



How God Grows Faith

Believers in workplaces, schools, sporting clubs—including some which claim Christian heritage—sense constraints upon their religious faith and practice. Christians in leadership and representative roles are regularly called upon to provide “explanations” for their actions and viewpoints as they model, teach, and equip others to follow Christ in all things. What is it that God is seeking at this time?

The book of Exodus follows the story of Israel’s transformation from abject slavery to a manipulative and cruel king in Egypt into beloved servants of a faithful and compassionate God. The Lord God repeatedly displays his utter supremacy and his undeserved grace as he redeems his people and brings them to himself. While at one level the story is about Israel’s journey, the book is written to display the character of God and to show how he achieves his purposes and vindicates his own Name in hidden or unexpected ways. Let me illustrate from Exodus 1 and 2.

Exodus begins with the Israelites in Egypt after the time of Joseph. They have “become exceedingly fruitful . . . multiplied greatly . . . increased in number . . . become numerous . . . filled the land” (1:7). God’s name is not mentioned in these opening verses, but the multiplying language tells us that he is actively present, fulfilling



Will Murphy sharing around the campfire at Broome People’s Church

his creation command (Genesis 1:28) and his covenant promises to Abraham (e.g., Genesis 17:2, 6). God is gathering a people for himself that is without number from “every nation, tribe

people and language” (Revelation 7:9); though we may not see it taking place with our eye, faith knows it to be true.

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Then we see that it is the very fulfilment of God's promises that draws the suspicious and cruel attention of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The Israelites are a threat: "Let us deal shrewdly with them [deal wisely] or they will become even more numerous." Forced work and harsh treatment are prescribed—but this only results in the Israelites multiplying even more (1:12). The Hebrew midwives are then drafted in to destroy every newborn boy of the Israelites. Out of fear of God they refuse to cooperate. They are brought in for questioning, duping the "wise" king with the explanation that Hebrew women deliver babies more quickly than Egyptian women. Ironically, the faithfulness of the midwives increases the Israelite population still more! God overturned the wisdom of the powerful and devious through the wisdom of the cross. In the midst of hardship, God grows his people through the obedience of faith.

In Exodus 2 we are told how Moses (a Hebrew baby boy) is rescued by an Egyptian princess from the water and raised in Pharaoh's house. As an adult he seeks to bring justice for an Israelite slave by slaying his oppressor. But he is then rejected when he tries to reconcile two Israelites. Acts 7 takes up this episode as an example of the unwillingness of Israel to heed the messengers God brings them, up to and including the "Righteous One" (Acts 7:52). God redeems people who don't want to be rescued, who prefer slavery to Pharaoh to service of the living God. Let's not be surprised by resistance in our own hearts and in the hearts of others during times of oppression. As 1 Peter 4 reminds us, trials prove and purify faith—they evidence the Spirit of Christ at work.

God seems strikingly absent from Exodus 1–2, until we look through the eye of faith. In the final verses of the chapter God is revealed as ever-present: he "hears the cries of his people," "remembers his covenant with Abraham . . .," "looks in concern" upon them, and "knows" all that his taking place (2:23–25). For us in our circumstances and time, we believe that, in Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit, God is multiplying disciples throughout the world. Surprisingly, he does this through the wisdom of the cross, proclaimed by weak and faulty messengers to a reluctant and sometimes resistant people. The results of their (our) ministries may not appear significant to the human eye, but to the eye of faith, God's presence and purpose are at work saving and transforming lives. The stories of the College mission teams which follow bear some testimony to this truth. 

With every blessing in Christ

Don West

Principal

Relationships Manager Appointment

My name is Catherine Austin and my passion is to see people equipped and grown in their faith, through a greater understanding of the Scriptures, so that they can deepen their love of God, work for his glory, and share his message of salvation to the ends of the earth.




Catherine Austin

I grew up in Perth in a Christian family and have been going to church since I was foetal, although only came to a saving faith in my 20s. After completing a psychology degree, I moved into sociology to be able to do more qualitative work (think interviews and conversations, rather than data and numbers). In 2012 I moved to Melbourne, where life got quite busy for a few years.

I began a PhD in Sociology, exploring public portrayals of Australian identity. At the same time I undertook a ministry traineeship at St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton, and met and married my now husband, Brett, who was a student at Ridley College. Our first date conversation involved his plans to go to East Asia as a gospel worker, and after six months of prayer and consideration, I was onboard.

We joined Pioneers Australia, and by May 2016 we had raised enough support, I'd finished my PhD, and our first child was four months old, so we were ready to go!

We enjoyed two and half years in East Asia, and welcomed our second child, before we had to return to Australia due to political tensions in the region. Upon return, Brett and I shared care of our two children, while taking up part-time roles. I was able to work as Associate Pastor [Women] at Inner West Church where I enjoyed serving a small community of believers in mission and discipleship, before we moved to Perth at the end of 2022.

I am so excited to be a part of Trinity's ministry and look forward to coming alongside churches, supporters, graduates, and students as we serve the gospel of our risen Lord Jesus in a lost and needy world. 

Catherine Austin

Relationships Manager

Trinity Women Enrichment Day

“Comfort, Comfort, my people,’ says your God.” So begins Isaiah 40, and so began our talks at TWED for 2023. As our speaker Sarah Thorburn reminded us, Isaiah speaks to people who are tired and weary about persevering and trusting God, those who are despairing and humiliated. Though we may not be ancient Israel in exile, these words

of comfort are just as relevant and necessary for us now as they were for the Israelites so very long ago. We too are tired and weary: most obviously from years of uncertainty and change, last-minute changes and constant revisions, and having to learn new skills, rules, and programmes.


But it’s not just COVID - it’s when we see the suffering of others and find ourselves unsure of what comfort we can offer. It’s when we hear the news of yet another church that has been bombed. It’s when we run into yet



Workshop on Level 3

another reminder of our own weakness and frailty in ministry. We are a people in deep need of real comfort - and that is the comfort spoken of by Isaiah. A comfort that isn’t platitudes, but a comfort from the one who is both mighty and tender. God has not forgotten his people but will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

This comfort and reminder from Isaiah alone would have been enough to make TWED a great day, but there was much more to the day that brought comfort and joy. It’s the joy of bumping into that friend you led a camp with

10 years ago (true story, and classic Perth!) at morning tea. It’s the comfort and encouragement to persevere when you hear the stories of the highs and lows of ministry in the interviews (I may have shed a few tears hearing of one student coming to faith in Christ). It’s the learning of new skills and being better equipped for ministry from the workshops that run during the day. I’m already looking forward to TWED for 2024! 

Liz Shanahun

MDiv

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Missions Week: Making it Real

For the first time in three years, Trinity students partnered with churches in helping spread the gospel during Missions Week, 2023. We partnered with Broome Anglican Church and the People's Church, Albany Baptist Church, Williams Anglican Church, and Bull Creek Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Missions Week provided students with an opportunity to put into practice what they have been learning at College; they get to "do" ministry together: giving talks, leading Bible studies, and practically serving diverse communities. Doing this as a team means that relationships are deepened among the team, hopefully for many years to come.

Students also had the opportunity to learn from our experienced mission partners, hearing new and different

perspectives of the joys and challenges of ministry. Many students had not been to their mission location or been given the opportunity to dig deeply into understanding a different denomination. Our mission partners could also talk to students about potential ministry opportunities. I would like to thank all our mission partners for all their hard work. Missions Week would not be possible without them.

Most importantly, Missions Week provided a dedicated time where students and our mission partners could do evangelism together in these communities, from walk up to campfire chats. Please pray for those who heard the gospel, that their hearts would be softened and that may consider the gospel. 

Mike Webb
Missions Lecturer

Jacinta Patterson
sharing at One
Arm Point



Bull Creek

It was a privilege to partner with the people of Westminster Presbyterian Church Bull Creek in the common work of the gospel, and to be exposed to the challenges, opportunities, and blessings of ministry in suburban Perth. One of those blessings, we soon came to realise, is that of a diverse range of gifted and generous cooks who provided lunch each day for us!


Mission ran from the Sunday to the Sunday, with the team contributing in various ways at the morning, Indonesian afternoon, and night services, particularly in giving testimonies to Jesus' work in our lives. During the week we were able to be involved in the regular life of the church. We participated in pastoral visits, playgroup, men's fellowship,

Fun and games at Bull Creek

Bible studies, brigades, youth groups (yes, plural!), and a conversational English class. Through these ministries we were able to have opportunity to try new things and see how the church is seeking to bring God's Word into the lives of all kinds of people.

On Saturday we participated in evangelistic events. In the morning was a women's morning tea, where non-believing friends and family were invited to hear a student being interviewed regarding how they came to trust Jesus and what difference their faith made in their life through a time of great upheaval. On Saturday night the team organised and ran a night of games for the church and their invited friends as the occasion where another testimony was shared.



In being welcomed and included as part of the church for a week, we got to experience first-hand a people-focused, Word-based ministry done in prayerful dependence upon God. We therefore look back on our time with thankfulness to God and for his people at Westminster Presbyterian Church Bull Creek. 

David Kummerow
Senior Lecturer in Old Testament

Broome: Sweating it out for Jesus

As we stepped off the plane in Broome, the mission team was first welcomed by the tropical heat and humidity, and second by the smiling, friendly welcome from members of Broome Anglican Church. While popularly known for the camels on beautiful Cable Beach, Broome is faced with the hardships of the Aboriginal population and the transient community which, for the moment, calls Broome its home. However, the church in Broome showed us how these challenges are opportunities for sharing the gospel. We were honoured to be part of this, as we spent time learning, encouraging the community, and just having fun.

Broome provided many opportunities for learning. We are thankful to the staff from Broome Anglican for helping the team understand Broome's unique context so that they were more effective in sharing the gospel. One example of this was on Tuesday night, where we all went to a block out of town, sat in a circle around a campfire (which kept away the many mossies) in the balmy 30-degree heat singing about Jesus in the Kimberley. During this time of worship Trinity students shared their testimonies and we were treated to hearing the Aboriginal CMS worker Chris storying the hope of Jesus preparing a place in heaven with many rooms for his people. The time finished with passing the microphone around and many of the people present praying. What a joy to see church done in such

a different way and to learn from experienced workers.

The team was also able to encourage the church, through partnering with them in evangelistic events, from a men's burger barbeque night, called Beef with God, a ladies pasta cooking night, a special outreach youth group, all of which culminated in the services of the second Sunday which were all geared at bringing a non-Christian friend. During these events Trinity students shared the gospel, served, and shared with many attendees. And what struck me was the number of non-Christians who attended. Later, in discussing this with the head minister, Michael, he explained that the church had embraced a culture of evangelism. The team also got to partner with the local YWAM team, who encouraged us as we participated in walk up evangelism to the Aboriginal community.

As we left Broome we went away with many memories. So, a big thank you to everyone in Broome for making this a great mission where many heard the good news of Jesus. We praise God, who was clearly present and working and we ask you to pray for all those who heard the message of salvation. 🙏

Mike Webb
Missions Lecturer

Jesse Owuor jamming with the music team prior to the worship service



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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 Tom Measures and I serve at Endeavour Christian Gathering in Currabmine. I'm studying the Bachelor of Theology.

Having no church background growing up, I surrendered to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour at 26 years old, after a team-mate faithfully shared the gospel with me at a football tournament back in England. When I first came to Perth, a friend suggested I take a Trinity@Night course (where I met my wife, Melissa!).

I saw how faithfully and convincingly the Bible was taught which persuaded me to pursue further studies. I also really enjoy the interactions with the lecturers and fellow students, and how much everyone cares for each other. I am trusting in God's plans when I graduate.

Please pray that I continue to rely on his strength with ministry and College commitments, and that I will use the training from Trinity for the furtherance of the kingdom of God. 

Tom Measures

Bachelor of Theology Student



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Gospel Growth in Albany

For Missions Week 2023, our team went to Albany and partnered with Albany Baptist Church (ABC). We all agreed that it was a wonderful week, a gift from God to see his gospel powerfully working there. The week had a balance of learning and serving, listening and doing. At the start of the week, we benefited from chatting to Phil Beeck and other ministry staff at ABC about their biblical philosophy of ministry, the needs of Albany, and the steps they are taking to reach Albany with the gospel. We also took a trip to Gnowangerup on Monday where we met with Jeff Jackson and several members of Gnowangerup Community Church to learn about country ministry. These conversations shaped our understanding of gospel ministry in different contexts and the dedication, focus, perseverance and love necessary for such ministry.

The second half of the week we pivoted to serving in various ways at ABC. A highlight for the team was walk-up evangelism in Albany on a Wednesday afternoon. We learned that most people are lost but most are also very willing to talk about

their spiritual beliefs and begin a conversation. This experience encouraged us to be more bold and joyful in evangelism in our contexts. The team also served by giving testimonies and Bible talks in several settings—a seniors meeting, a hospitality team gathering, youth group on Friday night, and an aged care facility. The team also served faithfully at ABC's Saturday and Sunday gatherings through preaching, prayers, testimonies, and helping out with kids' groups.

Missions Week was very encouraging. Many of the student team tried new things in ministry throughout the week. We learned much from Christians in the Great Southern and can reflect on the kinds of ministries we are doing back in Perth. The opportunity to spread the gospel and partner with others doing the same deepened our love for Jesus and sharpened our focus on ministry that lifts him up and holds him out, wherever we are. 

Grant Taylor

Academic Dean and Lecturer in New Testament



Albany Missions team with Baptist Pastor, Phil Beeck

Mission in Williams

It was a great privilege to spend our Missions Week serving in Gateway Anglican Parish, which is centred in the small town of Williams. While the team had two students pull out before the start of the week because of illness, which required some modifications to our plans, we found that in God's providence the smaller team size was perfect for engaging with the community in the region.

Throughout the week, we had a range of experiences including playing tennis with non-Christian seniors, attending small groups, door knocking to invite residents to an evangelistic service, a bible study and movie night with the teenagers, barbeques, pastoral visits, and much more. We really appreciated how the community from the Parish opened their lives and homes to us through their warmth, welcome, and hospitality.

Apart from Williams, we also visited other smaller congregations that make up the Parish, in the towns of Darkan, Arthur River, Quindanning, and Marradong. Thom Bull (TTC faculty) gave an evangelistic talk on the topic of suffering in Boddington and Williams, and praise God, both events were attended by non-believers.

For most of us, rural ministry isn't something we've had much experience of. It was wonderful to get a glimpse into what gospel work involves in towns like these. It was also great to sit and hear from the minister, Paul Bartley, on the joys and struggles of ministry in the Bush.


Across two Sundays, we also took part in the church services in various



Joe Wilmer engaging with students in Williams

locations. Malachi (via Zoom due to COVID) and Jahjah shared sermons from the Gospel of John, while Joe Willmer, Joe Wilson, and Sam shared their testimonies, devotions, and taught the Bible to the children.

On Friday of Missions Week, the team enjoyed some rest time. Family visited from Perth to spend the day with the team, and to celebrate Jahjah's birthday!

At the end of the week, the team fondly said goodbye to the church family and departed for Perth, eager to see family but also thoroughly encouraged from a week of fruitful ministry. 

Jahjah Chow

MDiv student



18.09.23
SUBI CHURCH
7:30PM

ANNUAL LECTURE



REV DR CHASE KUHN
"ETHICS OF CHARACTER"
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WWW.TTC.WA.EDU.AU/EVENTS


Knowing God

As the newest staff member at TTC, I've been profoundly encouraged by the generous welcome from everyone, as well as the evident commitment, passion, and skill that drives everything they do. It's a great privilege to hear and see the thoughtfulness and prayerfulness that goes on behind the scenes to keep Trinity humming along.

And it is so important to keep Trinity humming along.

It is invaluable to have an exceptional college in WA that prepares people well for gospel proclamation, missional work and evangelism, pastoral care, and many other ministry roles. After being away from WA for more than a decade, I can see some of the fruit God has borne in the proliferation of gospel focused churches across the city, as well as collegial networks, like Perth Gospel Partnership, where Christians work

together for the sake of his name.

It is exciting to see how God is using Trinity in all this! And so we humbly ask you for your earnest prayers in our work, and your financial partnership so we can continue working toward the growth of his kingdom in WA and beyond. Please consider prayerfully how you can contribute to Trinity's work of training future Christian workers. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. 

Catherine Austin
Relationships Manager

Give thanks for:

- Missions Week and the time of evangelism and practical learning
- Our Alumni and their ministries in a wide variety of contexts
- The recent Ministry Matters and Annual Lecture (May) with Rob and Claire Smith

Pray for:

- Students sitting exams in June and Faculty completing/marking assignments
- Many men and women to enrol for study in Semester 2
- Generous response to our Mid-Year Appeal
- Many more to partner with Trinity in equipping men and women for gospel ministry

2023 DATES

12 Aug	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
18 Sep	Annual Lecture with Chase Kuhn
19 Sep	Ministry Matters
9 Oct	Information Night
9-12 Oct	Open Week
10-12 Oct	Open Lectures
11 Nov	Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

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