

Autumn 2022 - Issue #98



ur 2022 Commencement & Graduation Service is an opportunity to look back with thanks to God for many mercies students, supporters, churches, pastors and leaders, and our staff. We are also given a glimpse of the future-not what will happen, but what could happen. Many of our graduates have 30 or 40 years of ministry life ahead of them (if the Lord tarries); who does not think of the hundreds or thousands of people who may hear of God's great love through them?!

But what is it that these men and women must hear as they begin and as they continue? The same thing that those who have gone before them needed to hear and that we need to hear:

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him

# As You Were Taught...

and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

Paul has heard that the fledgling church in Colossae was being drawn into a Jesus "plus" gospel: "Yes, you have begun well enough, but to continue and flourish you need to [fill in the blank]." In their case the "plus" was keeping Jewish regulations and commands; in our case . . . well, just go online!

One of the cleverest ploys of the evil one is to substitute something impressive as a second-stage rocket to propel us further in the Christian faith, supposedly because the gospel that brought us to Christ is only good for the launch stage. The main "proof" he submits is the current state of our Christian life (or our "walk" as the Bible refers to it). This is an especially large trap for those who are relatively new in ministry when our enthusiasm wanes, when people leave without warning, when the offerings diminish and our weaknesses become known.

But Paul takes our attention away from our performance in Colossians 2:6-7 and fixes it on the Christ they received in the gospel: "As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him." The One they "received" at the beginning in the gospel, about whom they "were taught," is the One in whom they are now being established by God: Christ. We continue on in Christ

by going down further into him, by knowing more of him, his supremacy and his sufficiency, as proclaimed in the gospel.

The job of the pastor, youth leader, missionary, Sunday School teacher, and every Christian, is to continue to build on the foundation that has already been laid and not to move on or veer from it. And those people who understand these things, that prayerful teaching and preaching the gospel from the Scriptures is how God establishes and grows his people in Christ, those people rejoice with thanksgiving when they see or hear that this work is being done, and of the fruit that God is bringing from it (see Colossians 1:3-11). They also know that this is not work that catches the attention of others. On the contrary, it can at times be heart-breaking and lead to intense spiritual struggles. But is there anything more enduring that we can do with our lives and with our God-given resources?

Thank you for your prayers and your support to allow this College to play its small part in this grand work of God. May he continue to use us all, in various ways, to equip more people so that many, many more might give thanks to God now and on the Day of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ 🙏



Don West

Principal

In this edition: 2. Thankfulness Towards God 3-7. Graduates 2021 8. Serving and Loving People



# Thankfulness Towards God

hankfulness towards God is a fundamental mark of the people of God. It is the way that Paul consistently starts his letters, and its lack marks unbelievers (Rom 1:21). Thus, as the Old Testament people of God stand on the edge of the promised land, God warns them not to forget about his goodness towards them once they are safe and settled within the land (Deut 8:10-18). Yet we also find it very easy to forget to stop and give thanks for every good gift that comes from our heavenly Father. We need regular prompts to give thanks.

In this spirit of thankfulness, the whole College community gathered at North Coast Church for our annual Commencement and Graduation Service. This year, we honoured and gave thanks for 14 graduates in our **Trinity Certificate of Christian Studies** program, and 30 graduates in our ACT accredited course-work degrees from the 6-month Certificate to the 3-year Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity, and three graduates in degrees that involve a significant research component. Each graduate enjoyed different things about College and heads out into different kinds of ministries (as the following pages testify!), but all of them were marked by thankfulness to God for his equipping of them through Trinity.

Along with singing, prayer, and interviews, Cohen Watson—Senior Pastor at Rockingham Church of Christ and current member of the College Council—preached from 1 Corinthians 1:18–2:5. He reminded the graduates, and everyone else, that the world will see our message and our ministries as foolish, but God does this on purpose.



He has made it so that it is clear to everyone that all the power of new life comes completely from himself. In light of this, he gave the challenge not only to give thanks for the work that God has done in our lives but to clearly and plainly proclaim the gospel to others out of our trust that God alone saves.

The same thankfulness also marked the time after the formalities. Many families

of the graduates, friends of the College, and our alumni stayed on to catch up and talk with each other about God's on-going impact of the College for their own lives and ministries.

For me, this is a large part of what makes Trinity's Commencement and Graduation such an important night in our calendar. It is a chance to honour those who have worked hard and sacrificed much to train for gospel ministry in Perth

#### **TTC Graduation Cohort 2022**

and beyond. But more than this, it is a chance to stop and reflect on God's goodness to the College—as a whole, its friends, supporters, and alumni, and especially each of the graduates—and thank him for that.

#### Dan Cole

Lecturer in New Testament



Dan Cole announcing graduand names while Council Chair Bruce Dodd awards their testamur



# **Graduates 2021**

### **Master of Theology Prizes Peter Grice**

I am the Anglican Bishop of Rockhampton, a position I was elected to as I was completing the MTh in 2020. My time at College was a time of great stimulation and encouragement to engage deeply with God's Word in a setting of greater rigour than is possible in a pastoral context.

## Master of Arts (Theology) **Stephen Conway**

I am in full-time ministry within the Anglican Diocese of Perth, at the parishes of St Luke's in Maylands and St Patrick's in Mt Lawley. I have appreciated the academic rigour and national reach of the study I've undertaken though TTC and have been well prepared for further research later in my ministry life.

#### Matthew Waldron

I continue to pastor Three Crosses and moderate the National Assembly of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. I particularly appreciate the quality of research coaching I received at TTC.



Master of Arts (Theology) Graduates Matthew Waldron and Stephen Conway

#### Jan Bochat - One Year **Degree Prize**

An academic prize awarded to the student who has the highest Grade Point Average whilst enrolled in the Diploma of Theology or Graduate Diploma of Divinity. Provided by Margaret Ellis in memory of John Ellis from his family.

#### Kim Chin - Service to the **College Community Prize**

This prize is awarded to the student recognised by the College Community as having made the most significant contribution to College life. Provided by St Matthew's Anglican Church Shenton



An academic prize for the highest Grade Point Average whilst enrolled



Prize Winners Ashlynne Davis and Jan Bochat (not pictured: Kim Chin)

in the Master of Divinity. Provided by Westminster Presbyterian Church Bull Creek.





# **Graduates 2021**

# Master of Divinity Javis Cheng

I am currently attending St Matthews Shenton Park and I work part-time for AFES as the FOCUS staff worker. My time at TTC has deepened my knowledge of God, made me want to know even more about him, and equipped me to teach him to others.

#### **Howard Liu**

I am working part time as associate pastor at Perth Alliance Church North. The relationship with fellow students and the availability and kindness of the lecturers are the two things that I treasure about my time at Trinity.

#### **Efendi Namdin**

Currently I am serving as an Intern at WPC Bull Creek. I loved the community where everyone can openly bounce ideas off others. I also enjoyed the lectures where I could dive deep into God's Word.

#### **Ashlynne Davis**

I am working part time at North Beach Baptist Church and studying further to prepare for my goal of crosscultural mission. I appreciate Trinity's gospel focus and the way I have been equipped to keep learning and growing.

#### Samuel Indrawan

I am serving God at East Fremantle

Baptist Church as a Youth Pastor and as part of the preaching team. I'm grateful for the robust academic training in Greek exegesis and Systematic Theology I received at Trinity.

#### **Debbie Mayne**

I am the Women's Ministry Leader and Interim Service Director at Subi Church. I have grown in my faith and am truly appreciative of Trinity's high regard for Scripture, and I have tasted the depth, beauty, and richness of God's Word.

#### Jeremy Ng

I am an Assistant Pastor at Firstlight Church in Gwelup for the children, youth and life group ministries. I appreciated learning and exegeting in Greek, understanding theology and putting it all together for ethics and pastoral care.

