



SMBCNEWS

SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

smbc.edu.au

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THE GOSPEL AND ALL THAT JAZZ!



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

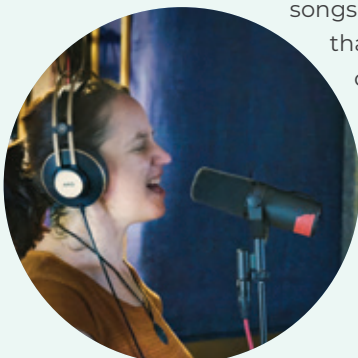
M meet Richard and Ali Maegraith! Richard completed studies at SMBC in 2010. For the last nine years, Richard and Ali have been serving with 'European Christian Mission' in Berlin, Germany.

What does your ministry look like day to day?

We are pastoring a bilingual church in the north of the city called "Kiez Church Wedding", which basically means 'neighbourhood church'. A typical week, for example, sees Rich preparing sermons and organising a men's night that will feature a young man's testimony. I'm teaching a Bible course to some of the ladies in the church and trying to establish a good music team in the church. Rich also plays in secular bands, which he primarily does to connect and meet with locals and musicians in Berlin.

Tell us about the Berlin Psalm Project

The Psalms speak to the deepest inner longing of every human being. Songs of lament, songs of joy, songs of adoration. Jazz, an art form that is driven by improvisation, capturing the emotion and essence of the moment, provides the perfect setting to explore deeply into what it means to pour out our hearts in vulnerability before God.



As we are both musicians we felt that it was natural to bring our own original music into the worship music of the church. We also saw how expressing the Psalms in a modern secular jazz setting would be a wonderful way to be a visible presence in Berlin, for God's glory. Our Berlin Psalm Project debut album was recorded in 2023. For more about the Berlin project visit: <https://www.berlinpsalmproject.com/>

What are some of the challenges about your work?

We experience the same challenges that many missionaries have had over the years:

- Waiting on God, being patient and not running ahead of him.
- Walking with Jesus when our sinful nature rises up and wants to 'do stuff'—in the flesh I mean.
- The constant coming to prayer for people who we've been bringing before God for years- and not giving up.
- The sadness when people constantly come and go—this is part of being in a very transient city, but also because people decide that they don't want God.
- When church attendance goes down at times and the temptation is to judge by what we see, and not with the eyes of faith.

What are some encouraging 'moments' you've experienced?

- We had a family who had come out of a 'church' that had all the trappings of a sect, to find joy and healing as they are settling into Kiez Church.
- Recently, we had a 'church holiday' for a week with our church family and others. It was so encouraging seeing some of the people who are not yet Christians hearing God's word and wrestling with it.
- Another encouragement for us is our Berlin Psalm Project—performing the Psalms in a secular club with unbelieving musicians who love the music, and the club owner telling us that he has never heard anything like that before in his life! Please pray for them!

What have you been learning about God in the last 12 months or so?

That he is so kind and so merciful to us at every moment. That Jesus is on the throne and that he is drawing people to himself, by his Spirit and through his Word. That it is a great privilege to be the servants of the King of Kings! He is teaching us that there is no more powerful place to be for the Kingdom of God, than on your knees in prayer.

How can we be praying for you?

Please pray for us to continue to walk day-by-day with the Lord. Pray for us to organise our priorities well, especially the straddling 'out there work' in the city of Berlin with 'in there work' as we teach and pastor the believers in our church.

And please pray for more workers to come to Berlin!

Editor's Note: According to Operation World: 'The decline of Christianity in Germany continues into the 21st century. Church attendance for all denominations is low, and many churches have shut down. Millions of immigrants, guest workers, students, and refugees have come to Germany since 1989. Most do not know the gospel.' The Joshua Project lists Germany with only 2.12% evangelical Christians – the need for gospel workers is great.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As the end of each college year approaches, I typically find myself talking with graduating students about the ministry roles they will be heading into after college. As they describe their plans to go to places of gospel need – places where

they often won't receive a warm reception – I often think to myself: 'This is a really difficult task!'

