



Participation in Christ

Some weeks ago I visited SCREDO, a Bible-teaching and equipping conference for young adults held in Perth each May. Standing at the Trinity promotions table, I could barely contain my excitement at the hundreds of people who had given over a good part of their weekend to hear and receive God's Word and to learn how to live more fruitfully for Christ in their daily service for him. The twin factors that struck me were the centrality of the gospel and the enthusiasm of young women and men from dozens of different churches.

We are, I think, familiar with the theme of "partnership" (or "participation," "fellowship," "sharing") in the letter of Paul to the Philippian church. In 1:5 Paul tells them that he thanks

God every time he remembers them because of their "partnership in the gospel," including "sharing with me in the matter of giving and receiving" (4:15). In 2:1, it is their "participation in the Spirit" of Christ as believers which he presents as a reason how and why they can and must be of one mind and spirit serving one another mindful of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord who poured himself into the form of a servant/slave, even unto death on a cross, and was exalted by God to the highest place (2:5–11). Timothy and Epaphroditus are then given as examples of other-centred gospel partners and servants (2:19–30). But all these visible aspects of partnership are fruit born out of our participation in Christ's death and resurrection:

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What

is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. (7-11)

Today the gospel virtue of partnership is in danger of overuse (in the same way that the word "fellowship" was a generation or so back). Genuine partnership in Christ and the gospel with others comes from knowing and glorying in him as our Saviour and Lord, and a desire to know him more and more even in his sufferings. Genuine partnership with others comes from our common desire for people to know Christ and be known by him. These are the things I see that God is working at the CREDO conference, at our church, and at our College.

What a privilege we have been given to share in God's great work of raising up labourers for his harvest!

Yours 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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Women's Ministry Advisor Appointment

Trinity recently appointed a new staff member, Alexia Horton, to help the College better serve the women in our community. Here's Alexia:


I'm married to Ashley and have two beautiful primary school age children. Ashley and I delight in being part of the ministry at our local church. We were part of the team that planted Southern Christian Church in the Cockburn area in 2018 where Ashley is now the Pastor. I've enjoyed serving alongside Ash in a variety of ministry roles over the past few years both informal and formal. Being part of a small church and a church plant has meant I've had the freedom to try on different hats, from women's Word ministry to community playgroups to digital communications!

I became a Christian at university by hearing and believing the gospel through the ministries of the UWA campus Christian Union and the local Unichurch. Those university years were a great chance to learn foundational ministry skills and I developed a

passion for understanding the Bible more deeply and teaching it to others. Since then I've been keen to be better equipped in Word ministry, especially in seeing women grow in confidence to serve and teach others.



Alexia Horton

I have previously worked as a solicitor in Perth before making a change in 2010 to complete a ministry apprenticeship with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES). That led to further part-time study at Trinity Theological College in the midst of raising young children. I and many others are excited that Trinity has created this new role to support women studying for future ministry work and I feel immensely privileged to be appointed to this position. I'm very much looking forward to playing a small part in seeing Jesus' gospel grow through equipping women and men to work together in Word ministry. 

Alexia Horton

Grad Cert Div, 2021

Grad Dip Div. 2016

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Trinity Women Enrichment Day

Do you ever wonder about the future, or want to know what the other side of that thing you're dealing with looks like? If you are like me, the answer is probably yes, which makes the reminder that we can actually know the future, and live well in light of that future, a truly wonderful thing!

As about 50 women in ministry, TTC alumni, students and students' wives gathered for the Trinity Women Enrichment Day 2022, we were encouraged from 2 Peter that knowing our future reality gives us present clarity for how to live. In her first talk, Eryn-May Wicks helped us to remember three things about our future reality – God will bring his children home, God is a just judge, and God has his timing. These things guarantee us a sure and certain future, which, as her second talk unpacked, helps us to live with clarity in our day-to-day life now, growing in our faith and recognising the lies that so easily come.

As well as being encouraged from God's Word through these two talks, we also had the opportunity to participate in a range of workshops, which was an immediate occasion to think practically about living well in the present. These workshops included thinking about

ministry to women in full-time work, ministry to the elderly, and ministry to Muslims, as well as topics such as how to listen well, reading the Bible one-to-one, and evangelistic playgroups. As you can imagine, it was a tough choice as to which two to attend!