# Bachelor of Theology

#### **Jordan Stevensen**

I am currently still enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Divinity, hoping to finish halfway through 2022. I appreciate the sound doctrinal teaching, the gospel-centred faith and Christ-centredness of Trinity, as well as the community with its collective kindness and wisdom.

#### **Cameron Bargerbos**

I will soon commence work as Youth Pastor at Gateway Community Church, and as the State Youth Coordinator for the Christian Reformed Churches of WA. I love how God has used Trinity to strengthen gospel unity among so many churches in our region and beyond.

#### **Alex Hofstra**

I'm currently attending Southern Christian Church as a Bible study leader and children's church teacher. My time at Trinity has given me the tools and attitude I need to serve Christ in his mission on earth.

#### **Dylan Twiss**

I am teaching primary aged students this year, while continuing my attendance and service at Maida Vale WPC. Trinity gave me a great set of tools to effectively study, understand and apply the Bible, which I have been able to employ in a variety of contexts.

# Associate Degree of Theology

#### **Christiaan Pienaar**

My wife and I will - Lord willing - be serving in Torreon, Mexico teaching at a school and helping women who have been rescued from trafficking. Trinity has helped me establish a strong Christian foundation and acted as a catalyst for my faith and love for God.



# **Graduates 2021**

## **Graduate Diploma of Divinity**

#### **Benjamin Chaine**

I am working as an environmental scientist and have the joy of being a husband and father to my wife and two children. I valued understanding more of the great Christian tradition and benefiting from the many faithful Christian brothers and sisters whose shoulders I stand upon.

#### Jane Chapple

I am a GP and attend True North Church and run Providence Gospel Choir as a ministry to sing about Jesus at Fringe and beyond. I loved meeting the other students at Trinity and hearing how they felt God had led them to study there. I am so grateful for the lecturers and their intellectually and spiritually rigorous approach to the Bible as a coherent historical document.

#### **Mandy Zhuang**

I work part time as a migration consultant and serve with Bible Study Fellowship. My time at Trinity has been an important chapter in my faith journey; understanding the Word of God and improving my devotional life.

#### Jan Bochat

I am working as a tax accountant and preparing to be a first-time Dad. I appreciated the informal chats with staff and other students that helped grow my love for the Lord Jesus.

#### **Annabel Brearley**

I attend Subiaco Church where I work as the Youth Ministry Assistant. Studying has been an incredible blessing; delving deeper into the Bible, learning more about God, and being part of an awesome community.

#### **Jim Butler**

I plan to serve in Japan with my wife Charlotte later in the year through MTW. I am thankful for the way in which the lecturers equipped us to know and teach God's Word, and for the encouragement to love and worship God for his grace in Christ.

#### Ben Dallin

I am a Christian Living and Outdoor Education teacher at Swan Christian College. My studies at Trinity have helped me to faithfully preach the gospel to a largely unchurched group of teenagers, as well as lead a small group as part of a church plant.

#### **Claire Devereux**

Since leaving College I have continued as a stay-at-home mum to our 3 sons and serving in the children's ministry at Hope Community Church Baldivis. I valued the way Trinity lecturers approached content as more than an academic exercise by considering how it impacted our hearts and ministries.

#### **Daniel Munns**

I've been working at 98 five assisting in production for radio content. I've valued the variety of knowledge provided to me in my education at Trinity,

#### **Edward Tikoft**

I loved the richness of the study at Trinity and the opportunity to deepen my understanding of Scripture. This has been a great foundation for serving in Vic Park Presbyterian and it has deepened my trust in God as I set out on a new adventure this year, studying medicine.

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All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

#### **Lasting Support to Future Ministry Workers**

One way of making a lasting investment in raising future ministry workers for generations to come, is by including Trinity in your will (bequest).

Yes, please send me information about bequests

Thank you for your active support

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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 these for Word ministry

I attend the Unichurch service at St Matt's in Shenton Park. I grew up in a Christian home, but it was when I was in year 10 at school that I really started to see the truth of the gospel.

