



Focal Point

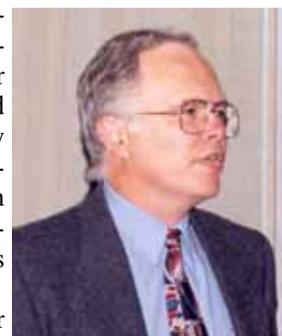
For several months we have observed Canada and the United States involved in national elections. Various leaders and parties urged us to demonstrate our trust and support for them and their platforms by casting a vote in their favour. As we observed the Presidential election in America, the people seemed evenly divided and reaching a final decision proved extremely difficult.

In a significant way your gift to Northwest is a vote of confidence in our vision, our graduates, our faculty-pastors, and our leadership. When you stand with us in this important way you declare that our ministry is critical for the advancement of God's Kingdom. We believe this to be the case and thank God for many friends who prayerfully support us.

This year our financial goal for personal and church donations is \$75,000. We are thankful that to date we have received \$47,000. Our financial year ends April 30, 2001 and so we are trusting God for the remaining \$28,000. We were particularly blessed with a special gift from the Clair and Murray MacKenzie Foundation. That donation enabled us to provide

significant financial assistance to seven seminary students.

Northwest Baptist Seminary is committed to being one of the best places in Canada through which men and women can receive graduate training for church ministries. We know that our graduates currently express their leadership in many of our Fellowship Baptist churches. Our passion is to help many more to realize the calling and gifting of God through whatever means will be effective. We have theological focus; in partnership with many pastoral leaders we are mentoring people effectively for ministry; and we consciously choose to concentrate upon pastoral training in all of its dimensions.



Your support creates an essential partnership with us in achieving

(Continued on page 4)

Pastoral Training – Dr. Kent Anderson

Training pastors for Fellowship churches is our primary mission at Northwest. Our Fellowship of Baptist Churches will require hundreds of new pastors over the next ten years as many of our current pastors retire or leave ministry; as the Fellowship plants multiple new churches; and as existing churches hire larger and larger pastoral staffs. At Northwest we are excited about our involvement in preparing those new pastors and in so doing, we are keeping faith with those who established our school back in the 1930s. Like them, we are passionate

about training pastoral leaders for our churches.

Our primary degree program for the training of pastors and other significant leaders for ministry is the ACTS Master of Divinity (MDiv). While many pastors are profiting from the Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) or the Master of Religious Education (MRE), the MDiv is designed to be the most comprehensive program geared to prepare people for a lifetime in ministry. The average MDiv pastoral student comes to us in his (and occasionally “her”) early

(Continued on page 3)

A great door for effective ministry... 1 Cor. 16:18

In The Footsteps Of Paul – Dr. Brian Rapske

This past summer marked my wife's and my twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. It is a God-blessed milestone and so we decided that we would "make a memory". The decision was for us to do an unusual holiday.

For some years now, Rita has wanted to visit our many Christian friends in Aberdeen, Scotland. This was where we had lived for five years while I worked on my Ph.D. in New Testament. When she proposed a wee Scottish holiday, I winced. I couldn't help remembering the joke about there being only two seasons in Scotland – winter and the second week in August! The prospect of a cold and soggy July, even with dear friends, left me a bit flat.

The creative inducement for me to go to Scotland was for the holiday to have a warm and equally purposeful beginning – a Mediterranean cruise! It had to include stops to places of importance in the explosive first century AD spread of the Good News about Jesus Messiah. There is a peculiar enthusiasm that comes to the professor or teacher who can "show" as well as "tell" because he's been where it all happened. I was sold on the idea. We signed on for a cruise that took us from Istanbul, Turkey to Barcelona, Spain in a meandering track across the Mediterranean Sea. The cruise included a visit to Malta, the place of Paul's shipwreck, a day trip to Rome, where Paul faithfully proclaimed the good news in chains – and to Ephesus!

Today, Ephesus is but an extensive ruin under excavation and a destination for busloads of curious tourists. In Paul's day (and in John's!), Ephesus was a marvel. The city had in the first century AD a population of perhaps a quarter million people. It was a major center of trade and the Roman administrative seat for the great province of Asia.

Ephesus was also home to one of the seven wonders of the world – the great temple of Artemis. Today, the temple is all but gone. We saw a few of its massive columns, so I was told, in the church of Ayasofya and fragments that had been removed to the gardens of the Topkapi Museum in Is-

tanbul. At the actual site of the temple, there is now only a bog strewn here and there with stone fragments.

In its heyday, however, Ephesus was beneficiary to an incredible flow in trade, religious pilgrims and cash because of the worship of Artemis. The city had much to gain by maintaining Artemis' fame and mystery.

Because it was "God's will" (Acts 18:21), Paul came to Ephesus, the heart and soul of Asia. Luke tells us that Paul's ministry followed the familiar pattern, but with uncommonly rich results. Entering the city,

Paul engaged the Jewish community in Spirit-filled Gospel preaching and debate. Jewish resistance grew along with the number of conversions to the Way until, after three months, Paul left with the new disciples to continue preaching and teaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. His primary focus was now upon preaching Jesus to the Gentiles. And over the next two years, God was mightily at work through Paul in "powerful deeds not the ordinary kind" (!) and in preaching "so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." (Acts 19:10)

By all means, the most impressive ruin that Rita and I saw as we toured Ephesus was the theatre area. This was the site of an explosive pagan reaction against the great success of the Gospel (Acts 19:23-41).

Demetrius the silversmith had accused that Paul's preaching was affecting the trade in silver shrines and the worship of Artemis was under threat. His agitations started a riot. The seething mob that formed boiled down the very city streets that Rita and I were walking, catching up Paul's associates in its wake, and spilling into the theatre. As I stood near the top of that theatre, where 25,000 could be seated, I imagined the mayhem of jostling bodies and the angry chants of the

(Continued on page 3)

A Mediterranean Storm

It was a New Testament professor's dream! An "Acts 27-sized" Mediterranean storm – and it was wild – 70 knot winds and massive waves crashing into the fore part of the ship. At 1:00 am "the big one" hit—a wave some 25 feet from crest to trough. It smashed eight cabin windows on the fifth level and two on the sixth. People sleeping in those cabins awoke to the sound of exploding glass and the massive inrush of gallons of seawater. In some cabins, bulkheads were broken down by the volume of water. No one was seriously injured or swept off the ship, but some personal belongings were lost to the sea. Captain Zupan gave up trying for the island of Majorca. We changed course for Spain.

Rapske Diary - June 11/12 2000



Distance Ed. – Chad Vankoughnett

Today a critical issue for many people seeking to prepare themselves for ministry is accessibility to such training. The Guided Distance Education Program which Northwest offers to its students through ACTS provides this valuable service. Currently 38 individuals in our Consortium are enrolled in 22 different courses, ranging in scope from Old Testament studies, to church leadership, and Christian ethics. These courses are taught using a variety of media, including audio cassette, CD ROM, and most recently, video cassette. In addition to receiving course content through these media, students are guided by a faculty tutor, assigned specific readings, write papers and complete exams.

Students taking Distance Education courses come from all over Canada, the United States, and around the world. We have students from such places as New Brunswick, Prince George, California, Washington, and Vancouver. Some of our extension students take our courses with them to the mission field, while others are students who simply need a course not being offered currently by any other means.

Since January 1997, 145 different people have taken studies within our Consortium of Seminaries through these means. If you are seeking to explore some aspect of Christian faith, history, biblical study, leadership or missions, you might discuss what is available with Chad Vankoughnett, who manages this area of our ministry. You can contact him at 888-7592. When you take the course, the material belongs to you. As well, you can take these courses either for the purposes of earning credit or for personal development.

Ephesus...

(“In The Footsteps of Paul” continued from page 2)
mob, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

What was Paul's reaction? 25,000 shouting Ephesians looked less a terrifying mob to the apostle than they did a substantial and promising congregation! Luke tells us that Paul wanted to appear before the mob – no doubt to preach! But the disciples would not let him and certain powerful provincial officials who were Paul's friends begged him not to do so.

Our visit to Ephesus was far too brief. The images of the city ruins are a reminder to me of Paul's Spirit-empowered preaching and fearless courage and of a God-given progress against a harsh flow of resistance. The church has moved on apace and the flow of resistance has not abated. But then, the prospects for a God-given progress against the present flow are equally great as they were in Paul's day. It will, however, take Spirit-empowered witness and faithful, fearless courage in our day just as it took in Paul's.

M.Div....

