

# CONNECT

**BST** | BRISBANE  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

issue 16 / SPRING 2018

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BST 1943-2018

## THE RELUCTANT STUDENT – KAREN'S STORY



**I came to BST a reluctant student. I had my own plans, one year of studying theology before going on to study something like international development. I had a career in speech pathology, was moving up in my field and had specialised. I had friends who were buying houses and having children and, in my mind, there was all of that ahead. What I had was worthy of esteem in the world's eyes. It was just one year at BST that changed all of that. It turns out that God does have a better idea of what we need than I do.**

The one year graduate diploma I signed up for turned into a three year Master of Divinity which, after juggling part-time work and full-time study, turned into a fourth year. And in that time, man, have I grown. One of my BST friends Luke said, 'you come to BST for one reason and often leave having another.' This has certainly been the case for me.

Another friend, Kelvin said, 'I thought when I came here I would be doing the college a great service with my knowledge and have only discovered my lack of it!' Year one's greatest lesson was humility. All through my Old Testament and New Testament foundations courses, I discovered how our God has no time for our prideful ventures.

A lesson I needed – and still need to learn. The lengthening of my course changed my goal from focusing on equipping myself with God's word to learning to equip others, not only in word but also in deed.

I don't think anyone can take credit for getting through their years of study alone. I can't believe how many amazing people have walked through my life in their study journey, contributed in great ways to my faith walk and have shared the joys and sorrows of life with me. I still thank God for people I met from my first year, lecturers, students and staff, who have bought God's word to life by their words and actions.

I have been one of about 40 people living on campus. In the eyes of the residents here, this is our home and our community while we study. It's a given that someone will be around to take you to the airport if you need it. It's a given that if you mention you're sick you will be given numerous (sometimes questionable) concoctions (Christy's fire water is recommended). It's a given that if you mention 'Monopoly Deal in the common room' you will have a minimum of four eager players within a five minute time period. To us it's been a home. Full of laughter in one season, stress in another and often enough... life's share of sorrows.

I can't begin to explain how much it means to me to have studied, worshipped, worked, eaten, prayed, laughed and cried alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ at BST. It's one thing to learn something in class and it's another to sit in our living room, wholly convicted at our inability to 'truly listen' to each other after the counselling course, wrestle with God's sovereignty and the application of our faith with friends who are suffering right in front of you, and discuss our total failure to carry out the brilliantly written ministry self-care plan we'd submitted last semester.

So what will I leave BST with? I can definitely say my parents will be proud – I have totally mastered my ping-pong skills! Academically I've held up, learnt to write a good essay and will hopefully have a piece of paper to prove it. But more than that, I have learnt so much about our great God, His goodness, love and grace and how I can represent His truth to His needy world. I hold the next chapter of life loosely, particularly based on my realisation of my inability to sort out the last one. Whatever opportunities lie ahead I know that I want to be equipping others with a greater knowledge of God's word and stirring the desire to live it out.

*Karen Nivala finishes her studies with BST this year, and will graduate with a Master of Divinity.*

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Your support this Christmas will help our Centre for Asian Christianity resource and equip students for ministry in Asian communities around the world.

Thank you!



Please visit  
[bst.qld.edu.au/donate](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate) to give to  
our **Christmas Appeal** today.

# THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: THE CICADAS ARE ABOUT TO SING

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON,  
BST PRINCIPAL



**He was speechless. I'd asked Mat what his four years at college had meant to him. He couldn't answer. He choked up. The tears formed. His grief at the prospect of leaving BST could not have been more eloquent. Somehow he managed to testify to the way his life had been transformed in his time at BST.**

The grief was shared by everyone in the room. It was the dawning realisation that many of our relationships won't be the same next year. Students are graduating. They are seeking jobs or planning the next step. The mix of uncertainty and sadness is heavy. As lives are shaped by God's word over a year or years, the fellowship is rich and precious friendships form.

Yet there is the joy and the satisfaction that goals are being achieved. This is the reason students first enrolled in college: to be prepared for a lifetime of serving God,

serving his people and serving his world. It has required hard work, personal discipline, costly sacrifice, not only by them but friends and family too. There is the relief that the constant cycle of assessment will lift. There is the dawning realisation that they are on the brink of securing their diploma or degree, ready to find pathways of dedicated service of the Lord Jesus. This is the reason BST exists.

This is the reason  
students first enrolled in  
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a lifetime of serving God,  
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serving his world.

This year we have been reminded of what an unrelenting cycle of grief and joy this has been over decades. This has been our anniversary year; 75 years of students

at BST being shaped by God's word so they can serve his world. The cavalcade of graduation photos on a wall at the college speak with the same eloquent silence that Mat did. Hundreds of lives passing through the formative experience of college: shaped by God's word. And this year we have heard many of their stories, graduates who have lived faithful and fruitful lives: serving his world.

Thank you for your support of our college. Your ongoing interest, your prayers and your financial support are integral to the college functioning effectively. I hope you enter into the joy and satisfaction of what God is doing in the lives of his people at BST, and what he will continue to do through them in his world.

**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.**

## A GOSPEL SHAPED LEGACY

**At our recent 75th anniversary thanksgiving service, Pastor Daniel Bassett (class of 2014), challenged us to think about the legacy we will leave behind. Preaching from Acts 20:17-27, he described how the Apostle Paul calls to himself the Ephesian elders to establish his legacy. As we read the passage we see that Paul left a gospel shaped legacy that we would do well to emulate. There are three things that help establish a gospel shaped legacy:**

**1. The CHARACTER** of the gospel preacher. Paul's character is a key part of his witness and according to these verses his character and service are marked by three things... with all humility, with tears and with trials (v19). Despite the opposition that Paul faced, despite the personal anguish it caused him, he still served with humility. And that is characteristic of Paul's ministry throughout the

entire New Testament. The character of the gospel preacher is the lens through which the gospel is viewed.

**2. The CONTENT** of the gospel preacher. There are two key elements when it comes to the content of the gospel. There is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A call to faith must include with it a call to repentance. These twin truths, that Jesus is both Saviour and Lord, are the very crux of the gospel. They are the content of the gospel we preach. Don't ever fall into the trap of thinking that you or me or the people that we preach to or teach are beyond the need of hearing the gospel. That is what we have been trained for by this college, to faithfully proclaim the gospel to those who need it.

**3. The COMMITMENT** to gospel preaching. This was Paul's driving passion in life. It's what kept him going. Regardless of what might come against him, his commitment to

gospel preaching is key to who he was. I'm sure many of you would have heard of the story of distinguished graduate of this college, Graham Staines. Graham and his two sons paid the ultimate sacrifice for this gospel ministry that we are ambassadors for. They were martyred by self-styled Hindu vigilantes. Do you think for a second that he would recant or regret the gospel message that he so faithfully lived out? Of course not. Rather, along with Paul, he would boldly declare that his life was worth nothing to him. His only aim was to finish the race and complete the task of pro-claiming the gospel.

Students, alumni, family of BST, I encourage you to ask yourself, what will your legacy be?

*\*Adapted from Pastor Daniel Bassett's sermon, 31 August 2018, To listen to Daniel's full sermon from the 75th anniversary service, visit [www.bst.qld.edu.au/gospel\\_shaped\\_legacy](http://www.bst.qld.edu.au/gospel_shaped_legacy)*



# BST HISTORY: 2002–PRESENT

**We hope you've enjoyed the journey of looking back over our rich history from the last 75 years, through this year's Connect newsletters. This is the final chapter, leading to the present day.**



After Dr Ken Newton's retirement, Rev Dr Peter Ralphs, who had been a lecturer and deputy principal, stepped in as acting principal from 2002. He was officially appointed principal in 2003. This was a challenging period of transition for the college as enrolment numbers declined, students preferring to study part-time, and fewer students requiring accommodation.

Despite all this, the college continued to forge ahead, adding new non-academic and non-accredited courses as an option for those who had a desire to study casually, the recruitment and supervision of the first PhD students, as well as upgrading the facilities by renovating space in the main building for a new library where it is located today. Dr J Ferreira, who had been on faculty since 1995 continued to develop and grow the Chinese program, which had gained accreditation from the ACT in 1999.

After Dr Ralphs indicated his intention to retire, he stepped down from the principal role and stayed on for a short period as lecturer. Dr Johan Ferreira became principal from 2009 to 2013. During his time, the college changed its name to Crossway College, opened a campus at Mueller in Rothwell and delivered classes in Carrara.



The Chinese program continued to grow under Dr Ferreira's leadership, fuelled by his passion to see solid theological education reach a nation that has a large population of new Christian converts. The college once again changed its name, this time to Brisbane School of Theology in April 2013 due to some legal issues with the trademarked "Crossway" name, and the board's desire to rebrand the college more strategically. There was a short period of transition between Dr Ferreira stepping down as principal in June 2013. Academic Principal, Mr John Coulson stepped in as Acting Principal until Rev Dr Richard Gibson was appointed in June 2014.

Prior to joining BST, Rev Dr Richard Gibson had more than 20 years' experience teaching New Testament Greek, New Testament, Church History and Preaching. After studying theology and being ordained as an Anglican minister, he pastored a congregation in Sydney's west for four years. Seeing the value of continued learning, he completed a Master's degree on 1 Timothy and a doctorate on the emotions in early Christian thought. Under Rev Dr Gibson's principalship, the college has launched a Centre for Asian Christianity, strengthened its connections with evangelical churches in Brisbane from different denominations, remained committed to formational development that is Christ-centred and biblically based, expanded opportunities for practical ministry and mission exposure, and emphasised the importance of a tailored mentoring program for students.

We honour all those leaders who have served the college over the last 75 years and praise God for his continued faithfulness.



## THE REFORMATION TOUR

**MATHEW THOMAS,**  
GRADUATING BST STUDENT

**The Reformation Tour was an amazing trip with so many quality Christian people. We certainly covered a lot of ground on this two week trip and every day was just phenomenal and memorable (not to mention a little tiring!). This trip will stay with me forever for a few key reasons. One was the great fellowship with all my awesome brothers and sisters. It was lovely to make some good friendships and also make some prior friendships into lifetime friendships.**

Another was all the great places we went to relating to the Reformation. It's one thing to read the stories, but it's truly life-changing going to where it all happened. Lessons with Gibbo (Richard) were really good as well. And, of course, learning many times how to make the best muesli and sauerkraut from our tour director!

The last, and most important, is the essential lesson of how crucial it is for the Bible to be the authority for the Church and every Christian. Over and over, history has shown the havoc when this is not done. No creeds, confessions, modern trends and ideas, preferred thoughts on topics/issues (and so on) has more authority than scripture. It is the solid rock basis. And when it's not, people can mix about any idea or thought that they want to, and therefore distort the precious message of the gospel and lead people astray. Which is why I'm thankful for people like Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Hus, Wycliffe and so many more for their massive efforts.

I have so many fond memories from this trip. A special thank you to Richard for all his work in bringing this together, and for his story times. Every place we visited was awesome in its own way.

# GOD OWES YOU NO FAVOURS



**C.T. Studd is a legend in cross-cultural evangelism. C.T. Studd is a superstar of mission. Born in England in 1860, into a family of wealth and privilege. Educated at Eton and Cambridge. A rising star of English cricket. In fact, he played in the 1882 match won by Australia, which was the origin of "The Ashes". But he gave all this up, along with his large inheritance, in order to go to China to serve as a missionary with Hudson Taylor from the China Inland Mission.**

In 1884, from the age of 25, he spent ten years in China, during which time he fathered four daughters as well as two sons - both of whom died in infancy. Ill health forced him back to England but six years later, in 1900, he continued his missionary service, this time pastoring a church in India. He was there for six years before returning to

*"If Jesus Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." - C.T. Studd*

England due to ill health once again. In 1910, against doctors' advice, he left to serve in his third continent, Africa, where he served for a further 21 years before his death, forming the WEC mission agency in the process. During the last 14 years of his life he only saw his wife for two weeks, with her running the mission agency from England while he served in the African interior.

Studd's ministry in Africa bore much fruit for the kingdom as he endured hardship, sickness, weakness, hunger, heart attacks, exposure, hostility, financial strain and separation from family. Shortly after 10:30 p.m. on a July

day in 1931, C.T. Studd went home to be with His Lord, whom he had loved so dearly and served so faithfully!

To read more of Andrew Prince's full article, go to [bst.qld.edu.au/blog](http://bst.qld.edu.au/blog)

## Thank you for faithfully giving to our Legacy Appeal!

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our recent Legacy Appeal. We are so blessed to have served God's kingdom over the last 75 years, and we were honoured that friends like you gave more than \$4000 towards sustaining this ministry for years to come!

If you would still like to give, please visit [bst.qld.edu.au/donate](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate) and select the Legacy Appeal.



## E V E N T S

### INTENSIVE: Ministry in Culturally Diverse Contexts

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
28 JAN-1 FEB 2019**

8AM-5PM  
BST CAMPUS

This course aims to equip you to face the challenges of cultural diversity in your own lives, ministries and churches.  
*Speaker: Mike Wilson*

### MA INTENSIVE: Jesus in the New Testament: Current issues in New Testament Scholarship

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
11-15 FEBRUARY 2019**

8:30AM-3PM  
BST CAMPUS

This unit focuses on the way the New Testament presents the person of Jesus and issues in current scholarship associated with New Testament Christology.  
*Speaker: Paul Trebilco*

### BST Graduation Ceremony

**TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY  
2019**

6:30PM FOR 7PM START  
CITY NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH,  
52 YIADA ST, KEDRON

You're invited to join us for this special occasion as we celebrate the achievements of our graduands.

### MA INTENSIVE: Preaching Evangelistically

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
4-8 MARCH 2019**

8:30AM-3PM  
BST CAMPUS

This unit examines the theological, historical and homiletical issues involved in preaching evangelistically, and how these issues can be integrated into your ongoing ministry.  
*Speaker: Mike Raiter*

To register for these events, or information on other events visit [bst.qld.edu.au/events](http://bst.qld.edu.au/events) or contact us on (07) 3870 8355.