



Opportunities for the Gospel



There are many in Perth who want to be trained as gospel workers

One of the more significant lessons for me this year is how all parts of the body of Christ need one another if we are to grow in our love and likeness of Christ and his Word, and in the service of our neighbour. COVID-19 has been a stark reminder of how we live in an isolating society, with many needy, lonely, and lost individuals. And many churches and Christian ministries are struggling on their own.

And yet, in the midst of a most challenging year, it seems God is providing many new and diverse openings for faithful, humble, people-centred gospel ministry. Our pastors and church leaders are especially pressed at this time, with both mountains of “trellis” work (ministry structures, compliance requirements, etc.) and an overflow of new “vine” (Word ministry) opportunities. As pressure increases, the allure of the world, the flesh, and the devil also increases. I strongly urge us to pray

and support those whom God has appointed to serve and teach us and that he will continue to hear our plea to raise up still more labourers for the harvest field.

Psalm 118 is most famous for its prophecy of God’s exaltation of the Lord Jesus:

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

(Psalm 118:22-23; NIV)

The apostle Peter brings other “stone” texts (Isaiah 28:16; 8:14) alongside this one in 1 Peter 2:4-8. He writes to dispersed, pressed congregations (1:1-2), who are yet bound as one “family of believers throughout the world” (5:9). He reminds them (and us) that: “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering

spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (vv. 2:4-5; NIV).

In all of this, as the psalmist reminds us, God is our helper when we are “pushed hard” (Psalm 118:13, ESV).

As I reflect on this year, and look into the year ahead, I ask us to pray that God will grow our affection for the Lord Jesus and for one another. May he enhance our partnerships between churches, mission agencies, uni ministries, schools’ ministries—and colleges like Trinity as the next generation of gospel leaders are trained up. Trinity’s role in deepening our students’ grasp of the biblical, theological, and practical foundations of effective gospel ministry will be much richer and more cohesive when done in partnership with the churches and ministries we serve.

With every blessing in Christ, 

Don West

Principal

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Preparing People for Effective Christian Service

Laying foundations for a ministry that upholds, proclaims, and is shaped by the gospel.

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"They Speak of Me"

It is a truism at this point that 2020 has forced everyone to rethink and adapt their plans; this year's Trinity Annual Lecture in Applied Theology was no different. The speaker—Dr Peter Orr—was beamed in from the other side of the country and we did not have the normal feast of nibbles afterwards. Yet even without these things, the glories of Jesus as we meet him in the Scriptures came through all the more clearly.

Dr Orr spoke eloquently on the way that the Gospels help Jesus' followers read the Old Testament and the way that the Old Testament helps us read the Gospels. Thus, although the focus of the night was on the Gospels, the aim was much bigger: to encourage, excite, and equip believers to use their Old Testaments as a faith-developing resource.

To achieve this aim, Dr Orr took us through the Gospels of Matthew and John. With the former, we saw how Matthew casts the whole of his Gospel as an encapsulation of salvation history. More than this, Dr Orr outlined the way in which Matthew relies heavily on typology—the way that Jesus' life and actions both correspond to people and events from the Old Testament and also escalate their significance. With respect to John, there was a different approach to the Old Testament. While John still uses typological correspondences between the events


of the Old Testament and Jesus' life and ministry, we found the way in which predications about Jesus played a bigger part in the explanation, particularly in the significance of his death on the cross. Cumulatively, this led us to appreciate that the Gospel writers neither proof-text the Old Testament nor rely solely on its predictive prophecies. Rather, following the example of Jesus himself, they see a rich tapestry of ways in which God points forward to the person and work of Christ.

Yet the lecture was not merely an intellectual exercise. Thus Dr Orr left us with three practical implications. The first came in the form of a warning: the Gospel writers do not give expositions of the Old Testament in their writings. This sets us apart from them, as when we teach on the Old Testament, this is what we will normally do. Yet there is also promise. Second, the Old Testament helps all Christians to see and understand Jesus better, not just because it predicts him but because it shows us his meaning and significance in God's plan of salvation. Third, Jesus brings the Old Testament to completion, and so as his followers we must always read the



Peter Orr in Sydney via Zoom and Don West during Q&A

Old Testament as a collection of God-inspired books that point forward to Jesus.

Trinity aims to equip people's heads, hearts, and hands for the ministry of the gospel, and this year's Annual Lecture was a great example of precisely this. The lecture is available from the resources section of the Trinity website, and it would be well worth your time to listen if you haven't yet, before going once again to see the glories of Jesus given to us in all the Scriptures. 