Each week at our Ministry Matters gathering at college, we have practitioners come and present on an aspect of their ministry experience. These visitors (many of whom are SMBC graduates) tell stories from the ministry trenches – stories involving hostile foreign governments, antagonistic or indifferent local cultures, and other physical or emotional challenges. As I hear them, again, I often think to myself: 'This is a really difficult task!'

The very task we at SMBC exist to train people for – taking the gospel to a dark and needy world – is a difficult one. How can our graduates persevere in it? How can they bear fruit?

By themselves, even with the very best training, the task would be impossible. But our graduates are not by themselves. They go with the presence and empowering of God.

Jeremiah 1 is a wonderful text to help us grasp this. In it, God commissions Jeremiah for a very difficult task: to confront sin and announce judgment to a people who don't want to listen to him. And yet, as God commissions Jeremiah for this difficult task, he also issues a series of empowering assurances.

The first is: **"I made you for this"**. God declares to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew

you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet" (Jer 1:5). John 15:16 and Eph 2:10 show that this encouragement applies not only to Jeremiah, but to us as well. What an incredible and empowering truth to draw on when our ministry task is difficult – we are doing the very thing that our creator created us to do!

The second assurance is: **"I am with you"** (Jer 1:8, 19). Jeremiah would go on to face much trouble as a result of performing his task as God's messenger. He would be attacked, ridiculed, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned, and thrown in a well. God did not prevent these terrible things from happening, but he sustained Jeremiah through them by being there with him... even at the bottom of a well! As Jesus makes the same promise to us in Matt 28:20, this is a wonderful truth we also can draw on when our ministry task is difficult.

The third assurance is: **"I am watching"** to see that my word is fulfilled" (Jer 1:12). Sometimes, it feels like the ministry we're doing is pointless. We're seeing no response; we're only facing opposition and rejection. It is in these moments that we need to recall this incredible truth: when God's messengers speak his word, he is watching to see that it achieves the purpose for which he sent it.

The ministry tasks SMBC graduates are performing, and have performed for over 100 years, are indeed difficult. But there is hope and encouragement for us. God made us for this; God is with us; and God is watching to see that his word is fulfilled.

Please pray with me that our graduates, and indeed all of us, will take hold of God's promises as we take the gospel to the world. He is faithful and he will do it.

Derek Brotherson
Principal



MEET SOME CURRENT STUDENTS

Amy Cheung, staff member, recently chatted to a couple of our students and asked them a few questions about studying at SMBC and how we can be praying for them...

Introducing Christie



Christie, what course are you studying?

I'm in my first year of the Master of Divinity

What attracted you to SMBC?

I'm interested in exploring cross-cultural mission and I knew SMBC is a great place to be equipped and trained for gospel work, particularly global mission. I also know some SMBC graduates who are currently on the mission field and they recommended SMBC to me because it was an important step in their journey.

What is an aspect of SMBC that most people outside of the college might not know about but should know about?

Every Tuesday we have a session called Ministry Matters, which is an opportunity to hear directly from people involved in missions from both here in Australia and around the world. These sessions continually inspire me to see what God has been doing globally, to partner in prayer for missionaries and to begin understanding how he is bringing all things together under Christ. Every week I'm learning more about how God is bringing his gospel to a dark and

needy world and that he uses ordinary people like you and me to do it.

How can we be praying for you?

Please thank God for an opportunity to study His word and ask that He would help me grow to love Him and His church even more for Jesus' glory. Pray that I would listen to Him, be watchful and that I would count the cost for the sake of His Holy Name. Thank God for the community at SMBC and our lecturers and ask Him to continue to work through them to prepare us for God's work in Australia and around the world.

Introducing Jonathan



What course are you studying at SMBC?

I'm studying full-time as a residential

student in second my year of a Master of Divinity.

What attracted you to SMBC?

I've had some experience on the mission field in North Africa and SMBC really has a great focus on training people for cross cultural mission. My plan is to return to North Africa as a long-term missionary, so SMBC is a great fit for me.

Was college life what you expected?

