



It's About People

Matthew tells us that when Jesus looked upon the crowds of people flocking to him, *“he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”* (Matt 9:35–36).

Jesus’s compassion reflects God’s compassion upon Israel in Ezekiel 34. Israel—God’s flock—are being neglected by their shepherds and left for the wild animals. Instead of feeding and protecting the flock with God’s Word, they feed off the flock. God declares that he himself will be their Shepherd; he will bind up their wounds and lead them to pasture.

But then we are told of another shepherd: *“I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd”* (34:23). Matthew is saying that Jesus fulfils this promise (see also John 10).

The Ezekiel background also frames Jesus’s much-quoted plea to his disciples in Matthew 9:37–38: *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”* The “workers” are shepherds after God’s own heart, those who will rescue and nurture the sheep of God on behalf of Jesus, the Shepherd of God’s choosing.

Word ministry is fundamentally about rescuing and feeding people—people who are lost, needy, and helpless, the

very people whom God has set apart for himself. Word ministry is a long-haul enterprise because it concerns shepherding God’s people unto eternity. That’s what local churches are for and that’s the job of those who serve God’s Word within them. It’s about the day-in, day-out work of bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus through the gospel, proclaimed by those who are weak and depend upon him. He is the Chief Shepherd of the sheep and the under-shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-5).

Much shepherding work goes unnoticed and appears unimpressive—both to the sheep (and sometimes to our fellow shepherds). There will be some very tough times in this work, and not a few of us will reach the point when we want to throw in the towel.

And then, the God of grace gives us a glimpse of the Chief Shepherd at work through his Word, and we realise once again that serving him outshines any worldly accolade by an eternity.

So, let’s ask God to raise up workers for the harvest. Let’s pray that our pastors, evangelists, and teachers will set aside worldly praise and ambition, be devoted to the Lord, expound the Scriptures, endure hardships, and be people-focussed shepherds—for about 40 years. And please pray for the College and support it financially so that under God it may fulfil its part in equipping and encouraging such people in the beginning, middle, and end of their ministries.

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Sam Charles preaching at St George’s Anglican Church, Bluff Point during Mission Week



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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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With CRU West in Busselton

During the recent Mission Week one team of Trinity students partnered with CRU West to run a school camp for year 8's from Albany. CRU is a ministry organisation that has been operating in WA for almost 10 years and seeks to share the gospel with primary and secondary students through camps and school-based ministries.


On Monday, the Trinity team had the opportunity to join in with the regular Bible study and meeting of the CRU West staff at their office, before chatting with Ed Surrey (CRU West Director and graduate of TTC) about some of the distinctives of being involved in parachurch ministry. Following a brief lunch, we discussed the plan for the week ahead and made preparations for the various parts of camp we were each responsible for.

For the camp, the Trinity students were divided into two teams. The "onsite" team was responsible for the bulk of the activities and up-front ministry during the week, as well as helping in the kitchen. Those on the "campers" team were allocated a handful of students to care for—which meant getting involved in activities with them, chatting with them during meals, and leading their group discussion time following the Bible talks. In this sense

the week was a true team-ministry. Every Trinity student had clear roles and responsibilities, having to rely on one another to do their part for camp to go well, to enable the campers to be able to explore the gospel together.

The four days of camp were spent at a campsite in Busselton, and our schedule was jam-packed from morning to evening. When the campers weren't out on adventures in Busselton and Dunsborough, they were back at the campsite battling it out with archery tag, competing in challenges on the beach, or playing a wide variety of games together. In the midst of all this activity the teachers noted how great it was that everyone was getting involved—even students who were sometimes excluded or disengaged. The highlight of each day was the Christian Discovery sessions in the evening, where we had the chance to continue our great fun by looking at the Bible together through a reading, skit, and a short talk. In these sessions we explored three parables from Luke's Gospel that showed our need for God and his forgiveness, and how he can welcome us home with open arms because of what Jesus has done.

The week was a fantastic opportunity for us to get to know one another better, to pray together for our campers, and to give

constructive feedback on our various responsibilities. We were also all stretched out of our comfort zones—whether that was through giving a talk for the first time, explaining the gospel to year 8's, being involved in catering for 40 people, or acting out skits of the parables. The mission was also a great lesson of dependence on God to work in the hearts of the campers through his Word. Many of the campers did not have a Christian background and—whilst we were able to have encouraging conversations on camp—it was challenging to see them leave not knowing if our efforts would bear fruit. Yet as we prayed for them, we trust that God is at work even where we can't see, and even where our efforts seem frail, we have great confidence in the God who delights to forgive and welcome home sinners. 

