

# YOU'VE GIVEN BEST A FACELIFT

Over the course of 2020, friends like you have given generously to help accomplish some necessary and long overdue repairs and renovations to the college campus—particularly on our Chaplain's Residence.



This beautiful lawn near our family accommodation units was previously an overrun, bumpy and unusable patch of dirt and weeds. Thanks to our neighbours, Scott and Heidi, for creating this amazing space!



This brand new bathroom on the ground floor of the Chaplain's Residence is a welcome addition to the home—and isn't it pretty?!

In a year when so much of life has been put on hold, we have been blown away by all that has been accomplished. Here are just some of the work that your gifts and prayers have made possible this year...



At long last, thanks to your generous giving over several years, we were able to paint the main administration building of the college for the first time in decades. One of our own alumni, professional painter Phil Coates, took on the job single-handedly with more attention to detail and care than we could have hoped for, and the result is outstanding. We were also able to replace the old cement stairs with this beautiful new timber staircase—a place for students to sit and chat between classes and make memories that last a lifetime.



The Chaplain's Residence was in desperate need of a paint job... And thanks to your generosity, the comparison couldn't be clearer!



We have been blessed with amazingly generous neighbours. Scott and Heidi have landscaped the front corner of our property at their own expense, and the result is this gorgeous terraced garden!

Thank you for giving BST the facelift it so desperately needed! You have made the college a brighter, happier and more special place for our students to learn and study for future ministry. And you've made the Chaplain's Residence a better home for Jonny, Liz and the kids...



## CHRISTIAN LEADERS FIRED FOR THINGS THEY DID NOT DO

by Paul Tuxworth

**A Christian mission recently fired eight of its leaders for things they did not do.**

Technically they did not use the word 'fired', rather 'terminated' from active membership, but it means the same thing. These events make compelling reading for current or aspiring Christian leaders.

Close to 30 years ago, Dr David Parker at Brisbane School of Theology introduced me to the concept of sins of omission. I am constantly reminded of this phrase as I investigate cases of possible child abuse on the mission field: "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." (James 4:17)

Being 'terminated' for something they did not do sounds unjust—that is, until you hear more about what the mission leaders did not do. They did not protect children entrusted in their care from child abuse. "Failure to report child abuse and failure to otherwise protect" was the phrase used. We all know this doesn't only happen on the mission field.

Closer to home, Dr Peter Hollingworth recently apologised to child victims of sexual abuse in the Anglican Church in Brisbane and admitted he failed to protect them when he was the archbishop. "I am extremely sorry that the church and I failed to protect you," Dr Hollingworth told the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It has been said that his 'failure to protect' them cost him his job as Governor General.

Your job might not be the only cost if, as a Christian leader, you fail to protect children in your ministry.

Some mission organisations are facing multi-million dollar lawsuits and possible bankruptcy. New Tribes Mission recently settled a five-million dollar lawsuit for failing to protect and to report the abuse of one of their children.

These costs pale to insignificance when we consider the possible costs of abuse on child victims and their families: anxiety, depression, dissociation, difficulty concentrating, withdrawn and/or difficulty connecting with others; flashbacks; increased hypervigilance; difficulty sleeping; sexually transmitted infections or diseases; eating disorders; drug use; risky sexual decision-making; self-harm; troubled sleep; suicide; loss of belief in God.

Many child victims they say, it was the lack of response and disbelief they received from Christian leaders and sometimes their Christian parents that hurt the most...

You can read the full, detailed version of this blog at [bst.qld.edu.au/blog](http://bst.qld.edu.au/blog).

Paul and his wife Ruth studied at BST in the 80s and were missionaries in the Philippines. For more than 25 years, Paul has worked in the area of abuse prevention and response, the last 11 in international child abuse prevention and investigations in Christian communities.



## EVENTS

### BST GRADUATION

**TUESDAY**  
23 FEBRUARY 2021  
7PM

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Class of 2020 graduation ceremony will be by invitation only, but the event will be streamed live online.

More details available soon at [bst.qld.edu.au](http://bst.qld.edu.au)

### MTS INTENSIVE: Reading Ecclesiastes Today

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
22-26 FEBRUARY 2021  
9:30AM-4PM

Rev Dr Samuel Goh is one of the world's leading authorities on the book of Ecclesiastes. Rev Goh will unfold the recent scholarly discussion of Ecclesiastes, the interpretation of this book in its ancient near-Eastern context, and the reception of Ecclesiastes in the church and synagogue.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/mts](http://bst.qld.edu.au/mts) for more information.

### MTS INTENSIVE: Application in Preaching

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
22-26 MARCH 2021  
8:30PM-3PM

Michael Raiter has enjoyed a long and distinguished ministry in preaching in various contexts.

Application in Preaching will be an excellent opportunity for new or seasoned preachers to grow their understanding of how to bring the word of God to bear on the lives of those to whom they minister.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/mts](http://bst.qld.edu.au/mts) for more details

### ALUMNI DINNER

**THURSDAY**  
29 APRIL 2021  
6:30PM

Join us for our Alumni Dinner as we remember, celebrate and reconnect with former students, staff and faculty over a wonderful meal.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/alumni-dinner](http://bst.qld.edu.au/alumni-dinner) for more details

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



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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 65009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.



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## YOU CARRIED BST THROUGH 2020

& WILL HELP SHAPE THE NEXT GENERATION OF DISCIPLES

**As the end of a very strange year looms nearer, we are looking forward to a more 'normal' college experience in 2021.** Some things will remain a little different: we will still be maintaining an online option for some students, and of course social distancing and limits on class-sizes will remain in effect, but the disruptions should be greatly reduced.

Even more exciting than this, though, is the beginning of a new chapter at BST. A number of programs and courses that were scheduled for 2020 had to be either postponed or reimagined to meet the COVID-19 challenge, and only now are we prepared to move these forward once more.

In particular, BST will be focusing on three new and recent courses in first semester, 2021: Living Wholeness, Safeguarding Children, and Christian Mentoring.

We posed three simple questions to the instructors leading these courses: what is it, who does it help, and what do you need? Here's what they each had to say...

### Q1: What's your course all about?

#### Karen Nivala, Living Wholeness

A number of our churches, families and ministries are increasingly supporting people experiencing a variety of challenges: mental health struggles, transitions in life, relationship struggles and more. Our collaboration with Living Wholeness is about providing a biblically sound approach to equip the whole church to support people in need. The

Christian Wholeness Framework provides a lens for how biblical knowledge and practical skills can fit together. It can be used to equip a believer with knowledge and skills for supporting those in need as well as mental health professionals seeking to understand how to live out their faith in their practice.

Our training is aimed at helping believers understand the attitudes, skills and knowledge to walk with others through the darker times.

#### Kylie Brown, Christian Mentoring

The Christian Mentoring course is a two year journey, teaching you to more effectively mentor people in their Christian life and ministry. You will be trained to use an intentional, covenant based model of mentoring which is applicable in any situation. Along the way you will be mentored yourself by an experienced Christian Mentor and the members of your cohort. You will also develop a mentoring relationship with 2-3 mentorees. At the end of the course, you will be able to offer your services as a Professional Christian Mentor.

#### Richard Gibson, Safeguarding Children

Every day we are reminded of the damage being done to children in our society. Experience tells us the problem is at least as serious in mission settings overseas. Our aim is to offer training in best practice for the protection of children in Christian communities. We want to produce people who can lead churches and mission agencies in their prevention of child abuse, and in their wisdom in responding to abuse when it is suspected or reported. People need a theological framework, insight into the nature

of abuse, the factors that allow it to happen and the principles that inform best practice.

**Q2: Who benefits from this course the most, and who should sign up?**

#### Karen Nivala, Living Wholeness

The goal of both our accredited and non-accredited courses is to equip the whole church. Everyone brings unique skills and knowledge when it comes to loving and supporting those in need. Therefore, our training is geared towards the whole spectrum of care. This includes everyday people who are interested in better loving those around them, pastoral care workers and other helping professions, theologically trained pastors, chaplains and missionaries, and the full range of mental health professionals who desire to integrate faith and practice. Our prayer is that we might continue to learn from each other and work together, as a whole church, so we can support one another to love like He first loved us.

#### Kylie Brown, Christian Mentoring

Anyone in Christian Leadership—and if you define leadership as having influence over others, really any Christian who is serious about building up those around them in the Kingdom of God—should think about signing up.

Continued inside...

Please visit [bst.qld.edu.au/donate-building](http://bst.qld.edu.au/donate-building) to help meet our ongoing building needs.



**REV DR RICHARD GIBSON**  
BST PRINCIPAL

## 2021: MORE CHALLENGES; NEW OPPORTUNITIES

I've spoken to a number of people lately who talked in terms of 'limping toward the end' of 2020. It seems like a year that will generate sales of t-shirts that simply say, "I survived 2020." From bushfires to the COVID crisis, there is reason to celebrate survival. Sadly, many people and businesses have not survived the year.

But as news outlets report new bushfires, we are reminded that 2021 will bring us all new challenges to meet. Some we might be able to predict, but 2020 has taught there are some you don't see coming. At BST, we want to be prepared to meet the challenges, whatever they might be, and to persevere in delivering what BST has delivered for nearly eight decades: quality theological education to prepare people for a lifetime of service to Jesus. As our college motto puts it, we

want to continue producing people who are "Shaped by his word; serving his world." This remains our priority, and we persist in the programs that have allowed us to offer education of a high quality.

**We know one challenge 2021 will bring.** Our faculty are still adjusting to supporting the learning of students via Zoom, as well as catering for those who sit in front of us in classrooms, fellowship groups and chapels. We look forward to greater freedom to meet and mix in larger groups, though we expect some social distancing will continue to be needed.

We are also eager to seize the opportunities 2021 will offer us. Zoom will allow us to engage

with students who live interstate or remotely. 2021 will see the introduction of some new initiatives, aimed to broaden our capacity for strengthening the faith of God's people and extending their influence for good in the places they live and work.

The introduction of a course entitled *Child abuse in Christian communities: prevention and response*, which will be taught

by Paul Tuxworth, a graduate of BST with vast experience in the area, and by me. This is our response to one of the great plagues of our culture and tragically even our churches and mission settings.

2021 will also see the introduction of new courses in Christian ethics and 'Christ and

culture' as part of our degree and diploma programs. These will be led by Rev Dr Bruce Pass. We will continue to build our partnership with Living Wholeness by offering more training, face-to-face and via Zoom, in Christian counselling and pastoral care. We will also be offering another round of our mentoring course, introduced last year.

Our aim is to preserve what has been BST's core and fruitful work over many years, while expanding what we offer God's people to equip them for faithful and effective service.

**Please pray for us. Speak on our behalf to the one who does know what 2021 holds and is able to provide us with the resources to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities, for the glory of his Son, Jesus.**

(Continued from page 1)

### Richard Gibson, Safeguarding Children

Many mission agencies and churches have a designated person responsible for overseeing their child protection policies and practice. If your church does not have a designated person, they need to find one and send them along to this course. People like that are our prime target with this unit. Anyone involved in congregational leadership, or ministry to children and adolescents, or cross-cultural mission work should give this course serious consideration. If you can't think of someone to encourage to enrol, then you perhaps should consider it yourself.

### Q3: What resources do you need to make the course operate at its strongest?

#### Karen Nivala, Living Wholeness

We would love to be better equipped to serve the hurting in our church. This includes developing our pastoral care catalogue to include a greater range of resources on the variety of difficulties people are facing—everything from up-to-date research and resources on mental health issues, at-risk groups, pastoral care in church and mission, community and relationship development and more.

### Kylie Brown, Christian Mentoring

People! This Course is built on the proven mentoring practice of Les Scarborough, Tim Dyer and Peter Moore. This form of Christian Mentoring has proven extremely valuable to people in church ministry for decades now. I am personally excited to be offering the Course at BST and have a vision for trained mentors to be offering their services more widely in para-church organisations and within the Missions Sector.

We all know the burnout rate for people in ministry (lay or vocational) is too high. Do this course if you would like to see more people last the distance.

### Richard Gibson, Safeguarding Children

Facing the reality of this problem is not easy. So the unit will offer guidance on self-care, for anyone engaging with the issues or real life situations. The gospel offers a range of resources for making sense of how such a great evil can exist and the resources needed for meeting it. That takes courage and commitment. Dealing with this reality can be overwhelming, and that can be paralysing, so the unit will offer a lot of practical wisdom for knowing when and how to draw on the resources of government agencies.

At their heart, each of these courses shares a common focus: enhancing the wellbeing of people. Our vision is to see churches, mission agencies and Individuals in God's kingdom step forward to take a greater responsibility for protecting and building up those who are vulnerable, hurting or struggling through adversity.

If you want to be involved, we could use your help! Hopefully you would have recently received our Christmas appeal; it's important that each of these courses is properly resourced, and that our students have access to all the best and most up-to-date reference books and journals.

Anything that you can give towards this appeal will help the next generation of ministry leaders protect our children, build up our mental health professionals and help mission and ministry leaders last the distance.

**Thank you for your prayers and financial support!**



## CAC IN FOCUS KEEPING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



### Culture, Chaos and Christ

It has been a busy last few months for the Centre with a number of events held. In September, in conjunction with Sydney Chinese Christian Churches Association (SCCCA), CAC held its first 'Culture, Chaos and Christ Conference'—transformed from an onsite conference to an online conference. More than seventy people attended, including from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, United States, Bangladesh, Philippines, Laos, China, and Indonesia.

The 2020 Conference theme was *Culture, authority and church: Why don't they listen to me?* and examined different ways first generation and second generation Chinese churches understand and exercise power and authority. The goal of the conference was not only for both first generation and

second generation Chinese Christians to better understand one another but also to suggest practical ways forward in working harmoniously together for the growth of God's kingdom. The Conference had three talks, as well as Q&A sessions, and discussion groups in Cantonese, Mandarin and English.

We wanted to have equal representation in speakers from the first and second generations and so had two keynote speakers from each group: Dr Devin Yu, Rev Herbert Chan, Pastor Adam Ch'ng and Mrs Grace Lung. There was also an extended interview with second generation leaders (all talks are available to watch



for free at [bst.qld.edu.au/cac](http://bst.qld.edu.au/cac)). We look forward to similar conferences in 2021 and beyond.

In October, the annual CAC fundraising dinner was held at BST, with fifty people attending a splendid evening of food, fellowship and vision-casting. Throughout the evening various members of CAC's Board of Reference in particular shared something of what has happened with the Centre over the past four and a half years, and the Centre's vision for the next five years: to be an Australian hub for the acceleration of gospel growth in the Asian Church, focusing on equipping, research, and connecting Asian-focused Christians, churches and organisations through networks, resources and partnerships.

We are so grateful to everyone who sacrificially gave during the dinner and the associated appeal, and look forward to being able to really develop the Centre in 2021.

**Thank you for your support!**  
Rev Dr Andrew Prince  
CAC Director

## Questions for the 'adulthood' next generation church



by Grace Lung

When I look around at our Asian churches in Australia, I see a church that is coming out of adolescence. The second generation church is learning how to 'adult'—taking on the responsibility of working in the real world, starting families and so on. But part of this 'adulthood' also involves learning how to re-relate to our parents—the first generation church. For some of us, the relationship between the two churches is estranged. Abuse may have been involved. There is trauma and wounds on one or both sides.

Other second generation churches are feeling the tension, like a working adult still living at their parent's home—who still need to stick to the rules of the family, yet have a different way of life

and values to their parents. We work in silos, venturing out of our metaphorical rooms to speak with our parents when there is a combined meeting, or there is an event or anniversary to organise.

The home/church is like a 'hotel' that we physically reside in, but hardly relate to the owner. Others have 'moved out' so to speak. Our parent's church may ask us to come over more often to visit, but we are content to leave it at a respectable distance.

As we learn how to 'adult' as our own second generation churches, we are faced with three questions...

To read Grace's full article, visit [bst.qld.edu.au/next-gen-questions](http://bst.qld.edu.au/next-gen-questions)



## IT MATTERS!

Throughout all the turmoil of 2020, our Registrar & IT Officer Walter Yeung has carried us through, enhancing our college's digital security, keeping the engine running and shifting us seamlessly into our online learning environment.

While it is a loss to the college, we are pleased for Walter that he has chosen to retire from his role to claim a well-earned rest! We are also delighted to welcome Joshua Hepburn to the BST staff, stepping into Walter's shoes for the dual role of Registrar and IT Officer. We are excited to see what God has in store for both these men, and for the college as we move into this new season in 2021.



## REMEMBERING KEITH

We were saddened to learn that former Principal of the college Keith Warren passed away on 2 November, 2020. Keith was Principal of the college for one year in 1976

before returning to full-time pastoral ministry. **Please join us in praying for Keith's wife Emmy and the family at this time.**



## An Original End-of-Year Celebration

For the first—and quite possibly last—time, the BST End of Year Celebration Dinner this year coincided with the State of Origin Game III decider.

BST embraced the occasion, and adopted the State of Origin theme, with Principal Richard Gibson's Blues squaring off against Deputy Principal John Coulson's mighty Maroons.

Naturally, the rightful team won on the night, but much more important was the opportunity to celebrate our students, honour our staff and faculty, and reflect on the extraordinary year that was 2020. It was a perfect reminder of God's faithfulness to us, and a chance to give thanks for His provision.

Complete with hand-sanitiser, centrepieces and a big screen on the lawn under the golden glow of party lights, this was a fun-filled and fitting end to a remarkable, and very different, year in the life of the college.

Thank you for your continual support, prayers, encouragement and gifts that have helped see these wonderful students through to the end of another year. We couldn't have done it without you!



These new and recent initiatives need library resources. If you able to support them with a gift to our library appeal we will be grateful.