

CONNECT

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

ISSUE 10 / AUTUMN 2017

MISSION EXPOSURE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

From riding in bullet trains in Tokyo to visiting nursing homes on the Sunshine Coast, teams of BST students served alongside churches and ministries in South East Queensland, Coffs Harbour and Japan in March/April this year as part of BST's mission exposure week. The purpose for mission exposure is to give students practical ministry experience and enable them to observe different ministries that work locally and overseas.

Read on to find out some of the highlights...

"MISSION WEEK WAS A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME, MY COLLEAGUES AND THE WHOLE CHURCH."

DEB

Master of Ministry student

In deciding to go to Japan with BST, I hoped to be challenged culturally, emotionally, and spiritually. This was preparation for a two-year cross-cultural field placement which I will begin in September. The trip to Japan certainly stretched me and I experienced God faithfully growing me through the trip.

The language barrier was my biggest cultural encounter; although, Japanese friends equipped me with suitable greetings and courtesies. My engagement with the Japanese people found them to be warm, gracious and hospitable people.

I was deeply touched to meet and observe many people who do not yet know Jesus. I began to see the spiritual need for the gospel in Japan. God is definitely at work there. I met with Christian workers, such as those from Pioneers and Christian Bible Institute, who have been prepared in key places to love and serve the Japanese people.

These ministries are offering creative ways to reach people through things like English conversation classes, café ministry, karaoke, and Christian counselling. I was humbled to be able to go and get a glimpse of what God is doing there.

REV MARK CALDER

Rector, Anglican Church of Noosa

I've led the Anglican Church of Noosa since December 2009 and consider it a privilege to be able to love and serve our communities in Tewantin, Peregian Springs and Sunshine Beach.

Our church welcomed the opportunity to host a team of BST students for mission exposure week in the lead up to Easter. Initially, I was concerned that we might not have sufficient activities to offer them, but once I considered our regular weekly program, there were ample opportunities. The BST team took part in our church services—we offer traditional and contemporary-style services—and got involved in other outreach that the church does in the community, including our home visits and school programs. BST students also helped to deliver our Easter program flyers to more than 4,000 homes. Easter was terrific and I think the fact that Easter Sunday at Peregian was packed had something to do with the letterbox drop.

I believe mission exposure is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience other churches from varying backgrounds and serves as a reminder that the point of their study is to do ministry and bless the local church with their presence. The other benefit of short-term work is that it helps to keep students grounded in their study and offers them the option to serve in different types of ministries.

Overall, mission week was a great encouragement to me, my colleagues and the whole church. John Coulson, the team leader was great to work with and the students, impressive.

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LIBRARY APPEAL

Give BST students the tools to take God's word into the world.

bst.qld.edu.au/donate



Rev Dr Richard Gibson, BST Principal

I GIVE THANKS TO MY GOD FOR EVERY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU, ALWAYS PRAYING WITH JOY FOR ALL OF YOU IN MY EVERY PRAYER, BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW.

(PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5)

Every time Paul thought of the Christians at Philippi he was filled with thankfulness and joy. He explains why. His partnership in the gospel with them was precious. He knew it was evidence of the powerful work of God.

At BST we know what he meant. As an interdenominational college, we are more dependent on our partners in the gospel than others. We could not function without their support and encouragement.

This edition of *BST Connect* is a powerful reminder. The mission exposure trip to Japan would never have happened without Pioneers. Anglican Church of Noosa and Harbourside Presbyterian Church provided a group of our students with a rich insight into ministry and mission. Speakers for our missions conference were recommended to us by Langham Partnership.

Our Centre for Asian Christianity Director, Andrew Prince was invited to contribute to the Board of Interserve. This is just to name a few of our precious partners.

We value our ongoing partnership with you. We are filled with joy by words of encouragement. We covet your prayers for the new semester and for those seeking ministry positions or candidacy for overseas mission. And we invite you to consider contributing to our appeal for library resources to support the learning experience of our students.

We thank God for you.

If you would like to invite Richard or other faculty to speak at your church or special event please email info@bst.qld.edu.au or contact us on (07) 3870 8355.

MISSION EXPOSURE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

JEREMIAH

Bachelor of Theology student

The traditions of the Anglican church are unlike those from my background of Baptist and AOG churches. Now that I attend an Anglican church, I appreciated the opportunity to work with the Anglican Church of Noosa, Tewantin and their two other locations at Sunshine Beach and Peregian Springs.



We helped run children's programs, gave our testimonies and I played guitar with the worship team. During the week, we visited school chaplains who did incredible work for children from broken families. We also went to a nursing home where we read the Bible and prayed with the elderly.

It was encouraging to spend time with people much older than me and see their mature faith and perspective on life. When I heard from different ministers from the Anglican church, I was able to gain further understanding on what they do. The week was a good reminder to appreciate the church for how it serves and worships God.

