

Letter from Jackie



We received some feedback recently from a student who was finishing up study with Mary Andrews College. She said: "My time at Mary Andrews [College] has been precious. I am grateful that in Sydney we have a place that understands women's needs and gifts, and seeks to address and develop these with gentleness, love and wisdom."

She continued: "This is not really goodbye, for I know that I carry with me into life and ministry the teachings that I have received. I will fondly continue to pray and support the college into the future."

For me, this expresses a really important biblical concept. A relationship with God encompasses all of life. Our lives are not to have a 'God part' and a 'non-God part'. God is central to all aspects of our lives and this comes out in the articles in this newsletter. God's work, through the Holy Spirit, is both in us and through us. There is no part of our life that is not to be shaped by God and for God.

That is why our courses equip people in their relationship with God and their life for God. It is also why we offer units of study that help us know

God's word better, challenge us to be involved in serving Christ, and provide resources to step back and nurture our relationship with God and others.

I pray that you will find ways to think again about the whole of your life and what God is doing. If Mary Andrews College can be a place that helps you do that, we would love to encourage you to take up some of the opportunities mentioned in this newsletter.

Jackie Stoneman



I CAME HOME FEELING
LIBERATED,
JOYFUL, AND BETTER
EQUIPPED TO CONTINUE THE
JOURNEY.

Be refreshed in 2017

Reflect, relax, connect with other women and be creative at one of our Create & Refresh weekends in the beautiful Southern Highlands.

Dates: 28–30 July – 'Refreshment for the Journey', led by Jackie Stoneman
13–15 October – 'Prayer', led by Di Morgan

Cost: \$400 per retreat
Includes accommodation in a single ensuite room and delicious café-style meals from Friday supper to Sunday lunch.

Book online at www.mac.edu.au. Hurry, places are limited!

Life with the Luthers

Join us for these exciting interactive events in September and 'meet' some of the key people involved in the Reformation.

See what life and faith looked like for medieval peasants. Witness Luther's challenge to the Church. Hear a nun's response to freedom in Christ. See the Bible being made available for all. Observe Katie and Martin Luther as they work for the glory of God alone!

Dates: Saturday 23 September & Monday 25 September
Sessions: 10am–1pm or 2pm–5pm
Location: Mary Andrews College, Level 1, St Andrew's House
Cost: FREE!

For more information or to register, visit mac.edu.au/news/life-with-the-luthers

Calling all MAC students!

Be part of history as we celebrate 500 years since the Reformation.

If you would like to be involved in the Life With the Luthers events, please phone 1300 590 531 or email macmin@mac.edu.au.

MACNEWS

mary
andrews
college | equipping women
to serve christ

Applying God's word to heart and mind

Winter 2017

Find your vocation

A new MAC Diploma unit, 'Finding Your Vocation', will tackle some of life's biggest questions, including: What is God's purpose for my life? We ask MAC lecturer Kara Martin about the unit and to share how vocation ties into everyday work, based on ideas in her new book, *Workship*.



How do you define 'vocation' in a biblical sense?

Vocation is a Latin word meaning 'calling'. In the Bible there is a general calling from God to belong to his people, to be holy and to accept salvation. There is occasionally a special calling to people for specific tasks and activities. I think we can fit our lives into the calling from God to do his work in the world. However, his work could be as simple as keeping the house in order, as influential as being on the board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, or as faithful as answering a friend's questions about Jesus.

The unit explores the idea of 'shalom'. What does this mean?

'Shalom' is a Hebrew word that is usually translated as 'peace', but which actually means everything made whole or put right. I think our sense of calling from God makes more sense when we see all the activities/work of our lives in the context of God's desire to bring 'shalom' to the world. We are part of God's reconciliation plan in Jesus.

What will students gain from studying this unit?

Students will be personally challenged to examine their lives from the perspective of God's activity in the world. They will be prompted to ask: How does what I spend my time doing fit in with what God is doing? How does my everyday work fit in with God's creative, sustaining, healing, redeeming, caring and justice work?

You've recently published a book titled *Workship*. How do you think work fits into our 'vocation'?

Work and vocation should be linked. In fact, our everyday work (paid or unpaid) makes much more sense when it is invested with a sense of vocation or calling. We can also be much more effective in our work when we use it as part of the way we worship God.

How do you think our 'working lives' and 'spiritual lives' are connected?

I think dualistic ideas of sacred versus secular owe much more to Plato and Gnosticism than to the more holistic view of the Bible. I agree with Martin Luther that all our work is made sacred by offering it to God in worship. Colossians 3:17 says: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

"Our everyday work makes much more sense when it is invested with a sense of vocation or calling."

Can you give a couple of suggestions about what 'workship' might look like in practice?

It can be as simple as beautifying your workplace; befriending a difficult co-worker; washing dishes with a grateful heart to serve God and others; advocating on behalf of a vulnerable customer; inviting your church choir

to perform carols at the office Christmas party; asking God to communicate himself through your teaching; writing beautiful words that inspire ... It is endless really! Occasionally, God will use you to bring about influence or change that is much grander than you could imagine. Sometimes your excellent work will create an opportunity to mention the One who inspired it.

Can you give us a sneak peek into what Volume 2 of *Workship* will cover?

It covers some practical wisdom for the workplace on facing ethical challenges, offering hospitality, how to deal with a toxic work culture, Jesus-shaped leadership, dealing with stress, and so on. It also has a section on how churches can better equip Christians in their workplace – through sermon applications, visiting workplaces, training courses, mentoring and many other ideas.

To find out more or to purchase a copy of *Workship: How to Use Your Work to Worship God*, go to workship.com.au. There are also copies of the book available for loan in the MAC library.

Finding Your Vocation will run in Semester 2 as an intensive Diploma unit at the MAC city campus. For more information or to enrol, visit mac.edu.au/courses/enrol/diploma.

Where are they now?



We catch up with one of our graduates, Jennie Everist. Jennie is on staff at St Luke's Miranda. She studied a Diploma of Theology at Mary Andrews College from 2002–2009.

Jennie, could you tell us a little about why you chose to do theological study?

I began working at St Luke's Miranda in 2001. I came into ministry having completed some pastoral training. However, apart from my own reading and short course studies, I had no formal qualifications. I was convinced that the care of others must be carried out through the lens of the Bible, and was very aware of the need to exercise pastoral ministry hand-in-hand with the word of God. What hope can we offer people if we do not offer them the cross of Jesus and the blessing of relationship with God through his Spirit?

Why MAC?

The key factor for me was the ability to study one subject per semester and attend lectures on my day off. I was able to juggle family and ministry, as well as fit in lectures, assignments and study quite comfortably.

What are some of the joys of your ministry?

I love the privilege of seeing God at work in people's lives – seeing people come to faith and wear that faith through the blessings and storms of life, living in his strength.

It is a joy to be able to minister to older people who, on the whole, attended Sunday school and learnt that Jesus loves them. In the busyness of life, they may have lost contact with him. I get to remind them that God hasn't forgotten about them.

So many of our senior citizens are spiritually hungry. Older people ask, "What was my life about? What was the point? What did I achieve?" Ecclesiastes tells us that God has placed eternity into the heart of every man. Older people are very aware of the need for answers to these questions before it is 'too late'. Helping people find the answers to life is so exciting!

You've recently been ordained. How has that impacted your ministry?

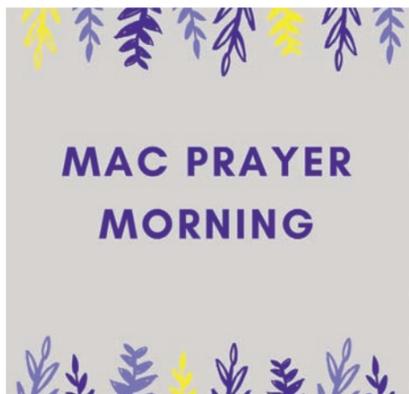
In 2 Timothy, Paul urges Timothy to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who correctly handles the word of truth. It has been a great thing to be publicly approved – to be prayed for and commissioned to teach, encourage and shepherd those of God's people with whom he gives me the privilege to share my life.

What would you say to other women who are considering studying at MAC?

If you feel this is what God is asking you to do, then follow that urging. What a privilege to soak in his word and to be stretched and challenged in your life and ministry.

How can we pray for you?

In Colossians 1 Paul prays that the people would live a life pleasing to God, bearing fruit, growing in knowledge of God, strengthened with endurance, hope and joy, giving thanks to God. That would be a very powerful and humbling prayer to pray for me, and it is what I pray for others. Thank you!



Join us for a special morning of thanksgiving & prayer

Come along to the MAC prayer morning and experience the difference that prayer makes in the life of our community. Hear about the work of MAC and our parent organisation ADM, and join us in thanking God for changing people's lives through our courses. Pray with us as we ask God to encourage and equip many more women to serve Him.

Date: Tuesday 11 July | **Time:** 10am–12pm | **Location:** MAC city campus

Please RSVP to macmin@mac.edu.au or **1300 590 531**



Bring a friend along to our Information Mornings to experience the MAC difference.

Meet the faculty, staff and other students over morning tea. Find out more about studying with us, and how we equip students to serve Christ by applying God's word to heart and mind.

Dates: 28 June, 3 July, 6 July | **Time:** 10am–12pm | **Location:** MAC city campus

To book a spot call the college on **1300 590 531** or email macmin@mac.edu.au

What's new in Semester 2?

Now is the time to enrol in Semester 2 units!

We have some fantastic units on offer, including three new units that will enable you to integrate your faith into the whole of life:

• Aid and Development

City on Mondays (intensive): Starts 7 Aug*

How should Christians respond to major needs in our world, such as poverty, refugees and emergency relief aid? This is the basis of the Aid and Development unit, which MAC is now offering at Diploma level. The unit will feature a range of key speakers who have experience working in Christian aid, development and advocacy positions, including those from TEAR Australia, CBM



Louise Gosbell, Lecturer for the Aid & Development unit

Australia and fair trade organisations. Study transformational community development, reflect biblically and theologically on human need, and explore the role of aid and development in holistic mission.

Dates: Please note the following change to class times for this unit. This course will now run over four days: 7 Aug, 4 Sep, 16 Oct and 6 Nov, from 9.30am–4pm.

• Christian Spirituality

City on Wednesdays 10am–12pm (weekly): Starts 19 July

Do you yearn to grow in your spiritual life, but are not sure what is a biblical and Christian model for spirituality? This unit will equip you to be spiritually grounded by exploring what the Bible says about spiritual formation, as well as the models of Jesus and Paul. Learn and practise spiritual disciplines to draw closer to God. This unit is available for Diploma students, and for the first time it can also be studied at Certificate level.

• Finding Your Vocation

City on Fridays (intensive): Starts 21 July

This new unit addresses one of our biggest questions: "What does God want me to do with my life?" Be helped to frame, discern and follow your vocation as a spiritual act of worship. Biblically study God's purposes, including his desire for human flourishing and 'shalom'. (Read the article on page 1 for more information about this unit.)

Dates: 21 Jul, 11 Aug, 8 Sept, 13 Oct and 3 Nov.

A place to learn and flourish



Vivian Cheung*, a MAC lecturer who joined the faculty this year, reflects on the joys of her experience in the MAC community so far.

How have you found your experience lecturing at MAC so far?

I have thoroughly enjoyed lecturing at MAC. Jackie and the other faculty and staff have been super-helpful and supportive. The students' love of learning, growing and applying the knowledge of God has also made my experience at MAC immensely special and fulfilling. Overall, it has been a real privilege and blessing.

What have you enjoyed most about lecturing at MAC?

There are many things I love about lecturing at MAC. The social interaction, the gentle encouragements and the various experiences of mature Christian women create the perfect environment for learning and growing in Christ. I have benefited enormously and have been sharpened in my own knowledge and understanding. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to serve and utilise the skills and knowledge that God has given me, for this work and for his glory.

"With an excellent variety of courses, knowledgeable and caring lecturers, and lovely fellow students, MAC really is a great and fun place for growing, learning and being equipped for ministry."

What makes studying and working at MAC such a unique experience for staff and students?

I think what makes being at MAC special is the common goal of both the staff and students in wanting to bring glory to God by sharing his love with others. MAC students are enthusiastic in soaking up as much knowledge as possible, and this is sought for the sake of serving and loving God and others. As a result, studying or working at MAC really is an uplifting experience – a bit of a sanctuary, a garden for flourishing.

*Vivian joined the MAC faculty after working as a physiotherapist for 20 years. She teaches the Diploma unit 'God and the Person and Work of Christ'. A graduate of Moore Theological College, she is currently completing her Masters of Arts (Theology) at Ridley College. Vivian serves at St Phil's Anglican Church, Caringbah, where her husband is the Senior Minister.