Yes! It's been great getting to know so many people, being a part of each other's lives, and in joining in many celebrations and other activities outside classes.

I find it really helpful that the lecturers are so accessible and approachable – you can meet and chat with them during morning tea, lunch or dinner, during fellowship and prayer groups and just when walking to and from classes or visiting their offices with any questions.

What has surprised you about your time at SMBC?

I was pleasantly surprised by how many missionaries we can talk to. At SMBC we have the year-long missionaries in residence and the missionaries who visit every week to speak during Ministry Matters.

The academic standards are high. I've been challenged to learn a lot of things that I didn't know about God, and I've been challenged to really study the original biblical languages, which has helped me in my exegesis of both the Old and New Testaments.

How can we be praying for you?

Please pray for me as I continue to learn Greek and Hebrew because they are difficult languages; I want to be able to learn them well so I can understand the Old and New Testaments even better. Pray for me also as I prepare my research proposal for next year's research project on transgenderism with Rob Smith, my theology lecturer.

WHAT A BRIDGE YEAR!

With only a few weeks left to go of The Bridge 2024, we cannot help but get a little reminiscent and think back over the wonderful experiences and importantly the spiritual growth we have seen in our students this year.

The Bridge students have continued to laugh together, challenge one another, pray together, learn from their lecturers and from one another. We really saw this culminate on our recent Cultural Study Tour to South East Asia.

Coomi (one of our 2024 Bridge students) said this about her experience:

"Through the cultural study tour, God opened my eyes to the number of unreached people, softening my heart and helping me realise the need for workers around the world. He reminded me of his great love for all and of the assurance we have in Christ Jesus!"

This is just one example of the way in which interacting with different cultures, and seeing God's work in different contexts makes a lasting impression on our students and on their gospel mindset.

Although we will be sad to say goodbye to our wonderful 2024 cohort, we look forward to the many wonderful students we will be interacting with next year.

It is not too late to sign up for The Bridge in 2025, so if this is something you or someone you know has been

18 TO 21?
APPLY NOW FOR
THE BRIDGE 2025

the bridge

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



considering and praying about, join us on Saturday morning 9 November at our Information Morning – on campus and online.

And if that date doesn't suit your circumstances, call us and we can arrange a personal tour or Zoom.

Ready to apply? Head to The Bridge website or use this link: smbc.edu.au/bridge-apply

The Bridge Team

P.S. We're also open throughout the December and January summer holidays for applications and enquiries.

COME AND CHECK OUT THE BRIDGE AT OUR INFO MORNING @ 10AM SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2024

GAP YEAR FOR 18-21s

BIBLE CENTRED + MISSIONS FOCUSED

PULL OUT AND KEEP FOR LATER

(OR GIVE TO SOME ONE YOU KNOW!)

Apply to SMBC

On-Campus
or Off-Campus
(live online) Study

APPLY FULL-TIME



APPLY PART-TIME



smbc.edu.au/apply

Come to an Info Session

2024 – REGISTER NOW at: smbc.edu.au/events

- Saturday 9 November 2024 (On Campus)

2025 – SAVE THE DATES

- Monday 28 January 2025 (Zoom)
- Saturday 17 May 2025 (On Campus)
- Monday 23 June 2025 (Hybrid)
- Saturday 30 August 2025 (On Campus)
- Saturday 8 November 2025 (On Campus)

SMBC Croydon Campus

43 Badminton Road, Croydon 2132, parking onsite.



Visit smbc.edu.au/events for all the Info Session details





Is this

I am thinking of becoming a church pastor and planting a church

I'm thinking about going into pastoral ministry

I have been working as a pastor and am looking at some further ministry development

I am a full-time worker looking to grow in my Bible knowledge but need flexible study options



Would you like to earn

Yes

Ma

FULL-TIME ON CAMPUS - DAY OR RESIDENTIAL

Be immersed in God's word!

Chat with us for course advice about the Doctorate, Masters, Bachelor and Diploma awards, plus on-campus residential options to maximise your college experience.

smbc.edu.au/study/courses

18 to 21?

Make a difference and check out The Bridge, SMBC's cross-cultural gap year: thebridge.smbc.edu.au

PART-TIME ON-CAMPUS OR OFF-CAMPUS (complete a degree or diploma through part-time study)

Day time

Options: Can be combined with evening and intensive mode too! Chat with us for course advice about the Doctorate, Masters, Bachelor and Diploma awards.

Evening

Options: Can be combined with day and intensive mode study!

You can complete a Graduate Diploma or Diploma through part-time evening study. Ask us about other options. Available at SMBC Croydon through the week or online.

Intensive mode

Options: Can be combined with evening and daytime study! Units (subjects) are taught face to face or hybrid for off-campus students, over one week, full-time. Assignments are completed at home. Usually held in College holiday periods. A great option if weekly lectures are not possible. Onsite accommodation may be possible to book.

Start postgraduate study and higher degree by research

Intensive or online mode-including the Master of Intercultural Studies plus coursework or research degrees.

Ask about
FEE-HELP
+ scholarships

Come to an Inform
Session – in perso
or online

Details: smbc.edu.au/ev
or chat with us for advice
02 9747 4780



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For the sake of h

Who are you?



I am working in pastoral ministry and looking to get a theological degree whilst I work



I want to reach more people with the gospel and increase my confidence in sharing Jesus with others



I'm are keen for cross-cultural ministry in Australia or overseas



I'd like to be a chaplain



Do you want a degree or diploma?

Maybe

International

Students



No

Do you have time during the day?

Yes

ON-CAMPUS OR OFF-CAMPUS

No

'Audit' a week-long intensive unit (subject)

with no exams or assignments ('Intensive' means a whole subject taught full-time over one week)

Check out our conferences and workshops

Preaching, Missions, and Children's Ministry conferences. These options are popular if you're time pressured and can be useful for professional development. smbc.edu.au/events

View the timetable and enrol as an audit student

Participate in a unit (subject) that suits you - lots of options without exams!

18 to 21?

Audit The Bridge - no exams or assessments!

Over 50?

Check out the SMBC Associates program: smbc.edu.au/study/associates-program

Dig deeper into the Bible

through an 'audit' evening unit (subject) at SMBC Croydon. (There are no exams or assignments for audit students. Enjoy the learning without the pressure!)

View Courses



Chat further with an SMBC registrar about our study options on (02) 9747 4780



SMBC & BIBLE COLLEGE

Centred

focused

International

Development

Character.

Teaching staff -

About/people

is holy name

Why studying at SMBC is REALLY worth

Exploring...



Our Courses

From undergraduate through to postgraduate doctoral studies, we can tailor a course to best suit your ministry goals. You can combine some full-time study with part-time study, or you can study fully full-time or fully part-time, non-residential or residential.



Our Diversity

We are interdenominational – be theologically prepared and challenged for working anywhere in the world and in diverse ministry and other teams. We have people studying at SMBC from around the world and many of our teaching and non-teaching staff have lived and served overseas or come to SMBC from overseas.



Our Cross Cultural Mission focus

– is invaluable whether you're in secular work, go back to work after your study, are in church or para-church ministries in Australia or are led to serve overseas.



Our Flexibility

- Study from home (or from anywhere in the world)

Our hybrid and off-campus study options are a good alternative if you can't get to Sydney - we can come to you – you just need a computer and good internet connection!



Our Faculty

– engaging, pastoral, experienced and research active practitioners.



Age is no Barrier

– whether you're 18 or 80+ join us at SMBC or *The Bridge*



Our Strong Commitment

is to get alongside you whether you're an on- or off-campus student to learn in the context of community - during and after your study.



Ministry Development

We offer audit study, postgraduate certificates, coursework and higher degrees by research.



Employability

– In addition to academic depth and theological strength, there's also a strong emphasis on spiritual formation and the development of 'people skills' for effective ministry – head and heart integration.

Apply Now!

For the sake of his holy name



SMBC
SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

OUR CHURCHES' UNTAPPED EXPERTS

By Tim Silberman, SMBC Missions Lecturer



My friend James* is constantly speaking to non-Christians about Jesus. He invites them to his house, tells them the gospel, and has seen many young men come to faith. It seems like every time he messages me, he has seen another person become a Christian. But I don't know many people like James. In

fact, as I visit churches in Australia, most people I meet say how hard it is to reach out to their neighbours. They know the gospel is good news, but most people in Australia don't seem to be interested in hearing it, so they don't share it.

In our society there are lots of different religious perspectives. Everyone you meet at the sports club, the school gate, or the local café has their own beliefs and doesn't want to hear about ours. Some are Christian, others Hindu, or Muslim, but most have no religious convictions at all. This combination of diversity and disinterest makes reaching out to our neighbours a challenging exercise. In addition to this, it feels like Christianity is the last faith most people in our community would be drawn to.

Our culture's celebration of "being true to yourself" puts it at odds with a gospel that describes us as sinners in need of a saviour. Christians' reluctance to affirm same-sex marriage and gender transition has also led people to equate being a Christian with being opposed to the flourishing of our community. Christians are seen as the problem rather than the solution and, unsurprisingly, the people in our churches are unsure how to engage with their friends and neighbours on spiritual matters.

“What will it take to get people excited about sharing the gospel? What will it take to increase the mission temperature in our churches?”

We live in a complex world full of sceptical people. What is needed to reach them with the gospel? The days of Billy Graham style evangelistic rallies have passed. Many of our gospel outlines don't resonate with the people we talk to. And we struggle to know how to effectively show and share the gospel. What will it take to get people excited about sharing the gospel? What will it take to increase the mission temperature in our churches? And how do we equip people to reach out to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and secular agnostics who are apathetic about religion?

There are books you can read and courses you can take on developing a culture of mission in your church, but one often overlooked resource that nearly every church has is people like my friend James. James doesn't attend my church and he doesn't live in Sydney, or even Australia for that matter. James lives in the Middle East and is serving there as a missionary. The young men he is seeing come to faith are from Muslim families. And he knows more about sharing the gospel in a society opposed to Christianity than almost anyone I know.

Missionaries are experts in mission, and yet our churches rarely benefit from their expertise. Many local churches have relationships with missionaries like James, but the incredible blessing that these friends can be to the church's involvement in mission locally is often missed. I would like to suggest that there are numerous ways that our local church's mission engagement would be enhanced if we were to strengthen our relationships with our missionaries.

① They model the gospel-centred life

Missionaries are not super-Christians. They are regular followers of Jesus who are convinced that the best way they can serve Christ is by leaving home. This is not something they have done on a whim. For most missionaries there are many years of prayer, planning, and preparation between when they first suspect God may be leading them out, to when they arrive in their context of service. They then must commit to the long process of learning the local language and culture.

Moving into a completely different cultural context is hard. Missionaries often describe feeling like children when they first arrive. Even without the challenge of learning a new language, working out how to do simple

**Not his real name*

things is a challenge. I once spent four hours in a post office in Chennai, India, just trying to send a parcel to Australia! There is nothing inherently praiseworthy about crossing cultures, but people who have rejected our culture's emphasis on personal comfort and security for the sake of the gospel are worth attention. They provide a beautiful demonstration of prioritising gospel need.

“There is nothing inherently praiseworthy about crossing cultures, but people who have rejected our culture’s emphasis on personal comfort and security for the sake of the gospel are worth attention.”



As we hold out the word of truth to our neighbours who question the existence of truth at all, we will be challenged. Sharing the gospel lovingly, graciously and boldly is not easy. If we want to see the people in our churches encouraged to put the gospel before their own personal priorities, then

deep relational connections to mission partners who do that every day is a great benefit. Just as the Apostle Paul called the Philippian church to follow the example of single-minded devotion to Christ that he and others displayed (Phil 3:17), we should be highlighting models of devotion to gospel ministry that many of our missionaries provide.

