



Mentoring According to Paul

Mentoring has become a popular professional development model in many contexts, including Christian service. At its heart, Christian mentoring will be a purposeful relationship in which an experienced person (mentor) brings listening wisdom, prayer, and advice to a less-experienced person (mentee). The aim is for the learner to function more confidently within their job or ministry.

There is an increasing desire by young Christian leaders for mentoring—and it is understandable. Budding pastors and Christian leaders feel the weight of serving God's Son and his people. They are also—via social media and podcasts—very aware of high-profile falls from grace among church leaders, and they want to avoid dishonouring the very One and ones they serve. Finally, they face the reality of new and/or complex issues or questions that arise in ministry and in life: challenging pastoral care conversations, keeping evangelism at the front, financial constraints, etc.

In my experience, too few people training for and serving in word ministry have mentor-type people in their lives. I don't mean professional (paid) mentors who can be useful at certain stages, but godly, experienced, and trustworthy men and women with whom they can reflect on life and ministry. We all need different types



Community Lunch in the Level 3 Student hangout zone

of mentoring relationships. Sometimes as the junior person, other times as the peer, and sometimes with those who are less experienced. Mentoring does not have to be formal; it just needs to be regular, appropriate to our development, and Christ-centred.

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy says much about mentoring, about giving and receiving ministry advice and help. I note the following from how Paul goes about his "mentoring" role with Timothy:

- Paul knows Timothy's gifts, family, heritage, character, strengths, and weaknesses (2 Tim 1:3-5; 3:14-15; see Acts 16:1-4). He knows Timothy as a whole person.
- Paul encourages Timothy by saying he thanks God for his faith in Christ

and devotion to the work of the gospel (and to Paul; e.g., 2 Tim 1:3-8a; Phil 2:19-24).

- At the same time Paul exhorts Timothy to do the tough tasks of ministry: "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" and endure hardship (2 Tim 2:1-7); "warn God's people" about the dangers of false teachers; and "correctly handle the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:14-19), knowing that God "guards" his gospel (2 Tim 1:12, 14).
- Paul exhorts Timothy to be an example to others on the basis of his knowledge of Paul's example of following, proclaiming, and suffering for Christ (2 Tim 1:7-14; 4:6-8).

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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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- Paul shares his ministry disappointments and joys with Timothy; and he seeks Timothy's help for his needs (2 Tim 1:15-18; 2:16-18; 4:9-18; see 3:1-9 for the realities of our ministry context).
- Paul comes back to the main things over and over: the grace of God in Christ and the progress of the gospel (2 Tim 1:1-2, 8-10, 12, 13-14; 2:8-13, 15; 3:14-4:5, 17).




Very few people could provide the Paul brand of mentoring; it was exceptional. But we can all take something from this list. If we are not going well in our ministries, we need someone we can trust, someone

who listens, someone who can give us spiritual perspective and pray with us. It's possible we may need other kinds of help if things have been really tough. But it starts with one conversation.


If we are doing OK, but aware of gaps or faults or temptations, then maybe seek out someone of our gender who is more seasoned in gospel ministry—not a buddy. Ask if they have time to walk with us for the next little while to work on some specific areas. We need someone who is godly and wise and can see us regularly for a little while.

And, finally, if you are the one that is being asked to help, make time for it, ask God for grace, wisdom, gentleness, love, patience, and thankfulness, for you are being given a great privilege. And check out Paul's pattern as you serve others in ministry.

May God grow us all into the likeness of his Son 

Don West

Principal



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Fuel For the Fire

In any healthy church, God's people will undertake a range of ministries, each of which is vital to the growth of the Body of Christ. And yet, as Murray Capill reminded us in this year's Annual Lecture at Subi Church on Monday the 8th of August, there is one thing that will fuel the spiritual fire throughout every aspect of the Church's life and ministry: the preaching of God's Word.

