

FOCUS ON SEMINARY

Guess who's coming to seminary?

Seminaries focusing on diversity and adaptability

Jim Coggins
Special to ChristianWeek

Enrollment at Canada's 30-odd seminaries has remained stable over the past two or three decades. But it's a case of staying the same by changing.

Under the surface of enrollment totals are some significant changes as seminaries have adapted to the changing face of Canada and the changing needs of churches.

And while there are some overall trends, not all seminaries have adapted in the same way.

One of the most obvious changes is that, in keeping with the changing demographics of Canada, seminary student populations are becoming more ethnically diverse.

The student body at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto "reflects the demographics of Toronto and Canada," says director of marketing and communications Lina van der Wel. A couple of decades ago, about 62 percent of students were Caucasian; today only about 40 percent are. The students now come from over 30 different ethnic backgrounds.

Tyndale also has a Chinese ministries program, as does Regent College in Vancouver.

Canadians, of whatever ethnicity, make up the majority of students at Canadian seminaries. However, only about 60-65 percent of students at Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS) in Langley, B.C., are Canadian. Many others are Americans or Koreans.

Female students on the rise

The number of female students is also increasing. Sabrina Wheeler, student advisor and admissions coordinator at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Ontario, notes that 100 years ago all of the school's students were male; today 70 per cent are female.



When Tyndale Seminary started in 1979, only 26 per cent of students were female, but that percentage has grown steadily to the point where about 40 per cent are women.

But women are not equally represented in all programs. At Waterloo Lutheran, while roughly 70 per cent of the students in the counselling program are women, about 60 per cent of the theology students are men.



Women are outnumbering men at many seminaries.

At Tyndale, women make up about half of the students going for basic degrees, such as the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS), but in the advanced degree programs, men outnumber women two to one.

Similarly, at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, close to 40 per cent of the students are female, but most of the students in the PhD program are men.

There is also diversity in age range. Registrar Wendell Phillips says the average age of students at ACTS (about 36) has been stable for 20 years—but the current students range in age from 22 to 62.

Overall Canadian seminary student enrollment has held steady in recent decades. But individual seminaries have seen significant declines, while others have seen significant growth.

The average age of students at Waterloo Lutheran is 43, but that does not mean all students are middle-aged. About 10 per cent come to the seminary straight out of an undergraduate degree, but the school also has students in their 50s, 60s and 70s—and two in their 80s.

At Wycliffe College in Toronto, the students are getting younger, and there is a noticeable increase in the number of students showing up at college community events with young children. In 1997, 20 per cent were under 30; in 2009, 31 per cent were under 30. But Wycliffe has also seen a steady increase in the number of students over 60.

Again, much depends on the program. Wycliffe's MTS in development is particularly attractive to younger students.

Continued on page 8

Be Prepared.

A MAN WALKS INTO YOUR OFFICE AND TELLS YOU HE WANTS TO LEAVE HIS WIFE AND KIDS.

HIS LAST COUNSELLOR LEFT HIM CONFUSED, TORN BETWEEN HIS FEELINGS AND FAITH.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE MAY HELP HIM FIND HIS WAY.

MASTERS OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY (MAMFT)

ACTS Seminaries offers a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy to those looking to become accredited marriage and family counsellors with a solid biblical foundation.

Call Liisa at 1.888.468.6898 for more details

ACTS
SEMINARIES

1.888.468.6898
acts@twu.ca
www.acts.twu.ca

Essential Training for Christian Service.

INSIDE



PAGE 7:
Bonhoeffer—Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy



PAGE 9:
Ancient rhythms of daily prayer



PAGE 10:
Seminary Directory

Bonhoeffer, twentieth century Christian hero

BONHOEFFER—PASTOR, MARTYR, PROPHET, SPY
 BY ERIC METAXAS
 NASHVILLE, TX: THOMAS NELSON, 2010
 CDN \$32.99, 608 PAGES, HARDCOVER
 ISBN: 978-1595551382
 REVIEWED BY HAROLD JANTZ

It may be time that a new generation becomes familiar with a Christian giant of the Second World War era. A means for that now exists. It is the magisterial biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas, the writer of another widely-acclaimed earlier biography, *Amazing Grace*, William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to end Slavery.

