



**REV DR RICHARD GIBSON**  
BST PRINCIPAL

## CHARACTER TRUMPS CLEVERNESS

**When looking for leaders, character trumps cleverness.**

One of the main reasons BST exists is to train up leaders for God's people, whether in local churches or on the mission field. So what qualities are we looking for and nurturing? Some of the clearest guidelines are offered in advice Paul gave to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Paul had overseers and deacons (male and female) in mind, but the principles apply more broadly. It is almost a cliché to analyse these verses under the three C's: character, competence and conviction. I want to point out two others.

### Conviction

Timothy is urged to look for people who are committed to the teaching of Jesus and his apostles. For instance, deacons "must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience" (3:9).

### Competence

We are often drawn to and impressed by the gifted and clever. It is surprising how little the competencies of candidates feature in Paul's list. For overseers, the

only unambiguous gift is that they are "able to teach" (3:2).

### Character

Most striking is the apostle's preoccupation with character. What he was looking for was self-control, humility, willingness to serve and generosity. These qualities dominate the list. Any candidate had to be someone that could be trusted with power, money and marriage.

### The silent C: Calling

Many Bible teachers and mission representatives would be shocked to find that 'calling' is absent from Paul's wish-list. He assumes candidates desire to be leaders, and commends this as a noble ambition (3:1). There is no mention of some subjective experience, vision, dream or nudge, so often demanded.

### The neglected C: Caring

Perhaps the most overlooked C in this passage is 'caring.' The translation preferred by many

versions in verses 4-5, 'manage' is unfortunate. It is an improvement on the KJV's 'rule.' But the obvious parallel for the underlying original in verse 5 is 'care.' This is the word used for the way the Good Samaritan tenderly looked after a wounded stranger (Luke 10:34-35). God's people need good shepherds, rather than management techniques or authoritarian direction.

### Like Christ

Too often, we get what we deserve when we are dazzled by cleverness or distracted by 'calling,' rather than discerning character. Paul knew that God's people needed leaders with the character traits of Jesus, shepherds who would nurture and serve at personal cost.

*Please pray for our students as they are shaped by God's word at BST.*

## YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT SUPPORTS JASON'S MINISTRY



We are delighted to announce that we have a new faculty appointment for 2023. Jason Bryan-Brown, who has been a fixture at the college for a number of years as a student, and then a tutor and lecturer, has agreed to take on a full-time teaching role at BST.

Employing Jason in this position was not in our budget for 2023, and we need your help to cover this additional cost of \$22,000 per year. Thank you for your help!

Please visit [bst.qld.edu.au/christmas-appeal](http://bst.qld.edu.au/christmas-appeal) to support Jason and meet our ongoing college needs.



Scan the QR code to give online



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### "GOODBYE TO OUR BST HOME..."

THE LUSH FAMILY LEAVE BST FOR GREENER PASTURES—AND A NEW MINISTRY ADVENTURE

**After 12 years of faithful service, our Residential Chaplain & Facilities Manager Jonny Lush has departed BST to take on his new posting as a minister in Oberon, NSW.**

In July, Jonny shared some thoughts and reflections on his tenure at our annual Alumni Dinner. In honour of his departure, we are sharing some of his memories below, and seeing through his eyes the many changes to the college over the last decade and more...

It's nearly 12 years since my family and I first moved to college, to what became our home. Liz and I have raised our kids here.

In 12 years things change. Kids grow... Very quickly it would seem. Too quickly in some respects.

I could share with you the things I originally came here to do. My talents for building and construction have meant I've had the opportunity to be a part of seeing change through the renewal of what is, let's be honest, a physically old campus.

And so we've seen change through landscaping; change through decks; new bathrooms; new kitchens; and just recently, even changed sub mains electrical supply.

And it's been a genuine privilege to be able to ply my skills for the college in this capacity.

But what's gladdened me so much more than the changes I've seen to the physical bricks and mortar of the college is the change I've so often seen in the people who come here. And by that I don't just mean the students, but even people who visit, and guests who come to share their experience or teach intensives. This place is special, and 12 years has shown me that the vast majority of people who, for whatever reason, come through the college, are changed, because God is in this place.

We know He's here through the faithful teaching of the word by the faculty in the classrooms. That's our core business and always has been.

And of course we see him in the

commitment to biblical teaching in chapel and from conference speakers.

But it's been in the lives of the people that have come and gone in my 12 years, and the lives of the people who have come and stayed, that I have most seen God at work.

And it's through many of these people that I've experienced change and growth in my Christian walk.

I cherish, that despite having the polar opposite personality type to one of our lecturers, Andrew Prince, I've learnt so much about applying myself to a task out of love for others, and watched what it is to work tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel.

I've watched as our Principal Richard Gibson has had to make really hard



The Lush family in 2010. Jonny, Liz, Isabelle, Sophia, Isaac & Sam

Continued inside...

