



MEDIA RELEASE

182 THEOLOGICAL, COUNSELLING AND SOUTHLAND STUDENTS GRADUATE

Morling College celebrated the graduation of 182 theology, counselling and education students, at the annual Commencement and Conferral service at Ryde Civic Centre on Monday 7th March 2011. As well as the graduating students, the Morling community welcomed 60 new full-time Bible and Theological students, 171 new part-time residential and distance students, 26 new counselling students, 25 new education students and 24 Plunge (the gap-year program for 18–24 year olds) students.

In 2011 Morling and Southland Colleges have around 700 students studying theology, counselling and teaching. Principal Rev. Dr Ross Clifford said, "Morling remains committed to training men and women for full-time ministry. Each of us should consider who God might be calling, and set them apart and encourage them to train. There is no higher calling than full-time ministry. Encourage people to serve God and be trained in that way."

Keynote speaker for the evening was Rev. Karl Faase, Senior Pastor at Gynea Baptist Church. Karl challenged all in attendance to look at what their outcome of study is and will be. Karl focused on Romans 1:1–7 and 14–17, including Paul's statement, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel". All graduates were reminded that, although they are at the end of their degree, learning never ceases, and were encouraged never to stop reading, listening, watching or hearing what other people have to say. Karl concluded with this final challenge: "As you leave with your degree, can you repeat the words of Paul, 'I'm not ashamed of the gospel'?"

The 182 graduating women and men received their awards from Rev. Kel Willis, Chairman of College Council, Rev. Dr Graeme Chatfield, Associate Dean of the Australian College of Theology, Dr Edwin Boyce, Principal of Pacific Hills Christian School and President of Southland College, and Mr Ken Dickens, Principal of National Institute of Christian Education and CEO of Christian Education National. Kel Willis commented that this was a special night for the graduates, that after years of hard work and study the reward at the end of the process has arrived. He encouraged graduates to use what they have learnt, and to the commencing students what they will learn, to advance the kingdom of God.

Six graduates with a range of qualifications were interviewed: Leo Douma, who was awarded his Doctor of Ministry, will continue serving as senior minister in his church; Christine Redwood is this year serving as the evangelistic preaching intern for Tinsley Institute; Emma Clemens is serving at Covenant Christian School; Simon Cuncliffe-Jones, a Plunge graduate, has been accepted as an applicant for GiA to go to Cambodia for two years; Jason Antoniadis will continue serving in pastoral ministry wanting people to hear the message of Jesus; and Peter Murphy, serving as the CEO of Christian Super, stressed prayer for support is important.

Morling is committed to raising up a generation of students equipped to take God's word to God's world and to serve the local church.



For photographs or for further information about Commencement, Morling College or the courses on offer please email admin@morling.edu.au or phone (02) 9878 0201.