In this new biography, Metaxas tells a brilliant story of the German theologian who became a sparkplug of church resistance to the Nazis. He unwraps the backdrop of Bonhoeffer's social and religious roots and the gathering storm generated by the German fascists. Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy takes us deep into the German experience that promised much and ultimately led the nation into hellish night.

It was decades ago that I first read *The Cost of Discipleship* and was introduced to Bonhoeffer. I remember the debate when some tried to use his prison writings to argue for a kind of religionless Christianity, which Metaxas shows was never Bonhoeffer's intent. The effort eventually faded.

In this new biography Metaxas places Bonhoeffer within a rich tradition of disciplined German culture and Christian teaching. Young Dietrich's life could have taken any of several directions, but at an early age he chose to yield his life to Christ and the church. From his early years he already showed the keen mind and resolute character that led him to become a huge challenge to a compromised German church and a conspirator with a small company who tried to stop Hitler.

The book is especially helpful in laying out the course of events that took Germany



It's time for a new generation to learn about Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

farther and farther down the road of compromise with great forces of evil. Hitler's glorification of raw power, a theology rooted in paganism, the swelling anti-Semitism, the belief in an Uebermensch (superior man) who was Aryan, all were part of the "stew," as Metaxas writes, that Hitler thought would "be far more useful than Christianity because it would advocate such 'virtues' as would be useful to the Third Reich."

Bonhoeffer recognized the deeply alien nature of National Socialism almost from the outset. He refused to align himself with the churches that wanted to go along with Hitler and called themselves "German Christians" as proof.

Two days after Hitler was democratically elected as chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933, Bonhoeffer, as a 26-year-old theologian, went on radio and gave an address that challenged the notion of a "Fuehrer" and argued such a leader was bound to become an idol and "mis-leader."

The address was taken off the air before he could finish.

Bonhoeffer's struggles with German church leadership, his contacts with ecumenical leaders in Britain and America, his efforts at maintaining a clandestine seminary, his relationships to his own family, his involvement in the conspiracy against Hitler and his writing, form most of the gripping story told by Metaxas. Because we know how Bonhoeffer's life ended, reading the account becomes at times almost more than one can bear. He was noble and deeply Christian as few are.

His late romance with Maria Wedemeyer, an affection that would never find its consummation, was merely another of those aspects of this man that remained as a promise never fulfilled. Yet

no one could have taken that from his final recorded words: "This is the end. For me the beginning of life."

Despite so many chapters of his life uncompleted, Bonhoeffer probably influenced more lives than all but a small handful of 20th century Christians. His clear witness to Christ, his ability to discern the true nature of threats to the church, his willingness to suffer to the point of death, his love for people—these are some of his gifts to Christians of all ages.

Seldom has the entire sweep of Bonhoeffer's life been told with greater, more engaging and powerful effect, than in Metaxas' new book. One can only hope that many will find the book and read it.

Harold Jantz is a former editor of the MB Herald and founder of ChristianWeek.

8 OUT OF 10 CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY DIE BEFORE THEIR 5TH BIRTHDAY.

Rescue a child today – And become a Forgotten Child Sponsor

cbm Canada brings life-changing hope to families with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world

www.cbmcanada.org
 1.800.567.2264

Charitable Registration No. 10691 8329 RR0001

ChristianWeek
is now on Facebook.

Add us to your "friends" list and engage in conversation with readers from across Canada.

CHRISTIANWEEK

TYNDALE
Seminary

Canada's Leading Seminary

Respond to God's Call

Flexible study options

Tyndale Seminary offers a variety of degree options to fit your schedule.

416.218.6757 | 1.877.TYNDALE Go to tyndaleseminary.ca/future

FOCUS ON SEMINARY

Continued from page S1

Growing diversity

The student bodies at Canadian seminaries are also increasingly diverse denominationally. This is true not only of interdenominational schools such as Tyndale, but also of seminaries affiliated with a particular denomination.

Kevin Kirk, director of enrollment management and marketing, says 20 years ago most of the students at McMaster Divinity College were Baptist. Today, the college has students from 20 denominations.

Wycliffe, an Anglican school, also has students from about 20 denominations, and Anglicans are now a minority.

Waterloo Lutheran is even more diverse. While at one time all of its students were Lutheran, currently less than a quarter of the students are. And partly because of its popular counselling program, the student body not only includes students from a variety of Christian denominations but agnostics, atheists, Buddhists and Muslims as well.