## EVENTS

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN MENTORING

**BEGINS MONDAY**  
23 JANUARY–31 MAY 2023

By completing this Certificate, you will be qualified for mentoring in a variety of contexts. The principles apply in local and cross-cultural ministry settings, for helping men and women throughout their journeys as disciples.

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

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF PASTORAL CARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

**BEGINS MONDAY**  
6 FEBRUARY 2023

The Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Care for Mental Health is aimed at equipping Christians to respond in a God-Centred way to those who are living with mental health struggles and those who are suffering.

This course equips students with both the theological grounding and the practical skills for engaging in effective pastoral care across professional, ministry, mission and personal settings.

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

### SPEAKING THE VERY WORDS OF GOD

**SATURDAY**  
25 FEBRUARY 2023  
9AM–1:45PM

Alan Stanley will be conducting this special workshop for anyone who wants to teach the Bible more effectively. Tickets are available now for only \$15—get in quick! Lunch is included.

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

### BOOK LAUNCH & OPEN LIBRARY

**SATURDAY**  
25 FEBRUARY 2023  
1:45–3:30PM

Join us after Alan Stanley's workshop as we celebrate the launch of Rev Dr Andrew Prince's new book, *How Christians Grow: Spiritual Transformation for Life*.

While you're with us, why not take a tour of the BST Library and Stay for the 30 minute Digital Resources Workshop and learn how to access the digital library at home.

Visit [bst.qld.edu.au/events](http://bst.qld.edu.au/events) 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.



### CHILD ABUSE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

*73% of Australians said abuse in the church is the number one negative influence on their perceptions of Christians and Christianity.*

Preventing and responding well to child abuse is a sensitive, difficult job. Many Christians find it counter-intuitive. Very few church leaders have received the level of training required to navigate this difficult terrain.

### THIS COURSE WILL:

- identify the beliefs Christians hold that enables abuse to flourish
- equip Christian leaders to protect children and respond appropriately to child abuse when it occurs

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[bst.qld.edu.au/safeguarding-children](http://bst.qld.edu.au/safeguarding-children)  
[info@bst.qld.edu.au](mailto:info@bst.qld.edu.au)



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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.

## THANK YOU!



Thanks to friends like you, in September we received more than \$16,500 in donations to help build up our digital and physical library—including one generous donor who provided enough to enable access to an entirely new Chinese database that will be a huge blessing to our Chinese program.

Thank you all!!!

Join our social media channels or subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter for regular updates on BST news and events.



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# SPEAKING THE VERY WORDS OF GOD

WITH ALAN STANLEY

SAT, 25 FEB 2023

9AM - 1:45PM

\$15, INC. LUNCH

A WORKSHOP FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS  
TO TEACH THE BIBLE MORE EFFECTIVELY

## BOOK LAUNCH WITH ANDREW PRINCE 1:45PM - 2:15PM

Celebrate the launch of Andrew Prince's new book, "How Christians Grow: Spiritual Transformation for Life". Presentations, Author Address and giveaways.



## OPEN LIBRARY WITH BUFFY GREENTREE 2:15PM - 3:30PM

Tour the recently updated BST Library. Gain access to over 30,000 hard copy and digital theological resources by becoming a Library Member. Special deal for Alumni. Stay for the 30 minute Digital Resources Workshop to learn how to access the digital library at home.



## FAREWELL LUSH FAMILY (CONT'D)



Since 2010, Jonny has been the deft hand behind a number of renovations and major improvements at BST. These images are just a few of the massive ways his legacy will live on in the physical property... But it's the relationships he built with students, staff, and faculty that will be most sorely missed.

...decisions and have hard conversations with people, and yet always does it with the strength of a leader, coupled with the heart and compassion of a pastor. He showed me the example, that even as a respected leader at a bible college and in wider church community... that loving the little guy is more important than status.

I remember so fondly our former lecturer Alan Stanley's patience, wisdom and gentleness. He would sit with me til all hours of the morning following my evening lectures in his class, helping me to better understand those big theological issues.



Jonny Lush and Alan Stanley together at BST.

I've poured out my heart and even cried with our Deputy Principal John Coulson through all manner of struggles and trials, and always had modelled to me the love and steadiness of a wiser and older Christian brother who prayerfully and faithfully walked through those times by my side.

I've sat with Karen Nivala, my precious sister and neighbour, as she's been the wise and skilled listening ear and she's walked this odd shaped ministry journey with me.

I've made friends that are more like family, as we've lived in the fishbowl that is on-campus living, and worked in what's been hands-down the most wonderful workplace I could ever hope for. Friends that won't just last a lifetime, but for eternity. Sometimes it's been hard... but usually it's been a whole lot of fun.

I've had opportunity to share the Gospel by fireside with our non-Christian neighbours, and learned that simply

loving them provides opportunity to speak about my faith. I've watched our kids grow up alongside theirs as they played cricket and soccer on the vacant blocks down the back, and thrown the ball countless time for my dog on what I think was the greatest backyard in the whole of Brisbane.

