

Grace Alone

Exciting New Changes at GTC

Highlights

- ◆ Exciting new developments at GTC
- ◆ New Principal and Associate Principal
- ◆ New Board members
- ◆ Courses especially for Women

Grace Alone

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

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*Alex Robinson,
GTC Board Chairman*

Recently some major decisions have been made by the GTC Trustees and Board. After 13 years of operating in much the same way GTC is about to embark upon some exciting new developments.

New Zealand society has changed dramatically over the intervening 13 years. The Board and Trustees have recognised that in a constantly changing world, GTC is not immune from that change and the challenges it brings.

Over the past few years many theological colleges have developed in two distinct ways. Firstly they have developed networks of “branch” campuses and secondly the training itself has become more interactive in the way it is delivered. GTC, has over the recent past, been developing the concept of branch campuses. Christchurch has been operating for some time, providing lectures to

local students and more latterly a branch campus on Auckland’s North Shore has been opened. The concept seeks to bring the college closer to the potential student pool.

One of the impacts of the economic “boom” has been the spiralling cost of housing in greater Auckland. This, and the associated high costs in moving to Auckland, has been a serious impediment to many would-be students. To counter the increasing inability of students outside of Auckland to access the College, the College must go to the students.

The second aspect has been the greater emphasis in recent years on “on the job” theological training. In some ways this is akin to the old apprenticeship system – a mix of practical learning and applying



Staff and Students at North Shore Campus

theoretical teaching in the workplace.

The College Trustees and Board are fully committed to the same ideals that spurred the founders of GTC in 1995, but we must use the most appropriate means to achieve those ends. The ends have not changed, but in 13 years, the means have.

At our meeting on the 10th March 2008, the Board and Trustees embraced the twin concepts of branch campuses and a form of internship for students. These concepts of course will need refining as we implement them.

To achieve those ends Andrew Young, our long-time Principal, will move to Wyndham in April 2008, where he will assume a pastoral role at the Wyndham Evangelical Church, while working at establishing a campus network in the South Island. Locations such as Invercargill, Dunedin and Hokitika have been mooted, as well as strengthening the existing Christchurch branch. Andrew will become Associate Principal with special responsibility for the South Island.

Following the Cloud and Fire

*By Andrew Young,
Associate Principal, South Island*

When the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt he led them by a pillar of cloud and fire (Exodus 13:21f., Numbers 9:15-23). When the pillar rose from the tabernacle, the people broke camp and followed until it settled again. They didn't move



Dr Andrew Young
Associate Principal,
South Island

until it moved, and when it moved, they obeyed the Lord and moved with it.

That's been the story of our lives as a family over the past thirty five years. While we haven't seen visible clouds and pillars of fire, we have nevertheless

The consequential Principal's vacancy will be filled by Peter Reynolds. Peter has been one of the driving forces behind the North Shore campus and has acted as Principal while Andrew was in the USA. He has a vision for a series of campuses in other North Island centres.



Alex Robinson
GTC Board Chairman

These are exciting times that no doubt will bring new challenges, but we have a big God who has promised to be with us in all our endeavours for His kingdom. Please pray for Andrew and Nola, Peter and Margaret and their families, for guidance and wisdom as they, together with the Board and Trustees, seek to bring Reformed Theological training to you, our supporters.

been aware of the Lord leading us through his Word and Spirit, through his people, and through circumstances. And it appears to us that he is moving us on again – this time back to the South Island which we left in our “wanderings” some 17 years ago.

I first became conscious that perhaps the Lord had something fresh in store for us a couple of years ago. It was then that I became aware of a growing burden for the deepening of spirituality in churches and church leaders. This burden grew while we were in the USA last year, and took the form of a sense of call to return to New Zealand with that mission in view.

This coincided with the College Board's concern to decentralize its ministry in Auckland and make it more accessible to people in other centres, particularly in the South Island where GTC has long had a strong body of support. As it turned out,

one of the supportive churches in the South, the Wyndham Evangelical Church had earlier approached me asking if there was any possibility of serving in some pastoral capacity among them. Their continued interest in this created a perfect opportunity for us to relocate to the South Island. It gave us a pastoral and support base to nurture spiritual renewal in churches, and at the same time, promised the freedom to develop GTC ministries in the South.

