



BCSA PARTNERSHIP DINNER 2022

SEEKING NEW SUPPORTERS FOR STRATEGIC GOSPEL MINISTRY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Partnership Dinner Address 2022

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Hello everyone!

I've been asked to share with you tonight some reflections about my time at Bible College SA...but before I do so, I just want to say a really big thank you!

I benefitted immensely from my time at the Bible College of South Australia...and I know that my time there was made possible largely in part because of people like you, who are willing to consider how you might partner with others in gospel ministry...so that women and men you haven't even met might be trained up and equipped to serve in the kingdom of God...I think that is incredible!...so thank you!

I began my studies at Bible College SA in February of 2018. For about seven years prior to this I'd been involved in Church Ministry in a number of different capacities...and I walked into my first week at Bible College thinking that I knew a thing or two...you know, I'd seen things, I'd learnt to do a lot of things! Though, of course I knew that Bible College would be helpful...

But I finished that first week really aware that Bible College SA wasn't a place for me to spend some time picking up a thing or two...it was where I needed to be...

And...for those of you here who have been through any Bible College anywhere...you'll know what I'm talking about...you know that a large part of that...is because you know that deep, deep down...the semester two table tennis tournament isn't going to win itself...

You know it's a Bible College Dinner when they keep talking about table tennis!

But really, Bible College was where I needed to be...

I've been an Associate Pastor for about a year and a half now. Bible College SA helped train and equip me for ministry I think, in many ways. I thought I'd share with you briefly how.

If you've ever been caught in a rip at the beach or felt the pull of the current in a river or lake...I think you'll agree that today living as a Christian can feel a lot like that. We exist right now in a cultural tide that pushes and pulls against God in many different ways. We are in a cultural current that could easily cause us to drift from God instead of clinging to him...it's easy to be distracted from Him...

The writer of Hebrews is very aware of this for the Christians of His day. But he points his readers toward the amazing reality, that we have a God who speaks! And who has spoken to us through His Son Jesus...he has revealed himself and has revealed his grace and salvation in Christ. So he writes in Hebrews 2:1 "we must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."

I'm so thankful for my time at Bible College SA...



I went into college quite confident I think in the skills I'd picked up in various traineeships and opportunities to serve in different ways in Church ministry...I left Bible College SA knowing that this confidence was very misplaced.

In my time at Bible College SA I was encouraged to 'pay attention to what we have heard'... to grow in confidence in the God who is revealed in Scripture, by being provided the opportunity to study God's word with a depth that would not have been provided, had I not attended Bible College.

I was given the opportunity to sink into Scripture with the guidance...in my case, the very patient guidance, of incredibly gifted and brilliant lecturers...

...I'm naturally a bit of a space cadet and can struggle to pay attention...I can't count the amount of times I would bang on the door of our Hebrew Lecturer, Chris Fresch. I'd hold up his lecture notes with a panicked expression on my face, saying 'I don't understand!' He'd patiently ask, 'what don't you understand?' I'd say... 'Well I don't understand what I don't understand!' He'd patiently go over things with me again on his whiteboard.

But this was a common experience from all the lecturers at Bible College SA during my time there....a willingness to sit and help you go dive deeply into God's Word.

Bible College SA equipped me to read the Bible with depth...and gave me the tools to continuing going deeper after I graduated...and to take others deeper into God's Word with me, as the Lecturers modelled...that together, we might pay attention to what has been revealed to us through Christ.

I've been an Associate Pastor for about a year and a half now, and the practical lessons taught to me through subjects like preaching and formation classes that helped me think about how what we are learning actually translates into ministry work...have been things I've gone back to over and over again over the last year and half...whether that is preaching...walking with someone in grief...having the opportunity to talk about Jesus with someone who doesn't know Him...dealing with conflict...Bible College SA helped provide training in these areas...and I'm a bit scared to think about how I might have approached some of these things had I not had the wisdom of lecturers and time to consider these things at Bible College SA to help guide me to consider how to minister God's word in all of these areas...

Although, I was preaching at a Church just after I graduated, and one mature older Christian came over to me, patted me on the arm and said, 'you do preach like a Bible College Student Dear...' and I'm pretty sure it wasn't a compliment...I still have a long way to go...

But Bible College SA has provided the tools to continue helping me go deep into God's Word, and for this to shape my ministry...with a confidence in Him and his Word...not in my own abilities...though I hope they continue to grow.

Finally, something that Bible College SA equipped me with, was a community of likeminded brothers and sisters in Christ...united by the gospel of Jesus...a community who all desire to see God's Kingdom grown, and his word proclaimed in Adelaide, South Australia and the world.



An Anglican and two Baptists walk into a Bible College!...you're waiting for a punchline right!? What happened for me, is something I'll be eternally grateful for. I formed two of the strongest and most unique friendships I have...partly born out of a mutual suffering through long nights of essay writing...but really, because of how the gospel of Jesus has united us, regardless of denomination...and grown us side by side as we journeyed over three years together, going deep into God's Word, growing in our confidence in Him, and urging one another to trust in Jesus and His Gospel. We still meet fortnightly to do that and pray with each other.

In a culture that is constantly at push and pull with God, and with the gospel, I have benefited from Bible College SA's desire to push those who study there to sit deeply in God's Word and to pay attention to Him. I have benefitted from the College's desire for the Bible not to remain knowledge in our heads, but for it to translate in our hearts and in our actions of service in the Kingdom of God, and I have benefitted from the unique community and friendship that can only grow from doing these things over three years with the same group of people, day in, day out.

So I want to finish the way I started...by saying thankyou! My time at Bible College SA was made possible, largely in part to people like you in this room tonight.

And I think that in the cultural push and pull we live in, having a Bible College like Bible College SA is crucial to helping train and equip churches and Christians across Adelaide and South Australia to not be distracted from the hope we have in Christ...but to pay attention...to cling to Christ and to the good news of salvation.

So...thank you!