



Focal Point...clergy crisis hits Canada

I came home a few weeks ago and sat reading the paper. As I turned to the second page, the headline jumped out at me: *Clergy crisis hits Canada's Protestant Churches*. It confirmed what our research had discovered – that the provision of trained, committed leadership for our Fellowship Baptist churches faces a serious challenge.

The writer notes several trends contributing to this shortage:

- Promise of higher earning potential attracts people to other helping professions.
- Early retirement of baby-boomers.
- Many enrolled in seminary feel called to ministries other than pastoring a church.

We could suggest additional reasons:

- Difficult treatment many church leaders experience.

- Financial costs present a formidable challenge.
- Considerable life change creates stress.

Regardless of the reasons for this 'crisis', it is upon us. Yet this fall 260 people registered for ministry leadership training in Northwest/ACTS. People are responding to God's call and seeking intently and passionately to prepare themselves. Despite the incredible challenges they are willing, in faith, to take the risk.

What are we doing as a Seminary to address this crisis?

- we are providing more financial aid to Fellowship students than at any other time in our history.
- we are raising the challenge of God's calling to ministry among our churches.

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STOP PRESS!! New Theology Faculty Appointed

This week Northwest Baptist Seminary announced the appointment of Dr. Archie Spencer to fill the J.B. Pickford Chair in Theology. Several years ago the Baptist Foundation established this position in honour of Dr. John Pickford, a former principal and faculty member of Northwest, as well as significant leader, pastor and writer within the Fellowship Baptist movement. Northwest has worked for over two years to find a suitable candidate for this role and are thankful to God that Dr. Spencer will begin his work with us January, 2002.



Dr. Archie Spencer

borne, Ontario, Archie's roots stretch back to Newfoundland. His pastoral ministry and training occurred in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario. Doctoral work at the University of Toronto School of Theology focused on ethics and theology primarily related to the work of Karl Barth. His second area of study was 2nd and 3rd century Christian literature.

Archie became a Christian through Pentecostal ministry in Newfoundland. Over time, however, he has found his theological home to be within the Baptist movement and his con-

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Currently a Baptist pastor in Port Col-

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

Northwest People — Rick Chase (interviewed by Larry Perkins)

Rick Chase is a current Northwest Baptist Seminary student in the Master of Arts in Christian Studies program.

LP: What brings you to Northwest/ACTS?

Rick: I had a sense of God's calling into the service of the Gospel. God impressed upon me the need for training. I took some undergraduate training and then God opened the way for me to pursue the Master of Arts in Christian Studies. God has confirmed in many ways the rightness of this path for me.

LP: What does your wife, Gerda, think about this?

Rick: She is enthusiastic and fully supportive. When we were married, we knew God was calling us into some kind of ministry and committed ourselves to pursue this. She has her B.A. from TWU and is completing a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language.

LP: As you continue your studies, what are significant challenges you face?

Rick: Balancing all of the diverse responsibilities creates considerable challenge. We have a one year old daughter and I want to make sure her father has time for her. And then, I struggle with the desire to get out and do ministry, but knowing the reality that I must first receive training. God is helping me to relax and be patient.

LP: How has God impressed upon you the importance of training for ministry leadership?

Rick: We believe God is calling us to be church planters. Such a ministry requires considerable skill, knowledge and spiritual maturity. Training at Northwest/ACTS gives us the opportunity to be ready for ministry. I want to avoid mistakes. It might be somewhat arrogant to think that you can just go and begin to plant a church, ignoring the many resources which God has given to the church for training and preparation.

LP: What is God teaching you and your wife as you engage in this process?

Rick: When overwhelmed with all of the assignments, responsibilities of family, and the normal needs of daily living, I must rely on God and His peace.

The importance of preaching for the health of the church community is emerging with increasing conviction and so I am seeking to prepare myself as effectively as possible to be a good preacher.

Understanding the dynamics of spiritual leadership is incredibly important for the health of the church.

LP: Who are some of the people that have guided your spiritual journey?

Rick: Pastor Dale Baldwin, who is a church planter, encouraged me as I was wrestling with the call of God. Dr. Middleton's course on church planting challenged me with the

specific opportunity to lead a group of people to establish a new witness for Christ. Other faculty such as Dr. Sturhahn also have prayed with me and encouraged my development.

LP: What was your perception of Seminary before you started? What is it now?

Rick: Well, when I began, I thought Seminary would be dry, theoretical and uninspiring. But now, as I come to the conclusion of my training, I look back on learning that has been exciting, personally stretching and revolutionary in my life and



Rick and Gerda Chase with Petra

worldview.

LP: If someone was asking your advice about training for ministry, what would you say?

Rick: You need the encouragement of those around you, a support group that keeps you accountable and also gives you the determination and motivation to keep going. Preparation is absolutely key for effective ministry. There will be a battle as you struggle with issues of financial security and seeing friends gaining materialistically, while you live in a basement suite and struggle to make ends meet. Yet in all of this, God provides and God enables us to grow.

LP: Thanks, Rick, for your candid responses. As people pray for you, what would you identify as some of your key challenges now?

Rick: 1. That my walk with God would remain strong as I read His Word, engage in prayer, and obey God's Spirit. · 2. That my love for people will remain strong 3. That I will finish my training well.

New Chaplaincy Training Program

by Janet Anderson

We have taken a big step into this century and millennium this year by establishing a new program for the training of professional chaplains. This is exciting work and these men and women will be on the forefront of offering spiritual care to every kind of person in our society. Professional chaplains reach across faith group boundaries to touch people's lives by extending in practical ways the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Chaplains go out into the world and help many people who do not have a religious community. You can probably think of the traditional areas in which chaplains serve: colleges, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, police, and military. Have you heard of chaplains in: the marketplace, search and rescue, sports, fire department, community, cruise ships, or even among the motorcycle crowd?

The training will enable chaplains to deal with the complexities of today's society. This means we want to be imaginative and practical in our program and offer students opportunities that fit their desire for ministry. The learning process will have enough flexibility so students will be able both to experience the diversity and to focus on their area of interest. We are designing it in such a way that students can complete the degree either through fulltime or part time study. Mentoring by current chaplains will be an integral part of the training.

Reflections on Pastor's Day

On June 13 Northwest/ACTS invited our pastors to visit campus and participate in two seminars and lunch. Over 60 pastors participated. Larry Sundin, senior pastor of Southridge Fellowship Baptist, Langley, shares his reflections:

"Dr. John Auxier's seminar on Pastoral Counseling of Infidelity was especially helpful to me. First and foremost was understanding ways I can help couples make it through the initial crisis of infidelity and the complexities involved in the healing process. Even though forgiveness and reconciliation are the goal, healing requires discernment, sensitivity and time. Secondly, there are many reasons why people enter into affairs. Dr. Auxier's presentation of these reasons combined with insights into the way an affair typically develops, gave me a new awareness of how I might be able to prevent infidelity before it happens. I hope to utilize some of this material with our small group leaders in the future, providing them with some



Pastors attending Dr. John Auxier's seminar

assessment tools to encourage and help the married couples in our church family.

I also appreciated the ministry of Dr. Calvin Miller. He not only gave us a few good insights and reminders for us who communicate the Gospel, but also ministered to us as pastors.

I'm excited to see that Northwest/ACTS is not just interested in sharpening our ministry skills. Your desire to minister to us as brothers and sisters in Christ made for a great day. I'm looking forward to what is coming next!"

This coming October 3 will mark our second Pastors' and Mentors' Day. Seminars led by Dr. Paul Chamberlain and Dr. Dave Currie will reflect with ministry leaders on effective ways to respond to tough questions about our Faith, as well as effective ways to counsel youth and families.

CHAPLAINCY CONTACT INFORMATION

You may already be serving as a chaplain and want further education or you may be interested in mentoring chaplains in training. For either an appointment or an opportunity to discuss the program please feel free to contact:

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Director of Chaplaincy Program
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All enquiries are welcome.

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New Faculty Appointed...

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victions demonstrate this clearly. Conversant with leading Canadian evangelical theologians, his own theological positions are strong, affirming especially the inerrancy of God's word, the sovereign rule of God, the deity and humanity of Christ, the necessity of personal salvation through Jesus Christ, and the primacy of the local church for God's work.

He has taught in various graduate school settings, but maintains a passionate desire to link theology directly with the pastoral and spiritual work of the church and its leadership. His dissertation is being published by Peter Lang press and he has published several articles. Currently he is preparing a paper to be presented at the Evangelical Theological Society.

We look forward to the arrival of Archie, his wife, Shelly and their two teenage children.

New Local Church Initiatives

Northwest is taking seminary education to church! Several churches are cooperating with us this semester on new in-church programs, designed to help lay leaders become better equipped for life and ministry.

- Dr. Brian Rapske is teaching a course on the Life of Christ at Faith Baptist Church. This is a jointly sponsored program involving most of our Fellowship churches in the city of Vancouver. People are taking it both for life enrichment and for academic credit.
- We are initiating a program to train care group leaders in theology at Southridge Fellowship. Brent Chapman, one of our graduates, is coordinating this ongoing ministry.
- Dr. Don Launstein is teaching courses both at Maple Ridge Baptist and at Newton Fellowship Baptist.

These are some of the ways we are trying to bring what we do every day into the life and ministry of our churches. If you would like to talk about ways we could be of help to you or your church, please let us know.

Focal Point...

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- we are preparing new ways for people to access the training they need as they prepare to serve as godly Christian leaders in our churches – using computer technology to deliver courses, offering training in our churches to encourage the development of lay leadership, and providing practical and relevant mentoring.

What can you do? Your support helps us to provide financial aid to help our students. Your prayers sustain them in the spiritual battles they face as their training proceeds. Your interest in them encourages them to finish and move out boldly into ministry. Thank you for your faithful involvement in the lives of these men and women preparing themselves for ministry leadership.



Northwest / ACTS students and faculty enjoying Connections Day

The author of the newspaper article ends with this observation:

It's hard, for not a huge amount of money, to be expected to be a theologian, counselor, public speaker, administrator and community organizer all in one.

We would add to this list the role of evangelist, prophet, reconciler, visionary, church planter, and spiritual model. But this is what our Lord calls some among us to be.

Perhaps God is quietly but persistently directing you towards ministry leadership. If we can assist, we would consider it a wonderful privilege to counsel and pray with you. Or perhaps you know someone whom you believe has the gifting and calling for such leadership. Would you begin to pray for that person and perhaps offer a word of encouragement to them? Perhaps this will be the nudge they need.

In His Service together with you

Northwest depends on the gracious gifts of its friends, both churches and individuals



Larry Perkins
President