



MORLING
COLLEGE
The Baptist Bible and Theological College of NSW

THE UTMOST FOR THE HIGHEST SUMMA SUPREMO

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF MORLING COLLEGE AND THE TINSLEY INSTITUTE

THE UTMOST FOR THE HIGHEST



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APRIL 2009

MORLING GRADUATES CHALLENGED!

AN EXCERPT OF BRIAN WINSLADE'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS:

"Eugene Peterson's "The Message" paraphrases the words of Jesus like this: "Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities." When you note the wider context, Jesus had been talking with his close followers about the timing of his second coming. There were two points they needed to understand. Firstly, we can't actually predict when it will be, so we need to be constantly ready. Secondly, when

Jesus returns he wants to find us being faithful to the work he has set us to do. He doesn't want to find us idle or not using to the fullest the resource he has put into our hands.

I guess like any tool of trade it can have a variety of uses; some intended by its designer, others more of an abuse. A degree or a diploma can become a source of inappropriate pride or inflated ego. We can bandy it around and hang our certificate in a prominent place or print it on our business card or wear it as a badge. We can flaunt our credential and hopefully, subtly intimidate those we relate with who haven't acquired the same status we have. But as the Bible teaches, that kind of pride usually comes before a fall or levelling...."

FULL GRADUATION STORY INSIDE...



WE CAN MAKE A

DIFFERENCE!

A new survey published in The Age/SMH this Easter revealed that 45% of Australians who do not consider themselves "born again" still believe Jesus rose from the dead. And asked if Jesus was a real figure 11% of non-born agians said no, 39% said yes but without divine powers, and 50% said yes and with divine powers. So that means nearly 50% of non-born again Australians – many of them not church goes or the followers of another religion – affirm the factual resurrection of Jesus!

I was asked about this remarkable figure on a radio interview (by the way similar surveys have found likewise). I said sadly there are more believers in the resurrection outside the church than in some Christian denominations. It also suggests the majority of Australians get it! Their common sense tells them no skeptic has been able to explain away the fact that the tomb was empty and the New Testament gospels ring true. That's the good news. What we are committed to at Morling is to continue to raise up a generation of pastors, missionaries, evangelists and community leaders who can start with this foundation of belief amongst Aussies and lead the church in reaching our communities for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, this can never be done at the expense of equipping pastors in the shepherding and caring for their local church, and faithfully preaching God's word. We train leaders who also have a compassionate heart and a commitment to justice at a time when there is so much need.

Please pray for us, and consider being equipped at Morling. Our faculty have many, many years of pastoral and missionary experience as well as being at the cutting edge of evangelism and publications. This edition of Summa Supremo tells something of our heartbeat for the Lord Jesus. ■

Ross Clifford
Principal

GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT



On Monday 2nd March 2009 Morling College students, both past and present, along with family and friends, filled Ryde Civic Centre to overflowing for the annual Commencement and Conferral Service. 114 students graduated with qualifications ranging from Certificates to Doctorates. 48 new full time students were welcomed as they commenced their studies. 170 new part-time residential and distance students also commenced, which brings the total students to over 600 students studying the bible and theology at Morling in 2009. It was a proud moment as the first year of Plunge (gap year) students graduated with a Certificate IV in Ministry and a deeper experience of life and faith. Morling welcomed back 4 of those students as Bachelor of Ministry students for 2009-2011. We look forward to seeing more young people graduating from this course with a stronger faith and foundation for life.

Morling announced the graduation of Edwina Murphy with her Master of Theology in Church History focusing on Cyprian. Four Doctor of Ministry awards were presented to Nicholas Foord, for his thesis work on Sydney Anglican School Chaplains, Michael Frost for his thesis work on Forge Mission Training and the Emerging Missional Church, Vivian Grice for his thesis work on the Impact of being a Pastor's Child in Baptist Churches in NSW/ACT, and to Pius Li for his thesis work on Conflict Resolution in Sydney Chinese Churches.

Rev Dr Brian Windslade, the National Director of Crossover Australia and the Director of the Baptist Union of Australia, was keynote speaker for the evening. Brian gave a stirring address, based on Luke 12:48, challenging all to use the gifts that God has given them in whatever capacity they are called to, but to do so in a humble manner. Morling graduates were challenged to use their awards for God's glory, but to remain humble and to remember that it is God who has given them their gifts. This is an excerpt from his address: *"Tonight represents the beginning of a new journey or chapter. Which is why the traditional term for an event like this is a "Commencement" service. The first time I heard that terminology with respect to a graduation ceremony I found it confusing. Why a commencement service and not a conclusion service. But then it dawned on me that what an occasion like this represents is the commencement of a new phase in life and ministry. This is a beginning, not an end. Or to borrow a rather overused phrase: "Today is the first day of the rest of our lives!"*

