

Secondary Report

The Journey

There are moments in a journey when you can look back and be amazed at the distance travelled and also look forward to the trip ahead. On one hike, after a difficult climb in thick mist, the clouds suddenly cleared I could look down to the valley below. The starting point was just a dot in the distance.

As we review the Secondary School events over the last year we can also say with confidence that much distance has been travelled. For staff and students alike, there have been some wonderful moments this year. As Psalm 75 tells us, *"We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; we tell of your wonderful deeds."*

These words of praise were written over 2,500 years ago, yet, at BCC, we can equally exclaim that God has been with us and that his Name was always near as we journeyed through 2009 together. My wife and I are most thankful for the opportunity to belong to, and serve, the College community. We have sincerely appreciated the practical support and friendships extended to us. We also rejoice at what God is doing in the lives of our staff and students.

As the new Head of Secondary I was fully aware that there had been some challenges in the past. Just like the hike I mentioned earlier, it was easy to see what had happened at the College looking back over the previous years. However, God was also telling me that He had a special plan for BCC and that He was going to do many wonderful deeds (as in Psalm 75:1). And now, as I look back, I can confirm that God has done so much for us!

Firstly, God has blessed the Secondary School with a superb group of students, each one carefully and specially chosen to come here. I don't believe that any of our students just "happened" to find BCC. As a result, many lives have been changed and many others challenged as the Christian message has been shared during classes, camps, Year Level Activities, and at Chapel.

"As for me, I will declare this forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob." (Psalm 75:10).

Secondly, it has been a real joy to see God move in the hearts of our students and to see them stirred into action through prayer meetings, the SALSA group, Prayer at the Pole, Days of Prayer and at Chapel. I am very much looking forward to what God will continue to do as our students respond to God's work in their hearts.

Of course, some students have struggled during the year. Despite their challenges I am pleased to say that the majority have responded positively and worked with the staff and our Student Support Team to make better decisions and focus on positive learning experiences. We have seen the number of Demerits decline and the number of Compliments rise significantly. 2009 finished with over 90 Commendations, which is outstanding. My congratulations go to every student who has received Compliments during 2009. These awards are a small token of our appreciation for those who uphold our RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Servanthood and Excellence. Each Commendation applauds Christian character in the heart of each recipient. Thirdly, I must give God thanks for so many wonderful people. I am thankful to the College Board for their vision and oversight, and to our Principal, Mr Mark Bensley, for his patient, Godly leadership. Mr Bensley has been most gracious in offering his wisdom and advice throughout my first year as Head of Secondary. He, along with Mr Ray Yates and Mr Evan Keune, have formed a strong Executive Team. They all have a strong devotion to the College and I enjoyed working with them immensely throughout the year.

I also owe my sincere gratitude to Mrs Rosalee Morris, my Deputy Principal, for her tireless energy. Her efforts in daily organization and high standards with curriculum development have been key factors in the success of our High School program during 2009.

In addition, I am most appreciative of our dedicated team of Secondary teachers, including a most competent group of Year Level Coordinator. They all inspire our students to do their best, and their teaching efforts both in and outside the classroom are all part of God's "wonderful deeds". Our teachers work very long hours to bring our community a very high standard of education and they strive for improved results at all levels. They bring a high degree of professionalism, mixed with sensitivity to God's calling. In short, they care immensely for each student in their care. We also value the amazing support offered by our Chaplain, Mr Matt Doolan and our Counsellor, Mrs Susan Wilshaw. During 2009, I thoroughly enjoyed attending our Year Level Camps and the Hoof n Hook events, Maths Team Challenge, Sports meetings, Speech contests, etc. It was a privilege to see our students in action.

My thanks also goes to Mrs Juantia de Munk, my Personal Assistant, and the entire team of administrators and aides who help keep our Secondary School running smoothly. These staff provide important support for us all.

We were led by remarkable Captains and Vice Captains this year. Alistair Hill, Emma Jasch, Brittany Yates and Sarah White have proved to be highly organized and utterly reliable in their support. Their contributions at our College and community events have been done with enthusiasm and style. I have no doubt that God will bless them in the future and I am personally looking forward to hearing from them as their careers unfold.

So, as we look back and reflect on our progress there is much to be thankful for. However, we still have a long way to go. As I mentioned earlier, at this point in my hike I had looked back but now had to look forward to the journey ahead. I still needed to negotiate a cliff face and then make it to another valley to set up camp before nightfall. The future of my journey was uncertain, just as it is for us as a College.

However, please be encouraged. The Bible has a lot to say about the future. We need to stay close to Christ at all times, because He holds the future, including our individual destiny, in His hands, *"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."* (Matthew 24:44)

Whatever happens in the next few years we must be ready for what God wants to do. I am certain that BCC will continue to offer a quality Christian education for all our students. The College is unique, and it could be argued that there is not another like it anywhere else in the world. It is underpinned by a strong foundation of faith and continues to be supported by a wide range of Churches and other organizations in Bundaberg and beyond. My prayer is for our graduating students to carry their learning on shoulders of strong Christian character; and have a heart in love with Christ and a desire to make Him known across our land and throughout the world. Yes, we do indeed,

"...O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; we tell of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 75:1)

Please keep praying for BCC as we continue the journey together.

Chris Hayden
Head of Secondary

