

YOUR SUPPORT IS BUILDING OUR COLLEGE



Back in May of this year, we asked if you could help support our students by providing much needed funding for several projects around the campus: new fire safety technology, a new storage unit and, most significantly, at long last providing air-conditioning to our families and singles units.

Thanks to the tremendous response from friends like you, we received more than **\$33,000** in donations—enough to fully fund the cost of the fire safety systems and begin the process of air-conditioning our units. This will make a big difference to our students and their families moving forward. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Jonny Lush

Residential Chaplain & Property Manager

Please visit bst.qld.edu.au/donate to help meet our ongoing Building needs.



GENEROSITY AT THE CENTRE

During the months of July and August, we launched our fifth annual appeal for the Centre for Asian Christianity.

The Centre's vision is to be an Australian hub for the acceleration of gospel growth in Asian contexts, both here and around the world.

Our goal was to raise \$30,000 for the Centre by the end of August to support the Centre in this vision. With two weeks to go at the time of this writing, we are almost halfway there. Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated... And it's not too late to give!

Any gift you can give to the Centre Appeal will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000.

The Centre would not exist without the support of friends just like you, so thank you, and God bless!



We had a full house at our CAC Fundraising Dinner on 29 July. A special thank you to our guest speaker, Matthew Meek from AFES, and to all our wonderful guests on the night.



REV DR RICHARD GIBSON BST PRINCIPAL

THERE'S A FINE LINE

Here at BST we have a love/hate relationship with the live streaming of classes. Teaching via Zoom confronts us with the distance we wish was not there; talking to people who would prefer to be here face-to-face, but unable to do so because of lockdowns and other restrictions. And this kind of technology introduces greater complexity to teaching, with more things that go wrong and distract from learning.

At the same time, the alternative is that we would not have contact with those people. They wouldn't be in our classes or attending chapel in any capacity. We would rather be communicating across the distance, than not at all.

The pendulum was pushed further toward the positive for me over the weekend. I was invited to participate in the Living Wholeness Conference, which involved over 100 registered delegates from 20 different nations. It was an extraordinary experience of unity and communication that no-one would have dreamed of twenty years ago. We discussed God's word and Christian care and counselling, and congratulated a new cohort of graduates emerging from a training course.

We even sang together over Zoom. This was truly a cacophony (from the Greek: bad sound) but also truly sweet, as people from many nations and

tongues joined as one. Thank God for what technology is allowing us to do; pray for us as we learn to use it well for the sake of our students; and please pray for patience for our students as they negotiate the challenges of COVID world and the limitations of their teachers!



E V E N T S

OPEN NIGHT

THURSDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 2021
6:30PM–8:30PM

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 for more information.

OPEN MORNING

TUESDAY
26 OCTOBER 2021
8:30AM–1:30PM

Join us at our Open Morning for a taste of college life at BST. You can come along to our Tuesday chapel service, sit in on a morning lecture, hear a short presentation, then join us for one of our famous community lunches on the lawn. It's free to come along!

Visit bst.qld.edu.au/open-morning for more details

BOOK LAUNCH BY REV DR BRUCE PASS

TUESDAY
26 OCTOBER 2021
7:30PM–9:00PM

Please join us as we celebrate the launch of two books by our very own Rev Dr Bruce Pass.

This will be a relaxed but entertaining supper held at BST (and online), with presentations from Dr Mark Baddeley (Queensland Theological College) and Assoc Prof Ben Myers (Alphacrucis College), as well as an address by Bruce Pass.

To register, or for more information, visit bst.qld.edu.au/book-launch

BAVINCK CENTENARY CONFERENCE

MONDAY & TUESDAY
6–7 DECEMBER 2021

To mark the centenary of the death of Dutch theologian and statesman, Herman Bavinck (1854–1921), Brisbane School of Theology will be convening a two-day conference. Five plenary sessions will examine the contours of Bavinck's theology, two roundtables will consider Bavinck's relevance for contemporary Christianity, and short papers will address various aspects of Bavinck's life, thought, and legacy.

