

# moore matters

## To the ends of the earth

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## How wrong can you be?



**John Woodhouse – Principal**

Today's atheistic secularists consistently assume that the future of the human race will be the complete triumph of secularism and the abolition of every kind of belief in God. Enlightened understanding demands no less. The arrogance of the claim that their own understanding of reality is superior to all others is seldom noted, but is staggering nonetheless.

They are wrong.

Just how wrong they are could be illustrated from statistics and other observations that show that the human race is becoming more, not less, 'religious'. However, their error is deeper. It was exposed long ago in a remarkable short letter written about AD 60 by the very Jewish apostle Paul to the young body of (at least largely) gentile Christian believers in the town of Colossae. Paul himself had not visited Colossae, but he expressed his delight that the word of

the truth of the gospel of Christ Jesus was bearing fruit and growing in the whole world (Col. 1:6; cf. 1:23). The Colossian believers were themselves evidence of this wonder. Paul prayed that they would be bearing fruit and growing (1:10).

After 2000 years it is easy for us to take this marvel for granted, and fail to see how utterly astonishing it is and how very wrong the secularists are. We refer to Christianity as a 'world religion'. But that is not what we are talking about here. In this sense Christianity was not a 'world religion' in AD 60. It appeared to be little more than a rather energetic Jewish sect — apparently attracting some interest from a number of non-Jewish people in a few places around the Mediterranean world.

The claim made by Paul in his letter is as astounding today as it was on that day when this letter was first read to the small gathering in the house of one Philemon by Tychicus, who had brought the letter from Rome. The light has dawned for the whole world. The news about Jesus Christ is now the most important force in world history. It will continue to bear fruit and grow in all the nations of the world. People like the Colossian believers (and like many of the readers of this edition of Moore Matters!) will continue to bear fruit in good works and grow in the knowledge of God (see

Col. 1:10). The Creator intended the human beings he made in his image to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28). Now his purpose for the whole human race is being realised as the gospel of Christ bears fruit and grows throughout the world and in the lives of those who come to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The time has come in the sorry history of the world for the darkness to give way to light (see Col. 1:12, 13), for hostility to give way to peace (1:20), for ignorance to give way to knowledge (1:9), for evil to give way to good (1:10), for lies to give way to truth (1:5), for foolishness to give way to wisdom (1:28), everywhere, in every nation, in every city, in every village — in the whole world!

Do you believe that? Really?

The staggering significance of people of every race and in every place coming to faith in Christ Jesus arises from the truth about who Christ Jesus is. He is the one through whom and for whom all things have been created (Col. 1:15-17). He is also the one through whom God has been pleased to reconcile all things to himself by Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross (1:19-20). Christ Jesus is the beginning of the future for all things (1:18).

The atheistic secularist could not be more wrong.

# To the Ends of the Earth...

Alan Hohne

**'Right now the opportunities for the College to support the equipping of pastors and teachers of churches around the world are compelling.'**

**To call a place 'the end of the earth' is to give it a real put-down. But to identify it as 'the ends of the earth' makes it momentous. The 'ends of the earth' are the destination for witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.**

They are part of God's program for gathering a people for himself from 'every nation, tribe, people and language'. On that basis Moore College and its graduates have reached many 'ends'. Alexandria, Bibvewadi, Brussels, Casuarina, Dodoma, Kindu, Kota Kinabalu, Leederville, Lilydale, Makassar, Munguishi, Muisenberg, Phnom Penh, Santiago, Southgate, Toraja and Windhoek – the list goes on. Some are well known and some are a real challenge even for Google Earth! But all of them are places where Moore College graduates have a Bible teaching ministry.

In recent years, up to one third of graduates have gone outside metropolitan Sydney. That's not new. One out of three of the College's first batch of students, in 1856, went to 'the ends of the earth', on graduating – if Tasmania counts! Right now the opportunities for the College to support the equipping of pastors and teachers of churches around the world are compelling.

Recently Mark Thompson was invited to visit The Alexandria School of Theology, Egypt. For the first three centuries of the spread of the gospel it was second only to Rome as a city of the Roman Empire. From AD 190 onwards it was a major centre of Christian learning. Three years ago the new Alexandria School of Theology (AST) was opened by the Anglican Diocese of Egypt (with North Africa and the Horn of Africa) and now there are over

100 students attending and they are considering a postgraduate MA program to train future faculty. This is the area where they would like Moore College to help them with various intensives.

Robert Doyle is presently spending his study leave at George Whitfield College (GWC) in Muisenberg, South Africa, which is well known to many readers. He is teaching a unit in their MA (Theology). This follows one taught in 2007 by Barry Webb. The Principal, David Secombe, is a Moore College graduate and spent his last study leave as a guest of Moore. Its founder was Broughton Knox, former Principal of Moore. Another graduate, Tim Duke, is spending the first half of 2008 teaching Greek at GWC. He and his wife, Kylie are waiting to start cross-cultural training at CMS St Andrew's Hall, Melbourne, with a view to Bible teaching in a theological college in an African country.

Some readers will have met Alfred Olwa and his wife Susan while they were at Moore College in 2006 for three months. Alfred is Dean of Theology at the (Anglican) Uganda Christian University where they have just interviewed 100 applicants for places to train for ordained ministry. His home church was started by a CMS missionary from Victoria in the 1930s. Alfred hopes to return to Sydney later this year to start PhD studies through Moore.

**College graduates are teaching the Bible to future Christian leaders in many parts of the world, as they have been doing for over 100 years.** Please pray that in his goodness and mercy the Lord will continue to use them to raise up many, many labourers for his harvest among the nations.



## OAK HILL COLLEGE, LONDON, UK

**Oak Hill has many connections with Moore College, stretching back to its commencement as a training institution for Anglican ordinands in 1932.**

It was founded through the generosity of Charles Baring Young, who gave his sixty-acre North London property for the purpose, and established a substantial trust to maintain the ministry. Young was related to Broughton Knox, who was later Principal of Moore College (1959-85). Alan Cole, a Moore College lecturer, taught at Oak Hill in the 1950s and Maurice Wood, who was Principal of Oak Hill in the 1960s, gave some lectures at Moore. Oak Hill was

founded because Conservative Evangelicals in England felt that none of the colleges purporting to be evangelical were adequately preparing men for ordained leadership. Subsequently, the College has developed a training program for Free Church ministers, introduced a Youth and Children's Ministry training course, and inaugurated a Theology and World Missions degree, to prepare people for cross-cultural ministry.

David Peterson, who is now back on the faculty of Moore, was the Principal of Oak Hill at critical time in its life (1996-2007). The Church of England sought to close the

College in 1993, and almost succeeded. Classical evangelicalism has struggled to survive there, but gospel ministry is strong on the ground and growing steadily in its influence across the country. Oak Hill offers high-quality biblical, theological, and pastoral training over three or four years, as Moore does. There have been fruitful student exchanges between the two colleges in recent years, and Kirsten Birkett is a much appreciated faculty member from Sydney. The new Principal is Mike Ovey, who was a faculty member at Moore (1994-9), and who will be visiting us again to give the Annual Moore College lectures in August this year.



# The Alexandria School of Theology, Egypt

**'Training servants for Christ in the Heart of the Middle East'**

**'Training servants for Christ in the Heart of the Middle East', This is the motto of the Alexandria School of Theology (AST), founded in 2005. It is a strategic new venture of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt.**

The school is rooted in Scripture, obedient to the Great Commission and, aware of its historical inheritance and contemporary challenge, it is dedicated to the formation and equipping of men and women so they fulfill their God-given potential in mission and ministry.

AST has two campuses, one in Cairo and one in Alexandria. Its name was chosen because of the great historical significance of the city of Alexandria. It was here that the Old Testament was translated into Greek in what is known as the Septuagint. In the first century AD, Mark the Evangelist is said to have preached the gospel in the city where he was also martyred. Later a school was established to evangelise and train converts in the faith, and such

luminaries as Pantaneus, Clement and Origen were associated with it.

The aim of the Anglican Church in founding AST is to help in training lay and ordained ministers to help revive the work of Christ in the area. This year there are over 100 students from a range of backgrounds and countries. The goal is to see biblical truth shaping the students minds, hearts and ministries as they engage with their cultures in the Middle East.

The courses are in Arabic - a four year Bachelor of Theology, three year Diploma in Theology and one year Certificate in Theology. As well as these there are short intensive courses in English. In 2009, AST hopes to offer a MA course through which it is looking to train future faculty, and they are looking to Moore College to send lecturers to help with this course. If plans proceed the Diocese of Sydney's Fund for work outside the Diocese will finance the project. It will mean five or six AST graduates may receive a postgraduate

qualification for about the cost of one of them coming to Sydney to study full-time. One of their prayer points is for student's growth and for recruitment of full time local faculty, who are needed as soon as possible as the School is growing so quickly.

The brochure from the School notes, 'You can also participate in our short-term classes offered in English. We would be happy to work with your church to design a study program that fits your needs. Write to us at - P.O. Box 685 El Manshia, Alexandria, Egypt.' So, please contact them if you are travelling to Egypt and wanting to take part in a class.



## Uganda Christian University, Uganda Alfred Olwa to return to Moore. **Ray Smith**

**Canon Alfred Olwa is the Dean of the Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology at the Uganda Christian University (UCU). Alfred plans to return to Sydney later this year to begin PhD studies through Moore College on a scholarship provided by the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund. In August last year Dr Peter Bolt paid a visit to Uganda to meet with Alfred to assist him with the preliminary work prior to the commencement of his doctoral studies.**

The Anglican Church of Uganda is one of the oldest and most respected indigenous churches in Africa. Its history dates back to the first CMS missionaries who arrived in 1875 and the Ugandan martyrs who died in 1886. Since that time the Anglican Church of Uganda has grown to be the largest protestant church in Uganda, with more than 8 million members. The church is strongly evangelical and is led by Archbishop Henry Orombi.

The trained ministry force in the Anglican Church in Uganda is ageing and there is a lack of resources to train suitable replacements. For this reason the church of Uganda at its 2006

assembly resolved to make ministry training a top priority and is setting aside 5% of its Diocesan budget to that end.

Noting the urgent need to train a new generation of ministers, the Bishop Tucker School within Uganda Christian University has offered Ministry Training Scholarships, up to three per year per Diocese. UCU has engaged in this offer as an act of faith as the University has no endowment to cover these ministry scholarships. Their hope is that they can find sponsors who have a heart to support the spread of the gospel. A number of parishes and individuals in the Diocese of Sydney have agreed to support one student for three years through the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund.

Alfred Olwa has just interviewed one hundred applicants for places to train for ordained ministry.

We look forward to Alfred's return to Moore. He is eager to visit churches and meet with local Christians throughout the Diocese.



# Trinity Theological College, Perth, Australia

**'In ten short years, God has blessed Trinity College'**

Toni Ollis

**Trinity was formed in 1998 when the Perth Centre for Applied Christian Studies and Westminster Theological College (Perth) merged following two years of prayer, planning, and working together. It is an evangelical, reformed, and non-denominational ministry training centre in Perth, WA. The mission is to prepare men and women for effective Christian service for the glory of God. Trinity seeks to be Bible-based and Christ-centred in a way that affects the head, heart, and hands.**

The Principal and some of the teaching staff represent classes of Moore College (and Deaconess House) from the early 1960s onward: Allan Chapple, Martin Foord, Tony and Judith Nichols, and Donald West. The College's theological

convictions have enabled fruitful work to take place alongside evangelicals of other denominations here in WA.

In May 2004, the college moved to Trinity House, our purpose-designed premises in Leederville, right in the middle of an inner-city office/café strip. In addition to an increasingly well-resourced library, Trinity House has the potential to cater for 200 full-time students.

Currently about 80 full and part-time students are engaged at Trinity, preparing for a variety of ministry options. There are another 300 enrolments each year in Trinity@Night, a certificate level course held throughout the Perth metro area, which is principally taught by Trinity graduates. This ministry not only gives easy access to training in Bible and

ministry for a broad group of Christians but has also become an important stepping stone to full-time study.

Trinity's graduates are found mainly in WA, but a growing number are heading overseas for short and long term assignments. The College is the recognised local training centre of the North West Australia Anglican Diocese as well as the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In 10 short years God has richly blessed Trinity Theological College. Pray that Trinity will continue to remain faithful to our Lord and Saviour and be given further opportunities to serve his great purpose and name, not only in Western Australia, but in the whole region.



# Chile - The Centre for Pastoral Studies

Cesar Guzman

**The connection between Chile and Sydney goes back to the first missionaries who arrived in Chile several decades ago. But the link with Moore College started through the External Studies program that became the source of theological studies for many people in Chile, including some clergy.**

Since 2003 we have the blessing of our own theological college (Centre for Pastoral Studies) which currently trains the leaders and clergy of the Diocese of Chile ( and currently for Bolivia and Paraguay). How has Moore College been part of this? It is hard to imagine how our Diocese could have taken such steps without the support of Moore College and key parishes and individuals in Sydney.

Moore College gave us key theological training, not only of outstanding academic quality but also of clear ministry orientation, of the full time faculty of six, four have been trained at Moore. It also gave us a model of synergy between the college and the Diocese, helping us each to understand the needs of the other. It gave us great vision through the visit of the former principal Peter F Jensen, who encouraged us to think bigger and believe a College was possible. And last but not least, Moore College accepted two Chilean students and gave them an experience of rich academic life, vibrant spiritual life, committed pastoral care and a mission mind, things we have sought to replicate in our context.

# Ministers have their say...

## Gunnedah Anglican Church **Scott Dunlop, Senior Minister**

**City and country united for a fantastic week of mission in Gunnedah.** The Moore College team was welcomed with good old-fashioned country hospitality and culture, and the church was encouraged by the enthusiasm and giftedness of the team. A large range of events and activities were organized over the week among youth, seniors, men, women and indigenous communities, as well as events in outer areas of Gunnedah district. It was terrific to see the fruitful partnership that happened over the week, the church family serving in great teamwork in various ways and the Moore College students operating with love, unity, and a passion for Jesus. A lot of prayer preceded the week and many answers

were seen as God was at work in many different ways as his Son was proclaimed. Gunnedah Protestant Churches have been working towards seeing 10% of our community won for Christ and the Moore College team certainly gave an encouraging boost towards fulfilling that vision. Please pray for effective follow-up, so that God would carry to completion the work he has begun here, particularly among the 10 who made a commitment to Jesus in mission week and all those doing Christianity Explained courses.

'...many answers to prayer were seen as God was at work...'

## Mittagong Anglican Church

**Richard Mills, Senior Minister**

'We believe mission has a significant impact upon the local community...'

We believe the mission at Mittagong has had a significant impact upon the local community and the church. We had many people who responded to the invitation to find out more about Jesus. There are more than 30 who have indicated their desire to be part of the Alpha course and a number of others who indicated other responses. We are endeavouring to follow up all these people and are excited by the interest in Jesus that the mission created. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to follow up all the responses in an appropriate way.

A number of the people who responded were on the fringes of our congregations, such as family members of people who attend church or a church-run activity. Also some who attend our church have been challenged to make sure of where they stand in relation to Jesus. We also have a number of responses from people who have had no contact with the church.

The profile of our church has been significantly lifted through all the More to Life activities in the week. We expect the lift in our profile to create many opportunities in the future for the spread of the gospel.

A number of people in the church have told me how encouraged they were by their interaction with the team. People have said they were encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

## REDFERN ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Paul Dew, Senior Minister**

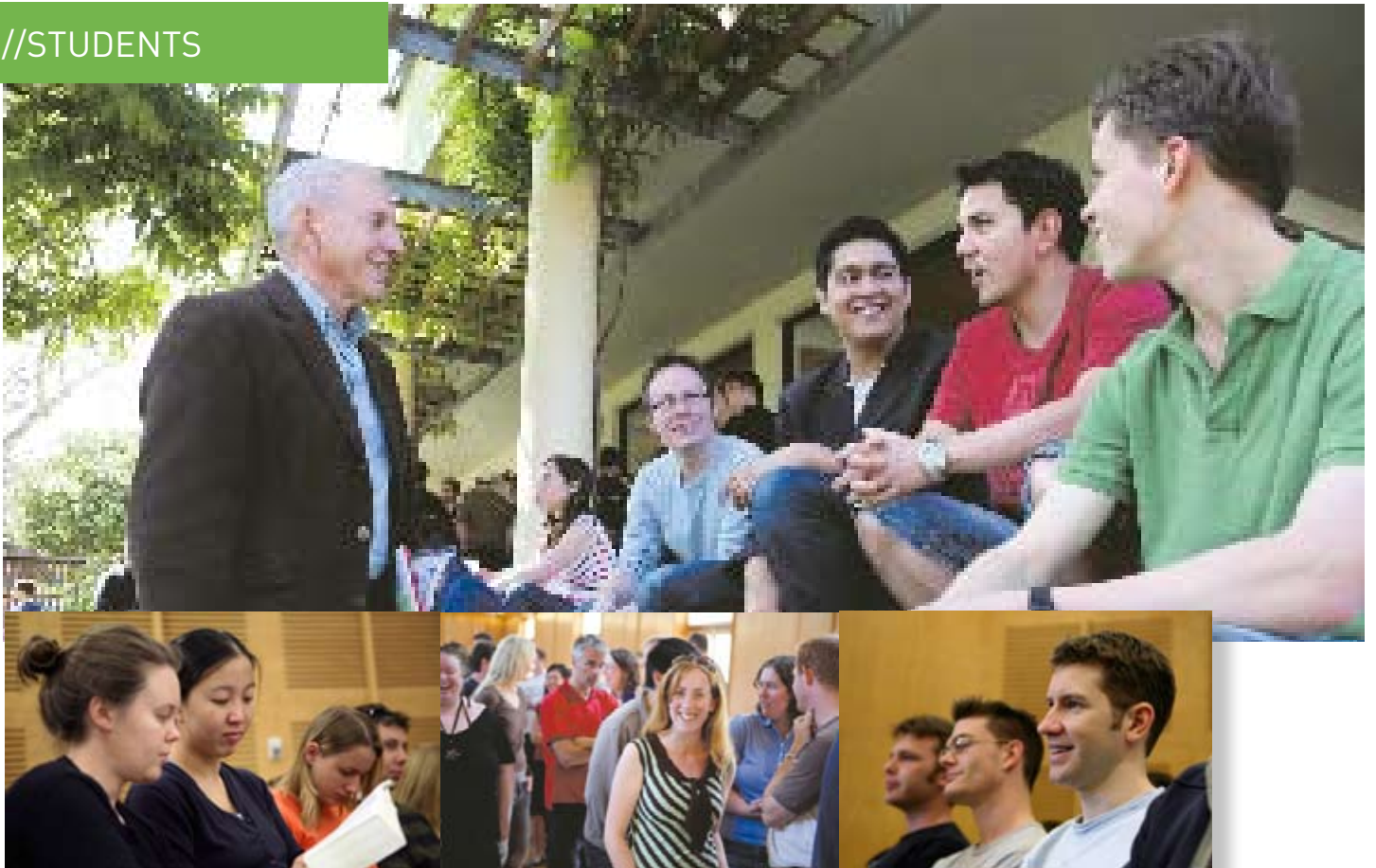
One of the Moore College Mission teams served just over the railway line at Redfern.

Some students were a little fearful as they undertook this task, but it turned out to be a delight for everyone involved. The team experienced ministry at 'the block' and spent time with local residents. They came away surprised and excited at how open and willing many were to listen and they are keen to help out again.

Archie Poulos, the faculty member with the team said, 'our mission was such a blessing for three reasons: the team worked hard and well together, the rector was an inspiration with his fearless love of Jesus, and the gospel message we have to share is so good.'

Asked for Redfern's response to the mission, the minister, Paul Dew quoted, 'Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.' He continued, 'What a wonderful verse full of the promises of God in Jesus. In the mission to the South Sydney parish we experienced a foretaste of the heavenly blessings through the great team of students from Moore. Their love for the Lord and the working together in partnership were a testimony to the college lecturing staff teaching true doctrine resulting in godly living. Pray for Jodie touched by the mission, who has come to church every Sunday since mission, that the Lord will open her eyes to these heavenly blessings.'

'...the gospel message we have to share is so good.'



# Students at Moore



## Peter Bramhall

I was born and raised in Galashiels in Scotland, about an hour south of Edinburgh. It is a very beautiful area. I was able to roam across the fields and woods and often got into trouble for being home late, something kids can't really do now. I was also blessed with growing up in a Christian home and so was always involved in Christian activities – Sunday school, SU Camps and Christian Unions. I thought that being part of these things made me a Christian but this myth was exploded one night as Kristy (my wife) and I had a meal with an older Christian couple. Over a meal they asked us why we were Christians and I gave a feeble answer, then he told me 'It's because of God's grace.' Then I understood.

When we decided to come to Moore College to study we started the application process, which was an interview and an application form, and when we were offered a place the real preparations started. We needed to raise funds for our first year, that was rather daunting, but God provided wonderfully for us. We also sought to get visas, sell a house in the UK, organize housing in Australia and prepare our children for the move. As a family we have enjoyed being at college. Coming from a town where there were only very few children to Moore where there is an abundance of children has been great. We have also had another 'Australian' child since we have been here, with Joel being born last November!

So, what's our plan after college? The future is still unknown, but we made the decision before we came to Sydney that we would train here in order to return to work in the UK. The area of the UK where we lived is in much need of evangelical Bible teachers and it is that which prompted us to come to college in the first place. We hope to return to the North West of England with the hopes that I could take up a position as an assistant minister of a church.



## Kym Fuhrmann

Former Opposition leader Kim Beazley helped me make my decision to come to college two years ago. I was working as a journalist at the ABC and was sent to a press conference with Mr Beazley on the NSW central coast. I got lost. I got stressed. I missed the conference. A few weeks later Mr Beazley was not Opposition leader any more. No one remembered my mistake. I realised news is important, but the gospel is more important. News is fleeting; the gospel gives eternal life. So here I am. A parochial West Aussie who moved to Sydney four years ago, to do a ministry apprenticeship with Christians in the Media. I've made it to second year at College and I'm (to steal Macca's slogan) 'loving it'. I've moved to Christchurch, St Ives, to serve this year and I am enjoying that too. I hope to go back to Perth when I finish college and do women's work in a church or with AFES.



'God transformed me.'

## Amir Mesrinejad

I was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1964 where I grew up in a very privileged environment. I was sent to the USA for high school and continued on to Columbia University to study for a Bachelor of Commerce – Marketing Management. This was cut short by the war between Iran and Iraq and I returned to Iran for two years military service. The country I left was changed.

After military service I enrolled at Tehran Azad University and finished my degree in 1985. I established a trading business which took me to live and work in many countries.

I grew up a Muslim and followed the practices of Islam (Shari-a law) from the age of six but as I matured I started to question. It did not make sense to me to pray five times a day in Arabic as I only spoke Farsi but we had to pray and study the Koran in Arabic. The questions grew, and no one could answer them. So I stopped practicing Shari-a law and kept my views to myself.

In 1989 the government confiscated everything I owned because they linked my wealth to my father's (he had everything confiscated in 1980). In 1991 I opened a new business but in 1993 I was targeted again. I was arrested, tortured for three days, and then taken to the Revolutionary Court. After 28 days of interrogations I was sent to prison. I was released after a month and banned from leaving the country, banned from working for any government agency (all companies needed licenses from the government and therefore I was banned from working) and continued to be targeted by the security forces. I realized that my future in Iran had finished. I decided to escape.

I was smuggled out with a false passport to Turkey and then taken to Indonesia. Here a group of smugglers took my belongings and I was left stranded. I lived in Indonesia under the radar for five years. In 2001 I managed a 27 day trip through the jungles of Irian Jaya (West Papua) and PNG and ended up on Baigou Island in Australian waters.

We were found and I was brought to Sydney and held for the next five years at Villawood Immigration Centre. My claims for a protection visa were continuously refused.

In Villawood I met a group of Iranians who attended a Bible Study group led by Stewart Binns of St Paul's Anglican Church in Carlingford. They asked me to come and help translate as I spoke good English, so I did. Stewart brought me a Farsi Bible and the Word of Life correspondence course. I had nothing to do so I started reading the Bible. The Old Testament was history to me but reading the New Testament, especially Romans 5:8, 'God loved the world so much that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us!' ... That was a turning point for my life.

**God transformed me. I announced my conversion; I helped others; I continued to read the Bible; I finished the Word of Life Course and I wanted to know more! I enrolled in the Moore College External Studies PTC course and completed 10 units. Then against all odds I was given permanent residency and released!**

I started MTS at St Paul's in November 2005 and completed it in December 2007. I have become passionate about sharing the gospel with my Muslim brothers and sisters. I became involved in ministry assisting new arrivals (migrants and refugees) with Stewart Binns and others at St Paul's and in 2006 Safe Haven Ministry was established.

As a result of Safe Haven Ministry an Iranian church of 30 people has been established at St Paul's, all from Muslim backgrounds. We hope, under God, to expand the ministry to other churches in Sydney and across Australia.

I came to Moore College this year to do the Bible and Missions course to gain an in-depth knowledge of God, theology, and the Bible so as to be better equipped to help those who want to know more about these things. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom in running the ministry and pray too for its growth.



Amir, his wife Hui Rong and baby Isabel



# Visit to Latin America

An account of the visit to Latin America in late March and early April by the Director of External Studies, Gary Nelson.



## Cuba

**In 2007 the Certificate in Theology course was begun in Cuba, in Spanish, by intensive mode. Gary visited Cuba to see**

**its development. He had meetings with people from churches in Havana and with the Rectors of two seminaries. He shared information on Moore College, its Reformed theological basis and its emphasis on biblical theology. It is interesting to note that Latin America has not really experienced a 'Reformation', so many of the truths taken for granted in our church life are not the norm in Latin America.**

The first meeting took place in Raymundo's church. Those studying the course were keen to speak about how thankful they were for it and thankful that Gary had come such a long way to see them. They were thankful that they were able to speak about Christ to non-Christians with an understanding they had not had before.

Raymundo commented that 'the course has been very useful for the spiritual growth of the Cuban churches. The course has been instrumental in Bible Studies showing how to live God's way. My prayer is that Moore College will continue to provide the course.'

Gary was asked to meet with the course tutors and hear their many questions. The tutors were mainly pastors responsible for teaching the course to over 200 people, and they felt that they could not teach the material until they had been through it

themselves. Currently there are 1500 people waiting on the tutors to complete the course so that they themselves can begin! This emphasis on learning in order to teach others is very encouraging.

Short supply of resource material is an ongoing problem, e.g. there are only two New Bible Dictionaries, in Spanish available for use by some 30 tutors. Help is needed to ensure the provision of the necessary resources.

Two people from a Baptist seminary visited Gary to discuss the course. They decided that anyone who has completed six PTC subjects would receive credits for the Bible segment of the seminary courses.

The following day Gary visited a church outside Havana where he spoke for 50 minutes to a congregation of 70 people, giving his testimony and sharing what God had taught him. The content he shared centred on biblical theology and reformation truths. He also testified to the meaning and significance of the events of Palm Sunday and challenged people to consider whether they had welcomed Jesus into their lives as Lord. Overall, there is a great thirst in Cuba for God's word and a hunger to know how to shape one's life by the word of God.



Raymundo

Course tutors



## MEXICO

Gary attended a graduation ceremony in Monterrey (northern Mexico) for the first Mexican ThC graduate, Carlos González, who

completed the required 18 subjects over a three-year period. Peter and Sarah Sholl will be going to work in Monterrey as CMS missionaries. They will promote the External Studies course

throughout Latin America. Currently, there are more people studying the Bible through the Certificate in Theology course than than attend any Bible College in Mexico. The IFES movement will now be actively encouraging their staff workers to enrol in the course and in turn to use the course to train students throughout Central and Southern America.



Carlos Gonzalez receiving his certificate



## USA

Last year the course was used to train Spanish speaking trainee pastors

and lay workers in anticipation of the growth in the Spanish speaking population of the Fort Worth diocese. It is anticipated that within five years, 40% of the population of Fort Worth will be Spanish speaking. Even now, the biggest churches in the Fort Worth Diocese are the Spanish speaking churches. Revd DeWayne Adams coordinates the program and is very excited about the future as more people have the opportunity to study the course. These Spanish students spoke of the joy from the Old Testament and their thankfulness for being able to study the course. Antonio (an older man) wished that the course had been available when he was younger and commented on how he has been profoundly changed by studying the course.



## Chile

In the Anglican Church of Chile the course plays a vital role in the training of people in the local churches. Pato Oyarzún

(MTC graduate) co-ordinates the program (called Nivel 2), ably assisted by the two missionaries Daniel Kirk and Francis Cook. Please pray for those who teach the course at the local church, that they will be wise and have sufficient resources to teach well.



Pato Oyarzún and his wife Dagmar; The church plant in San Pedro.

## Bolivia

Anglicanism in Bolivia is only about 25 to 30 years old and liturgically it is very formal. Since Frank Lyons has been Bishop, the Anglican Churches in Bolivia have doubled in number. He wants the External Studies course to be established in every one of these churches. The Rector, in Cochabamba, is very keen to start the course, for he recognises the contribution it could provide for the development of leadership in the churches and the impact it would have on ministry in Cochabamba.

**'Please pray for those who teach the course at the local church...'**

## In Summary

Gary returned to Australia most thankful to God for the outstanding resources we have in Sydney, and asks that we pray for ways to get resources out to the rest of the world. He is reflecting on how to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world – e.g. \$600 would provide over 30 New Bible Dictionaries in Spanish for the tutors in Cuba, \$20 would provide three or four Christian books or commentaries – please contact Gary on 95779912 if you would like to help.

If the External Studies program continues to grow under God throughout the world, there is enormous potential to reach and train hundreds of thousands of people within the decade.

This article has looked only at what the External Studies PTC course is doing in Latin America. Just consider what God is doing with this course if one looks across the world. In the last Moore Matters we received a report from Africa where this work continues to grow. India, Asia and Europe are also expanding rapidly. Many people in the world want to do these courses.

What is needed? Infrastructure – administration, translators, IT workers. The course has now over 5000 students, with 1500 waiting in Cuba and thousands worldwide ready to take part in it. Ideally External Studies needs several million dollars to set it up for the incredible expansion that is waiting. Could you please pray about this situation and donate where possible.

## Philip Kern

**Philip has lectured in New Testament at Moore College since July 1998.**



Born to missionary parents, Philip spent his first years in Britain, France, Germany and Austria. Just prior to his beginning school the family moved to the Midwest of the US. He met Amy at a Christian camp when she was 16 and he was 17. 'She was from Chicago and I lived in Milwaukee, so we put plenty of miles on my mother's car, as well as talked on the phone a lot. It was during a time when we both wanted to grow as Christians, so growing toward one another probably had a lot to do with growing in our faith.' They were married in June of 1984, and spent the next five years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where Philip completed an M Div and an MA in New Testament.

In 1990 the two went to Sheffield, England, to do a PhD in Biblical Studies. Philip's research was in Galatians, a book

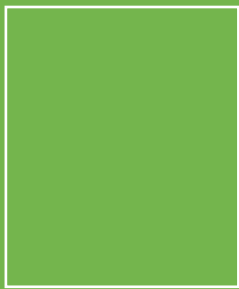
which, he insists, 'remains central to ongoing debates over big questions like justification by faith as well as smaller ones which are probably only of interest to specialists'. When he has time he likes to 'nibble away at the edges', and tries to keep up with the ever-growing body of literature.

His first personal contacts with Moore began when they moved to Cambridge for a year. He met past and present faculty members who made a strong impression from the outset.

Philip and Amy have four children. Alexandra was born in Sheffield during their first year in the U.K. She is 17 and doing her HSC at St Andrews Cathedral School. Philip Stephen arrived two years later, after the move to Cambridge. He is 14 and doing year 9 at Trinity Grammar. After Philip joined the faculty at Moore, two more sons were born, Eliot, who just turned 7 and is in year 2 at North Newtown, and James, who will be 5 in December.

## New Books from Moore Faculty

### The Consolations of Theology – Brian Rosner



Many people would agree that theology does not enjoy a reputation for keen relevance to everyday life. When it comes to the knowledge of God, the famous stereotype is of monks debating how many angels can dance on the head of a pin! However, the great theologians in the history of the church have always found that theology affords genuine comfort in

the face of life's difficulties. The majority did not live cosseted in ivory towers. To mention just three, Augustine was at one time, to use modern terminology, a sex addict. Luther suffered from serious bouts of depression, and Bonhoeffer's life was marked by wretched tragedy. In such cases, heavenly thinking proved to be of profound earthly good.

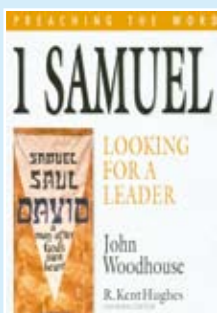
In 2006, Moore College hosted a conference on 'The Consolations of Theology'. The speakers asked what relief theology can offer to the perennial problems of life by looking not only to a major thinker's ideas but also to their own experience of hardship. They considered Lactantius on anger, Augustine on obsession, Luther on despair, Kierkegaard on anxiety, Bonhoeffer

on disappointment and C. S. Lewis on pain. The result was a compelling blend of intriguing biography and profound theology addressing the range of human suffering. Those who attended came away convinced that theology does indeed afford considerable comfort.

Brian Rosner has edited a book arising out of the conference which is being published by Eerdmans in May, *The Consolations of Theology*. See the enclosed advertisement and the special introductory price. The book is being launched in the Broughton Knox Centre at college on 29th May at 2pm. In place of champagne broken over the bow, the launch will involve light refreshments and Bishop Robert Forsyth introducing the book. You are warmly invited to attend! (Please RSVP to Vicki at the Development Office on 95779798.)

The consolations of theology are in the end the consolations of the gospel and of God. The apostle Paul expressed it well: like his, the book's ultimate aim is to introduce readers to 'the God of all comfort, who has comforted us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God' (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

### I Samuel Commentary - Preaching the Word Series



What kind of leaders should we follow? What kind of leaders should we be? And what does God have to do with it? These are some of the questions inherent in 1 Samuel, with its portrait of divine response to ancient Israel's leadership crisis. That crisis was met through three men- Samuel, Saul, and David - in ways that forever changed the character of Israel's leadership and clarified what God requires of his people and their leaders. As John Woodhouse demonstrates, 1 Samuel's biblical context provides serious reflection on our need for leadership and the failure of human leaders. But it also reveals God's answer for Israel, which turns out to be his answer for the whole world and for each of us individually. This perceptive commentary not only illumines Old Testament history but brilliantly points to the New Testament promise that was fulfilled in Jesus, our sovereign leader and Saviour.

1 Samuel is part of a Bible commentary series entitled Preaching the Word. The series is noted for its unqualified commitment to biblical authority, clear exposition of Scripture, readability, and practical application. Pastor R. Kent Hughes is the general editor for the series, which will eventually encompass every book of the Bible. It is an ideal resource for pastors and teachers, as well as for personal Bible study. Price = 42.95 AUD from [www.moorebooks.com.au](http://www.moorebooks.com.au)



## David Painter

**David is teaching at Phnom Penh Bible School. The School trains about 80 young men and women, with the aim of placing them in leadership positions within the Cambodian Church.** Half the faculty is Khmer, and half foreign missionaries (including three Australians). In 2009 a bachelor program will be offered for the first time, reflecting the expectations of the church and people in a rapidly developing country where education is highly valued. One challenge that remains is to provide a curriculum that will prepare the graduates with a good understanding of the Bible, and the ability to have consistent Christ-centred preaching. The program is taught in the Khmer language, and one of the biggest obstacles remains providing sufficient lessons and other teaching materials in Khmer.

## STEVE YOUNG

**My ministry is in Moorebank, a place I had barely heard of until 2004! Churches here tend to be small, parishes large and demographics mixed.** I am thankful to God for bringing the family to this church. Each year the Lord has had a lesson for me, whether it be managing myself, pastoring people, starting new ministries, closing struggling ones or leading in different contexts. Keeping things going takes a lot of energy; moving things forward takes even more. There are good people here who want to see God's kingdom advance and who give themselves to the work, but there are too few workers for the opportunities. Under God we have seen good growth in our churches and people saved. If we preach and pray well, I'm sure we'll see God do greater things still.

## Scott Dunlop

**Moore College Mission is of great benefit to a Church like Christ Church Gladesville for a couple of reasons.**

The chief one is that it provides both people and expertise to partner with us in our own evangelistic endeavours. To be honest I don't think there would be much point to having the students come for the week unless they come to work with our Church, partnering them in the evangelism that we are already doing. When they do come to partner they are a tremendous encouragement to us. They bring energy and enthusiasm, and they think theologically about evangelism. They can train and encourage those who are already active in their community and in their own personal network. And, of course, they are simply able to do a lot of work when they all come keen and eager to serve (which the Thompson chaplaincy group this year certainly was). Having said all that, MTC mission also provides a focus, a time of the year when we concentrate our energies and together as a body given different gifts work and be encouraged by God as he calls people to himself.

## What's 'Tilth?'

When I was a lad growing up on the Breeza Plains, northwest, NSW, the old farmers talked about soil 'tilth'. Tilth was something they couldn't explain in words but what the better farmers seemed to know instinctively just by kicking a cultivation paddock with their riding boots. It meant that careful preparation at the right time had paid off. Thirty years of experience or more had ensured the paddock was ready to sow for a bumper crop. The ultimate crime of the Deist God most of them believed in was to be on holidays in June at the prime wheat sowing time.

In the Northwest corridor of the Hills district there is tilth. It is a multiculture of people who are not interested in the Gospel but they are uneasy. There are mortgages, aspirations and the self absorption that comes with attaining a comfortable lifestyle as a life goal.

Kellyville Anglican was small church that prayed when it saw what was happening in this burgeoning area. Almost five years after opening a superb ministry complex there are 220 adults on a Sunday and 70 children in the Sunday school. People are bringing their neighbours who come with their questions. People are becoming Christians.

Is it sowing time or harvest time? It is both. For with wisdom a farm is built and the times and practices are understood. An old farmer knows many things when he kicks the soil and makes notes in his pocket book.

We've made notes. There is a paddock ready to sow here from which the future crop of leaders who will evangelize the ever expanding region of Western Sydney may well come. In our evening congregation we have a well taught core group of 25 superb young people who are bringing their friends to Christ. Will somebody between the age of 25 and 60 (preferably with theological education) please come and kick the soil with them?

**Ross Hathway**  
Rector Kellyville Anglican

# Surrey Hills – what a mission!

## JAMES COATES

During mission at Surrey Hills, a lady came in for the tour of the historic church. She was fascinated by the plaques and memorials erected in honour of the deceased and commented that she thought that we were losing a lot of our heritage. She went on to speak about Cicero and later Thomas Jefferson, both a little beyond my conversational powers! But, as we chatted we came to the creeds where I felt more comfortable and I shared how religious truth is important as it pertains to our salvation. I invited her to church but she was adamant that she could not come because she was gay and she was not accepted at church. I explained she was very welcome but she just insisted that she wasn't! This incident illustrated for me the difficulty of reaching the gay community who are a significant demographic of the parish. **I felt that the conversation might have been better but she went away hearing the truth that salvation is found in Jesus and that gays are very welcome in church.**

## JOHN BARTIK

The first event on mission was visiting St Michael's 'Bread of Life' ministry. Here a free breakfast was provided to local 'companions' or street people. Some of the Christian 'companions' took mission members on a tour showing what they do on a Sunday morning. Michael, another student and I were escorted around by a great guy, John Paul. I asked John Paul about his background as I wondered how someone's life could reach rock bottom.

He started chatting with me, talking about his volunteer work at the Op-shop in his church; then his bi-polar disorder; his state of homelessness and the lack of services for homeless women. He went on to say how much he loved the Christian radio station FM103.2. On the tour he took us through Matthew Talbot Hostel which was very different from anything I had ever experienced.

We eventually arrived at Sunday morning breakfast provided by John Paul's church, Hope Street Baptist, where he made both Michael and myself a cup of coffee. This was an experience in itself. Here I was a middle-class Bible college student who wanted to serve people and yet I was being served by the very kind of person I thought I should be serving!

Later, John Paul took my finger in his hand and put it up to his cheek. 'Can you feel the hole in my cheekbone?'. Sure enough, I could. 'That's where my dad shot me. He shot my mother. He shot me and he shot himself. You can see where the bullet came out?' I looked at the messy scar on his neck. 'People tell me their problems and I say, 'You think you've got troubles? Let me tell you something'...'. In that moment, I realised John Paul had answered my question.

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**Please return to:** Sue Bennett, Director of Development, Moore College, 1 King Street, Newtown, NSW, 2042.

Phone: 9577 9797 or email sue.bennett@moore.edu.au

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