Bible College SA opened a new chapter as Tim Patrick was commissioned as its new principal on Friday 31st January. Speaking from Jesus’ parable of the talents in Matthew 25, Tim called for faithful risk-taking rather than simply preserving what has been entrusted to the College. This is to be done secure in the knowledge that the College belongs to Jesus as Lord, rather than supporters, Council or even the principal himself.

Tim Patrick was commissioned by the College President Paul Harrington. His close friend and ministry mentor Peter Adam helped lead the prayers along with Russell Bartlett and Katy Smith. In a sign of fellowship, many people joined in the laying on of hands as Tim & Cat were prayed for.

Tim comes to the role of principal with plenty of experience in local church leadership as an evangelist, church planter and preacher. This is combined with strong academic credentials – Tim has recently completed doctoral studies about the place of the resurrection & eschatology in the English Reformation.

The night was marked by an enormous goodwill towards the well-being of the College. Although it was a very hot evening in the Concordia Chapel, people stayed long afterwards meeting Tim and Cat, catching up with each other and enjoying cold drinks and wonderful supper.

“There’s a lot to get your head around but the people have been so friendly.” That’s how one student summed up their experience of O Week. O Week opened with the College experiencing a blackout due to the powerful winds across Adelaide that had sent trees crashing across power lines. The result – the toilets were in pitch black!

O Week was quickly into stride with the continuing students helping the new students feel at ease. The O Week Camp topped it off. The camp was relaxed and fun, providing plenty of opportunities for extended conversations, games and meeting the families of students and staff.

Classes were back in full swing on 11th February - and the lunch room was full! Laughter, new friendships, catching up on the summer’s activities, the da-dup of table tennis, the chatter as people wait in line to make their sandwiches. And there was lots of wide eyes at the wonder and privilege of focussing on God’s word in a sustained way.

Katy Smith had a productive time in Cambridge during January working on her doctoral study in Leviticus. Katy will be presenting a four-week series on Leviticus to the Fusion Youth Group throughout Sundays in May.

After spending 2013 as Acting Principal, Mark Kulikovsky regarded Tim Patrick’s commissioning as his ‘decommissioning’. “I’m now going to be taken out into deep water, sunk and turned into a reef - something to do with me being an old fossil (so say my kids),” said Mark. Mark has begun to make more progress on his doctoral work on relationship of truth and love in John’s letters and Gospel.

Tim Patrick has submitted his doctoral thesis on the resurrection and eschatology in the thought of the English Reformers.

Glenn Clarke will graduate with an M.Th at the upcoming College Graduation.

Tim recently spoke at the recommissioning of Leigh & Tamera Filmer as they head back to Nepal with CMS. Leigh and Tamera are graduates of the College. Tim also has a number of speaking opportunities in the coming weeks:

- Largs Bay New Anglican Ministry Launch - February 16
- Trinity Hills Day Conference - February 23
- St Matt’s Kensington - March 30
- Holy Trinity 5pm Weekend Away - April 4-6
- Men’s Convention seminar - May 10

Tim, Mark and Katy are each involved in presenting seminars as part of the EQUIP Training Day on Saturday, March 22.
It is a truly great privilege for me to join the team at Bible College SA as we work together to build up men and women in the knowledge of God and equip them for gospel ministry. The College has a long and rich history of Kingdom service with many generations of Adelaide’s Christians having come through our classrooms. And we also have every reason to be confident that the Lord wants to continue using us in his service for many years to come.

At my commissioning, we looked at the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 and saw that Jesus wants his people to keep building up his assets until he returns. This means he wants to see more people enter his Kingdom as they acknowledge him as Lord, repent, and put their trust in him as Saviour. He wants to see his churches grow from strength to strength, with members loving each other more and more and continuing to build each other up in the knowledge of his truth. And he wants his Colleges to teach the Bible to more faithful believers and to grow them in their capacity to serve the cause of his gospel. In short, he wants his glory to be spread more widely by ever more people.

In light of all this, I’m very excited and thankful that the hard work put in by the College’s staff and Council has resulted in a considerable increase in this year’s enrolments compared to last year’s. (For one of our subjects, we’ve even had to find some extra chairs for the classroom!) But I’m also very aware that there is still a great deal of work to do as we seek to ensure that the College has a strong future in which it realises its full potential. Over the months and years ahead, some things may need to be developed or changed as we seek to faithfully steward the resources that God has entrusted to us and as we position ourselves to best meet the gospel needs of our time. Of course whatever the future holds for Bible College SA, we will remain unwaveringly committed to our solid evangelical convictions and our focus on growing Kingdom work in Adelaide, South Australia and beyond.

My family and I have been greatly encouraged by all the support and good will shown to us and the College over the past few months. We’re deeply thankful to God for the College’s gifted staff team, eager students and committed supporters. We’re now very much looking forward to the exciting things the Lord might do through us all as we join together at the start of this next chapter of our College’s great history.

Tim Patrick

Images from Tim’s Commissioning

Charlie Tatera

Where do you go to church? Rivergate Community.

How did you become a Christian? I was growing up in a Christian family, but God didn’t make sense to me until I turned 16. At this point I came to realize that if I have no God in life, life is pointless.

What were you doing before coming to College? I was working in the building/construction industry.

You’re back for another year of College. What are you looking forward to? To grow my personal relationship with Jesus and to have deeper understanding of the Bible.

Any plans for the future? To pastor a church and surf more.

Away from church & college I love to... I love surfing, beaches, books and people.

Jasmine Harrison

Where do you go to church? Significance Church, Mawson Lakes.

How did you become a Christian? At a missions trip to Indonesia where I stayed in one of the orphanages there for a month.

What were you doing before coming to College? My main job was as a support trainer for a company who taught Certificate IV’s and Diplomas. But I was also a receptionist on the side.

First impressions of the college? Amazing community. Amazing people. I feel at home already!

Open Night Thursday 15 May

Come along & experience Bible College SA for yourself!

MA Intensive with Jamie Grant

July 7-11 2014

For more info, contact the office.

Images from Tim’s Commissioning

Overwhelmed by whose existential questions of life, I made a decision to put my trust in God... and never regretted it.

What were you doing before coming to College? I was working in building/constructions industry.

You’re back for another year of College. What are you looking forward to? To grow my personal relationship with Jesus and to have deeper understanding of the Bible.

Any plans for the future? To pastor a church and surf more.

Away from church & college I love to... I love surfing, beaches, books and people.

Graduation Class of 2013

Please join us in celebrating the graduation of our students on Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 PM in the Bible College SA chapel.