

New Students at Northwest@ACTS

By Dr. Larry Perkins

God sometimes surprises us and this Fall He has sent a large enrolment. Our Summer session was strong and reached our enrolment target. As registration finished this September, we discovered that enrolment had increased 7% over last year. This means over 300 people are taking courses with us this Fall – 50 more than last year at this time.



Joe Haynes and Craig Dicker chat with Dr. Archie Spencer during a break from classes

We have over 100 new students and 200 returning students. One of our returning students is **Cosmo Dos Santos**. He is completing his Master of Arts in Christian Studies. His home is in Brazil and he and wife plan to return to participate in church leadership development and ministry. They are involved in the *Southridge Church*. **Rod Alsop** is a new student, beginning his Master of Arts in Church Ministry. Rod lives in Nanaimo. Rod says, "Right now I'm a TOC (teacher on call), running a community band, teaching music privately, and interning as a worship leader at *Departure Bay*. The courses I'm taking are online so I don't have to travel quite yet. Our intentions are eventually to move to Langley and do a year or so full time when the time is right." And then **Joe Haynes** has come this fall, working towards a Master of Divinity Degree. He and his wife Heather are interning at *Marpole Baptist Church*. Please uphold these and other students and their families in prayer as they equip themselves for God's work.



Lorne Potter (Sapperton Baptist Church) takes in Dr. Brian Rapske's class on Romans

New Faculty Faces at ACTS Seminaries



Dr. Ron Toews



Mr. Doug Berg



Dr. Stan Grenz

Here at ACTS we have welcomed several new faculty members. **Dr. Ron Toews** has joined us in MBBS as Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies. He comes to us with many years of experience in pastoral and chaplaincy ministries in Alberta and Ontario. **Mr. Doug Berg** (Ph.D. cand.) has joined us as the Associate Dean of MBBS. Doug has been a faculty member at Bethany Bible Institute for twenty-two years. During that time he also served a period as Academic Dean and President. **Dr. Stan Grenz** has accepted an invitation to connect with ACTS as a visiting distinguished scholar. He has recently been appointed Distinguished Professor of Theology at Baylor University and Truett Seminary.

Northwest@ACTS Coming Events

Fall 1-week Modular Courses	October 7-11, 2002
Believer's Church Theology Course:Victoria Dr. Ken Radant—at Glad Tidings Church	October 7-11, 2002
Institute for Christian Apologetics: Historical Understanding of Jesus	October 19, 2002
"Communicating God's Truth Effectively" Dr. Kent Anderson—Calgary	Begins November 8, 2002
Spring 1-week Modular Courses	February 24-28 2002
Pastors' & Mentors' Day—Theme: Worship	February 26, 2002

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Volume 3 Issue 3

September 2002



Northwest News

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

Northwest People

Marty and Lynn Dong

Q *Why would you, as Americans, come to ACTS, a Canadian Seminary?*

We first learned about ACTS at a *MissionsFest* conference. When we visited the campus, we really liked the atmosphere and that it was part of a larger university (Trinity Western). We were impressed with the faculty, and the courses looked like a strong combination of practical ministry training and biblical/theological studies. The spousal discount program and the \$US/\$Canadian exchange rate also helped to make the education more affordable. But more importantly, as we learned more about ACTS, we appreciated the depth of the theological training and the quality of the faculty.



Marty: In the course of my studies, I've been impressed with the combination of applied theology and the academic disciplines. I have gained some great tools that can be used in ministry and even more importantly deepened my personal understanding of how to serve God more effectively.

Lynn: My studies at ACTS have provided me with a good biblical and theological foundation for my faith. They have challenged me, helped to refine my perspective on many important issues, and have given me good biblical and theological training that will be helpful for our future ministry.

Q *How did you come to be followers of Jesus?*

Lynn: I grew up with some church exposure in my family. I made a personal commitment to Jesus through the help of a Campus Crusade for Christ staff member at the University of Washington. As I heard the gospel message and studied God's Word, I realized that ultimate pur-

Marty and Lynn Dong are Northwest@ACTS students. Both are Americans. Marty is currently studying full time completing his Master of Divinity Degree. Lynn studied full time last year in the Diploma in Christian Studies program. Marty was born and raised in Seattle and graduated from Stanford University. Lynn was born in Chicago, grew up in Las Vegas and graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle.

(Continued on page 2)

Youth Leadership Training Program

Kent Anderson

The new Youth Leadership Training Program is up and running. Three students, Paul Zalinko (Southridge Fellowship), Joel Buhler and Joel Neustadter (First Baptist, Salmon Arm) are registered and active. Two other students are in the application process and many more are discussing future enrollment in the program. This program, offered in partnership with the Fellowship Baptist Youth Commission is customized for the use of hand-chosen individuals who have exhibited exceptional gifts and calling to youth ministry. Their local church and pastoral mentors (in this case, Larry Sundin and Mel Reimer) are a big part of the teaching team as the students learn as much in their church ministries as they do through their academic studies. Eventually, these students will be eligible for enrollment in Northwest@ACTS Master's level studies. We are pleased that through this creative approach, we can continue to serve our churches on a pre-seminary level to provide the leaders our churches require.

pose and hope would only be found in Jesus, and I committed my life to Him.

Marty: I grew up in a Christian family that was involved in the Chinese Baptist Church in Seattle. I made a personal commitment to follow Christ in my early teens, and a mentor who led me to Christ continued to meet with me and helped me solidify my faith.



Several years later, as a student at Stanford University in California my faith was deeply tested. My faith was attacked by my atheistic roommate, and I was also very confused about the various mysteries of Christian faith – revelation, freewill vs. predestination, etc. After pondering the mysteries of my faith, I came to the point where I realized that the only place I could turn was to God. At that point, I recommitted myself to following Christ, and my faith in Him was affirmed.

Q What is the most significant thing about following Jesus?

Marty: Serving God, through sharing the Gospel, is very important to me. My life changed tremendously when I trusted in Jesus, and I strongly believe that other people should also have the opportunity to accept this gift.

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A pivotal experience was the two years I served in China as an English teacher (as “missionaries” are not allowed). Despite poor living conditions and loneliness, I found great fulfillment in knowing that God was using me to share the Gospel there. I knew that God was pleased with me, and I sensed His presence in a very real way.

Lynn: In my walk with God, I want to be found faithful, obedient, and a good steward of what God has given me. I’m very thankful for my salvation and for how God used my friend in Campus Crusade to lead me to Him. Because of this, I really desire to be used as a witness for Jesus, so that others might also know Him. I also want to encourage other believers in their walk with God and be used to build up the body of Christ.



Q Is your attendance at Northwest@ACTS connected in some way with a sense of God’s call to specific vocation?

We want to be equipped to do whatever God calls us to do to the best of our ability. At this point we are not sure whether God is calling us to a domestic or inter-

national ministry, but we are in the process of discovering His will for us. Our time at ACTS has been an important part of preparing us for what God has in store. The exposure to an international community in a different country (Canada) has been very fruitful.

If we serve in America, we will minister in a church, with Marty most likely serving in a pastoral position. God has given us wonderful opportunities for education and preparation, and we are convinced that the church should receive our best labors and energies.

If we go to China, we would most likely serve as educators or in a community development capacity. Marty has an MBA and secular work experience, and Lynn has also worked in the secular workforce. If we serve overseas, it is our hope that God might use the combination of our secular skills and our ministry training for His glory.

We sense that there is a need for sound theology both in the North American churches and in overseas ministry. In China, the Christian church is growing tremendously, and we realize that our help is probably not needed in many areas. But what we can provide is good theological training and guidance to help develop solid leadership. If we go back to China, we hope that the training we have received at ACTS will help us be a resource for national church leaders.

We are very thankful for the opportunity to attend ACTS and to learn from the rich experiences of the faculty and the other students.

Q As you continue to prepare, what are the greatest challenges you face in achieving your goals?

The major challenge that we’re facing is trying to discern where God is leading us. The needs both in China and America are equally great. For this reason, it seems very difficult to determine the direction in which we should go. We’re currently waiting on God as He reveals His will for us.

Q How can people pray for you most effectively?

We would appreciate prayers for God to reveal His will and make clear the direction that we should go. We desire to be faithful in serving and obeying Him, wherever He leads. It is a great privilege to be a part of what He is doing, both in North America and around the world, and we look forward to how He will continue to lead us.



Marty Dong and Larry Perkins chatting during one of our Student-Faculty lunches

Have you ever watched a piano tuner at work? With careful persistence the technician plays the key, tightening or loosening the strings, until the notes sound in perfect resonance with the tuning fork. More recently electronic devices assist in this process. The goal is to have all the keys striking true and every one in perfect harmony with all the others.

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From time to time we fine-tune our seminary curriculum. This year our focus is on the **Master of Divinity** degree. This three year program is central to our pastoral training process and is in many ways the most vigorous and rigorous of our degree programs. In this

process one of the central questions we must answer is this: what kind of pastoral leadership should we seek to form and equip?

This is a complex question. Today the character or personality of individual churches in the same denomination are quite diverse. The pastoral role can vary significantly from church to church. Discerning the essential skills, knowledge and personal development that a graduate from this program should attain requires careful listening – to God’s word, alumni in pastoral vocation, denominational leaders, faculty-pastors, lay people and other theological educators. We must also consider the standards of good theological education set by our accreditation agency, the Association of Theological Schools. Competing ideas about the best training process also require careful evaluation.

Finding the right balance among these sometimes competing interests is delicate and time-consuming. How much study of the Bible and theology, how much evangelism and missions, how much emphasis on leadership development, how much focus upon specific pastoral skills and which ones, where does spiritual formation come in– the debates can be quite vigorous and at times heated. People have deep-seated convictions about these matters and rightly so because the health of our churches often depends upon the quality of our pastoral leadership.



Students and Faculty at the 2002 ACTS Connections Day

The Theological Education Taskforce report accepted at the June 2002 Convention recommended that our regional Fellowship Ministry Centre work with Northwest and current pastoral leaders to develop a statement of essential ‘ministry competencies’. A competency defines specific skills, knowledge, and/or personal and spiritual character sets necessary to be an effective ministry leader. As this is developed, it will also help us to calibrate our training processes more effectively.

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Our goal remains the preparation of godly, effective ministry leaders for our Fellowship churches and agencies. As we listen to one another and pray and work together in this process, the contours of effective ministry leadership become clearer and we can im-

prove our training and mentoring processes. The outcomes become more specific and we can hold ourselves more accountable in the preparation of effective pastoral leaders.

Financial Aid highlights ... By Kent Anderson

Northwest continues to provide creative means by which students can fund their education at ACTS. While tuition rates are set by the ACTS consortium, we at Northwest are able to help Fellowship Baptist students pay their bills through a series of initiatives that make a Northwest education affordable. These methods include matching grants, new student grants, per-credit subsidies, and several more. **This semester 26 students are receiving a total of \$19,795.00 dollars in funding.** When we say that we are prepared to do what it takes to prepare leaders for Fellowship Baptist ministry, we have put our scholarship money where our mouth is. Many of you have provided these dollars and we thank you sincerely for your contributions.