

## Pastors' and Mentors' Day Loren Warkentin

What an exciting day of fellowship, sharing and learning! On February 27th Northwest/ACTS hosted our semi-annual **Pastors' and Mentors' Day** at which time pastors from around the lower mainland gathered together for a full day of seminars. Under the overall theme of "Growing and Leading Healthy Churches" Dr. Guy Saffold together with Pastor David Rafeede walked the group through a seminar entitled "Leading Healthy Churches Through Vision." In the afternoon, Dr. Jim Lucas lead the group through a seminar entitled "Growing Healthy Churches." Besides the seminars, pastors had time during the breaks to catch up with old friends, discuss some of the issues brought up in the seminars and enjoy getting to know others involved in various pastoral and mentoring ministries.

Some of the encouraging responses from various attendees were as follows: "The event was appreciated by our church." "Very good topics—Excellent Speakers." "Wonderfully refreshing" "Informative—Encouraging".



Scenes from the Pastors' and Mentors' Day

## Coming Events

<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
<b>FEBCAST Convention 2002</b> West Edmonton Baptist Church	June 7—9, 2002
<b>FEBCY Convention 2002</b> Maple Ridge Baptist Church	June 11—13, 2002

### Northwest Baptist Seminary

7600 Glover Road, Langley, BC  
V2Y 1Y1, Canada  
Phone: (604) 888-7592  
Fax: (604) 513-8511  
E-mail: [contact@nbseminary.com](mailto:contact@nbseminary.com)  
WEB: [www.nbseminary.com](http://www.nbseminary.com)

## The Roots of Northwest Cam Loewen

*In January 2001 Cam Loewen (NBS Alumnus) moved from Fort McMurray to Calgary to take up the pastorate at Westbourne Baptist Church. Cam has also served on the Northwest Board of Governors for 4 years as the FEBCAST representative.*

Seventy-two years ago Morley Hall, following God's leading, arrived with a passion and vision for ministry in Calgary. The Lord richly blessed his ministry at Westbourne Baptist Church in the planting of several churches. In 1934 Westbourne Baptist Church founded the Western Baptist Bible College which became Northwest Baptist Theological College when it

reopened in Port Coquitlam, B.C. after World War II. Westbourne and Northwest have been connected since the very first day and it is a privilege for me to be a part of their continuing history. Morley Hall, the pastor of Westbourne in the 1930's, was a man deeply committed to church planting – a number of churches were planted as a result of his radio ministry. Dr. Hall also had a vision for the training of pastors and leaders for those churches. It was to meet those needs that he founded Northwest so many years ago. Our vision at Northwest remains much the same today – to provide effective pastors and leaders for our churches.

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



Volume 3 Issue 2

May 10, 2002



# Northwest News

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

## Northwest People

**Barton Priebe** -  
(interviewed by Dr. Larry Perkins)

**LP: What do you discern to be God's calling in your life? How did you come to realize this?**

**Barton:** My dad is a pastor and so I grew up with an inside view of a pastor's family. In fact pastors have been part of our family for the past five generations. As I grew up, I discovered that I could speak well and had confidence in relating to people. When I was 17 years old, God really got hold of me. He gave me a passion to see people saved and to help them grow as disciples of Jesus.

**LP: What special challenges have you faced as you followed this calling and prepared yourself for it? How has God helped you overcome these challenges?**

**Barton:** I find my own sinful nature my greatest challenge – the war within. I am so grateful for Jesus and his victory in my life. In my teen years I was dishonest in speech and a thief, shoplifting from stores. When God got hold of me, He put in my heart a strong desire for personal integrity --- a harvest of righteousness. So I went back and made recompense to those from whom I had stolen and sought forgiveness from those I had deceived. I want my life to be above reproach as God's Spirit empowers me. The

*"When God got hold of me, He put in my heart a strong desire for personal integrity --- a harvest of righteousness."*

Hebrews 12 principles on discipline and righteousness are huge in my life.

During the past four years I have worked as a resident director at Trinity Western University. This position has

helped me learn how to model discipleship, as well as preaching and teaching. These are key elements for a pastoral leader.

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## NEWS RELEASE Larry Perkins

### Northwest Baptist Seminary achieves gift funding target for 2001-2002

With the help and prayers of many friends, the support of our churches, and the diligent work of our staff and Board, God has helped us to meet our gift-funding target for this current fiscal year, ending April 30, 2002. We had established a goal of \$60,000. In addition, we set a target of \$5,000 in additional gifts for special financial aid and \$5,000 to help initiate the Northwest Centre for Fellowship Leadership Development (NCFLD).

As of April 30, 2002 I am pleased to report that God's people have given \$63,000 in gifts, \$6,800 towards financial aid, and \$5,000 towards NCFLD, for a total of \$74,800. We are thankful to God for His provision.



**LP: What vision do you have for your role as pastor? What do you think will be the special opportunities for personal growth that God will bring your way?**

**Barton:** My vision as a pastor includes:

- Discipling new believers
- Prompting **minds** to be engaged with God's Word
- Motivating **hearts** to be inflamed with a passion for God and people
- Fostering **hands** of servanthood to the church and to the world
- All of this is anchored in the challenge of enhancing God's glory

My role at the University has nurtured the development of my leadership gifts and given me many opportunities to practice loving people – a critical part of pastoral

*“The older, more mature students in my courses were an incredible help. Their interaction with me and encouragement were so profound. Often the breaks between courses, the times to talk with other students, were significant growing points for me.”*

vocation. There is no easy ride for church leaders, but we have this confidence that Jesus will build his church. I have confidence in God's sovereign role. There are people in the church who will pray for me and help me. I must get to know the people in my church – listening to how this particular church plays as an orchestra – and then find my place in how to lead. I need to win the hearts of the people so that I can truly provide spiritual leadership. Leadership without love and relationship is not leadership at all. Providing balance among the generations within the church and thus promoting the unity of the body of Christ will be a priority.

**LP: How have the learning opportunities at Northwest@ACTS helped you in your preparation? Is there a particular incident that stands out in your mind as specifically important in your ministry development?**

**Barton:** The leadership track of courses in the MA in Christian Studies was critical for me, along with the opportunity to apply biblical leadership principles in my role as resident director. I had the opportunity to sort out the relationship between leadership and theology – what they have to do with each other. The older, more mature students in my courses were an incredible

help. Their interaction with me and encouragement were so profound. Often the breaks between courses, the times

*“I know that no true spiritual work is accomplished but by the sovereign might of God.”*

to talk with other students, were significant growing points for me.

**LP: What advice or encouragement would you give to people who sense God's call into ministry, but are uncertain whether to respond?**

**Barton:** Count the cost. You will need to use your mind, as well as being passionate for God and people. Study the Bible and serve God. Learn to know Christ and yourself in relationship to him.

Personally, I have found that God has provided for us along the way. God provided a job for me at Trinity that integrated so well with my calling and gave me many opportunities to discern gifting.

Understanding the nature of the Christian community and learning how to love the body of Christ is key. Experiential learning is empowering.

Search your heart and do things to the glory of God. He will insure that all other matters are looked after.

**LP: Who have been your key mentors and supporters? How have they helped you?**

**Barton:** I have mentors who are still alive and some who are part of church history. The writings of Charles Spurgeon, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, Martyn Lloyd-Jones and A.W. Tozer continue to challenge me spiritually. Then there is the tremendous encouragement of my wife and colleagues at Trinity. Dr. Barrie Palfreyman who passed away a little over a year ago was a significant mentor for me.

In the case of my wife, Heather, she complements me so well. Our gifts work together. She knows she is called to be a pastor's wife. Her love for people is amazing.

**LP: How can we best pray for you?**

**Barton:** The greatest thing that I would pray for is the power of the Holy Spirit upon my ministry. I know that no true spiritual work is accomplished but by the sovereign might of God. Pray that I would strive to be a vessel that can be used. Pray that in my youthfulness I would be given wisdom and patience. Pray that Jesus would build his church at Dunbar Heights Baptist Church.



Great institutions, great leaders, great movements have this in common – they see “what is essential and ignore the rest”. In the midst of great complexity and constant change, underlying patterns become clear. With piercing insight they concentrate on the simple, big idea. Everything else is assessed in the light of accomplishing that essential goal. This simple, crystalline concept guides every key decision. Such leaders are deeply passionate about this simple, big idea and believe they can be the best in the world at what they do.

This past year at Northwest Baptist Seminary we have worked hard to define our essential purpose, our ‘simple, big idea’. We believe that God has helped us to achieve clarity. Simply put our goal is be the very best at **recruiting, training and sustaining the next generation of ministry leaders** for our Fellowship of Churches. Everything that we do must advance this mission.

As we look back on this year, how have we done?

“Simply put our goal is be the very best at recruiting, training and sustaining the next generation of ministry leaders for our Fellowship of Churches.”

- We have trained and equipped together with our partners in ACTS seventy new ministry leaders
- Two new graduate programs have started – Chaplaincy and Contemporary Apologetics.
- Four hundred and fifty different people received training from Northwest@ACTS.
- Lay leadership training initiatives began in four Fellowship churches.
- The Theological Education Taskforce completed its work and submitted its final report – giving us direction for the future.
- Three pastors/mentors' days brought many ministry leaders on campus for times of renewal and refreshment.
- Our new Youth Leadership Training Program is now ready for implementation.
- Two Contemporary Apologetics Seminars were held, as well as the Substance Abuse Conference, all of which helped church leaders understand more clearly the challenges of being Christian in a pluralistic society, the issues raised by Islam, and ways that our church communities can help those suffering from addictions.
- Northwest has provided over \$30,000 in financial aid.
- The Associated Canadian Theological Schools, our consortium of seminaries, received a very significant affirmation of quality as our accreditation was renewed for a ten year period.
- Dr. Archie Spencer joined our faculty in the area of theology.
- We are sponsoring our first Baptist Studies conference (May 3-4).
- The foundational planning and fund-raising for our new Northwest Centre for Fellowship Leadership Development has been completed.
- Financially, we will end the year with a balanced budget, no debts, and a solid financial base for future ministry initiatives.
- Our Board of Governors is transforming itself into a policy-governance Board, giving clearer direction to the President for the accomplishment of our mission.

This is a long list and does not include many other significant contributions made by faculty, staff and friends. But all of these things centre around our single passion – **recruiting, training and sustaining a new generation of ministry leaders**. We believe by God's grace that substantial progress has occurred this year. We have faith that God will enable us all to work collaboratively together – church leaders, Fellowship Ministry Centre leaders, Northwest faculty, our Board of Governors, our friends and supporters, and our students – to take an even bigger step forward in this coming year.

## Baptist Conference ... a Great Success

Loren Warkentin



Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4, 2002 saw our first ever Baptist Conference co-sponsored by Northwest Baptist Seminary and Canadian Baptist Seminary under the aegis of ACTS Seminaries. The conference theme was “Past Voices - Present Vision: Contours of Baptist Theology for the 21st Century”. Our plenary speaker was Dr. Timothy George of Beeson Divinity School. Other speakers included Dr. Ken Davis, Dr. Abe Funk, Dr. Archie Spencer, Dr. Phil Zylla and Dr. Stan Grenz. Participants

were treated to a rich feast of topics from “The Reformation Roots of Baptist Tradition” to “What Will Baptists of Tomorrow Look Like?” Northwest plans to sponsor this kind of conference on a biennial basis to help our ministry leaders understand the implications of our Baptist identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Two of our speakers - Abe Funk and Timothy George