Having celebrated appropriately tonight the award we receive, let's resolve that come tomorrow we won't use it as a tool of pride or status or self-aggrandisement. But let's also not merely put it in a bottom draw and forget about it either. That would be an equal and opposite error. Higher education is a huge privilege. To be sure, we've worked for it, but it is also a gift from God. And it comes with a sense of appropriate responsibility. While we don't want to become puffed up with our own self-importance, we also need to remember the story Jesus told at the end of his earthly ministry about the master who imparted talents in varying measure to his servants. They were to invest his resources while he was away, and when he returned he held his servants accountable with what they had done with that which had been imparted to them. Perhaps if Jesus was telling this story today the talents he might refer to might not be amounts of money (as in his day) but as opportunity for education and training and up-skilling."

These words from Brian serve as an encouragement to the 114 men and women who graduated from Morling College. These graduates 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 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. ■



ALUMNI UPDATE: MARK TRONSON



Olympian of the Century, Carl Lewis presented Morling College graduate Mark and his wife Delma Tronson 'Gold Medals' for their 27 years of Sports and Olympic Ministry in February, Dallas Texas. Mark graduated in 1980 winning two Theological Prizes, founded the Sports & Leisure Ministry in 1982 (in association with Heads of Churches) and went on to do two doctoral dissertations on sports ministry within the US Baptist University network in association with Morling College.

To initiate their faith-financed mission of 27 years, they established a group of 5 elderly praying ladies who committed themselves to pray for Mark and Delma, their children and their ministry every day for one hour.

Mark Tronson has been the Australian cricket chaplain since 1984 and by 2000 had appointed chaplains to 150 Australian professional sports and a network of Christian athletes. Heads of Churches released them in 2000 to establish Well-Being Australia which primarily focuses on AIS and Cricketer Respite with two facilities, Basil Sellers Moruya and Basil Sellers Tweed (where they reside). Mark has written 24 books, is a prolific Christian writer and provides four articles a week for Christian Today Australia. Mark and Delma have four adult children and have been in Baptist ministry (and married) for 32 years. ■



FACULTY UPDATE:



It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Dr Bridget Aitchison.

DR BRIDGET AITCHISON

Bridget's resignation comes about as a result of being head hunted to serve in a new position at Indiana Wesleyan University in the United States. She has been appointed as Vice President for the College of Adult and Professional Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University effective July 1, 2009. Indiana Wesleyan University is the second largest evangelical university in America. The College of Adult and Professional Studies is the largest of the University's three colleges with 17,000 students enrolled in its programs across Nursing, Business, Education and Liberal Arts. Bridget will head a team of 1700-2000 faculty and staff and manage 14 regional centres in addition to the College's facilities on the 350-acre main campus of IWU.

Bridget said, "The fact that IWU have offered me this position is a testimony to Morling College. It is through the mentoring I have received from Ross Clifford, Ted Boyce and Bob Frisken, and through the experiences I have gained at Southland and Morling, that have enabled me to take this next step in my journey. I will always be grateful for the time I have had here. I resign with great sadness, knowing that I will miss the many wonderful people I have come to know throughout our Christian schools."

A search will now begin for a candidate to replace Bridget as Principal of Southland College and Director of Education programs at Morling College. For a job description and application criteria, please contact Dr Bridget Aitchison at principal@southland.edu.au or on (02) 9889 1633. Applications will close on 25th April, 2009. ■

REV DR GRAHAM HILL



Graham Hill has completed his PhD through Flinders University and will graduate on April 21 in Adelaide. Graham has thoroughly researched how local communities can more effectively reach their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The study that Graham has undertaken has been both practical and beneficial for his teaching and leadership training here at Morling College.

Graham's PhD considers how local churches can enhance their witness in society and among the people they are seeking to reach, and how they might be both relevant as well as bonded together as alternative, distinct, and visible communities offering an alternative form of life with Jesus Christ as their Lord. It also explores how they might develop their worship, community, mission, and relationship to the wider Body of Christ. Graham explores how they might practically engage in cross-cultural situations, provide opportunities for their members to reflect on Christ and culture from a biblical point of view, pray for and seek their own transformation and revitalisation, and bear witness to the Gospel of Christ.

Morling College congratulates Graham on this achievement and look forward to his continued equipping and teaching at the college. ■

MS PIPPA CAVE



Pippa will begin as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry Studies in Term 2. Within this role Pippa will give general oversight to the existing youth ministry subjects and provide Pastoral and academic support to youth ministry students. Studies in Youth Ministry at Morling College, offer students opportunities to develop skills in effectively ministering to young people in both a church and nonchurched context. It is suited to people already in youth ministry such as youth pastors, youth workers, school workers and chaplains, as well as those who are interested in working with young people in the future.