Overall Canadian seminary student enrollment has held steady in recent decades. But individual seminaries have seen significant declines, while others have seen significant growth. Often innovative and diversified programs drive that growth. Gone are the days when seminaries produced only MDiv graduates heading for a career as senior pastors.

Waterloo Lutheran has seen a decline in the number of theology students, but enrollment in its counselling program is booming. This is because it is considered the leading counselling program in the country. It is also because Ontario recently passed Bill 171, requiring psychothera-



The makeup of Seminaries is becoming increasingly diverse.

pists to have formal training.

Enrollment at McMaster is also booming, with the college seeing a record full time equivalent this year. This is partly because the school has become more evangelical in its orientation, making it more attractive to its core constituency. It is also because a few years ago it dropped its DMin program and launched a full PhD program in theology, one of only a couple of such programs in the country. While two-thirds of its students are in training for ministry, one-third of students are in the academic stream. The school now says it is training

leaders for the “church, academy and society.”

While Waterloo Lutheran is thriving because it is adapting to meet the needs of society, Tyndale is thriving because it is adapting to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the church. Tyndale has seen slow but steady enrollment growth over the past decade, but this cannot be attributed to any one program. Tyndale has 11 different specialties in its MDiv program alone.

“Churches are realizing that a senior pastor cannot be everything,” says van der Wel. With divorce and other family problems, churches are realizing they need counsellors. And churches need specially trained worship pastors and children’s pastors, rather than just expecting the youth pastor to also fill these roles. Churches also want specialists in spiritual formation and small group leadership. As well, Tyndale is still training missionaries, with graduates serving in 15 countries.

One area of growth at Tyndale is an increase in middle-aged professionals who are seeking additional training on a part-time basis; some go into full-time ministry as a second career, but most just want to be better prepared for lay ministry in their churches and for unofficial ministry in their professional lives. Van der Wel notes that churches such as The Meeting House expect much ministry to be done by the lay elders who lead their “home church” groups.

Keeping up with changing demands requires the seminary to be in close contact with churches, says van der Wel. “It is exciting to see churches working toward meeting the needs of the church community today, and we’re just figuring out how we can support them.”

Veteran author paints a picture of God’s grace

THE GRACE OF GOD
BY ANDY STANLEY
NASHVILLE: THOMAS NELSON, 2010
CDN \$18.99, 221 PAGES, SOFTCOVER
ISBN: 978-0-8499-4814-5
REVIEWED BY DR. R. WAYNE HAGERMAN

I have long appreciated Andy Stanley’s books—their themes, content and carefully crafted format. He has a way of being both relevant and connected to the biblical text in his writings—that takes great skill. And this newest book is no exception.

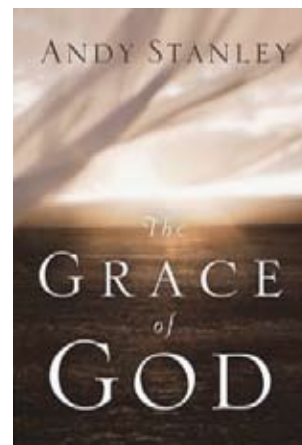
What more can be said about grace? *The Grace of God* is a welcome addition to the many books with virtually the same title. Stanley’s delivery and style, coupled with his skilled biblical exegesis and expressive comments make this book a great platform for a renewed emphasis on this great attribute

of God. He paints wonderful word pictures from start to finish, each chapter focusing on significant biblical characters.

From the creation and Adam and Eve to the Church’s role as “Commissioned for Grace,” Stanley’s emphasis is on God’s work and desire to show forth grace—“unmerited favour”—in all that He is and does. Not only that, but His intent for humanity, especially the Church, is to be bearers of grace, His “primary vehicle for dispensing the message of grace...for everybody.”

Each chapter teaches the reader a lesson. For example, Stanley illustrates the chapter “How Sweet the Sound” by referencing the parable of the lost son in Luke 15. He illustrates how in God’s grace, he “celebrates, first and foremost, restored relationships.”

The final chapter in this text is especially welcome. This is one time when it would be fine to read the last chapter



first as it sets the tone for the rest of the book. Stanley’s conclusion, the real heart of the book, is that “In God’s story, you are the focus of a celebration. Not what you’ve done. You.” This makes the book very personal and profitable for those who wish for true acceptance from God.