Ordinary preachers, who are committed to opening and expounding the Scriptures for God's people, can expect God to do extraordinary things through them. Ordinary churches can expect God to enliven and invigorate them through such preaching. And as Murray unpacked this, he pointed us to a number of ways in which preaching feeds a church's gospel fire, and keeps it burning.

Expository preaching, Murray explained, is an act of worship, which should exalt and glorify God's name and magnify the excellencies of Christ. It aims to anchor people in the Scriptures, in a manner that doesn't only grow their knowledge

of the Bible, but leads to the transformation of their hearts, as they hear the very voice of God in his Word. It is a mode of pastoral care, a key means whereby people's souls are shepherded, comforted, and emboldened to live for God in the coming week. And it is an occasion for evangelism, as the Word of life is held out not only to believers, but to the unbelievers in our midst.

In drawing these out, Murray directed our attention to the goodness of God and the power of his Word, and the immense privilege it is for us to be speakers and hearers of it. And since it his Word, as Murray encouraged us, it is critical that we don't only preach and hear it, but also pray fervently that the Spirit of God would ignite the fire as we do so. 

Thom Bull

Lecturer in Theology and Ethics



Thom Bull and Murray Capill after the Lecture



Annual Lecture is a great chance for friends to catch up

Murray Capill speaking on the role of preaching in a healthy church



Serving in the Military

It certainly is a privilege to serve as a RAAF chaplain—even if it does not always feel like a privilege.

Similar to a church setting, we get to see the best and worst of people. On occasions, we have those unexpected and encouraging conversations that reminds us we are not in charge, that the proverbial sky is not falling, and that God is still working. It does not always feel like a privilege because chaplaincy has its own challenges and struggles, and—more precisely—military chaplaincy has its own unique struggles. These are the struggles of the military lifestyle and requirements which can often be forgotten by the church more broadly. For example, my

family has moved interstate three times in a two year period with my postings. On top of that, I spent two and a half months away from my family overseas where I missed my son's birthday and Christmas with my family. Moreover, there are the physical requirements of belonging to a military organisation. As a result of my service I have injured myself numerous times requiring numerous surgeries (seven and counting...)—and that is just a result of my training in Australia!

Yet, it is not these challenges that have been the hardest for me and my family. In a secular organisation it is getting harder to be a committed Bible believing Christian, let alone a

committed Bible believing chaplain. I studied the majority of my MDiv through Trinity and I look back now and cringe at how naïve and arrogant I was at times. But I am thankful for the mercy of a gracious God. Yet that mercy was not a mercy easily given but a grindingly painful yet transforming mercy. Spurred on by a blossoming passion for Martin Luther and the Reformation (thanks to Marty Foord for being a part of that) I am now providentially blessed to be in the slow process of completing a dissertation on Luther and his 'theology of the cross'. In studying Luther I have come to appreciate his view on what it takes to be a theologian—yet getting my PhD is actually not part of that! What Luther says we need is oratio, meditatio, and tentatio. That is to say, prayer (oratio), meditation on God's Word (meditatio), and, less comfortably, trials and temptations (tentatio)...this is what makes a theologian. It's the tension brought about by trials and temptation that force us to take prayer and meditation on Scripture for real! Trials are the sifter of the dross which test and make genuine our oratio and meditatio—and we can thank a merciful God for that.

It's quite embarrassing—but slightly humorous in hindsight—that when I first learned Trinity's Principal Don West was researching prayer and the Psalms, I thought to myself, "how boring!" But thanks to Luther (and his work and dependency on the Psalms) and the various trials of my own tentatio since college, the Psalms have become a profound and timely voice in my time of trial—speaking for me, speaking to me, and speaking through me. Now I understand why the Psalms are so important. So, military life is tough but God provides all we need, even if we don't recognise it at first. 🙏

Nathan Runham

MDiv 2012



Open Week at Trinity


What an encouragement it is to have men and women register to come to our Open Week and then to see the new faces being welcomed as they arrived at our first event for the week, chapel. It is a great place for prospective students to start to get an idea of what it would be like to study at Trinity, to see that everything we do seeks to praise and worship God and to be in closer fellowship with him whilst having hearts transformed.

