

# YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS

As the end of 2021 fast approaches, we are asking for your help to close our \$31,000 shortfall in this year's donations budget. As always, we have been humbled by the wonderful response of friends like you—but at time of writing, we still have a long way to go to close the gap.

Your support for this appeal will provide the best possible support for our new intake of students in 2022. Your gift today will:

- **Support student learning:** purchase new textbooks and resources for our library, contribute to staff and faculty wages, and provide tutoring hours to our students free of charge
- **Provide solid, biblical training** for ministry and mission, to both our English and Chinese students
- **Build a safe, supportive and loving community** of disciples who grow and learn together
- **Provide and maintain affordable accommodation**

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for this college!

Please visit [bst.qld.edu.au/christmasappeal](http://bst.qld.edu.au/christmasappeal) to give your Christmas gift!



## REV DR RICHARD GIBSON BST PRINCIPAL

### PRAY FOR OUR TORTURERS

One of the highlights of the BST week is our Mission Awareness Program (MAP). Missionaries, mission agency representatives and people in local ministries come in to lead a session exploring God's grace at work in a wide range of contexts. Recently a graduate joined us, who works with Voice of the Martyrs, an organisation devoted to supporting and resourcing Christians, who face persecution around the world. It was a confronting, moving and challenging time. We were confronted by the reality faced by many believers, who find themselves detained for owning a Bible or have their life threatened for refusing to renounce Christ. We were

moved by their courage and their remarkable prayer requests: not to be spared persecution, but to face it with faithfulness and genuine love for their persecutors.

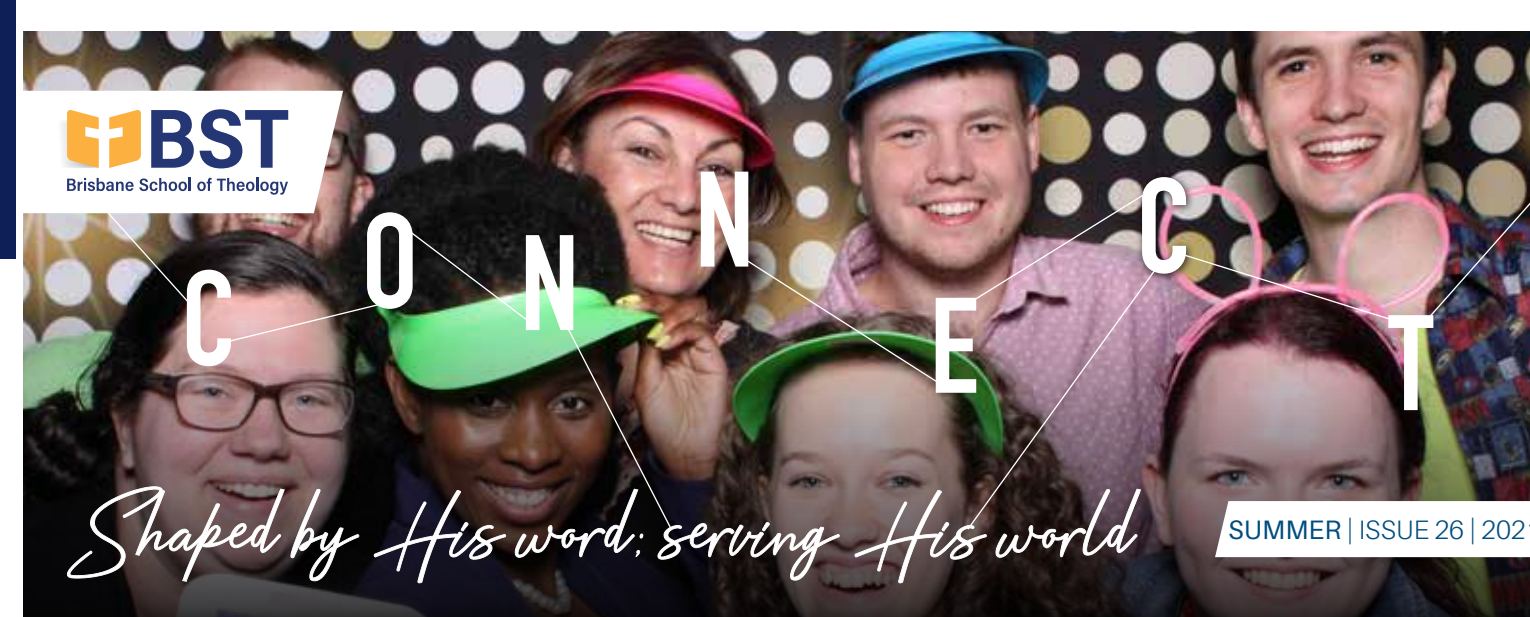
We were encouraged to have the same confidence in the love of God in Christ Jesus; to take to heart the message of Romans 8:

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

Sessions like this transform our classrooms, as we hear about brothers and sisters who are living out the Bible verses we study, even in the original Greek. It's not just an academic pursuit or completing a qualification; it's God's word preparing us for the reality of serving his world, filling our hearts with comfort, hope and courage.

Please remember our brothers and sisters around the world as they suffer for their faith in Jesus, and for those who persecute them, that God would have mercy.



SUMMER | ISSUE 26 | 2021

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

STUDYING AT A BIBLE COLLEGE MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU EXPECT...

For nearly 80 years, BST has been training pastors, missionaries, lay-leaders and eager disciples for ministry and mission. A great many things have changed since 1943, but some things never will. Which begs the question: what does an average day look like for a BST student in 2021? This is your chance to get to know one of our students, **Bryn**, and spend a day walking in his shoes...

### MEET BRYN

**8:00AM** Wake up quickly, make a coffee and head straight to class—benefits of living on campus! I have Pauline Theology and Romans (English & Greek) this morning. I'm grateful for my Greek software that helps me keep up with the lectures—it's a long process trying to translate, but its worth it!

**10:30AM** On break from lectures so I can now have some breaky with the wifey. We are having our go-to omelette. Then back to lectures.

**1:45PM** I really like to water the flowers and herbs at home after class too—good mental break. Always reminded that good things grow slowly.



**1:00PM** Gotta love a table tennis break between classes—keeps your mind fresh. I'm practicing for the annual BST table tennis tournament!



**2:30PM** I love heading to a good local cafe for a solid coffee and study. Fascinating reading about the church fathers. Best cappuccino in town in my opinion.



Continued inside...

## CELEBRATING BAVINCK

If the centenary of a theologian's death is marked by a conference dedicated to their life's work, one can be sure that the theologian in question has made a substantial contribution to the life of their church. That the centenary of a theologian from one of the Netherlands' smaller denominations is being celebrated by scholars from Europe, Britain, North America, East Asia and Australasia is testimony to the abiding and far-reaching significance of the legacy of this Dutch multi-disciplinarian. So, who was Herman Bavinck?

Bavinck is easily the most important (orthodox) Reformed theologian of the nineteenth century, who was also active in the fields of pedagogy and psychology, and served for ten years in the Upper House of the Dutch Parliament. During the twentieth century, Bavinck was largely overshadowed by his less conventional, Swiss co-religionists (Emily Brunner and Karl Barth), but with the English translation of Bavinck's four-volume Reformed Dogmatics in 2008, Bavinck has steadily attracted global attention. At present, there are large-scale translation projects of

Bavinck's works into German, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, and Indonesian.

In all likelihood, Bavinck himself would be more than a little bemused by the fact that a commemorative conference in his honour would be hosted by an interdenominational college in Australia, yet the Antipodean setting of this celebration aptly reflects the growth in awareness of Bavinck's work over the last twenty years and the ever-expanding reach of his ideas and the relevance of his thought for Protestants beyond the Reformed tradition. So, *what was the aim of this conference?*

The conference fostered three aims. First, we hoped to offer delegates a snapshot of the whole of Bavinck's life and work. In this regard, it was particularly pleasing to hear short-papers on Bavinck's contribution to pedagogy, psychology, ethics and politics. Second, the plenary sessions sought to penetrate the structure of Bavinck's thought. Here, the focus was the macroscopic concerns of Bavinck's use of Scripture, Reformed sources, and philosophy. Third, we wanted delegates to be able to participate in roundtable discussions on the current state-of-play in Bavinck studies and the wider use to which Bavinck's thought might yet be put in Protestant theology.

Brisbane School of Theology is especially grateful for the support of the Vrije Universiteit, Kampen Theologische University, and the University of Edinburgh, without which it would not have been possible for our plenary speakers to travel to Australia and present their papers in person. And while it was disappointing that COVID-19 hindered this eventuality as well as the full participation of interstate and international delegates, we were also grateful for the virtual presence that the Zoom platform affords and are glad that this medium allows interstate and international delegates to participate from a distance.

by Rev Dr Brace Pass  
Director of Post Graduate Studies,  
Lecturer in Christian  
Thought and History



#### SEMESTER 1 2022 ORIENTATION WEEK

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY  
2-4 FEBRUARY 2022

Thinking about theological study? Wanting to explore God's word in a new and deeper way? It's not too late to connect with us and begin your journey into part-time or full-time theological study in 2022.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au](http://bst.qld.edu.au) for more information, and get ready for your new journey to begin at Orientation Week in February 2022!

#### GRADUATION SERVICE

TUESDAY  
22 FEBRUARY 2022  
7:00PM - 9:00PM

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our graduates at our upcoming Graduation Ceremony.

Those unable to attend will be able to watch the ceremony via our live-streaming link (TBC)

**Speaker:** Jesse Caulfield

**Time:** 7pm. Guests to be seated in the main auditorium by 6.45 pm.

**Location:** City North Baptist Church, 52 Ylada St Kedron QLD 4031

**Dress code:** Smart casual

#### CAC FUNDRAISING DINNER

THURSDAY  
28 APRIL 2022  
6:15PM - 9:00PM

Join us as we celebrate and support the work God is doing in Asian churches and communities across Australia and around the world.

Enjoy a fantastic feast, connect with like-minded believers, and give as you can to help the Centre for Asian Christianity continue to provide training, resources and support to Asian ministries, missionaries, pastors and students.

#### CHRISTIAN MENTORING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY  
29 JUNE - 1 JULY 2022

The Graduate Certificate of Christian Mentoring is designed with a special focus on the one-to-one intentional ministry of Christian mentoring, and professional supervision and ministry coaching at an advanced level.

If you are interested in developing your skills as a Christian mentor, this workshop is for you!

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

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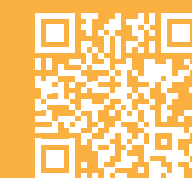
Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland. We are an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, our ABN no. is 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.

## E V E N T S

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## The Revolutionary Christmas Carol

This Semester in Chapel, we have been doing a series called, "Songs of our Salvation", which traces salvation history through songs sung at significant points. One of those weeks we looked at Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-56. In this song, Mary is overcome with praise for God and gratitude that she—a humble young peasant has been chosen to bear the Messiah.

But don't think this moment is all hope and joy. Elizabeth, Mary's elderly cousin (who is miraculously pregnant with John the Baptist) says "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord". Those words of blessing were sorely needed by Mary because no-one looking at Mary would have called her blessed. Mary was an unwed, pregnant teenager. She was in danger of public humiliation, social ostracism. Maybe even stoning. And yet Mary says of herself in verse 48, "from now on all generations will call me blessed". And she was right. We still call Mary blessed. You see within her body, Mary carried the fulfillment of the messianic hope of her people. The hope first whispered in Genesis 3:15 - *the seed of this woman would be the serpent crusher.*

Mary rejoices in the Lord for what he has done for her, his humble servant, but goes on to praise him for what he has done for the poor and downtrodden more widely. She is so convinced of the certainty of this, that she sings in present tense. The proud are scattered, the mighty are brought down from their thrones, the humble are exalted, the hungry are filled and the rich are sent away. These are subversive words.

To finish, I'd like to share the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer regarding the Magnificat. He says,

*"It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings... This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols. It is instead a hard, strong, inexorable song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind."*



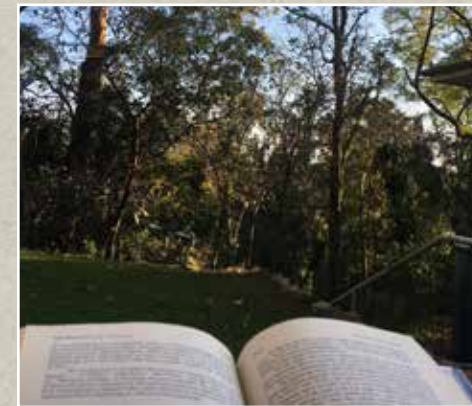
Each week at our Chapel Service, Lecturer and Mentor Kylie Brown hosts a segment called '4 Minute Muse' (4MM), where she shares resources, creative insights, illustrations or explanations that relate to the Bible passage being preached on that day.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE (CONT'D)



**3:15PM** Head home for more study; love being surrounded by nature on campus.



**4:30PM** Having some downtime at BST accommodation—we live in our own two bedroom unit on campus.



**5:45PM** Exercise time. Love going for a walk at Mt Cootha - highlight of my day. Just a really good time to pray and process everything from the day. So close to BST campus—5 minute drive! Managed to catch this awesome sunset.



