

CONNECT

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

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SHAPED BY HIS WORD; SERVING HIS WORLD

FROM CARPENTER TO PASTOR – DANIEL'S STORY



Daniel Roberts graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in February. On the day of graduation his wife Karmyn gave birth to their second child, a daughter, Lillian. With Karmyn's blessing, Daniel was still able to make the graduation ceremony! This is Daniel's story.

I was brought up in a religious family. My parents divorced when I was a child, which resulted in several years of hardship and broken relationships. It was not until I was 19 years old that God began to change my heart and I became a true disciple of Jesus Christ. My wife Karmyn and I both grew up in the small town of Dalby in Queensland. We were actually in grade one together, but after that I moved away. We met again at a home group in Dalby around 2013 and it wasn't long before we knew we were to get married. We were married in May 2015.

During my years in Dalby, I was a member of Dalby Baptist Church and volunteered as a youth leader for three years. We were both involved in ministry and enjoyed serving in the church. However, I loved being a carpenter even more and had grand plans for becoming a successful builder and living the Australian dream. After growing up in a poor household, I wanted to become wealthy and successful. It wasn't long until I felt the Lord subtly prompting me to go to Bible College. Me! A tradesman! And not an academic! I thought the idea was ridiculous and tried to ignore it. I

liked volunteering at youth group but the idea of being a pastor was not even on my radar. In fact, I couldn't think of anything worse. However, I knew that God was telling me it was time to let go of my pride and trust in him.

After two years of wrestling with God, the conviction got so strong that I decided it was time to obey. I had heard of a college that was inter-denominational. This grabbed my attention, as I wanted to be taught the Bible, not a denominational doctrine. God quickly confirmed that BST was where he wanted me. I took on what I thought was enough to obey the whole "Bible college thing", a Diploma of Ministry. I even remember telling God that if he didn't help me get through this then I would quit. Help me he did! The first 6 months was an incredibly hard adjustment from working with my hands to studying academically. However, the lecturers were very encouraging and I could sense that I was more than just a student to them. Their pastoral oversight was highly motivating.

On completing the Diploma of Ministry, I went back to carpentry for six months hoping that life could get back to normal, thinking that I had done my bit for God. I soon realised that I no longer felt content or satisfied to do this anymore. Through my wife, much prayer and guidance I knew I had to complete a Bachelor degree and go into ministry.

I was enjoying my studies in the Bachelor of Ministry, especially the Theology subjects,

and began to have a passion to study more theology and to study Greek. I was not academically inclined and never thought I was capable, but Richard Gibson (my mentor) convinced me to have a crack. Ironically, Greek became the subject in which I excelled, so I changed to a Bachelor of Theology. One thing that surprised me (and many other students and lecturers) was how well I was able to apply myself to the task of studying. I always say, I'm not that smart, I'm just a normal guy working hard because I was passionate

"During my studies at BST, God stretched and grew me in more ways than I can mention."

about what God had given me to do and I know that if it wasn't for God giving me the strength then I wouldn't have made it.

I completed 22 out of 24 subjects at BST, but had to finish the last two at Malyon College as I felt God was leading me into the Baptist

denomination. I completed the two subjects in 2018, but my focus was now on my position as an Associate Pastor at Clontarf Beach Baptist Church, which I started in January 2018.

During my studies at BST, God stretched and grew me in more ways than I can mention. While I was taught theology at an academic level, I was convinced and convicted by the lecturers that theology should not just be information learnt, but information applied to your life. Theology should also be gospel-centred. It should cause us to want to know Christ better and make him known to the world.

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Help shape the college that shapes the next generation of students.

We need your help to keep our grounds, our buildings and our residential community thriving so our students can do what they came for: be shaped by His word, and serve His world.

Please visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate/building_appeal to give to our Appeal today.



FEARLESS

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON,
BST PRINCIPAL

"PRAY . . . THAT I WILL FEARLESSLY MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL"
(EPHESIANS 6:19)

It is just a few days since the world was rocked by the news of bombings in Sri Lanka, detonated by religious extremists, killing hundreds.

That same day I stood at the Mt Tambourine Easter Convention and spoke on the closing verses of Paul's great letter to the Ephesians, urging people to pray for their missionary friends to be fearless in making known the gospel.

It is a difficult thing to pray for people we love who are overseas to make Christ known. There is increasing evidence of the widespread ferocity of the persecution of Christian believers in many countries in the world. It is escalating. And we know these dangers are multiplied for those who seek to win others to Christ.

When we pray for our dear friends to preach the gospel fearlessly we need to know what we are asking. We are asking them to listen to the apostle Peter, when he said, "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened"



(1 Peter 3:14). Paul knew what he was asking. In the very next verse after begging people to pray for him to be fearless in preaching the gospel, he adds: "for which I am an ambassador in chains" (Ephesians 6:20). Preaching the gospel boldly had already landed Paul in prison. Peter

and Paul both knew the 'blessedness' of suffering for what is right (1 Peter 3:14).

