

moore matters

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The gospel heart of Moore Theological College

The late John Chapman

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MOORE
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
AN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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Moore's gospel heart

Mark Thompson / Principal



CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN EVANGELICAL AND EVANGELISTIC FROM THE BEGINNING.

The First Fleet of convicts from England was accompanied by an evangelical chaplain, Richard Johnson, who carried with him a poem written by one of the leading evangelicals of the day, John Newton. It included the words,

*Go bear the Saviour's name to lands unknown,
Tell to the southern world His wondrous grace:
An energy divine thy words shall own,
And draw their untaught hearts to seek His face.*

A rich theology underlay those words. Newton knew the Saviour. He knew the power of his name. He knew that words proclaiming the Saviour, the gospel, were the means God used to draw men and women to himself. He knew God can melt the hardest heart, open blind eyes, teach unruly minds. Johnson had a message to

proclaim in the new colony, and it was anchored in the gracious character of God and what he has done. As far as I am aware, he never claimed to be a theologian, but theology suffused his poetry.

The theological heart of evangelical mission was summarised in the nineteenth century by an amalgam of five reformation slogans: salvation by Christ alone (*solus Christus*), on the basis of grace alone (*sola gratia*), received by Faith alone (*sola fide*), anchored in the authority of Scripture alone (*sola scriptura*), all to the glory of God alone (*solus Deo gloria*). Jesus Christ, all that he is and all that he has done, lies at the heart of evangelical theology just as he lies at the heart of the Christian message. Only through him do we know the Father and the Spirit; only through him are we brought from death to life, shown the dark reality of sin and experience the brilliant light of life as a forgiven and reconciled child of God; only through him are we grafted into the community of God's people; and only through him do we have confidence for the last day



The Rev John Newton



The Rev Richard Johnson



The Rev Frederic Barker

when all that God has planned from eternity finally reaches its fulfilment. Jesus teaches the meaning of grace, the necessity of faith, the absolute reliability and authority of Scripture, the significance of church, and the goal of all things in the glory of God.

The theology of the Reformation reminded believers that salvation is entirely from God, in and by Christ, powerfully applied by the Holy Spirit. The good shepherd calls his sheep, those given to him by his Father. The Spirit brings about the new birth, enabling that call to be heard and the sheep to respond. The triune God is involved at every moment, from beginning to end. Of course, the gospel is a summons as well as an announcement. “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”, Jesus proclaimed throughout Galilee, “repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). We must repent and believe. We are called upon to do so. But when we do, we discover that it was God’s work all along. Amazing grace!

Moore College was established by those who knew and believed these truths: Thomas Moore, who went

knocking door by door to distribute Bibles for the Bible Society in Sydney town, and Frederic Barker, the Bishop of Sydney, who established the firm evangelical character of his diocese and founded the College with Moore’s legacy. Throughout its history there have been stalwart proclaimers of Christ’s gospel and the theology which supports and directs it at Moore College. One only has to think of Nathaniel Jones’ tent missions in the first decade of the twentieth century, or the College’s parish missions initiated by D. B. Knox. But there were many others, both among the staff and the students of the last 166 years. Chief among them, perhaps, was the indomitable John Chapman, “Chappo”.

Today the College remains a *theological* college, shaped and directed by a view of God and his purposes that is found on the pages of Scripture itself. It is an *evangelical* college, confidently holding firm to those gospel truths that drove Newton and Johnson and were summarised in the five *solas*. Precisely for these reasons we are an *evangelistic* college, focussed on the proclamation of the gospel in the churches, for the building up of Christ’s people, and out into the world, so that the lost might hear the words of life.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Moore Matters*. It is focused on our gospel heart. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this extraordinary year. As I write this, the lockdown in Sydney is easing and we are looking forward to a Summer with family and friends in the sunshine. I trust this Christmas will bring you much joy as you remember Jesus—who he is: the glorious son of God come among us; and what he has done: exactly what the angel promised Joseph, “save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark D. Thompson".

Dr Mark D Thompson,
Principal



The Rev John Chapman



A trusted gospel heart

Bishop Malcolm Richards / Director, Centre for Global Mission

FOR MANY YEARS MOORE COLLEGE HAS BEEN THE THEOLOGICAL ENGINE ROOM OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF SYDNEY, ENSURING THAT IT REMAINS STRONGLY EVANGELICAL.

The college has also been an active training partner with other churches and ministries such as Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). Since Jesus and his gospel are at the heart of Moore College, it continues to produce generation after generation of graduates, both women and men, who trust the Scriptures and who want to make disciples for Jesus.