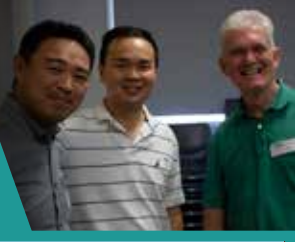
**7:00PM** Time for my online night class and assignment work. Will probably head off to bed around midnight. Thanks so much for spending the day with me. Hope you had a good one!



**Thanks to Bryn for taking the time to share his day with us.** If you would like more information about studying and living at BST, contact our office on 07 3870 8355, or email [info@bst.qld.edu.au](mailto:info@bst.qld.edu.au)

## CAC IN FOCUS

KEEPING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



**BST's Centre for Asian Christianity has the vision, under God, to be an Australian hub for the acceleration of gospel growth in the Asian Church.** With the resources we have we seek to make strategic partnerships with organisations which are making a significant difference for the kingdom of God.

As part of our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan we have identified Indonesia and Thailand as two countries that our Heavenly Father would have us focus on. Over the past few months there has been some further developments with ministry in Indonesia, with the beginning of a relationship with Tyrannus Bible Seminary in Bandung. Brisbane School of Theology and Tyrannus share much in common. Both were established in similar periods (1943, 1966), are evangelical, committed to the authority of Scripture and passionate about faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission through training godly men and women in our respective institutions.

One way we are supporting Tyrannus is through funding their faculty to have electronic access to books and journals online that will greatly assist the faculty there in their teaching and research. Please be in prayer

for our ongoing relationship together and that it will glorify God and lead to growth in the Asian church.

Another new CAC initiative over this past month to support the Asian Church across Australia has been organising the inaugural Asian Ministry Summit. Led by CAC staff member Grace Lung, 15-20 Asian Ministry leaders from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne gathered virtually on 16th September—with two key objectives. The first was to better understand the Asian ministry scene in Australia and develop a clearer picture of what God is doing in the Asian ministry space in Australia as well as identify and begin to explore the main issues, challenges and opportunities for gospel growth in the Asian church throughout Australia and Asia.

The second was to foster collaboration and better coordination between the different organisations represented so that efforts can be streamlined for maximum effectiveness. Participants came from Asian-focused church denominations, university ministries, mission agencies, theological institutions, counselling services, returnee and diaspora ministries, and parachurch groups. It was an exciting group to be part of and we look

forward to continuing this in 2022 with a follow-up Summit and flow-on from that.

The third short course in our Mandarin Bible Introduction series began Thursday 11 November. The brain-child of Director of BST's Chinese Program, Dr Wally Wang, and established and led by CAC staff member Jenny Jin, over four Thursday evenings online the enriching teaching of Genesis 1-11 was explored, taught by guest pastor Rev Frank Liang. The previous two courses have explored the books of Mark and Ruth respectively and been taught by different guest teachers. The idea behind this initiative is to make Bible teaching in Chinese as accessible to as many people as possible, and we would love to extend the invitation for you to join in and become part of it in 2022.

Blessings,

Rev Dr Andrew Prince  
CAC Director



## WHAT DOES 2022 HOLD FOR YOU?

## SHINING LIKE STARS

THE END OF YEAR CELEBRATION THAT LIT UP TOOWONG

**What a way to celebrate 2021!** Students, alumni, staff, faculty and supporters came out on November 17 to celebrate the academic year for 2021 at BST.

With the theme of 90's Glow in the Dark, we lit up the night with glow sticks, fluoro tie-dyed shirts, classic 90s pop, and glow in the dark Putt Putt Golf!

We spent time in prayer for our graduating students and acknowledged the five years of service our fantastic Librarian, Buffy, and Marketing & Development Officer, Phil, have given the college.

With the message from our Principal Richard Gibson to "shine like stars" (Phil 2:15) in our minds, we pray for our graduating students and wish them well as they step into the next chapter of their journey with God.



