

CONNECT

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

Issue 17 / SUMMER 2019

SHAPED BY HIS WORD; SERVING HIS WORLD

MIXING MEDICINE AND THEOLOGY

*Shaped by His word;
serving His world*



Before commencing part-time study at BST in 2007, Richard Jiang had completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Reproductive Science. He was working as a full-time practitioner of Chinese Medicine, along with serving at the Sunshine Coast Chinese Christian Church as a Deacon. Richard has just graduated with a Bachelor of Theology after many years of part-time study.

Why did you choose to study in the BST Chinese program?

It is because of God's grace I was able to begin my study at BST. I remember in 2007, Rev Michael Tan and Dr Johan Ferreira came to our church to preach for us. They introduced and taught us some intensive courses, including Old Testament Foundations and New Testament Foundations. It was the first time that I discovered the courses from BST were so

"All the courses from the curriculum are very well designed..."

helpful for me to understand the scripture in the Bible properly (especially in the areas of Biblical background). Since then, I began my study at BST.

It's taken nine years to finish the Bachelor of Theology part-time. How have you balanced your profession, study and family life?

It did take me a long time to complete my BTh degree at BST as I have to work around 30 hours a week. Without the support from my wife and family, the prayers from brothers

and sisters at church, and the help and support from the teachers and classmates

in the BTh, it would be impossible for me to complete the course. And I know all these are from our Father in heaven; it is because of His grace, provision, and protection, I was able to keep going and carry on.

What are some of the things you learnt while doing the Bachelor of Theology?

I have learnt a lot. Not only from the courses in the curriculum of BST, but also the fellowship in Christ, to love and share with brothers and sisters (including all the teaching members and students here at BST). All the courses from the curriculum are very well designed, very helpful and practical. They are not just aimed to assist students academically, but to help students to grow more mature in faith and have true knowledge of God and live a fruit-bearing life as a follower of Christ. On top of all these, I have learnt so much from the faculty and staff members from their sincere and dedicated work as well as their servant heart. I would like to thank all the teaching staff as well as the principal for their hard work and their godly selfless love and care during the whole time of my learning life at BST.

LIBRARY APPEAL

Help prepare our students for 21st century ministry

We live in a digital world, and our wonderful library needs to move with the times. Please give generously to help us provide our students with hundreds of essential and contemporary online journals, articles, books and resources to help prepare them for ministry. **Thank you!**

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



LEARNING IS A TREASURE THAT WILL FOLLOW ITS OWNER EVERYWHERE

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON,
BST PRINCIPAL

This year marks the 20th anniversary of formally accredited diplomas and degrees in Mandarin at BST. It is remarkable achievement, for which we give God great thanks. It represents the labours of many teachers and students. Graduates of the Mandarin-speaking program now serve as pastors, elders, Bible study leaders, active church members and in many other capacities. Their love and service for Jesus were enriched at BST.



When I was investigating the role of principal at BST more than 5 years ago, I was deeply impressed by the presence of this Mandarin program. It represented a very significant investment by the Board: just about every subject offered in English had to be duplicated in Mandarin. Provision had to be made for library books and resources to be available.

In the time I have been here, I have only grown in my admiration for the initiative, leadership and teaching of the full-time and sessional faculty. Johan, Michael, Vivien and Wally have made enormous contributions.

Our students have been well-served by qualified, godly and enthusiastic teachers.

Events in recent years have only underlined the importance of this commitment to serve God's people from a Chinese background. We look forward to training leaders for the churches that serve them and the mission to them around the world. In coming weeks I look forward to making an exciting announcement about a new member of the faculty, who will strengthen and extend the work of BST in this area.

Please pray that God will raise up many Mandarin speakers whose desire is to be shaped by God's word and equipped to

serve His world. And pray that BST will continue to raise the resources necessary to serve his people effectively.

"I have only grown in my admiration for the initiative, leadership and teaching of the full-time and sessional faculty."

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.

NEW FACULTY AT BST

BRUCE PASS & KAREN NIVALA

This year we're excited to welcome two new members to our faculty; Rev Dr Bruce Pass as Director of Postgraduate Studies and Lecturer in Christian Thought and History, and Karen Nivala as Lecturer and Mentor.

Bruce, his wife Kate, and their three children have been living in Edinburgh for the last few years while Bruce was completing his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Before his doctoral studies, Bruce pastored a church plant in the north of Sydney as an Anglican minister.

His professional background is in classical music so we're hoping to hear some Beethoven, Schubert or Chopin!

Karen has just graduated with her Master of Divinity after four years of study at BST. She is a beloved part of the community here and we're thrilled to have her join our faculty in this role. Prior to her studies at BST, Karen worked as a speech pathologist in Queensland and the UK. A resident of BST, Karen is always up for a good chat, good food, long walks and a raucous board game.



BST CHINESE PROGRAM

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the accreditation of the BST Chinese Program.



WATCH THIS SPACE FOR AN EXCITING FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING OUR CHINESE PROGRAM!

