



Last November, in the lead-up to Christmas, we asked for your help in meeting a significant shortfall in our fundraising target for 2021.

At the time, we were \$31,000 short of our goal, and we needed some extra help to get us over the line.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to the very generous gifts of friends like you, we received just over \$36,500 and were able to meet all of our fundraising goals—a tremendous result that makes a huge difference to our students and campus.

We are grateful to God to have supporters like you on our side, helping out both financially and prayerfully to ensure BST can continue to produce students who are ready to be shaped by His word and serve His world...

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

Your gift to the Centre for Asian Christianity will be **doubled** by one generous donor, up to **\$40,000!**

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to Gospel growth in the Asian church, either with your donation today or at our Fundraising Dinner on 12 May.

Thank you for your support!



Give now



CAC FUNDRAISING DINNER

KEY NOTE SPEAKER:
REV DR SAM GOH

MAY 12, 22
6:15-9PM -BST CAMPUS

Register now



\$35.00 ENTRY REGISTER AT [BST.QLD.EDU.AU/EVENTS](http://bst.qld.edu.au/events)



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.



Why Mentoring Matters

I teach in the Christian Mentoring Course here at BST. One of the questions people sometimes ask is "Why mentoring? It's not a biblical concept, is it?" Well the word isn't there, but let me show you one place where you can find the concept.

In Philippians 2:22, Paul says—"But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel."

That might seem a bit odd to us—because very few of us do work alongside our fathers as adults, but in the world that Paul wrote to in Philippians, that was the norm. If you were a man, most likely, you would join your father in the family business as soon as you were old enough to be useful! Jesus was a craftsman—translated 'carpenter' in our English Bibles—just like Joseph was.

So parenting in biblical times wasn't about ensuring your child reached their potential or 'just wanting them to be happy'. Parenting was about training your kids; training them in the character, resilience and skill to carry on the family name and craft. That was the MO of fathers with sons in biblical times. But in the case of Paul and Timothy, the name handed on was the name of Jesus and the craft was self-sacrifice in gospel ministry.

But what of the word Mentor? Where does that come from?

Well, for that we need to turn to another ancient document written originally in Greek.

The epic poem, "The Odyssey" by Homer is a very long poem about a guy called Odysseus returning from the Trojan War to his wife and son in Ithaca.

Before he went to war, he entrusted the care and education of his son, to his old friend Mentor.

In the story of the Odyssey, Odysseus takes a lot longer to return home than he should have—due to a bunch of pesky mystical creatures and the wrath of various gods—so Mentor is kind of a stand-in father figure.

Which links back to the way Paul described his relationship with Timothy.

Why do we offer a mentoring course here at BST?

When you follow Jesus, it's not just an individual thing. You are now part of a family; a very big family with very important business to do in the world. We need to be mentored and to be mentors. What a joy to be part of handing on the family name and craft. The glorious name of Jesus and the profound craft of gospel ministry.

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

EVENTS

OPEN NIGHT & OPEN DAY

THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022
&
TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022

Thinking about theological study? Wanting to explore God's word in a new and deeper way? Join us for our BST Open Night or Open Day 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/open for more information.

CAC FUNDRAISING DINNER

THURSDAY
12 MAY 2022
6:30PM-9PM

The 2021 CAC Fundraising Dinner is an opportunity to learn about the ministry and support offered by the CAC. 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 for more details.

CHRISTIAN MENTORING INTENSIVE

BEGINS WEDNESDAY
20 JUNE-1 JULY
9AM-5PM

This intensive includes opportunities for reflection on a range of models of mentoring, tools and resources for assisting growth, accountability and leadership formation, and an exploration of the dynamics of one-to-one relationships. The mentor's own personality, experience, gifts and leadership is integrated into a personal style of mentoring.

Places are limited to 12 participants. Visit bst.qld.edu.au/mentoring for more details.

INTERPRETING & APPLYING PSALMS INTENSIVE

MONDAY - FRIDAY
18-22 JULY 2022
9:30AM-3PM

David Firth, seasoned Australian Baptist scholar currently teaching at Trinity College Bristol, will be guiding students on a journey of interpreting and applying the Psalms. Well-known through his biblical commentaries on Old Testament books, this intensive offers a unique opportunity to grow in one's understanding of Scripture with a view to preaching or bible study preparation.

Contact our office for more details.

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.



AUTUMN | ISSUE 27 | 2022

FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

CHRIS'S JOURNEY OF HEALING AND FAITH

One of the great joys of Bible college is the opportunity to meet and get to know people from all walks of life, and to learn more about God's grace through their story. At a recent chapel service, one of our new students, Chris, shared some of his journey with us. This is his story...

I grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. My dad took a job here in Australia in 1999, but I only came across to live here with my mom and middle brother in 2003, where I went to school for a term in Melbourne. We returned to Cape Town thereafter, but my dad stayed in Melbourne. I came across to Australia on holiday a number of times in the subsequent years, with two of my siblings and their families emigrating here. After having sold-up everything in Cape Town, my mom and I moved permanently to Australia in November 2021, joining my dad, siblings and their families here on the East coast.

