On Monday mornings at College the staff gather in the Chapel for prayers and then we have morning tea together. In these times we can catch up on the weekend’s activities, share matters of concern or celebration and, at this time of the year, some of us talk about the football. These times together are vital expressions of our life as a College team.

In our prayers, we are able to express our concerns about matters in our own situation, as well as praying for the churches and for the world at large. We say at the beginning that we do not gather to be separate from our work, but to acknowledge that God is present in all we do. This idea is vital to our whole life as a College. In an important sense, everything that you see displayed in Whitley College Life is undergirded by our commitment to see all of life in the light of God’s presence.

At the heart of our Monday Prayers, we offer a specific prayer for the College. The words of that prayer are as follows:

**God of truth and hope**

We ask you to bless all for whom we pray this day.

We ask you to bless our College and all who are part of its community.

Teach all to love you with heart and mind.

May this College be a lively centre for new discovery and for growth in all that enriches life.

May all who teach and all who study

know the freedom to try, to fail, or to succeed;

May they live with your gift of new hope.

May they seek truth and love,

And in humility look to you,

the source and spirit of all wisdom and understanding.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

These words draw upon a prayer which can be found in the Anglican Church’s *A Prayer Book for Australia*, page 206. This is significant too. Here we draw upon something from the wider Christian tradition, but adapt it to our own context. In one of these changes, I have extended the objective of college life, not just to be a lively centre ‘for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom’ (as the original says) but to say ‘a lively centre for growth in all that enriches life’.

This little prayer service is only ‘the tip of the iceberg’, in terms of the spiritual life of the College. Some of this life is overt, such as the worship events that mark special times in the College year. The spiritual vitality of the Christian ‘GLO’ group is an important aspect of Residential College life. Some worship events happen in other places too, such as the annual Graduation Ceremony of the University of Divinity, held this year at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

In addition, however, we are very conscious that we are supported and surrounded by many well wishing and often prayerful friends. Personally I have known and been sustained and encouraged by this support. We would not be the kind of College we have become without such prayerful, encouraging friends.
As the weather cools and the days shorten, the studying becomes more intense. First semester is almost at an end and seems to have flown by as usual with new students settling in, lots of socializing enjoyed, sports played and arts activities to engage our creative tendencies. Orientation Week seems like a distant memory with all its ‘007’ fun and frivolity. In addition to the popular Toga party, beach visit and skit night, we visited the Bunjilaka Indigenous Exhibition at the Museum and arranged a Zumba class and tour of the sports facilities to encourage wellbeing.

Commencement Dinner was a wonderful way to mark the start of the academic year. Tim Hunt, former Student Club President and now Fire Control Officer for the Kimberly, entertained us with his helpful tips for surviving University and College life. We recognized a number of academic achievements. Awards for exceptional ATARs were given to: Harry Driscoll, Francesca Ngu, Katheryn Pearson, Steven Sia and Margaret Zhou. Highly Commended awards went to: Matthew Appleyard, Rey Dayap and Anthony Kuiper. Most improved student was Matthew Bennett.

H1 average awards went to: Nathaniel Ballinger, Katrina Bigelow, Sam Lam, Rosie Lane, Jonathan Manus, Shashank Murali, Joses Nathanael, Christian Ong, Jennifer Payette, Asitha Samarakwramaka and Mandy Tsai. Clare Brown again received straight First Class Honours. Continuing the theme of academic success we were delighted to celebrate with Asitha Samarakwramaka his Dean’s List Award. Tutor Ogi Belic was awarded the 2013 Ronald Riseborough Prize for having submitted the best research report in Applied Chemistry in the Master of Science program. Joses Nathanael has been awarded the Fred Walker Scholarship for 2013, having achieved the best average weighted score in third year Chemistry.

Our new Tutors have involved themselves in the community and supported the academic aspirations of the students. Caitlin Overington is tutoring in Criminology and has been invited to travel to the UK to present at 2 conferences there. Whilst there she will interview subjects in London as part of her PhD research. She will also present a Tutor seminar at Whitley entitled: “Watch where you walk at night: perception of risk and harm in the city”. Jasmine Zhu is tutoring in Biomedicine and consulting with our medical students. She has travelled to Malaysia for a Diabetes conference where, she reported, the food was fabulous! Rami Osman is Tutoring in a range of mathematics and physics subjects and proving to be an all rounder in sports playing tennis, squash and soccer.

The annual Boat Cruise, held late in March, was enjoyed by most of the College though anticipated balmy weather was not very much in evidence. Games of cricket, softball, hockey and soccer have all been played enthusiastically. Rowing training continues in the early hours in the lead up to the rowing carnival on 17th April. CROs with themes such as High School Groups, Think Nerds and Goths have been embraced. ICAC activities such as Chess and Cards, Pool and Darts, Public Speaking and Origins Dance Off have provided creative outlets on Sunday evenings. The Football and Netball auction saw people paying good money for odd and wonderful items alike: Tennis lessons from a Davis Cup player as well as boxes of Snickers with a “best before” date of September 2013. The JCR Theatre Room with its new furnishings and blinds is proving a popular venue for “Game of Thrones” Marathons and movie nights in Pis as the weather cools. We look forward to Christmas in May at which we farewell the Exchange Students. Then it is GLO café on the last Friday of semester before the quiet diligence of Swot Vac and Exams.
New beginnings are memorable moments. Recalling my first day(s) at school, university, and theological college is to be reminded of open expectation and anticipation: a new world to be explored, much waiting to be learnt, new relationships to develop, and new expectations to be placed upon me. It is both exciting and daunting.

As I look back on my life, I realise that I have been involved in education since first dipping my fingers into the paint pot in kindergarten. Through the years I have engaged in education as a student, teacher, tutor, lecturer, chaplain, researcher, visiting presenter, parent, administrator, and in governance, but beneath it all for me remains a commitment to life-long learning, of which formal education is an important stimulus and framework. For all the learning, which takes place in interface with a book, podcast or web page, the rich stimulus of community cannot be replaced.

I am honoured to be joining the team at Whitley, a place where my own theological education was launched and has been formed, and deeply enriched. I look forward with a deep sense of anticipation to meeting and engaging with the many faces of Whitley, and its many partners, as we share this learning journey together. I will continue in a part-time pastoral role at The Eighth Day in West Melbourne – a courageous community that has been a formative part of my own journey in more recent years, and supporting my wife Evelyn as part of the Pastoral Care Team at The Royal Children’s Hospital.

I join the College community just after the graduation ceremony, and want to congratulate the graduating students for their achievements. In reaching this important milestone, I hope that the thirst to learn and grow continues to live in you.

Over the coming months I look forward to working closely with Bruce Tudball, the outgoing Dean, whose work over the past two years has provided important and effective leadership of the College. I pray God’s blessing for Bruce and Pauline as they move into the next stage of life’s journey in following the call of Jesus.

In a rapidly changing world, learning can no longer be confined to simple course requirements, which serve as an introduction to a world of learning, which remains open. It is a reminder that education is not so much about accumulating information, but growing in formation – and for followers of Jesus, formation into the image of Christ. I am delighted to be joining a college community, which is committed to this formation in order to equip leaders for a different world.
Greetings in the blessed name of our savior Jesus Christ!

It is a great joy and privilege to say a warm-hearted hello to the fellow faculties and students of our sister institution, Whitley College. I am Kuk-Won Bae, the President of Korea Baptist Theological University/Seminary (KBTUS). All of our fifty-three faculty members and 2,400 full-time students join together to welcome the possibility of our friendship and mutual understanding with Whitley friends.

In a sense Whitley and KBTUS represent quite a stark contrast as we are located at the far ends of the Pacific Ocean, the Southern and the Northern hemispheres. Yes, you are ‘down under’ there, but are we then ‘up above’ here? As a Korea saying goes, we can learn more from a distant, different, and even difficult friend than a near friend. All of us in KBTUS really want to get to know you and learn more from you. We believe that we can build a powerful witness of how God works cooperatively and triumphantly through two different institutions and people. We can develop a wonderful story of the synergy on the each far side of the Pacific.

We are going to celebrate the 60th anniversary on 27th of May this year with the slogan of ‘For Jesus, One-Way 60 years! One Dream 100 Years!’ Thanks to our Lord, we are truly grateful and proud of what we have accomplished for the last sixty years. It includes 20,000 alumni, 800 missionaries all over the world, and 3,000 pastors in local churches in Korea. Now we want to include the love and the friendship with Whitley friends in the glorious list of KBTUS accomplishments. Our friends ‘down under’ will be a great asset to our mission for the Kingdom of God. Thank you very much.

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Rev Bruce Tudball

Bruce joined the Faculty from 1 May 2012 and he served the College as Dean, bringing his extensive experience as an educational administrator and a passion for theological education. His involvement with Global Interaction has further strengthened our links with Baptist mission throughout the world. Bruce has especially enjoyed his involvement with students, many of whom have greatly appreciated his guidance and encouragement. We were pleased to have him preach at our final Tuesday Chapel for Semester 1 on 27th May 2014. The College takes this opportunity to thank him again for his excellent leadership and service in his time as Dean.

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School of Ministry 2014

Join us for the School of Ministry 2014 where Rev. Dr. Richard Kidd will explore the theme of ‘Seeing is Believing: Believing is Seeing’. (14-16 July 2014).

How does the visual world impact our faith? Why is the visual so important to us in how we interpret and communicate meaning?

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Claiming Sovereignty: Theological Perspectives

We’re looking forward to you joining us for the Conference, ‘Claiming Sovereignty: Theological Perspectives’ (22-24 August 2014). Beginning with discussion of settler colonialism, this conference brings together people from a range of disciplines to reflect on discourses of sovereignty in the Australian context.