This has not gone unnoticed in both secular and Christian circles. With Moore College, people know exactly what they are getting. The gospel heart of Moore College and its adherence to the authority of Scripture may be a frustration to some, but also means unique opportunities. Around the world, both the Diocese of Sydney and Moore College have unexpected influence in the church simply because we are trusted.

Because we are trusted, our people are in demand

For many years Moore College graduates have been invited to work all over the world in church planting, evangelism in closed countries, international church ministry, student work, theological colleges, bible schools, MOCLAM and many other ministries. Many have gone out with missionary agencies like the Church Missionary Society (CMS), and they are welcomed by international ministry partners who have a growing understanding that the Moore College brand can be trusted.

An example of this is seen in Moore's gospel partnership with the Anglican Church of the Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles). As a result, James Wong, Archbishop and Bishop of Seychelles, has invited Ryan (4th year Moore, 2021) and Lynne Verghese to work in Seychelles, sent by CMS. Seychelles have been using Moore PTC resources for some years and it is expected that Ryan and Lynne will be involved in training and discipling.

For many years, a growing number of graduates have been invited to work in the area of theological education

at all levels. This means that the reformed evangelical theology of Moore College is not only shaping its own students but also students abroad. An excellent example is MOCLAM, the Spanish Bible teaching ministry which mainly uses Moore PTC resources translated into Spanish. In Latin America, there are Moore College graduates in Bolivia, Peru and Chile. MOCLAM courses are being used to train gospel workers in church based and student ministries across the Latin World.

Because we are trusted, our resources are in demand

Theological teaching and training resources are in abundance in the marketplace. The problem many churches face is accessing trustworthy resources that will give their students a firm Biblical foundation. As the reputation of Moore College has spread across the globe with our graduates, the demand for access to our resources has grown.

Moore College helps churches around the world obtain access to its resources in a number of ways:



Ryan and Lynne Verghese

i. The Centre for Global Mission (CGM) gives the College the opportunity to serve the wider Christian community alongside the formal courses that it offers. CGM is the missionary heart of Moore College in action.

CGM exists to give away Moore College's training resources free of charge to partner churches and ministries around the world. CGM has 33 partners working in over 41 countries with a further 15 partners in 10 countries under investigation. A growing number of partners are now using the purpose built CGM online learning platform/administration module. For a partner struggling with resources, we can give them what amounts to a 'Bible school in a box', with all the resources and IT tools necessary for study to begin.

CGM now also has over a dozen active translation projects. This includes a number of new PTC language translation projects including Farsi, Hindi, and Portuguese. PTC translations are also becoming available online. As well as English, some subjects in French, Russian, and Swahili are ready for online use, with more languages to come.

ii. The online diploma (Diploma of Biblical Theology) is also in demand from students around the world who want access to an accredited Moore College course. There are students from many countries currently studying this diploma. The Anglican Church in Madagascar has three students currently enrolled. All of them had already completed between 12 and 18 subjects of PTC, but wanted to keep growing! Through these various means, Moore College is taking up the opportunities that have resulted from its gospel heart and its reputation as a provider of excellent evangelical theological education.

Because we are trusted, our fellowship is in demand

Over the years, Moore College and its graduates have made gospel friends throughout the world. Since our theological position is well defined, our friends rely on us to take action in international forums, to cooperate on gospel initiatives, and to receive and give advice.

This international network of relationships has been developed mainly through our graduates and our faculty, both past and present.

Each of our faculty have their own international connections, which help Moore College to reach beyond its normal networks. I regularly hear reports from faculty that they have been in contact, by email, WhatsApp, or Zoom, with friends and colleagues with similar gospel hearts across the world.

Our graduates are an army of ambassadors for Moore College. Where we break new ground in terms of new opportunities to connect on the international scene, invariably a Moore graduate is involved. The presence of our graduates leads to enquiries about use of PTC material through CGM, enrolments in the DBT, and people travelling to Australia to enrol in residential courses.

The Lord has given Moore College many opportunities to serve him because of its insistence on keeping the gospel at the centre. Please pray for the Principal, the faculty, the staff, and the army of graduates—that God would continue to firmly maintain the gospel heart of Moore College so that our people, our resources, and our fellowship might be for his glory.



