

AUGUST 2018



InterSections

An Australian journal for Christian encounter and encouragement

Editorial

ChurchScope ①

Morningside Church of Christ, Auckland

Feature ③

Leadership Lessons from 2018 APEDS
(Asia-Pacific Elders, Deacons and Spouses)
Conference

Food for Thought ④

Faith across Generations: the 2018
Freed-Hardeman University Bible Lectureship

International Letter ⑤

Family business in Australia

News ⑥

Camp Soul, NSW
Klesis Bible Program, VIC
Eastern Shore Lectureship, TAS
Update on SPBC, NZ
MSOBS Lectureship, NSW
ACCET news

Interview ⑧

Barrie and Joanne Morgan



Given that the first issue of *InterSections* was published in August 2009, this issue marks the start of our 10th year in operation. We're thankful to God for the positive development of *InterSections* during that time. We now have over 500 subscribers. Hence, it seems to be good timing that, in this issue, we consider how to ensure a strong and vibrant faith for the next generation. How can the next generation be passionate about Jesus and the kingdom? In our *Feature* article, Peter Amos reflects on some of the spiritual themes garnered from the 2018 APEDS conference, as speakers discuss what is essential to nurture the next generation of church leaders.

In our *Food for Thought*, Nancy Wu Won reports on some of her highlights when she attended the Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship in Tennessee - on the apt topic of multigenerational mission. In our *International Letter*, Keith Stanglin, a professor at the Austin Graduate School of Theology, reflects on his own legacy of faith passed down to him from his Australian great-great grandfather, Thomas Brooks.

We also interview a faithful couple who have raised four Christian sons - Barrie and Joanne Morgan from the Eastern Shore congregation in Tasmania. The history and progress of the Morningside congregation in Auckland also features in our *ChurchScope*. In our *News* section, we read about some exciting activities including: Camp Soul in Sydney; the final module of the Klesis Bible Program in Melbourne; an update about South Pacific Bible College in New Zealand; the MSOBS Lectureship in Sydney; the Eastern Shore Lectureship in Tasmania; and news about ACCET.

The Psalmist declares: '...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done' (Psalm 78:2-4). We pray that you will be encouraged by reading this issue as we prepare to pass the baton of faith to the next generation.

InterSections editorial team.

ChurchScope

Morningside Church of Christ, Auckland, NZ



Subscriptions

InterSections is available free in PDF format or at AUD\$27.50 (incl GST) per year for 4 print issues.

Past Issues

Past issues of *InterSections* are available at: www.intersections.com.au

To subscribe:

- PDF format: use online subscription at www.intersections.com.au or email us at info@intersections.com.au providing your name, email and contact details.

- Printed format write to:

InterSections, PO Box 700, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia, providing your name and address and cheque payment to Klesis Institute for AUD\$27.50 (per year for 4 issues).

Fifty years ago, the first members of this new congregation in central Auckland were made up of three American missionary families: the Joneses, Cains, and Starlings. The first worship service took place on 7 April 1968, the first contribution was NZ\$44.20, and the first expense, NZ\$1.50 – a month's hall rental. The Gladstone Primary School Hall was their first regular meeting place. Warwick Badham and the Vickery and Mostert families were among the first members of this fledgling congregation.

Unbeknownst to most, the official name of the church remains: 'Church of Christ Auckland (Undenominational)'. It was the purchase of the building at 42 Leslie Avenue, Morningside, that gave the church its present name.

By 1975 the original American families had returned home and the Boggs family (1975-1980) had arrived, also from the USA. The church had just moved to the War Memorial Hall on May Road. In October the church moved to the Balmoral Intermediate School on Brixton Road. Ken and Betsy Grubb and Janita Rose also arrived from the USA to join in the work.



In 1978 Joe Gray, a professor from David Lipscomb University, brought a large group of students to door-knock central Auckland. This 'Treasure of Truth Crusade' introduced prospective missionaries to Auckland. Two campaigners who returned to work with Morningside were Lester and Cindy Farrell.