The Grace of God is a very readable book, and those who pick it up will benefit from taking the time to peruse it with an open and receptive heart.

Ministry Training Within Your Reach

PROVIDENCE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SERVING CHURCHES ACROSS DENOMINATIONS

Providence is a truly interdenominational school with faculty from Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical Free, Mennonite and Pentecostal churches. Our graduates make a difference serving in various church and humanitarian ministries around the world.

We offer Doctor of Ministry, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts Degrees with flexible delivery options including online and modular courses.

providenceseminary.ca
1.800.668.7768
info@prov.ca

University Matters

But do you matter to your university?

A King’s university education means the creative exchange of ideas, the forging of friendships, and working directly with professors who care about you and your success.

It means putting your faith in God into action.

King’s provides highly qualified faculty, academic excellence, and a Christian perspective so you can apply what you learn to your life and your future career.

UNIVERSITY DEGREES
Arts • Science • Commerce • Music • Education

1.800.661.8582
Edmonton, AB

kingsu.ca
Christian University Education

Rated #1 in Canada for Quality of Teaching & Satisfaction with Decision to Attend
Maclean’s 2010 University rankings

A+ Quality of Education, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Atmosphere
Canadian University Report 2011

King’s View Friday February 18, 2011
Open House March 12, 2011 10 - 2pm

THE KING’S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Help Wanted

Kids need God’s Word, too!

When a young person reaches the age where they start asking the big questions, we think it’s only fair they have their own copy of God’s Word to read.

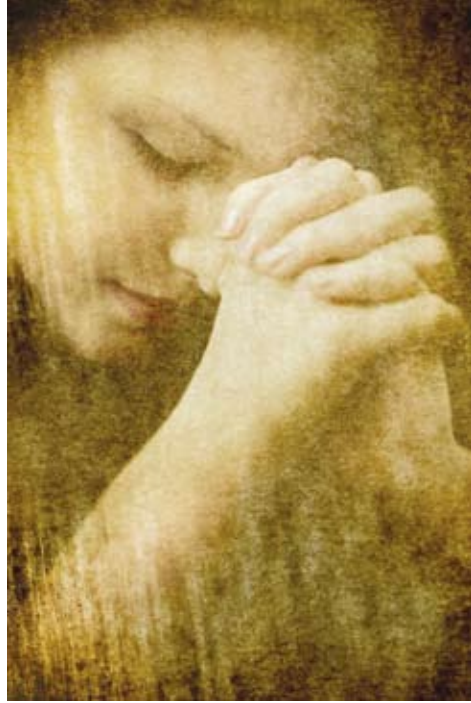
Your gift to The Gideons helps us put Bibles into the hands of Grade 5 students who will start reading the one book they’ll hang onto for the rest of their lives.

Give today.
Call 1-888-831-1893

The Gideons
www.gideons.ca

Uncovering ancient rhythms of daily prayer

When he was a young adult, Arthur Boers' 17-year-old sister died of leukemia. Torn by grief and unable to understand how God could allow such a terrible thing, he found himself unable to pray. Then a friend introduced him to the practice of using a prayer book for daily prayers. It helped him, and started him on a journey to learn more about daily prayer. Here he shares some of his thoughts on daily prayer with John Longhurst.



What is daily prayer?

Common daily prayer is the practice, or discipline, of praying every morning and evening, using a set of prayers being used by other Christians around the world. In the more liturgical traditions, this practice is variously called the "daily office," "divine office," "common prayer," "liturgy of the hours," "morning and evening prayer" and even "fixed-hour prayer."

What is the history of daily prayer?

It goes back to the Old Testament, where Jews prayed two to three times a day. In the Psalms we read: "In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation" (5:3); "Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice" (55:17); and "At midnight I rise to give you thanks" (119:62).

The early Christians followed this practice, gathering daily to pray in the temple and in their homes (Acts 2:46). Since there were no clocks back then, they prayed at the third, sixth and ninth hours—the third hour was after sunrise, the sixth was in the middle of the day, and the ninth came after sunset.

How did this practice of daily prayer come to an end for many Christians?

Part of the blame lies at the feet of "professional" Christians in the Middle Ages. They made the prayers longer and more complex, making it impractical or impossible for regular people to use them. Even clergy found them difficult to use; Martin Luther wrote that he couldn't keep up with his daily obligations, and that he made himself sick trying to do it.

As well, since the practice of daily prayer was associated with the old, corrupt Church that was overthrown by the reformers, many Protestants abandoned it. Today, some evangelicals and other Protestants don't do it because it has been associated with Catholicism. Plus, some Christians believe that extemporaneous prayers are more authentic than written prayers.

Common daily prayer is the practice, or discipline, of praying every morning and evening, using a set of prayers being used by other Christians around the world.

Continued on page 11

SEMBITS: Reports from Canadian seminaries

Centre for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care set to launch

WOLFVILLE, NS—The faculty and board of trustees of Acadia Divinity College have unanimously approved the proposal to establish the Charles J. Taylor Center for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at Acadia Divinity College. The Taylor Centre, led by director Tracy Demmons, is named in memory of Charlie Taylor, the founder of Clinical Pastoral Education in Canada, the main professional training body for Chaplains and Spiritual Care providers. In 2003 he was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of this work and his pioneering work in prisons. The Taylor Centre is projected for launch at the Simpson Lectures in February. Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care are a strong part of the College's history, training students for ministry in specialized settings such as ministry in hospitals and continuing-care facilities, prisons and military settings, and in new areas such as community, industry and sport. The College is a national and international leader in prison ministry and offers a widely respected Diploma in Prison Ministry. (Acadia Divinity College)

Bob Bernardo's life celebrated

TORONTO, ON—Bob Bernardo, a great friend and supporter of Tyndale University College and Seminary, died in late December following a very short struggle with cancer. It was Bernardo's passion for well-educated Christian leaders within the church as well as the marketplace that gave rise to the Bernardo Chair of Leadership, Tyndale's first endowed chair. Bernardo sat on the board of directors of The Tyndale Foundation for several years and chaired its Investment Committee. "Bob Bernardo has over his lifetime had a remarkable influence on Tyndale," says Brian Stiller, president of the Tyndale Foundation. "The development of the chair of leadership was a critical moment in the history and progress of Tyndale. It not only was the first chair but it became a testing ground of growth and vision. What a brother he was to many of us, careful, wise and prayerful. He loved students. He never tired of hearing their stories of grace, their struggles and their victories. He and Leslie attended events, encouraged me as president and always had word of vision to help us move upward and forward. "Whenever I was in charge of meeting, inevitably I asked Bob to close in prayer. I loved to hear him pray. He had a way of encompassing us all in God's love and power. I learned from Bob that a person who knows how to pray, knows how to live." (Tyndale College and Seminary)

Continued on page 11

At the centre of McMaster University in Hamilton is MacDiv and it's the perfect spot to "be in the world, but not of it." It doesn't take long for you to discover that the entire faculty and our programs are centered around an evangelical worldview.

And did you know, MacDiv offers you the lowest tuition for seminary training in Canada? That means evangelical education, lower student debt and a degree recognized around the world. Really, is there a seminary that's better for you than MacDiv? Not likely.

Visit us in person or online anytime at www.macdiv.ca

McMaster Divinity College - Hamilton, Ontario

www.macdiv.ca
905-525-9140 x24401

FOCUS ON SEMINARY

Seminary Directory

ACTS Seminaries

ACTS Seminaries offers masters and diploma programs by professors equipped to prepare you with relevant ministry training in a solid theological framework. Whether you're pursuing a career in ministry, missions, or counselling, ACTS Seminaries prepares you for whatever challenges you will face in your career. ACTS Seminaries, Essential Training for Christian Service.

Visit www.acts.twu.ca or call Lisa at 1.888.498.6898 for more information.

Ambrose Seminary

Ambrose Seminary prepares students to serve and lead the Church in its mission in the world. The seminary is characterized by faculty who integrate life experience with academic expertise to guide you in your growth—spiritually and academically. Ambrose Seminary offers ATS accredited graduate ministry degrees including a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts, as well as a wide variety of diplomas and certificates. Our brand new campus is located in the city of Calgary, overlooking the Rocky Mountains and housing one of the largest, private academic libraries in western Canada.

Phone 403-4100-2900 or visit www.ambrose.edu for more information.