All of this has been going on while faithful people both from this community and around the world have covered us in prayer every day. I thank God for these faithful people every day. You can't do ministry without them.

I've learned lot of stuff that means that some new people are willing to let me come and try to apply all this change and growth I've seen over the past 12 years to a new venture for God and His Kingdom.

At the end of this year, Liz and I will say goodbye to our BST home, our BST Family, our BST friends, and head to Oberon in the Central west of NSW where we will Pastor a tiny little Anglican parish. There are four little congregations of 12, eight, six and four. These are a faithful remnant of a church with some hard history. We go in feeling very green, very under-cooked, but entirely reliant that we go in God's strength to do His work.

We go knowing that this place has played such a vital role in the preparation we need to help see God's kingdom grow in a place that needs Him so much. But please pray for us. Because as so many of you can attest, we need that prayer cover.

I'm going to miss looking out on that special front lawn each day. But the view



This former block of land at the bottom of the BST grounds has played host to many a game of cricket...

and the lawn are nothing; it's the people I'm saying goodbye to that will leave the hole in my heart. Because it's been God through His people that have made our time at BST the best years of my life. So thank you to everyone.

*It is with sadness, but also tremendous joy, that we send Jonny, Liz and their youngest son, Sam, on their new adventure to country NSW. They, and their other children (who are now scattered across Queensland and NSW) will be greatly missed, but we know God has chosen this time and this place for a new season, and we wish them every blessing!*



## LIVING WHOLENESS MENTAL HEALTH: A MISSION FRONTLINE

As a BST alumnus, I loved my time in God's word. Throughout every unit I was struck by the rich depth of the God we worship and what life in Him offers. At the same time, it seemed like I was having a conversation over and over again with loving, faithful, and fruitful Christians: "I've just been diagnosed with depression", "I've been struggling with bipolar", "I'm caring for a family member with anxiety"... We are convinced that God's word is a light in the darkness, comfort for the weary soul, hope and freedom for God's people. Was it not 'working' in this space?

For me, there was a seeming impasse of theology applied in the realm of mental health. I also began to be exposed to a raft of views on the topic, from 'the bible is the solution to mental health' to 'the bible is dangerous in this space.'

To be honest, I found myself making some unhelpful mistakes as I tried to respond with my faith to those around me. This is when I encountered the Christian Wholeness Framework, the work of Christian Psychiatrist, Dr John Warlow. A tool to help apply the love and knowledge of God in the complexities of this area. Simple shapes and acronyms are used to channel larger concepts that can be appropriated in a variety of settings.

My first encounter was in a BST Mission Awareness Program session with Susanne Nikles, who was utilising this framework in a missionary setting. Within a 40-minute presentation, she had revealed a number of changes I could make to more helpfully walk alongside those who were struggling.

Since that point, I've had the privilege of training alongside pastors, missionaries, counsellors and other mental health professionals in utilising this framework with the Living Wholeness team and have had the opportunity to catch a glimpse of their vast work across Asia.

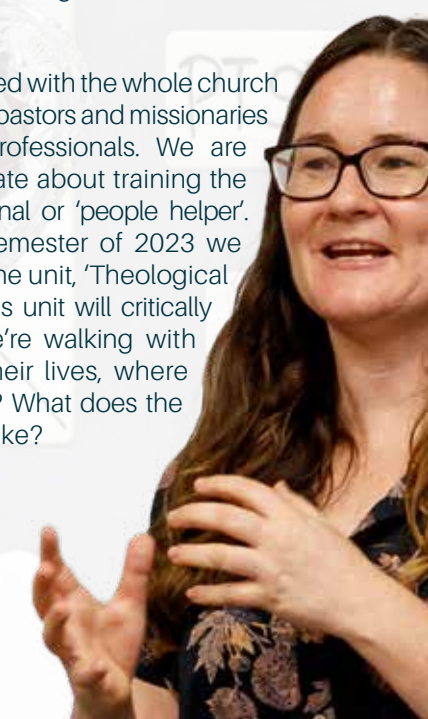
Mental health has become a mission frontline for the church, both within and without. Thus, at the beginning of 2022, we began the Graduate Certificate of Pastoral Care for Mental Health with integrating Christian Wholeness Framework Content.

This course has been developed with the whole church in mind, from pastors and missionaries to secular professionals. We are also passionate about training the non-professional or 'people helper'. In the first semester of 2023 we are offering the unit, 'Theological Approaches to Wellbeing.'

This unit will critically reflect on the question, if we're walking with people in the darkness of their lives, where are we hoping to lead them? What does the flourishing Christian life look like?

Blessings,

*Liz*  
Karen Nivala  
Living Wholeness Coordinator



## Graduate Certificate of PASTORAL CARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

6 February - 9 June 2023

Enrol now [bst.qld.edu.au/apply](http://bst.qld.edu.au/apply)