To register, or for more details, visit bst.qld.edu.au/bavinck-conference

To register for these events, visit 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 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.



Shaped by His word, serving His world

SPRING | ISSUE 25 | 2021

STUDYING AT BST: THE HIGHS, AND THE LOS

FROM HONG KONG TO THE HILLS OF TOOWONG, THE LO FAMILY ARE IN IT TOGETHER

One of the great joys of a Bible college built around community, residential living, and face-to-face learning is the endless line of personal connections and deep friendships that form between students, faculty, and staff.

It is that richness of community that has led so many of our students to encourage their own children to one day study at BST in turn. Over the course of its nearly 80-year history, there have been dozens of instances of sons and daughters following their parents' footsteps and becoming part of the BST family. In some cases, those parents and children have even studied with us at the same time.

One such family is with us right now. This semester, Martin Lo, Karen Li and their daughter Wei Lo (known to us as Loweil) have all been studying together in Richard Gibson's Pauline Theology and Romans subject.

Martin completed his Bachelor of Ministry last semester through our Chinese program, but returned to audit

the Romans subject along with Karen this semester. Loweil is on her way to completing her Graduate Diploma in Divinity as part of our English program.

Martin and Karen began their journey to Australia more than 25 years ago. They were born and raised in Hong Kong, and came to Brisbane in 1995 with the intention of emigrating here on a more permanent basis. Martin and Karen were both teachers, and Martin studied education at the University of Queensland. Unfortunately, after two years in Australia, they had to return to Hong Kong, and it would be another 16 years before they could return.

Martin and Karen continued to teach in Hong Kong, and Loweil grew up and studied Journalism at the University of Hong Kong. In 2012, Martin and Karen decided to make the move back to Australia. Martin and Caleb, their son, came back to Brisbane, and in 2014 Karen and Loweil were able to join them.

"Even today, I still remember his smile and his friendly help"

Martin had retired from teaching, and one day after the service concluded at the Brisbane Cantonese Christian Church, he found a flyer for BST, and felt God was telling him to study theology.

"I tried to find out if there were any other theological schools near where I lived," Martin says. "I found one in Kenmore, but it only provided distance learning, which I did not prefer. Then I went to BST, and the first person I met was the registrar, Witali. Even today, I still remember his smile and his friendly help."

Martin enrolled in the English program, but after only two weeks, it became clear to him that he should change to the Chinese program.

"Although I had been a Christian for many, many years, I could only understand God's words by the meanings of the Chinese characters. I would describe it as a one-dimensional understanding," Martin says. "At BST, I have learnt to understand the bible differently. If we can understand the cultural background of the authors, it will help us to understand the scriptures. I would describe it now as a two-dimensional or even three-dimensional understanding." ...

Continued inside...

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Women, Anger, and the Fatherhood of God

Have you watched *Ms Represented* on the ABC? It's a documentary series on the history of women in politics in Australia and I would highly recommend it to both men and women.

It made me rejoice as I thanked God for the people who fought hard so that I can vote. It also made me furious at the misogyny that women in the house of representatives still live with. You will be aware of the recent avalanche of stories about gendered sexual violence. Christian Porter, Brittany Higgins and Grace Tame are just a few of the names making headlines in this area as perpetrators are being called to account.

Yet there is another, related narrative, that it is men who are under attack. The criticism of 'toxic masculinity' has been perceived in some circles as a judgement that all masculinity is toxic. How do we speak about a God who reveals himself as Father through the Son when these masculine terms themselves are cause for suspicion by some?

I met a woman recently at a Christian event who was doing some higher research into the feminine imagery that God uses of himself (eg a hen gathering sheltering chicks under her wing in Matt 23). As she spoke, she revealed a deep sense of alienation from the masculine God and the joy of discovering the feminine within the Godhead. She wondered aloud why God had chosen to reveal himself as Father not Mother—it just made no sense to her. Coincidentally I had just read a reflection by a theologian which went a little way to answering that question.