It was during my gap year when I was thinking

and praying about my future that situations and people pointed me to Trinity. A phone call and an interview later and I am now in 3rd year! The

things that stand



out about Trinity are the centrality of the gospel in ministry, the community, and the fellowship that is formed among the students, as we scratch our heads over Greek, figure out assignments and pray together.

After graduation, I plan on doing a few years of secular work before heading into a ministry apprenticeship or even full-time pastoral ministry.

Please pray that God will grow me and direct me into the ministry he has planned for

me. 🙏

Joe Baeg
BTh Student

Please donate now and support us in training students for Word ministry

See website to Donate Online ttc.wa.edu.au

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# **Graduates 2021**

# Graduate Certificate of Divinity

#### **Ali Bentley**

I'm currently full-time at home with my two little girls. My time at Trinity has enriched my Christian life and ministry, giving me much greater theological clarity, a deeper appreciation for God's sovereign grace, and a wonderful network of friends in gospel ministry.

#### **Alexia Horton**

I primarily look after my two primary school aged children and attend Southern Christian Church where I manage the church's website and communications and serve informally in different ways. I count it a privilege to have spent so much time in God's Word at Trinity.

#### Andrew Hunt

I am working as an anaesthetist and am prioritising family in this season

of life while attending Providence City Church. Trinity has helped to develop in me a more rigorous and considered understanding of Scripture.

#### **Elizabeth Page**

I am currently working as the youth ministry assistant at St Matthews Shenton Park, and am serving in the hospitality ministry at my church. In my time at Trinity I grew in my knowledge of God and deepened my relationship with him.

# Undergraduate Certificate of Theology William Han

Trinity has given me a solid foundation in God's Word and has encouraged me to share the gospel to others. I'm very grateful for the friendships I've made at College and the support from peers and the staff.

# Trinity@Night

#### **Certificate in Christian Studies**

Short evening classes to help you dig deeper into God's Word

Term 2 2022 Begins in May

For more information and to enrol online:

ttc.wa.edu.au/certificates

or contact our CCS Coordinator on 08 9228 9067 or at CCS@ttc.wa.edu.au



# **Certificate Studies**

# Advanced Certificate in Christian Studies

#### Colin Mugridge

I am a retired hospital health service employee and attend Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church where I am on the welcoming team. My time at Trinity was invaluable and has helped me in my ministry to country WA.

#### Ray Johnson

I attend St Peters, Wanneroo. I have enjoyed classes and the teachers have been brilliant and helpful; nothing seemed to be a problem for them.

#### **Roy Sarmidi**

I work as a dentist in Joondalup and I attend Westminster Presbyterian Church Bull Creek where I serve as an elder. I am grateful for my time in CCS where I have deepened my understanding of the Bible, and I am especially grateful that I am able to share this knowledge in the ministries that I am involved in within my church.

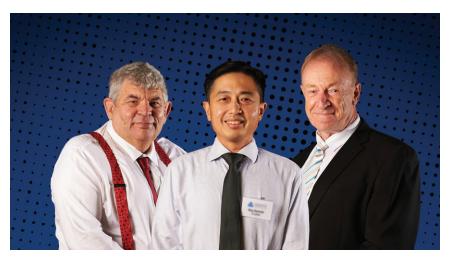
# Certificate in Christian Studies

#### **Darren Broad**

I am an asset planner at the Water Corporation and serve as a small group leader at St Matthew's Church Shenton Park. My studies have helped me gain a better understanding of the bible, theology and ministry and I feel they will help me greatly.

#### **Brenton Watts**

I work as an engineer and attend Shenton Park Anglican church. Trinity helped me gain a deeper knowledge of the Bible which is helping me to answer questions about Christianity in different contexts, whether they are Christian or non-Christian people.