Canadian Mennonite University

CMU's graduate Theological and Ministry programs reflect its mission to inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society. Nathan Kowlowsky, a present MA student writes: "Following six years of pastoral service at River East MB church, I needed space for further theological study and reflection. I chose the MA program at CMU, in large measure because I trust CMU faculty. I have discovered integrity in their teaching and living and in their commitment to the church. I believe that CMU is helping equip me to address the critical issues facing the local church today & tomorrow. As

I prepare for the next season of ministry, I'm grateful for my professors and for CMU as a partner towards that end."

Visit www.cmu.ca for more information

Heritage Seminary

Heritage Seminary—your seminary for practical ministry. Do you desire to be equipped to engage your world? Heritage Seminary offers various academic programs in flexible formats intended to make seminary education accessible. It is a place for you to learn, participate, contribute, grow and develop the tools and skills that will further prepare you for ministry in the context God is calling—this is what you'll discover at Heritage.

For more information, to book a tour, to request a package of information or to simply get started, we invite you to visit www.discoverheritage.ca or call 1-800-465-1961.

McMaster Divinity College

McMaster Divinity College is an accredited, graduate, professional school comprised of evangelical faculty dedicated to helping prepare people for Christian leadership. We believe that ministry in the 21st century—whether pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, religious education, research or scholarship and any number of other ministries—has become increasingly complex and diverse, and will require that those called by God have the best preparation possible. This is accomplished through McMaster Divinity's MTS, MDiv, Ma and PhD programs

Contact us today at www.macdiv.ca or call 905-525-9410 x 24401 to discover what makes McMaster Divinity College your best choice for affordable, evangelical, university-based seminary education.

Providence Seminary

Providence Seminary offers accredited ministry training at the masters and doctoral levels. We train people to serve the church in the accomplishment of its mission. Graduates serve in a variety of denominations and para-church organizations such

as counseling centres, youth ministries and mission organizations. We encourage you to become stronger in your own tradition by learning to understand and respect others. Flexible course delivery methods mean you can get the education you need at Providence.

Explore our website today, at www.prov.ca for more information.

Regent College

Regent College is an empowering community of Christians committed to equipping people to live and work as mature followers of Christ in the vocations to which God has called them. Students representing a wide variety of nationalities, denominations, vocations and stages of life come to Regent to explore God's call on their lives within a challenging and supportive community. With an exceptional faculty, and 35 visiting scholars every spring and summer, Regent College is an established international graduate school providing theological and interdisciplinary education for the whole people of God.

Visit www.Regent-College.edu for more information.

The King's University College

If you are looking for an exceptional university experience, then The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta is for you! King's offers fully-accredited Bachelor degrees in the arts, humanities, music, social sciences, natural sciences and commerce/management, as well as a Bachelor of Education after-degree. A smaller campus means being mentored one-on-one with professors who are easily accessible. King's faculty are committed to communicating a Christian perspective in their teaching and are focused on academic excellence.

Visit our website at www.kingsu.ca or contact us at admissions@kingsu.ca or 1-800-661-8582.

Tyndale Seminary

Tyndale Seminary is offering new and innovative courses to equip people for the 21st Century church. This summer Bruxy Cavey taught Evangelism and the Missional Church at the Meeting House Oakville site and covered issues such as culture, contextualization and revitalization of the local church. This fall Rick Tobias is teaching Urban Ministry I—Understanding the City at Yonge Street Mission and will help students develop a biblical and practical approach to urban ministry. Also this fall, Wafik Wahba will teach a course called The Perspectives On Global Mission where students will virtually take part in the Lausanne Conference in Cape Town.

Visit www.tyndale.ca for more information.



Heritage offers courses in a variety of formats that bring theological training within your reach

- Traditional classroom settings
- Extension options (*DVD and CD*)
- Multi-modal offerings

Join us on March 10th, 2011 for the Heritage Ministry Leadership Day. This year's theme is *Navigating Complexity in Ministry Leadership*. Please visit us online or call to register today.

Be better equipped to engage the world, while still balancing yours.