② They reveal God’s abundant provision for mission

One of the obstacles to missional engagement in our churches is the perception that we don’t have enough resources. The cost-of-living crisis impacts us all in different ways, but when I ask people about their church’s involvement in mission, they often describe to me what sounds like a cost-of-mission crisis. “There are so many good things to do but not enough time, people, or money to do it.” “Our resources are limited.” “We send money to a couple of key mission organisations and try to run programs that people will invite their friends to, but what more can we do?”

Sadly, this view of mission is shaped more by the economic assumptions of our society than it is by Scripture. One of the basic beliefs in a market economy is that resources are valuable because they are scarce. This leads us to be careful about what we commit

to. We believe we need to work within our capacity because that is good stewardship. But Jesus himself challenged the anxiety that comes from the belief our resources are limited by reminding us of God’s gracious provision (Matt 6:25-34).

When we pause to look at the world around us we see God’s abundant provision on display. We experience the generosity of God in every aspect of our lives, but most clearly in the Lord Jesus who “became poor, so that [we] through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor 8:9). An emphasis on the scarcity of resources inadvertently questions the kindness of God, whereas a focus on God’s abundance towards us will be reflected in our generosity towards others.

Relationships with missionaries are a powerful reminder to us all of God’s abundant provision for his purposes. Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission (now OMF), famously said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, never lacks God’s supply.” This is evidenced day-by-day in the lives of our missionary friends. God provides in all kinds of ways, what is needed for the gospel to go forth.

I’m not suggesting that missionaries never have financial challenges, but their life and ministry provides a tangible picture of God’s abundant provision. As we hear, and then pray, about their needs for a home to live in, people to connect with, opportunities to share the gospel, financial support for specific needs, we see God providing what is needed. This helps us to see God’s eagerness to work through his people to extend the gospel, and it gives us confidence to reach out.

③ They teach us how to connect

The speed at which our culture is shifting is enough to make our heads spin. How can we possibly speak the gospel to people who view the world so differently to us? One of the blessings of living in a culture different to your own is the way it helps you to understand the impact culture has. Effective missionaries are not only gospel experts, they are also culture experts. They understand how to live in a culture different to their own. They have recognised the differences between their new context and their home context. And they have wrestled with the challenge of helping people in their new culture connect with Jesus.

These are the challenges that people in our churches are confronted with when they share the gospel with their neighbours. The context may be different, but the skills that are needed are the same. Part of helping our churches engage with the society around them is teaching them to read the culture and identify key questions, longings and needs that are addressed by the gospel. This is what our missionary friends are regularly wrestling with and there is so much we can learn from them.

④ They highlight the joy of mission involvement

The final benefit that we can gain from deep connections to our missionary friends is the joy that comes from seeing God at work. When I ask people why we should be involved in evangelism and mission the most common answer I get is, “Because Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19). This is true. If Jesus is our Lord, then we cannot let this instruction go unheeded. But I have sometimes seen an emphasis on the command of Christ create a burden on people who see mission as simply a duty to be fulfilled. If we can help people see that mission involvement is a privilege as we join God in the work that he is doing, it becomes a source of joy.

“We then realise that mission involvement is a privilege to be embraced, not a burden to be endured.”

Our missionary friends give us front-row seats to the work of God. As we hear their stories, pray for those they are ministering to, and observe the work of the gospel in another context, we will grow in appreciation of God’s global purposes. God is the one who is at work and he graciously invites us to join him. As we share in the work of God in other places through prayer, encouragement and practical engagement it helps us to grow in the appreciation of the fact that it is his work,

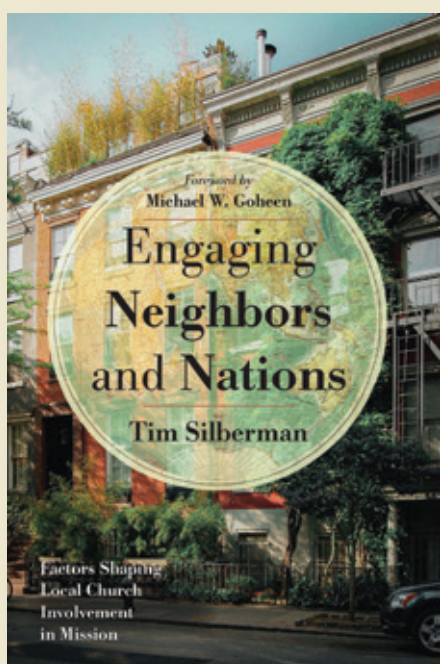
not ours. We then realise that mission involvement is a privilege to be embraced, not a burden to be endured. God is at work among the nations and in our neighbourhood and he invites us to join in.