The dawn of the 1980s saw the return to the USA of the Boggs family. Allan Bell tells the story that his baptism was the last job that David Boggs did before leaving for home. The church had purchased the Kingsland Fire Station but had never worshipped in it due to council restrictions over parking. It was sold and the present meeting place at 42 Leslie Avenue, Morningside, was purchased. It has been Morningside's home since 1982.

In the mid-1980s the Beckloff family and Anthony Parker joined the Farrells; but by the end of 1986 all the American workers had returned to the USA. Morningside owes much to our American brothers and sisters — their godliness abides to this day. Bless them!

In 1987 the Lange family, the first of the Kiwi workers, came to work at Morningside. Over the next eight years the congregation grew to 100 strong. Since 1996 John and Lynda Staiger have worked with the congregation. Morningside has always been involved in the support of the needy. Help for orphans and widows in India continues to be a priority.

We are also dedicated to contributing to the preaching of the gospel. A few of those receiving contributions were (all in NZ dollars): \$10 gifts to the students attending 'The Tauranga Bible School' (1970-71); weekly support of NZ\$20 a week to Joseph Smith who was preaching for the South Auckland Church of Christ in 1975; and weekly support of NZ\$60 per week to John Staiger who was preaching for the South Auckland Church of Christ in 1986. Many other preachers and missionaries in NZ, Tonga and Fiji have been encouraged by prayers, supplies and monetary support for the work of the kingdom. Morningsiders, Samu and Marama Rakai, have led two mission groups to Fiji in recent years, and have taken emergency aid to storm victims.

The Morningside Family Camp remains an annual fixture on the Morningside calendar. Many will remember when it was regularly held at Eastern Beach in the 1980's. It's now held at a site near Hamilton. Everyone is welcome.

Over the years much evangelistic outreach has been done. In the early years, large portions of the weekly contribution were spent on newspaper advertising. In 1981, letterboxing material was distributed in the 'Know Your Bible Campaign.' Records show 107 enrolled in Bible correspondence courses up to 15 November of that year. On 5 December 1981, Peter and Joan Craig were speakers at a workshop called 'Attaining the Fulness of Christ.' Door-knocking campaigns were held in 1978 and 1986.

For the last five years we have hosted a group of students from Harding University. Under the leadership of Erastos Evdokiades, they have done outreach work and a host of activities to encourage Morningside and other congregations.

If you worship with Morningside today you will be among some of those who have made Morningside what it has become over its 50 years in Christ's service. You will find family names like: Timoti, Morrison, and Kirkham that go back to the 1970s, Bell, Lange, Tavita, Hill, Hodgman, Neill, Csengo and Phua from the 1980s, Rutene, Lehauli, Polglase, Staiger and Smyth from the 1990s, and many others who have become Morningsiders since the turn of the century.

Since 1968 hundreds of faces have come and gone from Morningside. But I would be remiss in my duty if I did not emphasise the profound godly influence that the Vickery family has had upon Morningside since its beginning. That influence abides in Jean Vickery who continues to serve Christ at Morningside to this day.

I have deliberately left names out – especially first names. The internet is not everyone's friend. To consider this as an historical document might be a stretch. My aim is to honour our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through the good work done in his name by the many saints who have been a part of the congregation we know at Morningside. ◇

John Staiger is the minister at Morningside Church of Christ in Auckland, New Zealand. johnstaiger1@gmail.com

**ACCET provides grants
to churches of Christ
in Australia for evangelism**



A donation is a gift that keeps on giving!

P: 0468 719 025 or 03 9890 4494 • enquiries@accet.org.au
www.accet.org.au • PO Box 552, GOSFORD, NSW 2250, Australia.

©Australian church of Christ Evangelistic Trust ABN 18 064 594 371



Feature Leadership Lessons from the 2018 APEDS (Asia Pacific Elders, Deacons and Spouses) Conference

The spirit of fellowship and encouragement present during APEDS 2018 was inspiring. So too was the reaffirmation that it has always been God's plan for his church to have effective leadership in the form of elders and deacons. The theme was 'Passing the Baton of Church Leadership'. The focus was on growing the next generation of church leaders, with an emphasis on inspiring congregations, wherever possible, to appoint elders and deacons.

Delegates came from Singapore, India, the USA, as well as from all over Australia. We were blessed with a wide variety of elders and their wives as guest speakers and discussion group leaders. We were also blessed to have Evertt Huffard from Harding School of Theology as our keynote speaker (Evertt is like a patron given that he has participated in all three APEDS gatherings to date: 2014, 2016, and 2018).

In Evertt's wrap-up of APEDS 2018, he observed how the gifts which Paul listed in Romans 12 were being demonstrated by each of the speakers during their presentations. Below are some highlights.



Teaching

Steve Wilson (The Point, Brisbane) showed that the biblical foundation for elders and deacons is so strong that we shouldn't let go of it. As a restoration movement 'contending for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints' (Jude 3), we must root our churches in biblical authority and apostolic teaching and practice. We only need to look to Scripture and the early church to recognise how elderships were present throughout churches from as early as the mid-40s AD (Acts 11; James 5). Reminded by Jeremiah 6:16 - 'stand at the crossroads and look for the ancient paths' - we should seek to perpetuate this biblical model in our 21st century congregations.

Service

Paul Tyers (Malaga, Perth) spoke about his experience of having godly role models and the importance of being able to see Christ working in people's lives. Paul extolled the importance of servant leadership and how he was encouraged to give things a go. He was challenged to be prepared to serve in many ways, taking on responsibility and allowing the Spirit to enable him to do things he didn't think were possible. Paul challenged us to get out of our comfort zone and present ourselves to God, stepping out in faith to let God use us for his glory.

Exhortation

Jay Jarboe (Missions Resource Network) began a discussion on the challenges of developing servant leaders. He provided strategies and processes to help congregations be more intentional in defining what qualities they are seeking to develop in church leaders. He emphasised the importance of coaching and mentoring in growing disciples for leadership.

Generosity and Mercy

David Mowday (Gosford) spoke about some keys to successful leadership: relationships, communication, and forgiveness. These are important for leaders to cultivate with God and with those they lead. Paraphrasing some memorable quotes from Dave:

- 'Draw near to God and he will draw nearer to you.' (James 3:8)
- 'Our spouse knows us better than anyone else and provides perspective and balance.'
- 'Let them (your kids) know how important they are to God and to us.'
- 'Always be willing to see the best in people—that's what God did when he sent Jesus to die for us all.'
- 'Believe that God is on your side—God+1 puts you in the majority.'
- 'Have an unwavering faith that God is in control (Rom 8:28). God is able to work his plan through our choices and decisions, both good and bad.'

Leadership

Benny Tabalujan (Belmore Road, Melbourne) was scheduled to talk on 'The Baton Carrier Needs to Know When to Let Go'. It was late in the afternoon, and based on the undercurrent of conversations throughout the conference, Benny scrapped his prepared presentation and decided to cut to the chase.

Using the kingdom analogy of 'now and not-yet', he argued that while it's necessary for the current generation of church leaders to pass on the baton now, in many congregations this isn't yet possible. He noted that much of the 'baton passing' in Australia has been done by graduates from Macquarie School of Biblical Studies in Sydney. However, for some time now, we haven't been training enough of the next generation to be able to teach and preach effectively for the 80 or so congregations in Australia, especially the smaller ones.

Benny asked the question: 'In the not too distant future, who will take over from the likes of Stuart Penhall, David Mowday, or Steve Wilson in being able to effectively teach the Gospel and uphold right doctrine and practice?' We need to be creative in finding ways to address this shortcoming and give future leaders the knowledge and training they will need.



Prophecy

Stuart Penhall (Gosford) took up where Benny left off. Stuart asked: 'What's hindering the process of developing biblical leadership? Why is leadership in Australia arguably in a similar shambles it has been for 40 years?'

In Stuart's opinion, from 1960–75 the church in Australia spread too quickly to appoint elders. The 'Men's Business Meeting' filled the void. While it appealed to the Australian egalitarian ideal of one man one vote, it had little biblical basis and gave virtually no weight to knowledge and experience. Transiting from a Men's Business Meeting model to a biblical leadership model of elders and deacons is often met with challenges, including unrealistic expectations concerning the qualities and character of candidates, and the reluctance of church members to relinquish control and submit to specific men.

