



# MOORE MATTERS

November 2000

## MISSION *Why?*

When I think about mission, I find it hard to know why we get involved in it. We are only given one life. We don't know how long that life will last. Why should I spend any part of it engaged in sharing a gospel which so many people reject?

These questions are obviously relevant when it comes to cross-cultural mission. How can mission be worth the effort and expense of theological education, of learning another language, of living in another culture, of raising children in a foreign country, of being paid far less than what we may get at home?

But the same point can be made of mission anywhere. I remember one parish I visited some years ago where the Christians had made valiant evangelistic efforts with little outward success. I could only describe the parish as worn out. Why go on? Would it not be better to have a rest and simply look after the congregation? I sympathised with these questions.

**Humanly speaking, mission is crazy. We need an excellent reason to send such treasured people to difficult and sometimes even dangerous destinations. The love of Christ is that reason.**

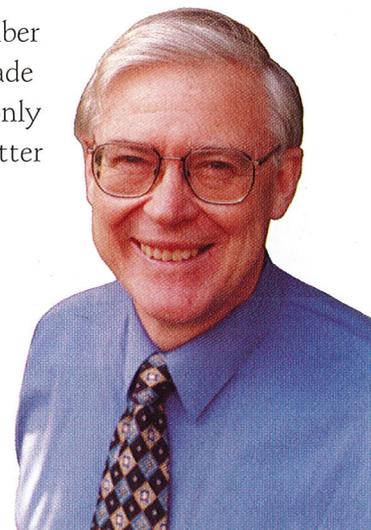
Some Greeks came to see Jesus. Placed in a missionary situation, Jesus regarded it as a moment of destiny, and began to talk about his death (John 12:20-33). By his death on the cross, he was going to drive out the false prince of this world, and "*draw all men to myself*" (12:31-32). Jesus was clear – the missionary task was going to cost him his very life. When salvation reaches us, it is because Jesus died for us.

More than that. We are saved by his death, and we are to live in accordance with his death. Jesus also referred to the spiritual principle that out of the sacrifice of self comes life for others, and he offered this challenge: "*whoever serves me must follow me*" (12:26). When we enter the Christian life we should be willing to make the cross the measure of our commitment. Is it hard for us to continue? Think of what the Saviour did for us. Beside his love, even our greatest sacrifices are puny.

We would have a more comfortable college – you would have a more comfortable church – if we stopped being driven by the death of Jesus. We would certainly be less inclined to promote growth – you would be less inclined to support it. Evangelism anywhere is likely to be difficult, costly and unpopular.

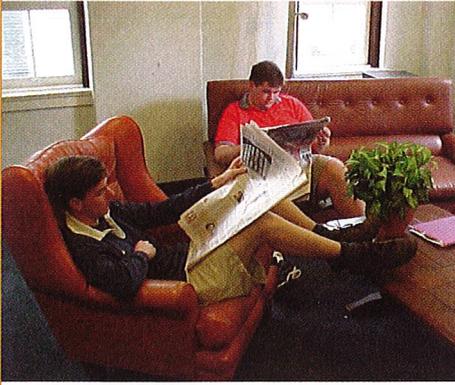
I ask you, then, to pray that the college and all its members remain focused on the cross, so that we will not waver in our determination to follow Christ in mission. The sacrifices are real, for all of us, but so too is his promise:

*"My Father will honour the one who serves me" (John 12:26).*



[by Peter Jensen]

## An insider's view of John Chapman House



From left – university boarders, Nathan Hare and Matthew Fayle, relax in the Pool Table Room



From left – David Hocking (1st Yr BTh Youth Min) and Ric Creighton (2nd Yr BD) catch up during a break from the books



Stephen Morse (2nd Yr BD) managing to make study look comfortable in his Chappo House room



At 1956 function in the Triangle (from left) – a student in gown worn for lectures, chapel & dinner, Harry Bates, Principal Loane, Syd Stewart and Archbishop Mowll

I cast my eye down the list of names scratched into the inside of my cupboard door. It features the ecclesiastical order of residents who have once dwelt in my room. Each of the fifty rooms that make up the Moore College Singles' Quarters boasts a list of faithful past students. Most are now ministers of the gospel of Jesus as rectors, assistants, missionaries or maybe even lecturers. There is hope – people have made it through! A careful search could possibly bring up the name of a distinguished one – John Chapman, who came to Moore back in 1957.

