



Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Romans 12:4-6a

Partners grow together

Trinity News interviewed Graduate Diploma students and husband-and-wife team Michael and Vicki Horgan.

TN: What were you doing before you came to Trinity?

Mike: I was an engineer for seven years ...

Vicki: ... and I was a teacher.

TN: Why have you put your professions aside to become theological students?

M/V: We are looking to serve God in some form of Christian ministry, either here or overseas. Apart from that, we realised our need to grow as Christians.

TN: Why Trinity?

M/V: We knew several Trinity students, and they strongly recommended that we come here.

Mike: Also, I had already had some exposure to the College through *Trinity@Night*.

TN: It's probably more common for one partner in a marriage to become a full-time student while the other one earns an income to pay the bills. Is there

some reason that has made you both study at the same time?

M/V: The usual practice runs the risk that the student grows and the other one in the marriage gets left behind. We wanted to make sure that we grew together — and also that we would both be ready at the same time for whatever God has for us next.

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Trinity Information Night

Wednesday
26th September
2007

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Trinity House
Level 2, 632–634 Newcastle St
Leederville

Register now

Let us know you are coming so an information pack will be ready for you

email: gillian@ttc.wa.edu.au

online: www.ttc.wa.edu.au

phone: (08) 9228 9067

For first year students,
Semester 1 2008 offers
foundational units in

Old Testament
Church History
New Testament Greek

Translating our knowledge and love of God into changed lives is essential for creating an effective ministry in front of a watching world.

Anton Noppers, current BTh student, shared this at our May Information Night about his preaching class: *The need is to focus on Christ. It is his gospel that you are preaching to others who need to see what it means to be in a relationship with him.*

At our Information Night you will hear short presentations from our Principal, Registrar and some of our current students as well as enjoy a tour of the college.

And don't forget that supper afterwards is a great time to ask all those questions you have!



Equipping leaders for every good work

Senior lecturer Marty Foord reports on Trinity's Ministry Matters Day held on 3rd August.

It's not starting the Christian life that ultimately matters; it's finishing that actually counts. A church may thrive today, but dwindle tomorrow.

So, what sort of ministries will produce Christians who make it to the end? It is this question that drives our annual Ministry Matters conference particularly for those in pastoral and teaching positions, from youth leaders to ministers. This year we had the great

Some 70 people turned out to hear Peter and Tim

joy of having as our feature speaker Dr Peter Adam, a humble gospel worker, with a lifetime of ministry experience.

Peter addressed the issue of leadership by doing something rarely done when it comes to this topic: expounding 2 Timothy. He argued that because the Bible is the great tool of Christian ministry, the tool that equips leaders "for every good work" (2 Tim 3:17), then it should provide the blueprint for leadership. Indeed, he believed

that the four chapters of 2 Timothy would make a great charter for a four year training program at a theological college. Peter showed how 2 Timothy 1-3 laid the "deep commitments" for the leader, whilst 2 Timothy 4 portrayed the activities of the leader. In a second and shorter session, Tim Thorburn returned to 2 Timothy focussing on 2:2, and the issue of training other leaders. He pointed out that ministries begin to erode when the gospel becomes assumed rather than believed, because the next generation will soon forget and then deny it.



We also spent time in small groups praying before enjoying lunch together.

Discovering how to make the most of the Bible

Marty Foord takes a look at this year's Annual Lecture on why the Bible is the essential ministry tool.

It was a feast, that is, the third Trinity Annual Lecture on Friday 3rd August. Our guest speaker was Dr Peter Adam, the principal of Ridley College in Melbourne. His topic? How to Make the Most of the Bible. It seems like a topic we've all heard before, perhaps *ad nauseam*. Not so in the hands of

Peter Adam! He showed that we can believe the Bible is the word of God but not actually see or practice the critical implications of this.

Critical to Peter Adam's presentation was the idea that it's not simply what the Bible says, that's important, but

the way the Bible says it. We may be able to summarise the book of Job in a sentence, however, it's another thing to experience Job with its soaring poetry and agonising rhetoric. Hence, Peter Adam urged believers and especially preachers not simply to boil down a passage of Scripture into a quick summary, but find and communicate the "full power of the text". Indeed, the most consistent quality the Bible says of itself, is not its authority but power, something lessened when we neglect its form.

This led Peter Adam to make an obvious observation, all too easily smothered by our modern Western blinkers: the Bible is a book that chiefly addresses the church, not individuals. The practical implication is that Scriptural application should largely address corporate church life rather than

individuals. In other words, applying God's word is not a matter of asking 'what does God want me to do' but 'how does the text motivate for us?'

Finally, Peter Adam unpacked another implication that arises from God inspiring not only the content but the form of Scripture: the Bible is the essential ministry tool. He argued that we can believe in the supreme authority of Scripture, but deny this by neglecting its direct use. The Bible, as God's powerful words, should be opened in the counselling situation, as the supreme evangelistic tract, and for all kinds of discipleship. We thank and praise God for Peter Adam's profound insights. It was truly *applied* theology.

You can download Peter Adam's talks from our website.

There's a link from www.ttc.wa.edu.au.



Partners grow together

Story continued from page 1...

TN: Were you concerned that you might get a bit jaded by spending all your time together?

MV: Not at all! Michael had a seven-month stint of fly in/fly out work — so we reckoned we still had some catching up to do. Besides, if we end up in a cross-cultural context, we are bound to spend lots of time together and we will need to be more reliant on each other than couples usually are here.

TN: And has it worked out OK? For example, do other students feel they have to keep their distance to some extent?

MV: We haven't had any problems at all. At College we're not "the odd couple", because there are several other married couples who are both doing some courses here — so other students don't feel inhibited about relating to us. It also helps that we are in different Pastoral Care groups.

Something that concerned us a little before we started was how we would cope if one of us got better results than the other — but we've ended up getting the same grades. And before you ask, that doesn't mean that we do all of our study together! At home we each have our own study, and this means that we do a fair bit of our work separately — but we also study together sometimes.


TN: Can you tell us a bit about your trip to Asia during the mid-year break?

MV: Vicki's sister Mel is married to Trinity graduate Peter. They have been living in Asia for nearly two years, doing friendship evangelism. Apart from the pleasure of seeing them and the children, we had two reasons for going — to encourage them in their ministry, and to get a bit of a taste for what it would be like for us to do something similar.

TN: Does your openness to this possibility come from this family connection?

MV: Not primarily. The main reason is that our church (Scarborough Church of Christ) has always had a strong missions emphasis, so we've come to see how important this is — and for us, this means being ready to go if that is where God leads us.

TN: Did the trip to Asia make you aware of any one thing in particular?

MV: Even after so little time there, it's already clear to Pete that additional study on top of the one year he's already done (the Graduate Diploma) would be beneficial for what he's doing, and so he's thinking about doing some further studies. That has certainly given us something to think about before next year! 

From the Principal's desk

What is an acceptable sacrifice?

Christian service is fundamentally about sacrifice, about giving up self so that others may live. Paul's model of ministry had, at its heart, the death and resurrection of Jesus (eg 2 Corinthians 13:4; see also 4:11-12). He believed God's power was at work through his many afflictions as he preached the Word and nurtured the saints. He was convinced that God was most visible when his servants were least impressive (from a human viewpoint).

Sacrifice is not a popular word in our culture; we tend to think of our heroes in categories like that. But perhaps our standard is too high. Having been involved with this ministry for nearly 12 years, I have come to see sacrifice present in many, many ways. I see sacrifice



in our students and graduates, in our volunteers, in our staff, in our trustees, and especially, in recent months, in our supporters. Did anyone really believe that God would move the hearts of so many to bring about such an amazing result in the Building Fund Campaign of over \$3.7million? We give thanks for the many, many people who prayed and served towards this purpose.

I believe people gave sacrificially towards this campaign because they saw within its purpose God's great purpose of bringing all nations under the gracious reign of his Son. This purpose, of course, ever remains in front of us, and we are continually moved towards it by Jesus' sacrificial ministry to us all, that, "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

May God grant to each of us the same Spirit of faith that moved the apostle Paul (and many more since) to surrender his comfort and pride so that others might receive eternal benefits.

Warmly yours in Christ,

Don West

Study builds foundation

Trinity students come from a range of backgrounds and go into a host of different ministries. This edition we focus on Sally Stark who is a passionate student and volunteer of the colleg.

Story and photo Nicole Baxter

Sally Stark, says studying at college laid a foundation that enables her to better perform her ministries as a wife, mother, Bible study leader and evangelist.

