



# Northwest News

**Northwest Baptist Seminary @ ACTS**  
 ...recruiting, training and sustaining the next generation of ministry leaders.

## Northwest People

### Diego Cardona (interviewed by Dr. Larry Perkins)

**LP: How long have you been serving as a pastor? How did God call you into this ministry?**

**Diego:** I have been a full time pastor for 13 years. I have served under my Dad's pastorate since I got converted at the age of 13. My Dad has been my main mentor all through these years and we enjoy a great relationship both as relatives as well as pastors. FEB International missionaries, who were used by the Lord to bring the gospel to my family 30 years ago, were also mentors,

*"FEB International missionaries ... were used by the Lord to bring the Gospel to my family 30 years ago ..."*

teachers and friends since the beginning of my ministry.

I was studying at the university to become an animal doctor. The university went on strike for more than a semester (this is very common in a public university here in Latin America). A missionary friend of mine, Bevin Wray, came to me with the idea to take advantage of the time by going to the seminary to take some studies, while waiting for the university to reopen. I thought it was a good idea, but made it clear that under no circumstances would I become a pastor. I saw my Dad, for almost 10 years, working in a factory at night in order to have a better income for my family. The church did not give any money to him in those days. So I decided to join the seminary with that "condition". It was hard for me to realise that my heart had been in the ministry for a long time already. In time the Lord overcame my fears and my resistance against ministry. When the university reopened I started studying both there as well as at the seminary. Soon I found it too difficult to handle both levels of studies. The day came when I had to make a decision between the two.



Diego and Claudia Cardona

Those were struggling days for me. Finally, I decided to obey God and stay at the seminary. My ministry was graciously recognised by my local church and a year later we, along with two missionary couples founded the first church, that I later pastored for 8 years.

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## Coming Events

<b>Pastors' and Mentors' Day—ACTS</b> <i>Growing and Leading Healthy Churches</i>	Wednesday, February 27, 2002
<b>Institute for Christian Apologetics—ACTS</b> <i>Understanding and Responding to Islam</i>	Saturday, March 9, 2002
<b>Graduation Ceremony—ACTS</b> <i>Central Heights Church—Abbotsford</i>	Saturday, April 20, 2002
<b>Past Voices, Present Vision—Identifying a Baptist Theology for the 21st Century</b>	Friday, Saturday, May 4,5, 2002
<b>FEBBCY Convention 2002</b> <i>Maple Ridge Baptist Church</i>	June 11-13, 2002
<b>Summer Modular Course Schedule—ACTS</b> Check the ACTS web— <a href="http://www.acts.twu.ca">www.acts.twu.ca</a>	April 29—August 16, 2002

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**LP: What are some of the special challenges that you face as a pastor in Colombia?**

**Diego:** To minister in the midst of the stress produced by violence, unemployment, injustice and brokenness ... to see leaders and believers leaving the country because of the violence. In the past year and a half we "lost" (better to say we sent) more than 40 adults, most of whom were well disciplined and trained.

On the other hand, I returned to my ministry after furthering my training in Canada with the goal and the vision of seeing our association of churches getting into the fulfilling of the great commission through church planting. Now I have been working for that purpose along side the association (of 20 churches) as well as in El Redil which is a daughter church of the first church we planted 12 years ago. In our association we have 8 church planting projects going on, with 20 leaders whom I am training in a process of 4 years - doing retreats with supervision twice a year. Through El Redil, my wife and I are involved in one of those projects called "El Redil Del Oriente". In our home we are involved in another future project which is now just a Bible study of around 25 people. God has been merciful to us and we have seen many leaders getting committed to this vision and we have seen many new lives changed by the power of Jesus Christ.

**LP: What is your current role among the Evangelical Churches in Columbia?**

**Diego:** Because of the lack of trained leaders in my country I am invited to be in many organizations and projects (take for instance the fact that in a country of 40 million we only have two institutions of theological education at the seminary level). My primary involvement is in our association of churches with our training program for church planters. I am the president of this association. I am also part of the board of our regional association of pastors, from different backgrounds, which involves more than 200 pastors. I teach at the seminary once or twice a year, and have the opportunity to speak in different parts of my country. It is quite demanding, but I feel I want to share what God has given to me. My wife is very involved in social ministry, moving our own resources to help especially the street kids. She also helps me out with the translation of Christian material for discipleship. Now we are undertaking the translation of "The Journey" with the permission of our home office in Canada. That is an important project that we have now.

**LP: You came to Canada for training at Northwest. You have now been back in Colombia for several years. How has your training helped you in your current role?**

**Diego:** My experience in Canada helped me greatly. It enhanced my vision, and gave me that cross-cultural taste every pastor should have. Besides, I rested for a while and reordered my family

**D**iego studied at Northwest/ACTS and graduated in September 1999 with a Master of Ministry degree.

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and my ministry. I was to the point of losing my children. With the help of my dear wife and my friends I now understand better my priorities, and avoid the temptation to give all the energy to ministry at the expense of my family and my health, etc.

ACTS gave new tools to me. I really appreciate the program I was in. It allowed me to select subjects I needed. I also have to say that the love and the patience the teachers had with my English were not just a blessing, but an example of real Christian love.

**LP: What is the vision you have for church planting in Colombia?**

**Diego:** Though I may have some experience, I am getting more experience being involved with, training and working along these 20 leaders who are involved in our ministry. I dream of the day we see our association planting one church per year, and more importantly having a passion and a compassion for those who live in the many areas of our country that still do not have a single church. (For instance in our city -3 million- we have 150 "barrios" -big neighbourhoods- without any church influence.)

**LP: What are the key challenges that you face as you seek to train and equip more church planters in Colombia?**

**Diego:** Though I believe in the importance and the place of our seminary here, I strongly see the need of other ways of training. I am not thinking of formal (institutional) education but rather the kind that keep the trainee in his place of ministry, using the same environment to contribute to his learning. Of course we need mature and experienced teachers who come from outside to tell us how we need to do it. We need tools and resources. The Lord is very merciful to us in providing for our needs. By now I have 8 of these church planters that come from afar and need support to be able to come to our training sessions. Above all we need prayer. One specific testimony we have has to do with this fact. Every week we see people coming to the Lord in our home, and in the new church, and my wife and I can feel that the work of prayer from our friends here and in Canada and that God is working right here.

**LP: What are the key prayer priorities you would share with us?**

**Diego:** Please pray for

1. Our safety
2. The 8 church planting projects I supervise.
3. The 20 church planters
4. The new church of "El Redil del Oriente" as a model for the rest of our projects.
5. Claudia and me to follow God's directions and keep God's priorities.

# Meet Northwest's New Board Chairman Wayne Gatley

It is a privilege, as the new chair of the Board of Governor's of Northwest Baptist Seminary, to provide a few thoughts regarding my role in and vision for the Seminary. I am very fortunate to assume responsibility at this time, following three years of the very capable leadership of Alan Elander, and having observed the exceptional strengths of our president and faculty. Guided by the Theological Education Taskforce initial report, they have envisioned effective twenty-first century methods for recruiting, equipping and supporting leaders for fellowship churches, ministries and missions. Several initiatives have been started already and others will be developed and implemented in conjunction with Taskforce recommendations. These opportunities and changes make it an exciting time to be involved in Seminary education at any level.

As chair of the Board, my primary role is to facilitate Board business. I expect to do this by continuing the development of an

effective Board, implementing Board processes that involve all members in ways that are personally significant and relevant. Business will focus on governance issues relative to accomplishing the Seminary mission of recruiting, equipping and supporting Fellowship leaders as effectively as possible. The Board has a sacred responsibility to ethically conduct its business in a Christian way, accountable to God and the Fellowship. Communication with churches and financial accountability are central to this purpose.

As a Board of Governors, I would desire to see us empower the president and faculty by providing a clear framework of policy, to be available for consultation and to represent the constituency that is, the godly men and women of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches. Please do not hesitate to contact Board members or myself at any time if you have questions or suggestions. We are your servants, and the Lord's in this role.



Wayne and Gloria Gatley

## Focal Point—Achieving Our Goals

Dr. Larry Perkins, President

As I travel among our churches, frequently I am asked how Northwest fits into the ACTS situation. Let me try to explain how this works.

A significant way in which Northwest Baptist Seminary seeks to fulfill its mission – recruiting, training and sustaining the next generation of ministry leaders – occurs through its membership in the Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS) of Trinity Western University. Together with two other seminaries Northwest created ACTS in 1987. Today five seminaries cooperate in ACTS and work within the University as the Graduate School of Theology.

Several key principles guide our involvement in ACTS:

- Northwest functions as an independent organization with its own President, Dean, Board, budget, faculty and students.
- We are a denominational seminary, accountable to Fellowship Baptist churches for the preparation of ministry leaders.
- Northwest is affiliated with Trinity Western University.
- ACTS is a voluntary organization and the degree of cooperation is a decision that is made by the members together.
- Northwest has firm control over the faculty who teach our students.
- Northwest determines which parts of the curriculum it wants to teach in order to insure that its denominational responsibilities are being met.
- Our involvement is based on agreed, doctrinal

consistency, affirming the inerrancy of Scripture, the Trinity, the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, the primacy of the local church, believer's baptism, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the return of Christ, and the necessity of personal salvation through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection.

As we have learned to work together several basic operational principles also guide our relationship:

- Each student is admitted through one of the seminaries and graduates through one of the seminaries. Our graduates receive a degree conjointly conferred by Northwest Baptist Seminary and Trinity Western University.
- We cooperate in providing student services, registration, student records, library resources, facilities and faculty.

Financially we work together. We create a budget to support the cooperative services of ACTS, including teaching, library resources, facilities, student life, faculty research, financial aid and administrative services. All the tuition is pooled together and supports about 2/3 of the budget. The other 1/3 is provided by support from each seminary. In 2001-2002 this amounted to \$90,000 per seminary as an annual fee. Each seminary board approves the annual budget.

Northwest has additional costs related to special ministries that it offers to our Fellowship churches and to maintain effective operations. This includes certain employee salaries, ministry

## ACTS Gets A New Principal

October 1, 2001 marked a very significant event in the history of Northwest @ ACTS – Dr. Phil Zylla began his ministry as the first full-time Principal of the Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS). For the past five years Dr Guy Saffold provided this leadership as the Coordinator of ACTS. However, his increased responsibilities as the Executive Vice-President of Trinity Western University have reduced his ability to lead ACTS as well.



Dr. Phil Zylla

Dr. Zylla brings to this new position a passionate heart for pastoral ministry and preparation. Most recently he pastored Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church (Surrey, B.C.), a church with an attendance of 400-500. He has led church ministries in Edmonton, Alberta (Greenfield Baptist Church and the Mustard Seed Street Church) and Arnprior, Ontario (First Baptist Church). His education includes a Th.D. from the University of South Africa, an MTh from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his MDiv. from North American Baptist Seminary. He understands well Baptist ministry, as well as our Baptist heritage and theology. Already he is contributing to our strategic planning, our relationship with the University and teaching. He will be offering a course in the "Theology of Suffering", June 24-28, 2002.

We are thankful to God for the provision of such good, competent and compatible leadership for our Consortium. Dr. Zylla is available for preaching and teaching ministry among our churches. You can contact him at phil.zylla@twu.ca or by phoning 604-513-2044 (local 3825).

## New Local Church Initiatives

Imagine if there was a way to for people to train for professional youth ministry without having to take years away from their churches and without incurring great amounts of debt. Imagine, further, that a person could earn an accredited Master's degree and be mentored in ministry by experienced leaders at the same time. This dream is becoming reality through a new partnership under development between the Fellowship Baptist Youth Commission and Northwest Baptist Seminary. This year Northwest will be piloting a new project in youth pastoral development that will allow churches to participate directly in the training of the next generation of youth leaders in a cost-effective way. Students with two years of undergraduate education will be able to complete the remainder of their education while experiencing their training in the employ of a local congregation. Watch for more news on this innovative new approach.

Dr. Kent Anderson

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## People Can Afford Seminary

...with your help

It is wonderful to see the joy in students' faces when you place a cheque in their hands! Personal budgets get squeezed in so many ways as families use all of their wisdom to pursue God's calling into ministry. This past semester, through various grants, special gifts, and investment income, Northwest has provided almost \$15,000 in financial aid to twenty-three different students. Additionally, ACTS applies 5% of all tuition income collected to financial aid and Northwest provides more financial aid to other students through this means.

All of this represents our commitment to make graduate ministry training affordable and accessible. If you sense God's work in your life and direction to equip yourself for ministry, but wonder how you will find the resources to accomplish this, please come and talk with our Dean, Dr. Anderson. You might be surprised to discover that you can afford Seminary! You will also discover that God is faithful to His promise to supply the needs of His people.

Thank you for your part in supporting this program of financial assistance. A significant part of every gift you make to Northwest goes directly to helping students in this way.

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



*(Focal Point...Continued from page 3)*

initiatives such as the Youth Leadership Training Program, communications, Board operations, lay leadership development training, and financial aid.

ACTS places great importance on helping each seminary partner equip people for ministry within their denominational setting. Several of the methods used include:

- Placement of students in their denominational churches for mentored internships.
- Offering specific courses to help students understand their denominational history, vision and theological emphases.
- Identifying students from our churches and making deliberate efforts to mentor them and link them with our Fellowship Ministry Centre.
- Providing financial aid in support of our Fellowship students.
- Providing opportunities for our Fellowship leaders to present our vision and ministry opportunities in ACTS chapels.

Our involvement in ACTS gives to our Northwest faculty and other Fellowship leaders the opportunity to impact the lives of over 300 students each semester. The average age of our students is thirty-six.

Northwest gains from this network eight graduate programs, preparing people for pastoral, cross-cultural, youth, chaplaincy, counselling and other ministries. All programs are accredited and have high standards of excellence, while retaining a specific focus upon practical application in ministry.

We believe our cooperative relationship with four other evangelical denominations models daily our Lord's prayer for us to work together, based on commitment to God's truth, for the extension of His Kingdom.