Big changes have happened since John lived here. The biggest this year is a new name. **In honour of his faithfulness and godly example, this hallowed turf is now called John Chapman House.**

There have been other changes. Where once only three phones served the incoming and outgoing communication needs of 50 blokes, now each room has phone and computer network access. Also, the college's own efforts, aided by a healthy injection of funds from SOCOG who used the rooms during the Sydney 2000 Olympics, have provided a spruce-up. Newly painted rooms and corridors, freshly cleaned carpets, a refitted TV room, updated common areas, plants (plastic, of course, to avoid green thumb disasters), a few prints on the walls, new pillows, blankets and lighting are all helping to make the place feel more comfortable.

The mix of students has evolved too. In John's time most students were single, and those who were married lived in during the week. In 2000 the 31 theological student residents represent only 16% of full-time males. We have in addition 14 university boarders. A third of all residents are from overseas or interstate. A week in the life of *Chappo's boys* consists of more than just placing noses between the pages of theological texts, although for most this is certainly where the majority of time is spent. Living in community allows plenty of opportunities to forge relational bonds. There is the all-important sport (Touch Footy, Ultimate Frisbee or Football ie. Soccer), plus regular prayer groups, the *Singing Chaps* who harmonize in chapel, and much more.

But for all the changes there are some things that have stayed the same. John was taught to handle the Bible with care, reverence and accuracy by men such as Broughton Knox, Donald Robinson, Alan Cole and the then Principal Marcus Loane. He was impressed by their scholarship and outstanding piety. The lecturers' names have changed, but for the new breed of residents at John Chapman House the challenging scholarship continues, the example of faithfulness remains influential, and the opportunity to study the Word of God with others most highly prized.

**What advice would John give to students residing in a house named in his honour? Would it be to know the gospel and tell it to the world?** My prayer is that both current and future residents would certainly make that their priority.

*By Ken Noakes, 3rd Year 2000 & Senior Student John Chapman House*

*(Watch next issue for a feature on Moore's single women students residing in Mary Andrews College, affectionately known as MAC – Ed.)*

## TO ST BARNABAS' FAIRFIELD – Why go west to a

poorer area where 85% of households are of non-English speaking background and ministry will be tough? In accepting Bishop Ray Smith's invitation to build the church at St Barnabas' Fairfield, Peter Lin in 1999 did just that. Peter claims, *"It is a misconception that you need to be from the west to minister here. Growing up in Roseville, St Ives and Pymble, educated at Sydney Grammar and with a Masters degree, I would be a failure according to classic stereotype. But people here don't care about background, they care about whether you love them. The responsibility to adjust the way you relate and preach is up to you."*

St Barnabas' has grown from just 5 to over 40 members in his short time there. Peter admits it is a "hard slog" and that *"each new person has been a battle, with hours and hours spent relating before they come through the door."* Of the ethnic diversity he says, *"it is a very nice mix with no one dominant nationality. We have people from throughout Asia, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Africa and PNG, plus Aussies and Kiwis too."* Of Chinese origin, Peter thought he and wife Isobel might attract mainly Asians but this hasn't happened. He finds that *"In preaching, simplicity is important. This actually requires more theological astuteness, not less. I spend more time than ever on sermons, working hard at removing jargon and being culturally sensitive in illustrations."*



Peter Lin

Seeking out children in the area, Peter has started a Sunday School, *"getting up to 16 kids each week."* Isobel, with 2 year old Jessica and identical twins due in January, has started a Women's Meeting this year. As a couple they also offer much home hospitality, keenly feeling the lack of many mature Christians to share this hospitality, where they welcome and nurture the newcomers. Peter is praying *"for transfer growth,"* looking for those *"who will be prepared to move into the area, or at least travel to church here."* Peter has obtained outside funding for two college catechists, Tim Bowden and Stephen Shead. He hopes others might capture the vision for long-term ministry in what are traditionally seen as difficult areas.



Phill Hirons

## GO WEST YOUNG MEN & Woman

**TO TAFE COLLEGES –** Graduate Craig Blacket initiated TAFE ministry in the Western Region under license from Woodville Road Parish. Commencing at Granville TAFE, this work now encompasses Blacktown, Nirimba and Kingswood campuses. From college this year, Phill Hirons joined Craig as the second full-time staff member. He had been exposed to the work during a Merrylands Mission in 2nd year. Having trained as a boilermaker through TAFE, Phill says, *"I felt an easy familiarity with the culture where others were more hesitant."* He works one day a week each on Kingswood, Nirimba and Blacktown campuses, explaining, *"this involves building relationships with students across a huge age range, from HSC up, during morning and lunch breaks."* He says, *"as many are not exceptional relaters, it may take months of short conversations to open the way for in depth discussion. In some cases it takes six months of developing such relationships before I have an open forum to discuss the gospel."*

He frequently uses a "getting-to-know-you survey" approach which is well-received, the final question presenting the challenge of the gospel. As TAFE students often live far afield, Phill needs to train understudies to disciple converts and help them settle into a local church.



