

# BST EVENTS CALENDAR

Discover what is happening on campus. Join us and bring someone along.



## GOD IS FAITHFUL

A message from our Deputy Principal Mr John Coulson



BST  
Brisbane School of Theology

C O N N E C T

*Shaped by His word: serving His world*

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### 80 Year Celebration & Alumni Dinner

Thanks so much to everyone who has registered so far—we are excited to celebrate with you what God has done through the college!

We will be kicking off the celebrations with a Celebration Service at 2:30pm where we, as a community, will praise God for His faithfulness.

At 3:30pm we will head out onto the lawn for a family fun afternoon—there will be market stalls, balloon animals, face painting, food, and a puppet show performance from the fantastic Quizworks! There will also be a photo booth so that

you can capture the moment with your family and BST friends!

As the afternoon draws to a close we invite alumni, former and current staff, board members, faculty and significant others/family to stay on for the Alumni Dinner. Dinner starts at 6:00pm.

**If you haven't registered yet there is still time! Register now to catch up with your old college friends and have a great day out as family.**

Scan this QR Code to register for this event



The apostle Paul concludes the introduction to his First Letter to the Corinthians with the well-known words, "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9).

After more than two decades of experiencing this for himself as a believer in Jesus and among God's new covenant people, this was a deep conviction for Paul, at the heart of his faith, and stirring thanksgiving, hope and obedience.

Over the years, I have spoken with many of God's people for whom this conviction summarised their faith and hope. They had experienced much, both the ups and downs of life. When asked for a concise expression of how they understood things, they said, "God is faithful." It was a theological conviction based on the Bible and personal experience.

As I have reflected on the college semester just gone and the one to come, this is

where my thoughts have gone. Why? Is it because things "have gone well" this semester, in the usual human sense of things going according to plan and prospering? To some extent, yes. We desire to see more students at college, vibrant classes and community, and enough income to maintain and improve facilities. We thank God that this has been our experience recently.

**"But we know that Someone greater than we has all these things in hand—and is working all things for our ultimate good"**

But my thoughts run deeper. Not everything has "gone well." It has been a tough semester in various ways for some students and staff because of sickness or other pressures. Difficult questions remain,

and there are hurts and disappointments to deal with. But we know that Someone greater than we has all these things in hand—and is working all things for our ultimate good (Romans 8:28).

He has called us "into the fellowship of his Son," not into an easy life. And we are learning to discern his faithfulness in all things, to be obedient and thankful to him.

We are looking forward to next semester, trusting in God's faithfulness. At the end of July, we will celebrate the college's 80 years of ministry. It will be an opportunity for our hearts and minds to be filled with thankfulness to God for his great faithfulness to his work and his people at BST—and for the kingdom fruit of this ministry. We hope that you can join us on the day. And we thank you again for your fellowship and support.

**Mr John Coulson**  
**BST Deputy Principal**

BST Safeguarding Children Conference 2023

## It Doesn't <sup>JUST</sup> Happen Here

Understanding And Disrupting Predatory Behaviour In Christian Churches And Mission

Ticket \$45  
August 12.  
9.30am

Hills Church  
79 Queens Rd,  
Everton Hills

REGISTER



## THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR MARK!

As this is being written, our 2023 Building Fund appeal is drawing to a close. We had a massive goal this year of raising \$64,300 to install a kitchen in the female accommodation building, to renovate bathrooms and kitchens across the campus, to soundproof and renovate the Judson Room, and more.

With your help, we are delighted to report that we have reached that goal!—thank you! Work has already commenced on the Judson Room (pictured right), with more to follow soon. And it's not too late to donate; you can give today by visiting [bst.qld.edu.au/make-your-mark](http://bst.qld.edu.au/make-your-mark), or by scanning the QR code here.



We are delighted to announce that Dr Robert Edwards will be joining the BST faculty from September this year as our Lecturer in Christian Thought and Director of Postgraduate Studies.

Robert was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, where he studied for a degree in ancient history before coming to faith in Jesus during his university years. In 2011, he met his wife Kerensa—a Sydneysider—at church in Vancouver, where she was working as an intern in a ministry training

## WELCOME TO THE EDWARDS FAMILY

program. They have two daughters, aged 8 and 5, and as a family they have followed God's leading to Toronto, the United States, and Germany.

