Introducing our New Principal

The Council of Bible College SA is pleased to announce that Rev’d Tim Patrick has been appointed as Principal, commencing in January 2014. This appointment concludes a five-month, worldwide search by a team comprised of faculty, staff, and council members.

“Bible College SA is a magnificently exciting place to be”

Tim is a gifted evangelist and leader, and his appointment continues Bible College SA’s commitment to equipping gospel workers in both local and global mission. He is an outstanding teacher and preacher of God’s Word, and is passionate about the good news of Jesus. In addition, Tim is a thoughtful contributor in public forums and is able to speak winsomely to unbelieving audiences about the Christian faith. He is able to articulate vision and has a track record of leading an organisation towards achieving its goals through strategic planning and implementation.

“[I] want to see our theology translate into practical, fruitful ministry”

Tim comes to us at a time when we are experiencing an influx of new students and have plans to initiate a redevelopment of the College branding in the New Year. He will have an opportunity to steer the College forward as it continues to grow and develop to produce more and more gospel workers for Adelaide and beyond.

Student Statistics.....

- 60% studying at Undergraduate level
- 2/3 Part Time Study, 1/3 Full Time Study
- 69% of our evening class students study only that subject
- 6:4 ratio Male/Female students

We also have increasing amounts of students studying one class to credit to studies elsewhere.
Message from the Acting Principal

“Partnership in the Gospel”

This semester the Bible College SA faculty and staff have been working our way through the Epistle to the Philippians in our weekly staff prayer and Bible study times and we have been thinking much about partnership in the gospel. We have been encouraged, blessed and challenged by the way in which the Philippian believers partnered with Paul (cf. Phil 1:5; 4:3,14-16) as did other fellow-labourers – e.g. Timothy (Phil 2:19-22), Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-30), Euodia, Syntyche, Clement and others (Phil 4:2-3) – and we have had cause to reflect on the many partnerships which Bible College SA enjoys in its gospel work. Have you ever noticed that when God wants to impress something on you, it often comes to you from more than one direction? Well I have also been teaching 1 Corinthians this semester and one of the problems in the Corinthian church was division which threatened their partnership with Paul in the gospel and Paul needed to remind them that they and he together were God’s fellow-workers (1 Cor 3:9) with each person having a different part to play in the overall communication of the gospel which needed to be done with care (1 Cor 3:5-6, 10).

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many people and organisations who partner with Bible College SA in its mission to help people learn God’s Word, grow as disciples of Jesus, and serve God’s purposes in this world. “It takes a village to raise a child” says the old proverb, and likewise it takes a community of God’s people to train and equip our students.

As part of the Australian College of Theology, Bible College SA partners and fellowships with other like-minded colleges and their faculties as well as the ACT staff in the process of providing a first-rate, quality suite of educational programs. Such a partnership ensures that our graduates are exposed to the best practices in pedagogy and learning, and the latest scholarship in all areas of Bible, Christian thought, mission and ministry practice.

The delivery of these programs involves permanent employees of Bible College SA partnering with visiting lecturers, ministry practitioners, and various mission and para-church organisations (e.g. CMS, Interserve, OM, Wycliffe, CV, SU, and Equip) to provide the broadest possible input from a variety of denominational backgrounds and ministry perspectives. Key components of the programs and student learning at Bible College SA are the partnerships that students form – firstly, with each other in prayer groups, discussion groups, spiritual formation groups, work groups and ministry; and secondly in the 3-way “Partnership in Training Scheme” between the college, the student, and their church.

Of course all of what we do is only possible because of partnerships we have with others who support the mission and vision of the College. The College is incredibly blessed to have an army of prayer warriors who faithfully pray for the College and its students as well as a number of very faithful volunteers who support the College in practical ways, and an alumni who are passionate about the College because of the wonderful experiences they had and the partnerships they developed whilst students. We are also thankful to God for our College Council – volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support the College and ensure that it is a good steward of the resources which God has entrusted to it. And of course we are extremely grateful for our financial partners – members of the Bible College SA Foundation who have committed themselves to supporting the College because they believe it is an effective way to be involved in a gospel partnership, along with many other regular and one-off financial supporters. As Paul tells us in his letter, such gifts are “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” (Phil 4:19).

Our new principal Tim Patrick is looking forward excitedly to partnering with the current College faculty and staff as well as many others in Adelaide in his desire to see the College fulfil its mandate to shape people for gospel ministry in Adelaide and beyond. What about you? Are you already partnering with us? If so, thank you! If not, please consider investing some of your time, energy and resources in a gospel partnership with Bible College SA – the partnerships Bible College SA has had for almost 90 years have borne much fruit for God’s kingdom and we pray they will continue to do so for many more years to come.