The vision of Dr Johan Ferreira, the Chinese program was birthed in 1996, with the first class of seven students commencing in 1997. The teaching was initially carried out by Dr Ferreira, who was Director of Postgraduate Studies at the time, along with local Chinese pastors. In 1999, the ACT gave approval to offer the Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses in the Chinese program. The college, needing help to manage and promote the new program, appointed an interdenominational committee of representatives from the local Chinese churches, with Pastor Mark Loi assigned as part-time administrator.

Despite other colleges entering the field, the Chinese program continued to flourish and by 2006 an extension centre had been pioneered on the Sunshine Coast. In the first 10 years of the program over 50 students

“Since its inception the Chinese program and has been a significant addition to the academic life of the college.”

had enrolled with 18 graduating. Although student numbers had not been high, the quality of students was exceptional. Most were mature in their faith and were involved in key roles in their local church.

Rev Dr Michael Tan, a member of the Chinese Methodist Church with more than 30 years of ministry experience, was appointed as full-time Director in 2007. He was originally from Malaysia, and had been teaching in the program as a visiting lecturer for six years. With the addition of

Dr Tan to the faculty, the Chinese program continued to thrive.

In 2013, Dr Wally Wang commenced his role as Lecturer of Christian Thought. Prior to his tenure here, Dr Wang was studying systematic theology in Hong

Kong. Previous to his study, he was pastor of a Chinese Church in Sydney. When Dr Tan decided to retire at the end of 2015, Dr Wang transitioned into the role of Director

of the Chinese program. Although Dr Tan is officially retired, he still assists in teaching different biblical subjects.

Since becoming Director, Dr Wang has overseen the inauguration of the Chinese External Class. This external class is intended to let people serving in the church have a taste of what theological study is all about, with the hope that they will gain sound biblical knowledge along the way. Students come from different churches with usually around eight people attending each class.

Over the last 20 years, there are has been nearly 60 graduates come through the Chinese program. To support the program, the Chinese section of the library has also grown significantly with 4000 Chinese volumes in the library today.

Since its inception the Chinese program and has been a significant addition to the academic life of the college. We are grateful for Dr Ferreira’s vision in pioneering the Chinese program and for the important contribution the program has made to the college and to the Chinese church in Australia.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE—RICHARD JIANG



What are some of the highlights of your time here at BST?

There are so many things that I would like to mention, such as the great experiences during the mission weeks and college camps. I really enjoyed the fellowship time at community lunch each Tuesday and Friday. The lunch was very delicious for only \$4 every day.

Anything else you’d like to add?

I would like to say thanks to Buffy the librarian for her wonderful work in the library. This has made it so much easier for us as students to find and use all the resources and references.

Richard graduated at our ceremony on Tuesday, 26 February and is now serving as a pastor at Sunshine Coast Chinese Christian Church.

HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE?



We are living in a world beset by many problems. The beginning of a new century does not bring hope to our future. What has happened in the last century seems to be repeating here and now. The ghost of the cold war seemed to come out from its grave and starts haunting the world. The long-buried nationalism shows its ugly head again all over the whole world. The world economy, fed by human greed, becomes a giant with an unsatiated soul, heading into an unknown future and bringing many into ruins along its path. Uncontrollable global warming tells us that

humanity will be wiped out in not too distant future. As Christians living in this troubled world, we are facing additional predicaments associated with the secularism happening in our society. Christian faith is pushed out from the public

“Despite what the world tells us otherwise, Jesus Christ is in control.”

space into the private sphere. Finally, the actual sins committed by the church as well as the false accusations

levelled against it makes the whole society turn against evangelical Christianity as well as its moral teaching. Looking into what has happened around us, we feel helpless to do anything. Does this mean that we have no future? Does this mean that from now on we must do things privately? Does this mean that the good news can only be confined within the walls of our church? The event recorded in Daniel chapter one tells us otherwise.

To read more of Wally Wang's full article go to bst.qld.edu.au/blog

Thank you for faithfully giving to our Christmas Appeal!

In December, we asked for your help in financially supporting our Centre for Asian Christianity in 2019. We are deeply appreciative of the many friends who stepped forward to help meet that need. It's because of your commitment that the Centre will continue to grow and thrive this year and in the years to come. God bless!

If you would still like to give, please visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate and select the Christmas Appeal.



E V E N T S

OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY

8 MAY 2019

6PM Guided tour

6:30PM Start for lectures

7:40PM Supper followed by info session

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.

Speaker: Faculty & staff

Location: BST Campuss

OPEN MORNING

FRIDAY

24 MAY 2019

9:30AM-1:30PM

If you'd like a taste of BST 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.

Speaker: Faculty & staff

Location: BST Campuss

MA INTENSIVE:

Reading and Interpreting
Genesis 1-11 in its
ANE Context

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

15-19 JULY 2019

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 Near Eastern context.

Speaker: John Walton

Location: BST Campuss

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