Robert says from the beginning his life of faith was tied to investigating ancient things—especially the ancient Greek language. This led him to study the New Testament and then to the study of the early Church (from the first to the fifth century). During his studies he quickly felt a call to theological education as a ministry.

"My academic interests and experience lie mostly in early Christianity—its

theology, liturgy, preaching, and biblical interpretation—and I have spent a lot of my time researching and writing in these areas," Robert says. "At the same time, I've always been interested in having my work speak into the lives of ordinary Christians. For this reason, in my teaching in Christian history and theology I will always be asking my students, 'so what?'. And it turns out that Christians today have *a lot* to learn from the Christians of the past."

*We are thrilled to have Robert joining our team in second semester, and we look forward to getting to know him and his family as they come to call BST 'home'.*



Brisbane School of Theology



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## ISRAEL REFLECTIONS

Our faculty and students reflect on their two week Study Tour of Israel and Jordan.

**"We got here, finally!" thought Deputy Principal John Coulson as he stepped off the plane in Amman, Jordan—the first stop of the BST 2023 Israel and Jordan Tour—three years after the planned 2020 tour was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

On 1 May 2023, John Coulson, along with 39 other BST students, teaching staff, family, and friends, boarded the plane to Dubai on the way to Jordan.

As we follow some highlights of their itinerary through Jordan and Israel, we will read reflections from three of the BST Israel Tour travelers—tour leader John Coulson and BST students Kelsey Fitz-Gerald and Sam Moore.

After arriving in Amman, Jordan, the travellers settled into their hotel near the banks of Dead Sea for a group meal and much-needed rest.

"Our first night was at the Dead Sea, and early the next morning, we looked out at the glistening water and the distant hills of Israel where we would be in a few days," says John Coulson.

The first few days saw the group travelling throughout Jordan, visiting the resting place of Moses at Mt Nebo, where he finally saw a view over the



BST Israel Study Tour Group at Mt Nebo, resting place of Moses. Photo by Sam Moore @sammooremedia

Promised Land, and on to the UNESCO World Heritage Petra site, known as Sela in the Bible (Isaiah 16:1; 2 Kings 14:7).

**"It was a joy for me to travel to these biblical lands with a group of God's enthusiastic people."**

After leaving Jordan, the group travelled to Timna National Park to see a life-sized replica of the Tabernacle.

"I was impacted by how the Tabernacle's layout and liturgy point toward a Christological resolution," Sam Moore says. "Jesus fulfilled the Tabernacle's role in the new covenant through us: the new dwelling place of God (2 Cor 5:1)."

Continued on page 2

## IN THIS ISSUE

### BST EVENTS CALENDAR

See what events you can attend in the coming few months

### NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Meet our new Christian Thought Lecturer Dr. Robert Edwards

### CAC UPDATE

Hear about results of our latest appeal and the future of CAC

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S SPOT

Reflections on the truth that "God is Faithful" (1 Cor 1:9)





Life-sized model of the Tabernacle and sacrificial elements.  
Photo by Sam Moore @sammooremedia

“My trip to Jordan and Israel was not only an incredible exploration of history and archaeology, but an important time of reflection on the faith I share with centuries of Christians and Messianic Jews.”

- Kelsey Fitz-Gerald



The Western Wall, Jerusalem  
(pictured above)



# CAC UPDATE

## SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

**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. There have been some significant developments in our Centre recently, which I am excited to share with you:**

### Asian Ministry Summit III.

Held in Darling Harbour, Sydney, the third annual Asian Ministry Summit saw approximately 25 Asian Ministry Workers engage in fruitful discussion around key issues facing Asian ministries today. One such issue we discussed was how second and third generation Australian-born Chinese struggle to find their identity and place in impacting their community and God's world.

Bringing like-minded Asian Ministry people together is a vital aspect of CAC's ministry strategy, and the Summit is our flagship event. The event flowed well, with great involvement and support from different Board of Reference members, including Board of Reference Member Grace Lung, who led and organised the event.

### Centre for Asian Christianity Fundraising Appeal and Dinner

April was our CAC Appeal month, culminating in our CAC Fundraising Dinner on 27 April. It was a wonderful evening with more than 70 people gathered to share good food, good company, and the good news of what God has been doing

through the Centre over the course of the past 12 months.

We also shared our vision for the future and highlighted multiple projects we are pursuing this coming year. One of the projects we highlighted was the re-printing of a Thai–Greek Dictionary and Strong's Concordance through Kanock Bannasan Publishers in Bangkok.

