



preachingthe**kingdom**

Reformed Theological College Preaching Workshop 2007

The sixth annual RTC Preaching Conference is fast approaching. The conference is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, 27-28 September.

This year's theme is "Preaching the Kingdom." The conference will explore the rich themes of the Kingdom of God. The aim will be to show preachers how they can strengthen their ministry of the Word by preaching the Kingdom.

Topics include:

- *The Kingdom in the Bible*
- *Preaching a Kingdom Mindset*
- *Kingdom and Mission*
- *Preaching a Kingdom Lifestyle*

Please make your booking soon if you still wish to come. If you cannot attend, please pray for this venture. The Lord has richly blessed the earlier conferences and this one promises to be particularly challenging.

Gospel preachers don't just preach the good news of individual salvation. Like Jesus, they preach the good news of the Kingdom. Pray that this conference will help revitalise this important dimension of gospel preaching.

For further enquiries or an application form, please contact the College.

preaching**the**kingdom**** conference costs are as follows:



Single Day

RTC Members & Students

Participants \$40

Spouse \$15

Non Members

Participants \$60

Spouse \$25

Both Days

RTC Members & Students

Participants \$70

Spouse \$25

Non Members

Participants \$100

Spouse \$40

Limited accommodation is available at the College, but you will need to book quickly!

Newsletter

Winter 2007

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Reformed Theological College

125 Pigdons Road
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Reformed Theological College

Newsletter

Winter 2007

Call to prayer

This newsletter has often reminded our readers of the need for more students. We know that many of you have been praying that the College will increasingly fulfil its vision of training and equipping a new generation of gospel leaders.

In Australia and New Zealand today there is no greater need than for the Lord to raise up leaders who know and love the gospel well and who can proclaim it effectively.

In societies that can sadly be described as "post-Christian" the gospel needs to be presented faithfully, creatively and compellingly. If this urgent and sacred task is to be carried out, the church needs leaders who have a sound understanding of both the world and the Word.

We believe that the Lord is beginning to answer these prayers, also in the students who have recently enrolled at the RTC. Since the academic year is divided into two semesters, it is now relatively easy for students to enrol mid-year. Perhaps this is the first time when there have been almost as many enrolments in the middle as at the beginning of the year.

As we consider the Lord's goodness in answering our prayers by sending new students, let us continue to pray that He will raise up more and more trained leaders.

In the RTC's supporting denominations there are still vacant churches. A few have been vacant for some time. Several of our larger churches are dependent on the services of a solo minister. For them to have more than one pastor would not be a luxury. In fact, it would probably be essential for the progress of the gospel. Moreover, a good number of the serving ministers in the supporting denominations are currently approaching retirement.

As churches we have also committed ourselves to plant new churches. These are urgent matters and should be a great incentive to fervent prayer. The church of today needs leaders. The church of tomorrow will need even more leaders. How can the churches carry out their God-given mission if they lack leaders?

So as you give thanks for the students who are introduced below, please pray for them and also that there will be many, many more. The Lord himself has encouraged us to pray this way. As he said to his disciples at the end of Matthew 9: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

But beware – you may end up being the answer to your own prayers! It happened to the disciples and it could also happen to you.

New Students

Selena Borserio became a Christian as an adult and testifies to the transforming power of the gospel in her home life. She attended Bible Study Fellowship from 2001 to 2004



which gave her an appreciation for the richness of the Bible. In 2006 she became an RE teacher and every week she loved teaching 110 students. At the same time she became aware of the great need for school chaplains. So this year she decided to enrol in the RTC's Bachelor of Ministry program with a view to becoming a high school chaplain. Selena is married with three boys aged 13, 11 and 8.

Melissa Claxton grew up in a Christian home. She attends and is a youth leader at Geelong's Bayside Christian Church. Melissa also works with the chaplaincy team at nearby Grovedale College and serves breakfast there. At the RTC Melissa is studying the Old Testament. She writes: "I hope to learn more about Christ and grow in my faith. Next year I'll be studying youth, children's and international ministry, on my way to becoming a youth minister. I want to be speaking into the hearts of people and tell them about our Saviour."



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Andrew de Vries with his wife



Christina and daughter Josie recently moved to Geelong from Qld. He is studying at the RTC for just one year to complete the subjects that are

required for ordination in the CRCA. Most recently Andrew was able to serve the Nerang congregation while their minister was on long service leave. On a personal note Andrew writes: "I had the privilege of being raised by parents who loved the Lord and I have worshipped in Christian Reformed Churches for most of my life. My arrival at the RTC is the culmination of quite a long journey. I started studying part time in Queensland in 2001 with the Consortium of Reformed Colleges with a view to being better equipped to serve God in my family, church and workplace. I moved to full time studies in 2003 and completed a Bachelor of Theology at the end of 2006. Lord willing, I hope to finish my studies at the RTC in the middle of 2008 and proceed to a Vicariate. I also thought that while I had your attention I'd let you know I'd be available for a summer Vicariate if anyone's interested. Your prayers for strength and guidance for all the students at the RTC are greatly appreciated."

Shane Lott: "I am married," writes Shane, "and blessed with three beautiful children and another one on the way (it's a very busy household). I became a Christian on Easter Sunday of 2006 while attending a church service. This came as a bit of a surprise as I was an atheist up to this point. I was only there because my terminally ill cousin (Jacob, 8yrs old) asked me to go. Since then I have been attending *The Wave* (Baptist Church) in Ocean



Grove. I have a thirst for the Word and felt that the RTC is where the Father wanted me to be. It is a blessing to be here and the faculty and students alike have been most welcoming." Shane is pursuing the Bachelor of Ministries degree. This involves two years of full-time study at the RTC plus another year at nearby Deakin University.

Ben McDonald writes: "I am studying



the Bachelor of Theology. Even though I have lived in Geelong all my life, making the decision to study full time at the RTC was not an easy one for my wife and me

to make. I was encouraged by a number of people to consider study after having led some reading services in our local church. The *Fan the Flame* conference held by the RTC in March was also a great encouragement to me. At this point in time I am unsure as to where and how the Lord would have me serve in the future but trust the He will enable me to complete the course, grow in faith and knowledge, and then use that for His kingdom and glory."

Jason Spits comes to the RTC after spending the past eight years living in Sydney & worshipping at the CRCA in North Ryde. This is his second time in Geelong, where he completed his high school and university studies before travelling overseas and settling in Sydney.



Prior to coming to the RTC he was a journalist working on business magazines and also served in his local church as a youth group leader and more recently as youth elder. He was also involved with leading services, presenting reading services and under the guidance of his pastor

did some work in sermon preparation. His decision to enrol at the RTC was driven partly by this work in the church and by a change in his employment situation which he felt was God indicating the time to consider further study was at hand. Jason plans to complete the Bachelor of Theology program and has been married for 11 years to Kim and has two children, Riley aged 4 and Harper aged 2.



Chris Waters is a student for the Bachelor of Ministries degree. Chris completed his secondary education last year. He is a member of

Barrabool Hills Baptist Church in Geelong and is actively involved in the church's music and youth ministries. "Recently I have felt God calling me to become involved in the education of full-time ministries," says Chris. "While looking around for a place to fulfill this calling I have found that the RTC is committed to training men and women to serve God. I'm confident that the RTC will establish me strongly in God's Word, and will help me further develop the skills and character necessary for many areas of ministry in the church of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Distance Students: The RTC is also happy to welcome two new online students. **William MacKerras** and **Andrew Short** both live in Canberra. They are doing the online subject in Ethics with theology lecturer Dr Bill Berends.

Please continue to pray for all the students and the faculty at the College.



Evening Courses

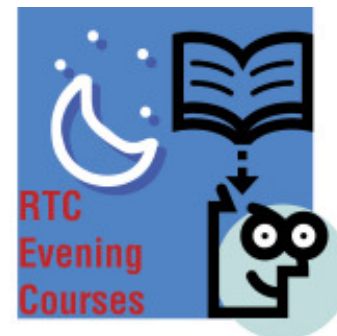
Since 1996 the RTC has sought to minister to the local Christian community by offering evening classes. At present two one-year certificate courses are being run – the Certificate in Theology and the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry. Both courses are conducted on Tuesday evenings.

This year each evening has consistently attracted about thirty students from the wider Geelong area. During the Winter term Dr Bill Berends has been teaching the subject "Defending the Faith." Dr Steve Voorwinde meanwhile has been teaching the Pastoral Epistles. During the Spring term we are planning to offer classes on the Reformation and Pastoral Leadership.

The evening program has been ideal for training local lay leadership. Those who do the courses for credit are entitled to graduate with our day-students at the end of the year. In the past those who have graduated in our Certificate courses have often gone on to do RE teaching and pastoral work or to serve as elders and deacons in their local churches.



We are thankful that the Lord has blessed the evening classes for a good number of years now. Please also remember these endeavours in your prayers.



Barkley Hall

This year the RTC residence is being well used. At present this facility is filled almost to capacity with fifty-four full-time residents. Of these only a handful are theology students. Most are students at nearby Deakin University. Several are doing doctoral and other postgraduate studies. Many are from overseas, especially China.

In spite of near-capacity numbers rooms have also been made available for short-term visitors. For example, just recently a group of thirteen students from the USA stayed at Barkley Hall while conducting a mission at Deakin on behalf of Campus Crusade for Christ.

In July an MTS conference was hosted at the RTC. It is gratifying to see the facilities so well utilised. At times like this the dining room is filled to overflowing. The atmosphere is definitely multicultural and international. It is a situation that provides many gospel opportunities.

We are also grateful for a competent chef in the person of Mrs Bronwyn Hale.



Norma Allthorpe



Norma joined the Ladies Aid Committee on 7 Dec. 1988, representing her church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

She became secretary in March 1994 and subsequently the minutes were always up to date. Norma also worked at the RTC as a helper in the

Library and she ordered books for the students.

Norma is one of the quiet achievers with her various tasks; and she loved working for the Lord and the RTC.

As a committee we presented Norma with a gift voucher from Word Bookstore and some lovely writing cards to use in her retirement.

Thank you for your faithful work and have a restful retirement.

Your friends and colleagues from the Ladies Aid.