Aidan Smith MDiv student

It's About People

Continued from cover page

Before I conclude, I want to welcome our new Development Officer, Ben Johnston, into the College's prayer and support community. Ben may be known to many of you as the former Senior Pastor at Subi Church. Since retiring from that role, Ben, with his wife Sheri, have established "Spero" a retreat ministry designed to encourage Christian leaders to continue on in faithful and dependent service of Christ. Ben's desire for healthy local churches and his extensive experience in raising funds in churches are a great gift to us. Please pray for Ben and the College as, under God, we seek to grow our prayer and financial supporters to partner with us into the next phase of our ministry.

Warmly yours in Christ 

Don West Principal

Working with teens from an Albany school on camp in Busselton



Trained for Mission

“So, how did it go?” I asked, striking up what I thought would be a light conversation with students as they returned from their mission week.

“It was good,” Elder Markem replied, “We witnessed a miracle circumcision.”

It was a couple of weeks into my first term teaching at the Enefa Ministry Training Centre on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, and I thought I must have been struggling with the language. But no, my students were earnestly recounting what they believed to be a miracle—a spontaneous circumcision following prayer.

It happened at a church plant I was delegated to oversee, and six similar circumcisions followed. Speculation rippled through the community as to what they meant, and eyes turned to me to weigh in. I was just a babe in the jungle. I was in the land of stories, or perhaps, more accurately, the land of interpretations, and I needed to navigate it.

Tanna was a place where people listened to spirits and were taught by birds. It was a place where one could go “behind the wild cane,” transcending



A traditional wedding, Middle Bush, Tanna Vanuatu

our dimension and returning with prosperity. It was the place where—so I was told by church elders—God had given certain stones to produce harvests. It was the island that gave birth to the world, the place where the Ten Commandments were received and Jesus was buried. It was the true home of Prince Philip, who would return to usher in a new age. It was a place where angels danced under the power of the Holy Spirit, gaining the ability to peer through the “glass” of this world and where people would soon shed their skin and become young


again. It was a place where assassins wielded magic, the dead walked, and death was feared. These beliefs required theological responses.

I had never been on a college mission where a physical miracle had taken place—let alone in someone’s pants! Yet, I was more or less equipped. Not because I had all the answers—I still don’t—but because I felt that I

had a framework I could use to come up with good enough answers and, more importantly, to determine which answers were really needed.

Had Trinity merely imparted the correct doctrines, my education would have been confined to the questions raised by the Western church. But, in my three years of study, Trinity taught me to think theologically, enabling me to return to first principles to construct the responses I needed.

Similarly, if I had jumped directly into mission training, I might have learned to analyse worldviews and adapt theology to culture. Yet, without a steady theological compass, I would have risked practising technique without truth.

In the 20th century, the church transitioned from being Euro-centric to a global entity, creating a dynamic and diverse ministry landscape for the 21st century. In this context, Trinity equips people for effective global missions by marrying practical ministry training with deep exegesis of the biblical text, leading to robust and rich theology. 

Tom Richards MDiv 2012

Curriculum Developer and Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu and an Adjunct Lecturer at Trinity

Trinity at Night

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A Week at Williams

“Jesus swapped...”

“With me!” screamed back a crowd of about 35 kids.

This was the call and response for the kids after school club our mission team ran at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Williams during Mission Week. It is also the message being held out every day to the towns of the six churches that make up the Gateway Parish.

We had the privilege of being hosted by the Bartley family and various members of the Gateway Parish during a week of mutual encouragement, during which we got to learn from them, and do ministry for them and side-by-side with them.

Our two Sundays were full of church, preaching, serving in kid’s and youth ministry, sitting in on an Annual Meeting of Parishioners, sharing meals and stories with the church family, taking photos, and making relationships.

The rest of the week was full of things that come out of the same gospel which brought us together on Sunday. There was time spent trying to build relational bridges to the community, such as playing games with high-school kids, or Joe running a woodworking event at the Men’s Shed. There were also opportunities to explicitly hold out the gospel; Eh Yel shared his testimony

at two different events, we all mucked in at the Kid’s Easter Club and Sarah and I got to take the teen Bible study through Revelation 4 and marvel at God’s glory that is worthy of all our attention. The team also shared a meal with a family who were mostly non-Christian where some of us were able to share the gospel and urge a few of them to keep investigating Jesus and his church for themselves.

A personal highlight was simply being with the people connected to the Gateway Parish. There are quirks to country ministry (and country people! 😊), one of which is the slower rhythm of life than that of the city. This brings excellent opportunities for deeper conversations. We all made pastoral visits to people connected to the church. There is an op-shop staffed by church volunteers which helps fund the Bartley’s ministry in the Gateway Parish. I got to spend time sorting clothes with a volunteer, Dennis, who became a Christian later in life and heard how he has been digging into the



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Bible for himself.

Another vivid learning experience for me was the opportunity to see two almost opposite, though not opposing, ministries that were happening in Boddington (a nearby town). It was good to be challenged by the priorities those ministries had.