After chapel our students really shone chatting and laughing with our visitors over bowls of tasty curry and rice prepared by our Student Council.

More new faces greeted us on Thursday evening for Info Night, where 23 prospective students met teaching staff with brief overviews of their role in equipping students for faithful Word ministry. Apprehensions were evident among some of our visitors upon arrival, but they quickly dissipated as details of courses were explained and two current students were interviewed to get their perspective of the training they are receiving.

Each of the student interviews detailed their different circumstances, one being part-time

and one full-time. A thread that wove through the interviews was the appreciation of the quality of our lecturers, the support they received from all staff, and the encouraging community. But over all of this was the love of and commitment to God and faithfulness to their calling to train the next generation of ministry workers.

Before the evening concluded time was given for questions and visitors were encouraged to pray, speak with family and their pastor, and to consider all aspects of their lives as they seek to determine God's will towards study for them. They were given a tour of Trinity House before the evening finished. 

Colleen Mugridge

Development Assistant

Students, staff, and visitors gathered on level 3 for lunch



Trinity Librarian Liz Staer chatting with students and visitors

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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

Hi, I'm Bek Wilson and I worship and serve at Vic Park WPC. Currently I am studying for my Graduate Diploma trusting that God will lead me along the path that will best glorify and serve him and suit my giftings. It is such a privilege spending time learning from God's Word at Trinity. I've been raised in a family that loves Jesus and have attended church all my life. Reaching my teens, I realised I hadn't taken my belief in God seriously and needed to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Since then, I have continued to grow in Christ. Please pray for me as I sit my exams and for wisdom to apply what I am learning in class with opportunities to use it to edify others and help grow them into Christ's likeness. 

Bek Wilson

Grad Dip Student



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Trinity Women




The October Trinity Women's breakfast brought together 30 women from the college community for a time of fellowship.

Our speakers, Fiona Webb, Alexia Horton, and Eilidh Thomson shared their insights about life in ministry. These women have had different journeys and ways of serving God, but spoke of the same joy they have in supporting and serving alongside their husbands. They acknowledged the tensions and learning curves along the way, yet God's sustaining power and his provision of others' support kept them going. This prompted the invitation to meet with fellow Trinity women - to connect and to pray for each other.

The event continued with further conversations in small groups. Female students and wives of students who are graduating shared their future plans. The event ended with a time of prayer for them and the wider implications of supporting roles in ministry.

This is what Trinity Women is all about: to encourage women from

An enjoyable morning had by all the Trinity community in serving God, with a particular focus of creating a supportive network for wives of students who will serve alongside their partners. 

Chen Agyputri

Trinity Administration Assistant

2023 DATES

- 23 Dec - 2 Jan College Closed
- 16 Jan Applications Close
- 11 Feb Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
- 28 Feb Commencement & Graduation
- 1 April Trinity Women Enrichment Day
- 10 May Information Night
- 13 May Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
- 15 May Ministry Matters
- 16 May Open Lecture
- 12 Aug Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
- 18 Sept Annual Lecture
- 19 Sept Ministry Matters
- 11-13 Oct Open Week & Info Night
- 11 Nov Quarterly Prayer Breakfast



Trinity Women Breakfast speakers

Romans at Night

Jared Mills is studying with Trinity@Night. We caught up with him to get his thoughts on the course.

I'm really enjoying the Romans unit! It's different to some of the other units; being centred on one book helps you to go more in-depth on one particular topic rather than in some of the other units.

What compelled you to start studying the Certificate (Trinity@Night) units with Trinity?

A combination of encouragement from my parents, the chance to go along with a few friends, and of course the opportunity the certificate provided to study God's Word in a more concrete and structured environment and program, without feeling as if it was too big of a commitment.