Dan Cole

Lecturer in New Testament



Many from the Trinity community joined us at Subi church

Ministry in Bulgaria


My name is Dan Patterson and I live and work with my wife and two daughters in Bulgaria. Our ministry does not focus on one particular ethnic group, although my work is primarily amongst ethnic Bulgarians, as well as Roma.

As is true for all countries, Bulgaria is shaped by its history, which for Bulgaria includes 500 years of Ottoman oppression, and in more recent history, the period of Communist rule, which was relatively short but greatly transformed and shaped all aspects of society. Bulgaria has struggled in the transition from Communism, with capitalism and democracy not fulfilling what was hoped for, leaving many Bulgarians stuck in systems of poverty and corruption. Bulgarians, like people the world over, are looking for hope, but many do not find it.

The Protestant Evangelical church in Bulgaria grew in the years following the collapse of Communism, but this growth was not sustained. The church is now struggling in many ways. Protestant Christians make up 0.5% of the population, so there is a great need for evangelism and church planting. Through involvement in this, both directly and through local partners, it became clear to me that an important need for the church was training and equipping of local believers and leaders to take on and grow in the role of teaching the gospel.

In 2013, I was invited to teach at a Bulgarian led non-denominational theological college in the capital, Sofia. Since that time, my role at the college has expanded to the point where teaching theology and some other subjects is now my primary ministry role.

I consider myself to be greatly blessed to have received a theological education from Trinity. What I learnt not only helped me in my church planting and pastoral roles, but equipped me to deal with the pressure and rigour of doctoral research, which I completed at the University of Aberdeen in 2018. I'm grateful for Trinity because it gave me the theological grounding, confidence, and skills to take up ministry and further education.

I am thankful to God that I am now able to play a similar role of equipping and encouraging pastors, leaders, and other students to proclaim the gospel here in Bulgaria. 

Dan Patterson

(MDiv, 2009)



Lecture prep looks a little different to Australia



Classes in Bulgaria



Ministering in a local church

Peter Grice, Bishop-Elect

Currently serving as the Dean of the Cathedral in Geraldton, Western Australia, Trinity Alumn Peter Grice has been elected Bishop of Rockhampton in Queensland beginning January 2021.

Peter, Virginia and their five children have ministered previously in the Dioceses of Armidale NSW and NW Australia. Born in Newcastle and schooled in Wollongong, Peter studied a Bachelor of Commerce/Law in Sydney before working for Government and then a private firm in commercial litigation. During that time Peter and Virginia "became aware of the ministry needs in the bush and actually met on an SU Beach Mission - we are very much mission-minded". Peter went on to complete his theological studies at SMBC and holds post graduate qualifications from Moore College and Trinity Theological College.

After completing his initial theological training, Peter responded to the call of Parish ministry in the Diocese of Armidale, where he was Deaconed in 2001 and then Priested in 2002. He served as the Assistant Minister and then Incumbent of St Augustine's Inverell for 13 years, before accepting his current position as Dean and Minister-in-Charge of the Holy Cross Cathedral Geraldton in January 2015. He is also licensed as the Vicar General of the North West Australia Diocese.

Says Peter:

"Since 2015 I have completed an MA(Theol.) unit, a Grad. Cert. in Divinity and am finishing off a Masters of Theology [through Trinity

Theological College]. My area of interest has been the Petrine Epistles. Apart from increasing my knowledge of these valuable texts, I have benefited in a number of other ways. I have appreciated the exercise of that part of my brain that can get neglected in pastoral ministry, that of critical

academic thinking. I have found my study a stimulating and invigorating break from my pastoral responsibilities. Continuing study has sharpened my abilities to assimilate and express information with faithfulness and clarity, as well as considering other viewpoints. Perhaps the most significant

benefit has been enhancing effective communication of majestic and timeless gospel truths. This remains the central reason and objective for serving in pastoral ministry. I am very grateful to the staff of Trinity for helping this ministry."

Peter and Virginia will say farewell to their beloved Geraldton Cathedral congregations at the end of 2020. Peter's Consecration is planned for Wednesday 24th February in Brisbane. His Installation as the 13th Bishop of Rockhampton is planned for Saturday 27th February 2021 at St Paul's Cathedral, Rockhampton. "I am excited about serving God and his people in Central Queensland. I look forward to prayerfully working with the clergy and laity of Central Queensland, as we proclaim Jesus in word and deed." 

Portions of this article first appeared in "CQFIRST", the monthly online publication of the Anglican Diocese of Rockhampton, QLD.



Bishop-Elect Peter and Virginia Grice

Ministry Opportunities

Looking for a new ministry opportunity or have one to advertise?