Partnership not support

There are many practical strategies that we can use in our churches to deepen the connections between our missionary friends and our churches, but the most important change is in how we think about our relationship with them. At the beginning and end of Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he celebrates the partnership that he has with the church as he takes the gospel to places of great need (Phil 1:5; 4:14-15). The partnership that Paul speaks of is a mutual relationship in which he is blessed by the church and the church is blessed by him.

As we explore the practicalities of working with our missionary friends, we must avoid thinking of it as unidirectional support from us to them, and remind ourselves that it is a partnership. We are working together to see the gospel spread and bear fruit where they are serving and where the church is based. We participate in God’s mission as we encourage, pray, and provide for people like James, and through deep mutual partnership we will also be more able and excited to see the gospel go out at home. If we are truly partners in the gospel, then our gospel outreach will be enhanced among our neighbours and the nations.

Tim Silberman
SMBC Lecturer in Missions



If you’d like to explore more on this topic, Tim’s publication *Engaging Neighbours and Nations: Factors Shaping Local Church Involvement in Mission* is available to be purchased from our Service Centre on 02 9747 4780 and other reputable book retailers.

ASK GREG!



Firstly, our grateful thanks to God and to you for your generosity in partnering with SMBC. We never take your prayer and financial support for granted. We covet it!

As we go to print we are approximately \$200,000 short of our 2024 calendar year financial targets. We do operate very much trusting God to supply all our needs and your support has enabled us to equip students in a year of rising costs and unexpected operational expenses. Generally, our particularly lean months occur from the end of November to March the following year.

To that end, included in this edition of SMBC News, you'll see our 2024 appeal flyer should you be in a position to help us over the summer break and reduce our \$200K shortfall.

Secondly, Here's an *Ask Greg* question that many ask Greg Swanton, our Supporter and Relationships Manager.

I love to support SMBC students prayerfully, but how do I support specific students financially?

There are a couple of ways:

One way is that eligible Australian students at SMBC or The Bridge gap year program may be supported through the SMBC Australian Scholarship Foundation Ltd, which is registered for tax deductions with the Australian Tax Office (ATO). It is a great way to financially support SMBC and The Bridge students.

If you would like to support specific students, you may recommend that your gift (one off or regular) is allocated to a specific student endorsed by the SMBC Scholarship and Bursary Committee. However, please note that the Australian Tax Office (ATO) regulations, prohibit tax deductibility from family members of a support recipient.

All donations are allocated on a regular basis at the discretion of the Board of the SMBC Australian Scholarship Foundation Ltd to assist students in making ends meet whilst they study with us. We are happy to receive recommendations for consideration for the disbursement of your donation.

To make a gift to the SMBC Australian Scholarship Foundation please go to the Donate page of our website.

Another way is that eligible overseas students are supported through the SMBC Foundation Ltd 100 for 100 program.

The 100 for 100 program was set up in 2016 by the Board of SMBC to celebrate the College's Centenary of our beginnings as a missionary training college in 1916.

In thankfulness to God for his goodness to the College, during our centenary year in 2016, the Board, without timeframe, sought to provide one scholarship to an overseas student (without access to quality theological learning in their own context) for each of those 100 years. Hence the name "100 for 100" was coined.

We are now, in 2024, well on the way. Through the generosity of God's people, we are currently up to our 28th student studying under the program. This year we have a student from East Asia, a family from Malaysia, and Lord willing, a couple from Austria who will graduate later this year.

It was a such great encouragement to us recently in receiving a gift of \$6,000 from a church community on the South Coast who also grasped the vision of the SMBC 100 for 100 program and held a trivia night to raise funds for this global mission initiative.

To make a gift to the 100 for 100 program please go to the Donate page on the web: www.smbc.edu.au/donate

Recent Recipient of Scholarship

Kohei and Grace commenced this year at SMBC and are preparing to return to Japan upon completion of their studies in around three years. Japan, along with so many other countries, is a dark and needy place for loving, skilled graduates to bring the light of Christ. They have a toddler Noah, with a baby on the way. Kohei is financially supported as he studies through the SMBC Foundation 100 for 100 program, having been endorsed by one of our SMBC alumni. As an Australian citizen, Grace is supported through the SMBC Australian Scholarship Foundation Ltd.

Thank you for your support of our students – they (and we) are enormously grateful for you in enabling the ministry of SMBC to thrive, under our Lord. If you would like any further information in respect of SMBC Support through gift or bequest, don't hesitate to contact me supporters@smbc.edu.au or phone him on 0417 862 939. Alternatively for other opportunities to support SMBC, see back page or head to the 'donate' page on our website.

With every blessing,

Greg Swanton
Supporters and Relationships Manager



GRADUATION 2024

“Thousands of Loving, Skilled Graduates Bringing the Light of Christ to a Dark and Needy World”

We're looking forward the annual SMBC and The Bridge Graduation Service on **Saturday 30 November** giving thanks to God and celebrating with our graduating students as they continue on the good works God has prepared in advance for them to do.

It's no small feat completing a course of study whether full or part-time.

Under God, our prayer for graduates is not that they will be smarter sinners as a result of their study, but humble servants of the Lord Jesus and passionate for his mission.

It requires sacrifice and support and we want to recognise and give thanks to God for you too, the many family and friends and church communities of graduands who no doubt have played a big support role during their study year/s.

For all the details about Graduation, head to:

smbc.edu.au/events/2024-graduation-service



SMBC

SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

*the
bridge*

HOW WILL SMBC SHAPE ME THEOLOGICALLY?



ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?



WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT SMBC BEING INTERDENOMINATIONAL?



SMBC INFO MORNING 10AM 9 NOV

SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

OUR GREATEST FINANCIAL NEEDS... CAN YOU HELP ENABLE SMBC (UNDER GOD)?

When you support SMBC, you're directly enabling our work and ministry to continue, so that together we can prepare students to be loving, skilled graduates bringing the light of Christ to a dark and needy world.

Please make a gift to SMBC today!

We alert you to our two 'most needed' funding areas:

1. SMBC General Fund (non-tax deductible)



2. SMBC Foundation Library Trust (for those seeking a tax-deductible option)



I would like to help enable SMBC by making a gift of \$ _____ towards:

- SMBC General Fund (our greatest need)
- SMBC Foundation Library Trust (our greatest need: tax-deductible option)

ONLINE DONATIONS

For the convenience of donating (one-off or to set up regular gifts) via our online platform, or for gifts to all other SMBC funds, please visit smbc.edu.au/donate for further details.

Maximise the impact of your gift (and the lowest administrative fees for SMBC) by choosing one of the following preferred payment options:

OPTION 1 ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

SMBC General Fund

BSB: 032269 ACC: 881548

DESCRIPTION: General Account

Foundation Library Trust (Tax deductible)

BSB: 032269 ACC: 850776

DESCRIPTION: SMBC Foundation Ltd

OPTION 2 CREDIT CARD

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

Card No

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Expiry ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Made payable to

SMBC (for General Fund gift)

SMBC Foundation Ltd (for Library Trust gift)

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Surname (Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr/Rev/Dr): _____

FirstName: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will.

We very much give thanks to God for your partnership in the gospel and can't thank you enough for your prayer and financial support.

You can also set up regular gifts by visiting smbc.edu.au/donate or contact us for details.



Privacy Note: SMBC is committed to ensuring personal information is managed in an open and transparent way in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. Our Privacy Policy, including further details of our information handling practices, is available at smbc.edu.au

