



TRINITY NEWS

February 2007 – Issue 38

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

New students equipped for service

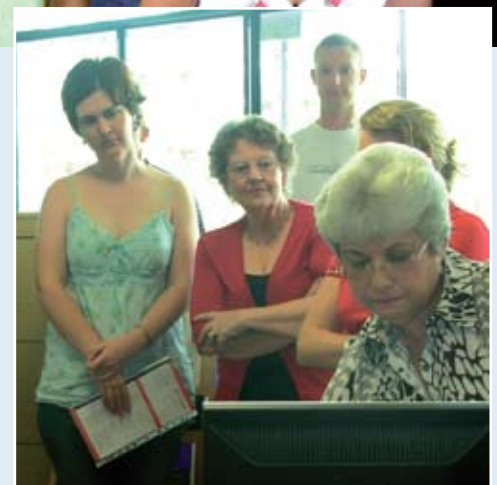
Some of those who came to our weekend away included students and staff and their families.



First-year student Liz Mills (left) took time out to get to know second-year students Daniel Kauter and Senga Scambler (right) on the orientation weekend away.



Ian and Kaye Malcolm assist first year students to adjust back into study.



Rosemary Watts gave new students helpful hints on using the library.

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Actions speak louder than words

Trinity's cofounder, former vice-principal and visiting Old Testament lecturer Stephen Rarig spoke to Trinity@Night graduate Nicole Baxter about what it means to be equipped for service.

What do some people think of Christian servants?

People scratch their heads and wonder: "Why would anyone give up lucrative positions to give their lives to God?" But they can't see their rebellion against God is dangerous. They've missed the purpose of what Jesus is on about.

Why should we be equipped for service?

If we grasped the extent of our neighbour's need and the enormity of God's cost to forgive, it would bowl us over. We would do all we could to help. In my case, I came from a broken home. My mum worked hard just to put food on the table; but often she went beyond the basics, lavishing me with things that cost her dearly. When I caught on I was stunned by that love. I didn't deserve it but I was moved to respond in love. The Gospel of God's grace in Jesus is like this and it compelled me to talk about God's grace in Jesus full time for the rest of my life.

How are Christians equipped for service?

By learning what the Bible says and how to apply it.

For example, Ephesians 4, especially verse 12 says 'God working through the Holy Spirit gives teachers to prepare his people for works of service' and 2 Timothy 3:16 says 'the scriptures provide all the instruction we need to become what God wants'. When we put these together it embodies what Trinity does.

Why become equipped for service?

2 Timothy 2:2 says 'The things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these things trust to faithful people so they can teach others...' Jesus Christ saves us to reproduce what was entrusted to us through others by his Holy Spirit.

How do we know somebody is equipped for service?

They know their Bible, live out God's grace (Ephesians 2:8,9), can give an answer to those who ask (1 Peter 3:15) and they depend on God (Galatians 5:13-24).

How does Trinity equip people for service?

We provide Biblical training and spiritual mentoring for people to help them apply the Bible's message.



Person profile — Stephen Rarig

Stephen, if you could invite three people dead or alive to have dinner with you, who would they be and why?

Without a doubt, Moses. I relate to him as a reluctant servant. Second, King David, as I identify with his transparent relationship with God — often struggling

with God's rule but clinging to God and needing him so desperately. I also relate to his enjoyment of

God's love and his grace to forgive. Third, I would love to sit and have a nosh with Brennan Manning (www.brennanmanning.com) whose writings have affected me deeply with an appreciation for God's undeserved favour toward me, even though I rebel (sin) against his rule in my life.

What's the best thing about being a Christian?

God's grace in Jesus toward we sinners.

How can we pray for you?

For strength to trust God, wisdom to follow his lead and grace (ability) to love others as he loved me.

Library proves a haven for graduates

Ben, you completed your studies at Trinity a few years back, and yet you have been spotted in the library more than once since then. What's the story? Aren't you in a ministry-position now?



Ben van der Klip

I plead guilty! I'm part of the ministry team at the Anglican church in West Leederville — and yes, I have been in the library from time to time.

