



Bishopdale
College

**FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER**

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Bishopdale College Supporters

Once again, thank you for your support – without you Bishopdale would not be able to do the work we are called to. Bishopdale exists to serve God's mission, and to do that by training and developing emerging leaders who will be focussed on deep obedience to God. We are determined to keep growing and to keep learning how to do that better and better.

It is always challenging working in this area – Christian training Colleges don't generally make money, so finance is always an issue, and the work itself is demanding – but it is stimulating and very rewarding. Seeing people grow in confidence in the Gospel, and grow in skill to lead and serve, is deeply encouraging.

So, where is the College placed late in 2020 and looking toward 2021?

First of all, we are very grateful that we have been able to function through all the levels of Covid lockdown – we have been hugely blessed in this way.

Secondly, the College has achieved a new status with the NZ Government as a registered establishment, and that is opening doors for further development of new courses and programmes that are tailored to our needs. Our partnership with Laidlaw College remains absolutely central, but we are able to develop further in other ways too.

Newer partnerships are also emerging for us, in training people for mission overseas, in training for roles in music and visual arts, in church setting across Nelson Diocese and in a range of churches in the Nelson-Tasman region. We are also seeing students join from other major centres, and other Anglican Dioceses.

This is exciting and encouraging – although it is always lots of work building on these opportunities. We continue to pray that the Lord will open doors for us to serve in the places He wants us and with the people He sends. Please pray that with us!

Again, therefore, thank you for your faithful support – we need it, and we are grateful.

In Christ,
Andrew Burgess, Dean of the College

NEW ADDITION TO BTC STAFF

This semester we had the pleasure of adding **Paul Etherington** as a tutor for *Christianity and World Religions*. Paul brings decades of missions experience to his students and along with his spouse, Pip, have ended up suddenly in Nelson; these are Paul's reflections;

For the last 28 years we have been working with Pioneers International in West Papua, Indonesia, primarily working with the 'Nggem' tribal group.

I have been focused on translating the New Testament into the Nggem language. In addition, along with my wife Pip we have been involved in health, community, church development and leadership ministries.

We have four adult children who are scattered across the globe.

Earlier this year we had to leave Indonesia suddenly due to visa issues and we now find ourselves not sure when or if we can return to Indonesia, though that is our intention if possible.

In the meantime I continue to work on the Nggem New Testament translation working over the internet with a small team back in West Papua.

I am enjoying the opportunity to be involved with BTC and am thankful for the opportunity to teach there, and to hopefully contribute something of what I have learned from my mission experience.

Paul

MARZI'S REPRESENTATIVE REFLECTIONS:

The Lord is faithful, the Lord is trustworthy and the Lord is in control.

In a moment the entire world changed, never to be the same again there is so much doubt, fear and uncertainty for our future; yet for us who are united in Christ there is hope, not in our leaders, not in our economy or our selves but in the Lord.

We have hope that he is control working all things for his glory, and as children of the living God we can have faith that He is with us!

Marzi Van Der Mark
Board of Trustees Student Representative, 2020



Bishopale Library—Book Review

We are grateful to Russell Smith for providing us a review of
TENACIOUS SOLIDARITY

Tenacious Solidarity is a collection of Walter Brueggemann's essays and addresses produced in the past 2-3 years. They are all centred on the common theme of what he describes as God's *tenacious solidarity* with the people he has called. This term is his translation of the Hebrew word "*hesed*", usually rendered as "steadfast love" or "loving-kindness". We are in solidarity with God through our loving obedience and in solidarity with others through mercy, compassion, and justice.

The use of this term helps him (and us) to think more deeply about the 'transformational potential' of the Biblical witness in the context of contemporary social, political, and economic issues. Issues such as: economic disparity, racial injustice and white supremacy, care for creation, and the power of memory. As usual, he often turns to the Psalms, as they "provide a foundational script for living into the fullest and deepest realities of human existence."

Brueggemann's call is for a Biblical response to the society and time we live in. He suggests that the church should be providing the counter narrative to the forces of consumerism, militarism and nationalism that dominate our contemporary society. These issues, he says, must be confronted with scripture; and, he won't let us escape with simple solutions, platitudes and just glib quotations of scripture. Sometimes there may be no ready answers, just more questions, but it is important to create a dialogue between biblical texts and contemporary social, political, and economic situations.

Walter Brueggemann is now over eighty years old, yet has lost none of his fire and enthusiasm for the transformative potential of scripture. This is a timely and very thought-provoking book.

Russell Smith—Bishopdale College Research Fellow.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving for God's amazing faithfulness, seen in these ways:

- a very good year and successful students, despite Covid-19
- a significant new grant for the next 3 years
- achieving registration with the Government as a Private Training Establishment

PRAYER POINTS

Requests

- success with NZQA for our new higher level Diploma
- continued financial provision
- that the Lord would send the students He wants to be studying with us

Ministry Education

Historically, one of the marks of evangelicalism is “social activism”, the most notable example of which is William Wilberforce. One of the roles I fulfil for the national Church is as Co-Chair of the InterChurch Bioethics Council.

The End of Life Choice, is something that we have been engaged in discussion over the past four years. Since the end of June I have had the opportunity to either preach or run a seminar on the referendum in Christchurch, Blenheim, Kaikoura, Picton, Cobden, Reefton, Stoke, as well as some community zoom events.

To the end of August I have been able to speak to around 1,200 people on this issue. I am looking forward to hosting Caralise Traves (author of *The Final Choice*) in Nelson and Waimea at the beginning of October, and hope to arrange some other speaking opportunities for myself in Nelson and Waimea before the General Election.

Caralise Traves will be speaking on:

- Thursday 1 October, 7pm at Waimea Intermediate School Hall 48 Salisbury Rd, Richmond
- Friday 2 October 1pm at Nelson Cathedral and 7pm at Tahunanui School Hall 69 Muritai Street, Tahunanui

There are a number of great websites that outline the risks of the End of Life Choice Act and I would encourage you to look at the information before you vote :

www.riskylaw.nz, www.defendnz.co.nz.

There is also information on the Diocesan website (<https://nelsonanglicans.com/resources>) including a recent document for the NZ Medical Association that represents 5000 doctors in NZ.

We are at a pivotal moment in our country’s history as we live through a pandemic, go to the polls and vote on two significant referenda. My prayer is that our faith will inform our decisions as we seek to follow Jesus in all we do.

God Bless

CONSIDER JOINING US:

Monthly Chapel Service

11:00am service followed by 12:00pm lunch on

14 October

11 November

All Friends of the College are welcome!

Services are held at All Saints.

Events

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FRIENDS OF BISHOPDALE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

(min. of \$400/year)

I am a new friend of the College I am renewing my commitment

My friends donation to Bishopdale Theological College is

\$_____ per week/ fortnight/month/annum (please indicate)

OTHER/SUNDRY DONATIONS

I wish to donate \$_____

To the Capital investment Fund

Operating Costs of the College

PAYMENT DETAILS

My chosen method of payment is :

- Automatic Payment of \$_____per week/fortnight/month (please indicate) or,
 Enclosed cheque for \$_____made out to Bishopdale Theological College, or,
 Direct Credit Internet Payment for \$_____to the BTC Bank Account.

Bishopdale Theological College Bank Account details are as follows:

Bank : ANZ, Nelson

Account Name : Bishopdale Theological College

Account No : 060705- 0360364-000

LIFE MEMBER

I wish to become a life member of BTC by contributing an amount of \$6000

BEQUESTS

If you would like more information about how to leave a bequest to the College or you have already included a gift to Bishopdale College in your Will please contact the foundation by emailing foundation@bishopdale.ac.nz

**UPDATE OR CHANGE OF DETAILS FORM:
Send to: BTC, PO Box 347, Nelson 7040**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Parish _____

e-mail _____

Charities Registration No.CC23883

All gifts will be acknowledged

Donations over \$5.00 are eligible for Tax Rebate.

All automatic payments will be receipted in April for your own Tax Return purposes