It was also great to have the opportunity to reflect on this, and all the aspects of the week, with Dan Cole and Paul Bartley (a Trinity graduate), drawing on their experience, wisdom, and openness with us. There are limitless ways of spending ministry time and energy, especially across such a geographically and financially spread-out group of people. As a minister, there is always more to do. Paul encouraged us and modelled to us that by the Spirit we are set free from guilt, kept humbly aware of our weakness, and enabled to find deep joy in the faithful, simple ways that God steadily and continuously grows his kingdom.

Praise God for Mission Week and pray for the Gateway Parish! 

Lindsay Rhodes MDiv student




Bluff Point

The Trinity team had a wonderful week in Geraldton being cut loose from the library and proclaiming Jesus. This year, St George's Bluff Point has adopted the Australia wide evangelistic campaign called "Meet Jesus." So, they were ready to go when we arrived. Many had been praying and spending time in their Bible studies thinking through evangelism. Many were keen to "cross the pain line" and say something about Jesus. The staff team were on target leading us and the church in how to do this throughout the week.

We had multiple opportunities to reach the community. The first one was doorknocking. This was a tremendous success. Talking about Jesus is always a thrill, but it's even better when you get to do it with your mates. Going in pairs, more than a few conversations developed beyond an awkward exchange. One woman had been meaning to get back to church for ages. One man was into Māori spirituality and said he would come to church, though we did not see him on the Sunday. Another man laughed in our faces when we told him where we were from and shook his head saying, "Absolutely nothing will convince me that there is a God." But Sam and I had a good time responding to him. Although many people responded coolly or not at all, the Lord in his

kindness gave us enough decent conversations to see how valuable it is simply to speak to someone about Jesus.

Every student also had a go giving a Sunday sermon or a mid-week evangelistic talk. At a Saturday evangelistic dinner, I spoke from Mark 14 to persuade people how valuable Jesus' death is by looking at the woman who poured out expensive perfume over Jesus. Afterwards, an elderly man on my table who was dragged along by his wife refused to engage in conversation. She pleaded with him, "Why don't you care?" And he just shrugged and said, "It's irrelevant." It was heartbreaking to see him so easily dismiss the claims of Jesus. But I was so encouraged to see this woman reaching out to her husband of over sixty years with the gospel.

These are just a couple of examples of the faithful and wide-ranging gospel ministry we were involved in across the week. As a result of our time in Geraldton we are now praying for gospel ministry in the North West each Wednesday when we meet to pray for each other. 

Matt Smith MDiv student

The Bluff Point team outside St George's Church



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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 Michelle Lee and am so blessed to call Christ my Lord and Saviour! I attend the English congregation at Perth Chinese Christian Church in Doubleview. The Lord has graciously drawn me to himself over the past 10 years through his Scripture and has encouraged me by his faithful servants along the way. As my love for Jesus grew, my desire for people to know my friend Jesus grew too. Through the encouragement of many, I did a few Trinity at Night units. I enjoyed them so much that I'm now enrolled in DipTh to take it a step further. I have been enjoying discovering new things in the Scripture while doing the assignments and sharing about it. At the moment, I am enjoying this privilege of digging deeper into God's Word and trusting him for what's ahead. Please pray for wisdom and endurance for the various commitments with friends and family, church, work, and study while keeping my eyes laser-focussed on Jesus.



Michelle Lee (Degree) Student 

Trinity Enrich Conference

There was a buzz of excitement as women started gathering early on Saturday 20th April for the much-anticipated Trinity Enrich Conference – formerly Trinity Women Enrichment Day – with the promise of fantastic teaching, fellowship, and a day free from responsibilities.

On arrival, women were already engaged in conversation, catching up with old friends, making new friends and sharing about life and ministry; the joys and challenges; excited for the day ahead.


The message from Anne Young, Chair of the 2024 Enrich Committee said, 'The hope and prayer of Enrich is that it will be a great day of encouragement for you and that the Bible talks, workshops, interviews, chats over food and the very act of meeting together will spur you on in your life of living for Jesus and will help to practically equip you to serve others.' God answered this prayer, for the day was exactly that and the food was delicious!

The day started with prayer as around 70 women bowed their

heads before our Father in heaven, followed by songs of praise to our great God and Saviour. Then guest speaker, Jane Tooher, Ministry and Church History lecturer, and Director of the Priscilla and Aquila Centre at Moore College, shared from Hebrews 4 about the confidence we can have in approaching the throne of God, in presenting our prayers and petitions to our great high priest, Jesus Christ, who mediates for us in the very presence of God.

Following the talk, women attended and benefitted from workshops covering topics from systematic theology, lamenting, catering, and life transitions, through to sharing the Bible with those struggling to read.

The day concluded with an interview with two women in different stages of life and ministry experience yet sharing in a common goal; to make Jesus known.

It was an enriching and encouraging day indeed. Thanks be to God! 

Eleanor Lyons

Registrar

Trinity Enrich



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The Life of a Missionary



Training gospel ministry workers in Tanzania

As I look out over the valley from our house to a million-dollar mountain view, with puffs of smoke from village fires and hearing yelping chickens, it is a good reminder we are far from Perth. We have been in Tanzania as cross-cultural workers (better known as missionaries) for over 12 years, involved in Word ministry.

As I stand admiring the view in the cool damp air of the morning, I'm thinking, 'What encounters will today bring?' there are many flashbacks of mission life:


Will I encounter threats of arrest, legal action, or demands for money? Will there be issues with the water and power supply? Will the kids get sick or have malaria from a recent trip? Will I spend endless hours obtaining permits to continue our work here? As I gaze at the fence, I see barbed wire dripping off it, triggering the thought - will something be stolen? Will there be funds in the bank, or will they be frozen again by the government? Might my wife need to be medically evacuated - or will I? Will we receive news of new

supporters or lose existing ones from churches back home? These scenarios have unfolded before, most repeatedly.

As these flashes resonate around, I am brought back to the reality that in our predominantly 'Christian' corner of East Africa, the prosperity gospel is often preached in churches and curses are pronounced by witch doctors in villages. We have limited exposure to other religions other than Islam but face extremely distorted interpretations of our own faith. As with Perth and elsewhere, there is great room for the gospel to go forth, take root, and grow deep. The message of Jesus has spread well in Africa and taken root to some extent (often syncretistic deviations), but the soil is shallow, and roots are fragile, often with manipulative and destructive leaders at the helm. As Jesus mentioned, faith is easily uprooted and withers in those environments (Matt 13:20-21).

Our aim here is to deepen and strengthen roots as we work to impart the truth of who God is through His Word, and how he interacts with us and our world. This deeply matters

because of who God is - and isn't - as it shapes not only how we live our lives but how we relate to our Saviour. This leads me to be in prayer because Christian ministry is about people and love for people (1 Thess 2:8). The biblical pattern goes beyond declaring the gospel solely; it means engaging, serving, and giving to people in love (Eph 5:2).

It is twenty-plus years since I was at Trinity. What resonates in my heart even to this day is how the staff exemplified the gospel. I remember well after an accident, Don, Allan (Chapple) and Marty (Foord) coming, praying, and caring for me. I don't remember many lectures, but I do remember the gospel that was taught with clarity and with conviction, and the love shown in action that pointed me to Christ (Phil 3:17). In some small way, on the other side of the world, we are attempting the same - teaching God's Word and loving the people we serve. 

Craig Willis-Jones

Advanced Diploma of Theology 2005

From Classroom to Faith: A Journey in Cross-Cultural Connections


We are so encouraged and thankful to God for each one of you who partners with us prayerfully and financially to equip gospel workers. During a recent conversation with one of our graduates, Joe Wilson, who is pastoring at Byford Baptist, the fruit of this training could clearly be seen.

As Joe related, "Studying Cross-Cultural Communications with Mike Webb at Trinity Theological College was a transformative experience. Through classroom discussions and practical fieldwork, we learned to appreciate diverse cultures and worldviews. As Christians, understanding and engaging with diverse cultures is crucial for sharing the gospel in our increasingly interconnected world.

Encouraged by Mike to pray for openness and courage, I was challenged to reach out to those from diverse backgrounds. When Bassem, a young

Egyptian man, visited my previous church seeking answers, I saw an opportunity to live out this lesson. Despite my nerves, I invited him to join my family for Easter, and he accepted.

Our friendship deepened; Bassem's heart was transformed, and he became a Christian and was baptised! Over the year, we studied the Bible together deepening his faith, and he felt called to return to Egypt, trusting in God's plan for his life.

Reflecting on this journey, I'm amazed at God's work. What began as a course became an encouragement, leading to prayer and then a life-changing opportunity for faith. While not all stories unfold as ours did, I hope this testimony inspires others to step out in faith and see where God might lead them." 

Joe Wilson BTh 2023

Joe Wilson with Bassem



Prayer & Praise

Give thanks for:

- Praise God for Mission Week and time for evangelism and practical learning in student teams
- Praise God for the clarity with which the faculty understand, explain, and apply the Scriptures to ministry and mission contexts
- Praise God for Trinity at Night and Trinity in Town courses; for the impact being felt in church groups

Pray for:

- Pray that the 2024 budget is met through the Mid-Year Appeal
- Pray for new staff members, Ben Johnston and Linda Lee (Communications Officer) in their new roles
- Pray for many applications to study being received for Semester 2

Dates for 2024

3 Aug Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

9-13 Sep Open Week

21 Oct Annual Lecture

2 Nov Quarterly Prayer Breakfast