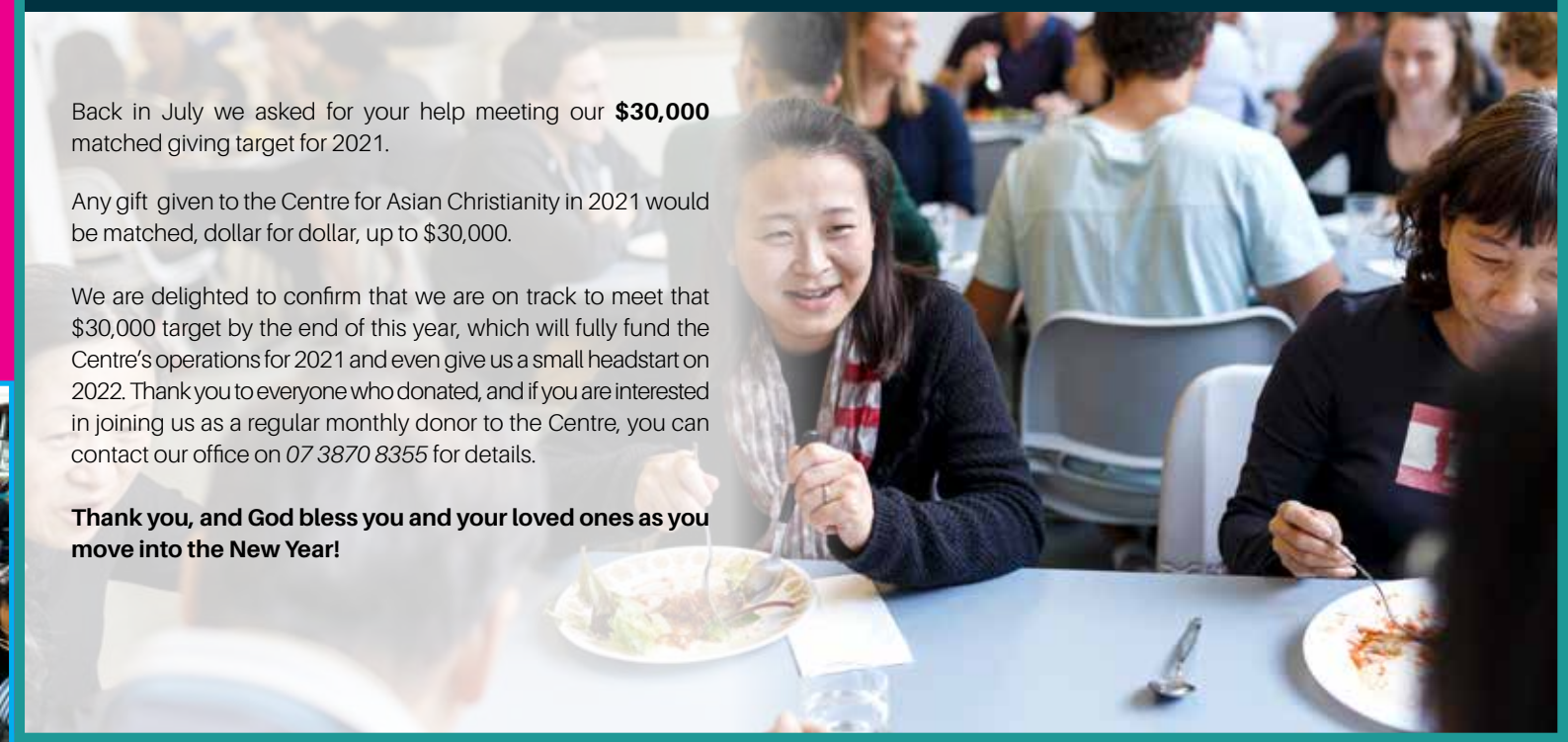
## THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Back in July we asked for your help meeting our **\$30,000** matched giving target for 2021.

Any gift given to the Centre for Asian Christianity in 2021 would be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000.

We are delighted to confirm that we are on track to meet that \$30,000 target by the end of this year, which will fully fund the Centre's operations for 2021 and even give us a small headstart on 2022. Thank you to everyone who donated, and if you are interested in joining us as a regular monthly donor to the Centre, you can contact our office on 07 3870 8355 for details.

**Thank you, and God bless you and your loved ones as you move into the New Year!**



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