



MORLING
COLLEGE

Summa Supremo

MORLING COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
WINTER EDITION
JUNE 2014

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Congratulations to the
class of 2013

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Mid-Year Sale Morling Press

Equipping the whole believer to take the whole gospel to the whole world.

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Treading Where the Saints Have Trod

2014 Study Tour of Greece and Turkey



Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

— 1 Peter 2:11–12

The most striking thing about being on tour in Greece and Turkey was the sense of being ‘sojourners and pilgrims’ — strangers in a strange land. It began in Greece because we were not in an English-speaking country, but in Turkey the sensation became acute. Each morning we awoke to the ‘call to prayer’ going out from the local mosque, so this 98% Muslim country felt like a strange place for a group of Christians to be.

On the other hand, in a country where we might expect both our religion and our culture to be bordering on offensive to the locals, it was striking to experience the wonderful, famous, Turkish hospitality! In this odd mixture

of experiences we were on one hand confronted, and on the other disarmed.

Surrounded by so much that is foreign, it is little wonder that our group quickly formed a strong bond, forged in our shared faith in Jesus Christ. We rapidly developed rich relationships where we were sharing our stories, praying for one another, and in a beautiful expression of our unity, spontaneously bursting into song! This sense of being ‘sojourners and pilgrims’ provided a palpable link to the experience of the early church communities, which we don’t normally experience in Australia: we clung to one another, and to our identity in Christ, as a matter of cultural survival.

We visited some of the places where Paul spent substantial time, like Corinth and Ephesus, as well as many where Paul ministered. Along the way, each of us got a sense, sooner or later, of forming a connection with Paul, his journeys, his experiences and his ministry. We went to the places that he wrote from and to; we saw the imposing

temples, monuments, theatres, and impressive official buildings. We stood in the very spots where various events took place: where Paul reasoned with the philosophers on Mars Hill (Acts 17), where Gallio presided over the beating of Sosthenes (Acts 18), and where the riot occurred in Ephesus (Acts 19), just for examples.

However, God had prepared an even more important connection with Paul’s apostolic mission for us to experience: before our very eyes, a grown man came to faith in Christ precisely because the group’s authentic witness of faith, love and worship had forced him to concede that ‘surely God is among you’ (1 Cor 14:25). For the details of who, where, why and when, just ask anyone who was on the tour and they will be excited to recount the story for you. Suffice to say that St Peter’s advice (1 Peter 2:11-12), written to those living in the very areas we toured (1 Peter 1:1), was sage indeed, and truly prophetic.

Kevin Bennett

Graduation Celebration

Morling's graduation ceremony is a rite of passage. It is a celebration of all the significant achievements of our graduates in attaining their degrees. Whether they have graduated with a Certificate IV or a Doctor of Theology, our graduates are moving from one phase of their life into another. Graduation is a chance to be nostalgic with past classmates and it is a time to be excited at how God is moving now and into the future.

At The King's School, on Monday evening, April 7th, the Morling College community celebrated the graduation of over 200 students who have completed courses in Bible, Ministry, Theology, Counselling, Education and our gap-year program, Plunge. During the ceremony we also welcomed some 360 new students who have commenced their studies with Morling this year.

Rev. Dr Mark Harding, Dean and Chief Executive Officer of the Australian College of Theology, and Rev. Kel Willis, Chairman of the Morling College Board, presented our graduates with their awards.

Rev. Dr Brian Harris, Principal of Vose Seminary, Perth, was the keynote speaker for the occasion and his message from Mathew 6:19–24, entitled *Eyes to See, Ears to Hear*, encouraged us all to engage in life-long kingdom building.

Morling also encourages life-long learning, and we are very pleased to have had five doctoral recipients this year: Dr Bruce Domrow and Rev. Dr Marc Rader each accepted their Doctor of Ministry, and Rev. Dr Kit Barker, Rev. Dr David Griffin, and Dr Margaret Wesley each received their Doctor of Theology.



Another highlight of the night was recognising the academic achievements of Erik Lennestål who received the Felix Arnott Prize, and Aidan Luke who received the Janet West Prize from the Australian College of Theology (ACT). These prizes are awarded to the student with the highest grade point average achieved across the ACT's Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity courses respectively.

Our men and women graduates have been trained to serve in a variety of different fields including church-based ministries, chaplaincy, cross-cultural work, clinical counselling and the education sector. Morling College is committed to equipping the whole believer to take the whole gospel to the whole world, and our students and graduates are endeavouring to do just that.

Please join with us in congratulating the graduating class of 2013.

Erin Sessions



Meet Marc — our newest Doctor of Ministry



From left to right: Dr David Griffin, Dr Kit Barker, and Dr Marc Rader



Rev. Dr Marc Rader, a part-time lecturer in Bible and Preaching here at Morling, has just graduated with his Doctor of Ministry (DMin). We thought this the perfect time to congratulate him and to ask him all about his DMin project.

Marc, an accomplished and engaging preacher himself, 'was motivated by a desire to do something to equip preachers... to continue to develop their preaching skills'. He knew first-hand the 'difficulty preachers have in obtaining effective feedback' and without this constructive feedback, how can a preacher grow in their gift, better their technique, and develop their skills?

So, firstly, Marc set about trying to discover why helpful feedback was so hard to find and, secondly, what he could do to fix the problem, because 'if there is one area where the church cannot afford arrested development it is in the pulpit'.

Marc set up 'an on-line survey and a series of focus groups with Baptist preachers and their parishioners' and he found that the main obstacle to gathering good feedback was the lack of a process for receiving it. So what did Marc do to address this quandary? He proposed that 'multi-source feedback', similar to that

used in business settings, might 'provide a well thought-out process that could be fruitfully adapted to the local church context'. Problem solved!

A highlight for Marc while studying for his DMin was the opportunity to focus on practical ministry: 'I really felt that the coursework and project contributed to my own ministry.' Marc has been equipping men and women for ministry for many years now and he continues to contribute to the ministries of others through his DMin project. Even though Marc's project was 'focused on feedback in a local church context and not in the classroom, reading and thinking about preaching competencies has been very influential on what takes place in Advanced Preaching these days!'

It is Marc's hope, and ours too, that his project will not only assist our preaching students on their path to becoming better preachers, but also that his project can assist preachers and churches everywhere.

Please join with us in congratulating Marc on achieving his Doctor of Ministry.

Plunge Students:

Growing in Confidence and Faith



Morling's gap-year program, Plunge, is transforming another eager group of 18–23 year olds. After the first term, we asked two students, Veronica Li (Roni) and Timothy Lee (TJ), why they chose Plunge, what they have learned, how Plunge has been shaping them, and how their faith has been developing.

'A lot of my friends have done Plunge and, after returning from a mission-awareness trip in 2013, I started thinking about doing Plunge in 2014,' says Roni. TJ didn't want to be a Christian on Sundays only, he wanted to give his whole life, but he didn't know what that looked like. 'I think this is why I chose to do Plunge, although I don't think I realised it at the time.'

Roni has been reflecting on how Plunge has prompted her to think through tough social and global

issues. She says, 'It's great getting to wrestle with these issues and journey together with eighteen other Plunge students and our coaches'. TJ has also been thinking through social issues, trying to understand the society in which he lives. He reflected, 'Before I knew in my head that not everyone lived like me; now I know what that looks like'. Plunge provides opportunities for students like Roni and TJ to discuss, and to put into action, what they are learning in a safe and encouraging space. For TJ this has looked like little changes such as driving less to reduce greenhouse gas emission, advocating for asylum seekers, and shopping ethically.

One of the really exciting things about Plunge is getting to see how students are shaped through applying their understanding to current ministry roles. Roni notes that she is not only shaped by the content of the leadership sessions but through observing how her coaches teach too. Plunge has given her increased confidence as she leads high school students in her youth group. TJ is looking forward to using his 'deeper understanding of how to read Bible passages within their context and

with the greater narrative of the Bible in mind'. He, like Roni, has been developing confidence and learning useful life-skills.

For TJ and Roni, a big part of developing their faith has been hearing about how God is moving. TJ is on a journey of discovery: 'Every week we get to see how different people are living out what they believe following Jesus means.' He expressed how each week Plunge students are forced to wrestle with the question of how to apply what they have experienced to their lives. Similarly, Roni has loved hearing stories of how God has been working in other people's lives and being reminded of God's faithfulness. She notes that we are also shaped by the challenges we face.

The Plunge students are being transformed as they learn more about God, God's word, God's world and how to reach out to others as they live out their faith.

Erin Sessions



Learning to Lead



Deborah Nash is studying a Master of Education (Leadership) through Morling Education. She is also 'currently teaching Year 5 in a Christian

primary school and loving it!' She is enthusiastic about her students, her studies, and helping and leading other teachers who are just starting out in their careers, and excited about where God might take her in the future. Let's hear from Deborah about why she chose to study with Morling and how this leadership course is going to inform her current occupation and equip her for the future.

Deborah really enjoys the opportunity she has to work with 'beginning teachers in tertiary education' and passing on her 'experience and passion for teaching'. She felt that she would be in a strong position to give guidance to these teachers if she developed her 'knowledge and understanding of leadership issues to become a better leader and support others in their leadership roles'. Deborah chose to undertake her further training at Morling because she wanted to study from a Christian perspective. 'I didn't see the point of getting a qualification at the end of a course of study unless it was Christ-focused.' Working towards completing her Master of Education (Leadership) has enabled Deborah 'to grow both professionally and spiritually' and now she is more

confident in applying a Christian perspective to 'everyday teaching in a Christian school'.

Deborah's studies are having a positive impact on her current work with Year 5: 'My studies are reminding me how important it is to plan programs for my classes that are Christ-centred, giving me a fresh perspective on teaching Christianly.' Her studies are also informing her work with new teachers: 'The leadership units will allow me to understand more fully the challenges that leaders now face so I can support them more effectively.' And as for the future? 'Only God knows my future career — my studies will prepare me to move into whatever God has planned!'

Erin Sessions

Community with the Corcorans



Seamus Corcoran and his family have recently moved on-campus. Seamus tells us why his family decided to live at Morling, why he's studying counselling, how his new ministry role is coming along, and how his studies are impacting his life.

Seamus felt that, for his family, 'community life would be something we could all benefit from'. He wanted to live somewhere where there is 'a strong sense of ministry and community to which we can belong'. Living and studying at Morling provide Seamus with the

opportunity to apply what he is learning to a 'community context and to live and grow for a time in this environment'. Seamus and his wife Sue have settled in well and 'the kids love community life'.

Seamus eased himself into study by first undertaking a subject part-time. He 'found the quality of teaching very good' so this year he is studying the Master of Counselling full-time. Seamus had been 'working for some years in pastoral and educational roles' and it seemed to be a 'natural progression' to 'move into more focussed skills in the area of human life development and spiritual wholeness'.

Seamus is currently working part-time at Mortdale-Oatley Baptist Church as Community Services Pastor. The church developed this position relatively recently and 'it's a very exciting role'. His job

involves ministry on several levels in the community, working to develop new social services, and pastoral work with leaders:

'There are a lot of transferrable skills learned in counselling and therapy in terms of working with leaders, managing staff and conflicts, and opportunities for growth.'

For Seamus, studying the Master of Counselling is invaluable to his current role and where he believes God would have him in the future. 'Pastoral care combined with a management focus is quite helpful in my current and future roles in the field of development of services by church groups.' Please pray for Seamus and his family as they foster community on-campus, serve at Mortdale-Oatley, and as Seamus completes his studies.

Erin Sessions



The Morling Postgraduate Scholarship Fund

At Morling, we're excited about a new initiative that supports postgraduate ministry training and research: *The Morling Postgraduate Scholarship Fund*.

Morling College has a real and growing commitment to identifying, developing and releasing future leaders for Baptist churches, Australian evangelical churches and the global evangelical community. We are committed to developing leaders who wholeheartedly embrace the five core values of the Baptist Churches of NSW/ACT: being Christ-centred, mission-shaped, relationally committed, partnership-oriented, and people-empowering.

To equip leaders in this way, Morling is proactively taking steps to secure access to its growing postgraduate program of ministry and theological studies. This is an expression of our desire to be God's agents in boldly anticipating and preparing for the challenges that will most stretch the church in the years ahead.

Why do people do research at Morling?

An integral part of preparing for the challenges facing the church is fostering theological and ministry scholarship. This not only strengthens evangelicalism's position in the academy but, more importantly, it equips God's church for his mission in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and the world.

