

# Grace Alone

## What does GTC have for you in 2008?

### Highlights

- ◆ Courses for 2008
- ◆ Report from the Principal from the USA
- ◆ Former student Andrew Ure heading for Asian mission field
- ◆ College News

### 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 ACTING PRINCIPAL Peter Reynolds

2008 will see a first for Grace College, the opening of a **North Shore campus** at the Reformed Church in Glenfield. With this additional venue we can now provide even more students in greater Auckland with a range of courses for every particular sense of calling, gifting, passion, or curiosity.

Are you interested in becoming familiar with your **Bible** and gaining a working knowledge of all its contents? Are you interested in developing your ability to help others with spiritual encouragements and **Counselling** care? Would you like to become familiar with the **Doctrines** of the church, or are you interested in **Women's Studies**? Grace College courses are tailor-made for just these very concerns.

Are you interested in **Missionary** or **Pastoral** work? Are you interested in **University Campus** ministry? Grace College is able to equip and prepare you

with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective, long term ministry in these areas.



Calling all **High Schoolers**. When you finish High School, and before you begin careers or tertiary education, come and spend a year with us at GTC, equipping yourselves for a lifetime of Bible based ministry wherever the Lord may place you.

Are you an **Elder** or **Leader** in your church? Study at Grace College will prepare and equip you to effectively share the pastoral load with your pastoral care team, and give you a vital ministry in the lives of the people with whom you fellowship.

Further explanation of all these options are found within this issue of *Grace Alone*, along with an enrolment form for our 2008 classes (on our two Auckland campuses) that you can send back to us.

Also, we have an update from our college Principal, Andrew Young, currently on study leave in America, and an article from a former GTC student, Andrew Ure, who is headed for the mission field.



## Update from America

*GTC College Principal, Andrew Young, is currently in Alabama, USA on study leave. He is expected back home in January next year.*

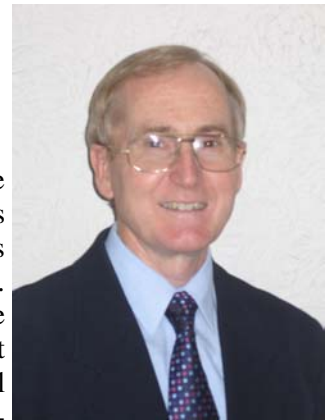
As I write we are a little over half way through our six month sabbatical here in the USA. The past eleven weeks have been among the happiest of our lives – weeks of true refreshment, learning and rest.

No small contributor to the blessing Nola, John and I have enjoyed has been the kindness of the Christian people we are amongst. They have been warm, welcoming and generous. As a bonus, our living situation has been little short of idyllic. I look out from where I write and see a beautiful forest of oak trees with bright red cardinals flitting between the branches, squirrels scampering up and down tree trunks, and (occasionally) deer foraging in the undergrowth. And all of this is just a few minutes away from our base of operations at Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

My energies have been focused in a somewhat different direction to what I had expected. I anticipated spending most of my time in libraries and in writing. While I've been doing a good deal of the latter, up to this point I haven't spent much time in libraries. Instead, I've been processing notes, book summaries and articles that I've accumulated over many years of teaching and writing. It's been special to have the time to think through ideas deeply, write about them, and share them with others.

At the same time I have been working on a Doctor of Ministry project with Birmingham Theological Seminary. My proposal has been accepted and I'm currently writing outlines and early drafts of some of the chapters.

I've greatly benefitted from the people contact we've been able to have during our stay here. It has been stimulating to speak with ministry leaders and pastors from Briarwood and other churches, to interact with the *Embers to a Flame* Church Revitalization team, and to teach Sunday School classes and a seminary course. This has provided a great context for testing ideas and seeing how they can be translated into church life.



This coming week we travel north to St. Louis to spend several days with friends there. While there I will be visiting faculty at Covenant Theological Seminary, strengthening the bonds between our institutions and getting what help I can with my study project. Later in our stay we also plan still to visit Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, and participate in a church renewal seminar in Savannah. I'm also looking forward to ongoing conversations with friends at Mission to the World in Atlanta.

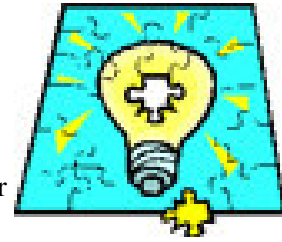
For most of the remaining months, however, I hope to focus on two projects – my D.Min research and writing and the preparation of a paper on Christian Spirituality to be presented at a conference in California in January.

Nola and John have enjoyed their stay here enormously. Nola has found it a treat to meet with women in her own age bracket, learn from a gifted Bible teacher, and participate in ministry activities. She has an ever-growing desire to disciple younger women.

