



MEDIA RELEASE

163 THEOLOGICAL, COUNSELLING AND SOUTHLAND STUDENTS GRADUATE

Ryde Civic hall was standing room only with the new combined graduation of Morling Theological students, counselling and education students. The graduating and commencing students had the support of family and friends who attended the annual Commencement and Conferral Service which was held on Monday 8th March 2010. The Morling community welcomed 57 new full-time Bible and Theological students, 110 new part-time residential and distance students, 12 new counselling students and 19 Plunge (a gap year program) students. Over 650 students will be studying theology, counselling and teaching through Morling and Southland colleges in 2010.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Professor Bridget Aitchison, Vice President for the College of Adult and Professional Studies at the Indiana Wesleyan University, USA. Prior to moving to the USA, Bridget was the Principal of Education at Morling College, so it was fitting for her to return for the first combined graduation. Based in 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Bridget gave an encouraging address on hearing God's voice and challenging all to obey what God says, no matter the cost. The graduating and commencing students were especially encouraged to listen to God's voice in where he wants them to be and although the journey may be hard, God is faithful.

163 women and men received their awards from Rev Kel Willis, Chairman of College Council and Rev Dr Mark Harding, Dean of the Australian College of Theology. 2010 saw the start of the new Master of Counselling programme with 2009 students graduating with Graduate Certificates in Counselling and Graduate Diplomas of Counselling. This evening represented the culmination of years of study and preparation for each of their journeys for future life. These students are going out to serve God, God's people and God's world in a wide variety of ministries. Some are now pastors in local churches; some have already or will enter cross-cultural ministry; others will take up new and creative opportunities to contribute to God's kingdom, including re-entering secular employment better prepared to be salt and light in the workplace. For the education students they will investigate teaching from a Christian perspective and Counselling students will serve others in a variety of ways. Morling is please to have also extended its ministry training to Christian education. This night saw people graduating at graduate and post-graduate level in Christian Education. The graduates came through the two agents associated with Morling; Southland "the wholly-owned subsidiary" and National Institute of Christian Education (NICE).

4 graduates were interviewed: Chris Hall has committed his life to preaching and pastoral ministry and has joined the ministry team at Merrylands Baptist church; a student who can't be named due to ministry in Asia; Amanda Slinn continues to work in women's refugees in Chang Mai, Thailand; and Lucelle Cook will continue to use her Master of Education to better equip her in teaching at Bethlehem College in New Zealand.

Morling is committed to raising up a generation of students equipped to take God's word to God's world.

