



TRINITY NEWS

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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Heart for Mission

IN THIS EDITION

PAGE 3 Mission Week: Albany
PAGE 4 Mission Week: Armadale
PAGE 5 Mission Week: Katanning

PAGE 6 Mission Week: Port Hedland
PAGE 7 Considering Mission
PAGE 8 Interview with the Faircloughs
PAGE 10 Trinity Enrich Conference



REACHING A PLENTIFUL HARVEST

Growing up, my family spent time on the mission field in central Taiwan. And while we were there, some friends who owned a large orchard invited us to spend a day picking mangoes because there were too many for their pickers to gather before they went rotten.

The problem is, I really don't like mangoes! There are two things that stuck out to me from that day, as I sat in the car watching the rest of my family excitedly pick, eat and pack mangoes. First, I remember feeling sick because of the overwhelming smell of very ripe mangoes. But second, I remember the urgency with which everyone worked; after all, the harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few.

This, of course, is exactly how Jesus begins his commission to the seventy-two before sending them out on mission (Luke 10:2). Having a small team of workers would not be a problem for a large harvest, if that harvest could be gathered indefinitely. But harvests, by nature, only happen for a limited time. The harvest is urgent. Rather than panic, Jesus commands his disciples to pray to the Lord of the Harvest, because he is able to make sure that the harvest is gathered. And he does this by sending out more workers.

As those some disciples return to Jesus, he makes sure that they rightly understand the true nature of Christian mission. On the one hand, it is an activity of immense privilege and blessing—Isaiah, Jeremiah, David and Hezekiah longed to experience such things but did not (Luke 10:23–24). The mission of God in Jesus Christ has a far greater glory and blessing

than what any of these heroes of faith experienced. On the other hand, even in the midst of such blessing, the fundamental point of rejoicing is not in the mighty acts of the workers but in the fact of our redemption through the choice of God to reveal and save (Luke 10:18–21).

God's harvest continues to this day as he sends out more and more to proclaim the message of the gospel. In this issue of Trinity News, you'll hear more of the place that missions and evangelism have within the training program and ethos of our college, as well as read of God's work through our recent mission teams. I would love for you to give thanks for this, and pray for those in Port Hedland, Armadale, Katanning, and Albany who heard the gospel. Please also pray for the ongoing training of our students to take the important message of Jesus to communities here in Western Australia, Australia and the world, and pray that God would raise up yet more men and women for the harvest. Like those sent out in Luke 10, may we both know the blessing of the salvation-historical time in which we live and also rejoice that through the work of Christ our names too are written in heaven.

Dan Cole
Principal

Welcome

“

God's harvest continues to this day as he sends out more and more to proclaim the message of the gospel.

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Students helping to run a service at Albany Baptist Church

MISSION WEEK

Albany

Albany Baptist Church was one of our partners to host a team of students this year. Intentionally, the church did not run a “special” mission for this week by putting on events out of the ordinary.

A typical week for Albany Baptist Church is very mission focused, so we were integrated into the normal life of the church as it seeks to connect with its community with the good news about Jesus.

Mission ran from the Saturday afternoon to the Sunday of the next week, with the team contributing in various ways at the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning services: leading, praying, preaching, and teaching kids, as well as a testimony and Bible talk at an aged care home. One member of the team also preached at Gnowangerup Baptist Church.

During the week we were able to be involved in the regular life of the church. We participated in school form classes, street evangelism, men’s breakfast, and youth group. The church staff made themselves available throughout the week and took time with us to explain their roles. We got to see how training is being done through the Great Southern Training Hub.

On Tuesday night the team organised the food for a Gospel in Four Meals night. It was a trial night, where table leaders got to experience how the first night would run, and others got to see what they would be inviting their friends and family to. Though we overcatered, our meal also fed us for lunch over the next couple of days!

The following day, the team travelled out to Gnowangerup where we were exposed to the opportunities and challenges of rural ministry. A highlight was joining some families from the district for lunch at their farms and sharing about our lives and ministries together.

We were shown generous hospitality by our billets. As we look back, we’re thankful to God for sustaining us and using us as we partnered together as a team and alongside Albany Baptist Church in ministry and mission. Our time there provided a good experience for our students.

David Kummerow
Senior Old Testament Lecturer



Riley, Caleb, Dart and Wil preparing food for Gospel in Four Meals



Caleb with the Albany Baptist youth group

MISSION WEEK

Armadale

The Armadale mission team got to spend a week observing and serving alongside ministries connected to Grace Christian Church in Armadale, a Westminster Presbyterian Church which meets in a refurbished carpet store!

It was an opportunity to see what gospel ministry looks like, especially amongst people with deep congregational and cultural convictions, and to talk about when and how to wisely do ministry across those convictional lines for the sake of the gospel.

We plunged into the week on Sunday, joining the gathering on Sunday morning to share in worship and service, teaching kids, sharing testimonies and sharing lunch with some of the people from Grace afterwards. Monday had us at Balga Evangelical Aboriginal Church, hearing about their practical ministry to Indigenous people through Ebenezer Aboriginal Corporation, as well as their Bible training work across the state and nation through First Nations Ministry Training.

On Tuesday, we joined Grace's craft group (a personal highlight for Mike Webb) and I (Lindsay) was able to share a short devotional on John, encouraging those there that things we want from God are ultimately found in him, not what we can get from him. We then got to sit down with Trinity graduates, Michael Dean-Smith (Teaching Elder at Grace), Joe Wilson (Lead Pastor at Byford Baptist), and Ben van der Klip (Rector at St. Mary in the Valley Anglican, Kelmscott). They encouraged us in the great partnership that they have as Trinity graduates, and more importantly, as true partners in the gospel. It has given them opportunities for ongoing ministry and encouragement across denominations. We then had dinner and Bible study at a nearby house, spending more time with some Grace members as we looked at 1 Kings 1 together.

On Wednesday, the group dropped into ministries to young mums, a food bank, 'Pregnancy Pathways,' and the 'Under His Wings' community outreach program. While these ministries involve gritty work, a great encouragement was provided by Tony Walker (another Trinity graduate) who spoke about his involvement in prison ministry: people in desperate situations have a deep awareness of what they lack and are looking for hope. And in the gospel, we have the greatest hope to offer. Ministries like this create great opportunities for deep relationships and evangelism to those in desperate need of fellowship.

Despite being a Perth-based mission, the group got to do an overnighter to York and Brookton. There are wonderful ministries happening in schools and churches there. The team got to share the gospel with the kids through a memory verse, a small item, and a gospel illustration (some oil and colouring mixed in a cup!) on the Friday, then rolled up sleeves and served at a busy bee on Saturday morning.

On Sunday we were back at church, hearing from Psalm 32 how good it is to be forgiven! A personal highlight was getting to pray with a lady after church, who had come out of a difficult season but was thankful for the ministry of Grace Christian Church, and was marvelling at the beauty of the wording of the Psalm we had heard student Nic preach.

Pray for all these ministries, that those involved would be holding firmly to the gospel, and that by the Spirit, God would be growing the kingdom of his Son through his servants in Armadale, York, Brookton and beyond!

Janine Jacobsz *GradDipDiv student*
Lindsay Rhodes *MDiv student*



Lindsay leading a Bible study with Grace Christian Church members



Finishing Mission Week with lunch at a church member's home

MISSION WEEK

Katanning



Sharing the load on the day off



Sheep at a Katanning farm



Eh Yel giving his testimony at a meal for the community

This year, Trinity partnered for the first time with Katanning Baptist Church for Mission Week. We worked alongside Jesse Dixon (a Trinity graduate) and John Pim, the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor respectively.

Katanning is a farming community and so we started the week visiting a farm where we learnt the context in which farmers make a living. We also visited a sheep farm where we counted, drafted and drenched ('separated' and 'gave medication' for those of us who are not-so-farming educated) the sheep and learnt lessons about ministry from that. Suffice to say, we learnt it's not necessarily a compliment when God calls us sheep and we do need a shepherd!

The week contained a variety of ministry opportunities and activities. Wednesday was a full day starting with visits to two aged care homes where students Sam and Cooper gave short messages to the residents. A Bible Society meeting followed, giving a briefing on life in Papua New Guinea. We ended the day with dinner and a Bible study with one of the church's small groups. Other parts of the week included walk-up evangelism, which was challenging and exciting as we met different people in town, including some Muslim medical students who were visiting from Perth. We helped with an outreach dinner at Hope Café that Katanning Baptist hosts once a month, where Eh Yel gave his testimony. There were a few Vietnamese temporary migrants who attended that dinner and lived on the church grounds. This gave

an opportunity to have a soccer game with them later in the week and to share the gospel. It was an interesting experience trying to communicate with them, sharing the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man let down through the roof, using both English and an audio translation in Vietnamese!

We met with the Ministers Fraternal, which was a meeting attended by ministers and chaplains from Katanning and surrounding areas, who gave us insights on what country ministry is like. Towards the end of the week, there were pastoral care visits and an exploration of how we would respond to real-life ministry scenarios. This was capped off by attending Sunday church with Matt preaching the sermon and others helping with other parts of the service. We ended the week with lunch hosted by Jesse and John. It was a fruitful time and gave us an eye-opener to country ministry in Katanning. Please pray with us for the growth of the gospel there.

Clement Chin
MDiv Student

MISSION WEEK

Port Hedland



The mission team (wearing orange hats) with Phil and Mee Ping at the Seafarers Centre

The Trinity mission team to Port Hedland had an awesome week working alongside St. Matthew's Anglican Church.

This vibrant little church managed to billet us for the week, and in spending time with their congregation we were exposed to the unique ministry opportunities and challenges found in this rural port town. We especially learnt a lot from Rector Eion Simmons about what it is like to minister in a church with a fluctuating population, and from Darrell Parker (Bishop of North West Australia) about caring for churches across these remote areas. Thank God for this church and for the Simmons family, and all the wonderful work they do in the north-western corner of Western Australia.

As a team we served at St. Matthew's in a number of ways. Kian and Hayden preached, Sarah and Rachel gave their testimonies, and we also helped to lead Sunday school both Sundays we were there. We helped run a youth night, where the young people of the church could invite friends to play games, eat snacks, have fun together and hear the gospel in a Bible talk given by Ryan. The women in our group also helped run a women's night while the men helped facilitate a men's breakfast. Both of these events had one of the Trinity team giving a talk on Mark 4. Rachel and Ryan both spoke about Jesus calming the storm, which was especially relevant to those who came along,

as a cyclone had passed through Port Hedland only weeks before we arrived.

We also spent a couple of days during the week with the Seafarers Centre. It was a privilege to show compassion to the sailors who form the crew of the many ships coming to and from the port. These sailors only get a handful of hours on land during the entirety of their 9-12 month contracts, and this is only made possible by the Seafarers Centre. Speaking to the seafarers who come from all over, particularly India, the Philippines and China, we had chances to share the hope of the gospel with those who live such arduous lives just to provide for their families at home. We also managed to board some of these ships with one of the chaplains, Mee Ping, and meet and pray for the captains and their crews. Please pray for the Seafarers ministry across the world, particularly Mee Ping and Business Manager Phil who work tirelessly in the centre in Port Hedland, and went through such effort to let us serve with them for a few days.

As a Trinity team, we learnt lots about the unique ministry and needs of rural communities in the Pilbara. We want to thank Bush Church Aid for facilitating our flights and allowing for us to have these opportunities. We also earnestly pray for all those who are a part of St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Port Hedland, that they might be encouraged in their faith and be a light for Christ in their community.

Kian Meyerink
BTh Student



Exploring the sights at Port Hedland



Living Faiths students visiting a Perth mosque

Mike Webb
Missions Lecturer

CONSIDERING MISSION

Have you ever thought about the word “mission”?

About 50 years ago, if I said the word mission, everyone knew that I was talking about people going overseas and sharing the gospel with people from a different culture. While if I said the word evangelism, people would immediately think of sharing the gospel with people locally. But today the words mission and evangelism are used interchangeably, which in some ways is good as we are all sent by God to make disciples both locally and to the ends of the earth (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

At Trinity, our vision is to equip people for effective Christian service and a part of this equipping is learning how to share the gospel with people (“mission”). So how do we do this at Trinity? The cornerstone of mission at Trinity is the Scriptures. To disciple people, we need to be faithful to God’s Word. This is why I love Trinity’s high value of learning the original biblical languages as it ensures a solid foundation for sharing the gospel faithfully. This teaching is shaped by our philosophy of integrating heads, hearts and hands, where our Christ-centred, Bible-based teaching is applied to ministry, and always with people in mind.

For this reason, we want to equip students to share the gospel message in ways that make sense to the receiver. Perth is a multicultural city with a third of our population born overseas. Because of this, we value equipping our students in understanding their own culture, as well as other cultures and religions through our Cross-Cultural Communications and Living Faiths units. These help to prepare our students to share the gospel in ways that speak to people’s hearts in their specific context.

We take what we have learned in our classes and apply it through participating in Mission Week each year, where we partner with churches and parachurch organisations across WA to share the gospel. It gives students the opportunity to further develop the ministry skills they have learnt through providing exposure to different models of discipling in various contexts. What a great joy it is to hear students’ stories of how their experiences have helped them to both grow and see kingdom growth!

Finally, at Trinity we also want to promote overseas cross-cultural missions. My research has shown that missionary numbers are decreasing. However, God’s salvation plan has always included the nations in faraway places (Isa 49:6). Therefore, we want students to understand overseas mission work, whether they are considering serving as missionaries, or will be part of churches that are sending missionaries. We do this in many ways, for example, by partnering with mission organisations to bring in missionaries who serve all over the world to share their lives and prayers with our students and staff. We are honoured to be able to equip the next generation for mission by creating relationships and opportunities for students to meet with missionaries, exposing them to missions today, and helping them to understand God’s desire to reach people from every nation.

Mike Webb has been on faculty since 2021. Before this, Mike and his family served for 14 years as missionaries, planting churches in South East Asia.



Jason and Hannah with their children Elena, Samuel, Miriam & Susanna

INTERVIEW

with Jason & Hannah Fairclough

Trinity graduates Jason (MDiv, 2020) and Hannah (GradDipDiv, 2021) moved to Italy in 2022 to serve as missionaries, discipling university students in partnership with GBU, the Italian branch of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). They are based in Florence with their four children, and have been in Perth on home assignment for six months this year.

What does an average day look like for you in Florence?

The things we're regularly doing are very similar to standard family life in Australia, buying, preparing and eating food, washing and cleaning, looking after kids, dropping kids at school, park visits etc.

In ministry there isn't really an 'average day' but the sorts of things we get involved in are sharing the gospel on campus alongside students, training students, meeting with them to read the Bible, helping them prepare Bible studies (or preparing studies ourselves), praying and preparing with my colleague Andrea, and ministering in all kinds of unexpected ways and times – like helping students who need to prepare to preach, chatting with students concerned about a friend who has doubts about the gospel, meeting with ex-students to help them think about Bible college or ministry, or talking through relational or theological issues with students. There are also a huge variety of other interactions in the community and with friends. Ministry is rarely ever neatly contained or scheduled!

How has your time at Trinity prepared you for your ministry?

Our studies at Trinity have given us a solid theological basis, which allows us to see the world from a biblical perspective. It means that when we are facing questions from students, we can confidently direct them back into God's Word to find the answers. Not only can we confidently face students' doubts and questions, but we can identify early potential theological issues that they are being exposed to as we've been exposed to a broad range of theological perspectives and had the chance to think them through in the light of God's Word.

Finally, I believe that the time I spent at Trinity gave me the space to think through important foundations for Christian life and ministry, which have helped us to persevere in an isolated and at times difficult spiritual context.



Jason reading the Bible with a university student

How has God been at work to shape you and your ministry?

God has been at work helping us to grow in our trust in him as we struggle to keep choosing to sacrifice good things willingly and joyfully for the sake of serving others with the gospel. He has reminded us that our true home is not in Australia (or Italy), but in his kingdom, and he has been growing us to look forward to the reality of Jesus' return rather than seeking to live the most comfortable or 'thriving' life we can in this world.

In short, he has been teaching us to treasure Jesus more and more and growing our desire to also help others come to know, love, and treasure him above all else.

What are some ways the Trinity community can support and pray for you?

One of the most helpful things that can be done to support anyone in ministry is to remind them of the gospel convictions which drive us as Christians and to encourage them that Jesus is worth it. We would love to be reminded regularly that this work is worth it, for Jesus' glory and for the growth of his kingdom!

Regarding prayer, we would love your prayers for perseverance and joy in choosing a harder path for the sake of the gospel and for those we are serving. Please pray that we keep our eyes on Jesus, and grow to trust and treasure him more and more.

Please also pray that we grow in love for Italians and experience a growing gospel partnership with our national GBU staff team and other local church leaders, and that God supplies us with wisdom and godliness as we cross cultures.



Campus Bible study group



If you'd like to connect with Jason and Hannah and their ministry in Italy, please scan this QR code to visit the CMS website



Walk up evangelism using Two Ways to Live

TRINITY ENRICH CONFERENCE:

Rich Towards God

Enrich Conference is Trinity's annual conference for women serving in Word ministry. A record number of attendees were at this year's conference, which included a Bible talk, ministry-focused workshops, and opportunities to connect with other women serving in their churches. We were privileged to hear **Liana Hunt** speak on Luke 12 and being rich towards God. Here is a summary of her main teaching points.

Perseverance is essential for faith to survive until Christ returns. In Luke 12:1-34, Jesus gives his disciples three instructions on how to persevere under pressure.

1. Be Brave (v.1-12)

When Jesus' disciples are under persecution, they will be tempted to hypocrisy to hide their faith. They will **be brave** if they know God; that he is the judge who knows all, that he is their Father who has not forgotten them, and that he will give them the words to defend themselves, by his Holy Spirit. Most of us haven't found ourselves in the dock for our faith. But when have you self-censored and not spoken up for Jesus? Our temptation can be avoiding the court of public opinion. We need to train our hearts out of hypocrisy in all situations. If we get into the habit of hiding our faith in the face of any opposition or conflict, eventually we will struggle to find it again.



Liana Hunt and MC
Kerry Newill at Enrich

2. Be Wary (v.12-21)

In the next section, Jesus teaches his disciples to **be wary** about the foolishness of greed. The rich man in the parable doesn't appear to be in danger. Surely saving your surplus is prudent management. But in verse 20 God's verdict on the man is "You fool!" Greed tricks the man into getting life wrong. He plans without regard for God. Greed has fooled him into thinking that having plenty to be comfortable for plenty of years is life's purpose. But the man's possessions gave him no security and stopped him from being rich towards God.

3. Be Rich (v.23-34)

Finally, Jesus teaches his disciples how to **be rich** towards God. The first thing he says is not to worry about daily provision. Jesus' advice is to replace worrying with considering. If God provides what ravens and wildflowers need, how much more will he feed and clothe you. If Jesus' followers are fuelled by worry about daily provision, their lives will look no different to those who do not know God. Disciples are free to run a different race and seek his kingdom instead. Do you have a regular practice of considering? Take a break from worrying and get out there with your binoculars, snorkel or wildflower guide! As you do, thank God that he provides for all his creatures and even more for you. Jesus' second instruction on how to be rich towards God is to "sell your possessions and give to the poor." Remove the opportunities for greed to tempt you! Instead we should be considering, "could I make things less abundant now and put the difference into a purse that will not wear out?"

Dwell on God's fatherly provision and actively invest in his kingdom, because in our Lord Jesus he has been pleased to give us eternal riches that will never fade.



Left to right: Enrich attendees enjoying opportunities for fellowship; discussion at the ministry workshops; many women came together as a group from their church

Liana Hunt trained for ministry with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) and studied at Trinity alongside her husband Jeff. They now serve together at North Coast Church and are blessed with four children. Trinity grew her love for the Bible and confidence to read it with women.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Give thanks for:

- Lecturer in Theology, Thom Bull's PhD thesis being completed and successfully accepted by Moore Theological College.
- Many people attending Info Night, Open Lecture and Trinity Enrich Conference.

Pray for:

- Our students and faculty as they approach the end of semester and prepare for exams.
- Many new students to apply for the Semester 2 intake.
- The mid-year appeal, that many would give generously for the College to continue to equip men and women for gospel ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Aug Quarterly Prayer Breakfast
18 Aug Annual Lecture

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Lecture with Matt Fuller

Monday 18 August
7:30pm | Subi Church



SUPPORT GOSPEL WORK THROUGH TRINITY

Your donation invests in training men and women for effective Christian service



Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible



CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS

***"Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days."***

(Ecc 11:1, ESV)

It's worth taking a moment to ponder this bit of wisdom from the Word of God. When we "cast" or "send" something across the waters we must release it from our possession. This is a great image of biblical giving. When we give up something of value for the work of the Lord, we are always acting in faith. We release our grasp of something prized with the prayer that God will multiply it after "many days."

I don't believe that Qoheleth, the Preacher, is encouraging recklessness with our valuable resources. I do believe that giving to the work of the Lord means releasing our treasure to him. I am confident that giving to theological education is a beautiful expression of our

Ben Johnston
Development Officer



belief that releasing your resources for this will come back to bless you and the work of the gospel. To put it another way: releasing something of value is an act of faith, and receiving something better is an act of God.

For those of us who value the training of men and women for ministry, our giving expresses our faith that God will bless and multiply all that we release for his work.

We are arriving at the end of the financial year. Your gifts to Trinity Theological College are much needed and truly appreciated. I hope that you will join with me in prayerfully considering a gift to Trinity this year.

PARTNER WITH US

By giving financially to Trinity, you are partnering with us to equip men and women for Word ministry.

You can give via our website (ttc.wa.edu.au/partner-with-us) or by filling in this form and mailing it to us.



**All donations of \$2 or more
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One way of making a lasting investment in raising future ministry workers for generations to come, is by including Trinity in your will with a bequest.

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