These sessions were of course all wrapped together with encouraging fellowship! Events like these are opportunities to catch up with, and learn and grow with old friends and new friends, drawn together by the Lord Jesus and the service he has called us to in him.

I am sure I speak for everyone who attended in saying thank you to the committee, speakers, volunteers and TTC staff for making TWED 2022 such an encouraging day. 🌸

Ashlynn Davis
(MDiv, 2021)



Eryn-May Wicks being interviewed by Sheri Raston (Trinity Grad Dip student) prior to speaking at TWED



TWED is a great time of community and encouragement

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Building an Army in WA

Three years ago, the Hurley family left North Coast Church in Perth, so Brendan could be an assistant minister at St George's Anglican Church, Bluff Point (Geraldton).

How do you raise up an army of eager and well-equipped volunteers? That's a tough question for any church to answer. In regional WA this is especially challenging.

There's several reasons for this. The first is what some people call the brain drain. Every year we see our best and brightest head to the big smoke so they can go to university. Young adults studying at university are such a benefit to churches. Many of these students give up their free time to serve at Sunday School, youth group or at all sorts of other fantastic ministries. Often these young adults are energetic and enthusiastic; gold for any church. But in regional WA, there is a

smaller pool of people in that 18-25 age group.

Then there is the transience. Fantastic Christians in regional WA constantly come and go. Just as you really start to get to know people and start to think, "they'd be a great fit for that ministry", they let you know that they're moving. Their graduate program has finished. A great job opportunity has come up in Perth. They want to move back to the city to be closer to family. Over the last few years, we've had this happen time and time again and it's a challenge for our churches, seeing these wonderful folks leave.


It would be easy to get discouraged, so I try and remind myself of reality. God is still a good Father and is still sitting on the throne. None of these things have happened outside of his gracious, sovereign will. My generous Father

knows what our church needs, and I remember again that wonderful promise of Jesus: he is still building his church. God is in control, his gospel is powerful and he is providing what we need. It's cause for thanks, praise and constant prayer.

As wonderful as that comfort is, there is still the day to day challenge of resourcing our church and its ministries. So, what are we doing at our church to raise up an army of well-equipped, gospel-minded volunteers? We pray. We ask God to raise people up. We are seeking to make prayer the foundation of all our ministries.

Next, we preach Christ. I know that doesn't sound novel or radical, but it's essential. It's our conviction that the gospel drives everything in the Christian life, so every Sunday we seek to magnify Christ. We want to show our people the glory, love, and splendour of the Lord Jesus so that their obedience and service will be genuine, joyful and from the heart.

Thirdly, we equip. Over the last few years, we've been patchy with this. We've tried to run a course here and a workshop there. We've moved some of our ministries away from just being rosters, to being teams so that people can collaborate better and share ideas. Recently, we started something new to help equip our people better than ever before. We've started a two-year training course called Entrust (based on 2 Timothy 2:2). Every Wednesday morning about ten of us get together and learn skills for interpreting the Bible, learn about biblical theology and learn how to communicate the Bible clearly to others (e.g. how to give a talk, lead a Bible study, do evangelism, etc).

Training folk in our church has made me more thankful for the great training I received. Trinity gave me the tools I needed to exegete the Bible better and to think theologically. The task of teaching and equipping others would be significantly harder if I hadn't received such rich training. I'm hoping that if we stick at Entrust long enough we can raise up and equip some Ministry Apprentices who will one day study at Trinity and then go out and equip God's people too. 

Brendan Hurley

(BTh, 2014)

Assistant Minister, St George's Anglican Church

Portions of this article first appeared in the March 2022 Edition of Eternity News



Brendan Hurley teaching Entrust at St George's Anglican

Humbly Changing for The Sake of the Gospel

In Philippians 2, Paul exhorts our relationships with one another to be like Christ, who being in nature God, made himself nothing, became human, a servant, and then died on the cross, so that we can be saved. As I pondered these words, I asked myself, "how are we doing this in our relationships? Are we humbling ourselves, in our efforts to relate to others so that they may hear the gospel of salvation?"

We live in a multicultural city. There are people from all over the world living next door to us, yet many of us do not understand their worldviews. As such, when we have the opportunity to talk with our neighbour, what we say, how we say it, and how we act, does not communicate what we want it to.