Ruth Mahaffey

Ruth Mahaffey is to join the team in 2001 after completing her BTh. She will work alongside Phill with women students. Ruth also understands TAFE culture, having completed HSC then a horticulture course through the system. Coming to Moore in 1998 after a period in youth ministry, she wanted to train for full-time ministry but was *"not sure what form that would take."* She explains, *"College Missions in 2nd year gave me a real heart for evangelism. I met Phill Hirons on an Evangelism Explosion course and learnt from him of the TAFE ministry and their need for a woman."* Ruth's work will hopefully include Richmond TAFE, which has a horticulture course. Excited about her coming ministry, Ruth says, *"Training at Moore has given me a strong grounding in the Word and made me more confident to teach it."*

## Department of Mission - 3 years on

Whilst mission has always featured strongly in the college curriculum, a separate department with Mike Raiter at the helm began in July 1997. Private funding for an initial three years (later extended to five) made this significant advance possible. Mike reflects, "Three years old and the department has learnt to stand up, walk, and even begun to run. This year has seen some exciting developments in and through the Department of Mission. For the first time a Moore College Mission team left Aussie shores and worked with the Diocese of Sabah in Malaysia, in a weeklong mission in three of its centres. This year Peter O'Brien and I have taught an MA course, *The Pauline Mission and Contemporary Mission Issues*, and next year *World Religions* will be available to second year students as a Diploma in Ministry subject."

Mike continues, "The department aims to lift the profile of mission, both local and global, within the college. It's been encouraging to see more students challenged to think about proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus to needy areas of Sydney, Australia and the world, and to those places where evangelical churches are few and faithful teaching of the Scriptures is a rarity. After a successful School of Cross-Cultural Mission in 1999, I am very excited about the next school planned for 2001." (see below).



Mike Raiter with mission students Geoffrey & Wendy Lin

"Seek the Lord while he  
may be found; call on him  
while he is near"

Isaiah 55:6

## Moore Prayer

### Give thanks

- ◆ For a godly and committed faculty led by Peter Jensen – their witness, teaching and published works
- ◆ For Graeme Goldsworthy, about to retire, and for Peter O'Brien's 16 years as Vice Principal
- ◆ For the support of 1,570 e-friends and for much answered prayer

### Pray

- ◆ For Bruce Smith, diagnosed with acute leukaemia, and for others at Moore ill or with family members so
- ◆ That God will raise up students who want to minister his Word in sufficient numbers to seize all opportunities
- ◆ For the new Vice Principal in 2001, and for the Council's continuing wisdom through growth and change
- ◆ For sufficient funding and the right person for a 16th faculty appointment soon
- ◆ For students and their families during November exams

◆ **Moore's School of Cross-Cultural Mission** – 26th April 2001  
◆ **Breaking the Blue Collar Barrier: Can a White Collar Church reach a Blue Collar Culture?** A challenging program will include speakers Ray Galea and Richard Gibson, plus workshops.

## A 3rd Visiting Fellow appointed



In July Dr John McIntosh was appointed a Visiting Fellow at Moore. Trained at Westminster Theological Seminary USA, John has enjoyed an impressive academic career interspersed with periods of parish ministry (Turramurra 67-70 and Kensington 88-95). He lectured at Moore (65-69), then with CMS in Indonesia. On his return John became Principal of St Andrew's Hall, Melbourne. In 1993 he received the D. Miss. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Illinois. John has

spent the last five years as Associate Professor of Missions at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. His focus has been the biblical theology and the history of Mission. John is to spend the next three years attempting a critical appreciation of the theological thoughts of Moore's Principals from Nathaniel Jones to Broughton Knox. Congratulations, John! We look forward to the fruit of your efforts.

In tribute to the second Visiting Fellow and part-time lecturer Bruce Smith, the students have recently instituted *The Bruce Smith Poetry Competition* within the college.

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## Special School of Theology 2000

As the Olympics schedule prevented Annual Lectures this year, a special two-day School of Theology was held on 18th-19th July. It offered fine teaching on the theme, *The more things change...God for a new era*. Speakers included Professor Henri Blocher of Paris and Dr Don Carson from USA, plus Peter Jensen, Peter O'Brien, Colin Bale, Peter Bolt, Robert Doyle, Richard Gibson, Philip Kern, Bruce Smith and Mark Thompson of the faculty. All attending expressed appreciation for such giftedness and scholarship brought together in one program.

This school was also special because it honoured Dr Peter O'Brien, both as a scholar and for the tremendous contribution he has made to the life of Moore over twenty-six years, the last sixteen as Vice Principal. At a dinner for attendees, plus O'Brien family and friends, the Principal announced that Peter will step down as Vice Principal at year's end. He paid special tribute to Mary O'Brien before presenting a moving *Appreciation of Peter Thomas O'Brien*. He particularly highlighted Peter's "remarkable ability to bridge cultural and theological divides," and referred to his works on the Pauline epistles as "treasured contributions to an understanding of the apostle."

Peter Jensen then surprised his colleague with the presentation of "a volume of essays put together by friends around the world and in Australia...as a symbol of the love and affection in which he is held." This collection of 24 essays – a *Festschrift* – edited by Peter Bolt and Mark Thompson has been published in a paperback edition entitled *The Gospel to the Nations* (available from Moore Books, 21 King Street Newtown, tel: 02 9577 9966). All at Moore are deeply grateful for Peter O'Brien's service as Vice Principal, and rejoice that, while passing on this baton, he is to remain on faculty.

Other significant publications by faculty members this year include Barry Webb's *Five Festal Garments* (subtitled *Christian Reflections on Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther*) and Graeme Goldsworthy's *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*.



Attendees in the Knox Centre foyer

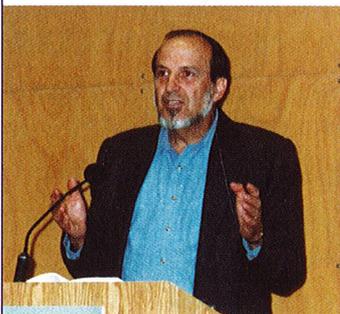


Peter O'Brien receives the Festschrift



Peter & Mary O'Brien after the dinner

## Aborigines, Reconciliation & Christians



On 2nd August the college was privileged with an address on this topic by historian and theologian, Dr John Harris (on left). John is author of "We Wish We'd Done More" and "One Blood." He declared, "Christians in Australia have not been good at showing they are reconciled with people of different races, especially Aborigines," claiming passionately that "the greatest failure of the church has been the failure to speak out against injustices to Aborigines." Those present were impressed by the thoroughness of his research and moved by the illustrations he shared. In thanking him, Peter Jensen said, "For we Australians the issue John has addressed is the greatest scandal of our national life."

## Reunion for '50-'52 starters

Another Graduate Fellowship Reunion was held at Moore on 23rd August. Fourteen men and two women who entered Moore or (then) Deaconess House in 1950-52, plus ten accompanying spouses, enjoyed a sharing of reminiscences, lunch with the current student body and much warm fellowship. Peter Jensen led a brief time of prayer in the Cash Chapel, which had opened in 1950. Guests were escorted on a tour of old haunts and new additions. It is hoped to move through the year groups with two such functions planned for 2001.



Guests gather in the Triangle of Singles Quarters (now John Chapman House)

# those who teach >> those who go >> mission field

At the very core of mission is the training of those who go, whether that be within Sydney or to the far-flung reaches of the globe. The quality of preparation is indivisibly linked to results. **To those appointed to teach we apportion enormous responsibility.**

Currently just 15 faculty members at Moore are responsible for the equipping of a record 241 full-time students, plus another 53 part-time and 65 postgraduates. They teach, mark, tutor, pastor, witness, administer, publish, deputise beyond the college. They are overworked! At least one additional appointment is needed **URGENTLY!**

The message of Galatians 6:6 calls us to support those who teach.

The college appeals to all parishes who enjoy the ministry of its graduates, and to mission-minded individual supporters, to help fund the two faculty appointments already made plus the one so urgently needed. The cost of these three appointments is not covered by student fees, nor by the annual diocesan grant.

## REMEMBER - THE EQUIPPING TASK IS MISSION AT ITS CORE!

### GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR TEACHING APPOINTMENTS



## e-friends

We asked and you responded. Since the June issue of this newsletter the number of **e-friends** of Moore has more than doubled, from 780 to 1,570! This is based on those giving to the college in the past two years plus those taking the bi-monthly Prayer Bulletin.

*encourage* potential students *enable* through giving *empower* through prayer

## MISSION calls – dare we block supply?

I interview Peter Lin and am inspired by the work being done in Fairfield, and confronted by all that could (and should) be done in like areas. Phill Hirons awakens my awareness of opportunities in TAFE ministry, and of the shortage of workers. In the meantime a nominator shares her frustration in being unable to find a new pastor for her church.

*Are there mission fields on our doorstep? Yes*

*Are the trained workers too few? Yes*

All with whom I speak in the field insist we not follow the short-sighted route of lowering standards. They speak of calling on every last bit of their training now, to say nothing of the long haul.

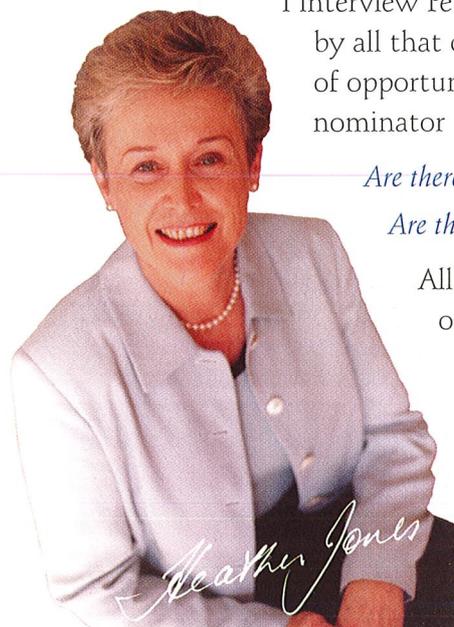
No. The answer is *not* in short cuts!

**We must hear the call to mission** – both on our doorstep and abroad.

**We must press on in equipping well** those whom God presents.

**We must dig deep** to bear the costs involved.

To block supply would be to fail in what the Lord has given us to do.



## ...not about bricks and mortar

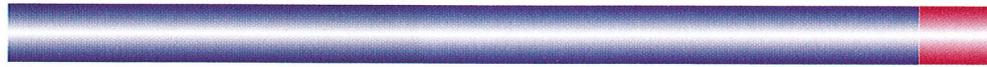
One cannot stress too frequently that building houses, lecture rooms or library at Moore is not about bricks and mortar. It is about community, about pastors being best prepared in the context of community.

Many supporters have captured the vision that support for Moore's Building Fund is support for gospel ministry, both now and for generations to come. They have dug deep in 2000.

**15 & 17 Little Queen Street** townhouses are going ahead despite the lowest tender of \$446,000 representing a \$66,000 escalation on original estimates. Fortunately a Tax Office ruling has meant GST is not payable on the college's student housing. The aim is to complete these townhouses debt-free.

### Little Queen Street Stage 2 Appeal\* status 10th October 00

(\*gifts over \$2 are tax deductible)



\$411,000 received

\$35,000 needed for completion

**Loan repayments & essential maintenance** of college properties are a continuing steady demand on Building Fund income. As additional funding permits, the college is also able to undertake desirable renovations to improve living conditions for students and faculty. This year's income has allowed for installation, during the Olympics break, of new prefabricated bathroom units at 5 & 7 Little Queen Street. If the year's budget is exceeded, more such improvements will be possible.

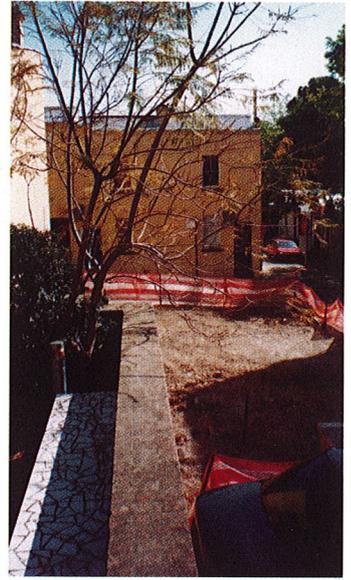
### Loans, maintenance & renovations income\* to 10th October 00

(\*gifts over \$2 are tax deductible)

