



## Shepherds and Sheep

**W**hy are theological colleges important? This question was posed by Paul Barnett at a gathering of the college's leadership committee members and staff. He summarized his answer as follows:

They teach, train and help 'shape' those who will lead churches. If they do their job well, this will, over time, lead to spiritually healthy and vibrant churches.

But it doesn't stop there:

Churches are composed of people who in turn are citizens of our society. If our churches are in bad shape it will mean the members are in bad shape and this will have consequences for the moral values in neighbourhood, schools, factories and offices. Jesus said that his disciples are salt and light, but salt has to be sharp and tangy and light has to be bright and clear. It is only the word of God that creates sharpness in salt and brightness in our light.

Let us pray for our society and for its leaders that God's word would have its impact, remembering to pray for pastor-teachers as well.

Like many, I have been struck by the increased interest in our certificate programme (Trinity@Night) this term (see back page). Over 160 people studying the Bible for two hours at night for six weeks in the middle of a wet winter led me to ask what is special about this term: Is it the venue, the topic...? Each of these may be a part of the reason for the interest, but not the main part. Such questions are fundamentally flawed. I should be praising the God of heaven not investigating his mercy. When I do this,



Don West introduces guest lecturer Dr Paul Barnett at this year's Trinity Theological College Conference

I come to what I consider to be the only valid cause for such interest in learning about God's word:

*My sheep hear my voice,  
I know them and they  
follow me (John 10:27).*

This brings us back to where we began: Why are theological colleges important? Because the sheep must be fed. 🐑

In Christ,

*Don West*  
Principal

## Mission Week

Trinity Theological College

Sunday 21 March  
to Sunday 28 March

Mission Week is a time when the students and lecturers of Trinity Theological College work with Churches or Christian groups to encourage and support them doing Gospel work.

It also provides our students with an intensive hands-on learning experience in real communities.

*Contact the Registrar if you would like a Trinity Team to assist you in your mission in 2010.*

Gillian.Kirkness@ttc.wa.edu.au  
or phone 08 9228 9067 ASAP.

Proposals are due  
23 October 2009

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## New Faculty Appointment

Last month I had the great pleasure to recommend to the College Council that **Clare Deeves** be appointed as Lecturer and Coordinator of Women's Ministry Development (0.8) from 1 January 2010. The council received this recommendation unanimously.

Clare graduated from the University of New South Wales in Science (Maths) and History (Hons) in 1997. She then worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Clare subsequently completed an MDiv at Sydney Mission and Bible College before joining AFES as a senior

staffworker. She has served in this capacity with the Murdoch Christian Union since 2005. Clare recently had her PhD proposal in medieval history accepted by UWA.

Clare is a well-regarded speaker at women's conferences (including the Trinity Women's Enrichment Day and Perth Women's Convention this year) and enjoys mentoring and training women to effectively serve Christ.

This appointment is an exciting development for the College and we eagerly anticipate Clare's arrival. Please pray for Clare and for the ministry that she will leave behind, as well as for the College, that in all things Jesus might be glorified.

*Don West, Principal*




Clare Deeves speaking at Trinity Women's Enrichment Day in March 2009

## Trinity Goes to School

At the start of third term Trinity had the privilege of running a professional Development day for the staff at Rehoboth Christian College. The aim was to help the staff have a better understanding of the Bible and how to use it so that they might better equipped for their role in Christian Education.

Allan Chapple helped the forty-five or so who attended grapple with the big story of the Bible. The day was broken into three main sessions with a wonderful morning tea and lunch put on by Rehoboth in between.

All the staff seemed to really enjoy the material covered and thought that it would be helpful for them not just in their own lives but in the classroom too. Quite a few even found that the day had whet their appetite for more and signed up for full six week course 'The Big Picture: Seeing the Bible as a Whole' running in Term 3 of Trinity@Night.

More encouraging still is the partnership formed between the school and the college as young minds and lives are shaped towards the likeness of Christ. 

*Andrew Main, Trinity@Night Co-ordinator*



## NEW Book

### Tight Fists or Open Hands? *Wealth and Poverty in Old Testament Law*

**David L Baker**

Senior Lecturer in Old Testament at Trinity Theological College in Perth, Western Australia.



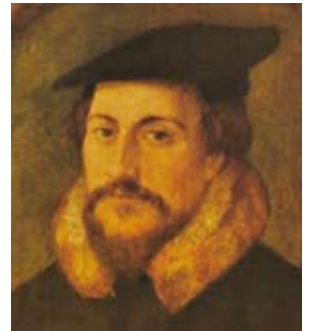
This book fills a gap in Old Testament scholarship, laying a foundation for considering the relevance of Old Testament law to everyday life in the 21st century.