Pippa continues in her role as CoDirector of Plunge (Morling). Plunge exists to prepare a new generation to dive deeper in life and faith. Plunge includes both academic training and practical community engagement and is a fantastic way for young adults to journey further in their Christian maturity. ■

SOUTHLAND

AND MORLING

EDUCATING AUSTRALIA



The relationship between Morling College and Southland College has become even stronger with the announcement that Morling College Ltd has been established. This allows Southland students to graduate with their education degrees under the newly formed Morling College Ltd.

It is with great delight that Morling College and Southland College announce a new direction in teacher education. Southland College has been equipping Christian teachers through post-graduate education for over 20 years and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Morling College Ltd. Southland, together with the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE), previously delivered these courses as agents for the College of Christian Higher Education (CCHE), an umbrella organisation started by the two agents for the purpose of joint accreditation. Changes to the Higher Education Act have meant that this governance structure is no longer feasible. A taskforce of stakeholders spent three years looking at models with the decision made to transfer the degrees to Morling College Ltd, for which both Southland and NICE will continue to act as agents ensuring continuity of delivery.

On 4th March 2009, the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) approved the application for the Master of Education, Master of Education (Leadership), Graduate Diploma of Education and Bachelor of Education (Conversion) degrees to be accredited under Morling College Ltd.

The teacher training degrees will come under the newly formed Education Department at Morling College. Interest in the role of Director of Education is currently being sought after, as Dr Bridget Aitchison, Principal of Southland and the Academic Dean of Morling, is leaving Morling



to take up a senior ministry appointment overseas. Morling, Southland and NICE will be working closely together to ensure the smooth transition for students and faculty to the new arrangements. This is to provide a stable base and ensure the continued provision of post-graduate teacher education courses to Christian schools Australia-wide. These developments will be taking place over the next few months, with 2010 graduates being the first to graduate under the new Morling College Ltd.

To extend the growing commitment to education, Morling is actively pursuing the accreditation of a Bachelor of Teaching and Master of Teaching award. Once approved for accreditation, these undergraduate courses will be offered to prepare teachers at pre-service level to integrate their faith and their vocation to be of service in both Christian and state schools. ■

KNOW SERVE LEAD TEACH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN

PRAYER

FOR MORLING COLLEGE



PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The work and connections made on partnership mission by students and faculty
- The Canberra campus of Morling College and the many attendees
- The faculty and their continuing education, such as Graham Hill receiving his PhD and Michael Frost receiving his doctorate.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Staff members David Starling and Terry Kohler on sabbatical that they may have productive work time and have many new insights to share when they return
- The ongoing College vision and for wisdom for the College Board
- Students as they complete assignments, for time management and that God will equip them for service through their efforts
- Deputation Sundays, that they may be a fulfilling time as students and faculty share College experiences to Baptist Churches
- Families of those studying through Morling College, that their support will sustain students during the year
- Upcoming events in the Tinsley Institute such as the Annual Lecture
- That as a College we will be a witness for Christ in our local area of Macquarie Park

PARTNERSHIP

MISSION



Every year Morling College sends teams on Partnership Mission all over New South Wales. It is a chance for the college students to join in partnership with a church and experience and assist the church for a week. Each student takes something different away from Partnership Mission. It is a great opportunity for Morling College students to experience something new and also to support the churches around New South Wales.

This year Morling sent out 16 teams of 1st and 3rd year students to Bermagui, Blackheath, Bowral, Cobar, Erina, Grafton, Gunnedah, Kiama, Lismore, Molong, Muswellbrook, Narrabeen, Orana, Swansea, Summerland and The Entrance.

ERINA COMMUNITY BAPTIST - TIM POPE

The team (Sharon McBride, Les Far, Amy Junor and Daniel Robles and Tim Pope) ventured to Erina Community Baptist Church to serve the church and the community in any way we could. This included participating in a Child Care Centre, meeting and caring for residents at Orana Retirement Village, helping out at the Youth Group, sharing our



testimonies within home groups and taking part in both the Sunday morning and Sunday night services in a number of ways (just to name a few). It was a fantastic time away for all involved.



For each of us, as Morling students participating in a variety of courses, it was a special time to come together primarily to serve and witness a church that is in many different ways encapsulating what it means to be the shining light Christ has called us all to be in our own respective communities. For myself specifically, it was a time where I felt I could get back to the heart of why I have chosen to serve Christ, and that is to radiate the life changing love that Christ has shown all of us to the rest of my own community. As Christians, we have an amazing opportunity to show those around us the freedom and liberation that can only found in the person of Jesus.