The answer to growing the next generation of elders and deacons is not in lowering the standard of leadership required to properly shepherd God's people. Instead:

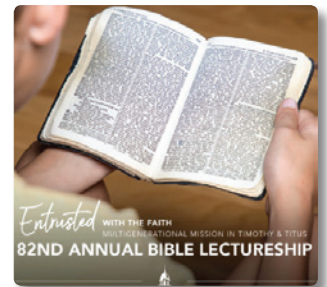
- The transition should be covered with much care and prayer.
- Church members must be committed to being led by biblically appointed elders.
- Qualities versus qualifications—congregations must be both biblical and reasonable in our expectations of church leaders.
- Men who are already close to the biblical standard must be nurtured. They should be encouraged to take on responsibility and be supported by the congregation – perhaps as 'shepherd-type' or 'entry level' leaders.
- The process can be assisted by experienced third parties.

We see in John 14–17 that when Jesus, in his last hours, entrusted his ministry to the apostles, the role of the Spirit was paramount in equipping them for the challenge of leading God's church. At APEDS 2018, we rejoice over the manifestation of these gifts of the Spirit in churches around Australia. It's now clear that the challenge for God's people in 2018 and beyond is to help mature the next generation of church leaders.

The conference closed with a commitment to keep the goal of biblical leadership alive, with Belmore Road offering to host APEDS 2020 in Melbourne. ♦

Peter Amos is a deacon at The Point Church in Brisbane. petera@thepoint.org.au

Food for Thought Faith across Generations: the 2018 Freed-Hardeman University Bible Lectureship



I walked across cobblestones as an icy wind blew across the Freed-Hardeman University campus on a clear, sunny day in Henderson, Tennessee, USA. It's February 2018 and I was at the annual FHU Bible Lectureship. I came to sing with the University Chorale and also to attend a variety of lectures and workshops.

It's impossible to attend every lecture because many ran concurrently during the 4.5 day program.¹ The events included: workshops for women, a childrens' lectureship, a teenagers' lectureship, the Friends of the Restoration series, a Bible school workshop, and a series on 'Life in a Small Church'.

All up, there were over 3,000 attendees. Now in its 82nd year, this year's lectureship theme – *Entrusted with the Faith: Multigenerational Mission in Timothy and Titus* – revolved around how the apostle Paul taught the Gospel to his and the next generation.

This theme is timely. The world in which we live is undergoing rapid change. The influences of the internet, availing knowledge to us faster ever before, is changing the way we view life and interact with others.² In this changing world, how are we to entrust the faith to subsequent generations?

In the 'Multigenerational Relationships' series, the speakers acknowledged that there could be divisions within a congregation because of the different ways that each generation thinks and perceives life. Yet this does not have to be a problem if we knew how to apply God's Word to the diversity we find.

Devotionals during morning chapel were helpful for sharing a greater appreciation for all generations in the church. The young men who were selected to speak during chapel were often recent Bible graduates working with local congregations. They set an example by acknowledging the faith and mentorship of those who were older. Here is an example of where the young are beneficiaries of the old – people who have spent time praying and eating meals with them, setting an example of faithfulness and instilling a deep love for God within.

On the last day, we were reminded that the *missio Dei* (mission of God), has always involved the passing on of the faith from one generation to the next. How encouraging to know we're not in this alone! God desires that everyone be saved and his purposes will succeed despite the state of flux in which we find ourselves. We're simply called to obey him and ask him for the privilege of participating in his will on earth – albeit something which is not without its challenges.

On the last evening, amidst an air of excitement, the Lectureship Chorus sang its repertoire of hymns. The chorus, comprising of alumni and seasoned singers with mature voices, joined with millennials and current students from the University Chorale. We sang the song, 'How shall the young secure their hearts?' The choice of hymns and the range of ages within the chorus reflected this important task of passing on the faith. The old with the new. The older and the younger.



Keith Stanglin at
Kew Cemetery, Melbourne.

International Letter

Family Business in Australia

In 2016, I had the opportunity to travel for the first time to Australia to look after some 'family business.'

First of all, the 'spiritual family business.' I was invited to Melbourne to teach a course for the Klesis Bible Program. It was a survey of church history, which was the fourth course offered in the program. Along with supplemental readings and assignments to do before, during, and after the course, we packed about 2,000 years into one week of intense study. In addition to the six-day course, I preached and taught a couple of church history seminars for the church at Belmore Road and conducted the same seminars later in Brisbane.

Of the many things I could say about this wonderful experience, I will note only two. First, I was impressed by the hunger for learning about church history. This hunger is evident in the fact that the Klesis Bible Program devotes one of the six courses in the program to church history. The

interest was also reflected in the faces and the comments of the students during and after the course. Perhaps what impressed me most was that dozens of members came out on a Sunday afternoon, and later on a Wednesday night and Friday night to hear the two seminars on church history.

Second, this trip was another good reminder that our spiritual family includes more than just the people we physically meet with every Sunday. Our brothers and sisters around the world are part of the same family, and we can learn much from one another. This same realisation is one of the main benefits of studying church history; that is, it introduces us to the community of faith that is larger than ourselves. When we encounter the extended family, either geographically or historically, we almost always come away with a blessing.



Thomas L. Brooks
(1850-1927)

Now for the 'biological family business.' I did not go to Australia for this purpose, but I feel obliged to report on my Aussie connection. After marrying in 1839, Thomas and Ann Brooks emigrated from England and, after a trying, six-month voyage, arrived in Melbourne, Australia, in 1840. No, they were not convicted criminals, though they shared a ship with convicts. They were among the volunteers who received financial benefits from England to help settle the new land. They quickly settled on land adjacent to the Yarra River in Hawthorn. They were among the very first settlers in the town, which is now an inner suburb of Melbourne. There they bore four children, one of them named Thomas L. Brooks (1850-1927).

In the late 1860s, the first American missionary from the Restoration Movement to come to Australia, G. L. Surber, landed in Melbourne. Young Thomas not only responded to Surber's preaching, but he agreed to accompany him to the United States so that he could train for the ministry and later return to Australia. It was 1871, and he was 21. He first attended the College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky, to study under J. W. McGarvey, and later Bethany College to study under Alexander Campbell's son-in-law, W. K. Pendleton. To make a long story short, after his training and subsequent ministry in North America, he met and married a young lady in Texas. He never returned to Australia, but lived and died and is buried in Leakey, Texas.

This Australian-turned-Texan was my great-great grandfather. And of all the places I could have stayed in the vast country of Australia, I stayed with the Tabalujans. As it turns out, their house is about a ten-minute drive from the grave of Thomas' parents, my great-great-great grandparents, which I visited in Kew before leaving Melbourne. So Thomas L. Brooks never made it back to Melbourne (for which I am selfishly grateful), but I can't help but feel that my being welcomed to teach there was a bit like being welcomed back.

There is a lesson here about family legacy and passing on the faith. Although my great-great-grandfather died fifty years before I was born, when I look back on his descendants that I did know, it is clear that something of his devotion to the Lord was handed down through the generations. Virtues that were shaped and decisions that were made so long ago continue to reverberate through a family's history. The family is the primary and most natural setting for passing on the faith. Our first evangelistic obligation is to the loved ones under our roof, which is why Scripture commands us to impress on our children the words of the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9).

Who knows whether, because of decisions we make now to dedicate ourselves fully to the work of the Lord and to his church, descendants that we will never know will be shaped by our devotion? ♦

Keith Stanglin teaches at Austin Graduate School of Theology in Austin, Texas, a seminary affiliated with Churches of Christ. keithstanglin@gmail.com

InterSections is a quarterly journal designed to inform, inspire and unite Christians in Australia seeking to restore New Testament faith and practice. The editors are responsible for selecting material for publication, but each article reflects the views of its author(s). Advertisements in *InterSections* are broadly consistent with the ethos and goals of the journal; however, they do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the journal. *InterSections* is published by Klesis Institute (© Klesis Institute, 2018). Copyright permission is given to anyone wishing to reproduce an individual article for non-commercial purposes, as long as due attribution is given to the author and *InterSections*. Klesis Institute is a division of CommAsia Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 097136171 ABN 53702023602).

Editor: Benny Tabalujan
Managing Editor: Jenny Ancell
Associate Editors: Nathan Holyoak, Christian Bargholz
Board of Advisors: Dale Hartman, Allan McNicol, David Mowday
Enquiries: Klesis Institute, PO Box 700, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia.
Art & Design: Gekko Graphics / H.M.Cox igecko.com.au
Publisher: Klesis Institute www.intersections.com.au
Email: info@intersections.com.au Fax: +61 3 8677 9575
Subscribe: Details on the front of the journal or www.intersections.com.au



News *Camp Soul, NSW*

The 2018 theme for Camp Soul (25-27 May 2018) was 'Cyber Talk: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly'. It's an important topic for today's young people to tackle, as social media is such an active part of their lives. Jonathan Frank presented lessons that tackled issues including: using social media as a way to spread the Gospel; whether social media leads us towards or away from God; and how we allow social media to consume our time. The aim of the weekend was to understand how social media impacts our lives and what God expects from us in our interactions with these online platforms. It was a reminder to use social media as a platform to bring glory to God, and not to ourselves, and to be vigilant regarding the content we consume online. ◇

Rachael Kirkpatrick rachaelmanga@gmail.com



Klesis Bible Program, VIC

The sixth and final intensive module of the Klesis Bible Program was conducted in Melbourne from 4-9 June 2018. The group of 11 students (plus several other day visitors) enjoyed thought-provoking classes on Global Evangelism Strategies taught by Bill Richardson, a Bible professor from Harding University.

Bill, an elder with the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas, and his wife, Holly, are former missionaries in Guatemala, Argentina, and Chile. Several participants praised this particular module for its practicality, as well as insights into evangelism and cross-cultural missions.

Started in 2014, over the past five years more than 20 different individuals have undertaken one or more of the six KBP modules. A few are now considering the option of further studies by putting their accumulated college credits towards a master's degree from Harding School of Theology in Memphis, Tennessee. Whilst this is the last KBP module, Klesis is exploring plans to offer other Bible study intensives in future years. ◇

Benny Tabalujan b.tabalujan@gmail.com

Eastern Shore Lectureship, TAS

The Annual Eastern Shore Lectureship in Tasmania, now in its 24th year, was held in May 2018. This year, the theme took a deliberate and intentional approach to equipping the church for one of our generation's seminal socio-political battlegrounds: 'Defending Gender: Affirming God's Role for the Sexes'. The topic's sensitivity and infamy need no introduction in the wake of heightened tensions in our current political climate, as culture attempts to redefine many of its own institutions.

Yet the church, as an institution of God, should be immune to whatever human conceptions are in vogue. As such, this year's lectureship sought to affirm how Scripture defines our roles: in the church (as the younger to the older, and as brothers and sisters to each other), in relationships (as widows, singles or in marriage), and in the family (as fathers and mothers to daughters and sons). Lectures spoke to the specific calling of

Christians in their unique, God-given roles, cutting through the relativist noise of contemporary debate. If we are truly to be Bible-believing Christians, then the foundation for our lives and the conception of our roles in the church, in relationships, and in our families must come from the Bible first, regardless of cultural background, subjective opinions or attempts at redefinition. We must be transformed, not conformed.

The lectureship is held each year in early May at the Eastern Shore Church of Christ building at 18 Carbeen St, Mornington, in suburban Hobart. The lectureship is growing every year, with interstate and international visitors regularly making the trip. Please get in touch to find out more! All lectures from this year's event are available as PDFs on request. ◇

James Young easternshorecoc@gmail.com

ACCET News

As Christians, we fervently believe that life continues after our physical body dies. When Christ returns, those who have passed will be raised to join him, followed by those who are still alive. The main reason ACCET (Australian Churches of Christ Evangelistic Trust) exists is to enable more people in Australia to be with Christ at his return. This is achieved by supporting congregations in their evangelistic efforts, primarily by funding workers to preach and evangelise.

This year ACCET was able to provide AUD\$20,000 in grants to eight congregations to help them continue in their evangelistic endeavours. This allows workers to continue doing what they are passionate about and removes their anxiety about providing for their families. Not everyone can work in full time ministry, but everyone can help those who do by donating to ACCET.

Donations are invested and grants are distributed from the dividends received. By doing this, donations are preserved and live on after donors have passed on to their reward. If you want the church in Australia to be actively evangelising until Christ returns, go to www.accet.org.au and learn how you can help more people in Australia join Jesus at his return. ◇

David Mowday dmowday@gmail.com



Update on SPBC, New Zealand

This year, several changes have brought wonderful refreshment to the South Pacific Bible College. First, we launched a new study offering, reshaping our two-year diploma program into two one-year diplomas. This upholds our quality of delivery, yet provides more flexibility. Students can now commit to the traditional two years of study or opt for a single year. We've also redesigned our daily devotional time into a 'Theology in Action' session: an opportunity for students to explore and practise what they're learning in class, driven by the goal to go beyond academic knowledge and achieve true Christ-like transformation.

Progress on our building projects brings us to five onsite accommodation units and a total of 13 bedrooms. This means all non-local students can now live close by, enhancing our goal of transforming lives through loving Christian community.

On the student front, 2017 graduate Bobby Whippy returned with his family to Fiji and has hit the ground running, establishing a teaching and preaching ministry that serves five congregations, a children's ministry, and a women's ministry. Back in New Zealand, a current student recently brought staff and students to tears by sharing how God has used SPBC to soften his hard heart and grow his relationship with God in ways he'd never previously imagined!

We praise God for his ongoing provision for SPBC, and invite you to learn more about studying with us, supporting our students, or how you can pray for us! Find us at spbc.org.nz and facebook.com/spbcnz. ♦

Steve Raine sraine@spbc.org.nz

MSOBS Lectureship, NSW

'Do we seek to love and worship him deep down in our hearts?' asked David Carr at the Macquarie School of Biblical Studies 2018 Lectureship from 18-22 July.

Speakers, who included Dale Hartman, Bob Marks, Brett Christensen, Grant MacFarlane, Barrie Morgan, Les Totman and Keegan Wilson, taught encouraging lessons. Ladies enjoyed a class session from Christine Males regarding strengthening relationships in sisters' lives. Hearts were blessed by lessons around the uplifting theme: *What Pleases God: What does God want from me?* It stirred those who came from 20 Australian congregations in Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, WA, Queensland and ACT and visitors from Switzerland, Nepal and North America. The power of harmonious singing led by Jules Cseszkó was felt by all.



Topics like *Pleasing God in Every Way*, *Pleasing God or Man*, *Worship that Pleases God* and *Light Pleases God* spurred us on to grow in maturity and called everyone to be true to our faith, to give God true worship, praise and glory. David declared: 'We have an indestructible king on the throne who is worthy of our adoration and honour.' Barrie exhorted: 'Every day, wrap our minds around the righteousness of God as a defence against sin.' Dale challenged us to grow in wisdom in favour with God and man as Jesus did; that we 'not rust out but wear out'. Keegan warned against neglecting our spiritual lives. Brett urged followers to shine Christ's light the darker it gets. The Macquarie family were gracious hosts providing feasts flavoured with love. ♦

Elonie Cseszkó elonie.cseszko@gmail.com

Food for Thought - continued

Overall, it was a spiritually uplifting week. Reflecting upon that week months later, I'm reminded of a quote from a Bible class I recently participated in: 'It's not so much that God's church has a mission in the world; it's that God's mission has a church in the world.'³ So here it is again: an invitation to join with God in his incredible work of reaching the lost of all generations.

I came away from the lectureship encouraged. I concluded that the mission of God is a collaborative effort. To be entrusted with passing on the faith requires working with others, especially those in another generation. Perhaps you have questions about how to encourage other generations in the church? May the resources produced as a result of the FHU Bible Lectureship be helpful for us all as we endeavour to follow faithfully in the steps of Jesus. ♦

Nancy Wu Won is a member of the Belmore Road Church of Christ in Melbourne, Victoria. tranquillilly@gmail.com

1 Many of the lectures are available on audio or video from the FHU website (www.fhu.edu/lectureship) using the iTunes U Downloads link.

2 Fritz Kling, *The Meeting of the Waters: 7 Global Currents that Will Propel the Future Church* (David C. Cook, 2010).

3 This was spoken by Bill Richardson, a Bible professor from Harding University, who taught the Klesis Bible Program in Melbourne in June 2018.

Interview

With Barrie and Joanne Morgan

Can you tell us a little about your journey that led you to follow Jesus.

B: My first introduction to Jesus was as a kid being sent to Sunday school each week. I endured this for a term and then skipped Sunday school for the next 15 years. In my twenties I did a lot of bushwalking with my father's work colleagues. This was how I met James Fleet, who reacquainted me with Jesus. This eventually led to a brief question and answer study session with Dale Hartman who introduced me to Len Bestmann in Gympie where I was living at that time. Len baptised me into the kingdom which was the beginning of my journey in Christ.

J: I was raised in a religious family and always had a deep love for the Lord but suspected there was something more. I started searching and at a time when I was close to giving up, I was door-knocked by a Christian on an Ivan Stewart campaign. I had a Bible study and was baptised the same day. I met with the church the following Sunday and never looked back.

How did you meet each other?

We met for the first time in Sydney at a Macquarie church luncheon in 1983. I was studying at the Macquarie School of Biblical Studies and Joanne was a member of the Eastside congregation at Bondi. Jo had come over to see her mum who was a member at Macquarie. We were married 8 months later!

You have raised four sons who are all committed Christians. What are the challenges in raising godly sons?

The greatest challenge for us has been to provide our boys with the spiritual armour to help in their defence against all the worldly influences and assaults on their faith in Christ.

Do you have any advice to offer to parents?

Do everything in your power to teach your children to love Christ, his church and God's Word. Make worship part of your life - sing, pray and read God's Word with your children as a daily routine. You should be the best example of Christ that your children see and be an enthusiastic Christian.

Teach your children to love and serve others and don't be afraid to ask for advice from older and mature Christians who have also raised their children in Christ. The prime consideration of all parents must be their children's salvation.

What did you like about your careers? Has there been any aspect of your professional lives that has contributed to your faith and maturity in Christ?

B: I've always worked in the electrical industry and enjoyed the diversity and technicality of the many roles I have performed. From firsthand knowledge I can say that electricity is a truly amazing thing that most know very little about and many take for granted. You can't see it flowing through the power lines in your street, but when they clash together on a stormy night the flashover arc will light up the night. You can't hear it when it runs through the wiring as you turn on your bedroom light, but if you go into a city substation, the transformers hum with a foreboding tone of the immense energy and power that surges through the windings. Working in this environment constantly reminds me of our God whom most don't know and many take for granted. But the brightness of the light he shines and the magnitude of the power he commands is truly breathtaking. Who can live without his power?



J: My marine trimming business could be likened to Paul's tent making in that I worked for myself - designing, fabricating, fitting and repairing canvass products on luxury yachts to humble caravans. My workshop was at home so I could be flexible to spend time with family, friends and brethren. God has truly blessed me with my skills and it's nice to have a career but it never took precedence over Christ and my service to the church.

You have been a part of the church in Tasmania for many years. Are there any areas where you see promising growth and a sense of God's providence?

Tasmanians are very independent people and this is reflected in the church culture where congregations are distinctly autonomous. There are about ten congregations and home groups across Tasmania and since coming down from Queensland two decades ago we have witnessed genuine growth in love and fellowship amongst these brethren. Creating opportunities for further inter-congregational fellowship and strengthening Christians across Tasmania is continuing, helped along by an influx of people visiting and relocating here.

As you step down from full-time work, are there any areas in the kingdom that you feel drawn to participate in?

B: We both enjoy traveling and visiting Christians wherever we go, especially small or isolated congregations, in order to encourage our brothers and sisters. Our boys have left home and our work situation is very flexible so I'm hoping we can do this more frequently. If you have any suggestions, give us a call!

J: For some time now I have been involved in teaching Bible classes for teens to toddlers and I would like to involve myself in more personal in-depth Bible study. When constantly developing class material and teaching, you don't always get enough time to be taught. ◇

Barrie and Joanne are members of the Eastern Shore congregation in Mornington, a suburb of Hobart in Tasmania.

They were interviewed by Jenny Ancell. barrie.morgan1@gmail.com