

Growing Future Leaders

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Leaders Developing Leaders

There are a plethora of leaders in the Bible to draw insight and inspiration from, **George Savvides, Chair of World Vision**, explained at the Ridley College Annual Dinner.

ANNUAL DINNER KEYNOTE

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"Biblical leaders have a common characteristic" George says. "They all attribute their leadership to God. So it's not only nature and nurture that form a leader, but most importantly reverence for God's leading in their lives."

George sees both Daniel and David in the Old Testament as examples of this. He says, "Daniel, as gifted as he was, knew that it was God who gave him the knowledge and extraordinary leadership skills which were attractive to the Persian leader (Daniel 1:19). And Daniel acknowledges God as the source of his ability to interpret visions (Daniel 2:19)."

Reflecting on David, George says "David, a young shepherd boy, confronted by this monster Goliath, turns up to the battle lines and his own army leaders say 'What are you doing here? You are a kid!' But David is convinced of his call to leadership. Responding to Goliath's sneers he says, 'You come to me with a sword and a spear and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord'. David accesses the power of the one who called him, so that even a boy can be a great leader."

Barnabas also impresses George, not only because of their mutual Cypriot heritage but also in his leadership style. "Barnabas is not only an advocate for future leaders, but he is also a humble man. He knows his place and his role. He is a quiet leader who makes the next thing happen in leadership."

"Barnabas sees the potential in two 'not yet' leaders. He advocates for two first century characters who later become giants of the Christian faith," says George. "But Barnabas is the only one advocating. He advocates for Saul, later called Paul, and for John-Mark, the author of Mark's Gospel. Barnabas had to work really hard to get the frightened Christians in Jerusalem to open the door for Paul," George explains. But this was an effort well worth it, as George notes. "If you look at all the epistles that Paul authored and also the book of Mark, a third of the New Testament was written by these two characters. Barnabas leaves no manuscript, but his advocacy of Paul and Mark produce the testimony. That was the impact that Barnabas had. He was a leader who developed leaders."

What can we learn from Barnabas? "You have got to give emerging leaders with talent, without rank, the time and space to express themselves and develop their leadership", says George. "You have to give them a go, and it's ok if they fluff it before they get it right."

"The metaphor for leadership I prefer is that of a conductor rather than a captain of a team," says George, reflecting on a time when he was asked to conduct a choir. While the song was in German, and the tune unfamiliar, George managed to do his leadership bit as a conductor who unlocked the talent in the choir. This experience helped George to see that

"leadership occurs not because you are an expert, or have all the answers, but because the talent is in the team. Your job in leadership is to unlock the talent that already exists in the team."

Building on the leadership of Bible characters, George sees coherence with modern leadership theory writer, Simon Walker, particularly in his book *The Undefended Leader*. "The undefended leader is one that is so secure in their self-identity that they can take feedback and not be offended by it," says George. "If you are that kind of leader you will not think that you need to have the conductor's baton all the time. You can step back and let others have a go. Jesus is an undefended leader – he serves, he's not there to promote himself."

George also sees coherence with the work of Ridley College. Imagine the power that comes out of leaders who develop leaders who follow Christ - leaders who connect their giftedness and their nurture with holding the hand of Jesus to unlock their ministry in the world, to be restorative, to deal with injustice, to bring kindness that displaces cruelty, and to bring more compassion into our society – this is beautiful leadership."



Hear the full speech on the Ridley website:
ridley.edu.au/resource/growing-future-leaders

Growing Future Leaders

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For The 2017 Calendar

March 6

'Celebrating the English Reformation'
 Annual Preachers' Conference

April 8

Graduation

May 19 – 20

'Martin Luther, Pastoral Theologian'
 Ridley Theology Conference
 with Ron Rittgers (Valparaiso University, USA)

June 16 – 26

Reformation Study Tour

June 28 – July 11

Reformation Friend's Tour

July 21

Evangelical Women in Academia
 Day Seminar with Lynn Cohick

Leon Morris Lecture
 given by Lynn Cohick

August 22 – 24

'By Faith Alone: Preaching Romans'
 Annual Preachers' Conference
 with keynote speakers Ray Galea & Mike Bird

October 27 – 28

Life @ Work Conference

December 9 – 11

Isreal Study Tour

Check the Ridley website for times & locations:
www.ridley.edu.au/events or join our events
 mailing list: j.daw@ridley.edu.au

170 The Avenue, Parkville, Victoria 3052
 ph: 03 9207 4800 / email: info@ridley.edu.au
www.ridley.edu.au



From the Principal

The need to grow leaders is at an all-time high according to Principal, **Brian Rosner**.

PARKVILLE CAMPUS LIFE

There's never been a time, in my lifetime at least, when the need has been greater for effective, godly Christian leadership in all walks of life. Leadership is in somewhat of a crisis, and there are strong headwinds against living the Christian life in our day.

Of course Christian leadership is of a fundamentally different order to other forms of leadership. One difference is that Christian leadership is not only about leading communities and organisations but also and especially about changing the lives of individuals.

Speaking personally, it was a Christian leader in Student Life, a campus Christian group, in my university years that had an enormous impact on my life. In high school, I was an awkward teenager sitting on the fence with respect to God. It was Steve Sandvig at Sydney University who took me aside, modelled authentic faith in Christ for me and nurtured me as a young believer. Those years of contact with Steve changed my direction and set the course of my life. My life to date would have been very different if it were not for Steve's patient and thoughtful leadership.

So how is Ridley College going with the task of growing Christian leaders? In terms of quantity, we give thanks to God that student numbers are up. We are currently 15% bigger than ever before when you include both on-campus and online students.

However, growing leaders is a bigger job than simply getting people to study with us. One of our core values is the intentional development

of Christ-like character, prayerful dependence on God, and the integration of life, doctrine and ministry practice. The goal of all Christian ministry is not just to win people for Christ, but rather to "present them fully mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28).

For students on campus, this means that what happens in the classroom, over meals and breaks, and in chapel are all formative experiences. We learn in community. And indeed, nothing is more satisfying at college than taking opportunities to reflect with students on how the grace of God teaches us to live in our everyday lives.

For students online, it looks different, but the goal is the same. Formation occurs through regular interactions in the online forums which are often lively and intensely personal. It is also achieved through the guided spiritual formation units of study in which we connect students with mentors in their own settings and facilitate those relationships. We regularly hear stories of how these connections are helping students to be shaped by their studies to become better equipped for Christian service.

My hope and prayer is that Ridley College will grow Christian leaders who will bring people to Christ, lead them to maturity, and make a real difference in the world.

Brian Rosner
 Principal

Changing Cultures

Studying at Ridley prepared **Helen Dwyer** for different kinds of ministry.

GRADUATE

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Leadership is about vision and the lengths and measures taken to achieve the vision. Helen Dwyer has a clear vision: "I want people to think counter-culturally, just like Jesus did." Helen endeavors to be a living witness to God's love, mercy and compassion as she journeys with those she ministers to. "I lead them, nudge them and nurture them. I reflect back to them what's going on around them, but through the lens of faith, with all the hope, love and grace that comes through faith in Jesus."

Helen is a chaplain at Overnewton Anglican Community College, the Aboriginal Reconciliation Liaison Officer for the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, the mother of 14 year old Elijah, and a Ridley College graduate.

The Reconciliation role is a new position that was created in response to the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan. Helen is excited about this role. "It allows me to meld together my faith, my Aboriginal heritage and my call to ministry." In the role, Helen works with Anglican parishes, schools and agencies around the Diocese, helping them to explore what reconciliation is, why there is a biblical mandate to seek it, and possibilities for achieving it.



Overnewton is a co-educational Anglican school in the northern suburbs of Melbourne for children from Prep to Year 12 on two campuses with around 2100 students and 1400 families, as well as over 350 staff members. "I have the important job of helping the students and staff understand how the Bible is still relevant to them now," says Helen. "While around two thirds of families at the college identify as having some Christian faith, many of those wouldn't be regular church attenders, and over a third of families at the college identify as having a faith other than Christian, or no faith at all. I seek to help them understand how we love and care for each other in the midst of difference, and how we honour God in all of this."

"My roles, especially at the school, keep my faith authentic," says Helen. "I can't be overly academic or esoteric and I can't hide behind

commentaries, because the students need the authentic me, and they see straight through anything disingenuous. Everyday I need to be flexible in my work environment, and prepared to look at opportunities that might be outside my usual frame of reference. I make sure to keep open to new learning and new possibilities."

Ridley was a key part of Helen's journey to these roles. "Ridley was very nurturing for me and showed me how to be a leader, not by telling me what to do but by helping me to discover my leadership qualities and how to use them in diverse contexts," she says. "Ridley helped me to examine what's necessary in faith, and how to make use of the resources I have."

See a video of Helen at work:
ridley.edu.au/helen

Celebration of the Reformation Friends & Supporters Tour / 28 June to 11 July 2017

Discover the life and work of great heroes of faith such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, Johannes Gutenberg, and Ulrich Zwingli, and be inspired and encouraged in your own faith. 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, a movement that has shaped Christian faith and life in ways that remain critical and relevant for today.

brochure & bookings: www.ridley.edu.au/reformation

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ERFURT
ROTHENBURG
NUREMBERG
ZURICH
GENEVA

Great Leaders Learn

Ridley student **Marsha Dale** reflects on the *Principles of Leadership and Management* unit offered at the College.

PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! (Phil 2:5-8)

What is or should be differentiating about leaders who are Christians and what would this kind of leader be like? What is leadership in Christian, not-for-profit or corporate organisations, or a church? What is distinctive about Christian leadership and what are the characteristics of a good Christian leader? How should Christian leaders seek to organise and manage themselves, their ministry and the church organisations in which they serve?

These are the questions that the *Principles of Leadership and Management* unit answers.

I completed this unit using Ridley's latest Zoom technology from my lounge room in Perth. With the time difference this meant an early 6.00am start in my PJ's and breakfast during the lunch break. I felt very privileged to be able to access this virtual classroom taught by Vice Principal Tim Foster, participating in group discussions and viewing the audio visuals in real time. This form of learning allowed me to see leadership in action and was the perfect teaching medium for the subject matter.

As the unit outline promised, the class was in the style of a mini-MBA and gave me skills across a range of key leadership and management competencies with a particular focus on developing a transformational leadership style that embodies integrity, strategic focus and empowerment to promote growth and change.

Having completed a number of senior leadership courses in non-theological settings I was encouraged to look at Christian leadership and

management through the lenses of the Bible and Christian theology. The course also helped me to see how my leadership in non-church settings should be Christ-like leadership. Exploring topics such as the servant/shepherd role, the priority of character, the role of power, and assumptions about control, as well as the reality of sin and evil, was extremely humbling and helpful.

The course was very practical as we looked at issues including managing change, the role of effective communication, risk management and government. All those considering ministry need to spend time thinking about such issues. We can do great damage when we are not sensitive to the role of leadership and effective management in uncertain and changing times.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing what the Bible, Christian theology and secular leadership theory have to say about leadership. The unit helped me to understand aspects of my character and their effects on my leadership, and to focus on what really matters – to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Marsha Dale has been a political staffer, teacher, lawyer, university lecturer and communications and public relations officer. She is currently the Registrar of the Mental Health Tribunal in Western Australia.

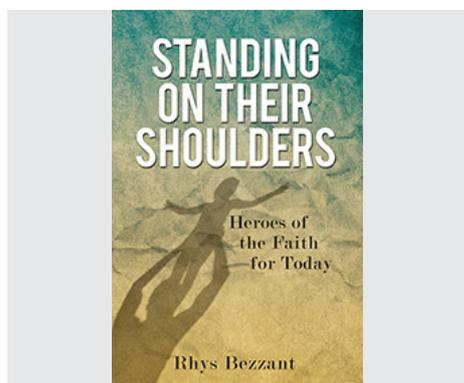
Your Place in God's Story

Standing on Their Shoulders: Heroes of the Faith for Today

by Rhys Bezzant, Acorn Press, 2015

BOOK REVIEW

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One of the many things I love about the God of the Bible is the way he uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Time and time again God takes obscure, unlikely, talented and flawed men and women to achieve his glorious purposes in the world through real history. It is this theme that Rhys Bezzant highlights

in his clear, accessible and simply written book *Standing On Their Shoulders: Heroes of the Faith for Today*.

In just 112 pages (I like short books!), Bezzant takes us on a journey through church history introducing twelve heroes of the faith who have in their own way – often through personal hardship and pain – shaped the life and work of the Christian church globally since Jesus' ascension.

Beginning with church fathers Athanasius and Augustine, Bezzant then leaps to the Reformation era of Luther, Calvin and Cranmer before continuing on through to the present era via characters such as Jonathan Edwards, William Wilberforce, Pandita Ramabai, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Billy Graham. Each of the twelve chapters begins with a short biblical exposition

connected to an aspect of the life of the hero and then provides a brief overview of their life, their context, the way God used them to further his kingdom and the legacy of their work for us today. Each chapter concludes with some helpful questions for reflection. You can't help but finish each chapter feeling challenged, thankful, inspired and ready to take your place in God's big story.

The engaging, edifying and punchy style of writing in *Standing On Their Shoulders* is the result of Bezzant's passion for biblical studies, his academic rigor and his big heart for God's people. This book will strengthen ordinary people like you and me to keep obeying, serving and loving our extraordinary God until we see him and enjoy him forever.

It is a great resource for individuals, pastors, Bible study groups and churches.

Reviewed by Simon Jackson, Senior Associate Minister at Grace Norwood Church, Adelaide.

***Standing on their Shoulders* is available to purchase from Ridley Reception and Christian Bookellers**