These Bible study resources, printed in Thai, will be used in Bible Colleges and church libraries throughout Thailand to enable Thai Christians to go deeper in their study of the Word and train for Christian ministry. We praise God that the funds raised at the CAC Fundraising Dinner have allowed us to support this project.

*You can scan this QR Code to see a short video explaining this project.*



On the night, we also heard from Rev Dr Felix Chung on 'Challenges and opportunities for the 1st generation Chinese church in Australia' and prayed for God's ongoing work amongst Chinese-speaking people across Australia.

CAC had set a goal for the appeal and CAC dinner to raise \$50,000—with a generous donor willing to match any gifts given, up to \$50,000. We are so thankful to God that, while we did not hit this target, close to \$30,000 was raised and has subsequently been matched by

our donor. This matching offer has been extended until the end of 2023, so if we raise a further \$20,000 it will also be matched. Details below:

*Scan this QR Code to donate to this appeal.*



### Incoming CAC Director.

I (Andrew Prince), will be stepping down as CAC Director from 1 July to take on the role of Academic Dean at BST. I have enjoyed meeting and engaging with so many people involved in Asian ministry and mission, and will miss the 'people' side of the CAC Director role.

One of our current Board of Reference Members, Grace Lung, has accepted the BST Board's invitation to take on the CAC Director role. Grace has been part of CAC from the beginning, bringing continuity with the vision and values of CAC along with significant knowledge and experience of Asian ministry. Grace is involved in several different ministries in Asian communities, researching and writing on second-generation Chinese Church issues, and is planting a new church in Brisbane alongside her husband. Grace brings extensive knowledge and experience in Asian ministry to this role and we look forward to how God will continue to use her in this new role.

**Rev Dr Andrew Prince, Outgoing CAC Director**



## INCOMING CAC DIRECTOR – GRACE LUNG



I am incredibly thankful to the BST Board for appointing me to this role and for their commitment to supporting this work. In the past, Asian Australian practitioners have sought to develop their ministries but are limited in energy and time. There are so many people from Asia at Australia's door (and those who have come and made a home here), yet it is difficult to meet the need. That is why having a Bible college like BST in this space is so important.

I have been encouraged to see the work of CAC accelerate as we bring people together in fellowship and deep discussions on how the gospel can grow

in Asian contexts. I am keen to keep encouraging and facilitating engagement with Asian contextual Christianity!

There are so many Asian academics and practitioners, whether abroad or in Australia, that we hope to connect with, learn from and amplify. I have big shoes to fill, so I look forward to connecting more frequently with you and our CAC advisors—our subject matter experts—to discern together how God will continue to lead this ministry. We would love your ongoing prayers.

**Pastor Grace Lung, Incoming CAC Director**

### Continued from page 1

As John observes, “[Visiting the Tabernacle model] gave us not only an experience of the tabernacle but an appreciation of what it meant: God's gracious gift to an undeserving and desperately needy people.”

Passing through Masada beside the Dead Sea, the group travelled up to the city of Jerusalem. This vibrant city acted as a base for their short trips and explorations for the next six days.

“Each evening, as we ate together, we had time to think and talk about what we had experienced. We recalled biblical history and were learning geography; we were amazed again at what God had said and done in these places” says John.

It was here, by seeing the places they had only once read about, that the people, stories and events of the Bible came alive again for the group.

“This experience was where an understanding of Jerusalem's layout clicked for me...” says Sam. “We visited the Temple Mount, arguably the most contested land in the entire world, and the current home to Islam's third most sacred site—the Dome of the Rock. It was surreal standing on stones that have witnessed many significant events (and massacres) throughout Jewish, Muslim and Christian history.”

“The archaeological remains of the old city...of the wall, steps, and foundations of the temple reinforced that Jesus truly lived, walked and taught among these people...” Kelsey Fitz-Gerald says. “Suddenly, little words in the Bible made so much more impact, like going “up” to Jerusalem as we drove up the steep incline to enter the city. Or that somewhere “beyond” the Jordan was where we were travelling to next.”

After nearly a week of travelling, the group visited the birthplace of Jesus, where they joined in a Sunday church service with the believers at The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church.