Mark Kulikovsky
Acting Principal

From the College President

Dear College Friends,

The Council of Bible College SA has appointed Rev’d Tim Patrick to be our new Principal commencing from mid January 2014. News of Tim’s appointment has been warmly welcomed by church leaders across Adelaide.

Tim comes to the College with ministry experience in church planting and pastoral leadership, and he has also strong academic skills and is completing his PhD in Reformation Doctrine through Macquarie University. He is currently based at Cambridge, England, where he is finalising his thesis. Tim originally trained as a scientist and holds a Bachelor of Science degree with first class honours from the University of Sydney. He worked at CSIRO for 4 years before commencing theological study at Ridley Melbourne from where he completed a Master of Divinity degree.

Tim’s ministry appointments have included Project Leader at City Bible Forum; Branch Council Member of CMS Victoria; Church Planter at St Jude’s in Parkville; Senior Associate Minister at St Jude’s Carlton; Adjunct Lecturer in Evangelism at Ridley College, Melbourne; Anglican Chaplain to the University of Melbourne and Associate Staff Worker with AFES.

Tim is married to Catriona. They have a daughter Poppy and another child due at the end of the year. He is excited about seeing God build further on the strong foundations of Bible College SA and for more men and women to be equipped for faithful gospel ministry in Adelaide and beyond.

Bill Dickson
Carolyn Wright, new staff member at Bible College SA

After advertising the post of Clerical Assistant in the last edition of Spread The Word, we are very pleased to announce that Carolyn Wright (no relation to our Practical Training Coordinator David Wright!) was the successful applicant and has recently joined us at college and has quickly become a much valued member of the team. Here’s what she has to say:

“I am very pleased to be working part-time in the college office, as the new Clerical Assistant. My background, since leaving school, has involved various roles in office administration apart from a ten year break where I was a stay-at-home Mum raising my two children. I look forward to getting to know everyone and to being a part of the College community.”

Barbara Cooper, College Librarian

As College Librarian I have the enviable task of getting to see books before anyone else, whilst I process and enter them into our collection catalogue!

Lecturers decide which books are put on Reserve for students’ use during the semester and set texts (those the students are encouraged to purchase for their own use) are determined in conjunction with the Australian College of Theology’s bibliographies for each course. Some of our foundation subject texts would make helpful reading for the lay reader and for this reason I bring a couple to your attention that the students are using this semester.

• The Paul Quest: the renewed search for the Jew of Tarsus, Ben Witherington III, InterVarsity Press 1998

Both books are available through Koorong.
We also welcome new borrowers to the library. (Annual membership is $30).

Phil Lock, Student President

With the significant mid-year intake of full-time students, there has been a growing buzz about the student body this semester.

In this time of transition, the students have taken to heart the vision for the future of the college, and have been eagerly helping out with promotional activities like the Open Nights. And while there is genuine excitement about the future, there is also an earnest focus on our current study, as we wrestle with the word of God together. Whether it be through robust theological discussions over morning tea or the occasional spontaneous Nerf skirmish (!)

It is a pleasure to be part of a student body that, crossing denominational boundaries, is dedicated to learning and being transformed together to be better servants of Christ.

David Wright, Practical Training Coordinator

Reflections on Ministry Experience Week

“A clear message from the Bible that challenged and encouraged us”. That was feedback about Michael Bowker’s sermon at Pt Pirie Anglican Cathedral. The feedback came as part of the College Ministry Experience Week in June. What a God honouring thing for the College to be known for!

On Sunday afternoon, the team partnered with the Baptist Church for “Fun at Plenty Street”. This was an afternoon outreach to children and families. Team members chatted to locals, joined in with cricket and kicking a ball, helped run some activities, and performed a play as part of the program. More than 50 unchurched children came!

During the week, the team were involved with Mainly Music, Craft Groups, a school for students with intellectual disabilities, and helped distribute lunch as a ‘Thank You to Teachers’ to support the school CPSW. One evening the whole team attended the Mission to Seafarers. The chaplain gave an overview of the history of the organisation and explained how they go about ministry which provoked much discussion afterwards. A large component of the week was ministry in schools and students ran various seminars and spoke at school assemblies. This was all very well received.

In summing up MEW, acting Principal Mark Kulikovsky said “I was impressed by the maturity and ‘professionalism’ of our students. I think they conducted themselves wonderfully well as great ambassadors of the College.”

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I wish to support the ministry of Bible College SA

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