

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Last Christmas, we asked for your help to provide important new resources for our college library. With the launch of so many new programs and initiatives at BST this year, your support was vital in ensuring we could provide every student with the most up-to-date resources for their studies in 2020. Your response was extremely generous—in total, friends like you gave more than **\$7,500 in gifts**. Your support ensured that we could supply every student with the textbooks, journal articles and references they needed, so **thank you!**

If you would like to continue supporting the next generation of students by contributing to our Library Fund, your generosity would be most welcome.



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

YOUR GIFTS ARE TWICE AS VALUABLE!

Over the last four years, the Centre for Asian Christianity has supported many students in their journey towards mission and ministry among Asian communities, both in Australia and overseas.

When the Centre launched, Rev Dr Andrew Prince proposed a five-year strategy for developing and growing the CAC—and it's been exciting to watch that vision become a reality.

Andrew says, "Through the Centre, we've been able to support a number of students on overseas mission trips, invited international scholars to come and study with us here at the college, and provide a place where those with a heart for Asia can come together and learn from one another, and support each other."

Since the launch of the Centre, more than 20 students have taken our brand new 'Contextual Asian Ministry' subject. We have sent six students on short-term mission to Japan, and nearly a dozen students have begun—or are about to begin—ministry in an Asian context.

Half a dozen of those are committed to overseas mission, and the others serve in local Asian churches in South-East Queensland.

As we move beyond 2020, the time has come for a new strategic plan to see the Centre develop and expand over the next five years.

One crucial component is knowing that the Centre can be financially self-sustaining.

Throughout the month of April, we will be asking friends like you to chip in, any way you can, to see the Centre flourish.

Whether you can give \$20 or \$2,000, your gift will make a big difference as we plan for the future.

This is particularly true right now, when one very generous donor has offered to match every gift that comes to the Centre this year dollar-for-dollar, up to the value of \$30,000.

This means that if you give \$50, you are really giving \$100; if you give \$200 you are giving \$400; and if you can give \$1,000 you are giving \$2,000 to support the Centre.

At our graduation ceremony in February, we held a special offering for the CAC, and those in attendance generously

gave more than \$1,350 on the night. This has been doubled to \$2,700, which is a fantastic result, and we are grateful to all those who gave so generously.

If you would like to give to this year's CAC appeal, you can visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate-cac, or fill in the enclosed response form and return it in the envelope provided.

BY DR JAY SEDWICK
DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I have selected what I think to be the Top Ten Truths Every Christian Must Believe. I hope this will encourage you to renew your commitment to the Lord Jesus...

#1 The Bible is trustworthy

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"The world around us is pushing a different perspective, that what is true is what you personally think is true."

Why do I start with the Bible...? Without a verifiable and trustworthy source of information no one can know Truth.

The entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) must be studied and understood in its proper context.

Archeology (every time they dig a hole in Israel...) continues to confirm everything that is written in the Bible; no contradictions have been proven.

We all need to be students of the Bible, able to defend and support its veracity and reliability while also sensitively using the Scriptures in the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives.

TOP 10 TRUTHS

EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST BELIEVE

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

#2 Truth is absolute

Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth. (John 17:17)

The world around us is pushing a different perspective, that what is true is what you personally think is true.

The culture around us says that truth is 'relative' to the situation, that the situation determines what is true at that moment.

Without an objective standard, we will always be lost in confusion.

Because we have all been created by God and bear His Image, everyone knows inherently the basics of right and wrong.

For when Gentiles who do not have the law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them... (Romans 2:14-15)

Continue reading Dr Sedwick's article at bst.qld.edu.au/blog



EVENTS

CENTRE FOR ASIAN CHRISTIANITY VISION DINNER

TUESDAY
28 APRIL 2020
6:30PM-9PM

Join us for dinner as we look ahead to the next five years of ministry, and raise vital funds to support our Centre for Asian Christianity.

Tickets are \$35 per person.