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Trinity Stories

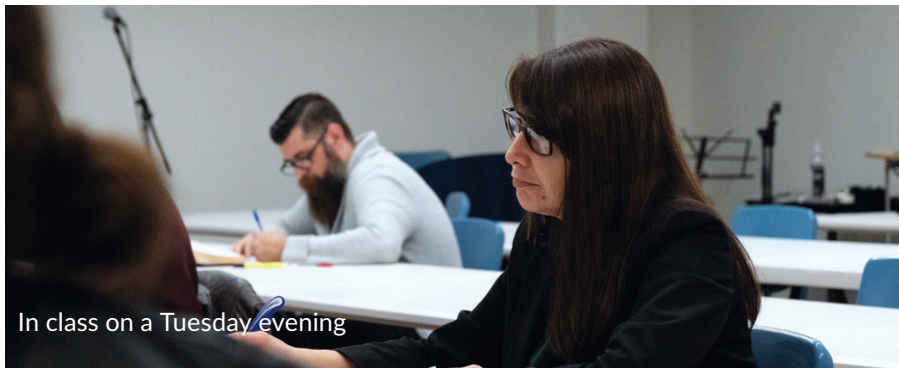
Hi! My name is Debbie Schroeder. I am married to Jean-Pierre and we have two teenage boys and we worship at Kallaroo Anglican Church. I work part-time at Trinity as Admin Assistant, and in 2019 became a part-time student as well, studying the Diploma of Theology.

It has been a long-held desire to grow in my knowledge of God and in my relationship with him by a more focused study of his word. Being a student at this stage in life is not without its challenges! There was the daunting prospect of starting undergraduate study many years after finishing school; decisions around other commitments as well as some changes in our home routine. My family and employer were very encouraging and excited for me to take up the challenge! Discovering and exploring

the richness of Scripture has strengthened my faith and deepened my relationship with God, more than I ever imagined. Please pray that my studies will make me a more faithful and ready servant and witness to our mighty Saviour for the glory of his kingdom. 

Debbie Schroeder
(DipTh)

Debbie and her family



In class on a Tuesday evening

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Student Profile

Our Purpose: Preparing people for effective Christian service


It is only with your partnership in financial support and prayer that we can prepare men and women like Gemma for Word ministry

My name is Gemma and I am currently studying a Graduate Diploma of Divinity. I am married to Willie (pronounced 'Villie' – he's Afrikaans) and we are the proud parents of a large mixed-breed dog called Hazel.

I used to be a lawyer but now work as Business Manager and Ministry (Serving) Coordinator at North Coast Church. I wanted to become better equipped to understand and communicate God's word, so I decided to study at Trinity.



I am grateful for Trinity equipping me to be able to better understand and communicate the Bible as I engage in vocational ministry. The best thing about Trinity in my experience is its focus on ministry - the Word in practice - rather than just academia, and of course for the meaningful fellowship with staff and students alike.

When I graduate I'm planning to... do whatever it is that God has fore-planned for me - I look forward to finding out! 

Gemma Bronkhurst

GradDipDiv

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and support us in training
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Trinity Stories


My daughters (14.5 and 13) told me to start this by saying I have two amazing and brilliant kids, which is true. Together, we have the joy and fun of being a clergy family, supporting my husband, the minister at Willetton Anglican Church.

I became a Christian as a teenager, and was disappointed by my experience of religious education at school: the opportunity the school could have taken to share the gospel with me and my friends, but hadn't. I was determined to come back to school one day and 'fix' religious education. However, the uni I studied an Education degree at didn't offer theology, so I told myself I'd do it later.

Every time I thought about studying again, I found reasons why it wasn't a good time: I had young children, was too busy, or didn't have the money. One day the principal at the school where I currently teach asked if I was interested in teaching the Beliefs & Values class and I jumped at the chance. However, since I'd never got around to studying theology, I immediately enrolled in Trinity's certificate course.

The very first night of the unit, my mind was blown by how much I didn't know about the Bible. I'd been in churches my whole life, and involved in ministry for my whole adult life, and I knew nothing. I discovered a love for the Word of God that I didn't think was possible. When I read the Bible, I

started to understand how it fitted together, and what God had been doing throughout history. One week at supper time, as I expressed some of this to (CCS Coordinator) Kelly, she said, "I'm surprised you're not doing the degree course." I started to say, "oh yes, I plan to, one day, but..." and I realised, in that moment, I had no excuses left. I put in my application the very next day and started only a few weeks later.

Now I'm almost three years into the part-time Grad.Dip and I continue to have my mind blown regularly. Theology is no longer just a way for me to get into church schools, but I have a real interest in it now. I am getting so many opportunities to share the gospel with my students, and I find I am so much better equipped to answer my students' questions. Yes, the assignments are harder, but it's worth it for the depth of learning I am gaining in the degree course. At Trinity, theology is not just an intellectual exercise, but is genuinely helpful for my own relationship with God, and the way I understand and communicate the gospel. 