In just a few weeks we will be sitting down to watch the movie based on the life and death of

Graham Staines, one of the alumni of BST. Just over twenty years ago the world was rocked by news of the murder of Graham and his two sons, at the hand of religious extremists. The movie tells the story of a man who suffered terribly for righteousness' sake. And it tells of the mercy and forgiveness of his wife and daughter in the face of this terrible loss.

We still want you to pray that our faculty and students will be fearless in making known the gospel. But you need to be aware of what you are asking in a world that hates

Jesus. You will be increasing the threat to their safety if your prayer is answered. But that threat is something Jesus prepared us for when he said to his disciples the night before he died:

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I

have chosen you out of the world" (John 15:18-19).

"When we pray for our dear friends to preach the gospel fearlessly we need to know what we are asking."

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.

COLLEGE CAMP

BY DREW GATES

As a first year student, this was my first experience of a Christian camp. I was expecting tents and toilet blocks, so I was pleasantly surprised by the excellent facilities and picturesque location of Camp Somerset, which overlooks a bush-fringed dam.

The time was balanced well between activities and free time. The pool was well used during the latter, largely since the three-day camp coincided with a heatwave. The missions' representative panel was an entertaining and educational introduction to the world of mission. As the mission representatives stayed for the duration of the camp, I took full advantage of the opportunity to speak with them.

Apart from the academic side of things, what I feel makes BST special is the

emphasis on community. The sentiment that faculty, staff and students are all brothers and sisters in Christ has been expressed many times in chapel. The camp highlighted this quality and there was a real sense of community during the three days. The activities program bolstered the feeling of community with prayer and praise, talks and an imaginative and well thought out team-building exercise by our librarian, Buffy.

If the camp had a theme, it was 'faithfulness'. Richard Gibson gave two inspiring talks about 'faithful God; faithful people', and the topic of the devotional was 'faithful people; living faithfully'. The camp was as enjoyable as it was educational. I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the Christian lifestyle and am looking forward to next year's camp.





FINLAND CALLING

Elisabeth Pesonen recently graduated with a Graduate Diploma of Divinity. We asked Liz a few questions as she prepares to return to Finland at the end of May to work with YWAM.

Tell us a bit about your family and background.

I was born in Canberra, Australia. My parents are both from Finland but met in Australia. I am the youngest of four children. I grew up in a bilingual home and went to a bilingual church. I have been connected to a Finnish church for most of my life. They have a strong focus on prayer and missions. From the age of 11 I knew I wanted to serve the Lord as a missionary.

What led to you to go and serve in Finland for the first time?

I had been to Finland many times as a child, visiting with my parents, but I went by myself in 2010. It was the end of 2009 when I was at a church service where God told me it was my time to go to Finland for a season. I thought

it would be only six months for a discipleship training school (DTS) with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) but God then spoke to me to stay longer. I was only 21 when I first went to Finland and I ended up staying for four and a half years. I returned to Brisbane in the middle of 2014 as I was hitting burnout.

Your undergraduate degree is in counselling. Is this something you always wanted to study?

Through prayer, I realised a counselling degree would equip me with helpful people skills and assist me in dealing with the burnout and other wounds from the past. At first, I could not believe God wanted me to study a degree because I struggled as a child with a learning difficulty caused by Auditory Processing Disorder. I was told as a young child I would never be able to do university. I was greatly amazed receiving my first semester results, as I was achieving high grades! It was through my counselling degree God healed many of the past wounds and brought greater restoration.

What brought you to study at BST?

I found out about BST from a mission discussion group with OMF and also from a pastor/lecturer at Christian Heritage College. Towards the end of my counselling degree, I felt I would need more training theologically to be prepared for missions. I also knew that on the mission field there are missionaries from many different denominations. I was informed that BST is interdenominational and I knew that there would be a greater richness within the community.

What did you learn and enjoy in your time here at BST?

I really enjoyed the rich community with other students in classes and with the fellowship groups. I found the mission perspective unit very helpful in understanding how to connect and minister to people of different cultures. I learnt a lot from each of my lecturers. Not only did they have a vast understanding of what they taught but I also sensed they have experienced genuine

transformation in their own journeys.

How has study prepared you for your calling?

In the middle of my counselling degree God told me to take counselling back to the mission field by assisting missionaries in their journeys. Many missionaries who are on the field can easily get exhausted and often have other pressures that make it harder for them to serve God in that context. Studying at BST has equipped me with greater wisdom, insight and understanding, along with my counselling degree, in how to assist missionaries.

Tell us about your next mission to Finland?

I have been asked by YWAM Finland to return to assist in pioneering the ministry of Member Care. I will travel to different YWAM bases to assist individuals with counselling; teach about member care; network, and help build the member care team. I appreciate all the prayer support while serving God in Finland.

