



Q&A for Rev Dr Marty Foord on his appointment as ETCAsia Principal

1. How do you feel about your appointment?

I'm excited because ETCAsia has great potential to help build God's church in Asia. Andrew Reid and the board of directors have done a superb job putting together a high quality training program for gospel workers. It's thrilling that under God, ETCAsia can help in the equipping and sending of workers into God's harvest field, so that the gospel will grow here in Singapore as well as in the region.

2. How would your wife, Jenny, be supporting you and the College?

Jenny has worked in women's ministry for 13 years. She also brings experience from many years working as a medical doctor. Jenny will be dean of the female students at ETCAsia caring for them pastorally. And she will also help in teaching and training the ETCAsia women for gospel ministry.

3. How did you come to know Christ and serve in Gospel Ministry?

I had the privilege of being raised in a Christian family. My parents modelled a Christ-centred life, and the Bible was faithfully read and taught at home. So, I can't remember a time when I didn't believe the gospel. However, in my university years I worked through a number of nagging doubts that had arisen during my teenage years. And as a result, God enabled me to see that Christianity was indeed true, and this was a big turning point in my life. I began to own my parents' faith for myself.

Whilst at university, I was particularly helped by a Christian leader who taught me the Bible in a life-changing way. And it slowly dawned on me that I'd love to help others understand Scripture as I had been helped. So I began to do just that in my local church with children and youth. By the end of university, and with the encouragement of older wiser Christians, I was challenged to pursue full-

time gospel ministry. I then worked for four years as a computer programmer, which enabled me to save enough money so I could study theology and enter gospel ministry full time.

4. Your late father was also in Gospel ministry and was instrumental in the setup of George Whitefield Theological College in South Africa. What can you glean and apply from him as you lead ETCAsia towards Vision 2024 and beyond?

In 1984, my father took up a position in a church denomination where he oversaw a number of churches in South Africa. He recognised quickly that if these churches were going to reach South Africa during this difficult time, there needed to be high quality, gospel-centred training of its future leaders. But this denomination lacked its own theological college. My father believed that the need for good theological education was so pressing, that he helped to establish George Whitefield College (GWC). Watching the impact that GWC had in South Africa and beyond, helped me to grasp how crucial theological education is.

5. What are some challenges you anticipate the College will face in working out our four key distinctives in the training of godly men and woman for the Gospel Ministry in Singapore and Asia?

Our four distinctives are: biblical theology, evangelical and reformed theology, and expository preaching, and mission. These four distinctives help keep the gospel at the centre. The great temptation we will face (like all Christians) is for the gospel to become one teaching amongst others, not the central truth of all. Once the gospel ceases to take centre stage, our hearts cease to be captured by God's love for us in Jesus, and the salvation of lost humans loses its gravity. This is devastating for any believer, and especially for a theological college.

6. ETCAsia's generous supporters have been instrumental in funding the College contributing up to 75% of its needs since it started. What message do you have for them?

My message is an enormous thank you! We could not have come this far without you. Because of your generosity, our ETCAsia graduates are already in various ministries. Theological colleges in general will not survive on students' fees alone. They need donors. And giving to ETCAsia is a strategic way to use our money, because we are investing in the spiritual health of the next generation.

7. How can we pray for Jenny and you?

We would be honoured if you could pray Paul's exhortation to Timothy:

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:16, NIV)

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If you have any question, please contact,

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