

NEW DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

Finding good ministry leaders for churches continues to be a challenge. Two years ago our denominational leaders urged us to develop a Doctor of Ministry program that would continue to build and develop our church leaders, particularly as our churches grow in size and complexity.

With thanks to God, Thursday, August 28, we launched our new Doctor of Ministry Program with a specific focus in Leadership and Spirituality. The first cohort of students gathered for a day of orientation and training.

Such a program provides ministry leaders who already are experienced and seminary graduates with an opportunity to explore their understanding of leadership and spiritual formation more extensively. Over a three year period they will explore together the themes of spiritual formation and church development, developing integrated leadership perspectives, and ministry leadership and culture. The cohort model incorporates the experience of these ministry leaders as part of the reflective

learning model. The use of online learning technology will carries the developmental process over a ten month period each year.



ACTS Seminary's Inaugural D. Min. Cohort

The program was created after extensive consultation with ministry leaders throughout western Canada. Dr. Phil Zylla, our principal, and Dr. Stan Grenz are teaching the first two courses: Revitalizing the Church: Theological ... and The Spiritual Formation of the Leader. In May 2004 the third course, a reflective seminar, will focus on the theme "Developing a Healthy Church".

This is the first doctoral program offered by Trinity Western University and it is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. We are working to offer the program in Ottawa, Ontario, beginning in May 2004.

The costs of such a program are significant. You may be interested in providing financial assistance for Fellowship Pastors so they may have the opportunity to be involved. You may designate gifts to Northwest for this purpose.

ENROLMENT IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH

FALL 2003 STATS

- ◆ TOTAL OF 342 STUDENTS
- ◆ 40% ARE NEW STUDENTS
- ◆ 12 DOCTOR OF MINISTRY STUDENTS

Classrooms at ACTS Seminary are bursting at the seams and there is a continual buzz of energy and activity. We have 342 students registered in a wide array of programs. 40% of these are brand new students.

We praise God that He is blessing the Northwest@ACTS endeavor with men and women who are excited and fervent about preparing themselves for His service. This makes your and our investment worthwhile.

Would you consider further investment in these emerging leaders? Our budget for student aid this year is around \$30,000. We need your partnership to continue making this training affordably available. Pray also for us as we mentor this next generation of ministry leaders.

EVENTS AT NORTHWEST@ACTS AND ELSEWHERE

PASTORS' & MENTORS' DAY—FEATURING EVANGELICAL HOMILETICS SOCIETY	OCTOBER 16, 2003
MODULAR COURSE: CAP 550 APOLOGETICS IN THE POST MODERN WORLD INSTRUCTOR: DR. PAUL CHAMBERLAIN	OCTOBER 27–31, 2003
MODULAR COURSE: CHM 617 YOUTH PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR: DR. DAVE CURRIE	OCTOBER 27–31, 2003
MODULAR COURSE: THS 540 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY INSTRUCTOR: DR. CAL NETTERFIELD	OCTOBER 27–31, 2003
SPRING PASTORS' & MENTORS' DAY	FEBRUARY 25, 2004
FEBBC/Y ANNUAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CAMPBELL RIVER	JUNE 7–9, 2004

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NORTHWEST DEPENDS ON THE GRACIOUS GIFTS OF ITS FRIENDS, BOTH CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2003



NORTHWEST NEWS

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY@ACTS

...RECRUITING, TRAINING AND SUSTAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS

NORTHWEST PEOPLE

BY DR. BRIAN RAPSKE



THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY HELD A SURPRISE BANQUET TO HONOR DR. LARRY & JUDY PERKINS

and favorite hymns played by pianist Mr. Mel Bowker.

Students sent along written tributes: "He is a man who through the manner in which he taught, profoundly impacted my life. He taught with an immeasurable grasp that the text contains Truth that transforms lives." wrote Ralph Hardy, former student and now associate pastor at Departure Bay Baptist Church.

There were also written congratulations and best wishes from sister institutions: Trinity Western University

Visionary, servant leader, mentor, accomplished teacher, valued colleague, and friend. These were among the many words used in tribute of Dr. Larry Perkins for his 25 years of service and leadership at Northwest Baptist Seminary where he serves as President and Professor of Biblical Studies.

On Thursday evening, September 18th, 2003, members of the Board of Governors, Northwest faculty and staff,

Celebrating 25 years

FEBBC/Y leaders, family members and friends gathered for a surprise dinner and program to honor Dr. Larry and Judy Perkins.

The program featured reflections of board, faculty, denomination, and family members and a keynote address by longtime colleague, Dr. Vern Middleton. Interspersed throughout the evening were classical pieces

versity president Dr. Neil Snider and Heritage College and Seminary President Dr. Marvin Brubacher.

Terry Cuthbert, President of our Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada offered this written expression of thanks and a prayer: "We praise God tonight, Larry, for the gift He has given us in you over all these years. May the Lord grant you many more years of service with us, as you strive to reproduce yourself in Godly servant leaders who will in turn invest in others." Indeed!



Dr. Kent and Karen Anderson presenting a gift and flowers to Dr. Larry and Judy Perkins at the evening celebration



Hanna, Pierre and Timothy Jutras

Why did you come to Northwest@ACTS?

Pierre: While I was working towards my Master of Divinity in Quebec city, Dr Donald Launstein came and taught some courses on the books of Daniel & Revelation, Hebrews and others. Because of his quality teaching and through the encourage-

ment of other professors, I decided to pursue further studies at Northwest@ACTS beginning January 1997. This has also provided me the opportunity to experience the life and vision of our BC churches.

It was a great step of faith for me as I left Quebec city with only \$500 in my pocket, but with the confidence that God would provide. He did this through some fellow believers in Quebec and various jobs at Northwest Baptist College. This has been a great encouragement as well as a strengthening of my faith.

Hanna: When I immigrated to Canada from Poland, I studied at Western Pentecostal College in Abbotsford, BC. We were encouraged to consider further studies at ACTS Seminaries and when I inquired, Dr. Anderson was very encouraging and supportive of my concerns and desires for study. I also had a financial problem but God was good and the church I was serving in graciously paid for my first year of studies.

How has seminary helped in stimulating a desire for missions and preparing you for missions?

Pierre: I already had a desire for missions, but I have discovered that the vision for missions is much more developed in BC than in Quebec, probably because Quebec is still, in a sense, a mission field. The churches here have a deeper commitment to missions which is evident in the quality of people they send and their generosity. Experiencing this has broadened my understanding and deepened my burden for missions.

Very often interaction with missionaries who were fellow students at Seminary has proved to have a greater impact even than my studies.

"THE TRAINING ONE RECEIVES HERE AT NORTHWEST@ACTS IS SUPERB AND MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD NEED PEOPLE WITH SUCH SKILLS ..."

I believe there needs to be a stronger emphasis on missions at Seminary. There are many godly and gifted students studying and seeking God's will for their lives. I would like to see them challenged more concerning the opportunities and needs of missions.

Hanna: My study program had a missions emphasis and I have been encouraged and influenced by Dr. Vern Middleton's teaching and fatherly care. He has a great desire to see his students reach out to the nations. Pierre joined me by auditing a few classes and we have learned some valuable lessons together.

Is there a course which particularly impacted you?

Pierre: If I could have taken only one course it would have been Old Testament Theology. Not only because the content was very informative and challenging spiritually, but also because of the professor. Dan Lane had a great impact on my life and I greatly appreciated the way he taught and mentored me in my studies. He was dedicated not only to teaching but also to connecting with students and being concerned about them.

Hanna: I too remember being challenged very much spiritually by Dan Lane's Old Testament classes.

If someone was to ask your advice about training in missions, what would you say?

Pierre: While in Quebec, I had a mentor who taught me the challenge of Jesus to give up our own ambitions and respond to God's call. This is the challenge that I would pass on to others. I would then challenge people to look to training, not for the purpose of getting a degree, but for the purpose of preparing to fulfill God's calling. The focus must be a desire to get ready for missions. This was the motive behind every course I took. If people are going to be truly trained for ministry, they must involve themselves in their studies with a passion and sense of calling to serve.