The *Trinity@Night* graduate, 35, first started studying at Trinity under Allan Chapple's tuition through his *Bible in a Day* course.

"It changed my life because I had no concept that the Old Testament was pertinent to today or pointed to Jesus," Sally says.



Trinity@Night graduate Sally Stark with son Ben, 2, at their Mt Hawthorn home. Sally and husband Nick's solid grasp of the Bible has given depth to their efforts to teach their boys to love and serve Jesus.

"I thought it was extraordinary to hear intelligent and articulate professionals apply their brains to understanding the Bible and explaining it in simple language that ordinary people could understand."

"I've done Allan's course five times because the more I study the Bible, the more it makes sense and the more I remember."

Sally says the Certificate of Christian Studies appealed to her because she felt she could complete the courses in six-week chunks.

"It took me 9-10 years to complete all the courses and I found each one helpful and engaging, and haven't yet struck a dud," she says.

But her completion of the Certificate of Christian Studies in 2005 only whet her appetite for digging deeper into the Bible.

While working part time — before having her children — the marketing graduate completed New Testament Exegesis at Trinity.


"I got a lot out of it," Sally says. "I discovered Romans was comprehensible and learnt how the Gospel of John hung together by understanding its background."

"The course taught me how to read and understand what the Bible is saying for my own private study."

"Study has been used by God to teach me more about himself and to be more certain of my faith in him and what Jesus did on the cross," she says.

"It has given me more solid foundations and taught me to be more servant-hearted."

Since the birth of her children the busy young mum has been co-leading a women's Bible study group on Thursday mornings at St Matt's church in Shenton Park and takes notes for Trinity's council meetings on a voluntary basis. Looking forward Sally wants to be leading Bible study groups, helping with evangelistic events and encouraging her friends to consider the claims of Christ.

She asks for prayer to be faithful and for God to keep growing her as he opens her spiritual eyes through her ongoing study of the Bible. 

Mission Week 2008

27th April – 4th May

*Interested in running a
Mission in Partnership with
Trinity Theological College?*

*Register your interest online by
completing our proposal form
www.ttc.wa.edu.au or contact Trinity
to have a copy mailed to you.*

God's princesses

Lecturer Judith Nichols challenges us to reflect on using the culture of our times without selling out on the gospel.

Godliness with glamour

Scan the shelves of a Christian bookstore and you will find a spate of "princess" books or fellowship programmes. Flip to the back cover where the author is toned, airbrushed to perfection, and married to a successful pastor. Or you may encounter middle-aged women returning to their churches from a women's conference radiant with the promise that as the daughters of the King, a special blessing awaits them – despite husbands and children who may take them for granted.

These conferences and books promise a "successful" Christian life, and the testimonies of gorgeous, talented women imply "follow Jesus" and you can be like me – well, something like me. One such book, *God Chicks*, by Holly Wagner, encapsulates this "princess" model for Christian women:

Our singular, all-consuming passion is to build God's Church and Kingdom on the earth, and see everyday people released into their purpose and calling. We believe in people – we believe in their potential and we believe in their amazing capacity to influence the world with good.

So what's the problem?

If women are responding to this approach, isn't it a brilliant piece of gospel contextualisation which taps into the need of many women for a bit of glamour in life? So why not adopt it for women's ministry?

1. The use of Scripture

God Chicks is held together by free-flowing exposition of Proverbs 31, the premise being that "our price is above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10). But Proverbs refers to the godly woman not to some

intrinsic worth. Furthermore, *God Chicks* attributes equal authority, amongst others, to the Bible, Jane Fonda, Viktor Frankl, Epicurus and Oprah Winfrey.

The following quote, describing Wagner's contribution at a conference, demonstrates the problem: "These women may not have gotten deep insights into the prophetic revelations in the book of Revelation – but they left the meeting with the sense that if they were just themselves, amazing things could happen" (p11). The 'revelations'

The challenge for Christian women is how to reach a generation that is focussed on personal development, relationships, and lifestyle.

of Revelation may have been bypassed because the suffering of the saints is a far cry from feel-good Christianity.

2. Celestial life coach or Saviour?

Jesus' work of reconciliation is acknowledged, but there is no sense of the awfulness of sin: "Our lives are messes because of some stupid choices we have made" (p21). Testimonies of young women who have been turned to Christ from a life of promiscuity and drug addiction suggest that they responded to a message of self-worth. But when Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman in John 4, he brings her to an understanding of her need for forgiveness, not self-worth.

3. Godly woman or material girl?

The central message is materialistic and based on self-realisation. In life's painful moments, Holly "chooses happy" (p27). Her treatment of suffering is Pollyanna-like: she commends a friend who, on developing a hand tremor, rejoices in the fact that she can now scratch her back more easily. But sometimes there are no positives in our suffering except in

knowing a sovereign God loves us.

Her answer to the plea, "I want what you have" is the problem solving approach of the yuppie. You want to look good? – work out. Financial problems? Learn to budget. Relationship difficulties? Read a good book. Health


problems? Pray for healing. Cheer up by getting a manicure or a massage.

The conferences and the books sell a glamorous version of the Christian life. Those who may not be beautiful, talented and jet setting are allowed to enter vicariously into the lives of those who are. When reality reasserts itself we can get a boost by attending the next conference or reading another book.



An alternative: using culture but being counter-cultural

In his evangelism the apostle Paul used the culture of his day (1 Corinthians 9:22), but his message was counter-cultural. The challenge for Christian women is how to reach a generation that is focussed on personal development, relationships, and lifestyle.

These are matters for evangelistic strategy, but they must not be confused with the gospel itself. Books and courses of the type mentioned can be helpful for their insights on relationships, self-discipline, and identifying gifts. However, we sell women short if we skew the Bible to support a materialistic view of life and do not teach the reality of sin and the need for forgiveness. The Christian life is often not one of success but suffering, and our basic assurance and joy is nothing less than that God has given us eternal life in his Son (1 John 5:11). 

Why not read past Applied Theology articles and other articles written by our faculty from www.ttc.wa.edu.au/downloads.shtml


West Java visit encourages pastors

Lecturer Tony Nichols reflects on his recent three week trip to Indonesia

Java is the most densely populated island in the world with 135 million people. My recent trip was spent mostly in Bandung (population seven million) in West Java. Most people in West Java are Sundanese and said to be the largest unreached Muslim people in the world. But many of the people I ministered to were Sundanese Christians.

In my first week I led a pastors' retreat for the 15 Anglican pastors working in Java. Others that my wife Judith and I have taught in the previous three years were not able to come in from the outer islands. It was a very good time of Bible study and sharing. I never cease to marvel at their testimonies and the growth of new congregations in a strongly Islamic context – all under the active oversight of the Bishops of Singapore and Sabah.

In my final week I moved to the Theological College at Cipanas where I taught Biblical Theology to 30 Master of Divinity students. They were pastors and Perkantas (similar to AFES) staff workers from various universities. We began with a 6.30am prayer meeting and then I taught from 7.30am to 6.30pm with an hour break at midday. For some reason I am totally unable to replicate this performance at Trinity Theological College in Perth!

Please pray for Indonesia's 240 million people, for the government of President SB Yudhiyono and for our Christian brethren there, that they may serve God without fear. 

Tony Nichols (front and centre) with some of those who attended the pastors' retreat in Java.



Building campaign exceeds target

After 44 weeks of praying, planning and visiting, our Building Fund campaign has drawn to a successful conclusion. In all, donations and pledges of almost \$3.73m were made (our target was \$3.5m), an amazing result!



(L-R) Student Ben Rae, campaign volunteer Karen Bosel, Shelley Rae and student Senga Scambler at the launch of the last phase of the campaign

We praise and thank our generous God who has so richly blessed us through this campaign. Few would have dreamt that the college's needs would have been so wondrously provided for. It is humbling to look back and to see what God has done, not only through this campaign, but throughout the college's history. Praise God!

Secondly, we give thanks for the generosity of the Trinity community. Through donations already received the Trinity House debt has been more than halved, allowing funds to recruit an Old Testament lecturer and other resources. We are grateful to everyone who supported the campaign through their gift of time and expertise. We thank Margaret Ellis, Tony Nichols, Steve Schoof and Brian Stone for their patronage of the campaign. Particular mention should be made of campaign president Bryan Taylor, chairman Stephen Lipple and Sydney supporter Dudley Foord. The campaign would not have been possible without committee chairs Ian Malcolm, Rolf van Wollingen and Jenny D'Souza and campaign organiser, John Pritchard of Fundraising Consultancy Services.

The campaign has helped increase awareness of the college in the community, make more people aware of the need to train evangelists, pastors and workers and to increase Trinity's band of supporters which is so important as we look to our future under God.



Graduate now works at college

Trinity graduate David Mullender has taken over as Trinity@Night co-ordinator from Alison McKay.



David caught up with fellow graduate Mike Hunt at our recent Ministry Matters Day.

David, tell us about yourself

Heidi and I have been married for three and a half years and have a seven-month-old pup named Jesse. Although growing up in a Christian family, it wasn't until I was 21 that I made a personal decision to follow Christ.


Shortly after this I studied a Bachelor of Theology at Trinity

in order to understand God's Word clearly and apply it faithfully. Both Heidi and I desire to see others transformed by the gospel and grow in Christ through his Word.

What have you been doing since graduation?

I graduated last year and now serve three days a week as associate pastor at Nollamara Church of Christ. I have been serving primarily in youth ministry, which entails running the weekly youth program, young guys' discipleship and leadership training. At present our pastor and I are preparing to run the *Introducing God* course next term.

Why Trinity@Night?

My desire is for people to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. *Trinity@Night* provides sound teaching to enable Christians to know the Jesus of the Bible. Knowing Jesus means responding appropriately to him in love and service. Our teachers aim to provide a biblical framework for Christians to lovingly and faithfully serve Jesus. I am excited to be part of *Trinity@Night* and encourage anyone who wants to grow in Christ to consider participating in our units. There is no prerequisite to attend and you can gain credit towards our Certificate in Christian Studies. 

Trinity@Night is coming to town!

Many requests have been made to Trinity to 'come and do something in our part of WA'. As a result, *Trinity@Night* commenced a six-week pilot course in Bunbury to kick off its regional program, *Trinity in Town*.

John Campbell, pastor of Bunbury Baptist Church and Church History lecturer for Trinity, offered to teach the unit *Life in the Last Days: Revelation*. The course started on 29th July, at Eaton Baptist Church.

This has been an exciting development for Trinity as we seek to provide the Certificate of Christian Studies beyond the metropolitan area. We hope to run *Trinity in Town* in regional centres such as Broome, Geraldton, Albany and Kalgoorlie. If you live in these areas and are interested in *Trinity in Town* please contact the *Trinity@Night* Co-ordinator, David Mullender, by email david@ttc.wa.edu.au or phone (08) 9228 9067 on Mondays or Tuesdays.

More than 30 students are gathering at *Trinity in Town* from surrounding regions – including Busselton.



Full information about *Trinity@Night* can be found at www.ttc.wa.edu.au/certificate.shtml

Friendships revisited

Brad Galvin (graduate 2006), who is assistant minister at Kallaroo Anglican, was the master of ceremonies to the almost 40 people who attended the 2007 Alumni Dinner. He hosted two very distinct Alumni interviews; one with Henry Harding (graduate 1999) who pastors at Cranbrook Baptist and the other with David Mullender (graduate 2006) who is associate pastor at Nollamara Church of Christ and co-ordinator for *Trinity@Night*.

The gourmet menu cooked by Mariana Filimon and her friends at Westminster Presbyterian Bull Creek was a treat for all. The need for a gentle prompt that conversations could continue at supper after the Annual Trinity Lecture was a reminder of the pleasure of friendships revisited.

Want to see more photos? Go to www.ttc.wa.edu.au/alumni.shtml



(L-R) Gillian Kirkness, Helen and Henry Harding, Sam and Diane Harvey, Brad Galvin.

Prayer points

- **Information Night on 26th September** – that the planning, preparation by the College will be thorough and useful. That our supporters will continue to encourage people to come and train to be Christian leaders in Perth and Western Australia.
- **The College staff and Council**, as they continue to plan for the future direction of the College and its courses.
- **For our current students** – that their studies will be deep and founded in God's love for them.
- **Our Alumni** – That they will find love, support and encouragement in their knowledge of God. That the training and preparation they received at Trinity have given them the foundations to work from and to learn more about God's word.

Yes, I would like to make a contribution to the work of Trinity Theological College

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