



College Connect

BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EQUIPPING PEOPLE FOR LIFE – FROM THE WORD TO THE WORLD

40 YEARS

May 2018

Autumn 40th Anniversary Edition

On 5th May 2018 BCWA celebrated its 40th anniversary. The celebration service was well attended by past students (alumni) and staff who still have fond memories of their college days.

Founding Principal, Rev. Dr. David Shalley shared about the origins of the college and its progression in ministry with the current Principal, the Rev. Dr. Dawson Elliott sharing about the continuation of that original vision within the contemporary climate of Bible College. Pastor Cheng Lai Lim was the keynote speaker. He graduated at BCWA and is the founder of Faith Community Church in Perth.



The theme for the 40th Anniversary was
“Faithful to the Calling.”



God has indeed been good to BCWA over the past 40 years. As I envision the future, I am reminded of Paul’s words- ***“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus”*** (Phil.3:13b &14) – Dawson Elliott/Principal.

Reaching a milestone of 40 years is impressive; but doing so in a theological climate is a feat that is worthy to be pleased of.

The college we know today, began life in the busy heyday of the late 70's, during a time when many new ideas and movements were gaining ground. Some of these ideas helped to advance mankind, whilst others became not much more than conversation pieces around water coolers and weekend barbeques. In the midst of this period, there was a stirring in the theological spirit of many who wanted:

- A deeper sense of spiritual formation and personal development,
- Learning outcomes that are deeply biblical, and practical, just the way Christ had intended.

To satisfy this need, one would have had to decide between the only two options available, namely:

- Church based educational programs, and
- Traditional Theological Colleges

From a theological and practical viewpoint, there existed a gap between these two options, and it was the need to fill this gap – that became the vision for Rev. Dr. Max Wells – who went on to establish what we all know today as the

'Bible College of Western Australia'.



Some of the main points of Pastor Cheng Lai's message from Philippians 2:12-18 were as follows:

There are three things we can learn from the Apostle Paul in this passage in Philippians 2:12-18:

1. *We have a purpose to achieve - Philippians 2:12.*
2. *We have a power to receive – Philippians 2:13*
3. *We have a Joy to receive – Philippians 2:16-18.*

It is not merely our wisdom, our skills or even our training, but it is the Holy Spirit that resides within us that enables us to fulfill the purposes of God in the calling that He has given to each one of us. Colossians 1:29 tells us that whilst we labour or work; it is the energy of the Holy Spirit that works so powerfully in us. It is Christ in us, the hope of glory that is the key to Faithfulness – Colossians 1:27.



CELEBRATION CONTINUED AFTER THE SERVICE WITH GREAT FILIPINO CUISINE AND CATCHING UP WITH OLD PALS☺



BCWA

DEEPLY BIBLICAL, HIGHLY PRACTICAL, CONTEXTUALLY RELEVANT, HIGHLY MISSIONAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL

<i>Year</i>	<i>Milestone</i>
1978	<p><i>This vision was realized with the establishment of what was then known as the West Australian Bible College (WABC), initially operating from the Gosnells Baptist Church</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though the initial response was small (3FT and 7PT), numbers grew as the as the college gained wider acceptance. • <i>Appointment of David Shalley as foundation Principal – significant milestone</i>
1981	<p><i>The college purchases and relocates to the 1.1 hectare site in Wattle Grove,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due to an increase in enquiries from country students seeking residential courses, and • the need to establish the independence of the college
1983	<p><i>Expansion of the educational facilities to include office spaces for Lectures, Library and Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growth of both the program and enrolments necessitated the expansion. • Two large transportable units were assembled on site with assistance from volunteer and student work parties
1990	<p><i>Appointment of additional academic lecturer – Mr. Geoff Wager</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing growth and the development of a wider range of courses, plus increasing administration pressures, made it clear that an additional academic lecturer was required. Accordingly Mr Geoff Wager, already a visiting tutor, was appointed as Deputy Principal, on half time from 1990 then full time from 1992
1993	<p><i>Accreditation of Graduate Diploma, Diploma, Certificate and Advanced Certificate courses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An important stage in the development of the college occurred in 1993 when the Graduate Diploma, Diploma, Certificate and Advanced Certificate courses were accredited, allowing students access to Austudy, Abstudy and Centrelink.
1994	<i>Appointment of Rev. Geoff Fewster as Principal</i>
1997	<i>Development of new courses in the areas of Children’s Ministry and teaching of English to Non-English speakers</i>
2005	<i>Appointment of Haydn Nelson as Principal</i>
2007	<i>Appointment of David Shalley as interim Principal, following Haydn’s move to Riverview Church</i>
2007	<i>Appointment of Dawson Elliott as Principal</i>
2018	<i>To date, the college has had 1294 students many of whom are active in ministry. Accredited courses are offered through the Australian Centre for Advanced Studies. Self –accredited courses are also offered as well as seminars and workshops. Overseas ministry training in South Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines. BCWA also offers consultative services to churches. Campus at Kelmscott Baptist Church (KBC) – 29 Third Ave. Kelmscott, Perth, WA.</i>

Semester 1/2018



This semester is a fruitful one. BCWA has **62 students** and participants in all of its study programs. Many of our students prefer practical ministry training in terms of understanding the God's Word for today and seek mentoring and personal development and spiritual formation. Our internship program is ensuring our students get on the job training and fulfil their calling in their respective churches.

Apart from the accredited and self-accredited training streams, BCWA has also offered "**youth-surge**" studies in "**Ephesians: ultimate social network**" for teens called ENGAGE.

This will be ongoing in Semester 2/2018.

A theological forum, "**Conversations on Sexuality**" was also held on 28 April with Dr. Viktor Zander presenting and engaging the students in holistic discussion.

A **Worship Seminar/Workshop** was held on 19 May. Dr. Dawson Elliott and trainee Pastor, Diony Escarilla who is gifted in the area of music and worship led the sessions.

To close this semester off, BCWA is hosting a **Worship Night [PLUNGE]** on 16 June 2018 (6.30pm -8.30pm). A few churches will be participating in leading us in this 'worship-a-thon' in going deeper in worship of our God. **A sumptuous Filipino dinner pack** will be sold for just \$10 from 5pm -6.20pm.

"BCWA is helping me in seeking understanding and meaning of my faith in God. Walking alongside the Rev. Dr. Dawson Elliott and Mrs Ros Smith has been invaluable to my growth and development, as I'm constantly being invested in and challenged to more like Christ" – CHARLES ROENNFELDT

"BCWA has impacted my life through imparting correct doctrines concerning Christian faith" – DANIEL VALCAN



PRAYER POINTS

1. As we finalize the end of Semester One in terms of student Assessments and the like.
2. As we prepare for the advertising, intake, etc of new and returning students for Semester Two.
3. For the members of the Board as we contemplate the way forward in terms of accredited training with all of its challenges.
4. For the Principal as he leads BCWA, lectures, meets the government compliance and goes on deputations and keep the college active in terms of its vision.
5. For the students and their families.
6. Our satellite college in Durban, South Africa.
7. Our partner school in Balikpapan, Indonesia.
8. For students and churches in the Southern Province of the Philippines and the Principal's proposed visit there next semester to conduct ministry training and to form a cohort of associated churches with BCWA.

Acts 26:12-29 — God's vision accomplished through Paul

1. *It stopped him* (vv.12-15)
 - Vision enables us to see Christ. We see things not as we should, but as He does.
2. *It sent him* (vv.16-18)
 - Vision enables us to see others. We feel compelled to act.
3. *It strengthened him* (vv.20-23)
 - Vision enables us to continue despite struggle and lack of resources.

A time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven

The College has since July 2011 sought to find ways and means (rediscover, rethink, remodel, reflect, renew, re-appropriate) to offer Christian vocational education and training within the contextual dynamics of Australian society, more specifically, that of Western Australia. **Change of Emphasis:** BCWA believes that we need to revert to the master and apprentice model: Listening-watching - working together - learning - living the Gospel message - we have the supreme example of our Master, Jesus Christ. AND SO OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES...

Feeling led to donate to BCWA?

You can make a direct deposit into BCWA's account:
Commonwealth Bank, BSB 06 6131, a/c number 1027 0513.
THANK YOU!