Students choose to do research at Morling because of our excellent faculty and their reputation as researchers, communicators and writers — some of the best published scholars and practitioners in Australia. These include Michael Frost (a leading theologian of missional church practice), David Starling (a leader in theological

hermeneutics), Ross Clifford (one of Australia's leading apologists), Darrell Jackson (known widely for his missiological expertise), Miyon Chung (a systematic theologian), and Andrew Sloane (Old Testament studies and Christian Thought; also Director of Postgraduate Studies).

You can see why people choose Morling College as the place to do research!

How can you support this Postgraduate Scholarship Fund?

We invite you to join with us by contributing to this Scholarship Fund. Would you commit with us to developing future leaders for Australian churches and global evangelicalism by giving to this Scholarship Fund?

Your tax-deductible donations to the *Postgraduate Scholarship Fund* will be immediately available to doctoral and other research students. Monies from the Fund will be disbursed equitably to postgraduate research students to help them meet their tuition fees, currently in the order of \$9,500-\$14,000 per year. Donations that exceed the annual demands made on the Fund in any one year will be added to a capital fund to benefit future students.

To give to the fund, please visit: www.morlingcollege.com/donate or use the Morling Foundation form on the back of this newsletter and nominate area 'Postgraduate Scholarship Fund'.

We are thrilled about this initiative and about the possibilities it offers for equipping and releasing leaders for Jesus Christ's kingdom and church.

Graham Hill

Take a Walk with Brendon



Brendon Walker is a recent alumnus of Morling College and the Youth and Young Adults Pastor at West Pennant Hills Community Church. He graduated with a Bachelor of Ministry from the class of 2012 and since then God has been calling Brendon, his wife Sarah, and their two young children Kya and Obadiah, into a challenging and rewarding new ministry. Let's take a walk in Brendon's shoes.

When Brendon first started studying at Morling he thought he would go into full-time youth pastoring but, after completing our Chaplaincy subject, he felt that God was opening his eyes 'to the needs and opportunities that exist in our schools'. This year Brendon has started working as the youth worker/chaplain at Cumberland High School for two days a week.

A school youth worker has big shoes to fill, serving 'students, teachers, parents, grandparents and carers, loving them and supporting them wherever they are at'. What Brendon finds most rewarding in his new role is being able to give 'some guidance and advice in situations the students raise and seeing the fruit that comes from that'. His daughter Kya, not to be left out, also likes to give — Anzac biscuits to the teachers!

Brendon's two roles, pastor and chaplain, complement each other and he enjoys going to a community church that is, indeed, involved in the community. 'Schools represent every generation in the community' and he loves seeing 'God at work through conversations and the power of prayer in this school'.

The biggest challenge for Brendon 'has been trusting God with providing for my family'. His chaplaincy position isn't paid; rather, Brendon has embarked upon support raising to cover costs. But this step of faith into a new ministry has 'also been a huge blessing as we have seen God answer prayer again and again'.

'Prayer is such a vital part of what we do.' Brendon and his family would appreciate prayer 'for the relationships that are being built with the principal, teachers, students and families'. They also require both prayerful and financial support, so if you would like to partner with them and hear about how God is working at Cumberland High, then please email:

brendon.walker@ccca.org.au

Erin Sessions

Coming Up...



Counselling Info Night
Thursday 26 June – 6.30pm

Info Day
Sunday 14 September – 2.00pm

Open Night
Thursday 23 October – 6.30pm



Winter School

Jun 23 - 27
Christian Apologetics
(PE420i/620i)

Jun 30 - July 4
Old Testament Prophets and
Writings (OT302i/502i)

Jun 30 - July 4
Contextualisation of Theology and
Ministry Practice (EM780i)

July 7 -11
Interpreting and Preaching Psalms
& Wisdom Literature (OT774i)

Save the Date:

2015 Morling Graduation and
Commencement Ceremony

Monday 16 March 2015 at The
King's School

MORLING COLLEGE PRESENTS:

Christian Apologetics

Forum Day

Monday 23 June 2014
9am - 4.30pm Cost: \$50 (includes meals)

Intensive Unit

This forum day is also a part of the
week-long Intensive Unit
Monday 23-27 June 2014 PE420i & PE620i

Host and Lecture: Rev. Dr Ross Clifford

Guest Apologist: Rev. Karl Faase

Morling Lecturer: Dr Miyon Chung

Guest Apologist: Kel Richards

*"For the church, the
greatest need for our day
is practical apologetic
ministry."*

www.morlingcollege.com/events

Conferences:

August 1-2 - REVIVE



August 4-8 - Oxygen Conference



September 12-14 - Christian Counsellors Association Australia Conference

2015 Study Tour to Israel & Jordan

January 2015

Develop a greater understanding of the Scriptures
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Some highlight destinations:

- Amman
- Petra
- The Dead Sea
- Jerusalem
- Mt Carmel



Morling Press Mid-Year

SALE

4 for \$10!

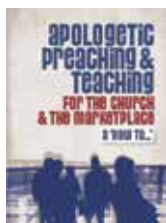
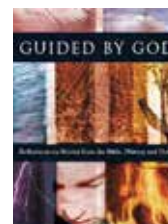
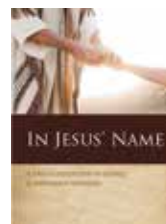
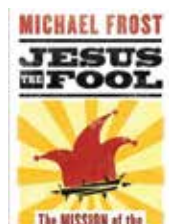
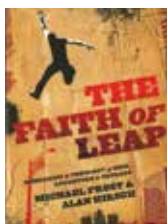
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Coupon code: JUNESALE

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- The Big Ideas, by Michael Frost
- ReJesus, by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch
- Jesus the Fool, by Michael Frost
- In Jesus Name, by Brian Powell
- Guided by God, by Graeme Chatfield, Brian and Julie Powell and Max Davidson
- First and Second Kings, by John W Olley
- Apologetic Preaching and Teaching, by Ross Clifford
- Together as the People of God, by John Reid
- Living with the Holy Spirit, by George Henry Morling
- Mormonism: The Magnificent Illusion, by John L. Bracht
- Perspective on Post-Christendom Spiritualities, edited by Michael T. Cooper



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- Speaking of Mission Volume 1 and 2, edited by Michael Frost



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- On the way to Faith, by Ken R. Manley



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SALE ENDS 31 JULY 2014.

PURCHASE ONLINE:
www.morlingcollege.com/morlingpress

Mail Order Form

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Chairman's Letter



It seems to me that Graduation is getting better every year! How wonderful recently to see over 200 students recognised in front of family, friends and an

audience of over 1100 people. But it was not just the numbers that were so impressive; it thrilled my heart to see the breadth of qualifications and the enormous potential of these graduates to touch people in this and the next generation across the world!

There was a real sense of expectancy as people mingled in the quadrangle at The King's School. Then there was vibrancy in the service itself: great singing, student interviews, induction of new faculty, a relevant message from Dr Brian Harris, Principal of Vose Seminary and, of course, students receiving their awards. It was the far-

reaching nature of the student body that excited me so much as I looked across the graduating group — in particular, the representation from many nations. There were students from all over the world, some who had attended lectures on-site, and many who had done much or all of their study by distance. A representative from Hong Kong received education awards on behalf of a number of other students who had completed their studies by distance and a principal of a Christian school in Africa received her Master of Education.

The variety of qualifications represents the significant growth of Morling College and the incredible impact on the church of our graduates who are training to be pastors, teachers, youth and children's workers, counsellors and educators by a College that is clearly committed to our evangelical tradition. Three hundred new students commenced this year and the College

has more than doubled in the last decade. I just want you to imagine the future! In your giving to the College you become part of what God is doing through the ministry of the College.

Because of this enormous growth and our commitment to the future of Morling College, we are in the final stages of planning new buildings. It's an exciting yet challenging time, but we passionately believe that God has given us this vision and is asking us to prepare for the future. You can be part of all this by your prayers and your giving. Gifts to Morling are tax deductible, which of course increases the value of every gift. I pray that God will continue to encourage and bless you, and I urge you to be part of what God is doing at Morling.

In Christ whom we love and serve,

Kel Willis

Your opportunity to give financially!

All donations made to the Morling Foundation are tax deductible, and a tax receipt will be issued upon funds being received.

Morling Foundation supports the following areas:

Student scholarships,
Library resources, Faculty development, Building fund, Ongoing College vision, Plunge (gap year), Correspondence course, and more.

Name: _____

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Gift: \$ _____ Direct gift to: (nominate area if desired) _____

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You may also donate online: www.morlingcollege.com/donate



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