



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Thursday 7 February 2019

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### **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

Life is one big adventure with many lessons along the way. While I have the microphone this evening I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some lessons my adventure so far has taught me:

#### **Jason Derulo was wrong.**

His 2010 hit single "Riding Solo" captured the opposite of our original design. We are built for relationship and community. Find people you can trust and a community of people to do life with. Eat with them. Rest with them. Play together and encourage each other. Life is not a solo effort.

#### **Swim in the ocean.**

The cold water, the movement of the waves, the grit of the sand, floating...it stimulates your senses and lets you know you are alive. Stimulate your senses. Enjoy life.

#### **Don't serve to save, serve to love.**

Lets simplify our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. We can plan and strategize around programs and outreach and missions and service etc... let's spend energy and focus our attention on how to worship God in and through our everyday and lets seek opportunities to serve and love those around us genuinely. It's what Jesus stated as the greatest commandment through the gospels: Love God, love people.

#### **Read and Greet.**

You will be the same person you are today 5 years from now apart from the books you read and the company you keep. Read widely and get to know people who are different to you.

#### **Rest.**

The ancient Jewish traditions had this sorted. The day starts in the evening with family, a hearty meal and a good rest...then we work. Work hard, but work out of a place of rest.

#### **Embrace pain.**

Paul and James pick up on a similar theme through their writings in the New Testament: suffering produces endurance (perseverance) that leads to character...all this towards a future hope in Jesus Christ. The temptation when we find ourselves in pain or suffering is to ask Jesus to take us to the place of hope straight away and what we miss is the opportunity to build resilience.



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**Resilience.**

I am grateful for this most recent learning journey I have been on. The content I have read, the people I have met and the opportunities I have had to put into practice all that I am being challenged with has enriched my life and that of my family greatly. The journey has not been without its challenges, but this I can say in full confidence...God is righteous, Jesus is faithful and the Holy Spirit is alive and well. Discipleship is a process, trust the process.

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**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

**Mr Amit Khaira, Master of Theological Studies, Stirling Theological College**

**Vice-Chancellor's Scholar 2019**

For over a decade, Amit has led and inspired young people towards a fruitful life in Christ through chaplaincy, youth ministry, inter-faith dialogue and offering his broad suite of gifts to the church and the world. He has pioneered a social-enterprise café, co-designed the Catalyst program and led students on domestic and international cross-cultural immersion trips. He has maintained a commitment to ongoing theological study which he has completed with excellent results.



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