(“Pastoral Training” continued from page 1)

thirties. He will have completed either a Bible College or University degree and will have some life experience in secular employment. These students come to us with life experience and a strong sense of calling. It is our privilege to build on that foundation, helping shape these people for their future in ministry.

The program blends a serious emphasis upon biblical and theological studies with courses in practical or “applied” theology. While Hebrew is no longer a required element of the program, we still teach students how to exegete the New Testament in its original language. Foundational courses in hermeneutics allow us to help students learn how to correctly interpret the Scriptures. Courses in the history of the church ensure that graduates can look to the future with an eye to the important lessons of the past. Studies in theology, the nature of God, and His will for mankind has always been a hallmark of a Northwest education.

Early in the program, students participate in what we call “Boot Camp,” an intensive cohort learning experience otherwise known as CLD 510 Introduction to Church Leadership. In this course the students begin to understand themselves as potential leaders in God's kingdom. Growing out of this process the students participate in a two year cycle of creative group learning experiences on selected weekends with a variety of seasoned mentors. Parallel to this, students commit to a comprehensive program of practical ministry training in real-time church life under the direction of a committed pastoral mentor. In this way, we ensure that students have plenty of opportunity to interact with practical ministry issues both in the church and in the classroom. Future plans have us making even greater use of pastoral mentoring and Internet technology to create a program that is more affordable, accessible, and accountable for students, churches and pastors.

We believe that our MDiv students are well prepared to be effective in ministry. Our graduates bear testimony to this.

The program blends a serious emphasis upon biblical and theological studies with courses in practical or “applied” theology.

*Check out our web site:
www.nbseminary.com*

A great door for effective ministry... 1 Cor. 16:18

“They teach best who both do and teach” – Dr. Brian Rapske

You’ve no doubt heard them; those cliches about professors like, “Those who can’t do, teach.” and descriptions like, “ivory tower academic.” They reinforce an impression of Seminary as cloister; a retreat from reality to theory and a place of disconnection from church, community and culture.

Those cliches and that image are wrong—and especially wrong if we’re talking about Northwest Baptist Seminary and its team of faculty – pastors.

Northwest professors are committed to academic excellence in the classroom to be sure. But they also personally embody passionate involvement in a broad range of grass-roots ministries.

Cumulative past experience in pastoral ministry and missions among faculty can be numbered in the decades—in fact, that’s a strongly preferred qualification to teach at North-

west. There is also on-going, present involvement in pastoral ministry and missions—Northwest faculty do interim pastoral work, they are involved in church plants, and they are regularly available for “9-1-1” and keynote preaching in our local churches. They are involved in personal and pre-marital counseling unrelated to the Seminary. They are engaged in their home churches in teaching, preaching and leadership, and they serve in a variety of capacities in our denomination. Very importantly, they are involved in personal friendships with and witness to non-Christians in their home communities and well beyond.

Passionate doing energizes the teaching at Northwest, and commitment to excellence in scholarship informs that doing.

Here’s a far more accurate saying, “They teach best who both do and teach.” That’s why Northwest Baptist Seminary at ACTS and its professors are ideally suited to kindle and prepare people for ministry.



Dr. Vern Middleton teaching at ACTS

A great door for effective ministry... 1 Cor. 16:18

Focal point...

(Continued from page 1)

ing this vision which we believe God has entrusted to us.

Many of you will have heard that we sold our property to Trinity Western University December 15, 2000. Although we continue to be saddened by the circumstances which required this action, nevertheless we are gratified to know that this facility will continue to be used in the context of Christian ministry. The funds which we received from the sale of the property have enabled us:

- a. to fully repay all outstanding debts;
- b. to repay all funds borrowed internally, completely restoring these funds, including accrued interest;
- c. to establish a significant endowment fund, as our Fellowship of churches instructed, whose interest will be applied to the ongoing operation of the Seminary.

The Board of Governors has adopted stringent guidelines to oversee the management of these funds.

Thank you for your patience and standing with us during these months of transition. God is good and we have seen once again His hand of provision and help through these months.

God Bless you,
Dr. Larry Perkins
President

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY

7600 Glover Road
Langley, BC V2Y 1Y1 CANADA
or

PO Box 1409 Blaine, WA 98231-1409 USA

Phone: (604) 888-7592
Fax: (604) 531-8511
Email: nbs@twu.ca