What is your favourite memory of studying these units?

One of my favourite memories from the units that I have completed came in the 'Evangelism' unit, where we had guest speaker Don Warner come in to talk about his own experiences of evangelism. This was great because it gave clarity to what we had been learning about evangelism. It struck me that Don was a normal guy, and his experiences clearly relayed to me that evangelism often doesn't have to be anything fancy but is something that is worked at over (what are often) long periods of time, with varying degrees of success. It was helpful to hear from an 'experienced' evangelist, about his methods, learning curves, and techniques he had learnt over time.

In what context are you currently serving God? How has Trinity@Night helped there?

I currently serve at my church's youth group, and Sunday school as well as in varying degrees with the Christian Union at UWA. The Trinity@Night course has provided me with a solid foundation on God's Word and has helped to give me a more holistic and

well-rounded view of life as a Christian. The units tackle various aspects and themes of the 'Christian life' such as 'Evangelism', the 'Big Picture', and God's grace; the course brings these all together helpfully.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about studying with Trinity?

I would say go for it! I didn't really have any particular reason to begin studying the course other than the fact that I wanted to learn more about God's Word and Jesus' saving work; so if that is you, then this course is really helpful! The Trinity@Night course is also really flexible. You don't even have to do the assignment at the end



Jared Mills

of each unit if you don't want to - just coming each week will challenge and grow you in your knowledge and love of God, alongside fellow believers. The course has given me a greater appreciation for the saving work of Jesus on the cross. Learning about God's plan for the

salvation of mankind and its fulfillment in Jesus has given me more of a 'big-picture' view of life as a Christian. I have been challenged to see everything now in light of that truth which shapes both the way that I interact with other people, and the gratitude and thankfulness with which I approach God. 🙏



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Trinity@Night

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Investing in the Future

Open Week creates such a great energy around the College, with guests coming in and students stepping up to host and share their experiences about studying at Trinity (even as they themselves are heading towards exam and final assignment season!). It's an exciting time, and hearing stories from our Registrar team about how there are already interviews taking place for people looking at enrolling next year is the icing on the encouragement cake!

One of the College's key distinctives is the focus on relational training. With the notable exception of COVID-enforced shifts to Zoom, we do not offer online or distance learning. Students are encouraged to come to chapel every week where we open up God's Word together and worship him. Pastoral Care Groups run most weeks of the academic year, where students and faculty gather in small groups to share life and encourage and pray for each other. Strong 1:1 relationships with Faculty and each other are forged at College which our Alumni carry into their vocational ministry work.

None of this can happen without our

extended community and your support. Prayer for the College, sharing your own stories about who we are and what we do, and financial giving are all integral to the success of our ministry and the future of gospel-centred training in Perth.

By God's grace we have weathered the last few years well and are looking forward to an exciting future, but the financial need is still great. Our fantastic venue – Trinity House – has reached the age where some significant renovations will be needed in the coming years. So it is more important than ever for faithful supporters of the College to rally and give. Head to our website (<https://ttc.wa.edu.au/partner-with-us/>) to make a donation, and if you would like to discuss your support, please don't hesitate to contact me. 🙏

Nathaniel Brown

*Development & Communications
Coordinator*

☎ 08 9228 9067

✉ development@ttc.wa.edu.au

Prayer & Praise

Give thanks for:

- Students finishing the academic year; some who will be returning and some graduating
- Faculty who work hard on their own learning & development to better equip our students
- Open Week bringing 50 people to visit the College
- Council and College leadership bringing godly and wise oversight

Pray for:

- The College's financial position; for more donors in the 25-50 year-old age group
- Students graduating; that they will find suitable ministry positions for their giftings
- Prospective 2023 students currently being interviewed; that they will have wisdom and conviction in their calling
- Growing student numbers into 2023; many new applications for enrolment



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