

# YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Just before Christmas, we asked for your help in providing up-to-date, top quality library resources for our students.

Thanks to the generous support of friends like you, we received more than \$8,500 in donations—enough to convert 340 text books to e-books, or cover 77 student subscriptions to the online 'Perlego' system for a whole year.

**Buffy is already putting these funds to good use—thank you for helping improve our students' catalogue of resources!**

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



## FANS OF YOUR GENEROSITY

At our Graduation Ceremony in February, we asked those in attendance to give as they were able to help provide ceiling fans in our Family Accommodation units. Unfortunately to date those units had neither fans nor air-conditioning, and became horribly stuffy and hot in the summer months.

*With the help of these friends, we hoped to provide ceiling fans in the bedrooms and main living spaces for four units, with each unit costing \$1,150 to fully outfit.*

As is so often the case with the wider BST community, we were blown away by the generous response, and in the end we received **\$4,685 in donations**—enough to fully outfit every unit. This is more than triple what we have received from any other similar appeal in recent years—so thank you to everyone who helped out with this project.

**Your greatest fans aren't the ones spinning on the ceiling—they're the students and families sitting under them!**



Thanks to the generous family and friends of our 2020 graduating class, future students and families will enjoy the benefits of cooling fans to help battle the hot Brisbane summers.

## CONSPIRACY THEORIES

*"The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge but the mouth of the fool gushes folly."*  
(Prov 15:2, NIV)

**Now aren't those words pertinent for this time we find ourselves in?**

About a year ago, we were, as a whole human race, confronted with the threat of COVID-19. Now we are watching the response to that threat and have seen the vaccine rollout begin. These are uncertain times and there are many fools around us gushing folly. So how do we discern what is fake news or a conspiracy theory and what is trustworthy information?

*Well, as in all things, we can turn to the Word of God.* You see Proverbs was written to make wise the simple. Proverbs is written for non-experts (like us) to help us live wisely in a confusing and sometimes dangerous world.

Listen up—lest you be a fool gushing folly. There is an often-repeated concept in the Bible, and especially in Proverbs, that we must heed. That is, seek wise counsel and seek a lot of it. Proverbs 11:14 even goes so far as to say that in an abundance of counsellors, there is safety. So with this in mind, let me share **three ideas** to help us navigate truth from fake news or harmful conspiracy theories.

**1. Don't get all your news from social media**  
Not everyone with an opinion on social media

is worth listening to. Be discerning as to which opinion you believe. Seek the opinion of experts. If someone says the health advice the government is giving us is wrong, go and read the health advice the government is giving us and find out why they are giving it. Read the opinion of the experts on whose opinion the advice rests. Which leads to my next tip.

**2. Read boring news from a variety of sources**

Long news articles explaining complex and nuanced situations don't make for snappy YouTube clips. Try to listen to a variety of voices. If you and your friends tend to lean slightly to the left or right of the political spectrum, seek out respected voices from the other side. Just as an example, I have the ABC news app on my phone. Some would argue the ABC is left-leaning. I also subscribe to the Australian newspaper—which it could be argued is a more right-wing source of news. In general, I steer clear of the commercial television networks for serious news because I find their coverage is often coloured by their commercial concerns...

You can read the rest of this 4MM, and others, by visiting [bst.qld.edu.au/blog](http://bst.qld.edu.au/blog)



Each week at our Chapel Service, Lecturer and Mentor Kylie Brown hosts a segment called '4 Minute MUSE' (4MM), where she shares resources, creative insights, illustrations or explanations that relate to the Bible passage being preached on that day.

This 4MM was originally shared online during our 2020 lockdown.



AUTUMN | ISSUE 24 | 2021

## 6 YEARS OLD. CARING FOR HER SISTER. ALONE IN A REFUGEE CAMP.

EUNIA'S JOURNEY FROM BURUNDI TO TANZANIA TO BST

*When Eunua began studying at BST in February, it was a big step—but also just one of many big steps on a long journey of faith. From Burundi in East Africa to a refugee camp in Tanzania, and finally to her new life in Australia, this is some of her remarkable story...*

In 1993, Eunua was six years old, living with her parents and her three siblings—an eight year old brother and two sisters, four and two.

Eunua and her four-year-old sister were at home in Burundi, alone for a few minutes while their mother visited a neighbour to collect something when, without warning, gunfire erupted down the street, and people began running everywhere in a panic.

Eunua knew it was not safe to stay in her home, so she took her sister and the two of them fled.

By the time her mother returned home, both girls were gone, trying to follow the crowds to safety. They didn't know anyone, and they didn't know where to go, so they slept outside that night.

At around three in the morning, Eunua spotted a woman she knew, and that woman took the girls with her as she left the country and made for a refugee camp in Tanzania. Eunua and her sister were on their own, in a different country, in the middle of a massive refugee camp, with no idea if they would ever see their family again.

**But we serve a God of miracles!**

On the day they escaped, Eunua's brother was playing on the road with friends. When the gunfire started, he also ran, and by God's grace he found his way to the same refugee camp in Tanzania.

Eunua's mother had her two-year-old with her at the time, and upon finding her other daughters gone, and with danger close, she also fled the country—finding her way to the same camp.

Eunua's father was at work, and when he came home to an empty house and learned what had transpired, he also left his home in search of his family.

*Two weeks after the attack, the four separate groups of family members found each other, safe and unharmed, in answer to all their prayers.*

"My mother always used to pray," Eunua says. "I remember that when me and my sister were alone, I would say to her 'It's alright. God is watching over us, and we can pray to him.'" She believed her family would find her again.

Both her parents are Christians, and this was a fundamental part of Eunua's life.

"I grew up seeing my mum praying, and teaching us how to pray, giving us Bibles to read. The memories I have about my country are of mum fasting and praying. She's amazing!"

.....



Continued inside...

## EVENTS

### BST ALUMNI HIGH TEA

**MONDAY**  
19 APRIL 2021

We look forward to reconnecting and continuing to build ongoing relationships with our many wonderful alumni that have come through QBI, BCCQ, CW and now BST over the years. Come and be treated to a lovely high tea on our beautiful front lawn.

Distinguished Graduate Brian Willersdorf will be our special guest speaker on the day.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/alumni-hightea](http://bst.qld.edu.au/alumni-hightea) to register your attendance.

### OPEN NIGHT

**THURSDAY**  
6 MAY 2021  
6:30PM-9:30PM

Thinking about theological study? Wanting to explore God's word in a new and deeper way? Join us for our BST Open Night to participate in a lecture, meet some of your fellow students and lecturers, and get a taste of college life. We'd love you to join us!

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

### MTS INTENSIVE: The Holy Spirit

**THURSDAY**  
28 JUNE-2 JULY 2021

From 28 June - 2 July BST will have the pleasure of hosting Graham Cole, Dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology. Graham will be teaching a unit on the person and work of the Holy Spirit within our Master of Theological Studies program and delivering a lecture for the Matthew Hale Public Library on 30 June.

To secure your spot in this program, visit [bst.qld.edu.au/apply](http://bst.qld.edu.au/apply)

### CAC FUNDRAISING DINNER

**THURSDAY**  
29 JULY 2021  
6:30PM-9PM

The 2021 CAC Fundraising Dinner is an opportunity to raise vital funds for the Centre. Join us at Brisbane School of Theology, and take this opportunity to connect with other friends of the Centre, hear some of the stories of your support in action, and help provide important finances that will allow the Centre to continue developing and supporting Asian ministry in Australia.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/cac-dinner](http://bst.qld.edu.au/cac-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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**REV DR RICHARD GIBSON**  
BST PRINCIPAL

## “ DELIVER US FROM EVIL ”

*They are words I have been praying regularly since I was a small child; a petition given to us by Jesus himself in the Lord's prayer. He knew ahead of time how much we would need protection from evil.*

For me, the request has taken on deeper significance and urgency more recently.

**Our new course, Child Abuse in Christian Communities: prevention and response, is in its sixth week and has been harrowing at times for those involved.** To take the time to face the prevalence and extent of the abuse of children in our community, even in church and mission contexts, and the profound long-term damage done to people, is painfully confronting. At the same time the exploitation of women in our society has been highlighted in the media.

We know that Jesus has dealt decisively with evil. At the cross, Paul assures us, “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them” (Col 2:15). Already God “has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Col 1:13). When he returns, his victory and our deliverance will be apparent.

But in the meantime, we continue to encounter darkness in our world, our churches and in our mission organisations. As the sin of prominent Christian leaders is exposed and reports of abuse in Christian communities persist, we need to beg God to ‘deliver us from evil.’ As we do, we need to face the reality of our own hearts, our own capacity for darkness; to recognise the need to plead, *‘lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil.’*



### Eunia's story (continued from page 1)

**... In all, Eunia and her family spent a full 13 years living in the refugee camp.**

“Life was not easy. Back then in Tanzania there was a lot of violence. It was not a very nice place, and not just with safety, but also education. You don't learn the way we learn here, so we lost a lot of things. We couldn't do a lot of things that we could have done if we were back in our own country.

“As children, you don't really know many things: your parents love you, they're there for you, so that's all you know. You are loved. You feel like ‘this is life’. So it was not a big issue for us as children... But it was for our parents.

“I came from a very small, poor village in Burundi. Back home, we were not living in the best houses. But this was different. It was a camp. You start living outside; you have no house to live in. Then you build those little camp shelters, and that's what you live in. Then eventually you start building houses with bricks that we make ourselves. After spending months and years, you know you'll be there for a while.

“It was very challenging. There was no bed to sleep on. You couldn't get everything that you wanted or needed. You had to travel a long, long way to get water to drink.

“In 2006, Dad came and told us that he had applied through the UN to come to Australia. I

remember at first Mum didn't like it, because she didn't know what would happen if we came here. She said ‘No, we have to pray about it,’ and at first it didn't work. But she had a dream where she was in a different country, and she described the country, and it was definitely Australia. Dad said he would do it again, and this time it was approved, and we came here.

“The biggest difference was the environment, the houses. You aren't used to having lights everywhere, having water in the house, being able to get anything you want on the spot. It was a huge difference. Learning to speak

**“...that's why I decided to come to BST, so I can have more knowledge about the word of God, and—just like the Bible says—to be able to defend my faith and help other people come to the knowledge of God, Jesus Christ, and who he is.”**

the language was very challenging. But they had a really good system of helping us learn English—people who would come to our home and help us understand. We had to go to school and learn.”

Eunia's mother had three more children in Tanzania, and one more since coming to Australia—bringing them to a family of eight. Eunia went to TAFE and then university and completed her degree in Business. **But her passion has always been in evangelism.**

“I just love sharing the gospel. I know the power of God. After everything that he has done for me and my family, I have come to know that he is real, and he deserves our best—whatever we can do to advance the kingdom of God. I think I'm prepared to do anything.



Eunia is completing her Masters of Divinity at BST.

“So that's why I decided to come to BST, so I can have more knowledge about the word of God, and—just like the Bible says—to be able to defend my faith and help other people come to the knowledge of God, Jesus Christ, and who he is. I would love to see more souls coming to the kingdom.

“Something that I'm hoping to get from here is more knowledge of the bible, church history, the Gospel, understanding who Jesus is; that way I will be able to help other people.

“If God wants me to go overseas I'll go—wherever he sends me, I will go. I would love to go back to Burundi. Home is home. Mum's sisters and Dad's brothers are still back home. I'd love to go and visit one day.”

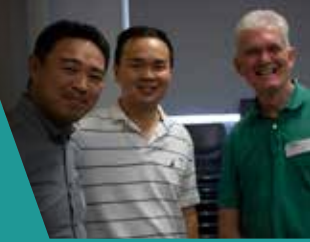
In the meantime, Eunia will continue to work towards her Master of Divinity at BST.

**We are thrilled that Eunia has joined the BST family, and can't wait to see what God has in store for her next.**



## CAC IN FOCUS

KEEPING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



**It has been a busy start to the year for the Centre for Asian Christianity, including a number of exciting developments.**

At the annual gathering of our Board of Reference we affirmed our Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. This has been the culmination of more than 18 months of rethinking our vision and strategy and where we can best see the Centre able to contribute over the next five years.

Our vision going forward is to *be an Australian hub for the acceleration of gospel growth in the Asian Church.* We want to see the Asian Church—whether in Asia itself or within Australia, to grow. And so, under God, we want to strategically use the resources God supplies to that end.

We seek to do this through focusing on three areas: equipping Christians for ministry in Asian contexts; stimulating research in Asian

Christianity, and connecting Asian-focused Christians, churches and organisations to one another. Flowing out of this we have made two new part-time appointments for the Centre—Jenny and Grace.

Jenny currently serves alongside her husband in pastoral ministry in a Mandarin-speaking church in Brisbane. As well as being a tutor for the Chinese students here at BST she will be helping organise and facilitate various programs and events for Chinese-speaking Christians, and connecting with Chinese pastors and leaders. One particular initiative will be short four-week courses (one night a week, via Zoom) aimed at church congregation members that will focus on different books of the Bible so as to make the word of God more accessible to the Chinese church.

Grace currently serves alongside her husband in an English-speaking Chinese church in Brisbane. Among other things Grace is helping develop the resources available

on our CAC website and our social media platforms (articles, blogs, videos, podcasts, training courses) along with developing strategic networks with Asian ministry pastors and leaders.

**We have a significant number of programs and events planned for 2021 and so would value your prayers for these and that they will all be used by God to grow his Church.**

Blessings,

Rev Dr Andrew Prince  
CAC Director



## CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

On 23 February, our 2020 graduating class came together for a special celebration at City North Baptist Church.

In light of the very unusual year that was 2020, it was wonderful to see these students recognised for their hard work and discipline.

Unfortunately, a number of graduates were unable to attend on the evening, but in total 34 students were presented with their awards. We were joined by one of our great alumni, Libby, who was able to share from her wealth of experience on the mission field to inspire the next generation of ministers, missionaries and church workers.

**Congratulations everyone on this wonderful achievement!**



### 課程 (一) : 《馬可福音》

題目：耶穌，世界的救世主

日期：4月22日，29日；5月6日，13日

時間：晚上7:00-8:00

老師：Jenny Jin (BTh, ThM)

### Chinese External Lecture I: A Study of the Book of Mark

Topic: *Jesus, the Saviour of the World*

Thursday nights, 22 April - 13 June

7pm-8pm

Lecturer: Jenny Jin (Bth, ThM)

從馬可福音的福音觀，探討耶穌是誰？他為我們作了什麼？他與我們有何關係？盼望通過學習和討論，我們能夠更好地認識耶穌和福音，並幫助我們生命再次更新。

The Centre for Asian Christianity  
Fundraising Dinner  
**OPENING ASIA'S DOOR**

Thursday, 29 July 2021  
From 6:15pm