175 Holiday Inn Drive, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, N3C 3T2 | 1.800.465.1961 | www.DiscoverHeritage.ca

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

in Theological Studies & Christian Ministry

One-Week Intensive Courses Offered

February 21–25 Old Testament: A Theological Introduction
May 2–6 Parables of Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes
May 16–20 Ministry in Multicultural Perspective
May 28, May 30–June 3 Discerning Missional Vocation
June 6–10 Pastoral Care and Counseling
June 13–17 Evangelism and Disciple-making in an Urban Culture

For more information on courses & instructors, visit www.cmu.ca

CMU 204.487.3300 | Toll free 1.877.231.4570
depptiessen@cmu.ca

FOCUS ON SEMINARY

Continued from page 11

How did daily prayer become important to you?

When I was a young adult, my prayer life was not able to withstand the untimely death of my 17-year-old younger sister and only sibling, Margaret—prayer became very difficult for me. While coping with that grief, I was first introduced to the possibilities of using a prayer book to help me pray. It helped, and that discipline has stood me in good stead ever since.

Being able to pray in that way reminded me to trust that God is active, even when I cannot discern God's activity or even feel God's presence for a long, long time.

Why is it important for Christians to set aside some time every day to pray?

We live in an era when our notion of time has shifted pretty dramatically. Today time is almost meaningless; we can shop or work anytime we want. This is good, in some ways, since we are no longer tethered to a clock. But it's also a burden—now we are tethered to our work. This way of praying teaches us to reclaim a rhythm of engaging with God, and releasing things to God, on a regular schedule.

With all the busyness in our lives, it is easy to get off balance and forget our relationship with God. By making a commitment to pray at certain times, we can keep our spiritual balance, and remind ourselves that God is central to our daily activity.

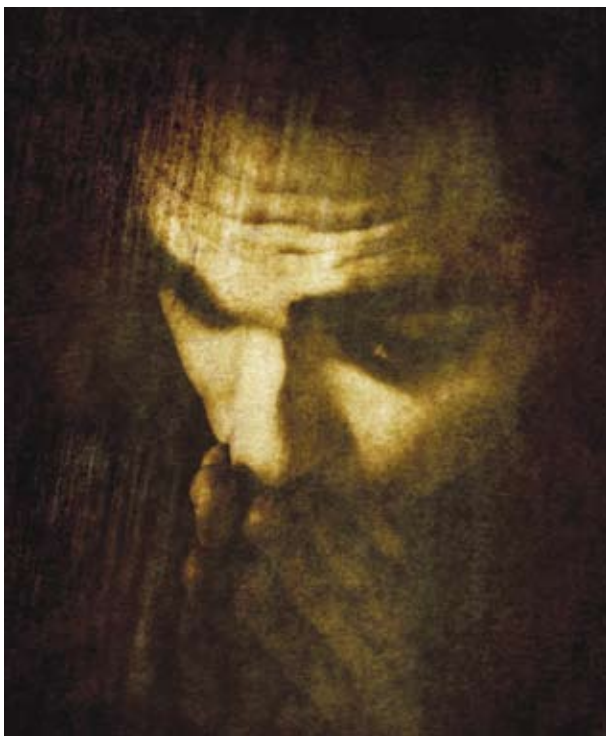
We have the gift and opportunity to encounter what is already there and to claim it as a potential legacy for all Christians.

How can praying written prayers like this help Christians with their prayer and devotional lives?

Written prayers can help you focus, direct your attention and expand your imagination for what you pray about and whom you pray for. It can challenge us to pray beyond our comfort zones—to pray for more than only ourselves, or our family and friends.

It also helps when we find it hard to pray, or don't feel like praying. During times of crisis, or when you can't pray, it's an anchor. When you don't know what to say, the prayers help you verbalize the thoughts and ideas that might be hard to express.

There's also something powerful about knowing that



you are joining others around the world in praying the same prayers or for the same things. It's a way of expressing solidarity with the wider Church, and also of not feeling alone.

What is your goal with this book?

The way I like to describe it is to say that I want to help people uncover the practice of common daily morning and evening prayer. It has never really been lost, of course; lots of Christians still practice it. But many others have misplaced it, perhaps even buried it. Distortions, misdirected emphases, misguided priorities and even good intentions went wrong—these have gradually covered up and reworked the original genius of morning and evening prayer.

Yet it remains there in the roots of Christianity, even within Protestant traditions. What is required, then, is not to find, invent, or discover something new. Rather, we have the gift and opportunity to encounter what is already there and to claim it as a potential legacy for all Christians. It is part of our heritage, and it can still be a great blessing.

My hope is that readers will join me in exploring what happened to such prayer, and then see its potential for renewing our spiritual lives, and enriching the life of the wider Church.

Arthur Boers holds the R. J. Bernardo Family Chair of Leadership at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. Day by Day These Things We Pray: Uncovering Ancient Rhythms of Prayer is available from Herald Press.

Continued from page 11

Taylor remembers former president

EDMONTON, AB—Taylor College and Seminary is remembering one of its former presidents who died late last year at the age of 88. Joseph Sonnenberg was president of the school from 1970-1981.

Sonnenberg is considered a "towering figure" in Taylor's history, leading building projects that included the Schalm Memorial Library, the gymnasium and a dormitory. The school's student body also experienced significant growth. Taylor's former high school was phased out during Sonnenberg's tenure, while Taylor Seminary got its start as a divinity school.

When Sonnenberg stepped down as president, he said he had accepted the job with "fear and trembling" but that he came "to pay a debt to this college for the great impact it had upon my life in its formative years."

Friends and former colleagues remember Sonnenberg as a disciplined, hard-working and honest man who valued spiritual development as well as intellectual growth. One person remembers that he followed a pattern of reading at least one book per week. He also loved nature, and was responsible for the trees that line the Taylor campus.

(Taylor College and Seminary)

English program garners high praise

OTTERBURNE, MB—A teacher training program at Providence College and Seminary, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (or TESOL), has been recognized as providing the highest possible standard of training in Canada.

The Providence TESOL program received the new recognition from TESL Canada Federation, its accrediting body, in November. It makes the school one of only three universities in Canada to "deliver programs meeting the highest professional standards," says Elfrieda Lepp-Kaethler, assistant professor of TESOL.

Providence's TESOL program serves not only Manitoba, but all of North America and many other countries in a number of ways.

"While many TESOL programs have sprung up in the last number of years, our program is unique in Manitoba in its integrated faith emphasis, and unique in Canada, with its range of TESOL track options," says Lepp-Kaethler.

Providence TESOL graduates work across Manitoba, Canada, and the US, and have worked in approximately 70 countries worldwide.

(Providence College and Seminary)



Sunworld Tours kindly invites Church Leaders for a Complimentary Clergy Lunch Seminar

Guest Speaker - Dr. Uzi Dahari
Deputy Director of the Israel Antiquities Authority, Chief Scientist and Head of Archaeological Activities


Archeological Innovations of Christianity in the Holyland
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

A short presentation will follow – how to lead a successful tour to the Holyland

<p>Victoria Mon. May 16 <i>at Magnolia Hotel and Spa</i></p> <p>Vancouver Tue. May 17 <i>at Ramada Hotel & Suites Metrotown</i></p> <p>Kelowna Wed. May 18 <i>at Best Western Inn Kelowna</i></p> <p>Edmonton Thu. May 19 <i>at Radisson Hotel Edmonton South</i></p> <p>Red Deer Fri. May 20 <i>at Holiday Inn 67 Street</i></p>	<p>Lethbridge Mon. May 23 <i>at Lethbridge Lodge Hotel</i></p> <p>Calgary Tue. May 24 <i>at Carriage House Inn</i></p> <p>Saskatoon Wed. May 25 <i>at Holiday Inn Express Saskatoon</i></p> <p>Regina Thu. May 26 <i>at Holiday Inn Hotel</i></p> <p>Winnipeg Fri. May 27 <i>at Holiday Inn</i></p>
--	--

Please RSVP Phone: 1.800.461.6854 Fax: 403.245.0611
sunworld@sunworldtours.com

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2011



Go Deeper

God calls us closer. To meet Him. To enjoy fellowship with Him and become what we were created for. Part of this process is intentional, worshipful learning.

Come to Regent College this summer and study with men and women from around the world.

Alister McGrath
on postmodern apologetics


David Gill & William Edgar
on jazz—a Christian take

Marva Dawn
on suffering

Bruce Waltke
on the Psalms

Mark Noll and David Livingstone
on Science and Christianity.

And that is just the beginning... there are 50 courses in all! May—July.



www.regent-college.edu/godeeper
 1.800.663.8664
 Vancouver, Canada

AN INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES