“... man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
— 1 Samuel 16:7

Habits of the Heart
From the Executive Principal

God’s Holy People
A Crisis of Character

Calling and Obedience
From the Principal of Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies

Striving Towards Excellence
New Master of Theology (Chinese)

Live in Tents – Build Only Altars by David Price
Book Review

Calling All Coconuts
Alumni News
Recently, for the second year in a row, Tom and Sue Kimber and I spent a week at the Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies campus in Launceston, where we taught a residential intensive subject entitled “Patterns of Spiritual Formation.” It is now one of the required courses for students undertaking study at MST.

And as was the case last year, it was a richly blessed and quite profound week. As we shared together on the last day, virtually every one of the 23 students who made the trip to Tasmania reflected on the unique, indeed profound ways in which God revealed Himself in fresh and transforming ways during our time together. No doubt a key element in the unique nature of this particular week is the setting itself; being physically away from home or the workplace, in a place of dedicated spiritual retreat, living together in community, sharing meals, playing games, interacting socially, talking late into the night around an open fire, praying for one another, and of course participating in a quite intense, learning environment, searching the Scriptures and reflecting on the ways in which the Spirit of God, through the Word and people of God, shapes the lives of His people.

For many of those who studied at MBI, or BCV in years gone by, such experiences of ‘community living and learning’ were actually normal. Sadly, perhaps, it is now actually quite a rare and precious opportunity, offering classes in a brief but nonetheless very meaningful ‘community life’ context. But the impact is significant. And we are so grateful to God for our partnership with Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ (WEC), and Worldview, enabling MST students to now benefit again from the availability of a live-in community learning environment.

One of the Core Values of MST describes our passionate commitment to the topic of “spiritual formation.”

Our prayer and hope is that every student ... will be profoundly impacted in heart and soul; that they will experience not only spiritual growth, but spiritual renewal, and develop habits of the heart that will see them continue to grow more and more like Jesus throughout their lives.

Why do we view this as such an important part of our curriculum? Because in an era in which there is almost relentless pressure on people, including followers of Christ, to focus on performance, and external, outward appearances, the Scriptures remind us that “while men look at outward appearances, the Lord looks at the heart.”

In other words, God is about the transformation of His people. Not simply in mind, but in heart.

May this issue of our Ambassador, focusing as it does on issues of the heart, be used of God to bring encouragement to your own lives.

In Christ,

Rev Tim Meyers
Executive Principal
Calling and Obedience

By Daniel Misdom
Principal of Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies

Are you waiting for God’s call, or is God waiting for your obedience? This is an interesting question particularly as we consider how language about one’s “calling” has attracted a certain nuance regarding our expectations in our relationship with God. We speak of being called into ministry or being called as a missionary as if it were a vocation limited to a select few. While this is not intentional, we create a scenario where we must know what God has planned for our lives. We may even live out this scenario by planting ourselves and not moving forward unless we have a clear call from God.

The way we use the word “calling” today does not give a complete picture of what it means to be called by God. Calling in Scripture has more to do with our status, that is, our identity in God rather than a decision-making process. We can’t deny that biblically and historically God calls people for tasks, however the sequence in which this takes place is important. God calls people to firstly be something. The doing follows.

Our issue is that we live out this sequence in reverse: we spend more time focusing on what God will have us do than understanding the implications of what type of people He has called us to be.

Examples in Scripture (Rom 1:1, 6; 1 Cor 1:2, 9; Gal 1:6; Col 3:15; 1 Thes 4:7; 1 Tim 4:7; 6:12; 1 Pet 2:9; 2:21) address our limitations on how we use this word “calling”. The picture we see here is broader, yet fundamental to our identity. As opposed to our emphasis on receiving direction for what to do next, we read that our calling is our status in Christ. The former amplifies an individualistic approach to ministry and mission, the latter reminds us that our identity is locked in the context of community. The reason I am called to fulfill a kingdom task in God’s eyes is the result of my status in Christ’s community.

This brings us back to the earlier question regarding God’s call and our obedience. Rather than waiting for an experience where God calls you for something, consider the implications of obeying what God has already called you to be. A good place to start is to address the needs that are in front of you. May we continually seek to obey Him who has already called us because of Christ.
By Dr Thomas Kimber,
Dean of Faculty, Senior Lecturer: Missional & Pastoral Theology

We have been focusing this year on two themes during our chapel gatherings, both of which have continued to lodge in my mind for further reflection. We have considered the fruit of the Spirit and the way God does His work of personal transformation during our teaching chapels. We have learned that each of the fruit describes the character of a person who is filled with the Spirit, walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Then, for our mission chapels, we have been thinking about what it means to be God’s missional people. We understand that mission is not our idea, but God’s. God is doing something in our world today and, remarkably, He works that plan out in us and through us. Our mission, rightly understood, is to join God in His work of redeeming all things.

Reflecting on these themes, I am drawn again to a passage of Scripture that brings these two ideas together in a very particular way, 1 Peter 2:1-12. A confronting thought stands out in those few verses: we are being built up to be a holy priesthood (v. 5), and we are called to be “a holy nation” (v.9). Mission begins in the holiness of God’s people, who give first priority to the nurturing of their own souls and who never lose sight of their true identity as redeemed men and women who are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus. If we lose that, we lose everything. If we ignore that, we have no message.

Sadly, I have seen over the years many men and women who have spent their lives devising strategies and attempting to come up with the latest techniques and innovations in bringing the Gospel to the nations. And I have seen it all lost in a moment when the true condition of their character was exposed for all the world to see.

Peter reminds these people of their true identity as God’s children: You are a holy priesthood.

Holy—it seems like such an archaic word, and that’s too bad. At its core, this term holy has the idea of being set apart, of being distinctive and different. This is the term that is used in some of the most powerful passages describing God’s character and nature. Think, for example, of Isaiah 6 and that tremendous vision of heaven, where the seraphim circle the throne calling to one another, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.” He is the thrice-holy God, and Isaiah tells us that no other god or idol is equal to Him in any way.

And we are called to be holy as well. Peter’s words naturally take us back to Old Testament passages like Leviticus 19:2, where God commands the Israelites to be holy because He is holy; in essence, God is saying, “The very term that describes Me shall describe you as you are a holy nation. Holy—the very word that describes our God is the same word used here to describe us.

Students in the J. W. Searle Library

Cheryl, Ros and Cindy … just after chapel service.
well.” And He continues throughout the chapter with the somber refrain, “I am the Lord your God.” He’s saying to His people, “I am holy, I have called you Mine, and you are to be holy as well.” It’s a terribly sobering thought.

When we think about being a missional people, too often we lose sight of this most basic and foundational truth: The first part of being a missional people is paying attention to our own personal holiness. If we are people who preach about the transforming power of the Gospel, to what extent are we allowing that work to be done first in us?

So often our understanding of mission comes from familiar New Testament passages like Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8, where we are exhorted to make disciples and to be witnesses. But here Peter draws on another understanding of God’s mission, and that’s a mission of transformation—a mission of being the unique people of God who will be so different from the world around them that it will get people’s attention and draw them in.

There is a powerful witness when God’s people look more and more like God Himself, giving a glimpse of His character and His nature to the world around them. Or, as Peter says in verse 12, when people “see your good deeds and glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Over the years, one of the things that has grieved me most in my experiences in ministry is in having to deal with leaders who fall. I have walked with too many men through the agonizing experience of putting a life back together, and in virtually every situation, there was a greater emphasis on the work, at the expense of their own soul. The greater challenges in ministry and mission are not so much a lack of strategy and technique, but a crisis of character.

Peter’s words here in verse 11 look much like Paul’s in Galatians 5. Paul says, “Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Peter says, “Abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” The life of holiness is life in the Spirit, and it reminds me that this is the work that God is doing in each of us—conforming us into the image of Jesus. The questions to consider are these: To what degree am I cooperating with God in that work? And to what degree am I resisting him? This is a daily commitment, to be reminded of our true identity as God’s holy people, not calling attention to ourselves, but to God. We are to mirror Him and give people a glimpse of our holy, holy, holy God.

Everything we do as individuals, as a church, as a college, as pastors and missionaries, is not merely a reflection of our own character, it is a reflection of the God we represent.
By Suzanne R,
Interserve Australia

Suzanne is currently working towards her Master of Missional Leadership at MST after previously completing a graduate certificate, researching Tibetan Buddhism in Melbourne. She also teaches English for Bible and Theology at the College. Suzanne is part of Interserve, currently “Australia-based, Asia-focused”, working on a variety of projects meant to further the agency’s work in that part of the world. Whether in Victoria or in Asia—where she spends several months each year—Suzanne enjoys spending time in God’s beautiful creation, often walking with friends. She finds combining that with a good coffee shop is even better.

“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother,” said Jesus (Mark 3:35).

I started Bible College in 1992 with great anticipation. I had grown up reading missionary biographies and longed for the day when my life would be worthy of similarly inspiring stories. As the years have gone on, though, I have become increasingly aware of just how ordinary I am. It’s not about me, but about Jesus.

This is an age-old lesson, which we see exemplified in Mark 3:20-35.

Busyness

Jesus and his 12 disciples were in one of those crazy-busy patches of life, something with which most of us can readily identify, with life spent racing from pillar to post, scrambling to meet deadlines. The setting was a house in Galilee. Crowds had been following him, begging for healing, liberation from demonic forces, teaching and more. In the scene portrayed in this passage, Jesus and His disciples had been so flat-out that they hadn’t even had time to eat (Mark 3:20).

During Jesus’ busiest seasons of life, we read that He worked really hard, day and night, but that He also withdrew from time to time—and that is a good example for all of us.
Rather than going into “control-freak mode” when life gets frantic, I aim to remember one of the most practical pieces of advice I have ever been given. A godly man from Interserve encouraged me to schedule a half-day retreat once a month—and to make it a priority. He not only advised others to do that, but modelled it himself.

This practice helps me stay clear about who I am and whom I serve. Without it, I can spin off into frazzled activity. Being busy at times is unavoidable, but it becomes a significant problem when I begin to think that the world depends on me.

Religious leaders

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day are often given a bad rap, but I feel a bit sorry for them. For centuries, Israel had repeatedly succumbed to idolatry, suffered God’s discipline, then repented and returned to Him. The religious leaders of the day were adamant that this would not happen again ... at least, not on their watch. They both demanded and modelled absolute allegiance to the law.

In the scene recorded in Mark 3:20-35, the religious leaders engaged in an awful conflict with Jesus. It was tragic because they were so very sincere and so very wrong.

That Jesus had power was indisputable. However, Jesus did not fit their expectations, and so they attributed that power to “the prince of demons” (Mark 3:22). Jesus responded, “… whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin” (Mark 3:29).

The religious leaders were caught up in their role - a good and necessary role - but missed seeing what God was doing right there right then. Again, I can see this in my life: How often do I get caught up in the role God has given me just for a season and lose focus of the one I claim to serve?

Doing God’s will

God doesn’t change, but the world about us does. The way He chooses to work changes too. A potential pitfall, even for mature Christians, is that we get caught up in our busy and meaningful lives and lose focus of the one we serve.

May we actually do God’s will at each point of our journey rather than wear ourselves to the bone doing what we think is God’s will or what was His will in a past season. May we remain fiercely focused on Jesus rather than our diaries, positions or roles.

I started Bible College filled with anticipation of what lay ahead. However, I have learnt and continue to learn that it is not ‘my’ work that matters. As I do God’s will, participating in His work, Jesus calls me ‘sister’. That’s what counts.

Jesus’ family

Mary had a mother’s heart. She also had a fabulous track record of recognising what God was doing and responding appropriately. She had raised this special son, providing as best she could for his physical and emotional needs, just as God had expected of her during Jesus’ boyhood years. When Mary and the rest of the family heard how busy and exhausted Jesus was, “... they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of His mind”’ (Mark 3:21). All Mary wanted to do was to take Him home, feed Him up and let Him rest.

And yet, as she waited outside the crowded house, Jesus spoke those words which must have felt like a knife twisting in her aching worried heart. “Who are my mother and my brothers? ... Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:33, 35).

Mary had become so caught up in her role - a good and God-ordained role for the season of Jesus’ boyhood - that she missed seeing what God was doing right there right then. Again, I can see this in my life: How often do I get caught up in the role God has given me just for a season and lose focus of the one I claim to serve?
Some of the Lord’s work is achieved purely by trust alone, and some requires more than faith. But all of God’s work requires all who are involved to open their eyes to see how the Lord does it with grace and flare!

In April this year, word came to us from the Australian College of Theology (ACT) that our application to offer the Master of Theology award in the Chinese language was approved. It reads like this, “Motion: ... that the Board of Directors approve the Major Change Application of the Melbourne School of Theology Chinese Department to offer the Master of Theology degree in Chinese language medium.” And the Lord has seen fit for us to rejoice further by an added remark that “this is another big milestone for ACT in offering awards in Language other than English (LOTE) through MST Chinese”!

MST Chinese had very humble beginnings in a rundown church hall in Burwood in 1996, but the teaching and learning spirits were high. Students who migrated from all over Asia and were highly qualified in their professional field felt the call of God to Christian ministry. But their enthusiasm was dampened somewhat when they heard that the ACT would only approve a one-year Diploma program in the Chinese language. Some in the ACT even questioned the relevance of a program taught in a Language other than English. They maintained that there should be assimilation into the English speaking program, reasoning that the Chinese church in Australia would soon fade away. But the Lord saw it otherwise. After much persuasion, the ACT reluctantly approved a full Diploma in theology course, after closely examining the quality of teaching and learning at the Chinese Department.

But the Chinese Department would not be satisfied with that, seeing that a higher and more advanced theological training was necessary to meet and serve the needs of the rapidly growing Chinese church. So, there followed a progression of approved courses, from a full BMin program to the first full Master of Divinity program in Chinese, within a short space of four years. The ACT took the step to approve the MA in Divinity in Chinese in 2012.

The next step in this theological adventure is to apply for a Master of Theology program in Chinese. This is a postgraduate degree for those who would like to further their studies by undertaking a research project. This would also be the first step towards equipping the next generation of lecturers as it has become less and less viable to employ lecturers from overseas.

Already there are about half a dozen people waiting to enrol and there is also much interest from overseas. So, there was much rejoicing for the Chinese church to see the Chinese Department’s humble beginnings coming to fruition in advancing the work of God in Australia.
By Iris Sui Kwan Chau, 2005 BCV Chinese Graduate

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor 9:15) are exactly my thoughts when looking back at our years in Kenya. Indeed, the grace of God surpasses our knowledge and is beyond our thoughts.

Our involvement in mission in East Africa began thirteen years ago when Rev Philip List of International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC) noticed an increase in the Chinese population and the lack of a pastor for the Chinese Christians in Kenya. He prayerfully and earnestly searched for a Chinese pastor to fulfil this need.

I had just completed my BMin course at BCV (now MST) and was praying for an opening in mission. Responding to that call of God to Africa, my husband Matthew and I were ordained by the missions department of IPHC to become the first Chinese missionary couple. In August 2006, we were commissioned for mission service to Kenya and a month later, we found ourselves in the continent of Africa! We did not consider ourselves as good or powerful to participate in this ministry, it was the love of God that motivated us to respond. Indeed, it is only His grace that has multiplied our efforts in the mission.

God gives each a different role. For us, the role is to carry the transformational power of Christ to the world and we are thankful in being enabled to preach this gospel to our compatriots in Kenya. The message of the love and light of Jesus impacted their lives so much that many accepted Christ as their Saviour.

We have never regretted responding to God thirteen years ago to dedicate our lives to His missional ministry in leading people to the Lord. Even while facing life-threatening danger we strive to find the lost, to share with them in the ups and downs of their lives. To then witness them confessing their sins, repenting and turning to the Lord makes it all worthwhile. We are truly blessed to be in the mission field and pray the Lord Jesus will help us extend our mission field beyond Kenya to other African countries so that more Chinese will turn to the Lord.

Our prayer is that God will touch your heart to support and participate in the work of overseas Chinese missions so that the name of the Lord Jesus is exalted and God is glorified.
By Sean Venten,  
Current student

My own testimony is closely tied to the question of “How does our knowledge of self depend on our knowledge of God?”

At the age of 16, 3 questions that plagued me were “Who am I? What is my purpose? And is there a God?”

Through our Theology class, I was reminded of and given new insight into these questions, and so here is my personal story and reflection.

PART 1

I asked myself some years ago,  
What am I in it all?  
Is there some God of love above,  
Of Eden and the fall?

Perhaps it’s true, I’m here alone,  
An accidental life.  
How do I know who to become,  
Such questions cause me strife.

Observing I live like a beast,  
Am I a hairless ape?  
Am I simply an animal,  
Who managed to escape?

Yet love and sorrow, pain and pride,  
Tell me I am much more.  
A heart that melts from babies cry,  
even help the poor.

What if I was a vehicle,  
As simple as can be.  
You feed me food, I give you work,  
Now that sounds more like me.

Yet once again I draw my thoughts,  
To those who give me nought.  
If value is in our output,  
Then kill those who fall short.

So if I am not a machine,  
the truth I cannot see.  
is it essential to myself,  
that in all things I’m free?

But If I was imprisoned now,  
Would I cease to exist?  
Although I like my liberty,  
My essence it has missed.

Am I then found in my desires,  
Sex wealth power and fame?  
If I had pleasure all the time,  
Would that become my name?

But when I suffer, then I grow,  
I thrive through my own pain.  
I feel like me on sunny days,  
And more so in the rain.

Do I exist in others eyes,  
A construct of my friends?  
Without present relationships,  
Do I come to an end?

Yes I do love to be around,  
People who make me grin.  
Yet all seek solitude at times,  
Even from our own kin.

All of these things hold something true,  
But none can capture it.  
Why do I live on this here earth,  
In ash and dust I sit.

No matter where I find myself,  
Empitness finds me there.  
If life has nothing more for me,  
Why should I even care?

The earth moves fast, and I move slow,  
What power do I hold?  
Am I a pawn in no-one’s plan,  
The thought turns warmth to cold.

I wish that none would think like me,  
And soon realise their flaw.  
Since everything is meaningless,  
you’re worthless to your core.

PART 2

I searched for purpose everywhere,  
And found nothing but death.  
I turned back to the God of all,  
The one who gave me breath.

I opened up the Word of God,  
And started from the start.  
And now I know why Genesis  
is literary art.

I did not find a world of chance,  
With me a roll of dice.  
I found creation in his hands,  
He even made us twice.

The first account I found purpose,  
Image-bearer of God.  
And care-taker of this here world,  
On which I freely trod.

Not only did I find myself,  
In charge of where I stood.  
But even though I know I’m bad,  
I found I once was good.

The second time the book told me,  
That God produced a man.  
I found out what I’m meant to be,  
The life that God had planned.

Yes I was made not here alone,  
But to live with a wife.  
But not so I would forsake God,  
To live with him for life.

Almighty God chose to make me,  
I must be pretty great.  
Yet soon I learnt this wasn’t true,  
One chapter did I wait.

