018

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BST 1943-2018

## BST HISTORY 1971-2002: A NEW DIRECTION

**As we continue to tell our history from the past 75 years, we see the many contributions made, the growth and the triumphs, as well as the challenges and difficulties faced along the way. Yet, through every season, God has always been faithful. Here's a little of the next chapter in BST's story.**

Rev Geoffrey Paxton became principal of QBI in 1971 after being on faculty since 1969. It was during his time as principal that the college expanded its course offerings to include a Summer School of Theology along with the establishment of the Graduate School of Theology, in 1972, for those who had completed university-level studies. Rev Paxton also sought to make changes to the curriculum, with a greater focus on the Epistle of Romans, which was trialled through Theology and Ethics, then implemented throughout the entire curriculum.

The library also had a facelift and extension and was renamed "The W.J. Tunley Memorial Library" with the opening ceremony taking place on September 5, 1971. Mr Tunley was

widely known throughout Queensland and beyond for his Christian activity along with his charitable, business and public life. He was also an impressive preacher and musician. Mr Tunley donated a number of his own books to the library including a stunning copy of the English Hexapla (an edition of the New Testament in Greek, along with six English versions in parallel), which had been given to him by his father in 1879.

Throughout his time as principal it became clear that Rev Paxton's stance on certain matters did not complement QBI's interdenominational ethos, and in 1976 his time as principal came to a conclusion. This was a difficult period in the life of the college with other active staff resigning, along with students leaving the college. Shortly after, lecturer and vice principal, Rev Keith Warren stepped in as principal, with the board announcing, "Under the leadership of Principal Warren, supported by a competent team of lecturers, we are more than able, with the help of God to carry out our program with the definite background of a Bible and Missionary Training Centre with an interdenominational focus." Everybody knew

it would be a difficult time of reconstruction, but there was never any thought of abandoning the vision of a Bible Institute at the top of the mount." (David Parker, Top of the Mount).

At the end of 1977, the board appointed Dr Ken Newton as Principal, after Rev Warren announced he would not continue as Principal, feeling called back to full-time pastoral ministry. Dr Newton was the right fit for the college with his theological qualifications and almost ten years serving as a missionary to India. The college flourished under Newton's leadership, growing in size, with the highest enrolments recorded in the mid-1990's. Accommodation was also boosted with the development of family units at the back of the property in 1987. An affiliation was signed with Australian College of Theology in 1982 to deliver their accredited courses—an affiliation that exists today. In 1984 the college changed its name to Bible College of Queensland (BCQ). Dr Newton is the longest serving principal in the history of the college, resigning in 2002, after 25 years of faithful service.



*Images, left to right:*

Class of 1972 with  
Rev Geoffrey Paxton  
W.J. Tunley  
Rev Keith Warren  
Dr Ken Newton

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

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/donate](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate) to give to our **Building Fund**.



# “THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES SO MUCH AS TO SHRINK FROM DEATH” (REVELATION 12:11)

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON,  
BST PRINCIPAL



**It will be twenty years next January since the tragic deaths of Graham Staines and his two young sons in India. Believers around the world and especially the BST (then BCQ) community were rocked by the news, that they**

**had been killed by religious extremists. It was a starkly confronting reminder of the risks taken by Christian missionaries as they go about their work.**

No-one comes to study at BST planning to become a martyr. I often ask them, “Where do you expect to be in ten years’ time?” Not one person, in all my interviews, has responded with, “Dead at the hand of persecutors.”

Yet as soon as they begin their studies they are reminded that this is a real possibility for faithful servants of the gospel today. They are reminded as we explore the teaching of Jesus, review early and more modern church history, study missiology, and hear stories about faithful servants like Graham.

Long ago, BST nominated Graham as one of our ‘Distinguished Graduates.’ It is a commitment to remember him, his family, the people he loved so much, the work he committed himself to and the price he paid. It is a story we want our students to hear as they prepare for a life of costly, faithful service, without ever wishing for them a similar fate.

**“They overcame the accuser by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”**

If the Scriptures confront us with the ongoing dangers, it also comforts us with God’s loving commitment to his faithful servants. The beginning of Revelation 12:11, quoted above, reads: “They overcame the accuser by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

**“No-one comes to study at BST planning to become a martyr.”**

God will never forget what happened that day to Graham and his sons. And God will raise them up, and bring them to that new heaven and new earth where “They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4). That’s the future we want our students to prepare for so that they will not “love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

**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](mailto:info@bst.qld.edu.au) or phone (07) 3870 8355.**



## LOVE AND FAMILY AT BST

**On June 22, Anni and Tim, two residents at our BST campus, married in the beautiful hinterlands surrounded by family and friends, including many of our BST community.**

Anni, who moved from Finland in 2014, met Tim while doing Discipleship Training School with YWAM before studying the Bachelor of Theology at BST, which she will complete this year. Meanwhile, Tim is finishing his studies at UQ before embarking on ministry training in the future.

There’s also a special family connection with Tim’s parents, Stephen and Sue Charlesworth, both former students of BST (then BCQ), who lived on campus from 1994-1996, before serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in PNG. Tim was born during this time and lived on campus as a newborn! Tim and Anni will also continue to be BST residents, moving to our family units while completing their study. Tim and Anni’s vision is to serve God together in ministry, with the possibility of spending some time in Finland, before settling in Australia.

# HONOURING

# OUR

# DISTINGUISHED

# GRADUATES



## *Graham Staines*

**The Distinguished Graduates Award was awarded to Graham Staines on August 30, 1997, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the work of missions in the state of Orissa, India, in association with The Evangelical Missionary Society in Mayurbhanj.**

Converted at the age of ten, Graham responded as a teenager to the challenge of missions at a Christian Endeavour Convention at Beaudesert. His interest in India began when Miss Vera Stevens from The Evangelical Missionary Society in Mayurbhanj showed slides of a young tribal leprosy sufferer.

In 1963 Graham commenced his studies at what was then the Queensland Bible Institute. During his devotions one morning, he sensed God's call to Mayurbhanj. That same day, the missionary speaker to the students was Miss Olive Alcorn from Mayurbhanj. Sure that God was calling him, he applied to the mission, was accepted, and sailed for India in January 1965.

Within six months the senior missionaries departed for a long-delayed retirement leaving Graham little time to learn a new language and become acquainted with a different culture before he assumed leadership with the support of the two remaining lady missionaries. For almost twenty years on the field Graham was

single, but in 1983 he married Gladys, whose companionship and encouragement were invaluable.

Throughout his ministry, Graham led preaching teams, planted churches, counselled church leaders, oversaw translations, conducted theological education by extension classes, preached in village churches, arranged conventions and administered the work of the whole district, which involved countless interviews and frustrations with officials. He was the superintendent and secretary of the Leprosy Home and was virtually the guardian of all the patients as well as being responsible for their treatment, housing and general welfare.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of Graham and his two sons, Philip and Timothy, who were killed by Hindu extremists and joined the ranks of Christian martyrs throughout history.

Graham's wife Gladys continued to live and serve in India, with their daughter Esther, until they returned to Queensland in 2004. Gladys received the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice in 2015. We honour Graham for his more than thirty years of faithful service in India and for giving his life for the gospel.

## CAC FUNDRAISING DINNER

The inaugural Centre for Asian Christianity Fundraising Dinner took place on Tuesday, 29 May. Ninety guests packed out the BST auditorium, hearing from staff, faculty, special guests (some of whom travelled from halfway around the world), as well as students who are preparing or currently serving in Asian contexts. It was a fantastic event, and, all told, raised more than \$20,500 for the Centre – a truly wonderful result.

If you'd still like to give a gift towards the Centre for Asian Christianity, you can give online at:

[www.mycause.com.au/events/centreforasianchristianity](http://www.mycause.com.au/events/centreforasianchristianity)





# FLAME OF YAH

At the recent wedding service of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Bishop Michael Curry preached a sermon about love from Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (NRSV):

*6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.*

Rev Curry’s message was about the power of love to redeem and change the world. He explained that love is from God. The theological centre of his sermon was the command to love God and one’s neighbour, and how this was demonstrated in Jesus’ self-giving love for others, a redemptive love that changes lives and can transform the world. The

**The sermon inspired me to look into the verses that were read and think more deeply about their powerful description of love.**

purpose of the sermon was to inspire all who were listening and watching, especially the young couple, to pursue a life of love.

The sermon inspired me to look into the verses that were read and think more deeply about their powerful description of love. While what is said here about love can be applied generally, in its context it is talking about the

love between a husband and wife, and is thus very appropriate for use at a wedding. Within the love poetry of the Song, the words are spoken by one spouse to the other. If we assume for a moment that the wife is speaking, when she talks about a seal, she is

saying, “I want you to be mine, exclusively—heart and body.”

To read more of John Coulson’s full article, go to [bst.qld.edu.au/flame](http://bst.qld.edu.au/flame)

## Thank you for faithfully giving!

BST is blessed to have friends like you who are willing to support us both with prayer and financial gifts. Recently, we asked for help to give our college campus a much-needed facelift with a fresh coat of paint, and we have already received \$14,500 towards this project. Thank you!

If you would still like to give, please visit [bst.qld.edu.au/donate](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate) and select the **Building Fund** or visit [bst.qld.edu.au/donate](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate) and select ‘**Centre for Asian Christianity**’.



# E V E N T S

### BST 75TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**FRIDAY 31 AUGUST**

9:30AM–11:00AM  
BST CAMPUS

You are invited to join us in celebrating BST’s 75th anniversary at our thanksgiving service. All students, alumni, past staff and friends of the college are welcome. The service will be followed by morning tea.

### BST COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY

**SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

11AM–3PM  
BST CAMPUS

Come along with your family and friends for our first community family fun day in honour of our 75th anniversary. There’ll be a jumping castle, face-painting, stalls, sausage sizzle, games, live music, a college history display and more. We hope to see you there!

### BST OPEN NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

6PM FOR A GUIDED TOUR  
6:30PM START FOR LECTURES  
7:40PM FOR SUPPER FOLLOWED BY AN INFO SESSION  
BST CAMPUS

If you or someone you know is interested in growing deeper in their knowledge of the Bible, or has a keen desire to be prepared for ministry or cross-cultural work, come along to our Open Night and find out about the courses on offer and get a taste of a lecture taught in English or Mandarin.

**Speakers: Faculty and staff**

To register for these events, go to [bst.qld.edu.au/events](http://bst.qld.edu.au/events)