

Grace Alone

A Year of Travel

Highlights

- ◆ New Counselling Programme!
- ◆ Courses for 2007
- ◆ Recent *Embers to a Flame* conferences

Grace Alone

is the newsletter of Grace Theological College, a non-denominational evangelical and reformed theological college in Auckland, NZ.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I shall look back on 2006 as a year of travel. I've had three major excursions abroad and one to the South Island. The rest of the year has moulded itself around these events.

The first of these trips, as reported in the last issue of *Grace Alone*, was to the USA in February and March. In July I participated in two church revitalization conferences in Australia, and was there again recently presenting an adaptation of the same material to churches in Perth.

These trips, along with the one to the South Island, have been both demanding and refreshing. They've taken their toll on time and energy, but have also helped

give focus to the ministry of the College. They've helped me to see how many individual people (especially leaders) and churches there are in need of spiritual encouragement and renewal. And they've helped me to see more clearly how the gospel provides that.

In this issue we've included a report on the revitalization ministries in Australia, along with an article by Peter Reynolds on private ministry of the word. There is also information about College courses for 2007, especially the counselling courses being offered for the first time. Please pray for these new courses in particular. We believe they will help Christians and benefit churches enormously.

◆ Andrew Young



Embers to a Flame Conference in Australia

Strengthening and Encouraging Churches

by GTC Principal, Andrew Young

In the latter part of 2005 I was asked to participate in two church revitalization conferences to be held in Australia in July this year. Both were to be presentations of the *Embers to a Flame* (ETAF) revitalization conference, a ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in the USA.

Back in 2002 I had attended one of these conferences in the USA. I had found it so helpful that I gleaned what I considered its most applicable ideas and presented these in the form of a mini-conference here in New Zealand. It was this that led to the invitation to participate in the Australian events this year.

The two conferences were held in the Gold Coast and Melbourne respectively. Both were well attended – approximately 280 in the first and 180 in the second. Most of the conferees were pastors, elders and students belonging to the Presbyterian Church of Australia, but other denominations were represented as well – including a contingent of around 20 people from the Grace Presbyterian Church in New Zealand.

ETAF is a conference that aims to revitalize churches through the spiritual renewal of leaders. It grew out of the early ministry experiences of Dr. Harry Reeder, Pastor-Teacher of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. As a new seminary graduate in 1980, he found himself pastor of church in decline. It had once boasted a membership of 960, four services on a Sunday, and a healthy Sunday School. But by the time Harry Reeder arrived, there were less than 80 people at the solitary Sunday morning service and only 20 (no children among them) in the Sunday School. In his first week he was advised by a denominational official to persuade the church to sell up and re-plant elsewhere. A former pastor also rang to warn him that the church had “the mark of Satan” upon it. Within 3 years, however, membership was back up to over 400, and the church had once again become a powerful missionary force.

During those 3 years Harry Reeder had searched

the Scriptures for a biblical revitalization model. He found it in the church of Ephesus. This once flourishing epicentre church (Acts 19), had lost its first love (Rev. 1:5), and was commanded by the risen Jesus to “remember” the height from which it had fallen, “repent” of its sins, and “recover” its first works. The ETAF revitalization paradigm is built around these three words – **remember**, **repent** and **recover**. It presents 10 strategies for regaining spiritual vitality and functional effectiveness in a church, and offers a follow-up programme to help church leaders implement these.



Dr Harry Reeder

Both conferences were well received and a number of churches applied immediately to enrol in the follow-up programme. A group of churches in Western Australia, the Westminster Presbyterian Churches, also invited me to present my adaptation of the ETAF material at a presbytery conference this past weekend. Once again, the material was warmly received and appeared to encourage both church members and leaders.

Two impressions come to mind as I reflect on these conference ministries. The first is that there are many churches that need spiritual encouragement and strengthening. They need help to see that there is hope in the gospel for any church and for any group of leaders, no matter how weary and discouraged they may be.

Then secondly, it is clear that this help needs to come in several forms. Conference ministries are one of these, but they need to be followed by hands-on encouragement for local church leadership teams, and individual leaders. That’s something I would like to do more of in the future.

New Counselling Programme for GTC

by GTC Counselling Director, Peter Reynolds

We are very familiar with the *public* ministry of the Word, whether from the pulpit, in small groups, or in Sunday School, where the Scriptures are preached and taught to the edification of those who hear. We are also very familiar with the *private* ministry of the Word that happens in personal devotional times when we minister the Scriptures to ourselves. These two aspects of word ministry are very important to the spiritual health of the church, and must continue to be taught and encouraged.

However, there is a third aspect of Word ministry that receives less attention, namely the *personal* ministry of the Word, whereby we minister personally to one another the truths, graces and hopes of the Scriptures. As we do life together, and we share our hopes, disappointments, and dreams with one another, our struggles and our sins with one another, we are also able to bring the comfort of Christ to bear on one another's hearts. This is the personal ministry of the Word that sees the body building itself up in love. This is faithful believers acting in accordance with 2 Peter 1:3 where we are told that each one of us has all we need in the Gospel for life and godliness.

Personal ministry is unavoidable, as are the following four facts:

1. Someone in your church had a problem this week
2. They sought help or encouragement first from a friend
3. They received either no help, poor help, or gospel centered help.
4. Whatever help they received they will use to help others.



Personal ministry is unavoidable. We are doing it all the time with our spouse, children, friends, neighbours, work

mates, in fact whoever we spend our day with. Is our personal ministry developed to the point where we can share biblical truths with insight, wisdom, sensitivity and effectiveness for holy living? Are we able to draw on knowledge and depth of insight in a way that causes love to abound among us for holy discernment and blameless living (Phil. 1:9-11)?



It is this ministry gap in many of our lives that the new courses at Grace College are designed to fill. In these courses we are seeking to equip believers with the skillful and wise insights they will need to carry out effective personal ministry of the Word (pastoral counselling) within their own circle of friends and family.

With this in mind GTC, beginning in 2007, will be offering a two year full time certificate in Pastoral Counselling (CPC) to Christian men and women of all persuasions, with no prior tertiary educational experience required.

The first year will be made up of foundational courses in theology, biblical interpretation, spiritual formation, biblical change, and counselling introduction. It will be possible to graduate after this first year with a certificate of credit.

The second year will be more specifically directed towards counselling issues, in both the required courses and the elective courses. Also, in the second year an internship of approximately 80 hours of supervised face-to-face pastoral counselling will be required.

However, for students entering GTC with a prior degree it will be possible to enter the counselling programme at a masters level, graduating, after two full time years, with a Masters in Biblical Counselling (MBC) credited to Birmingham Theological Seminary in Alabama, USA. The MBC will follow the same course outline as the Certificate in Pastoral Counselling, but with extra requirements for the masters students in readings, assignments, and research.

Counselling Course Requirements

The courses requirements for the two year Certificate of Pastoral Counselling are:

YEAR ONE

Biblical Theology I	8 credit hours
Systematic Theology	8*
Biblical Interpretation	4
Spiritual Development	4
Introduction to Pastoral Counselling	4
Biblical Change (Dynamics/Methods)	4
	32

*Master's degree students will be required to do the full 12 credit-hour Systematic Theology course.

YEAR TWO

Christian Mind and Contemporary Culture	2
Counselling and Life Transitions	4
Counselling Ethics	2
Counselling in the Local Church	2
Counselling and Physiology	4
Counselling and Psychology	4
Marriage and Family Counselling I	2
Marriage and Family Counselling II	2
Counselling Internship	6
	28
	60
Electives (2 credit hours each)	
Choose two of the following:	4
· Counselling Children and Adolescence	
· Christian Conciliation	
· Counselling Addictions	
· Counselling from Ephesians	
· Counselling from Psalms and Proverbs	
	64



Normally year one courses will need to be completed before moving on to the year two courses. Students may complete their study programme on either a full time or part time basis. The counselling courses will be offered in both day and evening classes.



Instructors

Here are your instructors in the CPC/MBC programme:

Dr Andrew Young, B Ag Sci. (Hons), PhD

Andrew is the college Principal, and the author of *Let's Study 1&2 Thessalonians*, Banner of Truth, 2001.

Dr Steve Williams, Bs Ed, MA (Hons), PhD

Steve completed his doctoral studies in Marriage and Family Counselling at Florida State University.

Ian Grant, B. Arch., B.Th

Ian completed his theological studies at the Presbyterian Hall in Melbourne, Australia.

Peter Reynolds B. Ag. Com., M.Div, ThM

Peter is the director of the GTC counselling programme, and a Certified Christian Conciliator with the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries.

Margaret Reynolds RN, Dip Coun., MA (Hons) Coun.

Margaret is an experienced counsellor, and supervises the GTC counselling interns.



Peter & Margaret Reynolds

GTC Courses for 2007

Term 1

Old Testament Biblical Theology I – *Ian Grant*
 Church History I – *Alex Robinson*
 Systematic Theology – *Andrew Young*
 Biblical Interpretation I – *Andrew Young*
 Introduction to Pastoral Counselling I – *Peter Reynolds*
 Spiritual Development I – *Andrew Young*

Term 2

Old Testament Biblical Theology I – *Ian Grant*
 Church History I – *Alex Robinson*
 Systematic Theology – *Andrew Young*
 Biblical Interpretation II – *Peter Reynolds*
 Introduction to Pastoral Counselling II – *Peter Reynolds*
 Spiritual Development II – *Andrew Young*

Term 3

New Testament Biblical Theology I – *Ian Grant*
 Church History 1 – *Alex Robinson*
 Systematic Theology – *Andrew Young*



Ministry of the Word II – *Andrew Young*
 Biblical Change I – *Peter Reynolds*
 Evangelism – *Andrew Young*

Term 4

New Testament Biblical Theology I – *Ian Grant*
 Church History I – *Alex Robinson*
 Systematic Theology – *Andrew Young*
 Ministry of the Word II – *Andrew Young*
 Worship – *Andrew Young*
 Biblical Change II – *Peter Reynolds*

Course Descriptions

Introduction to Pastoral Counselling: A study of the principles, approaches and issues essential for developing skills and discernment in pastoral counselling.

Biblical Change: A study on the Biblical teaching of change, growth and spiritual maturity.

Spiritual Development: An exploration of the nature of Christian spirituality, how it develops, and how we can become effective spiritual guides to others.

Biblical Interpretation: Principles and issues relating to the redemptive historical interpretation of Scripture as applied to pastoral counselling situations.

Old and New Testament Biblical Theology: Foundational courses in both Bible and theology, tracing the development of theology and biblical themes through the great epochs of redemptive history, incorporating also pertinent Bible introduction and survey material.

Systematic Theology: A systematic study of the major doctrines of the Bible with reference to current theological disputes as well as heresies throughout history.

Ministry of the Word: Comprehensive study and practise of the disciplines associated with biblical preaching and teaching.

Church History: A study of the development of the Christian church in post-apostolic times, with emphasis on events, issues, people and lessons from the different eras.

Evangelism: A study of evangelism in both the Bible and history, and an examination of current approaches to evangelism.

Worship: The principles and practices of Christian worship with an emphasis on the role of word, prayer and music in worship.



Tuition Fees

FEES POLICY

The Board of Grace Theological College has adopted a fees policy that aims to make College courses available to all irrespective of their financial circumstances. A fee structure has been established, but students are able to apply for variations according to their personal circumstances.

The tuition fee is \$75 per credit, payable on a term by term basis. (For example Biblical Theology I is a 2 credit per term course, running over 4 terms. The cost per term is \$150.)

FINANCIAL AID

GTC is unable to provide financial aid for student fees. However, a variation in fees can be applied for in circumstances of need. Students wishing to apply for a variation must do so in writing to the Administrator.

(GTC courses are not NZQA accredited and consequently, students are unable to apply for tertiary student loans or allowances.)

Registration

If you wish to register for any of the 2007 courses then please fill in the box below indicating the courses you wish to enrol for, and your preference for day or evening classes.

Courses I am interested in **Daytime or Evening**

Contact Details

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Please post this form to **Grace Theological College**
PO Box 75-534 Manurewa
Manukau 2243
New Zealand

or email this information to enquiries@gtc.ac.nz

Please join us in....



Thanking God for

- ◆ Principal Andrew Young's *Embers to a Flame* speaking engagements in Australia
- ◆ The return of Peter and Margaret Reynolds and the development of the new counselling programme
- ◆ A successful year for our 2006 students

Praying for

- ◆ Our new counselling programme– that it will lead to the helping of many people
- ◆ A refreshing break for staff and students
- ◆ New students for 2007

Please return this coupon if you have any interest in the following:

(Tick [√] the appropriate box/es)

- Yes! I want to know more about study at Grace Theological College
- Yes! I will commit myself to regular prayer for Grace Theological College
- Yes! I want to be a financial supporter of Grace Theological College by
- a one off gift of \$_____
 - a gift of \$_____ for [translation and printing projects](#)
 - a gift of \$_____ for [the scholarship fund](#)
 - giving \$_____ per month / quarter
 - I would like these payments to be by direct debit from my bank account
- Please update my changed details below / Please add the following person to the *Grace Alone* distribution list (for those wishing to receive *Grace Alone* from the Web, please e mail us rather than sending this form)

NAME: _____ E mail: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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