Peter Sholl pictured (far left) with some of his MOCLAM students

The gospel heart of the Donald Robinson Library

Erin Mollenhauer, Elise Watts, Rod Benson / Donald Robinson Library



What makes Moore College Library different from a secular university library, or a large online bookstore? Why have a library dedicated to theological research? We aim to empower Moore's distinctive theology (and theology of education), to fuel reformed-evangelical ministry and mission, to resource a wide and deep community of learning.

The Donald Robinson Library's core mission is supporting the gospel work of the College. Its resources have grown exponentially in recent years to become an indispensable resource for the College community, providing learning materials for all students from certificate to PhD level, as well as our faculty's research. The library supports those currently studying God's Word, those employed in full-time vocational ministry and lay ministry, and the public. Therefore, the library holds a broad range of material pertaining to Christian belief throughout history. It is an invaluable repository of knowledge which allows our students and members to draw on the rich amount of thought done by believers who have gone before them.

Undergirding all of this is the Bible, and the message of the gospel it contains. It is at the heart of everything we do, and the only

book that is absolutely essential. In the 16th century, William Tyndale translated the Bible into the English language, at the cost of his life, so that people could read it for themselves. Our 1550 translation of the New Testament represents the fact that the Word of God can never be destroyed. Subsequent translations, including the Bishops' Bible, the Geneva Bible, and the Authorized Version, demonstrate a dedication to the Scriptures and their correct interpretation.

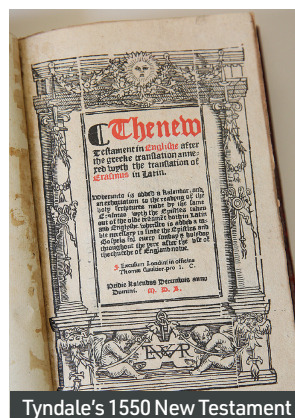
Similarly, Martin Luther's passion for opening the Scriptures to the people can be seen in his translation of the Bible into German. The Reformation would not have had such an immense impact without the invention of the printing press, and the substantial collection of early editions of Reformed works in our Library not only provide a rich resource for study, but also demonstrate how the technology of movable type has been used for God's glory.

Our collection allows students to be challenged and stretched by the understanding

of others, encouraging them to think critically about God's Word. After College, our growing network of graduates can benefit from continued membership, strengthening their work in gospel ministry. The library also plays a crucial role in supporting the wider community, including researchers and students of other institutions. Key sub-sections of the Library, including the children's collection and resources in other languages, reflect the work of the gospel all over the world and for all age groups, and we aim to grow these collections further.

As a memory institution, the Library shines a light on our shared heritage and enables us to tell our stories. As a constantly growing repository of intellectual capital,

the Library in turn enables growth in skills, understanding and wisdom. The Library is not only a world-class centre of learning, but a tangible representation of the enduring legacy of gospel work in and through the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.



Tyndale's 1550 New Testament



Perseverance of gospel hearts

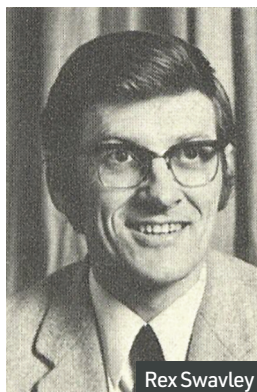
Paula Darwin / Alumni and Fundraising Officer

IT WAS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND BLESSING TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RECENT ONLINE 50 YEAR ALUMNI REUNION VIA ZOOM.

It is always encouraging to be a part of College reunions, but even more so whilst being stuck at home during Covid lockdown. Sitting at my kitchen bench, I was able to listen, absorb and learn from the accumulated wisdom of a lifetime of ministry experiences. The common denominator of all who were able to share online, was the perseverance of their gospel hearts.

Reunion coordinator and alumnus, Ron Watts, started making plans for a reunion at College over a year ago. Unfortunately, due to Sydney's lockdown restrictions the in person event has been postponed to April 2022. However, 16 people from this year group were able to come together for two hours of fellowship, story sharing, prayer, and to see how God continues to work through his people for over 50 years.

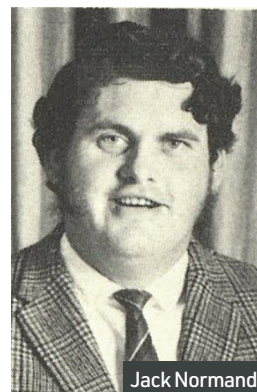
Many Alumni shared how God had placed them in ministries they never thought they would be doing. Rex Swavley spoke of the opportunity he has been given at Norwest Anglican Church teaching ESL to overseas students, most of whom are from China. He shared how God had given him a great love for Chinese people and he is now studying Mandarin every day. Rex said, "as a result of teaching ESL to so many Chinese people, we have had people who have never heard about Jesus, people who have never seen a Bible, who have become Christians and some have become



Rex Swavley



Alan Colyer



Jack Normand

members of our church. It's been such a wonderful thing to bring the gospel to people who have been unaware of it and have never heard of Jesus."