The heart of this book is a study of all the biblical laws concerned with wealth and poverty. David Baker groups these together by topic, considering the similarities and differences between the Decalogue, Book of the Covenant, Holiness Code and Deuteronomic laws. He then places these in the context of ancient Near Eastern law in order to make clear which attitudes are unique to the Old Testament and which are more universal in character.

Published by Eerdmans, USA, and available from Christian bookstores.

# John Calvin Visits Trinity

*To celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Calvin's birth, Trinity devoted a Ministry Matters morning in May to what John Calvin has to teach us as twenty-first century believers. It consisted of two sessions. One was given by the principal of Ridley College, Dr Peter Adam, who spoke on Calvin's preaching. In the other session I spoke on Calvin's understanding of the gospel.*




John Calvin 1509-1564

Peter Adam reminded us that John Calvin was not fundamentally an academic theologian who inhabited the world of students and scholastic disputes. Rather, Calvin was essentially a minister to the people of Geneva. This influenced his preaching, for Calvin bypassed the two usual kinds of medieval sermon: the formal sermon with its complex logic and the popular sermon with its lively and simple content not based on Scripture. Instead, Calvin returned to the expository preaching found in the church fathers like Augustine (354–430) and John Chrysostom (c. 347–407). In this way the sermon encouraged hearers to 'engage with' God who was present in his Word. As Calvin preached through books of the Bible, he engaged with theology, the congregation (including himself), and the church's mission task. He wanted Scripture to do the talking and thereby convey God's interests rather than the preacher's.

The talk which I gave divulged some of the discoveries from my own research on how Christians understood the gospel from the medieval era through to the reformation and post-reformation era. In the Middle Ages the gospel was understood as a *new law*, which Jesus taught, and a *new power* (the Holy Spirit), which Jesus gave after his resurrection. The new power enabled people to *do* the new law and so be saved on judgement day. However, at the reformation some of the reformers contended that 'gospel' was the promise of eternal life, whereas 'law' was anything God commanded us to do. Hence the gospel was to be *believed*, not done. These reformers concluded that the gospel did not call people to repentance because it was something to be done, not simply believed. Calvin, however, forged a middle way between these two positions. He argued that the gospel was best understood as repentance and forgiveness of sins: the gospel gives believers a *new position* before God (emphasised by the reformers) and a *new condition* in themselves (emphasised by the medieval scholars). Hence, the gospel calls people to repentance (condition) and faith (position).

The May Ministry Matters morning showed us that Calvin's preaching and his gospel have much to

teach us today. A casual observation of popular evangelical preaching shows its obsession with entertainment at the expense of Bible. Moreover, popular evangelicalism (seen in books like *The Shack*) promotes an easy-believe gospel, without the critical call to repentance. A glance back at Calvin shows that if we neglect history we are destined to repeat its mistakes. 

Marty Foord, Dean of Studies



Marty Foord, Peter Adam and Don West

## Dates for your Diary

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Information Night                                 | 23 September    |
| Trinity@Night Term 4 begins                       | 20 & 22 October |
| Mission Week proposals due                        | 23 October      |
| Quarterly Prayer Meeting                          | 31 October      |
| Enrolment applications for semester 1, 2010 close | 13 November     |


See website for more details [www.ttc.wa.edu.au](http://www.ttc.wa.edu.au)

# Cross-Shaped Mission – Cross-Shaped Church

“Ministry Matters” is the name given to a morning of teaching and fellowship offered from time to time at Trinity House to encourage and sharpen Christian leaders (and leaders in training) in their ministries. Ministry Matters on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August featured renowned New Testament scholar Dr Paul Barnett, who addressed 125 men and women on the theme of “Mission, Ministry and Church in 1 Peter.”

Paul Barnett was able to draw on a wealth of knowledge of the New Testament and its social and historical background, as well as a comprehensive experience of ministering to Australian congregations (including eleven years as a bishop).

Peter’s first letter, while only a few pages (and 105 verses) long, is addressed to Christians in difficult situations. Paul Barnett suggested that it was possibly the only Scripture that some of the persecuted congregations to whom it was addressed had had for some time. Its focus however is not on suffering but on hope, holiness, courageous witness and deep affection within Christian communities. At its centre is the word and example of Jesus Christ, whom the readers love and trust with joy (1:8). A key theme we can draw from it is: Don’t wait for perfect circumstances; stay engaged with the world and press on with evangelism.

Christian leaders are portrayed as shepherds who lovingly serve the church under the chief shepherd, Christ. Paul Barnett applied this text carefully to the audience, including an exhortation to intentionally model Christian living. 



These events provided the opportunity for graduates, staff and partners to catch up over a delicious banquet at the Alumni Dinner.



A sundowner for the leadership of the college was also part of the weekend. Encouraging speeches and warm fellowship made for a memorable evening.



Lunch-time conversations after Ministry Matters

# The Power of a Humble Testimony

Problem: if you are the apostle Paul, how do you persuade the world to believe in Jesus? Having been appointed Christ's ambassador to the Roman Empire (and beyond), that was his task. But this was anything but a pushover, for the world regarded his message about the crucified King as scandalous (see 1 Cor 1:22-23).

To his Jewish hearers, it verged on blasphemy to claim that a crucified man was the long-awaited Messiah. Their Law was unequivocal: anyone who died that way died under God's judgment (Deut 21:22-23). To Paul's non-Jewish hearers it was simply ludicrous to claim that any crucified man was the world's true King, for crucifixion was the form of execution reserved for the lowest and vilest. So when people heard what he had to say about Jesus, half of them were outraged while the other half scoffed. How then, given the deeply offensive content of the gospel message, was Paul meant to win people over to the cause of Christ?

One tactic, often tried since Paul's day, is to adapt the message so that it proves palatable and appealing to the hearers. The idea is that we win the world's approval by echoing the world's agenda, endorsing its values and commitments. But those who adopt this approach never seem to learn that when the church tells the world what it already believes, the world does not see this as a reason to join the church; on the contrary, it is quite content to remain the world. Needless to say, this wasn't Paul's approach. How then did he go about winning the world, armed only with a message it rejected?

In his recent Trinity Lecture in Applied Theology, Dr Paul Barnett suggested that Paul's testimony was an important ingredient in his presentation of the gospel. As he sought to persuade his hearers to respond to the crucified Saviour and risen Lord, his conversion story gave added weight to the case he


was making. It is not that Paul's story formed part of the gospel, but that it gave people a compelling reason to heed the gospel. In Paul's letters his dramatic encounter with the risen Lord reinforces the fundamental elements of the gospel, as we see in the following examples:

The gospel proclaims the resurrection of the crucified and buried Jesus (1 Cor 15:1-4a)—and the reality of the resurrection is demonstrated by the appearances of the risen Jesus, including his appearance to Paul (1 Cor 15:4b-8; cf. 9:1).

The gospel proclaims the grace of God (Acts 20:24, 32)—and the conversion of Paul, the unwitting enemy of God's Messiah and his people, is a clear demonstration of God's extravagant love for those without any claim upon him (Gal 1:13-16; 1 Tim 1:12-16).

The gospel of Jesus, crucified by us but glorified by God, is the means by which God gives sight to those who have been blinded by the Enemy. Paul's conversion was such an event, as dramatic as the breaking of light into the cosmic darkness (2 Cor 4:4-6).



There is no doubt that Paul's testimony was a very powerful one, because it was about both a dramatic encounter and a revolutionary transformation. But isn't there something inherently powerful in every testimony to the saving impact of the Lord Jesus upon a sinner's life? While we are not in the business of promoting ourselves (2 Cor 4:5), has the time come to rediscover the power of humble testimony as we seek to win our world for Christ? 

*By Allan Chapple, Senior Lecturer*



Paul Barnett taking questions after the lecture

## A New Phase of Growth

Trinity's mission is to equip men and women for effective and enduring Christian service. There are many aspects to this task from teaching, mentoring and modelling to providing resources and encouragement days for students, graduates and others in ministry - as can be seen in this issue of Trinity News!

By God's grace and the support of many Christians, Trinity has now reached a New Phase of Growth. Student enrolments are rising and the demands upon college resources are increasing significantly. This is a great 'problem' to have but there are implications for the college budgets.

### What can you do to help?

- **Pray**
- **Support the college financially**
- **Recommend Trinity to potential students and supporters**


The Library is currently our greatest area of financial need. The significant amount of **\$80,000** is needed within the next few months to meet our budget targets for 2009 - can you help?

Would you consider joining the core group of faithful library supporters who pray and donate regularly to ensure the maintenance and growth of this essential resource? Regular

donation gives predictability and stability to our income stream allowing the college to budget in a robust manner. Or you might prefer to make a single donation; which would also be most welcome. Other practical actions you could take include telling your friends of the work of Trinity or remembering us in your Will (a bequest brochure is now available for your guidance in this matter).

Success in Trinity's mission is dependent upon the generosity of Christian brothers and sisters who want to see new generations of workers building up local churches and being released into the harvest field.

All donations to Trinity are highly valued and very gratefully received. Your investment in Trinity will make a real difference now and into the future. Please prayerfully consider your giving and fill out the form on the back page of Trinity News.

Please contact me if you would like further information or if you would like to arrange a visit to Trinity Theological College. 