Kathryn Lockwood

(GradDipDiv)

Kathryn and her family




CCS Stories

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a household where I could see that God was central to my parents' lives (and was taught to consider why he should be central to mine).

This faith and love of God continued to mature through church and university. Trinity@Night had been advertised at my church (Unichurch Bentley) for a while, so when I had some time between finishing uni and starting work I had no excuse not to try it out!

One unit turned into many and even though it was challenging to drag myself away from a cosy evening at home after work, arriving to a room full of others willing to take the time to dig deeper into God's word always made it worthwhile.

Trinity@Night helped me consider what a widespread

impact my love for God should have on all aspects of my life. In a recent unit I was challenged about how I think of some of my difficult kiddies in my work as a speech pathologist; rather than grumbling about them, to see them as precious lives made in God's image. I would highly recommend considering trying out a unit (if you haven't already)! 


Leonie Thomas

CCS Student

I live in the Southern Highlands near Sydney with my wife and 4 school aged children. I enjoy working as an Agronomist visiting Farms and Rural Stores. Prior to this I was a WA Police Officer until 2016. We attend St Jude's Anglican Church at Bowral where I am part of the welcoming team.

I was compelled to study as I was wanting to be able to better research what the Bible had to say on subjects. If the Bible is the Word of God, shouldn't we give ourselves the best chance of figuring out what the author had in mind when writing the text?

I attended classes until 2016 and recently completed my studies by audio. The audio unit whilst missing the obvious benefits of being face to face, was certainly a viable way of studying.

Trinity@Night is so well run both administratively and with such well-researched lecturers who are clear Bible teachers, my experiences were all positive. Trinity@Night helped me know God's Word better, which has had a big impact on my relationship with Jesus. My advice to anyone who is thinking about studying at Trinity is there are few better ways to invest your time. 

Greg Bramley

CCS Student



Prayer & Praise

Give thanks for:

- Students coming to an end of their degrees and heading into ministry positions and other forms of Christian service
- God's provision of a record number of people making enquiries to be equipped in gospel ministry
- God's sustaining grace and mercy to faculty, staff and students this year
- Our graduates working on university campuses

Pray for:

- Unity among churches, mission agencies, parachurch organisations, and Bible colleges
- Many men and women to enrol to be equipped for Word ministry before 21 January
- Prospective 2021 students commencing enrolment and interview process; that God will give them clarity on the direction they should take
- More churches and individuals to uphold the ministry of Trinity prayerfully and financially



Trinity@Night

Short evening classes for anyone who wants to dig deeper into God's Word

Term 1 2021 Begins in February

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Workers for the Harvest



How exciting to have a packed house at our recent Info Night on Thursday the 15th of October – so much so that we questioned how we'd fit everyone in with social distancing! But we did; over 40 people came to hear about the College, with another four people on Zoom.

The night started with Academic Dean Grant Taylor welcoming everyone, then David Kummerow describing our philosophy of training and who should undertake theological education (hint: everyone! Just with different flavours depending on your objectives), then led into table time where people had an opportunity to chat with faculty, staff, and current students about life at Trinity. Dan presented his usual clear and detailed outline of our courses in Theology and Divinity. Along the way we had two excellent interviews with a current and past Trinity students. After another round of table time, Don wrapped up by inspiring and equipping everyone in how to prepare themselves for theological study. Afterwards, there was an opportunity to tour the building and have 'pre-interviews' with faculty for those who were ready to apply. If you or anyone you know would like to

come to Trinity, applications close on the 21st of January. Contact us at any time!

God is working in Perth and WA. He is building his church and drawing people to himself through people who are willing to be trained. We at Trinity are buzzing about all of the great things that are happening, the stories we are hearing, the students (both numbers and quality) who are coming through our doors, and what our Alumni are doing in their communities.

And then there are people like you, our prayerful and financial supporters. We truly could not do this without your contribution, so thank you. Please continue to pray for the College, consider partnering with us with a monthly, tax-deductible donation, and having conversations about the College in your church and small groups. It really does make a difference 🙏

Yours in Christ,

Nathaniel Brown

*Development & Communications
Coordinator*

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2021 DATES

24 Dec-4 Jan	College Closed
21 Jan	Applications Close
30 Jan	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
23 Feb	Commencement and Graduation
27 Mar	Trinity Women Enrichment Day
5 May	Information Night
8 May	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
10 May	Ministry Matters
11 May	Open Lecture
7 Aug	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
14 Oct	Information Night
19 Oct	Open Lecture
6 Nov	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast