



# Ridley Log

[www.theridleylog.com](http://www.theridleylog.com)

## You Do Not Know What Tomorrow Will Bring

(Reflection on James 4:13-17)

By Ricky Njoto

Everyone knows that theological study is nothing like any other secular academic stuff. Yes it does have a lot of similarities with other Liberal Art disciplines, but we Bible students know for sure that studying the Scripture is, well, different. Not only that our minds are challenged every day, but in going through it we also have to depend on the very thing that we are studying every day! Language students don't have to depend their lives on Shakespeare, neither do students studying Philosophy have to depend their lives on Plato. We, on the other hand, study about God and His word and still have to depend our lives on Him.

I feel like God is teaching me this over and over again in these past few weeks. I came here from Indonesia to study at Ridley with a promise; the promise that I made with my dad. The promise goes like this: my dad completely agrees to finance my theological study as long as I pay for my own

living expenses in Melbourne. And straight away I agreed on that term! I thought, "What's so difficult? We own an apartment there so I don't need to pay rent, I just need 500 bucks a month for food and books and I'll survive! I'll just need to find a part time job!"

So I arrived here a month ago without any worries or whatsoever. In my mind I was like, "Today or tomorrow I will go into such and such....." (cf. James 4:13). I spent money almost easily and always thought, "No worries, you'll find a part time job soon". After a month and after a dozen of declined job applications, however, little by little I began to worry. My mindset changed. I feel like my plans are useless and I'm just tired. Now, automatically, without even thinking, I always say, "If the Lord wills....." (cf. James 4:15) because I know that my power is nothing, only His plan prevails. And still, I haven't found whether or not He's willing to give me a job.

### *In This Issue:*

- ◆RSC Upcoming Events!
- ◆Where Are They Now? - An Abernathy Update
- ◆Missional Movies
- ◆Theology is Poetry
- ◆Religion in Schools
- ◆And much more...

Every single time before I eat I can now really say from the bottom of my heart, "Father, thank You, because although I'm running out of money but I know that You still provide."

This experience surely forced me to stop and reflect. "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes", says James. This verse slaps me on the right cheek, humbles me and enables me to say, "You are the one and only God, I am not." Now I know that whatever happens, whether I find a job or not, whether I can finance myself or not, whatever tomorrow brings, I know that God has taught me something beautiful through this. As we go further in our theological study, as we encounter difficulties, let us surrender everything to the Mighty One, our tower of strength.

*Hello all - welcome back from  
Mid-year break and into  
Semester 2!*

*Your RSC has some pretty  
exciting events lined up for the  
coming weeks!*

### **Table Tennis Tournament!!**

With the early rounds beginning in the **coming weeks** (keep an eye out for your friendly RSC member with a sign-up sheet!), the Grand Final is in **Week 5**.

### **Debate!!**

#### ***Would Jesus Be A Fan Of Social Media?***

You tell us! The debate is coming up in **Week 6**, and there are still some slots on the for/against teams to be filled! Chat to Kevin Vo (or another RSC Member) if you'd like to be involved, otherwise come along at 1:35 on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September for a rollicking good discussion!

### **Follies!!**

#### ***Sing! Dance! Laugh the night away at our annual talent show!***

The famous Follies are back for another round of magnificent (or magnificently funny) performances from staff, student, young and old. Start thinking of what *you'd* like to share on stage!

Also keep an eye out for: Funny quotes or photos to share on the night.

### **And much more!!**

Smaller events will be run in the coming weeks, with more details to come – watch this space!



**Welcome back!**

## **Who is the RSC?**

**For those who are new or have forgotten, meet your student council!**

Talk to us about: **The Log** (Miriam), **Social events** (Steve, Amanda, all of us!), **Hoodies-** new order coming soon!

(Kirrily), **Photography and Bible software** (Kevin), **Chapel Music**

(Ceridwen), **Chapel Teams** (Sam),

**Debates** (Kevin), **Table Tennis** (Jeremy), **Prayer triplets and weekly prayer** (Kai), **First Year concerns**

(Nicola), **Renting lockers** (Ben), **concerns about classes** (any of us) and **anything else!**

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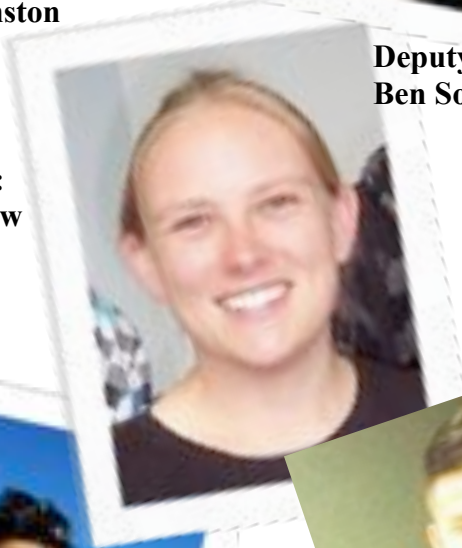
**Chair:** Stephen Urmston



**Deputy Chair:**  
Ben Soderlund



**Treasurer:**  
Jeremy Watson



**Secretary:**  
Kirrily Drew



**First Year  
Representative**  
Nicola Chandraker



**Kevin Vo**



**Kai Tham**



**Amanda Lyons**



**Mel Endacott**



**Peter Noble**



**Miriam Dale**



**Music Coordinator:**  
Ceridwen Sharpe



**Chapel Coordinator:**  
Samuel Crane

## STUDENT ADVISOR

Feeling overwhelmed by study? Unsure why you are at Ridley? Stressed by life in general? If you would like someone to talk to about these and more, Ridley has a dedicated Student Advisor who is there to listen and support you! His name is Don Holmes and any student can make an appointment with him through Reception. Simply drop by the front desk or call them on 9207 4800.

## THE REGISTRARS

Although we don't have pictures, it won't take you long to memorize the beautiful faces of our Registrars. These are the people who will help you to figure out what your life will look like during the school year. They are the people who you will deliver assignments to, and the people whose kind smiles will get you through the long sessions of course-planning. These are our Registrars. They are all contactable at:

<[registrar@ridley.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ridley.edu.au)> or on 9207 4800

Registrar: Mrs Katrine Bramley

Assistant Registrars: Mrs Alyson Flynn

Ms. Natalie Brough

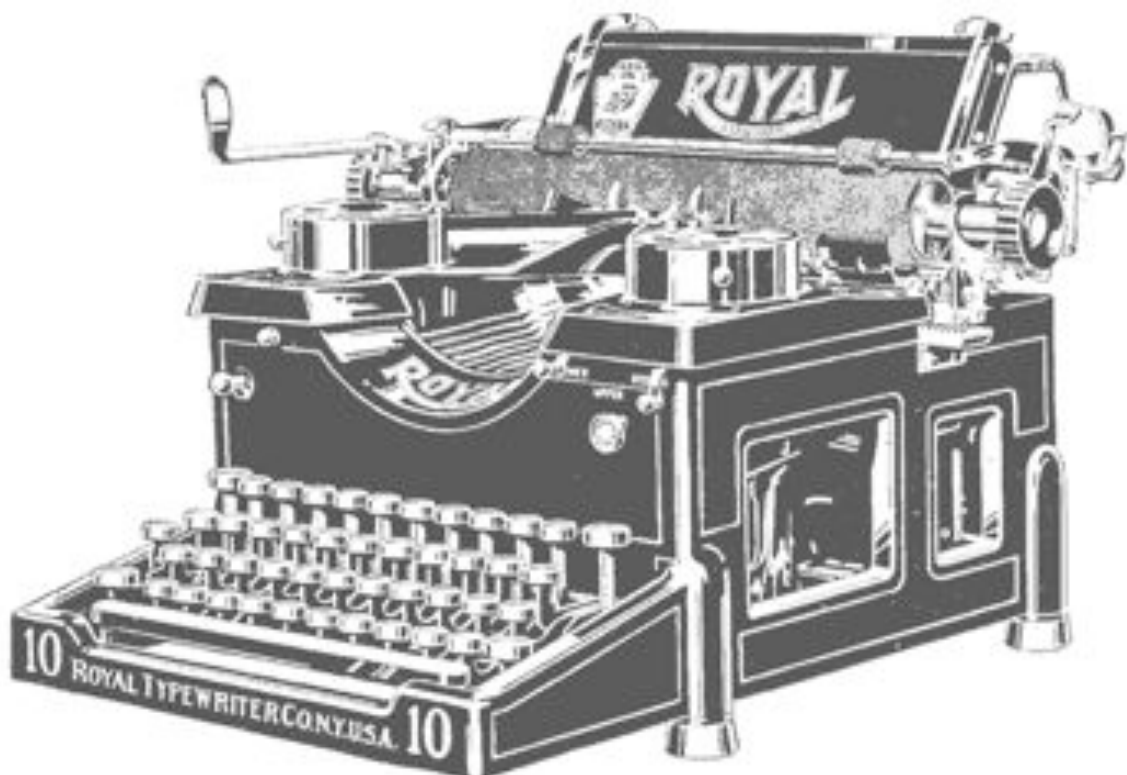
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## CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOG:

The Ridley Student Newspaper is made up of reflections, articles, poems, photos, essays, cartoons, and much more – all contributed by the Ridley Community or its friends. If you have something you would like to write about, an announcement you would like to make, or a picture you would like to draw, please get in touch with Miriam Dale at <[miriam.dale@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.dale@gmail.com)> - she would love to hear from you!

### Honest to Blog

We are also compiling a list of blogs from among the student body - so if you would like a link to your blog on the Log website or paper editions, get in touch with your details!





## **“Where Are They Now?”**

*Occasionally it's nice to catch up on those who have moved on from the Ridley fold. One such recent departure was Andy Abernathy, who with his wife Katie and daughter Anna brought a whole lot of wisdom, laughter, and American lingo to our campus. Below is a brief update from Andy:*

“After three and a half years in Melbourne, we decided to leave Melbourne and our beloved Ridley to return to the US in May. We purchased a home in Wheaton which is about 3 km from Wheaton College, where I now work as an Assistant Professor of Old Testament. It is summer time here. This has meant summer fun for Anna (2 yrs. old). She loves anything that has to do with water (sprinklers, pools, lakes, splash parks) and she is now brave enough to pet random dogs because our neighbours have a sweet little deaf dog named Bailey. Katie has joined in playing violin with a folk band, is busy caring for Anna, and is about 27 weeks pregnant with baby girl #2. Since it is summer break, most of my time has been spent preparing to teach some new subjects, getting to know colleagues, and doing some research, alongside tutoring an on-line subject on Isaiah for Ridley. We look back on our time at Ridley with a great sense of delight and of having been enriched, so it is nice when little tastes of Australia creep in to our lives, whether hearing a ‘G’day’ on a Mainly Music C.D. or seeing updates from friends on Facebook. I hope that your semester has started well. Give Scott Harrower a good welcome for me, and always remember that he can hear all of your conversations at the ping-pong table from his office.”

# Missional Movies

By Stephen Urmston

This is a letter of thanks. ‘What?’ I hear you say. Yes, a letter saying “thank you”. Thank you for bringing such a story into the mainstream.

There are many reviews of *Noah* out there written from the Christian perspective. Many rip the film up for not remaining close to the story of the Bible. Yet if you look at [www.MetaCritic.com](http://www.MetaCritic.com) and [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com), both list it favorably with a MC score of 67%, and RT at 76%. So why am I thanking the movie and television industry for making these films? Because they are giving us an opportunity to talk about the story we know and love. I want to suggest that we need to change our view on these movies.

We live in a multifaceted world where, seemingly unlike Paul’s teachings, ‘everything is both permissible and beneficial for me’. The movie industry is a moneymaking machine first, and an entertainment medium for audiences second. Hollywood has been riding the wave of Christian and biblically inspired stories for some time. Though when we go to see these films, I think it would be wise to first take Paul’s words to the Colossian church to heart. In Colossians 4 Paul writes:

*<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*  
(Colossians 4:2–6)

While Paul was in prison, he wanted opportunities to share. Verse 5 and 6 I think are of key interest to us. ‘Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of time’ and let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

If people are watching these movies, they are doing some of the hard work for us. They are already invested in the story, so much so they have paid to see it. Not only is this a step towards reading the Bible, but they have actually said that it is a thing of value. Now that value may be purely entertainment, but still it is an opportunity for us to share our story. When people watch these films, they give us a chance to give an answer for what we believe.

The interest is there. People are watching these films and enjoying them. So when talking about these movies, instead of saying ‘Yeah but it wasn’t the Bible’, why not ask ‘What did you like about it?’, ‘How was it interesting?’, ‘Have you read the Bible before?’, or ‘What do you know about Jesus?’.

Hollywood and the movie industry are doing us a favour. They have the money to make movies. People are watching them. So be part of the conversation. Share the good news of Christ, the big picture of the Bible, and how it all makes sense.



# Theology is Poetry

*By Miriam Dale*

“**Theology is poetry**”, he tells me, and as a poet I quite like that.

Theology *is* poetry, I think. It is the shading in a world of lines, the winch that straining, pulls words from the page and into the 3-dimensional. Despite being the study of an objective Truth, it is the thing that makes a complex faith applicable to a complex life.

**Theology is sacred**— it is, after all, the study of the Divine. But there is an earthiness to it, a brown-dust-and-blood reality, which is reminiscent of the soles of Christ’s feet as He trod the countryside, walking life into the nation of Israel and through them into the World. This is what takes it from a science into the realm of the relational.

**Theology is relationship.** Not in the sense that a relationship with God requires completely clarified theology, or that theology guarantees a relationship with God (it most certainly does not!), but in the sense that the believer’s study of Christian theology should occur within relationship with the living God.

**Theology is un-mappable, enigmatic, ambiguous.** It is the Divine Mystery whom we seek to understand when we study theology, and He is not just mystery because we haven’t quite discovered Him yet. He is mystery because we are not gods, and so cannot even dream of fully comprehending Him, ever.

But, **Theology is still essential.** Despite the certainty of never reaching the end, there is something in theology that calls to us to always keep coming. Blessed with brains and souls and the ability to wrestle with YHWH like our forefather Jacob, theology teaches us and inspires us to stretch and bend our brains up and out and around any scrap of God that we can find. If faith were an amorphous blob, theology is the thing that straightens and stretches it out like a waking cat, tucking our faith into the corners we hadn’t seen before, lining it up slowly along the edges of the framework of our incredible, indescribable, intriguingly inviting God.

**Theology is Word in Life.** It is what captures our minds; calms and confuses our souls; and always, every day, tugs at our hearts with the call of our Lover whispering in the quiet moments- “Come! There is more still to discover.”

So we follow. And the more we discover, the greater YHWH is revealed to be.

# Crackdown on religion in VIC State Schools

*Originally printed (in greater detail) in Eternity Newspaper*

*By: Sophie Timothy & Kaley Payne*

Lunchtime prayer meetings, Bible studies, Christmas plays and Easter presentations may become a thing of the past in Victorian State Schools following the publication of a new set of rules.

The Victorian Minister for Education, Martin Dixon has been pushed to clarify the limits of Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in schools after aggressive campaigning by parent groups and a series of bad press tainting the work of SRI provider ACCESS Ministries in recent years.

The new ministerial directive\* lays out the requirements for providers of religious education in schools, including a ban on religious activities outside of the half an hour a week of Special Religious Education in class.

The policy is broad in its terms, suggesting “prayer groups, youth groups, clubs, information sessions, or workshops” are not part of SRI and are therefore “not permitted”. Using prayer groups as an example, the policy guidelines suggest these groups must not be “led, conducted by or at the instruction of staff or parents/visitors/volunteers”. But it remains silent on whether student-led groups are still permissible.



Also banned under the new directive is the display of any material promoting a religious practice, denomination or sect: “When advertising events or activities in school newsletters or on school premises, principals should be mindful of the requirement in the Act that government schools must not promote any particular religious practice, denomination or sect,” the guidelines read.

Additionally, Bibles are not allowed to be distributed at state schools, not even by teachers leading Christian religious education classes, nor are religious programs, plays, events or activities to be run during school hours.

The new inclusions have already caused confusion amongst Christian service providers, with some reading the policy narrowly and heralding the changes as anti-religious and a possible breach of human rights.



The Australian Christian Lobby have suggested the new changes may be contrary to the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and in breach of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2008*. In a summary on the 'Make A Stand' website, the organisation says implications are far-reaching:

“A consequence of [the rule against distribution of religious material] is that a student would be prevented from showing or giving to another student a Bible, Koran or verses from these

texts or religiously themed book or music DVD's-even in the schoolyard. A student would not be able to have on his or her desk a diary with a Bible verse or religious image on it.”

ACL also suggests the directive is a prohibition against lunchtime prayer groups, youth groups, clubs or information sessions – reading the directive as a ban against activities that may be 100 per cent student-led and run.

Tim Clare who heads up Mustard, a Christian organization that helps facilitate lunchtime Christian groups in Victorian schools says there is a need for clarification about the breadth of the new rules, without which there can only be speculation about how the policy will play out in Victoria's schools. But he says it would be difficult for principals to stop Christian students holding their own prayer meetings or Bible studies, and doubts it would be the intention of the government to stop them doing so.

“I think it's a limit on external organizations – we're hopeful that it's not intended to limit the freedom of students to practice their faith,” he told *Eternity*.

Tim says that his organization may be drastically affected by the new policy. But he thinks there's “great value for students of all faiths to be allowed to gather together to encourage each other in their faith, something which is so intrinsic to their identity.”

“It's my job now, and those in other Christian organizations like ours, to think about what the future looks like. There will always be Christian students in state schools, and we need to figure out how best to support them.”

- See more at: <http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/end-lunchtime-prayer-bible-groups-victoria#sthash.dlCjyzLf.dpu>

\*<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx#link57>



# Meet the Faculty:

# Tim Foster

## 1) Tell us a little about yourself and your hobbies!

The vital statistics are that I'm 48 and have been married to Alison for 26 years. We have three children: Lucy (15), Harry (20) and Caitlyn (23) who is married to Josh and lives in Sydney. I was born in Melbourne, raised in Sydney, studied at Sydney University, Moore College, University of Technology and Fuller Seminary (Pasadena).

I love racing my little Laser sailing boat around Port Phillip Bay in the summer and organic vegetable gardening. I love cooking and entertaining which I find very therapeutic and relaxing, as well as travel, especially to Vietnam and Turkey.



## 2) How did you become a Christian?

I heard the gospel through Christian camps as a teenager, but never made a commitment to Jesus that lasted longer than a few weeks after the camp finished. Thirty years ago this month, when I was in my first year at university, a friend took me to a Pentecostal church where I became a Christian. I was a pretty fired-up Pentecostal back then.

## 3) Hypothetically, if you were to win a Golden Globe, what role would it be for, and whom would you thank in your speech?

Why is this a hypothetical question? I have been trying to win a Golden Globe for years. I would definitely be Jay off Modern Family. Our personalities are so similar I could pull it off easily. I would thank Gloria, God and the Golden Globes.

## 4) What's a favorite childhood memory?

Family summer holidays to my grand parents' at Merimbula, sailing with my father and Christian camps. Definitely not school. I hated school.

## 5) How did you come to be teaching at Ridley?

When I worked at Youthworks I founded the Youthworks College. So, when the advertisement for the job of DTEF was advertised, Graham Stanton thought I should apply because Ridley was looking for a similar skill set. I didn't think I had a hope, and even deleted my application the first time and then had to rewrite it again when I thought I'd give it a go.

## 6) If you could only eat one type of food (i.e., one particular dish) for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

Gyros. Definitely gyros. You have every major food group in one handy package. And the charcoal flavor, spicy sauce, juicy lamb – I could eat it every day for the rest of my life, no problem.

**7) What's an embarrassing story you are willing to share with us?**

On the cruise during a study tour I put my bag outside my room, as you need to do on your last night. I was in the corridor when my cabin door closed behind me. I had to go down to reception in my pajamas to get a key. Fortunately no one from the group saw me. On my way back to my cabin another member of the group was coming down the stairs having done exactly the same thing, only he didn't even have a shirt on!

**8) Which is better – Melbourne or Sydney?**

Melbourne. There's no competition. I do miss Sydney Harbour, and find winter a bit long down here; but Melbourne has so much to offer without the traffic or humidity of Sydney

**9) What's the one thing you would want Ridley students to graduate knowing and practicing?**

Above all, humility and compassion. Ministry is not about you, your ego or your ambition.



## Student Lounge Lockers

A limited release of spaces in the student lounge lockers is now available for semester two. Rental is \$5 per semester, plus a key deposit of \$5.

Contact **Ben Soderlund** for more information:  
[benjamin.soderlund@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.soderlund@gmail.com)