Location: BST Campus

BST OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY
6 MAY 2020
6:30PM-9PM

6PM FOR A GUIDED TOUR
6:30PM START FOR LECTURES
7:40PM FOR SUPPER FOLLOWED BY AN 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.

Speakers: Faculty and staff

MTS INTENSIVE:

Reading Acts Today

MONDAY-FRIDAY
20-24 JULY 2020
8:30AM-4PM

Darrell Bock returns to BST to deliver an intensive on 'Reading Acts Today'. Dr Bock is world-renowned scholar and author of more than 40 books, including well-regarded commentaries on Luke and Acts.

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: Darrell Bock

BST MISSIONS CONFERENCE

SATURDAY
25 JULY 2020
9AM-3:30PM

The theme of this year's conference is 'Cultural Intelligence'. Darrell Bock will be speaking on the topic of 'Living for God in a diverse, pluralistic world'.

We hope you can join us!

Location: BST Campus
Speaker: Darrell Bock

JOIN US AS ONE OF OUR FOUNDING BST Investors

At the beginning of March we launched a new initiative called 'BST Investors'. We are looking for 100 friends like you to give as little as \$5 a week to support the next generation of students as they learn, grow, and move into ministry.

We are blessed with generous financial support from many of our alumni, students' families

and the broader community, and every gift is valued and appreciated.

The advantage of a regular monthly gift is that it allows us to plan, budget, and dream big for the future of the college, because we have a steady income that we can rely on week-in, week-out. And right now, any monthly gift

to the Centre for Asian Christianity will be **matched dollar-for-dollar** until the end of 2020!

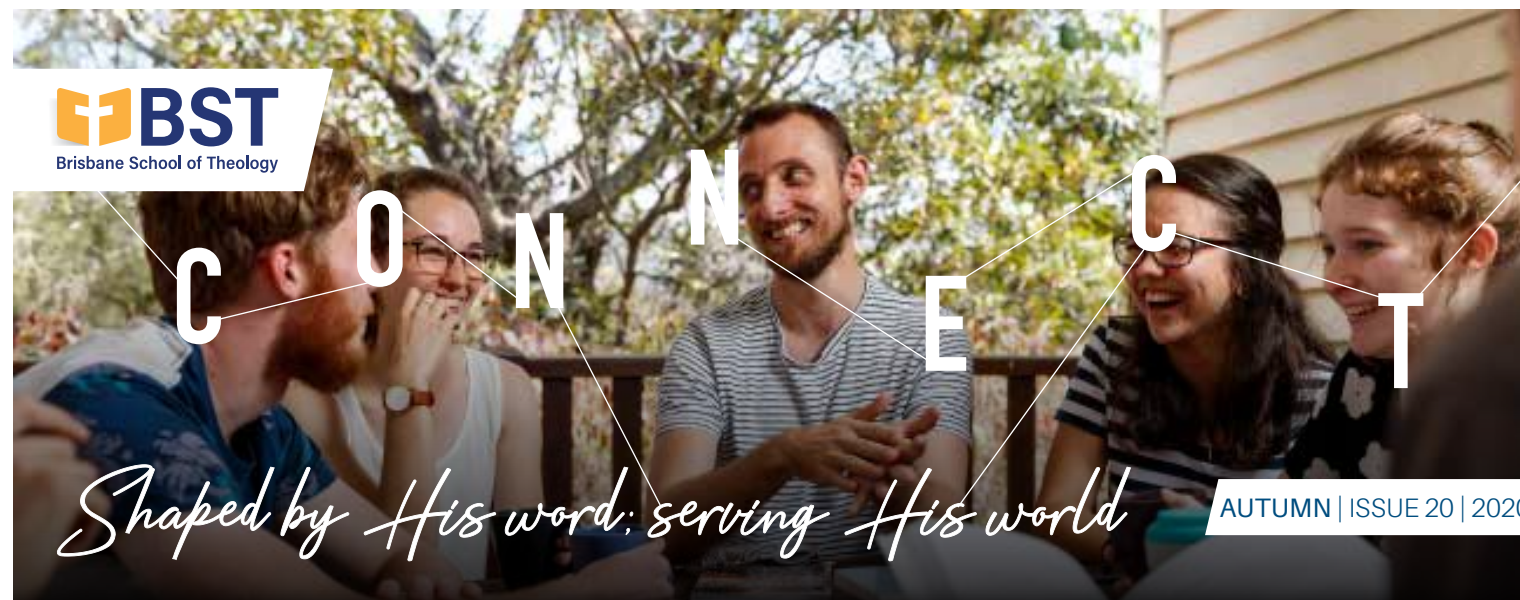
To become a **BST Investor**, please visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate, and select the fund of your choice—or give us a call on **07 3870 8355**. Thank you!



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Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland. We are an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, our ABN no. is 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.



BST
Brisbane School of Theology

CONNECTION
Shaped by His word; serving His world
AUTUMN | ISSUE 20 | 2020

SURFER, TO PSEUDO-SPIRITUALIST, TO AWARD-WINNING SCHOLAR

JAMES ROBERTSON'S JOURNEY TO FAITH AND THE FELIX ARNOTT PRIZE

At this year's graduation ceremony, the Australian College of Theology (ACT) bestowed a special award, the Felix Arnett Prize, on one of our 2019 graduates.

The Felix Arnett Prize is conferred upon the Bachelor of Theology student who achieved the highest overall marks (the best GPA) of every student in the ACT consortium of 18 Bible Colleges across Australia. It is a particular honour requiring an exceptional level of scholarship—so much so that there are years where the prize is not offered to any student.

This year, the winner of the award was our very own James Robertson. Read his story below, and the many twists and turns of his life, that led him to this moment, and see how God uses his word and his grace to redeem his own...

My name is James but most people call me Jimmy. I grew up ten minutes south of Noosa Heads. I had a very stable home, and a private school education. I loved playing sports, and most days after school you would find me grovelling on a bodyboard. It didn't matter if there weren't any waves, bodyboarding was my way of unwinding.

I eventually honed in on a science track for my senior years, with hopes of working in conservation. However, that wouldn't be

the case; I dropped out half way through an environmental science degree. Instead, I spent quite a few years wondering what my calling might be, reading books on political science and economics, smoking weed and working at my greengrocer job, which I loved but ultimately found entirely unfulfilling.

I think I've always been a spiritual person, though I was never satisfied enough to settle in any dogma or creed. I went through Catholic confirmation when I was a lad and whatever childlike faith I had was buttressed by the education and culture of my primary school. However, my parents didn't go to church or read the Bible at home.

My childlike faith quickly disintegrated in high school when my mate showed me Zeitgeist—a pseudo-documentary that claimed the Jesus story was just another iteration of pagan mythology. I didn't know any better and was launched into a new age spirituality complete with a conspiratorial worldview. Only by sheer fortuity did I eventually start reading the Bible for myself.

I became interested in prophecy and end times and began opening up Revelation. Eventually, I started reading the whole Bible on its own terms.

"I started reading the whole Bible on its own terms. One night, Jesus became real for me."

One night, Jesus became real for me. The love and judgment of his cross confronted me and I called on him for forgiveness, praising him as Lord.

Since I was converted in isolation, I persisted in accruing knowledge for myself while proudly resisting the fellowship of the church. One day I was listening to an apologetics podcast and the host was talking about how he visited Moore College in Sydney...

Read more of James's story inside...



PRINCIPAL DUTIES...

Our principal, Rev Dr Richard Gibson, has taken a break from his usual teaching and administrative load this semester to engage in some good old-fashioned scholarship! Richard is on official study leave; he is working on writing a new book, and will be returning to his usual role on 1 July, 2020.

In his absence, Mr John Coulson has taken on the role of Acting Principal in addition to his regular teaching role and his duties as Academic Dean. We pray that this will be a fruitful time for Richard, and we ask you to pray for continued wisdom and sound leadership from our Acting Principal.





MR JOHN COULSON
BST ACTING PRINCIPAL

'PRAY FOR US'

With Rev Dr Richard Gibson away until 1 July on Study Leave, it is my privilege to lead the college in the capacity of Acting Principal.

The BST college year is well underway. Many new students have joined us and at our graduation service we congratulated and prayed for those who completed their studies in 2019. Our weekly cycle of lectures and community activities is going well. We are very thankful to the Lord.

However, like much of the world at present, we are conscious of the looming threat of Coronavirus as it spreads through countries, and we are preparing to be able to function as a college and community in the coming months.

The advent of Coronavirus has highlighted the vulnerability

and fragility of human societies. The reason that we are conscious of this threat is that it is global. There are many local threats of which we are not conscious. The reality of human life is that threats of various kinds are always present, leading to fear and then action to deal with the threat. Coronavirus has led to widespread fear and action, just as the Australian bushfires did a couple of months ago.

Toward the end of his letter the writer of the Book of Hebrews made this request:

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. (Heb 13:18 ESV)

The author was writing to Christians who had endured much suffering for the sake of Christ (Heb 10:32-34). His

brother in Christ, Timothy, had just been released from prison (13:23). There were many threats to the physical wellbeing of God's people.

But the priority of the writer and those with him was their desire to live an honourable Christian life—to honour God in the way they lived, to be equipped "with everything good [to] do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever" (Heb 13:21 ESV).

This is an important reminder to us in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, that our priority as God's people must be to serve God faithfully with a clear conscience, that he may be pleased and honoured.

Jesus said that this kind of life is a "light" shining "before people that they may see . . . and glorify

your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 5:16). The world's greatest need is to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. "And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" (Rom 10:14 NLT).

Please pray for us, that we may honour the Lord in our ministry and life. We thank God for you and will be praying for you.

"Our priority as God's people must be to serve God faithfully with a clear conscience, that he may be pleased and honoured."

James's story (continued from page 1)

...I was like, "What's that?" I didn't even know what Bible Colleges were! The next day I saw an ad for Brisbane School of Theology Open Day. I came along, and I felt called to study here without having a clear idea of where I was heading, trusting that it will bear fruit in due course.

BST has been more than a place of theological study for me, it has been my home—and not just because I lived here. Between classes, personal study, community lunches, hanging in the common room or on the lawn, fellowship groups and chapel, BST envelopes you in a rhythm of life that opens you up to joy.

I started my degree with a whole bunch of new residents, so it's been great to have that continuity of learning, growing and sharing

this new chapter together. Looking back it's amazing how much things have changed.

"BST envelopes you in a rhythm of life that opens you up to joy."

In my penultimate semester I began struggling with what was then undiagnosed anxiety and depression. Fortunately, my mentor at the time could relate personally and gave me every academic, spiritual, material and administrative support to help me complete the semester.

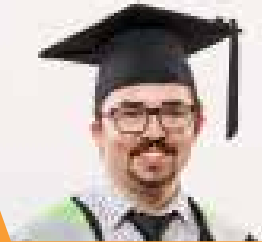
Nevertheless, that semester was a real eye opener for me; how my pride and self-satisfaction was getting in the way of the purpose for which I was studying. I took the time in what would have been my last semester learning how to manage my mental illness and returned to complete my studies the next year part-time.

I didn't even know about the Felix Arnott Prize until the very end of my degree when my mentor mentioned it. Obviously, I didn't do this degree for the awards or accolades but it's nice to be recognized for all my hard work—though its slightly embarrassing to be called out among your peers knowing how hard they work as well.

I guess the prize just underlines that I am where I should be and doing what I am called to do.

I'm currently undergoing an Honours Program with BST, focusing on Old Testament. I'm viewing this period as a pivot point or transitional stage from study to ministry...

We are very proud of Jimmy, and all that he has done to achieve this great result. Join us in praying for him as he launches into a new season of ministry.



LIVING WHOLENESS
AFTERNOON TEA, INFORMATION & FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday, 18 April from 3pm-5pm
Brisbane School of Theology
1 Cross Street, Toowong

RSVP to Neil@livingwholeness.org by 16 April
www.livingwholeness.org

In partnership with
BST
Brisbane School of Theology



DARRELL BOCK
DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Reading Acts Today

20-24 July
Brisbane School of Theology
1 Cross Street, Toowong

Register online at bst.qld.edu.au/apply or call 07 3870 8355.

ISRAEL STUDY TOUR
29 AUGUST-13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Join us for this very special study tour to Israel in 2020! Led by Rev Dr Sam Goh and John Coulson, the tour will be visiting both Old and New Testament biblical sites.

To find out more, visit bst.qld.edu.au/israel-study-tour to download a full brochure in English or Mandarin, or register your interest with our office at info@bst.qld.edu.au.



ONLINE CHRISTIAN MENTORING COURSE COMMENCING SEMESTER 2, 2020

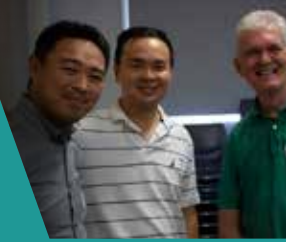
We're excited to be offering a Christian Mentoring Course commencing Semester 2, 2020, which consists of a series of three units taught at BST over three years.

Together they build competence for Christian mentoring at an advanced level.

The course will be taught by mentors Rev Dr Peter Moore and Kylie Brown.

To find out more go to bst.qld.edu.au/courses or call the office on **07 3870 8355**.

CAC IN FOCUS
KEEPING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO YOU KNOW

On 20 February, BST hosted our first Centre for Asian Christianity Networking & Prayer Brunch.

More than 30 local pastors, mission representatives, church workers, and others involved in Asian ministry gathered together for a wonderful time of prayer, sharing and connection.

The Networking brunch was a timely reminder that there is a vibrant and growing Asian church in Australia—and that the Centre has a role to play in bringing like-minded Gospel workers together to impact our city.

The brunch was provided free of charge, and it's only because of the generous support of friends like you that this was possible—thank you!

We look forward to hosting another networking event in the second half of this year, so keep an eye out for your invitation!



PREACHING TO THE HEART

"I think there is a real concern here that many Chinese pastors have not received enough preaching instruction, and when they do preach, they are limited to only certain books of the Bible."

It's this concern of Rev Dr Sam Goh, our newest faculty member, that led to the launch of our first Mandarin preaching seminar on 23 March.



The 'Preaching to the Heart' seminar will help local pastors and preachers to communicate more effectively in their own language, and share the good news of Jesus in a way that truly connects with their audience.

This seminar will hopefully lead us to a one-day preaching seminar in second semester.

Stay tuned for further information!

CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES!

On 25 February, our 2019 graduates celebrated with family and friends at City North Baptist Church.

We were privileged to have Dr Jay Sedwick join us from Dallas Theological Seminary to deliver God's word (you can read some of his message on the back page of this edition).

A number of graduates could not be with us on the night—some are already serving in ministry overseas or some distance away—but in all 29 students graduated, and each and every one was a vital and wonderful part of BST.

They will be missed, but we look forward to seeing the many ways God will bless and use these disciples in future ministry.



The Centre for Asian Christianity Vision Dinner
See what's around the corner...

Tuesday, 28 April 2020
From 6:15pm

CAC CENTRE FOR ASIAN CHRISTIANITY
BST Brisbane School of Theology

Register online today at bst.qld.edu.au/cac-dinner

Culture, Chaos & Christ CONFERENCE
29-30 MAY 2020

West Sydney Chinese Christian Church
90 Homebush Road, Strathfield, Sydney

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT
若要知道更多信息或註冊, 請瀏覽以下網頁

BST.QLD.EDU.AU/CAC-CONFERENCE2020