So why do you need to use a library now that you are out there 'doing it'?

Well, despite trying hard to develop my own personal library, I've used Trinity's Library for a number of reasons. It helped me to prepare for a bit of part-time teaching I've done for the College. I've also made use of it for sermon preparation when we were preaching through Judges at church. And I find it helps me keep up with some interests of my own.

Let's take up that last point first. What are these interests — and why do you spend time on them that could otherwise be spent with people instead of books?

As a result of one of my courses at Trinity I've developed an interest in the letter of James. I try to keep up with what's happening in scholarly study of James as part of my professional development. The benefits of this are intangible but nevertheless significant for ministry: it keeps me learning and growing, especially by working at the really important skills of interpreting and applying the Bible. And issues in the scholarly world often overlap with those in wider society, which means they usually crop up in ministry situations sooner or later.

Let's go back to the sermon-preparation: when you're preaching to normal people (!) do you really need the kind of resources that a theological library has? Don't your own books give you all that you need?

I'm certainly fortunate to have a reasonably substantial set of resources of my own but I've sometimes found it especially helpful to access journal articles, either in hard copy or through the electronic database. When I was working through Judges, for example, I used a number of articles because they often provide a greater level of detail on a passage than a commentary can, and sometimes they give a different perspective too. I think that this resulted in better preaching; Judges has more than its fair share of confronting passages yet the congregation responded very well to its challenging message.

When you're preaching through Judges, I guess you would need as much help as you can get! But would you really need to use a theological library to prepare sermons on something a bit more straightforward — like James, for example?!

There is so much new stuff being published these days and books are expensive. So I think it's great for preachers to have access to an up-to-date theological library. You can browse the shelves and get a good idea of what's available and which particular commentaries or other books might be most useful for upcoming preparation.

So how did our Library go? Did it have everything you needed — or hoped for?

Trinity's got a great library! When I browse the shelves I see so many books that I'd like to read. My biggest regret is that there isn't enough time to read them all! Nevertheless, while I think it's a very good collection, it certainly doesn't have everything — probably for the same reason I don't: money! Trinity is well equipped with computers, photocopier and so on. And it's also a good place to get some uninterrupted study and preparation done.

From the Principal's desk

In my reading of Paul's letters lately I've noticed how clear-headed he is in his 'philosophy of ministry training.' Yes, I know that's a modern way to put it, but let me share with you some of my insights.

Paul usually opens a letter with a focussed and encouraging prayer of thanks, expressing to the readers his joy before God over their response to the Gospel of Christ. Immediately following this thanksgiving he asks God that their love might be mature, informed, and fruitful.

Next, he spends time rehearsing how God has worked among the readers or in his own ministry since he last spoke to them, frequently mentioning hardships suffered and endured. He also reminds them that what they saw in him and his co-workers, they should keep on doing.

Thirdly, Paul moves into his 'teaching' section, usually building on what they already know, and telling them that they do know it. And if he adds new teaching he makes sure he tells them that it's really a development of what they already have in the Gospel and not a new revelation.

Lastly, he mentions people by name he knows in that city and how he wants to visit them. He also asks them to pray for him noting specific matters for prayer.

So, training consists of: prayer, encouragement, example, building on what people know (and making sure that new teaching is anchored in the Gospel), and more prayer and encouragement!

May Paul's training be ours and yours in the coming year!

Grace and peace,

Don West



Our library web page is developing all the time. We have recently added a collection of links to web sites and on-line resources to assist with research and study.

Why not take a look where you can go from www.ttc.wa.edu.au/library.shtml

Get to know our 2007 graduates



Removed for the web

Rhonda Graham

My time at Trinity has clarified my Christian beliefs and given me the tools to continue to mature as a Christian. Studying full-time was challenging but rewarding. Presently I am working full-time in a travel agency. Each day, I remember some aspect of what I learnt while at Trinity and have opportunities to apply it to real life.



was asked, "In retrospect, what would you do differently in ministry?" She answered, "Pray more and do less." I look forward to giving it a crack this year as I begin working at Kallaroo Anglican Church.

Jono Prosser

Our time at Trinity was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that has passed so quickly. It made God's mission of the Gospel much clearer for Jocelyn and me. The Trinity staff are great. The lecturers are dedicated to Bible-centred teaching. While the study was demanding, I thank Jocelyn and our friends and family for their much needed support over the three years. During this time God supplied all we needed spiritually, emotionally and financially — strengthening our commitment to study and to continue in ministry.

As at the start, we still seek to do the Lord's work wherever we find ourselves. We are still unsure of what the future holds for us, but are happy in the knowledge that our faithful and loving God knows what is in store.

David Mullender

I am grateful to have studied under godly teachers who model a Christ-like attitude in their own lives. I appreciated Trinity's emphasis on the importance of Scripture and centrality of the Gospel. I look forward, by God's grace, to use the tools I have learnt in order to serve the body of Christ and share the message of Salvation to others.

Simon van Bruchem

Over the past three years I have learnt so much more about God and His plan for the world and have enjoyed seeing other perspectives on various issues from the other students.

Chris Walker

What did I get out of studying at Trinity? First, that Jesus and his Gospel are at the heart of all God does. Second, how it is we learn this from the Bible. Third, that thinking seriously about



God is worthwhile, exhilarating, and best done with other Christians. Fourth, that theological study and godliness aren't enemies, but go hand-in-hand.

What's Life for me beyond Trinity? Still working it out!

Brad Galvin

My time at Trinity was filled with the highs and lows that come with full-time study. One of the most valuable lessons was in first year when Judith Nichols

This year I am working as a pastoral intern at All Nations Presbyterian Church.



(L-R) David Mullender, Brad Galvin, Jono Prosser and Simon van Bruchem

David Ayambo

I am married to Margaret, and we are blessed with four children. When I became a Christian, I felt a strong call within me to 'tell the lost people the things that the Lord has done to me, and how he has had mercy on me.' I also know that for me to be effective in sharing the hope that I have in Christ, I should be trained to be able to handle God's word effectively.

My three years of training at Trinity has deeply impacted my thinking as a Christian. Before coming for training at Trinity, I often struggled as a Christian to reconcile Biblical thoughts that seemed clearly irreconcilable from the outset, but with time and hard work in the past three years, I am now able to look back with praise to God for His great mercy in helping me grasp the 'Big Picture' of His plan, purpose and goal for the world. Trinity has prepared me beyond what I have expected. I want to thank God for Allan Chapple, Tony Nichols and Marty Foord for helping me understand 'The Gospel.' Through my training at Trinity, I can see the need of my Sudanese brothers and sisters very clearly — the need to bring the true Gospel of Jesus to them. Pray that I may be faithful in presenting this Gospel to the lost.

Cameron Yandell

The most challenging but fruitful experience I found while studying at Trinity was learning the basic skills in Bible reading and studying. This allowed me to confidently and correctly study God's Word and apply it to my life. I encourage everybody to study at least one year at Trinity (but the more the better!)



David Ayambo (second from left) and Cameron Yandell (bottom right)

Michael Hunt

I greatly value two things from my time at college. Firstly, the teaching. Trinity has given me a solid biblical foundation and balance as I have been exposed to different traditions other than my own. Secondly, I value the lifelong friendships I have formed with fellow students. I believe these relationships will provide me with a network of support, encouragement and accountability.

My background is in missions and I want to continue this mission focus. I am currently SIM's WA Ministry Director and am looking at a possible combination of missions/pastoral work post-Trinity.

Michael Hunt (left)



Cameron St Clair

Trinity has skilled me for ministering God's Word to any individual, group, or age. The faculty at Trinity has encouraged me in godliness,

demonstrating a perseverance under trials that I want to emulate.

As an associate pastor at Curtin Community Church, my ministry involves outreach to international students and families in the university community. My current focus is mainland Chinese through an Easy English Bible Club. They are receptive to reading the Bible and finding out what Christians believe.



Stuart Cooke

For me, Trinity was where I learnt a great deal. I came to college not knowing much about the Bible but college changed that. I

have been given a great foundation on the Bible and how I can apply it to my own life. This is something I will always treasure and build on as I go through life wherever God leads me. Right now I am on holidays in Canada but hoping to eventually do youth ministry somewhere in Perth.

Come and meet Trinity's
crop of new graduates
at our
**Graduation and
Commencement Service**
26 February, 7.30 pm
Bull Creek Westminster
Presbyterian Church

Support strong but more needed

The Trinity Theological College Campaign (Building Fund) got off to a flying start during 2006 with more than \$2 million in pledges on the opening night but more gifts are needed.

So far the Campaign has raised more than \$3 million in cash and pledges. At our opening night during October, guests enjoyed a pleasant evening and heard several inspiring speeches.

“...a college that would help me grow my knowledge of God and love for the Lord Jesus, not just focus on grades and qualifications.”

Second year, Bachelor of Theology student, Cohen Watson, spoke on what Trinity means to him. Here is some of what he said.

I was attracted to Trinity for a number of reasons, one being its emphasis on; God alone, Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone and Scripture alone. I was looking for a college that put the Bible and the Gospel at the centre. I wanted a College that would help me grow my knowledge of God and love for the Lord Jesus, not just focus on grades and qualifications. I wanted a College that focused on faithfulness, not pragmatism. And I wanted a college that believed in taking the Gospel to the world, rather than bringing the world into the church. While Trinity was non-denominational and was prepared to accept differences in the non-essentials, I liked the fact that any issue related to the teaching of the Gospel or the living out of the Gospel was a non-negotiable.

Trinity is a college that not only teaches the authority of the Scriptures, but practices it. We spent the majority of our time in class studying the Bible, rather than books about the Bible. The emphasis is not on the institution itself, but on the quality of the people it produces, and the Lord

whom they serve. The standard is both high and rewarding. It forces us to handle God's Word carefully. I now realise after being a Christian for more than 20 years just how much I had been assuming when I read my Bible rather than really understanding.

Trinity provides people with the big picture of God's work throughout history from creation to the new creation, demonstrating how all of the smaller pieces of detail fit together.

Trinity is not all about head knowledge. Unless our learning transforms our heart and affects our hands, our knowledge is of little value. This outlook affects all that is done here. I have appreciated our pastoral care groups; ministry sessions and visiting missionary speakers; preaching classes;

Missions Week; and the care and concern for each of the students, their families and their ministries in the local church.

Things aren't always rosy as a student – there are plenty of issues to work through – probably for the rest of my life – and there is a lot of pressure with full-time study, increasing involvement in ministry, a young family and other commitments. But if I had had to uproot my family and leave Perth and friends and my church simply to find a good college elsewhere, I'm not sure we would have coped. I am extremely thankful to the Lord for bringing me to Trinity and excited about the things I am learning here. I am more than happy to recommend it to others and commend it to you.

The needs for our other two funds for 2007

General Fund \$200,000

The "Engine Room" of the College. For faculty staff and operation expenses.

Library Fund \$97,000 (Tax Deductible)

Pledge supporters

Would you like to be part of the growing band of supporters who donate through regular giving? Or maybe you are thinking about making a Bequest to the College. I would be delighted to discuss these options with you. You can contact me at the College on 08 9228 9067.

Gordon Waghorn - Development Manager

On-line donations can now be made:
www.ttc.wa.edu.au



Cohen Watson

What's coming up?

The next phase of the Campaign starts on 7 March.

Mr Rolf Van Wollingen will be leading the Key Gifts stage. We invite you to become a part of this strategic campaign by planning an active role, becoming an enthusiastic advocate for the campaign, joining one of the teams and/or persuading others to help.

Door open to full-time study

Graduate ready for Africa

Greg, when did you become a Christian?



Greg Amos has recently commenced studying his Bachelor of Theology.

In November 1981 as a result of the witness of my father-in-law and a Christian friend.

You are 52 years of age and have been a full-time salaried elder in your congregation for the past four years, why do you want to study theology?

