

Bishopdale Theological College Foundation

Friends & Supporters Newsletter

WINTER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN— Andrew Burgess



Dear BTC Supporters

As we begin semester two of 2015 we are very much encouraged to have received new enrolments and to be working among an increasingly diverse group of students.

Our intake of new students at the start of 2015 was a little low in numbers, but we were encouraged by the lively and enthusiastic nature of the people who joined us – now we are very happy that numbers have moved up again, and also very happy to welcome several new students of differing ethnicities and originally

from different parts of the world.

Other new things are developing: we have been asked to provide training in Wellington for a parish based development equipping older people to serve in a new 'Order of Abraham and Sarah'. This is an exciting chance to have input and seek to deepen this group's understanding of God's absolute commitment to saving us and God's unchangeable determination to reach out through us to the world. Over the next few months I will be developing the specific materials for this work.

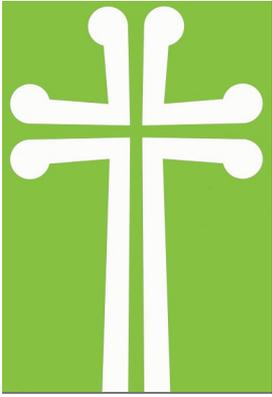
I have also been talking with leaders of student ministry targeted at Victoria University and discussing their interest in BTC helping to deepen Christian students in their thinking and living the gospel in an environment

that is often quite unfriendly to faith. We will see what might develop here, but it is good to be invited into conversation.

Overall, the College faces plenty of challenges: the everyday challenges of managing workloads, doing the best possible in tutoring, marking, and encouraging; the core challenge of shaping our culture and our focus to be a College with a focus on depth of discipleship and growth; and the challenge of finance and of trusting God for what we need to do what we are called to. In all of this God is at work, and the challenges are simply a part of the work of serving in this place and in the way we are called.

Thank you all for your prayer, your financial support, and for your sharing the vision for our work. May God be more and more fully at work among us.

Andrew



Featuring:

- The Dean
- Student Rep
- Chairman
- Ministry Education
- Library

**Friday 4th
September**

The BTC
Foundation
Present an
evening of
entertainment

**School of
Theology**

2015

August Wed 12
7.30 Public

Lecture

August Thurs 13

All day
St. Barnabas

 Find us on
Facebook

CHAPEL

**29th July
2 September
21 October**

**Lunch to follow
at BTC.**

All Welcome

Bishopdale Theological College Presents An Evening of Entertainment & Vision

Friday 4th September - 7.30pm - All Saints

*Come along to hear about BTC and the Foundation
and how you can be part of our vision.*

*Featuring "Songs from the Shows" by
Bishop Richard & Hilary Ellena and others*



*Wine and Nibbles - BTC Friends are Free, bring a friend for \$10
Book at office@bishopdale.ac.nz or 03 548 8785*

A Note from our Chairman - Archdeacon Robin Kingston



Sometimes people ask me "How secure is Bishopdale Theological College? Will it collapse financially in the near future?"

The exciting answer to those questions is "BTC is in a reasonably sound financial position, even though it is currently running at a loss. With our current annual deficit we have enough reserve funds in a temporary trust to keep going for at least another four years without any extra finance coming in."

When I say that we have temporary trust funds, this is excluding the permanent trust that is for long term sustainability of the college. That currently has about \$530,000 invested.

There are two key areas that always need our prayer and attention. The first is to keep finding students wishing to be trained. Currently about half our students are from an Anglican background, and the rest are from other protestant denominations - mostly based around Nelson. We are investigating how we can attract students from out of the Nelson region. The main drawback is the cost of training and accommodation for them. The only other Anglican College in the country has a large scholarship fund that offers effectively free board and tuition. That's some

challenge!

The other key area is knowing in which direction to expand the work of the college. There is a group of people looking at this strategic planning at the moment.

Of course it would be great if we were able to balance the finances each year instead of running at a deficit. But don't be despondent. The college has a paid librarian, an administrator, three full time tutors and a number of part time tutors. How amazing is that for such a young, small college?!!

God has guided us and stretched us, and we are so grateful for what has already been achieved. Praise the Lord!

Archdeacon Robin Kingston

STUDENT REP —Micah Did-Dell



Well exams and final assessments are over – the week in which students demonstrate how well we've grasped our subjects (or in my case, how good I am at memorising as much Karl Barth as possible the day before the exam). Yet one of the criticisms I often hear

about Christianity is that is anti-learning. Obviously as a student at this fine establishment I am not inclined to agree with this criticism. Often people will point to God forbidding Adam and Eve from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as proof. Yet this ignores that the Bible holds knowledge in high regard. Proverbs in particular frequently exhorts the reader to seek out knowledge. Ecclesiastes does warn against too much knowledge but it seems to be about seeking it out with

the wrong motivation. And this brings us back to the Genesis story. The second century theologians Theophilus of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyons argued that God always intended for Adam and Eve to eventually have this knowledge and wisdom. Their sin was that they tried to grasp hold of it before they were ready. Simply put, the moral of the story is that trying to shortcut your way to knowledge and wisdom ends in disaster (and cramming the night before the exam probably isn't the best idea either!).

- Micah



The Bishop Sutton Library

Te Puna Mātauranga o Whakatu

Introducing our new librarian:

Jennifer Patterson

Jennifer was appointed as the librarian of the Bishop Sutton Library in June 2015.

Jennifer studied at the University of Natal in South Africa where she obtained a BA Hons, a Higher Diploma in Library Science and a Masters in Information Studies.

Whilst reading for her BA, Jennifer studied Biblical Studies and Theology as sub-majors. She has an ongoing interest in reading books about Christianity and spiritual growth.

Most of Jennifer's work experience was in public libraries where she worked in Lending and in a large Central Reference collection with over 300,000 books

For a number of years, Jennifer worked as a cataloguer. She was an Assistant Manager in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Library Service.

With an interest in academic libraries, Jennifer did relief work at the Wentworth Hospital Library in Durban. She expanded her experience in academic library work when she worked as a library assistant at the Bishop Sutton Library.

Jennifer moved to New Zealand in 2011, when she married Kevin who is a New Zealand citizen.



New Books

Waltke, Bruce K. The dance between God and humanity: reading the Bible today as the people of God. Michigan: Eerdmans, 2013.

Enns, Peter. The Bible tells me so : why defending scripture has made us unable to read it. New York : HarperOne, c2014.

Walton, John H. The lost world of Adam and Eve : Genesis 2-3 and the human origins debate. Illinois : IVP Academic, 2015.
- Jennifer Patterson

Library Opening Hours:

Mon 10 am -7pm (during Semester);
10 am- 5pm (out- of- Semester)
Tues 10 am – 4.30 pm
Wed 10 am – 4.30 pm
Thurs 10 am -4 pm (during Semester)
Fri –CLOSED

Student Numbers for Semester 2 2015

- ◆ 5 full time
 - ◆ 5 half time
 - ◆ 10 part time
 - ◆ 8 Informal part time
 - ◆ 6 Part time Greymouth (incl. 1 Informal)
- ⇒ Total of 34

Thank You

THANK YOU to all those who continue to support BTC financially
It is very much appreciated and makes a big difference to the college.

Chapel 2015

29 July —All Saints
2 September—Victory
21 October— All Saints

All welcome.
Lunch to follow at BTC



- * MIS
- * CPE
- * Equip
- * Resources

MINISTRY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS—Graham O'Brien



Over the next 3 months I will be on sabbatical with a major focus being a post-graduate certificate in higher education. This study will improve my teaching at BTC and also provide some critical insight as we look to the future of ministry education.

First, there is the possibility of restructuring the EQUIP lay ministry training to make it more specific to the needs of parishes. The hope is that parishes might adapt some of the information we have and work together to run evening sessions or whatever format fits them the best.

The other area is post-ordination training, where I want to look at how intentional peer

support groups can also be the place for post-ordination training rather than having a monthly meeting of the newly ordained. There is a lot of knowledge out there in our existing ministers and this would be a chance to share and grow together. Watch this space.

Please pray for wisdom as the BTC team looks at these possible changes.

God Bless, Graham

EQUIP MINISTRY EDUCATION (LAY TRAINING)

Marlborough: (St Christopher's)

- September 5: Unit 10 Prayer

Nelson/Waimea (St Stephen's Tahunanui)

- October 17: Unit 10 Prayer

Mawhera

- August 1: Unit 4 Mission-Shaped Ministry (Holy Trinity, Greymouth)
- October 31: Unit 10 Prayer (St John's, Westport)



Resources Update:

Our archive of resources including all EQUIP sessions,, some POMD, and previous School of Theology, School of preaching and other events are located on www.vimeo.com.

You can access the resources for BTC via our website www.bishopdale.ac.nz/ media. If you unable to find what you are looking for, please contact Fran at office@bishopdale.ac.nz.

Don't forget to checkout our new look Website:

www.bishopdale.ac.nz