

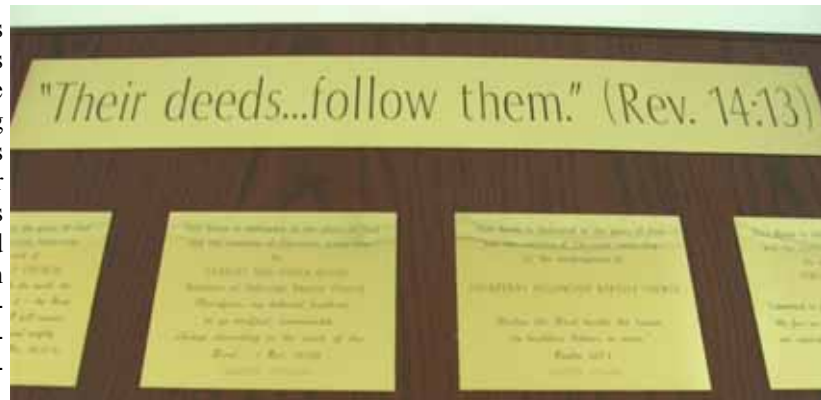
## "Their deeds ...follow them."

When Northwest relocated to the Trinity Campus and constructed its facility, many Northwest friends gave sacrificially to this project. We honoured those



gifts by preparing dedicatory plaques which reminded our students, employees and guests how God had helped us. With the sale of the property we were concerned how to continue to honour these gifts. We decided to take the plaques and create a memorial wall so that we could continue to remind ourselves of God's provision

through His people. This is now complete and has been installed in our Northwest office in the Fosmark Centre on the Trinity Campus. If you would desire some other action regarding a plaque which may be related to your family, we would be pleased to cooperate with you. Please contact Dr. Larry Perkins at (604) 888-7592.



The commemorative wall in the Northwest Office at Fosmark

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## Focal Point...

(Continued from page 1)

This year we celebrate the influence of two, senior faculty members – Dr. Herb Sturhahn and Dr. Vern Middleton. Dr. Sturhahn has decided to retire this summer and we thank God for twenty-eight years of consistent, faithful, biblically-focused teaching and mentoring. He has challenged thousands of students to become more engaged with God's Word and build their lives solidly upon it. Dr. Middleton also reaches retirement this summer. Where would our FEBInternational ministry be without his remarkable heart for missions? How many churches have his students been motivated to plant in Canada and around the world? We have honoured both of these teachers by appointing them as Professors Emeritus and we look forward to their continued teaching involvement with us in the coming years.

Thank you for your Kingdom influence as you have prayed and given in support of Northwest's ministry. We did meet our financial goals.

As we begin a new fiscal and academic year this May, significant new training initiatives are being developed:

- Our **Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care** program is being implemented;
- A new track in **Contemporary Christian Apologetics** will begin under the direction of

Dr. Paul Chamberlain;

- A **Youth Leadership Development** training program in cooperation with our Fellowship Youth Commission is being planned;
- Specific initiatives to network with local churches to assist in **training local church leadership** are being created;
- **More financial assistance** is being made available to our Fellowship people to help them in their leadership training.

We look forward by God's grace to another significant year of influence for the Kingdom.

Any influence we may have as believers comes directly from the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Paul, the apostle, tells us that "We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16, *The Message*).

May God continue to assist you to be a person of influence for His glory.

God bless you,  
Dr. Larry Perkins  
President



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NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY @ A.C.T.S.

# Northwest News

## Focal Point

*Influence* is the power to modify or affect, the ability or power to produce some affect. When you toss a pebble into a pond, ripples immediately move out until the entire pond shimmers. In the same way a person's life creates ripples of influence throughout their family, their community, perhaps even their nation and the world. God has called followers of Jesus Christ to be people of influence.



Dr. Larry Perkins teaching at NBS/ACTS

This April as Northwest graduated 45 people from our undergraduate division and 15 through our Seminary, (part of 60 people who graduated from ACTS) we recognized and celebrated the influence which faculty and staff at Northwest/ACTS have had in the lives of these students. With much prayer, energetic teaching and mentoring, and thoughtfully devised learning experiences, we have affected and modified each person, probably in ways that only eternity will reveal fully. Our goal in all of this is to help each one become the leader God created and called them to be.

One of these emerging leaders is Dan Meyer, a seminary alumnus of 2000. Together with his wife Jennifer, they are leading the planting of a new Fellowship Baptist Church in east Abbotsford. Another is Alvin Jordan who this month began ministry leadership as Youth Pastor in our Richmond Baptist Church. The list goes on as Northwest's influence for God's Kingdom continues to be strong.

(Continued on page 4)

## Who says you can't afford to go to seminary?

Northwest Baptist Seminary offers several creative ways of funding a student's education. A Fellowship Baptist Grant of \$65 per credit hour is available for members of Fellowship Baptist Churches. This puts an ACTS education on a similar or lower cost level with most other seminaries in Canada. Secondly, NBS is willing to

partner with local churches to make a student's education affordable. We will participate in an equal three-way cost-sharing plan along with a full-time student and the student's local church over the terms of that student's entire degree program. In addition, ACTS/NBS offers numerous bursaries and scholarships, employment opportunities, and personal fund-raising plans to insure that money does not become a hindrance for people to study with us. Please request a copy of our new brochure for the critical details.



Dr. Kent Anderson  
Seminary Dean

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



## Alumni as Influencers

### **Q: Dan, how has God led you into the ministry of church planting?**

**A:** God's leading of our family into church planting was a long process of His direction and intervention in the choices and activities in our lives. We were originally intending to go overseas as missionaries, but the sudden onslaught of children into our young marriage (three in sixteen months - including twins) forced us to reconsider our ministry plans. God brought us from Dunbar Heights in Vancouver to Immanuel Baptist in Abbotsford where we realized a passion for and gifting in the area of Evangelism. Along the way, we were consistently exposed to the church planting efforts of the Fellowship. Our interest in church planting began to grow and blossom into passion and burden. We began to go through the process of application for church planting with the Fellowship. With the systems, support, and encouragement provided by the Fellowship Church Plant Commission our vision and burden for the work has grown to the point of our complete involvement in the work we are doing.

**D**an Meyer graduated from Northwest/ACTS in April 2001 with a Master of Religious Education degree. He is currently under appointment with our Fellowship as a church planter in East Abbotsford.

### **Q: In what ways, Dan, has seminary helped you in stimulating your desire for church planting and also helped you to prepare for such a ministry?**

**A:** I was firmly committed to the concept of church planting when I enrolled at Northwest Seminary, however, the seminary fanned the flame to increase the burden and encourage our ministry plans. The year I arrived the seminary organized a "Church Planters Mentoring Group". A small group of would-be church planters met regularly with an experienced planter, and we discussed issues relevant to ministry in general but also more specifically, to church planting. This was an extremely valuable time. Furthermore, the church planting course offered by Dr. Middleton was an inspiration and a fascinating look at everything from the concept of church planting, to the various methods available to get the job done. The bottom line is that I felt the seminary not only acknowledged church planting but valued it as a vital aspect of the ongoing ministry of Christ's Church

### **Q: What are some of the current challenges you face as you begin this church planting project?**

**A:** In church planting there is always the question of where to begin. I chose to begin with infrastructure and relationship. The former is fairly straightforward but the latter is time consuming and complicated. With the development of infrastructure, one has to formulate a plan/philosophy and implement it. While there are inherent difficulties, it is measurable by tasks completed or left undone. Relationship, on the other hand, is complicated and ongoing. I am forging relationships with long-time believers, new believers (who are anxious to learn), pre-believers (who are somewhat interested in the concept of faith), and non-believers (who are hostile to religion and/or Christianity). However, relationship is where it begins, grows, and ends. We are NOT presenting the Christian Religion/Culture but relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The only way for us to assist people toward a relationship with Jesus Christ is to develop a relationship with them. So we invest time in people.

### **Q: What has encouraged you in your ministry thus far?**

**A:** We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from our community to the idea of a new church. Our neighbours seem to like the fact that we are here and have shown many levels of support. We have three care groups functioning in this community, we had a great response (110 people) to a Auguston Church Sponsored Block Party (if you feed them they will come!), we have had requests for bibles and outreach bible studies, and we have seen very positive anticipation to the start of Sunday morning services in September. We feel very much part of this community and that they really want us here. We have also enjoyed a tremendous amount of support - emotional and financial from our sister churches including: Calvary Baptist in Castlegar, Aldergrove Baptist, Northwest Langley, SouthRidge Fellowship, and Immanuel Fellowship. In addition to local church support, the Fellowship Baptist Bus tour provided for our Infant and Toddler Nursery needs. It is extremely helpful to have God's people get behind us with their support and encouragement.

### **Q: Dan, how can we pray for you in this endeavour?**

**A:** Please pray for continued relationship development, leadership growth, and logistical organization. Pray for positive response to our upcoming Soccer Camp and outreach activities. Furthermore, please pray for me and my family that we might be useful servants of Christ, keep busy at His will, and remain obedient and effective witnesses for Him through the lives we lead in our neighbourhood. Pray that we would start and finish well and to God's glory.



## Viewpoint From the Board of Governors

When I was asked to stand for nomination to the Board of Governors of Northwest Baptist College and Seminary in April 1999 I prayed carefully over the decision and came to the conclusion that I could not refuse to serve the Lord in this way. I had always been interested in Northwest and though I had never attended, I had worked with several students and graduates when they served as interns or pastors at Faith Baptist, Vancouver where I have been a member for 19 years. I had just retired from my work as an administrator in the Vancouver School system, so I had the time and experience that could be useful in the context of the Board of Governors. It was with this sense of the Lord's leading that I chose to serve Him as a Board Member if elected.

At our first meetings in October, 1999, I found a Board that was strongly committed to the College and Seminary with many years of involvement among them. Several of the members were graduates and had children who were graduates. It became clear at this first meeting that Northwest was in serious trouble financially and had been struggling unsuccessfully for years to find a program that would attract students and donors. As a new member, it was difficult to fully understand this state of affairs and very difficult to join with the Board in accepting responsibility for the troublesome decisions necessary.

I observed the Board conduct its business with sensitivity to the Lord and to the history of Northwest. Their style of seeking the Lord's will through prayer and problem solving dialogue allowed for important decisions to be made when personal wishes were quite the opposite and provided all with the sense that the Lord had a plan for the future of Northwest that would be for the best in the long run.

Though I regret the necessity of closing the undergraduate division and selling the building and would certainly have wished to serve during a brighter chapter in the history of Northwest, it is exciting to be in a position where it is now possible to envision a future that addresses the leadership needs of the Fellowship in new ways. Northwest is well positioned financially and with visionary leadership that, as the Lord enables, will effectively meet the challenges of educating church leaders in the new millennium.

Please pray for your Board of Governors as each one seeks to serve the Lord with His wisdom in the important decisions they are called to make.

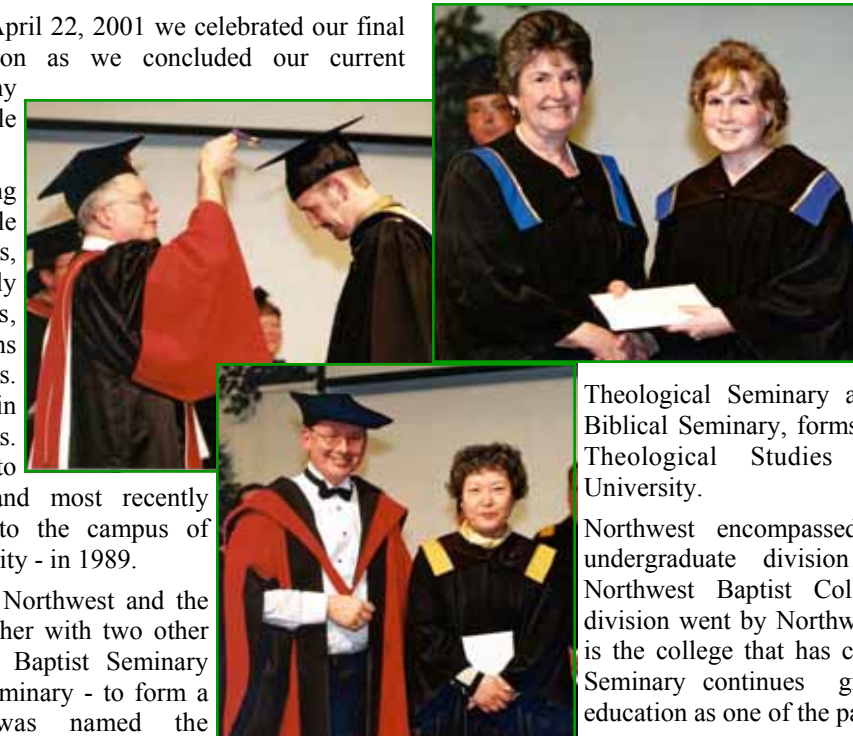
Wayne Gatley  
Board of Governors  
1999—2002

## NBC 54<sup>th</sup> Commencement Celebration

On Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2001 we celebrated our final undergraduate graduation as we concluded our current programs. The ceremony took place at Cloverdale Baptist Church.

Northwest has a long history of training people for roles as Pastors, Youth Workers, Early Childhood Educators, Missionaries, Chaplains and Wilderness Guides. That history began in Alberta in the thirties. Northwest relocated to Vancouver in 1947 and most recently moved to Langley - to the campus of Trinity Western University - in 1989.

In 1987 the leaders of Northwest and the Fellowship joined together with two other seminaries - Canadian Baptist Seminary and Trinity Western Seminary - to form a consortium which was named the



Associated Canadian Theological Schools, known as ACTS Seminaries. In 1989 Northwest relocated to the campus of Trinity Western University where it is presently housed in the Fosmark Center. This consortium, now also including Canadian

Theological Seminary and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, forms the Graduate School of Theological Studies of Trinity Western University.

Northwest encompassed two divisions - the undergraduate division went by the name Northwest Baptist College and the graduate division went by Northwest Baptist Seminary. It is the college that has closed. Northwest Baptist Seminary continues graduate level leadership education as one of the partners in ACTS.