Hanna: While I would echo the need for academic training, I would also emphasize the need for involvement in church ministry. Students need to get experience in real ministry within a local church. It is very important to find a ministry that relates to their studies so that they can put into practice - right away - the things they are learning.

Are there other lessons or concerns that you would like to communicate?

Pierre: I feel that students at the Seminary level should consider more difficult ministries as a priority, not just as a last option if they don't have an opportunity to serve within a church here in Canada. Students should be encouraged to consider the most challenging aspect of building up God's kingdom and look to missions first. The training one receives here at Northwest@ACTS is superb and many places in the world need people with such skills and desires. When we are given much, we need to consider how to make the most of the training and not shy away from difficult tasks.

PIERRE & HANNA JUTRAS WITH THEIR SON TIMOTHY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY FEBINTERNATIONAL AS MISSIONARIES TO POLAND.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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New Centre Launched

Advancing the Development of Good Ministry Leaders

Good ministry leadership continues to be a dominant issue for churches. Several key advances are being implemented this fall semester.

1. Official Launch of the Northwest Centre for Fellowship Leadership Development (NCFLD)

This summer we finalized (subject to a review of the candidate by the Advisory Committee) the appointment of the director for this new Centre. Mandated by the Theological Education Taskforce, the Centre's purpose is to foster and facilitate the training of emerging ministry leaders through processes that integrate church-based training models with more traditional seminary leadership training models. It will serve to network the resources of our churches, Seminary and Ministry Centre in greater collaboration so that we are encouraging people in our churches to pursue God's calling as effectively as possible.

Dr. Lyle Schrag comes to the role with 27 years of experience as a senior pastor, working in both large and small multi-staff Baptist churches. He has a passion for leadership development that was enriched through his Doctor of Ministry dissertation completed through Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. In addition he has interest in areas of Spirituality and personal formation. He is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell (MDiv) and Wheaton College Graduate School (MA with concentration in education and leadership). He has also taught and directed Christian Outreach programs at Wheaton College, developing leadership manuals in this process. Lyle is married to Jane and they have three children.



Dr. Lyle Schrag

As Lyle may connect with your church, I trust you will welcome him and make full use of the rich experience and wisdom that he brings to his new role. Please feel free to contact him at Northwest.

2. Improvements to our Ministry training process.

A critical part of our ministry leadership training process occurs through the Christian Leadership Development Seminars that are core to the Master of Divinity degree. After five years of innovative development in leadership training, we have taken the best and sought to make it even better. Dr. Kent Anderson and Dr. Ron Toews have worked hard to revamp this series of

ministry leadership learning experiences. Improvements include:

- ◆ more intentional focus on the primary competencies and personal, spiritual attributes that contribute to good ministry
- ◆ deliberate connecting of our denominational leaders with our emerging leaders
- ◆ creation of a statement that clearly defines our understanding of Christian leadership and the outcomes we are seeking to achieve in the lives of our students
- ◆ creating affinity groups among our students so that those interested in specific types of ministry can be praying, sharing, and supporting one another under the careful mentoring of an experienced ministry leader.

3. Church Planting Leadership Track

During this past year we have worked with several of the denominational Church Planting Directors to find a better and more intentional way to discern and develop church planters. The result of these discussions is a proposal, now being implemented, to offer a track in Church Planting. It incorporates two courses that guide students through the essential elements of Church Planting – biblical mandate, leadership challenges, spiritual preparations – and two courses that help them to discern this calling – the Church Planters Assessment Program and the Church Planters Summit Conference. These last two courses are conducted directly under the leadership of our denominational Church Planting Directors. The two foundational course are being taught by a veteran church planter. We are excited at this development because it demonstrates how valuable it is for the seminary and denominational leaders to discern effective ways to collaborate in the preparation of our leaders.

Each of these initiatives represents careful and thoughtful planning with experienced ministry leaders and seminary faculty to revise, refine, and create the best ways we know for preparing emerging ministry leaders. This is a continuing task that requires the best we can give to it.

NORTHWEST CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT