

CONNECT

BST | BRISBANE
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

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FROM TEACHING IN PRISONS TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

When husband and wife, Graham and Ellie Scott started with Wycliffe 17 years ago, the organisation had just celebrated the launch of its 500th New Testament translation, published in the Suriname Javanese language. Now, Wycliffe globally is involved in more than 1,500 language projects and specifically, Wycliffe Australia has members serving across 19 countries.

The work of Bible translation is an enormous task that requires teams of people with different skills engaging at the various stages.

"There are many practical things that need to happen before Bible translation can even begin. These include identifying whether a language exists among a people group, seeking out translators who are native speakers of a language, to engaging with the community," Ellie says.

"People from different backgrounds can get involved in the Bible translation process."

Graham and Ellie were both teachers in a prison before they made the transition

into Bible translation and pastoring a local Australian/Chinese church. Their background was completely different to what people might expect would be needed. Since Graham and Ellie started in Bible translation, they have spent time on language projects in Indonesia and worked with Wycliffe in Australia.

Graham and Ellie have strong missional hearts that led them to Wycliffe and their journey to studying a Master of Divinity at BST in 2001. But they didn't stop there.

The pair pursued doctoral studies at BST in their respective areas of interest. Ellie has been exploring the missional texture of Isaiah and Graham's PhD aims to contribute to our understanding of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which was the Scripture for the New Testament writers and early church.

"This is the earliest example of Bible translation, and there are implications for how we read translated texts, how we understand God's role in bringing us Scripture,

as well as providing insight on how the text of the Old Testament was read in the early church," Graham says.

"Like many PhDs, my research probably seems quite esoteric to some, but at its heart are some fairly simple questions which Bible readers should ask themselves: How did the original readers understand the text? What nuances enter the biblical text as it is translated? And as readers of translated Scripture, what implications are there for our reading and faith?"

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THE NEXT GENERATION OF BST STUDENTS

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GOOD GRIEF

REV DR RICHARD GIBSON, BST PRINCIPAL

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ...
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever! Amen.*

(Romans 11:33, 36 NIV)

Just weeks ago we came to this passage in our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. In context, as the crowning statement of his argument in chapters 9-11 we could only join in with Paul's sense of awe. No one is in a position to advise him how to run his universe; no one places God in their debt; his judgment is unsearchable and his ways inscrutable.

A little later we read this in the college chapel to conclude our gathering. It was timely. We were struggling with the grief of the news of Alan Stanley's imminent departure.

It came at a time when we were gearing up for the usual grief of farewelling departing students, and the loss of Ellie and Graham Scott from our community. We wondered why our loving and sovereign God had arranged it this way.

Grief is always an unpleasant, tearing, gnawing experience. Yet, our grief was a good grief. It was proportional to the bonds that have been formed, the esteem that has grown and the love that has been shared.

BST is a rich environment for building lifelong friendships and gospel partnerships; partnerships God uses for decades afterwards. Our commitment to face-to-

face learning, residential accommodation and community life intensifies the sense of loss when we are separated and scattered. But it does so because it first enriched the experience of learning, growing and being changed together.

We form strong bonds of friendship when we serve together during mission week, share meals at community lunches or dinners on the lawn, worship together at chapel, pray for each other through our challenging times, and rejoice with one another to celebrate the wonderful things that are happening in people's lives.

**"we grieve much
because we
love much"**

The early Christians valued grief in a countercultural and counterintuitive way. While the philosophical schools around them could not find a place for grief in the life of wise people, Christians celebrated the grief of the Son of God as he wept over Jerusalem and at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus. Paul said to the Thessalonians: "But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you" (1 Thess 2:17). He felt like this because they had become for him: "our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence

of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?" (1 Thess 2:19).

So we grieve much because we love much. Over the last five years, Alan Stanley has become a much-loved member of our community, not only because he has been a quality lecturer and preacher, but a well-respected colleague, mentor and friend to many. We know that he is New Zealand's gain. Graham and Ellie Scott have lived and worked on campus while undertaking doctoral studies and worn the hat as BST tutors. Many of our students would put their academic success down to Graham and Ellie's loving and patient input.

We know that our farewell is not for good, but saying goodbye to dear friends who have become part of our daily lives is a painful thing. It is for God's glory that they have been part of BST, and our privilege to rejoice with and pray for them as they follow God's leading in the next stage of their lives and ministries.



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
MEMBER**

Special Announcement:

In the midst of loss comes powerful reminders that God has always provided for the needs of BST and can be relied on for an uncertain future. We are thrilled to welcome Mike Thompson as our new Director of Postgraduate Studies and Lecturer in Christian Thought and History.

Mike comes to us with extensive experience in providing academic support and lecturing in universities including Monash, University of Sydney, and the University of New South Wales teaching on US religious and environmental history. He has a PhD from Sydney University and has completed theological studies at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. From Semester 1, 2018 Mike will teach

Theology on Wednesday evenings and Church History on Friday mornings.

We are delighted to have a person of Mike's calibre, experience and character join the team at BST, and delighted to welcome his wife Nikki and three young children to Brisbane. Mike is also a New Zealander by birth, which takes us full-circle, back to Romans 11:33 and the unsearchability of God's plans!

To read more about Mike, visit bst.qld.edu.au/mike-thompson-joins-BST-faculty or simply go to bst.qld.edu.au/blog and you will find the recent link to our blog on Mike.

U K - R A T I N E

The influence of more than 70 years of communism permeates many parts of the Ukrainian culture. One of our students experienced this growing up. Marie Gollan, who is part Australian and American, was born and raised in Ukraine. She recently finished her Diploma of Ministry at BST, following in the footsteps of her older brother, Jesse, who started studies at the college a year earlier. We caught up with Marie to find out what it was like to live in Ukraine and what she hopes to do after college.

What was it like growing up in Ukraine?

I loved growing up in Ukraine. Australia is a great country, but if I am perfectly honest, Australia has never truly felt like home to me. Growing up in Rzhyschiv (yes, it's a mouthful!), a town of 8,000 people, was wonderful. In a small town, it is easy to get to know the locals. When I walked down the main street, I would often see a friend and stop for a chat. The kids who recognised me from the Christian camp where I served would wave in the street, remembering that I was the foreigner from camp. In the Winter months, my friends and I walked across the river to one of the many nearby islands. If we felt particularly motivated, we would cut holes in the ice and braved the water for a dip.

However, Ukraine is a country still scarred by communism. This is reflected in so many parts of the culture, particularly in their cold, seemingly unfriendly treatment of strangers. In Australia, people

smile at one another, even strangers, and offer warm exchanges of "hello." In Ukraine, it is not uncommon to go to the store and not be greeted by a single smile. My dad was once suspected of doing drugs by a local shopkeeper because he always smiled and sometimes had bloodshot eyes (this was due to his high blood pressure). So when I went out to the store, I made it my mission to get the cashiers to smile. While this somewhat antisocial quirk might be an obstacle for building relationships with Ukrainians, Christians have the opportunity to stand out and show genuine love and friendliness to strangers that is uncommon in the Ukrainian culture.

What has your year been like at BST?

It has been a delight to be a part of the BST community. I was initially overwhelmed with the thought of living on campus at a college near the city, let alone being more than 14,000km away from my immediate family. After fumbling my way through the first few weeks at college, trying to remember the names of all the people I'd met, I started to feel at home. I looked forward to having picnics on the front lawn after class or spontaneously deciding to have a movie night with other students. BST advertises that community is something that they value, and they practice it

well. My experience as part of the BST community has truly been a joy.

BST has equipped me so much more than what I expected when I enrolled. I wanted to understand God and the Bible more. God has truly humbled my heart this year, helping me to realise just how much I needed to know him and his word more deeply. The lecturers and even students at BST have taught me how to love God more with my mind and to be more Christ-like. I have watched how people love and serve one another at BST and I am thankful that I've been able to benefit

from that while growing richly in my understanding of God's word. It has been about seeing faith in action and how God's word and his love changes people's lives.

Now as I prepare to leave, I feel the enormity of what it means to say goodbye to people whom I have come to know and love here at BST. One of the challenges and joys of coming to study in Australia has been the relationships I've formed with people. Initially, I was not sure how long I would stay for my studies, but I decided early on to invest in relationships. We all know that getting to know and loving people hurts because eventually, you have to say goodbye. I sometimes think of how lovely heaven will

be when I will no longer have to wonder whether I will see my friends again. It is that comforting thought which helps as I fight back tears thinking about saying goodbye to my friends at college.

What will you do after college?

In the beginning of February, I will go to a women's alcohol and other drug rehabilitation facility in western Ukraine for a few weeks to serve and learn as much as I can. We are hoping, praying and expecting that while I am there, I will find someone who is close to completing the rehabilitation program and has a desire to help other women with alcohol or other drug addiction. The goal is to then to move into a house situated in a small town (population of 300-400) and prepare for women who need rehabilitation support. It is not yet clear exactly what my role will look like, but it will probably include things like gardening, cooking meals, leading devotions and just living with and loving the women whom God sends to our home.

"Christians have the opportunity to stand out and show genuine love"

Pray for Marie and other graduands who are taking the next step in their life and ministry. Pray that Marie and her brother, Jesse, will have a restful and enjoyable time with their family over the Christmas and New Year break. Ask God to lead and guide Marie as she takes on a new role in providing love and support for women recovering from alcohol and other drug addictions in Ukraine.



FROM TEACHING IN PRISONS TO BIBLE TRANSLATION (CONTINUED)

Graham hopes to finish the first draft of his PhD by the end of 2017. This coincides with Graham and Ellie leaving BST for Melbourne where Graham will take on the full-time role as the CEO of SIL Australia, an international sister organisation to Wycliffe Bible Translators.

SIL Australia is based in Kangaroo Ground on the outskirts of Melbourne, and its largest focus is training workers for cross-cultural ministry and language work (for example, Bible translation, literacy, survey, education and training, supporting churches and discipleship).

Graham and Ellie will be greatly missed by the people who have come to know them, particularly as they have been part-time BST tutors for the last nine years, and seven years in their pastoral roles at the Brisbane Cantonese Church.

Please pray for them as they make the move to Melbourne and say farewell to friends and colleagues in Brisbane.

Visit <https://wycliffe.org.au/member/graham-ellie> for updates on Graham and Ellie, including prayer news and support for their ministry.

If the number of books that have been written about prayer is anything to go by, the experience and practice of prayer among Christians varies significantly. There are Christians who find prayer a natural thing for them to do and simply love to pray. They spend much time in prayer, pray for a wide range of people, situations and events, and are disciplined in prayer.

Another group of Christians know they should pray, and are pretty disciplined in having a regular time and place for prayer—but prayer can often feel like a duty rather than something they look forward to each day. There are also Christians for whom prayer features very little in their lives—at least until a crisis comes into

their lives. Maybe you would describe your experience of prayer somewhere along this spectrum.

I know that I appreciate encouragement in growing in my lifelong discipline of prayer—and there is tremendous encouragement to be found in the Scriptures. I'm encouraged to not be anxious about anything but with an attitude of thankfulness to present my requests to God (Phil 4:6). I'm encouraged that when I am weak or don't even know what to pray for a person or situation that I am not on my own, but have the Holy Spirit interceding on my behalf (Rom 8:26-27).

To read Andrew Prince's full article, visit bst.qld.edu.au/prayer.

PRAYER

ANDREW PRINCE | DIRECTOR OF CENTRE FOR ASIAN CHRISTIANITY, LECTURER IN MINISTRY AND MISSION



for supporting our centre!

Thanks to friends like you, we raised nearly \$4,000 towards our Centre for Asian Christianity, taking us a long way towards meeting our goal for 2017. With your help, our Centre will continue to encourage and train the next generation of students, like Anita, for contextual Asian ministry, both in our own communities and around the world.

If you would still like to help, you can give today by filling in the enclosed response form, or visiting bst.qld.edu.au/donate and selecting Centre for Asian Christianity.

E V E N T S

2 CORINTHIANS

(MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

19-23 FEBRUARY 2018
8.30 AM-3 PM DAILY
BST CAMPUS

If you have a keen interest in delving a little deeper into 2 Corinthians, then this MA intensive is for you.

Paul Barnett

APOLOGETICS

(MASTER OF ARTS INTENSIVE)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

12-16 MARCH 2018
8.30 AM-3 PM DAILY
BST CAMPUS

Defending religious truth is not an easy task. This MA will equip Christians to effectively engage with others on questions about Christianity and respond to criticisms.

Mike Bird

GRADUATION CEREMONY

TUESDAY

27 FEBRUARY 2018
6.30 FOR 7PM START
CITY NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
52 YIADA STREET, KEDRON

Join us for this special occasion as we celebrate the achievements of our graduands. Come along and be encouraged as we hear the testimonies of our graduands as well as an address from Dr Alan Stanley, former BST Director of Postgraduate Studies and Lecturer.

Alan Stanley