THE FINNS MAKE IT TO THE 'FINISH' LINE!

Our graduation ceremony, held on Tuesday, 26 February, saw a cohort of 44 of our students graduate including three lovely ladies of Finnish heritage: Anni Charlesworth (BTh), Karen Nivala (MDiv), and Liz Pesonen (GradDipDiv). Since 'finishing' their studies at BST,

Anni has moved to Townsville with her husband with plans to move to Finland later this year, Karen has joined the Faculty as Lecturer/Mentor, and Liz is returning to Finland on mission with YWAM. 'Onnea' (Congratulations) to them all!

DANIEL'S STORY - CONTINUED...



Living on campus at BST was a wonderful experience that we will always remember. We felt accepted and loved and soon became part of the tightknit family.

KARMYN'S PERSPECTIVE. At first, I hated the thought of living on campus. I didn't know anyone and it was a big change coming from a town where I grew up and was very

comfortable to a new place with no friends and no job. It definitely took time to adjust BUT when I did settle in, I can tell you it was AMAZING. The community at BST is like no other, from going to the principal's place for a pool party to hanging out on the front lawn. It was a place we loved and called home. At the end of our first year living on campus our son Jonas

was born. I couldn't have asked for a better place to bring up my son for the first year of his life. Dan and I have made some life-long friends from him studying at BST and us living on campus. I always say that I am so thankful that BST does not offer online study because the community you receive from living on campus and studying on campus is invaluable.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

In the weeks between submitting my doctoral thesis and sitting the viva voce examination, I translated an academic oration by Herman Bavinck entitled, 'The Doctorate' (1899). Perhaps not everybody's preferred mode of killing time, but this was the last of four speeches that I had been translating and editing and it seemed like a good opportunity to bring the project to completion.

Bavinck delivered this (remarkably long) speech towards the end of his time in Kampen and as such, it occupies a fascinating period of his life. At the time, Bavinck had been involved in some serious ecclesiastical politics in the attempt to secure

a merger of the Kampen Theological School and the Free University of Amsterdam. A few years before, Bavinck's denomination had united with Abraham Kuyper's denomination, but in the minds of many of Bavinck's colleagues, merging the two institutions was a step too far.

'The Doctorate' speaks into that disagreement, offering a theological justification for why Bavinck thought the merger was in everybody's best interests. It takes the form of a theological account of the teaching office. In true Bavinckian style, he commences with the biblical material and then lays out a detailed history of the development of doctrine before presenting his own view. Yet curiously, in tracing the development of the teaching office, Bavinck comes to focus on the PhD rather than the office itself.



The further I worked my way through Bavinck's speech, it became clearer and clearer that Bavinck's analysis holds considerable relevance for today. There is a lot of stuff being said about PhDs out there and the cognitive dissonance, at times, can be astounding. On one hand you have people saying that PhDs are of no value and are a sign of the vanity of those who pursue them. On the other, there is the cut-throat pursuit of the PhD in which one's publishing profile and institutional affiliation displaces any thought of Christian ministry.

How is the Christian who is attracted to the idea of academic study of theology to weigh such wildly divergent views?

Continue reading Bruce Pass's article at bst.qld.edu.au/blog

Thank you for supporting our digital library!

With your help, we have met the cost of providing a wealth of digital resources to our students for many months. Our online library is a vital ministry tool, and we are so grateful friends like you have helped to meet this need.

If you would still like to give, please visit bst.qld.edu.au/libraryappeal.



E V E N T S

OPEN MORNING

FRIDAY

8 MAY 2019
9:30AM-1:30PM

If you'd like a taste of college life, come along to our Open Morning.

You can be part of our Friday Chapel service, sit in on a lecture of your choice, then join us for one of our famous community lunches.

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: Faculty & staff

MA INTENSIVE:

Reading and Interpreting
Genesis 1-11
in its ANE Context

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

15-19 JULY 2019
8:30AM-3:00PM

This unit will address the role of Genesis 1-11 in the book of Genesis and the coherence of the narratives that comprise this section of Scripture. There will be a focus on understanding the biblical text within its Ancient Eastern context.

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: John Walton

BST MISSIONS CONFERENCE

SATURDAY

3 AUGUST 2019
9:00AM-4:00PM

Our theme for this year's conference is "GLOCAL MISSIONS". Our guest speakers, Mike Wilson and Choon-Hwa Lim are the co-authors of 'Changing Lanes, Crossing Cultures' and together have extensive background and experience in cross-cultural missions and communications.

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: Mike Wilson & Choon-Hwa Lim

MA SPLIT INTENSIVE:

1-3 John

4-6 SEPTEMBER
/9-10 OCTOBER 2019
8:30AM-3PM DAILY

This unit will concentrate on providing overviews of the Johannine epistles and issues in their interpretation.

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: Bill Salier

To register for these events, visit bst.qld.edu.au/events For more information on upcoming events or contact us on (07) 3870 8355.