GRACE

Bachelor of Theology student

Mission exposure week at Harbourside Presbyterian Church was a joy and a challenge. A few of us from BST led the children's program at the primary schools in Coffs harbour, which featured an Easter puppet show. We taught a song and used a hot cross bun to talk about the significance of the crucifixion.



I also shared my testimony at a church service, and was surprised yet comforted as I saw heads nod in agreement and empathy, realising that they too had gone through similar things. At a Christian-run drug and rehabilitation centre, I heard of amazing transformations in people which made me reflect on changes in my life that only happened because of Jesus.

Through it all, God reminded me to accept others regardless of my initial ideas about them. Although I originally felt anxious in the lead up to the week, it soon turned to joy as I experienced greater connection with my fellow students and with God.

MARIE

Diploma of Ministry student

God opened doors as I worked with Harbourside Presbyterian Church in Coffs Harbour during mission exposure. Generally, my introverted nature means I am not easily inclined to engage with new people. Over the week, God gave me courage to go outside my comfort zone, all for the glory of his name.



Because of this, I met with and learned from someone who worked in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre. It was an unexpected blessing that paralleled with my passion for opening a rehabilitation centre for women. On another occasion, I attended a church seminar where others answered tough and controversial questions on issues that affect our society.

I was encouraged to see how those on the panel were able to answer them. God showed me the importance of stepping out. But he also taught me that sometimes, it's equally important to let others be in charge so they can grow and learn, just as I did.

CENTRE DIRECTOR Joins Interserve Board

Rev Dr Andrew Prince, BST's Director of the Centre for Asian Christianity joined the Interserve Australia Board in October last year. He was officially welcomed at the Interserve breakfast held at Clayfield, Queensland on Saturday, 13 May.

Dr Ruth Thorne, Chair of the Board of Interserve, expressed her gratitude after Andrew's first Board meetings, "Andrew has contributed a helpful missiological lens, and a warm and generous spirit to the Board deliberations. It has been a delight to have him on the Board, and we look forward to ongoing fruitful collaboration with Andrew and BST."

When Ruth invited Andrew to join the board, he was humbled to be nominated and prayerfully considered the decision.

"Interserve had been looking for a board member with a missions' focus, and I had just completed my doctoral studies on contextualisation of the gospel across cultures, so for them, it seemed to be the right fit," says Andrew.

It was also the right fit for BST as Interserve has been one of the college's mission partners for some time, with several of our alumni serving with the organisation in Australia and overseas.

Dr Christine Gobius, Interserve National Director and BST graduate, emphasises that Interserve takes a holistic approach to bear witness to the gospel in all aspects of life and is focused on working with the local church in the Arab world and Asia.

"The church exists in every country, even in the most difficult countries where believers may not be able to meet openly, or where some people groups remain unreached," says Christine. "We work hard to find out

how we can support what God is doing in those places, and wherever possible, develop ways

to work alongside local believers as they participate in God's mission."

Partnerships with organisations like Interserve are important to BST, especially as the college has a strong emphasis on providing students exposure to a wide variety of opportunities to serve God with their life and skills.

One of the ways we do this is offer students cross-cultural field education placements, and our partnership with Interserve means students can also work with them and get a sense of what it might be like to serve with a mission organisation.

Earlier this year, a part-time BST student went on a short-term trip with Interserve, in partnership with a church to serve refugees in the Middle East. This placement enabled the student to get a taste of what it's like to apply to serve with a mission agency, go through their training and screening process, and work alongside some of the experienced Interserve team leaders.

Please pray for Andrew as he serves on the Interserve Board and for BST's working relationship with the organisation as we seek to partner in meaningful ways that are helpful for our students and fruitful for the kingdom.

If you would like to find out more about Interserve, they are hosting their next breakfast at BST on **Saturday, 15 July**, 8 am—11.30 am. To RSVP, please email events@interserve.org.au.

For other Interserve events, please visit interserve.org.au/connect/events or call 1800 067 100.



BUILDING

A CULTURE

OF INSIGHT

DATE:

**SATURDAY, 24 JUNE 2017
9 AM - 4 PM**

COST:

**\$55 FOR GENERAL REGISTRATION
(INCLUDES MEALS AND SEMINARS)**

\$25 CONCESSION

(ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND PENSIONERS)

PLEASE E-MAIL

communications@bst.qld.edu.au to subscribe to our e-news or to update your details.

BST's annual missions conference is on **Saturday, 24 June 2017**. It is for anyone who is interested in local and global mission or keen to support it. This year's theme is **building a culture of insight: understanding Islam** with keynote speaker **Rev Dr John Azumah**, Professor of World Christianity and Islam.