Hannah Anderson was that theologian and she brought me back to biology. The physical realities of mothering and Fathering are different. Throughout history, women have birthed babies and it has always been clear who the mother of a baby is.

When I gave birth to my two children, no one asked "and are you the mother?" It was quite obvious that the baby had come from my body. But my husband was always asked "and are you the Father?"

Because who the Father is, isn't a given. Think back to Bible times when there was no paternity testing and a woman's word wasn't worth as much as a man's. Fatherhood was a choice in a way that motherhood was not. History is littered with fathers who deny their children. When a woman gets pregnant, the question comes—who is the father? Who will take responsibility for this helpless child? Who will provide, protect and nurture?

Sometimes the father denies the child. He walks away.

But that is exactly what God doesn't do. God is revealed as Father because he takes the initiative towards us. He steps into history and claims his children as his own—even though he doesn't have to...

God reveals himself as Father. He says yes—in our helpless state, he says "I will take responsibility, I will pour myself out for the needs of my child. I will provide, protect nurture you." God says "you're mine. You are my son. You are my daughter. I am your Father God."



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.



You can read this 4MM, and others, by visiting bst.qld.edu.au/blog

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6-7 December 2021

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Register online at bst.qld.edu.au/bavinck-conference

In cooperation with



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

THE LO'S STORY (CONTINUED)

For Karen, studying theology has been a life-long passion.

"When I graduated from Uni in Hong Kong, I prayed to God that someday I could have the chance to study theolog," Karen says. "I believed that, as a Christian, it's worth devoting some time to study God's Word. So after I taught in a high school for six years, I quit my job and studied full-time Christian Study Diploma in one of Hong Kong's theology schools for one year. Then I served with Wycliffe Bible Translators as ministry co-ordinator for two years before moving to Australia.

"I started my study in BST in 2015 as Martin had already been studying here for two years. I thank God for giving me this second time to have a full course of study."

Since moving to Australia, Lowe has put aside her work in journalism, and now works with the student ministry organisation Power to Change at the University of Queensland.

Power to Change enrolled Lowe in an online course through a college in Melbourne, but she never enjoyed online learning, and after two subjects she was allowed to make the switch to face-to-face learning at BST.



Martin, Karen and Lowe are all studying Romans together this semester at BST.

While their time with us has been an enjoyable experience for the family, there have also been very hard times.

In 2019, Caleb went to Germany to study his doctorate. Just a month after he arrived there, he was diagnosed with lymphoma, an aggressive cancer that left him in critical condition.

"The tumour was quite big, the size of a tennis ball, and it was pressing on his trachea," Lowe says. "He was struggling to breathe. My parents went to Germany and took care of him for four months. It looked like he was recovering... It was really tough—all the pain—and then after four months, suddenly, he was gone." Caleb was 23 years old.

"His leaving urges me to search and reflect on my faith, as well as God's promises," Karen says. "I'm now writing Caleb's story, bit by bit, and sharing it on Facebook. It's my way of remembering him and searching for God's footprint, and his guidance."

With most of their family living far away in Hong Kong, it has been our privilege at BST to come to know Martin, Karen and Lowe in recent years, and to play some small role as an extension to their family, praying for them and learning from them. Despite the tough times, we know God is working in and through them, and we look forward to seeing His plans for this family unfold in the years ahead.

"His leaving urges me to search and reflect on my faith, as well as God's promises."



CROSS CONNECTIONS

It was wonderful to join together with a host of our alumni at two gatherings earlier this year. On 24 May, around 40 guests joined us for a high tea on the front lawn on a beautiful, sunny Autumn day. Generations of BST students came together to reconnect with old friends, create new bonds, and revisit their old haunts. For some, like Valda Langton, who studied on this very campus from 1953-1955, this event marked another step on a decades-long road with BST. For others, in the early stages of their ministry, it was a chance to hear from those who have gone before and reconnect with their teachers and fellow graduates.

This year, we also held our first (but certainly not our last!) alumni dinner for our Chinese graduates on 14 June. BST has operated an accredited Chinese program since 1999, and again, around 40 students from across the last several decades came together to share a potluck dinner. Four of our Chinese alumni shared their ministry experiences and encouraged

their fellow alumni to continue their journey with the Lord.

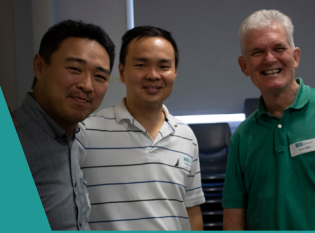
If you are one of our BST alumni and you want to stay connected with the happenings at BST, you can join our online community on Instagram or Facebook (in particular our 'BST Cross Connections' alumni group), or subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter by emailing

info@bst.qld.edu.au or visiting our website, bst.qld.edu.au.



CAC IN FOCUS

KEEPING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



The invention of the wheel has been described as the greatest invention of all time, with its impact on transportation in particular still felt thousands of years since the first wooden wheel was rolled out (literally). Though there have been many refinements since, the fundamental concept of a circular wheel rotating on a fixed axle hasn't really changed—as there's been no reason to reinvent the wheel.

'Reinventing the wheel' in modern parlance has become axiomatic for doing something that has already been done well by someone else. Part of the philosophy of the Centre for Asian Christianity is 'don't reinvent the wheel.' There are many ministries across Asia and around Australia that are already very effectively ministering to people from an Asian context. Rather than trying to replicate what is already being done by someone else, CAC seeks to work collaboratively with like-minded individuals, local churches, and organisations that are seeking to spread the gospel in Asian contexts—and encourage them

to work collaboratively with one another as well. But where we see a need or opportunity that we don't see filled by someone else that is in line with our vision and available resources, we look to contribute to fulfilling that need.

This collaborative approach was on display at our recent *Centre for Asian Christianity Fundraising Dinner*. Our keynote speaker for the event was Matthew Meek—Director of FOCUS (Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students). He shared how around 90% of overseas university students are from Asia, and so by reaching these students for Christ they are impacting Asia as these students return to their home countries following graduation.

During this year CAC has been exploring how it might support FOCUS initiatives so that more Asian students are reached for Christ. Furthermore, our dinner also featured the launch of a unique course called **Asians Between Cultures** (gracelung.com), which

was developed by CAC staff member Grace Lung. It is the only course of its kind, helping pastors and leaders of first and next generation churches better understand their context, and how to grow spiritually as Asian Christians between cultures.

Over the past few years the Centre has provided some support funding to help with the development of this course which, will be of enormous benefit to Chinese churches across Australia. As highlighted, our goal isn't to reinvent the wheel but contribute to the wheel moving more quickly and effectively in Asian contexts.

Blessings,

Rev Dr Andrew Prince
CAC Director



課程簡介：

古代以色列人曾一度活在動亂與民不聊生的士師時代。就在這段黑暗的日子中，出現了兩個轉變以色列民族命運的人物，把他們帶出那風雲多變，毫無希望的時代，進入民族的輝煌時期。這兩個不是什麼風雲人物，而是伯利恆小城的一對夫婦：路得與波阿斯。他們究竟做了什麼，能給以色列民族歷史帶來那麼大的影響？吳仲誠博士將藉著講解路得記為大家分曉。

日期與內容：

8月26日：劫後餘生（路得記第一章）
9月2日：重新出發（路得記第二章）
9月9日：關鍵之夜（路得記第三章）
9月16日：新時代的誕生（路得記第四章）

老師：吳仲誠老師 Rev Dr Samuel Goh (BTh, MDiv, ThM, PhD)

時間：晚上7:00-8:00 地點：Zoom

費用：自由奉獻

賬戶：BSB: 484799 Account: 560884170

CAC 亞洲基督教中心 (Centre for Asian Christianity)

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