Since I returned from Sabbatical in the USA in late January, the Board of the College, the Wyndham church, and our family have been involved in working out the practicalities of relocation and the establishment of a ministry that would serve both the church and the College. The church is in the process of extending a pastoral call through its Presbytery, and the College has appointed me Associate Principal, South Island with a mandate to develop GTC ministry in the South. At the point of writing we are busy planning, sorting and selling in anticipation of a departure for the South Island on April 23rd.

The move back South is one we are looking forward to eagerly. Although it means leaving immediate family, many friends, and a work at the Auckland GTC campus that we love, it will nevertheless take us back to our roots and to people that we have known for many years. It will also open the door to theological teaching and training to many more people. Already we know of prospective students in Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill keen to participate in College courses after we arrive.

Steady as She Goes

By Peter Reynolds, Principal

At the March 10 2008 GTC Board meeting, the Trustees and Board members of the College passed the mantle of Principal from Andrew Young to me. It is with utter dependence on God, and with sadness in our hearts to see Andrew leaving, that I take up this opportunity to serve the Lord in this new capacity.

We plan to respond to that demand immediately by offering a first year course in Biblical Theology for the remainder of the year. Beyond that, we would like to see extension centres of GTC established in at least the three centres – Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill – with local pastors and graduates anchoring the teaching ministry in each centre using resources we have developed over the years. Ideally that will provide a way of ensuring the ministry of GTC not only grows, but continues beyond any contribution our present teachers might be able to offer.

While the focus of my time and ministry will be pastoral, the Wyndham Evangelical Church is entirely supportive of my wider contribution to the work of the kingdom through GTC. I will be spending three quarters of my time serving the church, and the rest teaching, training, administering and writing for GTC. There will be opportunity (and need) to visit other centres on behalf of the College, and to offer from time to time short courses, seminars and study camps. There will also be occasional visits back to Auckland to meet with the Board and teach block courses as needed.

As always, change brings with it an element of trepidation. However, we are moving forward confident that we are simply following the pillar of cloud and fire, trusting that the Lord who calls will also provide. We long that he would yet work powerfully in our country, and are thrilled to think that we may have a little part to play in his purposes for it.



Peter Reynolds
New GTC Principal

Andrew and I have co-laboured together at GTC since its founding in 1995. Andrew has been my mentor in all things, and it now falls to me, and the GTC Board, to continue the work begun by him. The Lord has enabled

Andrew, as founding Principal, to establish the ethos and direction of the College, implement its courses, and begin building a support base among many churches and individuals throughout New Zealand.

In line with Andrew’s passion, Grace Theological College will continue to have a dual educational focus on both the pulpit and the pew. We will continue to train both pastoral ministry students and leaders generally for the church, with a special interest and commitment to those churches in our country that represent the Reformed faith. We will continue to **equip** our students preparing for ministry in the Body of Christ. We will continue to **support** recent graduates as they seek to establish their ministries. We will continue to **encourage** settled leaders as they fulfil their ministries. These three foundations of the College’s ministry have recently been laid out by Andrew in a very helpful diagram; see below.

With the departure of Andrew and Nola (and son John) to the South Island, the College is poised to develop a significant extension ministry beyond Auckland. We have always been very conscious that the South Island has provided many of our students, pastoral and otherwise; has supported the College prayerfully and financially; has received many of our graduates back to plant churches; and, in Christchurch, has been offering GTC courses for some years.

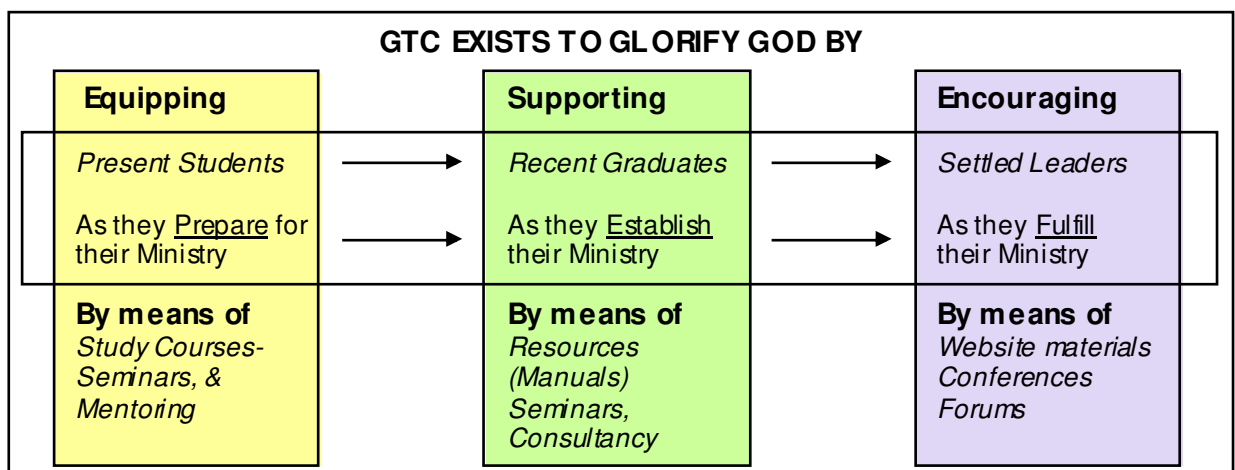
So it is with great appreciation and thankfulness to the Lord for such support that we are delighted to be able to appoint an Assistant Principal for the South Island. Andrew, in addition to fulfilling his pastoral duties at the Wyndham Evangelical Church, will be able to oversee the teaching of GTC courses in more South Island localities, as

well as being a stimulus to encourage more South Island young men to offer themselves for pastoral training.

Meanwhile, in Auckland we will be seeking the Lord for the very same opportunities. We would like to see cities throughout the North Island with graduates and/or pastors who can offer GTC courses and stimulate a GTC presence and vision within their Christian communities. A wonderful start has been made just across the harbour bridge on the North Shore, where the Reformed Church has made their facility available for the teaching of GTC courses. We have a total of 23 students there and are offering courses in Biblical Theology, Pastoral Counselling and Preaching. We are looking to the Lord for the opportunity to establish further such teaching centres throughout the North Island.

On a more personal note, I have recently been appointed Assistant Pastor to Peter Boyd at the Covenant Grace Presbyterian Church in Manurewa. It is a pure joy for me to be back in pastoral ministry, preaching regularly, and staying close to the heartbeat of the Lord’s people.

My God-given passion in ministry is to see young men able to preach Jesus Christ redemptive-historically from every part of Scripture, and to train Christian men and women to effectively bring the graces of the Gospel to bear on the hearts of troubled and struggling believers. It is not enough to train preachers keep the *front doors* of their churches open wide with the preaching of Christ, we must also train all God’s people to help keep the *back doors* of the church firmly shut, lest struggling and hurting parishioners slip away. As such, GTC remains a service arm of the church in this Kingdom work.



So we are very excited at what God is doing through Grace Theological College. We invite you to pray with and for us as we seek to develop GTC as a truly nation-wide ministry. We also

invite you to praise God with us for the wonderful years he has given us with Andrew and Nola. To God be all the glory.

Thanks be to God for Three New Board Members

At the March 10, 2008 meeting of the GTC Board three new Board members were joined to the Board, with great rejoicing. The GTC Board of Governors now consists of Mr. Alex Robinson (Chairman), Tony Bracefield (Secretary), Rev Arthur Palmer, Rev. John Haverland, Rev. Peter Boyd, Rev. Ken Campbell, Rev. Geoff McPherson, Mr. Ian Grant, and two non-voting members, Rev Andrew Young and Rev Peter Reynolds.

We would like to introduce our new Board members to you:

Peter Boyd is Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Manurewa. He used to be an Australian before he married his lovely wife Janet and had three great kiwi kids - Gabriel, Madeline and Callum. Peter trained for ministry in the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne and ministered in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Christchurch and Ashburton for two years. He has served for the last fourteen years in Manurewa. He is one of the founding Trustees of Grace Theological College and after a period of absence from the Board to focus on Church ministry he is glad to be back serving GTC and looking forward to being part of its growing impact for Christ in New Zealand and beyond.



Ken Campbell and his wife Heather grew up in the Pukekohe area. They became Christians, as newly weds, under the ministry of Arthur Gunn at a mission Arthur was holding at St James Presbyterian Church in Pukekohe. They left New Zealand in 1968 so Ken could study at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, USA. He had previously gained his B.A. from Auckland University. Ken graduated from WTS in

1971 with an M.Div degree. Ken and Heather returned to New Zealand for a nine year ministry with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, before being called back to America, in 1980, to serve as the Pastor of the Fair Lawn OPC church in New Jersey. Ken pastored this congregation for 26 years. During this time he served on a number of committees of the General Assembly of the OPC, and of his presbytery, and, for about 20 years, was the theological examiner for the New Jersey presbytery. Ken currently serves on the USA Council of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship, having lectured briefly in theology at their training centre in Kenya in 2003. Ken and Heather have now retired back to New Zealand. Ken continues to be actively involved in preaching and ministry among the Reformed Churches. They have three children, two living in the USA and one living in Australia. We are delighted to welcome Ken and Heather back to New Zealand and look forward to their ministry and service among us.

Geoff Macpherson and his wife Marie grew up in Gisborne. One of the three first full-time Students at Grace Theological College, Geoff is a graduate of GTC's Pastoral Ministry Certificate (1999). He also has a B.A. (1994, University of Auckland) and an M.Div. (2006, Birmingham Theological Seminary, Alabama, USA). A pastor in the Grace Presbyterian Church of NZ, Geoff served in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Christchurch from 1997 – 2007. He is currently serving Grace Church Gisborne (*Te Whare Atawhai*), a new work of the Grace Presbyterian Church of NZ. With a group of others Geoff was involved in starting GTC night-classes in Christchurch in 2006. He and David Bayne taught the GTC Systematic Theology class. He and Marie have two children, Hayden and Finlay.



Women's Courses

On Wednesday evenings next term, starting May 7, GTC is again offering its foundation course in Women's Studies, *Women and the Bible: Biblical Women in Today's World* (formerly *Women in the Bible*). This course has been developed and taught by one of our graduates, Mrs Sue Bracefield. It deals with contemporary gender issues and presents a thorough study of the Bible from a Complementarian perspective.

In another new development, Mrs Ann Camp and Sue Bracefield are in the process of developing a course on *Women and the Church*, to be taught (in 2009 D.V.) as part of our Women's Studies programme. Other core requirements for Women's Studies now include Introduction to Pastoral Counselling (to be taught Terms 3 and 4 in 2008 at our Manukau Campus) and Biblical

Interpretation .

GTC offers specialized courses in Women's

Studies especially to equip both present and future women leaders so they can then return to their own churches and lead in church ministries. We aim to impart an understanding of the Bible's teaching on women and their positive and unique place in the church, and to provide helpful resources. For more information on Women's Studies or to enroll in *Women and the Bible*, please contact the College.



Mrs Ann Camp and Mrs Sue Bracefield

New North Shore Campus

Ian Grant and Peter Reynolds are offering courses at our new North Shore Campus, situated at the North Shore Reformed Church. A total of 23 students at this campus (from four different churches) are taking courses on Biblical Theology, Preaching Workshops, and Pastoral Counselling. One student told us that they have been waiting over 20 years for this opportunity.

We are so thankful to the Lord for this extension of GTC's ministry. To be contributing to the educating of the Christian community in our country is a fulfilling of the calling we believe the Lord has given Grace College. To see the equipping, supporting and encouraging of present and future leaders is our privilege of service.

We have a total of 16 students at our Manukau Campus, including one pastoral ministry student. Of special delight are the eleven men in the preaching workshop classes, across both campuses, learning to preach Christ from every part of Scripture. Some of them have already had op-

portunity to preach their sermons in their own churches. Their excitement is growing!

Thank you for praying with us for all these students. May the Lord be pleased to raise up more leaders for preaching, teaching and serving in his church, both in New Zealand and overseas.



**GTC's North Shore Campus,
74 Trias Rd, Glenfield**

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:

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Please join us in....

Thanking God for

- ◆ New Principal and new Associate Principal
- ◆ The new students at the Manukau and North Shore campuses
- ◆ Three new GTC Board members, Peter Boyd, Ken Campbell, Geoff McPherson



Praying for

- ◆ Andrew, Nola and John as they move to Wyndham and settle into their new home, and John into a new school.
- ◆ Peter Reynolds as he assumes new responsibilities as Principal of GTC, while serving as an Assistant Pastor at the Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ New part-time faculty to assist in the teaching of courses at Manukau and on the North Shore.
- ◆ For the establishment of GTC teaching centres in the South Island.

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(Tick [✓] the appropriate box/es)

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- 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
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