John has a background in church ministry and is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. He completed his PhD on the history of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa at the University of Birmingham. John's talks will help us to make **theological and missiological sense of Muhammad**, and give us insight into the **Insider Movement**.

Other guest speakers include **Dr Dwi Maria Handayani**, Lecturer and Deputy Dean of Academic Affairs at Bandung Theological Seminary in Indonesia. Born in East Java to parents who are believers from Muslim backgrounds, Dwi Maria received Christ as her Saviour when she was just 11 years old. She grew in faith through inter-varsity

fellowship ministry at the university she attended. Dwi Maria is also a trainer for Langham Preaching in Indonesia. Her talks will cover **'Unveiling women in mission to the Muslim'**, and **'Curse and lament in religious violence'**.

Dr Bernie Power, Lecturer at the Arthur Jeffrey Centre for the Study of Islam in Melbourne will give talks on **'The Qur'an: understanding the most misunderstood book'**, and **'The Hadith: traditions which reveal true Islam'**. Bernie is fluent in Arabic and holds degrees in Science, Education and Theology.

He has spent most of his working life in Muslim-majority countries. His book, *Understanding Jesus and Muhammad: What the Ancient Texts Say About Them*, was shortlisted for Australian Book of the Year in 2016.



GOD ALONE IS FAITHFUL

Mark Hockey, Bachelor of Theology student

Have you ever watched a movie with a plot that seems to twist and turn—giving you enough to keep you hooked and begging to know what happens in the end? If you were reading passages of the Bible for the first time and not sure of how it all ends, there are plenty of twists and turns that leave you wondering what could possibly happen next. You just have to look at the scriptures (Kings and the Prophets) that give a historical account of God’s judgments on Israel for their rebellion and idolatry. There are twists and turns that keep you hanging to know more.

About 30 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Apostle Peter wrote to believers scattered across Roman provinces—what we now

know as modern Turkey (1 Peter 1). These people were suffering some persecution as a result of their faith in Christ. This part of the Bible has its twists and turns, but it doesn’t take long to read on and find out how it ends. By this stage, Jerusalem had not yet fallen; more persecution was to come for the believers.

Peter revealed to the believers that though they were suffering different kinds of trials, these trials tested the genuineness of their faith (1 Peter 1:6-7). Peter encouraged God’s people to endure with eyes fixed on the glorious inheritance to come, Salvation (v 13). His exhortations and encouragement revealed why God’s people can endure times of trial and hardship—this endurance is

only possible because of the gospel. **God’s children have their hope in God himself, through faith in Jesus Christ alone.**

Peter called on God’s people—those who believe in Christ—to display God’s character, echoing what God had commanded Israel to “Be holy, because [he] is holy.” (1 Peter 1:16, Leviticus 11:44). There is comfort in knowing that as believers, we are God’s people. But being holy sounds like a lot of work. Peter commanded the believers to “set [their] hope” (1 Peter 1:13) on the coming salvation, to “be holy” (1 Peter 1:16), and to “live out [their] time...in reverent fear” (1 Peter 1:17). However, there is a slight danger when you set these sorts of commands for people.



To read Mark Hockey’s full article, visit bst.qld.edu.au/blog. Mark is studying his Bachelor of Theology at BST full-time and works part-time at City North Baptist Church as their Youth Worker.

EVENINGS

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INSIGHT

SATURDAY
24 JUNE 2017
9 AM-4 PM

Gain insight into Islam and the challenges that face us today. You’ll hear from those who are experienced in engaging with people from Muslim backgrounds.

Rev Dr John Azumah
Dr Dwi Maria Handayani
Dr Bernie Power

APPROACHES TO OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

(MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
31 JULY - 4 AUGUST 2017
8.30AM-3 PM DAILY

This unit is recommended to prospective MA students who desire to add a further important theological dimension to the area of Biblical Studies. It’s also relevant for pastors, lay people, and students of the Bible who are serious about the field of Biblical Theology as it relates to understanding the Old Testament and its place within the Bible today.

Dr Ted Woods

FOUNDATIONS OF PASTORAL CARE

(CHINESE PROGRAM INTENSIVE)

EVERY SATURDAY
FOR SIX WEEKS COMMENCING
12 AUGUST 2017

This intensive will be taught in Mandarin and cover biblical foundations of pastoral care, issues in pastoral theology, and the nature of people and families in various life stages.

Dr Vivian Soesilo

PREACHING BIBLICAL GENRES

(MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
28 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 2017
8.30 AM-4 PM DAILY

This unit will explore the different literary genres in scripture (e.g., narrative, wisdom, prophecy) and how to appropriately interpret them. Students will also learn how to preach different biblical genres to a modern audience taking into account worldview and culture.

Rev Mike Raiter