Over the last year I have had the joy to teach cross-cultural communication to students. This is a course which prepares gospel workers to proclaim the gospel and disciple people from different cultures in ways that make sense to them. My weekly question is: how can we ensure that the gospel penetrates hearts? Throughout the course we examine how God has made us all unique. It's a humbling experience. One student reflected,


Cross Cultural Communication has helped to reveal many of my personal

and cultural assumptions as it relates to other worldviews. This has enabled me to analyse and interact with other cultures based upon renewed understanding. As a result, it has granted me fresh appreciation of cultural expressions whilst equipping me for missions and everyday interactions.

Another student says.

What I've found most helpful about the Cross Cultural Communications unit is being led to the knowledge and practical skills required to recognise my own cultural inclinations as a first step towards noticing cultural differences in others. The natural progression is to care about the experiences of people from other cultures and act to bridge those differences so that we're all welcomed into and can contribute to the body of Christ. The course has given me the confidence to start a Bible study/lunch with the South American families at my church.

So, as you go into your week, as you see a neighbour from another country or cultural background, I challenge you to lay aside your assumptions, take time to listen and understand who they are. Maybe read a

book, like Elmer's (2002) book, Cross-Cultural Connections, so that when you share the love of Jesus with them, the way you do this will speak deeply to their hearts. 

Mike Webb

Missions Lecturer

Mike Webb teaching his Missions class



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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

My Name is Mal Walker and I became a Christian in primary school after the gospel was shared to me by several teachers. However, it was only in high school that I realised Christians should go to church! By God's grace, I ended up attending one that faithfully taught the Bible, and I am now a member of Unichurch Bentley.

Wanting to dive deeper into God's Word, I first started studying at Trinity through the Trinity@Night units. After finishing my ministry apprenticeship with AFES, coming back to Trinity to start the MDiv seemed natural, having already experienced the quality and Christ-centred teaching that's on offer here.

As to the future, I have no formal ministry plans beyond the desire to serve God faithfully in whatever context he places me.

Please pray that I grow in love for God and in the knowledge of his love for me. Also pray for understanding of Greek grammar and vocab. 

Mal Walker

MDiv Student



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and support us in training
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Alumni News

Christian Retirement

Trinity Alum and author Simon Van Bruchem has published a book entitled 'Distinctively Christian Retirement: A Biblical call to serve Jesus well in older age'.

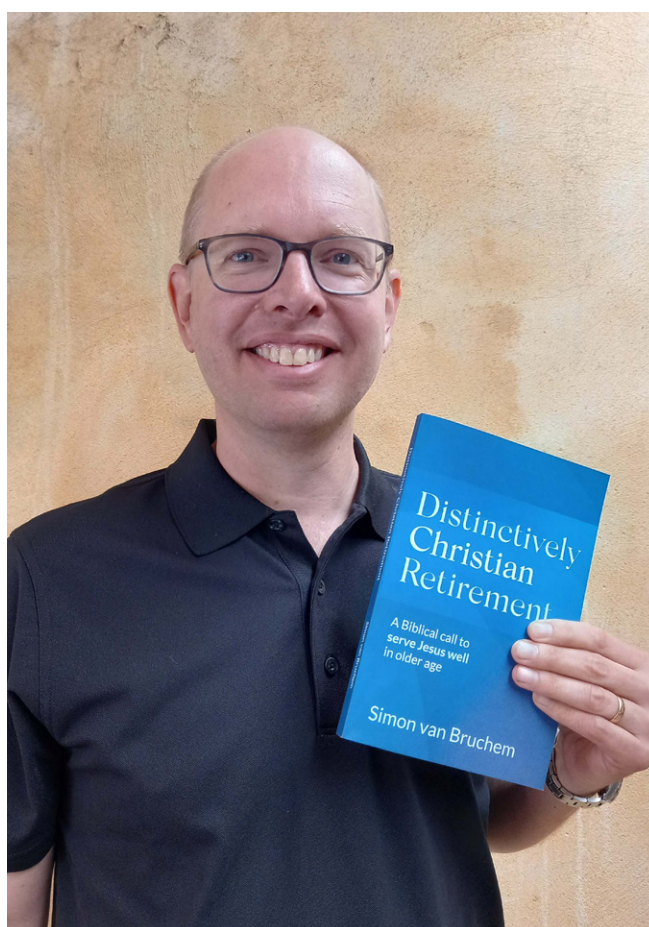
The book deconstructs the prevailing cultural view of retirement as an extended self-focussed holiday, showing that this is inconsistent with the biblical worldview. It then unpacks what the Bible does say about our later years, especially focussing on issues of purpose and meaning from Ecclesiastes. It then deals with common issues retirees face with nostalgia and health limitations. And finally Simon offers a few chapters of practical ways retirees can serve in the church, with their money, and in the world. Says Simon:

"Much is written about younger Christians and the church is often focussed on youth

ministry; my hope is to show the many ways someone could use their retirement years to serve Jesus. Unlike many other books on retirement, this one is not mainly anecdotes. It is, at its heart, a biblical wisdom book on retirement, seeking what God would say to us about this important topic."

Congratulations Simon! 

Simon van Bruchem with his new book.



2022 DATES

8 Aug	Annual Lecture with Murray Capill
13 Aug	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
13 Oct	Information Night
18 Oct	Open Lecture
12 Nov	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

Training and Encouragement

Ministry Matters was a day of encouragement and up-skilling as God brought together Peter Adam and Allan Chapple to deeply encourage a full house of men and women through Trinity Theological College and EFAC (WA). The all-day event included four sessions split between Allan leading us through 2 Timothy and Peter helping us to continue progressing with our preaching skills.

Allan walked us through 2 Timothy, highlighting the importance of knowing Jesus as Lord and knowing his grace, and understanding gospel work and suffering are joined together. As Timothy was convicted of the foundational truths taught by Paul about Jesus, we too must stand firm on them. They won't always be popular with people, but we do the work for our Lord who has real power to change people, changing them from loving themselves.

Peter encouraged the preachers and teachers with ways to find more than just the meaning of the passages. To



Peter Adam being interviewed by Ridley College Graduate Devan Foster from St Alban's Highgate

look for the people, emotions, drama and motivations in the passages. And to preach the Word without always referencing to making "points" in a sermon. Although the preaching or teaching of the Word requires great responsibility and might feel like a discouraging part of ministry, Peter appealed to us to let people see our progress rather than perfection.

Don West closed with a fitting request. For each person to think of one friend

in the ministry they could send a message of encouragement to this week. Our brothers and sisters in Christ, wherever they are in their progress, are absolutely in need of knowing the grace that comes from our Lord Jesus. Perhaps you can think of someone too. 🙏

Jeremy Ng

(MDiv, 2021)

Assistant Pastor, Firstlight Church

Allan Chapple speaking to the Ministry Matters attendees



Serving and Loving People


We have a lot to be grateful to God for this year! 30 degree students graduated at the start of the year, taking the total number of degree graduates since the College began to 378. We have 102 students enrolled in ACT degree courses (27 full-time and 75 part-time).

This is the work of the College in a nutshell; taking on board students who are keen to learn, helping them shape and deepen their understanding of the Bible and love for God, and then sending them on into ministry or other work. Whatever else we do (the kinds of things you read about in this edition of Trinity News!), this is the most important thing.

So it is the thing we ask our supporters to give towards: resourcing Trinity so that we may continue to exist.

We look back on God's faithful provision in the past, and take courage for the times ahead and we join Paul in Philippians 1:3-6:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Again we stand humbly before you—in need of your earnest prayers in so many areas of our work, and in need of your financial partnership. Please consider prayerfully how you can contribute to Trinity's work of training future Christian workers. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. 

Nathaniel Brown

Development & Communications Coordinator

☎ 08 9228 9067

✉ development@ttc.wa.edu.au

Prayer & Praise

Give thanks for:

- Trinity students and their faithful commitment to learning and growing in fellowship.
- A vibrant community of Alumni and others as evidenced by our recent events.
- A College with a heart for people and the kingdom, and people who respond to the need to support Trinity.

Pray for:

- Students and Faculty preparing for exams and completing/marking assignments. Pray for many men and women to enrol for study in Semester 2.
- Trinity Alumni in Missions; that they would have energy, wisdom, and God's blessings as they do their work.
- The College's finances and the Mid-Year Appeal; for many to partner with Trinity as we raise up the next generation of ministry workers



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