I was brought up in a Christian home and my faith grew as a continuum. My mum was instrumental in that, reading Bible stories to me and praying with me

on a daily basis. When I was 9 I invited Jesus into my heart. I backslid a little due to peer pressure when I was 14 and 15, but the Lord convicted me of this and I was baptised at 16.

While at Uni I was fortunate to belong to a great young adults Bible study group at church, and later started a life group during lunchtime at Uni with some solid mates during our Honours year.

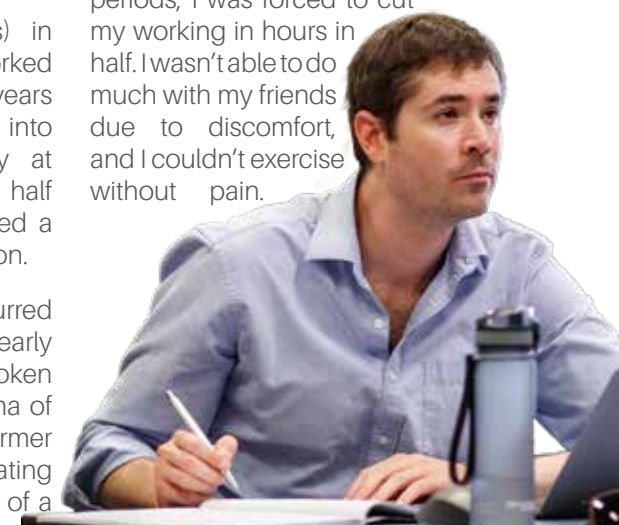
I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Atmospheric Science, and worked in climatology research for two years thereafter. I then transitioned into teaching physics and chemistry at high school level for six and a half years, during which time I acquired a Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

In my first year of full-time work I incurred a back injury at the gym, and early the following year I suffered a broken engagement. The emotional trauma of the latter found its outlet in the former and I developed chronic, debilitating lower back pain. Within the space of a

number of months both my physical capacity and the dreams I had for my future were removed.

Over the next year, I consulted the best medical specialists and received the best treatment methods—both conventional and alternative—for my back pain; but instead of getting better, it became worse.

Because I couldn't sit or stand for long periods, I was forced to cut my working in hours in half. I wasn't able to do much with my friends due to discomfort, and I couldn't exercise without pain.



Continued inside...

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Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter



REV DR RICHARD GIBSON
BST PRINCIPAL

WE GROAN

²² For we know that the whole creation groans together and suffers agony together until now.
²³ Not only this, but we ourselves also, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves while we await eagerly our adoption, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:22-23 (LEB)

War rages across Europe. Floodwaters wash away homes, livelihoods, even lives. Ice sheets collapse. The Barrier Reef is bleached again. Another Christian leader is exposed as a hypocrite. COVID keeps coming back. The statistics tell us that the mental health of the nation is more fragile than in living memory.

Paul tells us that in times like this, Christians groan.

We join in harmony with the creation around us as it groans in agony, longing and aching for release from all the frustration and futility we encounter in this world. Groaning is different from grumbling or moaning; they are easily confused. Grumbling arises from unbelief, wilful blindness to the goodness of God, and is treated as a serious sin in the Bible (Numbers 17:10; 1 Corinthians 10:10; James 5:9).

In contrast, groaning springs from faith and hope, in the midst of the frustration and futility. We groan because we have the Spirit, but only as the first-fruits or down-payment on what God has in store for his people. We groan now because we remember what the

future holds and we recognise that we are not there yet. We have been adopted but don't yet enjoy all the privileges of God's children. We have been redeemed by his blood, but we long for the day our bodies are made fit for our resurrection existence.

This is where we live now, in the overlap of this present evil age and the age to come. There is plenty to groan about. The creation won't stop groaning until it is finally set free, and the creation knows that future is inextricably tied up with our revelation as God's children.

Our newsfeeds will continue to feed our groaning until Jesus returns. So, let's join with the creation and groan; groaning fed by our dissatisfaction with

the frustration and futility; groaning motivated by our longing for our true home, in his presence; groaning inspired by the Spirit of God.

In contrast, groaning springs from faith and hope, in the midst of the frustration and futility.

² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 (NIV).

CHRIS'S STORY (CONT'D)



Chris's story (continued from page 1)

After six years as a science teacher, Chris is no stranger to a classroom... But now he's sitting at the desk more than he's standing at the front...



One by one core aspects of my life were removed until all I was left with was God, and I turned to him in a way that I hadn't before. As all of the joy had been removed from my life, I began to place my hope in the life to come, as well as my relationship with the Author of that life.

here, I was offered two science teaching positions in Queensland, but there was something inside of me preventing me from accepting: after the upheaval of moving countries I wasn't ready to climb back onto the teaching hamster-wheel again. Fortunately, I was in a unique

I want to say thanks to the BST community for welcoming me and making me feel included. Coming from overseas, one naturally feels like an "outsider", but at BST I haven't experienced that at all.

I have felt fully accepted and a sense of belonging, which has meant so much to me. Certain things stand out, like Richard driving me all the way back to Greenslopes after my initial interview so as to save me time and money on the bus, Richard and Kim's hospitality at the Pool Party, the Student Committee events and my fellow students taking a genuine interest in who I am as person. Thank you to all at BST for making me feel this way!

But finally, and most importantly, all glory to Jesus for my healing and for restoring my strength and dignity. It may sound like a cliché but I'm living on borrowed time—everything from that day onwards is a bonus!

I had come to the end of my tether. I just wanted to die and be with Jesus—free from constant pain and suffering. Although I had received prayer for my situation from the elders of the church before, I was re-convicted by James 5:14—"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."

It may sound like a cliché but I'm living on borrowed time—everything from that day onwards is a bonus!

I told the Lord: "If you heal me, I will do anything for you, as my life is essentially over now." I requested prayer during the church service and the anointing with oil, symbolising God's special hand of healing over me.

After an emotional service, I was the recipient of divine healing! It felt as if a lump in my back had been removed, leaving a void, feeling light and ticklish. I also felt as if I had turned a corner emotionally and spiritually.

During a cross-roads in my life, I considered studying theology in 2015, but the time was not yet ripe. Upon arriving

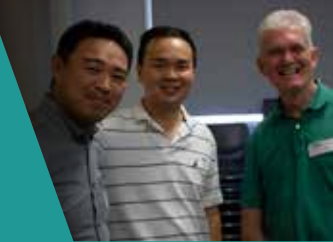
do in 2022, and so here I am!

I'm not certain of my next steps after Bible college. I may return to teaching, but perhaps in a chaplaincy role at a Christian school. I may return to teaching as a science teacher or I may continue studying towards a Masters degree. I may consider an apprenticeship at a church as well... At this stage of the year I am not entirely sure, but am waiting on the Lord for the next step.



Chris shared his life and his struggles with us during chapel last month. We are blessed to have him with us at BST this year!

CAC IN FOCUS 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. 2022 is shaping up to be the most exciting year CAC has had to date, with many things planned (Lord willing). Let me share with you just a couple:

Seminar: The state of the Church in China. Early March saw Dr Alex Chow from Edinburgh University deliver CAC's first online seminar titled, "The state of the Church in China." In his address Dr Chow addressed five important questions: When did Christianity first come to China? What is the relationship between the Three Self Church and the House church movement? Is there now a 'Calvinism fever' amongst the churches in China? How has the internet changed the Chinese church? What is the relationship between the churches in China and Global Chinese Christianity? Subsequent to this Dr Chow answered other questions from participants in the event. It was a fascinating insight from someone with up-to-date knowledge of the Chinese church and the recording will continue to be a valuable resource for years to come. You can access this recording on the CAC website, <https://bst.qld.edu.au/cac-videos>

Asian Ministry Summit II. In 2021 CAC organised the first of its Asian Ministry Summits under organiser and convenor, Grace Lung. Its purposes were three-fold. First, to bring together key stakeholders in Asian ministry in order to develop a clearer picture of what God is doing in the Asian ministry space across Australia. Second, to identify and begin to address the main issues, challenges, and opportunities for gospel growth in the Asian

church throughout Australia and Asia. And third, to foster collaboration and better coordination amongst likeminded groups. Covid restrictions led to this being held online, with 15-20 in attendance. In May we are planning on holding a second Summit, in Sydney, with a particular focus on Chinese in Sydney and Melbourne in keeping with CAC's strategic plan. This will greatly enrich our discussions as we seek to understand and engage the main issues, challenges and opportunities for gospel growth in this space.

Raising up Chinese Christian leaders. CAC's approach to Asian ministry is not only to initiate ministry and resources ourselves, but also support and promote existing ministries and resources that are seeking to biblically grow the Asian church. In May, through organiser and convenor Jenny Jin, CAC will do just that. We are organising an event that will provide a platform for two leaders engaged in ministries aimed at raising up pastors and missionaries from within the Chinese church to share the vision of their respective ministries. Rev Jason Cheng (Sydney) and Rev Dr Tim Lau (Melbourne) will be the two keynote speakers in Brisbane, and is open to any Mandarin-speaking Christian interested in the growth of the Chinese church. Read below for more details; we hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Andrew Prince
Rev Dr Andrew Prince
CAC Director



BST
Brisbane School of Theology

Grow in your faith

5 MAY 6:30PM

NIGHT DAY

OPEN

Register at bst.qld.edu.au/open

Equip for service

10 MAY 9:00AM

宣教士的興起 教會植堂
Raising Up Missionaries
Planting Chinese Churches

2022年5月30日 (星期一)
Monday, 30 May 2022

11am - 1pm
包括午餐
Lunch is included

講員 keynote speakers

Jason Chen 牧師 • Rev Jason Chen & Tim Lau 博士 • Rev Dr Tim Lau

歡迎所有能聽國語，對教會增長有興趣的傳道人和弟兄姐妹參加

Open to all Mandarin-speaking Christians interested in the growth of the Chinese church

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CAC CENTRE FOR ASIAN CHRISTIANITY