If I knew not the Holy God,  
I could remain a fool.  
Believing I was pretty good,  
Prosperity the fuel.

But when I start not with myself,  
But look first to Yahweh,  
A truly wretched man I am,  
For this by death I pay.

Since man is now destined to die,  
Shall he be thrown aside?  
Designed by God to be his own,  
Yet from his sight to hide?

But there I find, in Jesus Christ,  
The Holy Son of Man.  
Irredeemable redeemed,  
Salvation nailed through hands.
If God himself could become flesh,  
Then we could be restored.  
The purchase price, the Lamb of  
God,  
Blood willingly outpoured.

Now that I know, how high the price,  
That I placed on my head.  
I see God’s love, so great it was,  
Has risen from the dead.

I once was filth, now I am clean,  
The Spirit makes me new.  
But I still live as I once did,  
God's work is still not through.

In him I live, I breathe, I am,  
Apart from him I cease.  
For everything reliant on,  

Without my God, nothing exists,  
For me to compare to.  
I cannot know of anything,  
Nothing is really true.

So who am I, a son of God,  
Adopted for his sake.  
Redeemed restored, my life is his,  
The cross I too partake.

Until I come fully restored,  
I rage against my heart.  
But now I know why I exist,  
My God how great thou art

“Live in Tents – Build Only Altars”

By Stuart Piggin,  
Associate Professor of History, Macquarie University

David Price’s biography of Gilbert McArthur, the ‘orator of dreams’ with ‘a head for strategy’, is an exceptionally valuable addition to missionary history, an authoritative and inspiring read. Authoritative, because it is thoroughly researched, based on excellent sources, candid about difficulties and clearly written. It is inspiring because it has all the excitement of pioneering missionary work in remote parts of New Guinea, and both the subject and the author possess a deep understanding of the spiritual qualities essential to effective Christian leadership. McArthur’s increasingly dramatic journey of service traverses the fruitful years of the Baliem and Telefolmin pioneering work, the development of the Christian Leaders’ Training College in the Western Highlands of New Guinea, and strategizing for the wider Pacific through World Vision, the South Sea Evangelical Mission and the Pacific Leaders’ Forum. The final third of the book, on McArthur’s legacy, features many valuable tributes and assessments from his fellow-workers. This account, like McArthur himself, avoids theorizing and abstractions, and is a very practical guide to how a remarkable work for God was achieved through careful visionary strategising and faithful intercessory prayer.

“Live in Tents - Build Only Altars” are available from:

Pioneers Australia, 03 9877 3826

Available at Amazon Book Depository
The rationale behind a 100 years celebration logo

By Stuart Yates, Digital Communications Specialist

Four years ago God led me to study at MST. Deciding to study at MST was very special to me and my family, as both my parents were former BCV (Bible College of Victoria) students who met each other while living on campus. Little did I know four years ago that I would now be working for MST and Eastern as part of the communications team. It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to design a logo to celebrate 100 years of training God’s saints through MBI, BCV and MST.

This symbol has been created to represent 100 years of God’s faithfulness in equipping His people with His Word. The logos of each college (MBI, BCV, MST) have featured a book motif to emphasise its foundation on the Word of God and dedication to academic excellence. The years 1920 – 2020 are integrated within the pages of the open book to convey a continuing story of which God is the author. That is, the story of how the Lord is using this college to train and equip Christians to advance His Kingdom.

CALL FOR MEMORIES

By Dr Ruth Redpath, MST Centenary Working Group Volunteer

Momentum is building in the preparations for the MBI/BCV/MST Centenary Year 2020.

Down in the archives, Librarian/Archivist Candice and I have been sorting the many photos taken throughout the hundred years and endeavouring to identify the people and events captured. We have also found some documents of great interest. For instance we have found the hand-written sheet of paper on which the Principal, C H Nash, sketched out the programme of lectures for the very first day, September 13th, 1920. There was only going to be one student that day – but we know what time each lecture was to start and what subjects were taught.

We have also been delighted to receive from several families memorabilia dating back as far as the thirties.

- It has been particularly pleasing to get back numbers of the Ambassador and News Chronicle, as we have a number of gaps in our Library Collection. More would be welcome.

- Another treasure is the Fellowship of Intercession booklet from 1948 in which are recorded the names of all the graduates known to be in ministry, with their field of service at home and overseas. This was brought in by the widow of a student from that time and has been well-used. Hand-written are many, many alterations as the people listed move from place to place over the years – obviously prayed for as they did.

- Does anyone remember the “Prayer Hut” in the grounds of “Flete”, Armadale in the late forties? We have been given photos of its building and dedication.

We continue to welcome such contributions.

Please dig out from your treasures anything which you could loan or donate to help tell the story of God’s faithfulness.

Contact: Candice Perini, Librarian
Email: cperini@mst.edu.au
Phone: 03 9881 7823
By Sue Kimber,  
Community Life Coordinator; Lecturer, Practical Field Education

The life of a student is a busy one. Along with attending lectures and completing assignments, many MST and Eastern students have jobs, many have ministry responsibilities in local churches, and some have spouses and children. Even with those ongoing time commitments, though, the 2019 Student Leadership Team carves out time and energy to serve the MST-Eastern community in a variety of ways, all with the goal of strengthening the spiritual and relational lives of students.

Serving in the capacity of co-presidents are third-year Bachelor of Ministry student Mairéad Green and Josiah Hilbig, who is in his second year of working toward his Bachelor of Theology.

Mairéad is a local girl, calling Ferntree Gully her home, and she attends Christ Church in Dingley, where she is involved in youth ministry and was recently commissioned as children’s pastor. Riding her horse, painting and drawing, and reading are Mairéad’s choices for relaxation, and she says that Proverbs 3:5-6 is a scriptural encouragement that is particularly meaningful to her.

Josiah’s passions run toward the arts, and he enjoys writing, acting, and directing stage plays, as well as playing the piano and singing. Josiah is from Upwey, attends Upwey Community Baptist Church, and his hope for the future is to be a full-time minister.

Chris Groszek provides oversight in music and worship. He’s a fourth-year Master of Divinity student who is married to Jess and has three children: Sam, Hannah, and new bubby Daniel born in June. The Groszek family attends NewHope Baptist, usually attending either the Blackburn or Croydon congregation, while Jess also serves as campus pastor for the Surrey Hills branch.

Serving in the area of hospitality is Hannah Stanley, who is currently in her second year of studying for her Bachelor in Primary Education with Eastern College Australia. Hannah enjoys creative writing and devotes some of her leisure time to story writing. She’s also a Dr. Who aficionado. Hannah comes from Clayton, attends St Andrews Presbyterian Church, and hopes to be involved in some aspect of disability justice activism in the future.

Isaac Chen is heading up events this year. Isaac comes from Glen Waverley and is in his first year of the Graduate Diploma in Divinity course. His interests are widely diverse, ranging from record collecting to road tripping to sea shantying (singing songs that were once sung to accompany labor on board large merchant ships). Romans 8:6 is one of Isaac’s favorite verses of Scripture.

Rounding out the team in the area of mission is a Master of Christian Studies student who cannot be named, since his future plans include mission service in a creative access country.

We’re grateful for the strong leadership that the team provides!
From Len Pearce
1969 MBI Graduate

All 1969 Graduates are welcome to a 50 year reunion on Saturday 23rd November.

Graduates will meet at 11.30am at a restaurant close to 117 Kooyong Rd (yet to be advised). Afterwards we will go to 117 (and Flete and Munro St) for a tour, and a time of thanksgiving. The lunch will be for the 1969 “Coconuts” as Dr Miller called us.

Any other graduates of MBI (Kooyong Campus) are welcome to join the tour to start at 2.30pm and finish at 4.00pm.

Please contact Len Pearce if you are attending
Email: lendy@generalmail.com or 0488 902 882
A service of thanksgiving for the life of **Dianne Parker (née Yates)** was held on 7 June at St Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Spring Hill, Brisbane, Queensland. Dianne entered the presence of the Lord on 29 May after suffering a brain tumour. She studied for three years at Melbourne Bible Institute in the early 1970s, achieving regular and advanced diplomas and the Licentiate of Theology.

Dianne’s long life of devoted service to God included church ministry as a deaconess and chaplaincy in hospital and aged care contexts within the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Dianne is survived by her husband, Rev Dr David Parker.

**Dr Velma Leeding**, an MBI student from 1960-1961, went home to be with the Lord on 28th July 2019. Under SIL, Dr Leeding analysed several Aboriginal languages and, in time, had a significant breakthrough in understanding their vowel system. She also authored books on flora and fauna, as well as a genealogy of one of the Aboriginal ethnic groups.

Wishing **Lyn Stephan** (standing) their heartiest congratulations on her 80th birthday are Desley Stewart, Rosemary McClintock, and Dawn Olsen (nee Moorhead). The group, all MBI alumni from Queensland, celebrated with a birthday breakfast in Lyn’s honour.

**Catherine** (2015 graduate) and **Patrick Lok** (2002 graduate), will be starting their new roles with Pioneers Australia training leaders and missionaries. Their prayer is for partners to work alongside with, financial support, and for God to pave their way.

**Chris Groszek** (current student) and his wife Jess, welcome into the world their new son, Daniel Timothy Groszek. Born 5 June.

**Jack Hibbard** (2015 graduate) and wife Rachel celebrated the arrival of their first child, a baby boy named Timothy, on 2 April.

**John Harris** (2000 graduate) is with iTeams working in Europe connecting and mobilising Netherlands workers and teaching English to refugees. His wife, Kathy, is an ESL teacher, teaching business English and also English to refugees. His son, Andre has started work with an international finance organisation and his other son, Dane has just been accepted into a Masters music program with the Rotterdam College of the Arts.

**Johanna Kornaczewski** (2017 graduate) has moved to Germany with Pioneers Australia.

**Phil Foster** (2016 graduate) is currently completing his PhD in Scotland.

**Lisa** (full name withheld, current student), moved to an unreached people group in South Asia with SIM Australia.

**Andrew Pham** married **Sophanny Tea** (both 2018 graduates) on 13 April.

**Steaven Cheung** (2016 graduate) married Xin Yu Chow on 23 June.

**Daisy Hardy** (2017 graduate) married **Julian Barnard** (current student) on 3 August.

The following was unintentionally omitted from a previous issue of Ambassador:

**Merle Elizabeth Malone** (1990 graduate) passed away on the 15 September 2018. She was a dearly loved staff member, who worked faithfully at the College on the Lilydale campus for many years.
Call for Memories

MBI/BCV/MST Centenary Year 2020

Help us celebrate the story of God’s faithfulness!

A programme of events and a centenary book are being planned.

Old photos and other items of interest will be on display.

Please dig out from your treasures anything which you could loan or donate to help tell the story.

Contact: Candice Perini, Librarian
Email: cperini@mst.edu.au
Phone: 03 9881 7823

Busy Life — Consider an Intensive

An intensive subject takes place over a short time frame rather than being taught regularly over a semester.

For enquiries contact Tom Prowse: enrolments@mst.edu.au

Dates for your Diary

Open Day — Second semester
Tuesday, 10 September 2019

Leonard Buck Lecture on Missiology
Guest speaker: Dr Peter Cha, TEDS (USA)
Tuesday, 7.00pm, 17 September 2019

Alumni Afternoon Tea
Saturday, 2pm, 19 October 2019

Graduation (Chinese Department)
Wednesday, 27 November 2019

Graduation & Celebration Service
Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Paradosis Conference 2020
Saturday, 25 July 2020

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