John has loved school and being part of a large church. He has thrown himself into youth activities, is part of the youth choir, and at school, is a key member of the marching band (he plays the marimba). Recently he was voted class favourite for his grade – an honour that has amazed others as well as us.

As much as we enjoy being here, New Zealand is never far from our minds. We long to see God's people in our homeland strengthened and filled with the life of Christ. Difficult as it is to shine as lights in our secularized country, God is still able to do anything through those whose hearts are devoted to him. We look forward to returning home again at the end of the year to do what we can to help that become a reality in our College and churches.

## What We Want and What We Need



*One of the blessings Andrew Young has found from being in the USA is the opportunity it gives to meet people God is using greatly in his church and in the world. Andrew has been writing about some of these people and what he's learned from them in the current series of GTC weekly Insights. Below is a reprint of one of these articles.*

When I heard that Dr. Paul Tripp, noted author/teacher/counselor was going to be speaking to a group of men at Briarwood Church last Friday night, it was too good an opportunity to pass up. I had to go and hear him.

What a remarkable evening it turned out to be. Dr. Tripp chose to speak on the subject, *“What You Want is Not What You Need.”* What we commonly **want**, he pointed out, is security, and the absence of trouble. From God's point of view, however, what we **need** is purifying. And that means being thrust into the Refiner's fire.

Reflecting on 1 Peter 1:3-9, Dr. Tripp commented that it paints a picture of life in the present as one characterized by “grief and trial” (see v. 6). And those trials, though often painful, are part of God's loving purpose to purify us. Alluding to the image of gold being refined by fire (v. 7), he said, “When you come to Christ you are an ‘ore-ific’ Christian.” There's gold there, but it's in the form of ore. It has to be purified.

That process is really an expression of God's great love for us. “God could not be a loving Father,” he said, “and leave you in that condition. You need to be changed and purified if you are to be the one you are supposed to be and useful for what God wants you to do. **As an act of deep and abiding grace, your Redeemer will boil you.**”

Paul Tripp and his family know what it is like to be boiled. In fact, much of Dr. Tripp's address was built around a recent and ongoing tragedy in their family. A little over a year ago daughter Nicole was crushed when a drunk driver careered off the road and pinned her to a wall as she walked home from work. Months of painful recovery have left her disabled both physically and emotionally. The experience has been an ordeal

not only for Nicole but for her mother and father.

“That's not where I wanted to go in my life,” Paul said. “I don't naturally want to be holy; I don't want growth experiences. I want an unchallenged kingdom of delights. I want a comfortable and predictable existence.”

Aren't we all like that? Yet, he insisted, God isn't interested in our enjoyment so much as he is in our character. “Your God has something hugely more glorious in mind for you than a thick juicy steak. It is God's purpose that we should be partakers of his nature – that we should be godly.” And because that's the case, he is going to purify the ore through “grief and trial.”

We need, he said, “to teach a theology of ‘uncomfortable grace;’ a ‘grace of refinement.’” That's an unusual way of thinking about grace isn't it? Usually we connect grace with the blessings of joy and peace and forgiveness, not with the blessings of purifying fire. Yet that's precisely how God's continuing grace shows itself in the Christian life. “God can't look at you in your raw state and say, ‘That's OK.’ That's not redemption! That's not love!” He loves us so much that he is intent on making us “people of such character that he is pleased to spend all eternity with us.”

There's an underlying principle in this that we need to master. Paul Tripp put it like this: **“God will take you where you do not want to go in order to produce in you what you could not achieve on your own.”**

We may not like to hear those words, but we need to. If we don't understand what God is doing in our lives there is going to be a massive “agenda gap” between us and God. And agenda gaps produce unrest, irritation and complaining. On the other hand, “When you stop having an agenda conflict with your Lord, you can have a level of happiness and fulfillment far beyond what you can imagine – even when it hurts.”

[GTC's Insights are sent by email weekly or can we viewed on our website [www.gtc.ac.nz](http://www.gtc.ac.nz) ]

## Missions, Medicine and Grace... how did we come this far!

*Andrew Ure spent a year at Grace College in preparation for the mission field. Here is an update on their plans as he and Kate and their three boys pursue God's call on their lives.*

As many of you will be aware our little family is soon going to be travelling to Asia to work in missions. It has been a long road for us both and one in which Grace College has played an important part.

The road for me started with an upbringing on the mission field in Ethiopia and continued with regular mission visitors to our home in Southland. Teenage years brought a realisation of my own need of a saviour and with this new-found faith came a deep desire to equip myself further for God's service through personal study of the scripture and a vision for longer-term mission work. This was followed by time at medical school where I faced the ethical issues that go along with medicine and the challenge of applying my faith to the place where God had put me. I was fortunate at this time to be able to undertake some part-time correspondence study through Grace College which helped stimulate my desire to get a deeper grounding in God's Word to meet these new situations.

The time of training in Dunedin also brought opportunities for short-term mission trips as part of our medical course. Kate and I met through our medical studies in Dunedin and very shortly after we were married I had the opportunity to travel to Papua New Guinea to work in a small mission hospital. Later we were able to travel as a couple to Nepal where we shared in the work of another small mission hospital in a fairly remote area. It was a great way to experience life in another culture and our 3 months there along with some of the preparation courses run by our sending mission really helped us to think about what it means to "contextualise the gospel". Dealing with the gospel in a different culture means working out "what is my cultural baggage" and "what is the gospel kernel that I need to share"? Not an easy thing to come to grips with but something that is essential if we are to make the gospel relevant to



those with a different background from us! It also highlighted to us the need to be able to work together with Christians of different backgrounds.

It was issues like this that took me to Grace College in 2003. The College lays a real emphasis on unfolding the Bible according to the path of redemptive history ie. walking through the scriptures in a chronological manner and exploring the growing revelation of God and His plans to restore a fallen creation to Himself. I found this a very valuable time of clarifying my own understanding of scripture and "putting it all together". When you have the big picture clear you can more fully appreciate what is of the essence of the faith and divest it of some of the baggage that our traditions quickly wrap things in. It was also a valuable time of learning how to communicate the scriptures in a clear and faithful manner.

These last couple of years have seen a focus on completing the medical requirements for work in Asia along with seeking to gain some further understanding of the people and religions we will be working amongst and effective tools for cross-cultural ministry.

Looking back I am amazed at how the Lord has directed our steps, placing passions on our hearts, leading us through experiences that have opened our eyes to the needs of other countries and equipping us to meet some of those needs. Grace College has certainly played an important part in our preparation and would be valuable time for anyone who is being led to consider mission work. Most mission agencies will require that candidates have undertaken at least some level of Bible college training and while Grace does not offer specific mission papers it does provide a valuable variety of courses which address funda-

mental issues of Christian life and belief. Where necessary this can be built upon with a specific missions focus.

For anyone who is keen to know more about us or our work please feel free to contact us. Our e-mail address is: [ureka@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:ureka@maxnet.co.nz)

## COLLEGE NEWS

### Announcing the opening of a brand new campus for GTC! (see picture below)

The College is delighted and most thankful to the Lord for the opening, in 2008, of a GTC campus on Auckland's North Shore. Thanks to the generosity of the North Shore Reformed Church we have a delightful home for our northern campus. In 2008 **Ian Grant** will be teaching Biblical Theology on the new campus, and **Peter Reynolds** will be teaching Introduction to Pastoral Counselling and Dynamics and Methods of Biblical Change.

### Pastoral Care Seminars for Church Leaders

The College has begun to hold a once-a-term seminar for church leaders and potential leaders. Each two hour seminar looks at an aspect of pastoral care. Our last one was well attended. Feedback from one experienced elder included, "Helpful Biblical information and reminder that problems are centred in our hearts rather than our circumstances". Another newly recognised elder commented, "A surprisingly relevant seminar, with easily applicable and helpful reminders." Contact your pastor, or GTC, for details of our next pastoral care seminar.



### Andrew Macpherson

Pastoral ministry graduate, Andrew Macpherson, and his wife Helen, are currently on sabbatical leave travelling in the USA and UK. Their place at Trinity Presbyterian Church is being filled by another College graduate, **Steve Panapa**, who, with his wife Eva, have recently returned from ministry in the South Island.

### Peter Reynolds

Acting Principal, Peter Reynolds, is serving on the session of three churches in the Auckland area. One of these churches is pastored by College graduates **Andrew Macpherson** and **Steve Panapa**, and one by a current College student, **Uaita Levi**. The College is delighted to be able to have an ongoing role in encouraging our graduates in their pastoral ministry situations.

In a recent trip to America Peter had the opportunity to meet with the President and Vice-President of Birmingham Theological Seminary. **Glen Waddell** and **Thad James**. Both these men expressed a keen willingness to continue to strengthen ties with GTC as we continue to offer their three Masters Degrees programmes (M.Divinity, MA Christian Education, and MA Biblical Counselling).

Also Peter made a recent trip to Honolulu to mediate a dispute between two Christian organizations. GTC is now teaching courses in conciliation, seeking to equip Christians to resolve conflict Biblically in their marriages, churches, in fact wherever people gather.

### New Web Master

The College is in need of a web designer who can take over the GTC web site for upgrading and maintenance. If you, or someone you know, would like to take on this ministry please contact us.

### 2007 Graduation and Thanksgiving Service

Our 2007 graduation is to be held on December 14, at 6 p.m. at the Covenant Kids pre school in Beaumonts Way, Manurewa. Like previous years we will begin with a BBQ dinner which will be followed by the graduation service. All are welcome to attend.



**North Shore Reformed Church—  
site of our new campus on Auckland's North Shore**

## TIMETABLE FOR 2008

### Manukau Campus: 75 Rogers Rd, Manurewa, Manukau City

Terms 1 & 2	Day	Time	Subject	Instructor
	<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00-10:00 a.m.	Chapel	
		10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Christian Mind	P.D. Reynolds
		11:00-12:00 noon	Counselling Elective	P.D. Reynolds
		7:00-9:00 p.m.	Pastoral Life/Skills	A.W. Young
	<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Systematic Theology	A.W. Young
		7.00 - 9.00 p.m. (Term 1 only)	Women in the Bible	S. Bracefield
	<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Biblical Change	P.D. Reynolds
		1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Ministry of the Word I	A.W. Young
	<b>Friday</b>	10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	OT Biblical Theology I	A.W. Young

Terms 3 & 4	Day	Time	Subject	Instructor
	<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00-10:00 a.m.	Chapel	
		10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Counselling Ethics	P.D. Reynolds
		11:00-12:00 noon	Counselling Elective	P.D. Reynolds
		7:00-9:00 p.m.	Evangelism/Worship	A.W. Young
	<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Systematic Theology	A.W. Young
	<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Life Transitions	P.D. Reynolds
		1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Ministry of the Word I	A.W. Young
	<b>Friday</b>	10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	NT Biblical Theology I	A.W. Young

### North Shore Campus: 74 Trias Rd, Glenfield, North Shore

Terms 1 & 2	Day	Time	Subject	Instructor
	<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00-9:00 p.m.	OT Biblical Theology I	Ian Grant
	<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00-12:00 noon	Pastoral Counselling	P.D. Reynolds
		7:00-9:00 p.m.	Pastoral Counselling	P.D. Reynolds

Terms 3 & 4	Day	Time	Subject	Instructor
	<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NT Biblical Theology I	Ian Grant
	<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00-12:00 noon	Biblical Change	P.D. Reynolds
		7:00-9:00 p.m.	Biblical Change	P.D. Reynolds

For further details write to us for a 2008 prospectus or view it on our website [www.gtc.ac.nz](http://www.gtc.ac.nz)

# General Registration Form

**CIRCLE ONE:**      **Manukau Campus**                      **North Shore Campus**

## Personal Information

Name ..... Date of Birth .....

Address .....

Phone ..... Email .....

Occupation .....

## Home Church Information

Church Name ..... Denomination .....

Pastor's Contact details: Name .....

Address .....

Phone ..... Email .....

## Educational Information

Tertiary education?     Yes     No

Name of Institution(s) .....

Qualification(s) Achieved .....

Course Enrolment                      Year.....

GTC Certificate Programme                       BTS Masters Degree Programme

(Students who already have a degree are eligible to enrol in our Masters Programme).

Individual courses I would like to enrol for in 2008:

.....  
.....  
.....

## Please join us in....

### Thanking God for

- ◆ For a wonderful start to our new Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Development courses
- ◆ For the opening of a new campus on Auckland's North Shore
- ◆ For the blessing the Young family is experiencing while in the USA
- ◆ For the Lord's leading of the Ure family into full time missionary service



### Praying for

- ◆ Andrew Young's recovery from bronchitis
- ◆ For the Ure family's financial support
- ◆ That the Lord will lead many to enroll for courses at GTC in 2008
- ◆ Ian Grant and Peter Reynolds as they launch the North Shore campus in 2008

## At GTC...

You can study **full** or **part time**, take courses for credit or simply sit in class and enjoy the teaching. You can enrol for a complete course of study, or for individual courses you have an interest in.

We have a **one** year programme in both Biblical Studies and Women's Studies.

We have a **two** year programme in both Christian Ministry and Pastoral Counselling.

We have a **three** year programme in Pastoral Ministry.

We have a **Masters Degree** programme for those who already have a degree.

Study with us and you will develop in your understanding of:

**Bible:** You will gain a working knowledge of every part of Scripture; how every part speaks to every other part and empowers you for effective ministry for years to come.

**Theology:** You will study the great Reformed doctrines of the church seeing how they impact on every area of your life and ministry.

**History:** You will study the history of the church, both world-wide and in New Zealand, and the contribution of 2000 years of Christ's teaching gift to his people.

**Counselling:** You will begin learning the knowledge and skills that will equip you to bring the comfort and the graces of Christ to hurting, suffering and conflicted people.

**Missions:** You will learn about the church as missional, especially as it applies to church planting and church growth in New Zealand.

**Spiritual Development:** You will learn the dynamics of spiritual formation, along with a Biblical understanding of spiritual maturity.

**Women's Studies:** You will learn about the Bible's teaching on women, women's and other church ministries and practical skills for service.

See inside for our 2008 Timetable (p.6) and a Registration Form for your 2008 enrolment (p.7)

