Update to Supporters Regarding BCSA and ACM Merger Discussions

Several months ago we let you know that the Board of the Adelaide College of Ministries had decided to close their College at the end of 2016. As a result a conversation began between the Council of BCSA and the Board of ACM about the possibility of combining our energy and resources for the purpose of more effectively training men and women for gospel leadership in South Australia and beyond. The discussions have been warm, frank and wide ranging.

The Board of ACM have now indicated that they do not want to proceed any further with these discussions. The Board of ACM felt the best way to proceed was to form a new college with a completely fresh identity. Their suggestion was that both colleges wind up their operations in order to establish this new enterprise. The Council of BCSA were keen to take whatever decision would strategically further the cause of training men and women in gospel ministry. However, the BCSA Council were not convinced that this end would be best served by winding up BCSA at this time. We felt that over the last five years BCSA has prayerfully established a clear ministry direction for the College and that we are seeing God at work blessing the College with increased student numbers served by a wonderful faculty with a growing number of supporters. While we could see many ways the two colleges could unite in this ministry of training it did not seem wise to lose the momentum that had been achieved at BCSA in recent years. The Board of ACM felt that they could not, given the reasons why ACM came into existence, trigger the winding up provisions of the ACM Constitution and apply the resources of ACM to the ongoing ministry of BCSA.

While ACM have made this decision, it is important to note that there is still genuine goodwill between the two colleges and their leaders. ACM are very thankful for the way the staff and students of BCSA have facilitated the ongoing studies of the continuing ACM students. Ray and Marti Williams, who are on the staff at ACM, are going to be teaching at BCSA in 2017. A number of the churches previously associated with ACM have already indicated their desire to align more closely with BCSA now that ACM will be closing down. The Council of BCSA are hopeful that some of the former ACM Board may be able to join the BCSA Council.

So while the two colleges will not be formally merging, there are many positive outcomes from our discussions. It is clear that both colleges share a heartbeat to see God glorified through the multiplication of leadership served by a good local Bible College. Already aligning the student bodies of both colleges has brought benefits. We are thankful for the opportunity it provided the Council members of BCSA to interact with Godly leaders of another College.

Please be in prayer for the staff, students and supporters of ACM following their end of year graduation event on December 14. This, in effect, doubled as an occasion for them to celebrate the ministry of ACM as it concludes its operations. We would also appreciate your ongoing prayer for the students, staff and Council of BCSA as we continue under the provident hand of God to seek His glory.

Yours in Christ

Paul Harrington
Chair, Bible College SA Council