*Toni Ollis*

Development Officer. 08 9228 9067

## Biblical Research and Pastoral Ministry

*As I reflect on four years of ministry since graduating, I think one of the most valuable things I learned at Trinity is reading the Bible in a biblical-theological way.*


By that I mean, seeing every part of the Bible in the light of the whole; seeing where each passage fits into God's great plan of salvation; seeing how every part contributes to the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world. This has deeply influenced my preaching and teaching of the Bible. It enables me to preach a gospel-shaped message from any part of Scripture. In my discipling of believers it enables me to help people identify where their individual life story fits into the story of God's great plan of salvation.

I am in the unusual position of being in pastoral ministry while still studying (now for my MTh by research) so I have an added excuse for frequenting

the Trinity library. Doing theological studies and Biblical research enriches my pastoral ministry as it continually stretches me intellectually and exposes me to parts of the Bible and theological writings that I might not otherwise engage with.



I also use the library for preparing my sermons, as it has a far more extensive collection of commentaries, theological dictionaries, language helps and other resources than my personal library. I grab a table on the mezzanine floor of the library, collect as many commentaries and other books as I need from the shelves, and then settle down to concentrated reading, reflection, prayer and writing of my sermon without the interruption of the phone or visitors.

There is the added bonus of bumping into lecturers and former student colleagues. Once a month I meet for coffee and prayer in a café in Leederville with a former student colleague, who is now also in pastoral ministry. Then I head down to Trinity and the library. It's a great way to spend the morning! 

Rolf Van Wollingen,  
Master of Divinity 2004

## Did you know...

...that the Trinity Library underpins student learning and research in the following ways:



**The library staff** consists of two Librarians and one Library Assistant who manage the library and provide training and assistance to students and other users.



**Library resources:** There are over 20,000 books (increasing by around 1,200 per year), 65 journal subscriptions and other reference materials.

**Online resources and subscriptions** are must-haves in today's learning environment and open up a world of resources that would normally be beyond our reach. Trinity's subscription to the *Digital Library of Classic Protestant Texts* for example, provides access to 1,200 full text documents of the Reformation era.



**The computer hub** provides internet access, printing and word processing facilities to students. This is especially helpful for those who do not have adequate access to these at home. The computers also support foreign languages, which is helpful to international students for keeping in touch with family, supporting churches and friends. A key project for 2010 is to upgrade these computers.



**Library equipment** includes furniture for the creation of study spaces for students and library users as well as shelving, photocopiers and other items.




**Online student services** include the development of our secure web portal (HECTOR) for students. Feedback from students and staff about its efficiency and content has been very positive. 🙏

## Please support the Library Fund

# Trinity@Night makes a Century

Our Australian cricketers may not be making many centuries in the Ashes but Trinity@Night has scored its first ton! One hundred people were enrolled (and others turned away) in the 'Life in the Last Days: Revelation' unit taught by Allan Chapple. This surpasses the previous best of about seventy-five enrolments in a unit. The great news is that the other Perth-based class is not empty either with a very healthy sixty or so doing 'The Big Picture: Seeing the Bible as a Whole' with graduate Simon van Bruchem.

Yet setting such records in attendance is not the goal itself or the thing to be most happy about. The Big Picture unit is at a new venue with many first time students. There are also many first time students doing the Revelation unit. What all this amounts to is more people receiving teaching to help them understand and apply the gospel. Hopefully our local churches will be enriched by people ready and able to pull on the pads, stand at the crease with greater confidence in the Bible and go into bat in Christian service. 



**Trinity@Night**  
**Church vs. The World:  
 Church History II  
 with Clare Deeves**  
**Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm**  
**20 October-24 November**  
 North Beach Baptist Church

**A Message  
 of Comfort: Isaiah  
 with Stephen Daly**  
**Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm**  
**22 October-26 November**  
 Trinity House

Register online [www.ttc.wa.edu.au](http://www.ttc.wa.edu.au)  
 or call Andrew Main on 9228 9067

Yes, I would like to be a partner in the mission of preparing people for effective Christian service.  
 Online donations can be made at [www.ttc.wa.edu.au](http://www.ttc.wa.edu.au)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title) (First Name) (Surname)

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Trinity Theological College **LIBRARY FUND** (fully tax deductible) BSB 086 492 Account No. 560085401

To  Trinity Theological College **GENERAL FUND** (fully tax deductible) BSB 086 492 Account No. 559916706

Trinity Theological College **BUILDING FUND** (fully tax deductible) BSB 086 492 Account No. 560097779

Cheque enclosed  Internet Banking Transfer OR Card:  Mastercard  Visa

Account No.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have made a bequest to Trinity Theological College in my/our will.

Please send information about making a bequest

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