After being ordained as a Deacon in 1975, Alan Colyer was instructed by his superior at his first church appointment that he was not to preach on the resurrection, the virgin birth, or the Old Testament, or he would never preach again. Despite being warned, one month later Alan preached on Abraham, and at the end of the service he was told he would not be preaching at that church for the next six months. Although Alan did not agree, he submitted as one under authority and instead went door to door visiting people in the area and started a Bible study group for 45 people in a nearby hall. Alan later went on to become an Army Chaplain and also served at St Thomas' Moonee Ponds for 11 years. He believes the biggest mission field we have is in this country: "people are thirsty for the gospel," he says.

Meeting in the front row of a lecture in their first year at College, Jack and Vicki Normand married in their second year and

then both went on to become missionaries in Tanzania with the Church Missionary Society (CMS). After working in various church ministries, Jack had the opportunity to become a teacher and taught high school science. In this position, he had wonderful opportunities every day to share the gospel. After retiring, Jack taught the Moore Preliminary Theological Certificate (PTC) to pastors in Rwanda. Jack and Vicki are now living in an Anglican Retirement Village and looking for new opportunities for ministry where they live. Vicki shared, "Christian ministry will continue wherever we are, and we are just grateful to God for being able to do that."

We at the College are very much looking forward to welcoming this faithful cohort back to our Newtown campus to have a face to face reunion next year. Please join me in giving thanks to God for over 50 years of ministry and service since leaving College. We give thanks to God for the gospel hearts and perseverance of these men and women in proclaiming God's Word in every season and situation.



The gospel and ministry effectiveness

Archie Poulos / Director, Centre for Ministry Development



FOR SOME YEARS I HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING HOW TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE COMPETENCY OF THE CLERGY WHO GRADUATE FROM MOORE COLLEGE.

This has involved exploring how we perceive ourselves. After hundreds of interviews, it is exciting to report that at the heart of our identity is the desire for the glory of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the seas (Hab 2:14)—that is, being an evangelical. Additionally, the core business of clergy is to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3)—that is, being Reformed—and to be an example of the life of faith (1 Cor 11:1)—being a Christian. What drives our clergy can be summed up in the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:9-10

*God's word is not chained.
Therefore I endure everything for*

the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

So, what else could possibly be needed, since these are the essential roles of gospel ministry?

In a world that is constantly changing, with new challenges to Christians and churches emerging every day, the research showed that there are seven other identifiable roles that need to be undertaken for a ministry to flourish. This helps our ministers know how to navigate competing issues, and what to focus on in a tumultuous world. The roles are about competency and not character and conviction, and since that is the case, they can easily be overlooked. It is not the minister's task to do them all, but it is their responsibility to ensure they are all conducted well. Evidence exists that no matter how good performance in the other roles is, under-development in one role will affect the whole functioning of the ministry. The roles are:

Innovator: implementing new and better ways of conducting ministry

Discipler: assisting members to perform better in their responsibilities and helping them become a disciple making disciple

Shepherd: concern that the flock and individuals are steered away from danger and toward 'green pasture'

Steward: optimising the resources entrusted to the ministry

Guardian: setting standards and holding ministries accountable to those standards

Networker: working with other churches and groups so that each may have a win-win, and therefore provide even more resources for gospel ministry

Integrator: knowing yourself and your setting so that you can make wise tactical choices about which roles to employ at the present time



Because our prayer is to take every thought captive in obedience to Christ, we sometimes don't focus attention on developing some of these roles—especially those that don't capture thoughts! This is especially the case with the networker, integrator, steward, and guardian roles.

But God has made his church both an organism and an organisation, both an institution and a movement. Taking thoughts captive requires structures that work well (many will know the image of the trellis and the vine).

For the gospel's sake, we need to assist our churches in developing effectiveness in these roles. And that is not just the task of our ministry leaders. Each of us should ask 'what can I contribute to make this happen?'

In recognition of the need to build our effectiveness across all roles while remaining true to our gospel identity, Moore College established the Centre for Ministry Development (CMD) to provide churches and clergy with personalised assistance in theologically shaped, evidence

based best practice. An often-heard comment made by clergy at CMD is that they love Jesus and want to see Him glorified in the lives of people, and because of these convictions are given positions that they haven't yet developed the skills for. The danger is that in scrambling to build competency, the gospel focus can be inadvertently lost. It has been an honour to see clergy being given input on new skills to become competent in roles while remaining gospel focused.

All of this produces another blessing. As our churches function more effectively, we need fewer resources than we once did. This in turn frees up people to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Becoming more competent in our roles at home enables more people to take the message of Christ everywhere.

Our hearts should be filled with thankfulness that what drives our churches are these gospel convictions, for without them churches will be useless and even dangerous. We praise the Lord for His kindness in giving us our legacy of a Reformed evangelical heritage. But we also need to keep working on all that God has given us to steward, as we serve the Lord and His people effectively.



At the heart of women's ministry

Annabel Nixey / Moore College Alumna



When I first joined EQUIP, back in 2009, it was because I loved the conference. I'd never heard women preach like that—with such authority, so much biblical clarity and just so well. I'd also never been to a conference which so explicitly built its program around the Bible talks. I'm sure there were other conferences doing this too. But for me, at that time, it was incredible.

I still love the conference, but now I also love the fellowship.

EQUIP is a ministry which seeks to equip women to share Jesus. If you've heard of it, it's probably because of its annual women's conference. This year over 6000 women joined online. But as a ministry, there's much more to it than that.

A few years ago, I was due to speak at the EQUIP conference. A few weeks out, I found out I was going to need emergency surgery just beforehand. I was given complete freedom to pull out. I wanted to go ahead. We collaborated on the talk to get it over the line. Even on the day, unbeknownst to me, another member had learnt my talk and was ready to step in if I needed it. I'm still so thankful for the care shown to me through that whole process. It was a time when I felt so clearly that we were a fellowship, not just a committee.

Committees are made up of people chosen to represent 'their' group of people. A fellowship is a team of people shooting at a gospel goal together. It's friendship with purpose, fuelled by God's love for us, and flowing out in gospel-centred love for others.

I've learnt so much from being part of the EQUIP team. Perhaps most of all, I've learnt we can trust the Scriptures. That means not just trust they are true, but that in them God is speaking, presently, by his Spirit, about his Son. If you teach any part of it—any book, any chapter—God will be at work drawing people to Jesus, equipping us to serve him, and enabling us to keep waiting until he returns.



Looking back, it is Moore College which provided the soil for this gospel-hearted fellowship, and so many others, to grow. Of the original members of the EQUIP team, some had met through church but, as I understand it, it was their time in the Moore Community when the other friendships were formed, and gospel convictions were shaped. The EQUIP team has shifted and grown a lot over the years. But that original DNA caught and taught at Moore—that love for and trust in the sufficiency of God's good word—has carried on.

The heart of Moore College is a fellowship. A fellowship of the faculty, flowing out into the fellowship of the staff and students. From my experience at College, this rings true. We weren't just receiving information or acquiring a qualification. It was a transformative, character-shaping, whole life kind of learning. It helped me to see that at the very heart of women's ministry, is a gospel centre.



The gospel centre for ministry in the Top End

Joshua Kuswadi / Rector, St Peter's Nightcliff

Reformation Sunday at St Peter's Nightcliff was celebrated with a modernised version of the 1552 Holy Communion service. The ten commandments were recited, and we confessed our 'manifold sins' acknowledging we 'cannot bear the burden of them'. Our sermon series, "Big Words that end in Shun", focused on justification, as we read Romans 3:21-26.

Yet this wasn't a history lesson, nor an attempt to revive the good old days, but another opportunity to reflect on the central truth that "in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last" (Romans 1:17).

Unlike many parts of Australia and the world, by

God's grace, Darwin has so far been relatively unscathed by the pandemic. Yet the impact of the virus has still changed some ministries.

Of course, not all change is useful reformation. Not all change is good. And some change might be neutral. So how do we decide what to change and whether it's important? We may enquire of change: will it enhance the proclamation of the good news of Jesus in order to help everyone grow in him? This has different implications for different ministries I'm involved in.

At the church I'm a part of, we speak about being a 'church family' as we enjoy the rich diversity of people God has brought together, from various ages and life stages, races and workplaces. We want everyone to grow, and Laura Wolfenden works hard at kids church lessons—teaching the same big words we're learning through sermons, starting with predestination. While people's ages might change, the gospel content does not.

After a 10-week stint of online church in 2020, church restarted with three services instead of two. Previously they were different in style and demographics, now they are similar in demographics and the style changes from week to week at all three. What did not change? We have the same Bible readings and sermons for all services.

There are massive cultural differences across the Diocese of the Northern Territory. This is illustrated by our synod. It requires a lot of people, time, and money resources, and our synod service includes Bible readings and songs in four different languages. While the language might change, the gospel content does not.

Beyond the Anglican church, Christian Conventions Darwin is a non-denominational group running two conferences: 'Building Blokes' for men, and 'Preach the Word' for Bible teachers. While the audience and spheres of application may change, solid Bible teaching remains central.

A recent ministry highlight has been two boys growing in their knowledge and love of God. They both attended 'Mega', our holiday kids club. One is part of a Christian family who attend church regularly. The other came because a postcard in his letterbox invited him. The first one told his parents he asked Jesus to forgive him for the first time. The second one is hearing Jesus' name for the first time. The same good news, proclaimed to two different children, is doing the same good work of drawing people to Jesus.

Please pray that God continues to work as his gospel is proclaimed in the Top End.





Moore College and gospel partnerships

Simon Gillham / Vice Principal



Simon and Abel in Oenpelli (NT)

"I LOVE THE STUDENTS... THEY ARE SO INTERESTED, CURIOUS, KEEN ON STUDYING AND ALWAYS REQUESTING BIBLE VERSES TO SUPPORT ANY CLAIM. TWO HOURS PASSES LIKE FIVE MINUTES. I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THIS WORK OF TEACHING."

That's not a quote from me, although that has been true of a lot of my experience teaching here at Moore (as well as at NETS in Namibia). It is a quote from a WhatsApp message that a gospel partner of Moore College recently sent me. We have gospel partnerships with brothers and sisters both here in Australia and all over the world. Sometimes these include formal arrangements with institutions like theological colleges, or with churches, but always they involve relationships with Christian brothers and sisters that God has drawn us into contact with. Often the partnerships come about as graduates of the College move from place to place, introducing us to an ever-widening circle of fellow-workers. Here are two examples to give you a glimpse of the exciting partnerships we as a College are prayerfully looking to foster.

The Anglican Church of Madagascar

I first met Berthier in Madagascar, where I was travelling with friends from CMS and Anglican Aid as part of

Moore College's commitment to help resource others involved in ministry training, especially in the majority world. Ours is a gospel partnership. Our mutual commitment to seeing the gospel of the Lord Jesus proclaimed faithfully throughout the world is what drew us together and what directs our energies as we work together. It is a partnership built on our unity in the Lord Jesus, nurtured in a context of mutual love and expressed in a variety of shared resources and experiences.

I'm sure you get the sense from the quote that I have shared, that Berthier's WhatsApp messages, emails and calls are a source of tremendous encouragement and joy. Berthier facilitates and enhances the College's partnership with the Anglican Church of Madagascar and the Province of the Indian Ocean—often passing news on from our dear friend the Primate, Archbishop James Wong. Over the course of the pandemic, as I have found it easy to become absorbed by my own concerns and inconveniences, their perspective and faithfulness in ministry have inspired and rebuked me.

The College's partnership involves providing material and support for theological education. PTC material translated into French and Malagasy are made freely available, and we share other ideas and resources to help the Madagascan leaders to develop the best kind of ministry training they can for Madagascans. We work together with friends from CMS and Anglican Aid, who bring different expertise and resources to their own gospel partnerships in Madagascar and elsewhere.

Partnerships also go both ways, and Moore College is deeply enriched by the fellowship we enjoy with gospel partners around the world. As our partners read their Bibles, think deeply and live faithfully following the Lord Jesus in their contexts, they correct, rebuke and encourage us. In a world of seemingly ever shrinking echo-chambers, international gospel partnerships are a profound blessing from God. The same is true of our gospel partnerships closer to home as well.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

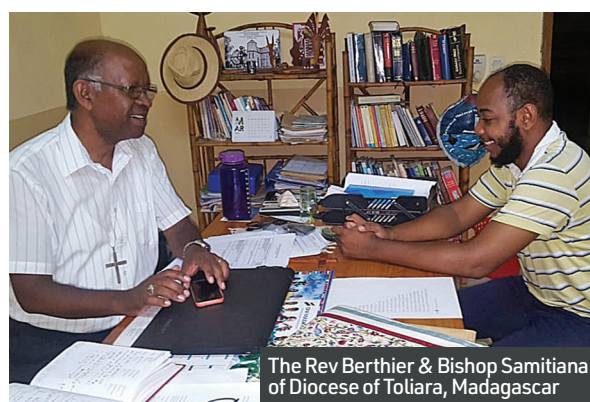
It's been a joy to be part of the 'Gospel for Australia' social media campaign in the last few months, as we have been highlighting the ministries of many of our Australian partners, especially those outside Sydney. Not only do we hope to be faithful partners in training



people for ministry all over the country, but those in these ministries now encourage and spur us on. In more 'normal' times, we express these partnerships by sending mission teams who serve and learn from the churches and ministries they spend a week with. We have a regular stream of visitors to the College from lots of different ministry contexts who bear witness to the work of God in their part of the harvest field. These partners help to keep our students and faculty up to date with the changing shape of ministry opportunities, demands and practices. In chapel, through the College Prayer Bulletin, and through the supporters' prayer meetings, we exercise our gospel partnerships as we hold our partners before the throne of grace and entrust them to the Lord's care.

As well as cherishing the partnerships we already have, Moore College is eager to forge new partnerships and to apply particular care to partnerships we want to grow and develop. This is particularly the case with gospel partners amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are looking to work with our graduates from Indigenous backgrounds and through partnering with groups like the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship and the Bush Church Aid Society to grow our capacity and effectiveness in equipping indigenous Australians for ministry. Developing pathways for indigenous students is one of the strategic priorities of the College over the next five years. We have ideas and scholarship support, but we have much to learn, and we rely on the help of faithful, wise gospel partners.

Moore College is profoundly blessed to have such a tremendous range of partners who also want to see the gospel of the Lord Jesus faithfully proclaimed throughout Australia and around the world. As good as it has been to stay in touch with our gospel partners electronically over the last few years, I long for the day when we can see one another again, that we might be mutually encouraged by one another's faith in the Lord Jesus (cf. Rom 1:8-12).



The Rev Berthier & Bishop Samitiana of Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar



The Rev Berthier teaching at St Patricks, Toliara



Bible school in Toliara, Madagascar





A sustainable theological education

Ben P. George / External Engagement Manager

I HOPE THAT AS YOU HAVE READ THROUGH THIS SUMMER EDITION OF *MOORE MATTERS*, YOUR HEART HAS BEEN FILLED WITH GLADNESS AT THE CENTRALITY OF THE GOSPEL TO THE CORE THINGS OF THE COLLEGE.

From the gospel foundation of the College as an institution, to the spirit of partnership with other reformed evangelical institutions around the world, and even the gospel-centered ministries exercised by our alumni, it is so encouraging to hear that Moore College is first and foremost championing the gospel.

Of course, this gospel heart is very much the focus of the Foundation as well, as we aim to foster partnerships in order to ensure the sustainable future of excellent evangelical theological education, for the purpose of glorifying God through the graduates we equip. The partnerships we aim to build in the Foundation are those that centre on prayer, advocacy, and financial giving, and I hope you can see that this imitates, at least in some ways, the heart of gospel partnership that Paul intimates in his letter to the church in Philippi.

The apostle begins his letter with a beautiful statement that encapsulates his thanksgiving to God because of the partnerships he has in the work of the gospel. He prays that those with whom he is in partnership will continue to walk with God until our Lord Jesus returns:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:3-6)

This paints a wonderful picture of the mutuality of gospel partnership, and is the sort of thing we at the Foundation want to continue to prayerfully develop. Even in 2021, a year marred by the pandemic, the gospel partnership between the College and all of you as our supporters has been a real encouragement to me. Only last month, I received an email enquiring as to whether our November prayer points would be uploaded—their release had been delayed by a few hours! What a picture—faithful prayers waiting eagerly for the release of monthly prayer points, so that they

might commit the vital work of our College to the Lord in prayer.

This is to say nothing of the cheerful giving of our generous financial supporters. Of special encouragement over the year has been our Student Support Fund (SSF). The fund was created to help students to be financially supported during their time at College instead of relying solely on scholarships, paid work, FEE-Help, and other government assistance. The SSF allows students to rightly focus on their studies and dig deeply into the riches of Scripture and the expression of its truths across the ages.

Martin Fong, going into his third year of the Bachelor of Divinity, remarks:

The great privilege of being supported through the SSF is that I can spend more time on what I came to College for. The SSF eases financial pressure and therefore allows me to concentrate more effectively on studying God's word, growing as a Christian, and serving God and his people. I'm very thankful for the generous supporters who give to the SSF, the College in managing the fund, and our great God who works all things for the good of those who love him.

Along with helping students to gain support, this program also helps to nurture skills in fundraising, partnership, and communication—invaluable skills for many ministry roles in Sydney, around Australia, and across the globe. Of course, some of these skills



Martin Fong



Merryn Wilson

are learned with apprenticeship programs, but the ongoing development of relationships with supporters helps students hone skills for a lifetime of ministry. On top of this, it also helps students to look to the bigger picture of gospel partnership that occurs amongst God's people.

Merryn Wilson, graduating student of the Advanced Diploma, says this about her time as a SSF member:

The support I received from the Foundation team made a massive difference in my fundraising for College. I was reminded my being trained up for ministry was not all about me but that it's a worthwhile investment for the Kingdom. I was given practical tips that helped me fundraise for my expenses with confidence and clarity. Taking part in the SSF, I was glad to know my fundraising efforts were also a means of blessing other students at C college.

This sentiment is reiterated by Ross and Lilian Ireland. Ross is moving into his second year of the Moore College Bachelor of Divinity, and as a family, they have also found the SSF immensely helpful:

We are thankful for the way in which the SSF has helped us be able to have brothers and sisters in Christ partner with us during our time being equipped for gospel ministry. It's a joy and privilege to be freed up to focus our time and energy on our studies.

In his great mercy, the Lord has continued to be kind to us as a College, in providing another large cohort



Ross and Lilian Ireland

of students for 2022. May I ask you to prayerfully consider how you might partner in the work of the gospel, through an investment in these students? Would you please consider giving to our SSF and our Scholarships Fund, so that our students can concentrate on a deep and broad immersion in Scripture in their time at College?

Finally, please pray for the College—that we would continue to support our students through providing a sustainable theological education, and that the Lord would continue to stir the hearts of men and women to consider how a theological education might equip them to go out and serve our Lord Jesus in a world desperately in need of the stability and love that Jesus brings.

The Rev Ben P George
External Engagement Manager
On behalf of the Foundation

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Please actively support Moore to ensure that together we can continue this vital gospel work under God, for His eternal glory.

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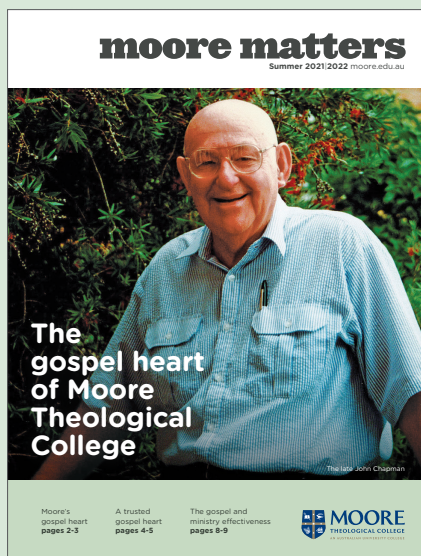
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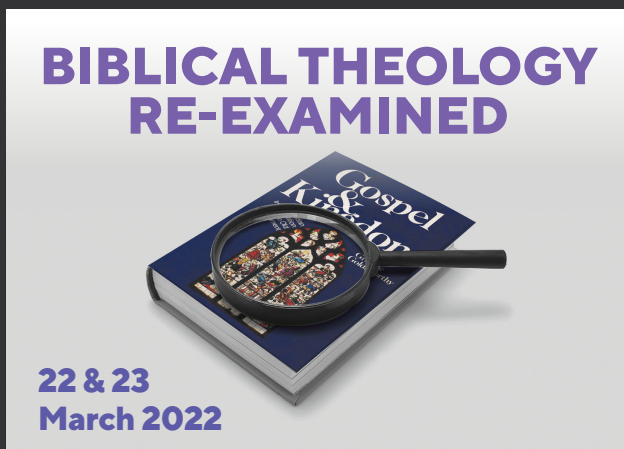
About Moore College

Moore College exists to train men and women to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. Since 1856, more than 5,000 students have graduated from the College and have been sent out by God. Moore College has equipped men and women to serve in over 50 countries across the World. Today over 3,500 students are enrolled in our courses globally.

The late John Chapman



MOORE COLLEGE EVENTS COMING IN 2022



More events: moore.edu.au/events