



NORTHWEST NEWS

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY @ ACTS

PREPARING EFFECTIVE LEADERS FOR KINGDOM MINISTRIES

THINKING CLEARLY ABOUT MINISTRY LEADERSHIP IN TIMES OF CHANGE

by Dr. Larry Perkins, President

Recruiting, developing, appointing and sustaining good ministry leaders in our family of churches continues to be a complex, difficult, yet absolutely strategic necessity. As Fellowship Baptist Churches refocus their vision to be "...a growing and united fellowship exceeding 120 congregations that are growing at a minimum rate of 5% per year," ministry leadership development will play a central role in its achievement.

What will these ministry leaders look like? In Spring 2003 Pulpit and Pew Research on Pastoral Leadership published a study entitled "What do Lay People Want in Pastors". Some of the significant criteria that surfaced included:

- A blend of demonstrated competence in core ministerial tasks and religious authenticity – having head and heart together.
- A good preacher and worship leader.
- A strong spiritual leader for the congregation, able to inspire spiritual sensitivity in others.
- A commitment to the ministry that shows good balance between personal and ministry time.
- An available, approachable and warm pastor with good "people skills".
- Consensus builder, lay ministry coach and responsive leader.

The researchers also included in the conversation denominational leaders who are often asked by churches for guidance in the search for new ministry leaders. These leaders supported the vision for ministry that the lay leaders expressed, but added one additional component:

- An entrepreneurial evangelist, innovator and transformational leader.

Denominational leaders would desire to hear search committees seeking ministry leaders "who are likely to lead the congregation in new and innovative directions." They hope search committees will ask "Where can we be in five years?" and then seek ministry leaders who have the ability to lead them in that direction.

Both perspectives are important and need to be central in the minds of those engaged in searching for new ministry leaders.

However, there is another aspect to this question of ministry leadership – discerning the people who are called and gifted by God to be effective ministry leaders and helping them get ready to fill this responsibility. The need for good ministry leaders is outstripping the ability of seminaries to provide sufficient graduates to fill these positions using traditional means. What seminaries

provide through graduate programs is good and usually effective, and seminaries must continue to improve and strengthen these processes. But seminaries also must diversify their approaches to ministry leadership development, if they are to address the growing demand for effective ministry leaders. Not every good ministry leader requires a Master of Divinity degree, but every good ministry leader will benefit from mentored educational experiences that develop and enhance the ministry leadership abilities congregations are desiring.

We also have to discern what potential resources for leadership God has placed within the church, but which we may not yet recognize. For example, as age expectancy is lengthening and people's views change about what their lives will be like from 55 to 75, we need to consider how to motivate and equip this cohort within our churches to discern new ways to advance the Kingdom.

Another change that has already happened in our church culture is that male pastors encounter significant barriers to counseling female parishioners. Since the majority of people in our churches are female and nearly all of our ministry leaders are male, this presents a serious challenge for providing good spiritual guidance for female believers. We must give more thoughtful attention to equipping women within our congregations to provide this spiritual direction and including them within our ministry leadership teams.

Entropy describes the situation when more energy is being expended to keep a system going than was required to start that system in the first place. Sometimes communities, including seminaries, expend more energy in maintaining traditions than in being creative and innovative. Entropy dominates. Preparing new cohorts of good ministry leaders requires us to be creative and innovative. We must take seriously what

God has said about equipping the whole body to accomplish the whole ministry.



Dr. Larry Perkins interacting with Northwest M.Div. student, Alex Hooendoorn (see story inside ...)

Alex Hoogendoorn, Master of Divinity student at Northwest @ACTS - interviewed by Dr. Larry Perkins.

1. Where did you grow up?

I was born in Brampton, Ontario and raised in a Christian home, attending the Christian Reformed Church. In one way, my roots go back to the Netherlands, as all my grandparents emigrated to Canada and this cultural and religious heritage has strongly shaped our family.

Dad was in different business opportunities and so I grew up in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. I attended seven different schools. My wife, Julie, was raised in Pritchard, B.C.

In Calgary, my family joined a much more evangelical Christian Reformed Church. This church had profound impact upon our immediate family and the change it created in us affected our extended family as well. Much later we moved to London, Ontario and ended up going to West Park Baptist Church. That is where our whole family was baptized, all together. I was sixteen years old.

2. Who were the important influences in your life that led you to follow Jesus?

Because I was raised in a Christian home, I heard the Bible regularly and grew up believing it to be true. In the summer of my thirteenth birthday, I attended a CRC boys' camp and was challenged with the truth that God has no grandchildren, only children; I needed to make this faith my own faith. That evening marked a very significant decision.

My Christian upbringing had a strong, positive influence in my life, but I have to first credit my peers in the youth group at West Park Baptist for challenging me to follow Christ faithfully.

Our youth pastor, Dave McKenna, was excellent, but to his credit, the group did more for discipling kids than he did.

These young men showed me how the Christian faith is worked out. I saw in my peers what God had created me to be.

This model of peer-discipleship became for me the normal model of discipleship. As I have grown in my personal faith, I have tried to be the same sort of peer-discipler to my friends. At our wedding my best man gave a toast and said, "You showed me God." This was a great encouragement.

3. What do you sense your calling in Jesus to be and how did you discern this?

My sense of vocation is strongly linked to what I observed in my Christian peers. I naturally began shepherding and discipling my friends. God's calling has emerged from that experience. My first sermon was an evangelistic sermon to Christian Reformed young people. To my amazement, God used that sermon to draw one young person to Himself that day. When I was attending Fraser Valley Christian High School in grade twelve, I had the opportunity to preach in chapel. The affirmations from friends and family were that I should be a pastor. In my heart I knew that this was where God was leading me; these experiences affirmed that conviction.

During my last year in high school, I was leading a youth group and drama ministry. I decided I would go to Prairie Bible College to get training and then engage in vocational ministry. I completed a Bachelor of Arts in intercultural studies and a Bachelor of Theology.

Julie and I met at Prairie and we got married in 1997. We both have a clear sense of agreement regarding God's direction. She has a wonderful ministry with people, bringing beauty to the body of Christ. She is to my mind a picture of grace.

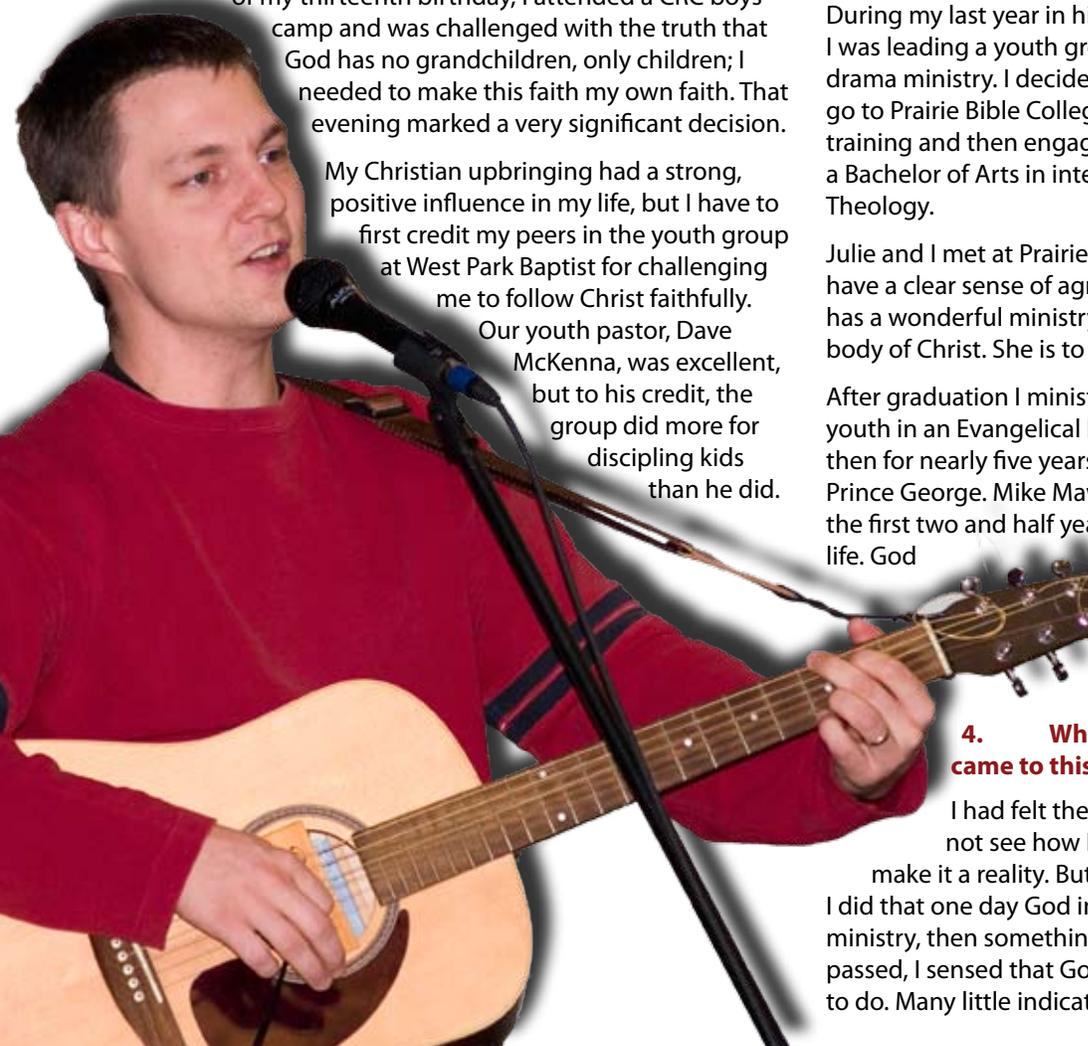
After graduation I ministered as associate pastor working with youth in an Evangelical Free Church in 100 Mile House and then for nearly five years in Central Fellowship Baptist Church in Prince George. Mike Mawhorter was the senior pastor there for the first two and half years and was a significant mentor in my life. God brought Mike into my life just when I needed some encouragement,

healing and training. I learned a great deal about being a pastor and loving people through him.

4. What challenges did you face as you came to this decision to come to Seminary?

I had felt the seminary bug biting for years, but did not see how I would have the resources or time to make it a reality. But God encouraged me to pray and as I did that one day God indicated that after two more years in ministry, then something would happen. As those two years passed, I sensed that God had something else for Julie and me to do. Many little indicators seemed to push us in this direction.

As far as worship leading is concerned, music and worship were always part of my family life (i.e. Kid's Praise, Bullfrogs and Butterflies) and the guitar became for me a great way to praise God.



So we applied to Northwest/ACTS and sold our home. Since that time God has provided our needs through financial gifts from friends and family, through financial aid given by the Seminary and through the support of our church. The miracle for us is that God provides.

Our boys gave up a great house with a big back yard for a basement suite. They left behind lots of friends and a wonderful school as well. Leaving the church family we had in Prince George was especially hard.

5. What program are you completing and what do you want to do after graduation?

I am a little over half way through the Master of Divinity Degree program. I appreciate the way this degree balances the various aspects of ministry preparation. Our plan would be to finish course work in October 2007. After this we hope to begin pastoral ministry.

6. What are you enjoying most about your graduate studies at ACTS/Northwest?

The best thing about Seminary for me are the dialogues and interactions with students and professors. But, I also like the reading and the way I am challenged to think through the issues. Gary Thomas' book *Sacred Pathways* describes nine different ways through which people draw close to God. For me, thinking deeply about God and studying His word, brings me closest to Him. So Seminary is for me a way to seek and pursue God. He has not disappointed me and I have been overwhelmed with what I have learned about God and ministry.

7. What currently are you doing in your ministry?

Julie and I belong to the Northwest Langley Fellowship Baptist Church family. I am the worship leader. I also lead worship for ACTS Chapel. For me worship ministry is the cream of ministry opportunities and I enjoy integrating my studies with my worship. As I lead the worship team, I seek to do it with a pastoral perspective. I believe my role is to 'show people God' and then give them an opportunity to respond to that revelation of God in a way that is appropriate to the whole group, as a group. My goal is similar for the chapel context. This also describes my philosophy of preaching and many other ministries.

8. As you have come to Seminary, what vision has God given to you? What is it that you want to accomplish for Him?

God is calling us into pastoral ministry. We think that the definition of discipleship often lacks breadth. Discipleship programs are too structured and short term. We need to understand that discipleship includes the growth and maturing of a person spiritually from childhood through adulthood. It is ongoing and lifelong. It is extremely relational and a corporate endeavour. It includes our prayer life and our ethical life and worldview. We would like to find a place of ministry where we can implement this vision of whole-life discipleship.

9. Given your own journey, what advice would you give to people thinking about preparing for a ministry vocation?

If God is calling people, then the best preparation is to learn to pray well. As much as it is important to lay our needs and requests before God, we must be prepared to trust Him and believe that He has heard and will respond in His time.

When we were seeking to sell our house and come to seminary, we had it sold but the person did not follow through. This was two weeks before we came to Seminary. We became anxious. So we prayed, called a realtor friend, and within 24 hours God had sold our home and at a higher price. The new buyers took possession on the same day as the original buyer. We are learning that God answers prayer and supplies the needs of His people. We can trust Him.

10. How can we pray for you as you face these challenges?

Pray for my stamina in studies and ministry. Pray for Julie, my wife, as she is a full-time mother, working a part-time job, and is married to a full-time student (who also is working part-time in a church). Pray also that we would be able to discern plainly where God will lead us in the coming year. Finally, pray that despite our hectic schedule and forward-looking perspective, we will not miss what God is doing in and through our lives right now.



Alex is married to Julie and they have two sons, Emmett and Caleb. Currently Alex and Julie are assisting at Northwest Langley Fellowship Baptist Church.

New Northwest Publication

Being Church: Explorations in Christian Community

Through a grant from the Baptist Housing Ministries Northwest Baptist Seminary is publishing a volume of essays in conjunction with the conference "Between Gospel and Culture – Contemporary Ways of Being Church." As the preface of the book notes "Being Church is not as easy for Christians as it might appear."

The essays have been contributed by members of Northwest Baptist Seminary faculty and administrative leadership. They address various questions about preaching, multicultural realities, church governance, community boundaries, the value of the church, and the theological context for evaluating new ideas about the church. Each chapter interacts in some way with the diverse issues raised in the dialogue with the Emerging Church and Missional Church models being proposed today.

The grant we received will enable us to present a copy of this volume to each of our Fellowship Baptist churches in Western Canada. Additional copies will be available at the conference scheduled for March 2-3, 2007 (see facing page for further information on the conference).

Resourcing our Ministry

We are thankful for the help of many during 2006 to enable us to come very close to achieving our budget goals. As we begin a new fiscal year, we are setting the following goals and would

Northwest is currently assisting **23 students** through various methods of **Student Financial Aid**.

The amount that Northwest will provide to students this semester is **\$17,500**.

invite you to consider prayerfully how might assist us in achieving them:

General Operations.....\$88,500
Student Financial Aid\$16,000

Our budget reflects Northwest's efforts to resource churches, equip emerging leaders, advance the Kingdom through research and publications, and assist current ministry leaders. Alex, whose interview you have read in this issue, represents the quality of ministry leader whom we have the privilege

to encourage and equip. Your gifts make a significant difference now, and in future years as these leaders invest themselves in Christian ministries here and around the world.

New Service Introduced

We are introducing a new service that will enable you to make your donations electronically. *CanadaHelps* is a registered Canadian charity that works with other Canadian charities to provide a secure, private, simple means of donating funds. You can use this charity to donate to Northwest. You would log on to www.CanadaHelps.org, locate Northwest Baptist Theological College in the list of charities, make your

appropriate designation and stipulate the frequency of the gift. Once your donation has been received, you will be sent an immediate, secure, PDF tax receipt, issued by *CanadaHelps* by email. *CanadaHelps* then disburses the funds to the designated charity, along with any special requests associated with that gift. This service will be activated by February 15, 2007. If you have questions about this opportunity, please give us a call at 604-888-7592.

Please note that we are listed with *CanadaHelps* by our legal name, Northwest Baptist Theological College.

Making a Difference Campaign

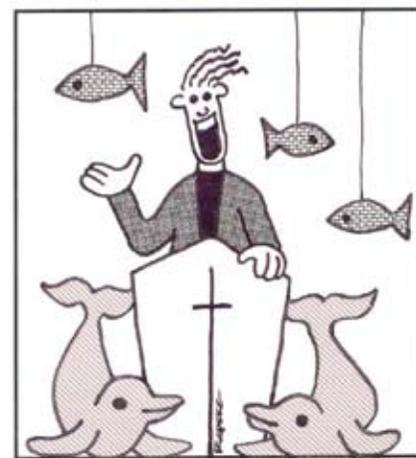
We are also praying that God will enable us to reach the goals of the "Making a Difference Campaign." In October, 2005 we took a step of faith and asked God to provide \$515,000 to fund more financial aid, our in-church leadership training initiatives, and our project for equipping pastors in the country of Colombia. At this point we have approximately \$115,000 remaining to raise in order to reach our goal. Please pray with us that God will provide these resources during 2007. If you would like to discuss ways you might help, please contact Dr. Larry Perkins, President of Northwest Baptist Seminary.

Graduation Spring 2007

Our graduation service is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2007 at South Delta Baptist Church, Tsawassen. You are invited to celebrate with us God's work in the lives of our graduates. About 85 students will be graduating. Further information about graduation can be found on the ACTS Seminaries website at www.acts.twu.ca.

Two of our students who are planning to graduate this Spring are: Brian Pankratz who is planting a church with our Fellowship in Burnaby; and Jared White who is serving as pastor of Centennial Park Fellowship Baptist Church in Brentwood Bay.

Our Church



It's just occurred to me, folks, that our Vacation Bible School theme kind of makes us a porpoise-driven church.

Between Gospel and Culture

a conference on

Contemporary Ways of Being Church

Hosted by the J.H. Pickford Chair of **Northwest Baptist Seminary & ACTS Seminaries** of Trinity Western University

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Craig Van Gelder serves as tenured professor of congregational mission at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, having taken this position in 1998 following ten years as professor of domestic missiology at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI.

He is author of *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit* (2000), is editor of *Confident Witness-Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America* (1999), is a contributing author of *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (1988), and is co-editor with George Hunsberger of *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America* (1996).



Dr. Edmund Gibbs serves as the Donald A. McGavran Professor of Church Growth in the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary and has been on the faculty since 1984.

Some of Dr. Gibbs' publications include *Leadership Next: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture* (2005), *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures* (2005) with co-author Ryan Bolger, *Way to Serve* (2003), *Way to Go* (2003), *In Name Only* (1994), *I Believe in Church Growth* (1981, revised 1985, 1989), and *Good News is for Sharing* (1993).

Location

Location: In the **Northwest Building** on the campus of Trinity Western University
7600 Glover Road, Langley, BC, Canada

Related Information

Sessions in Baptist ecclesiology will be offered in conjunction with the conference to satisfy the requirements for a credit course through ACTS Seminaries.

Those interested can apply with ACTS Enrolment Services for the course *HIS610 Baptist History and Thought*, taught by Dr. Archie Spencer. The course will take in the conference and continue to the end of the spring academic term as an online course.

Registration Fees

- Regular Fee - both days..... \$100
- Early Bird (by February 10)\$85
- Regular Fee - March 2 only\$75
- Regular Fee - March 3 only\$50
- Current ACTS Student.....\$35

Other Speakers

- **Dr. Archie Spencer** — J. H. Pickford Chair of Northwest Baptist Seminary.
- **Dr. Larry Perkins** — President of Northwest Baptist Seminary and Professor of Biblical Studies.
- **Dr. Kenton Anderson** — Associate Professor of Homiletics with Northwest Baptist Seminary.
- **Dr. Phil Zylla** — Principal of ACTS Seminaries of Trinity Western University.
- **Dr. Jonathan Wilson** — Pioneer MacDonald Professor of Theology at Carey Theological College.
- **Dr. Gordon Nickel** — Assistant Professor of Inter-Cultural Studies with Canadian Theological Seminary.
- **Dr. Mike Goheen** — Geneva Chair in Reformational World-view Studies at Trinity Western University.
- **Rev. Jamey McDonald** — Executive Director, Baptist General Conference of Canada.

Register by Fax or Email

Registration Information can be found at

www.acts.twu.ca or at www.nbseminary.com

or e-mail loren.warkentin@twu.ca

Phone: (604) 513-2044 or (604) 888-7592

ACTS Seminaries - Pastors' & Mentors' Day

www.nbseminary.com
Redesigned

There is a time to keep things consistent and there is a time for things to change. For **www.nbseminary.com** the time for change has come.

For us at Northwest it is a remarkable experience to read each of these stories and to rejoice in our Lord's provision, enabling and care. We rejoice too that we are part of their stories.

Once again we are gearing up to produce another issue - the **2007 Northwest Alumni Connections**. If you are an alumnus of Northwest, please make sure we have all the address and

e-mail information we need to be able to contact you.

We can be contacted at

Northwest Alumni Connections
Attn: Loren Warkentin
7600 Glover Road, Langley BC V2Y 1Y1
Canada
Phone: 604-888-7592 or
E-mail loren@nbseminary.com.

If you are aware of other alumni in your circle of acquaintances and friends please let them know as well.

Northwest Baptist Seminary

A Division of Northwest Baptist Theological College



We developed our Northwest Baptist Seminary web site to be an avenue of contact with our constituency and a place to provide resources for church leaders. Since its launch about 5 years ago we have maintained its initial look and feel. All that is about to change. As of February 15 we will be unveiling a completely reworked, redesigned site. Changes will include: an opening page web log to which our Northwest faculty will be contributing daily posts; leadership resources that will be more centralized; navigation on the site that will be much more intuitive; a more contemporary design.

Please visit us and give us your impressions and/or suggestions. We would love to hear from you.

Spring 2007 Enrolment

In the life of any Seminary enrolments go up and down. It is the nature of things. This semester enrolment was below our expectations, but approximately 300 people have registered for courses in ACTS, with 50 of these involved specifically with Northwest Baptist Seminary.

The numbers in our programs break out as follows:

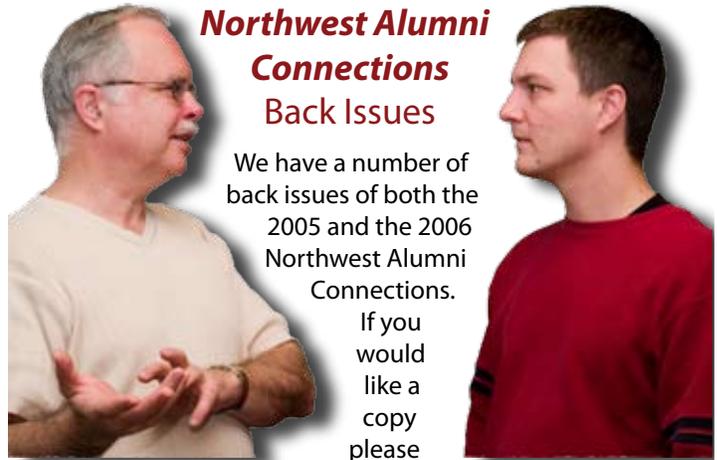
- Doctor of Ministry4
- Master of Divinity 12
- Master of Theological Studies3
- Master of Arts in Christian Studies 13
- Master of Arts in Cross-cultural Ministries.....3
- Master of Applied Linguistics & Exegesis.....4
- Master of Counselling2
- Diploma and Non-program8
- Youth Leadership Training Program 1

God continues to direct our way, men and women who are called to prepare themselves to serve Him more effectively.

The Stories of Northwest Alumni

For the past three years Northwest has published an annual alumni newsletter/magazine. Each issue is filled with interesting and encouraging accounts of the vocations and ministries into which God has directed our alumni. Many include photos making the magazine a wonderfully colorful collage.

Northwest Alumni Connections Back Issues



We have a number of back issues of both the 2005 and the 2006 Northwest Alumni Connections.

If you would like a copy please

contact Loren

Warkentin at the address above.

If you are aware of an alumnus who might not have received a copy, please let them know.

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