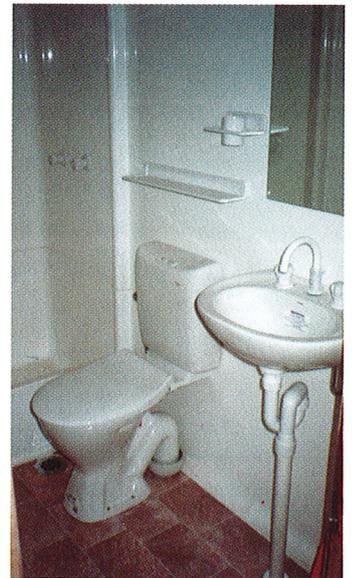


\$112,000 received

\$50,000 needed by 31 Dec



15 & 17 Little Queen Street building site



New bathroom at 5 Little Queen Street

Name: (Rev/Mr/Mrs/Miss/.....) ..... (First Name) ..... (Surname) .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: (h) ..... (w) ..... Church Attended: .....

I/We wish to donate  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000 Other \$ .....

to **Building Fund** (tax deductible) –  15 & 17 Little Queen Street student townhouses or  
with the preference\* it be applied to  loans, maintenance & renovations or  either

to **General Fund** –  support of faculty appointments

(\*If you wish to impose a legal requirement as to the specific application of your gift it may attract GST)

Cheque enclosed or Please charge  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Account No.

Signature: ..... Expiry Date:.....

Please forward  Bi-monthly Prayer Bulletin  Bequest Brochure Other information .....



Elizabeth Smith (left) interviews Vicki Brasington, a Winmalee wife and mother who received her Diploma of Biblical Studies

## External Studies in action

**Graduation 2000** – Friday 26th May saw another most encouraging Graduation Ceremony for external students in the Knox Theatre. Of 133 graduating, 63 were present with friends and family to receive their certificates or diplomas personally from Peter O'Brien. They were challenged by External Studies Director Peter Bolt's question, "Where is your greater understanding of God's Word going to take you now"? Peter reported over 3,800 students worldwide enrolled in the college's correspondence or evening courses during 1999.

**Western Suburbs Day** – Faculty members Peter Bolt and Richard Gibson helped a group of some 35 people from the Western Region *Dive into God's Word* at Blacktown Anglican on Saturday 2nd September. This new venture for Moore's External Studies Department sought to assist any who might be struggling with the Correspondence Course, and to encourage those wanting to get started. Two *Big Picture* morning sessions were followed by small group hands-on sessions on such practical skills as the preparation of summaries, essay writing and exam techniques. Local clergy Philip Griffin (Wentworthville), James Davidson (Mt Druitt) and Bruce Morrison (Seven Hills), plus Bruce Linton from Gladesville, lent their assistance for these sessions. Bishops Brian King and Ray Smith attended the morning program, with Ray Smith requesting a similar day for the Georges River Region in 2001.



Richard Gibson (2nd from left) leads a hands-on session in the study of Romans at Blacktown Anglican

**Brisbane Conference** – Another well-attended and well-received Brisbane Regional Conference was held in that city over the three days of 18th-20th August. New Testament lecturer Philip Kern led studies on The Gospel of John and 1-3 John, while Andrew Shead, who teaches Old Testament, led studies on the book of Amos.

**Another two PTC subjects in Chinese** – This year has seen the translation of a further two subjects of the Correspondence Course – Reformation Church History and Doctrine 1 – into Chinese. There are now six subjects available, and increasing enrolments amongst Chinese Christians.

## DIPLOMA OF BIBLE AND YOUTH MINISTRY

*"The course has been fantastic! It's given me a strong biblical foundation to take the gospel of Jesus to young people."*

Scott Hedley (20 yrs) Dip B&YM 2000

**RELEVANT** Youth is a growth area for Sydney churches and this course responds to the call for more workers. With advice sought from a reference group of those most experienced in youth and children's ministries, its content is adapted to meet the needs of today's youth.

**PRACTICAL** Young people with a passion for youth ministry can come into college for one year while still young, then put what they have learnt into practice under supervision in a parish. Their training includes nine specialist youth ministry subjects.

**FLEXIBLE** After a year or two of youth work, which allows time to explore future options, those deciding on a lifetime of ministry may proceed to second year BTh (Youth Ministry) or BD. Others will decide to go straight on.

**THEOLOGICALLY RIGOROUS** Although students are considerably younger than usual college entrants, this course has the same good biblical and theological grounding as other Moore courses. Those taking it are set up for a lifetime of ministry, if that is where God takes them.