I've been keen to do this for some time but the timing wasn't right. Now the Lord has opened the door. The church where I have been ministering and my family are both supportive. The experience of full-time ministry

has given me a desire to explore Biblical theology and church history more deeply so I can be better equipped for preaching and evangelism.

Why Trinity?

Its affiliation with the Westminster Presbyterian Churches of which my family and I belong.

Do you have any anxieties?

Having been 35 years since leaving school, I have thoughts of how I'll adjust to College life but I'm looking forward to the challenge. My desire is to "run with perseverance" the race God has given me and to finish well. For the next three years I want to "fix" and keep fixing my eyes on Christ — He will get me through!

Recently I was asked, "Is it really worth you going to live in a remote part of Africa to share the Gospel with a people group that have had little or no opportunity to hear of Jesus?" My response was a resounding "yes", although that question did recur in my mind for some time.

So why 'yes', and not 'I think so', or 'maybe'? Where did that confidence come from? I've come to recognise that my confidence comes from a deep conviction that it is God's message of salvation through Jesus that people need to hear. My time at Trinity has given me both a framework, and the tools, to have confidence in the Gospel and His Word. Over a six year period I worked as the Youth Field Worker for The Bible Society in WA. My role gave me countless opportunities to share the Gospel and talk about the Bible in schools, camps, churches and youth groups. It was a privilege to see people respond to His Word.

C.H. Spurgeon said, "It is worth the effort of a lifetime to reach one person with the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He is right - it is worth the prayer, time, effort and money to reach people with the message of Jesus. That is the reason we are going to an unreached people group in Mozambique, because they need the opportunity to hear and respond to Jesus. In the same way, is it worth supporting Trinity who train people for effective Christian ministry? "A resounding yes!"



Talitha and Craig Willis-Jones (Bible Society)

Prayer Focus

Praise for

- The successful completion of study for our 13 graduates.
- The 20 new students joining our Trinity family.
- The first of the enquiries from overseas students. Pray that our work with these and new contacts will open the doors for student to come and study with us here in Perth.

Prayer for

- The families of our students. That they will be strong in their faith as they struggle with the time, financial and life-changing affects that this study can have.
- Our lecturers, that their preparation will be thorough, that their teaching will be clear.
- The work of Trinity Women in supporting and equipping the women of our Trinity community.

Trinity@Night

This year we will be celebrating three graduates from our Trinity@Night course at our Graduation and Commencement Service on 26 February — Karen Webb, Sam Rasdien and Kenny Ho. Trinity News asked Karen how she enjoyed her study.



As a stay at home mum of three young children, I started the Trinity@Night course to keep my brain active and to learn more about the Bible. Over the three years of doing the certificate course, the subjects have really helped me to understand the Bible better, both in small detail and as a whole. It has also given me a greater understanding of the church both past and present and the fellowship with other students has been wonderful. The lectures have all been very interactive and informative and overall I have had a wonderful time completing my Certificate of Christian Studies.

Trinity@Night is our certificate level course with each unit running for six weeks. You can enrol on-line anytime for any unit this year.

Term 1 is already under way, with Term 2 soon to commence with

Romans on a Tuesday

at Trinity House
with Campbell Markham and

Isaiah on a Thursday

at Melville Baptist
with Matt Waldron.

For more information,
or to enrol on-line go to

www.ttc.wa.edu.au/certificate.shtml

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

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
(Title) (First Name) (Surname)

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____

I/We wish to donate \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Trinity Theological College **LIBRARY FUND** (fully tax deductible)
BSB 086 492 Account No. 560085401

To Trinity Theological College **GENERAL FUND** for faculty, staff and operating expenses
BSB 086 492 Account No. 559916706

Trinity Theological College **BUILDING FUND** incorporating Trinity Theological College
Campaign (fully tax deductible) BSB 086 492 Account No. 560097779

Cheque enclosed Internet Banking Transfer OR Card: Mastercard Visa

Account No.

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

I/We will pledge \$ _____ pa/quarterly/monthly I/We would be interested in making a bequest

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