Advanced Certificate in Christian Studies Graduates Ray Johnson, Roy Sarmidi, and Colin Mugridge

#### **Joel Dawson**

I work as the young adults coordinator at Mt Hawthorn Baptist Church. Trinity has been incredible for me and given me a better understanding of the bible as one big narrative pointing to Jesus. I have already implemented some of what I have learnt in our bible studies at church.

#### **Rachel Fildes**

I am a physiotherapist by trade and attend Lakeside Baptist Church and serve as a volunteer in the young adult, discipleship, women's and creative spaces. The short courses have been perfect at helping equip me with a greater knowledge of the Bible to better know and love God, and learn how to better love those around me.

#### **Christine Thomas**

I am a YouthCARE Chaplain and attend Thornlie Community Church. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning through Trinity@Night. I have really appreciated the knowledge and humility of the lecturers and the biblical foundation of all the courses; how the topics interact in the big picture of the Bible. This has challenged and informed me in my personal study and my ability to teach others.

#### **Mark Pollard**

I work as a GP and attend St. Peters Anglican Church where I serve on the multi-media team. My time at Trinity has been valuable because it has given me a better understanding of the church, historically and theologically, and more importantly a deeper understanding of the Word of God, which is life changing.

# James and Emily Skinner

We attend North Beach Baptist Church where we are involved with youth ministry, music, children's ministry and the mission team. We found the Trinity@Night courses helpful in building our knowledge of the Bible, understanding of God, and how to share the gospel with others.

#### Sarah Marcello

I attend Vic Park Presbyterian Church and have been working as a dentist and am looking forward to a new role as a mum soon. My time at Trinity helped me make connections between doctrines and books of the Bible, and tackle topics like church history which I'd be intimidated to learn on my own.



# Serving and Loving People

The first quarter of the year is one of the busier times at Trinity; returning from the Christmas break, preparing for the upcoming two semesters and all of the fantastic events and gatherings that the College plans for the year, and, of course, welcoming new students to College.

To see those new faces at Orientation week, to get to know them and hear the stories of why they have decided to come to be prepared for Christian ministry, is one of the 'perks' of being a staff member here.

I am filled with a sense of gratitude to God and encouraged to persevere in the work Colleen and I do; helping to share those stories with you so that our wider community might see what God is doing in and through Trinity. We are so grateful to supporters of Trinity Theological College, especially in these times of uncertainty and need. It is comforting to know that we have a good God on our side, and faithful financial partners in the training of people for gospel work.

My prayer is that as you have read this edition of Trinity News, you would be encouraged to continue to support the work we are doing. If you'd like to talk to me about your support, please do get in touch.

#### Nathaniel Brown

Development & Communications Coordinator

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☑ development@ttc.wa.edu.au

### **2022 DATES**

9 Apr	Trinity	Women	Enrichme	nt Dav	<b>TWED</b>
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2 May Ministry Matters

4 May Info Night

10 May Open Lecture

14 May Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

4 July Applications close

8 Aug Trinity Annual Lecture

13 Aug Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

11-13 Oct Open Week

13 Oct Info Night

11 Oct Open Lecture

12 Nov Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

23 Dec College closes

## **Prayer & Praise**

#### Give thanks for:

- The fantastic number of family and friends who gathered recently for the Commencement and Graduation Ceremony
- The 30 degree graduates we celebrated, many of whom are heading into ministry vocations
- The 14 CCS students who graduated and are now better equipped to understand the Bible
- The successful start of 2022 and the 102 new and continuing students who have settled into the routine of lectures, study and assignments

#### **Pray for:**

- Our Commencement Appeal and fundraising in general; that God will provide bountifully through his people
- The Trinity Women Enrichment Day on 9 April; that the women attending will be encouraged in their walk and ministry
- The Ministry Matters event on May 2; that the material presented to ministry workers will be relevant and encouraging as they continue to faithfully proclaim the gospel
- Many registrations for Info Night on 4 May; that God will place a calling on the hearts of people to serve him in ministry
- Applications for enrolment for semester 2