This Partnership Mission cemented the idea within each team member that, although we may serve God in different communities, in different suburbs around New South Wales and within different church contexts we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to continually encourage and support each other in spreading the good news. It was our privilege to partner alongside Rev Keith Mitchell and the whole of Erina Community Baptist Church in furthering the Gospel through an array of ministries that definitely are changing people's lives and challenging them to live out their Christianity daily. ■

KIAMA BAPTIST CHURCH - BEN THOW



Kiama partnership mission team was made up of Ben Thow, Erica Sin, Matthew Harris, Frederick Song, Tim Giovanelli and Andrew Sloane. The Kiama team had a fantastic time partnering with the Kiama Baptist church. As the team arrived they immediately fell in love with the beautiful township of Kiama with its rolling green hills, white beaches and cafe culture. But the team had no time to stop and admire the scenery because there was work to do. Pastor's Cameron Eccelston and Grant Willson had a full program planned. Although our team would spend just a week in Kiama, we were able to engage in the longer term relational and missional strategies of their church to connect with their township.



We engaged in the church's successful kids clubs that have attracted scores of un-churched children and have seen parents come to faith through these relationships. The team was able support and encourage church Bible study groups and participate in high school scripture. Some of the team gave their testimonies; others presented short gospel messages and others, Bible teaching.

By the end of the week we were exhausted, had been stretched out of our comfort zones but truly grateful for the new cultural experiences and friendships that we had made. ■

COMING UP AT: MORLING AND THE TINSLEY INSTITUTE

Centre for Leadership Conference 09
at Morling College

Leading Christ-centred Churches Monday, 4th & Tuesday 5th May 09

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

STEVE STROOPE: As lead Pastor of Lake Pointe Church, Texas, Steve has a passion for seeing that the Gospel is presented to unchurched people in a culturally relevant style without compromising its truth. As an experienced practitioner gifted in evangelism, leadership and teaching, Steve will present at the conference on themes such as: *Following His Leadership, Self-Leadership, Strategic Leadership and Leading Leaders.* Under Steve's leadership, Lake Pointe has grown from an average attendance of 57 in 1980 to currently 10,000 each weekend. Visit rockwall.lakepointe.org/default.aspx to read the story and journey of Lake Pointe.



TIM KEEL: is the author of *Intuitive Leadership*, & founding pastor of Jacob's Well Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The mission of the church is to be an authentic, biblical community where people experience and express the reality of God's love in the way of Jesus. Tim is passionate about creating spaces for people to connect with God, themselves and others. Throughout the conference Tim will address: *A World in Flux: Location, Navigation & the Dynamics of Being Lost; Engaging Context: The Realities of a "Post" World and The Implications of a "Post" World;* and, *Entering Narrative: Embracing the Power of Story.* Visit jacobswellchurch.org/story to read more of this remarkable church.



For further information, download a brochure from www.morling.nsw.edu.au or email events@morling.edu.au or phone: 02 9878 0201

ANDREW MENZIES: Senior Pastor at Camberwell Baptist in Victoria. He is committed to transforming a traditional church into a missional community. Andrew will be sharing on the risky leadership adventure of Abraham at an evening standalone session.

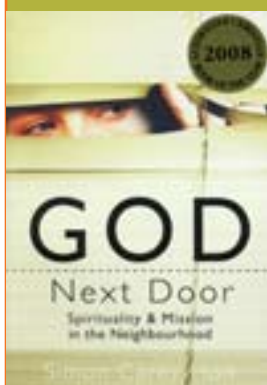


The missional journey Faith & adventure on the road

7.30pm Monday 4th May 2009

"Abraham walked by faith out of Ur into the unknown. His life like few others in all of history has profoundly shaped the world right up until today, yet he didn't really know what he was doing, where he was going or the blessings, experiences and tests that lay waiting for him. All he had to do was believe in the promise enough to start the journey... it has never changed!"

For further information, email events@morling.edu.au or phone: 02 9878 0201



Tinsley & Morling ANNUAL LECTURE 7.30pm with Simon Holt on 'The God Next Door' OPEN NIGHT 6.30pm Two events on the one night!!

Monday, 18th May 2009

How do we do mission in suburban neighbourhoods? Is God interested in the person next door?

Simon Holt will address the topic "God Next Door" based on his popular book of the same name, dealing with spirituality and mission in suburbia.

Come anytime from 6.30pm, and chat with faculty one on one about study at Morling or simply turn up for the Annual Lecture at 7.30pm.

Simon Carey Holt (PhD., Fuller Theological Seminary) is Lecturer in Spirituality at Whitley College (University of Melbourne & Melbourne College of Divinity). Previously a pastor and church planter, Simon works actively with faith communities seeking a more authentic connection with their local neighbourhoods.



Exploring the strands of Church Governance

Leadership Forum at Morling
Friday August 7, 2009 9.30am - 4pm \$35per person

Keynote speakers:
Graeme Chatfield, Ken Clendinning, Graham Hill

For further information, email events@morling.edu.au or phone: 02 9878 0201 www.morling.nsw.edu.au