**“Being able to celebrate, in the place of Jesus' birth, the joy of Christ's rule in all our lives is something I will never forget.”**

“The welcome and inclusion of us in their regular service, knowing that being a Christian in Palestine is difficult, was a gift,” Kelsey says. “Even with language and culture barriers, we were able to sing together in Arabic and English. Being able to celebrate, in the place of Jesus' birth, the joy of Christ's rule in all our lives is something I will never forget. Jesus came to earth for this reason! He was not building out of rocks and stones, but a body of believers made up of Jews and Gentiles across the world!”

The next day, the group followed in the footsteps of Jesus and his last moments before his crucifixion.

Sam says “We visited the Cardo and the traditional Upper Room, before exiting through Zion's Gate and visiting Caiaphas' house, where we read Scripture in the traditional dungeon where Jesus was kept the night before his crucifixion. This chilling experience was contrasted by the last site—the tranquil Garden Tomb”.

“This garden, on the outskirts of the city, is one of the possible locations of Jesus' burial,” Kelsey explains. “Surrounded by fig trees and an empty tomb, we sang together and partook in the Lord's Supper as we remembered his death (and resurrection!).”

From here, the travellers moved north to Nazareth and the surrounding areas, where Jesus began his three-year ministry.



“The parables of Jesus were brought to life as I watched Bedouin shepherds guide their flocks, walked beneath the woven-reed roof of a first-century synagogue, and saw the enormity of Capernaum millstones,” Kelsey continues. “At the Sea of Galilee, you could see [how] 5000 people could gather and still hear Jesus' voice from a boat down below.”

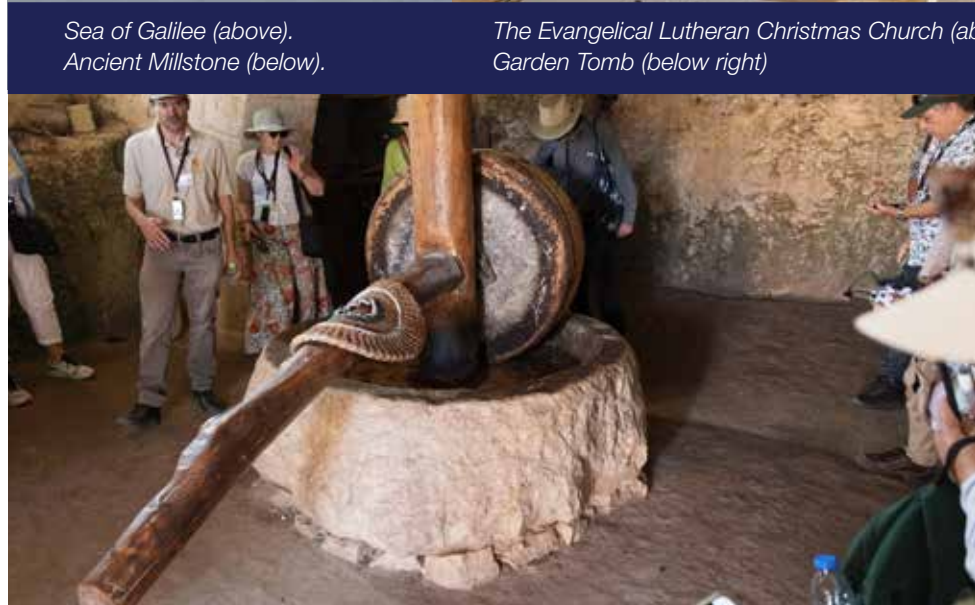
After two weeks of a reflective, celebratory, and challenging journey through the land from where so much of our history of faith comes, the travellers returned home with a sense of gratitude, reverence, and conviction.

“My trip to Jordan and Israel was not only an incredible exploration of history and archaeology, but an important time of reflection on the faith I share with centuries of Christians and Messianic Jews.” Kelsey concludes.

“It was a joy for me to travel to these biblical lands with a group of God's enthusiastic people. In my heart the tour was set by the Tabernacle in the desert—God coming to live with his people. This unfolding plan of God was evident in every place we visited, culminating in Jesus and his ministry, and in his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. And this leads to us: he now lives in us; we are his “temple” (1 Cor 3:16) throughout the earth. We have good news to proclaim to “the Jew first and also the Gentile” (Romans 1:16).” John Coulson.



Sea of Galilee (above).  
Ancient Millstone (below).



The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church (above)  
Garden Tomb (below right)



BST Israel Study Tour Group in Jerusalem. All Israel photos by Sam Moore @sammooremedia