

A QUIET, UNSTOPPABLE REVOLUTION - CHOOSING TO SERVE

BY DR. LARRY PERKINS, PRESIDENT



NORTHWEST NEWS

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY @ ACTS

FIRST CHOICE FOR LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Most of the leadership books I read target women and men in their late twenties, thirties and forties. But a quiet and unstoppable demographic revolution is occurring – the aging of the boomers. Many Christian people who began business, trade or professional careers twenty-five or thirty years ago are now in their fifties.

Financially secure, weary of spending most of their energies to support primarily non-Christian endeavours, and wanting to fulfill key personal goals, such individuals have opportunity, motivation, and means to invest themselves for Christ and his kingdom in new ways. Filled with wisdom and physically vigorous, these leaders have a deep sense that their competence and capability will continue unabated for one or two more decades.

Filled with wisdom and physically vigorous, these leaders have a deep sense that their competence and capability will continue unabated for one or two more decades.

They are making choices to serve.

They are making choices to serve.

The stewardship opportunities available to this boomer generation will be amazingly diverse. They want to share their Christian worldview and wisdom, mentoring a generation of emerging leaders. They desire to use their resources – time, energy, and finances – to carry forward the Great Commission. They are not content to kick back, sit back or fall back. Life is too precious; time is too short; human need is too great; Jesus is coming.

Churches must awaken to the tremendous resources of gifted, mature people that God has set within his church – the Boomers. Local churches will continue to identify, mentor and help young, emerging leaders, but the demographics tell us that a huge shift in wealth, business and education is underway, because the Boomers are moving into their fifties and sixties.

How is your church preparing to equip such people to serve well? How will your church enhance their ministry to an aging population? How can the Seminary work with your church to engage and embrace this opportunity well?

A first step to discerning solutions is to get reliable information:

1. Do a demographic analysis of the membership and attenders in your church family. Then analyze

how your church assigns its ministry priorities and resources in relation to this analysis. If you discover that 25% of your congregation is fifty years of age and older, but less than 10% of the ministry resources are dedicated to equip and serve this age group, then perhaps this reveals an opportunity for ministry growth. If you have this data and would be willing to share it, the Seminary would appreciate receiving it.

2. Create a list of all those in your church family who are in the fifty plus age group. Discern their gifts, competencies, and ministry 'dreams'. What new or current ministry initiatives could these

individuals support or implement, enhancing the congregation's mission while fulfilling their own sense of calling?

3. Identify the equipping and training such individuals require

to lead ministry initiatives. How could the Seminary assist these individuals in your church family to access such training? What form should such training take and what subjects or competencies should it include? If you have ideas about this, please share them with the Seminary.

Northwest Baptist Seminary currently has programs for ministry training that can serve the Boomers. People in this demographic are already enrolled and we have a commitment to assist all Fellowship people to be equipped for ministry leadership. However, I am sure that new creative ways to provide essential training will also need to be developed. If you are in this "Boomer" segment and have ideas about how Northwest might help, please email me at perkins@twu.ca.



Dr. Larry Perkins, President, and Dr. Kent Anderson, Dean, discussing how Northwest might best serve the church.

INTERVIEW: TODD CHAPMAN

BRIAN M. RAPSKE, PHD

The theme of the present issue of *Northwest News* is choices and certainly the pathway to theological preparation for and eventual involvement in ministry is filled with many choices. Todd Chapman, pastor of Auguston Neighbourhood Church in Abbotsford, BC., is a graduate of Northwest Baptist Seminary at ACTS (Master of Religious Education 1999). He and Karen have three children: Delaney, Macaulay and Theo.

TODD, IN A LIFE FILLED WITH MANY SIGNIFICANT CHOICES, PERHAPS THE BIGGEST IS THE DETERMINATION TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS. TELL ME A BIT ABOUT THAT CHOICE.

I was raised in a godly home and grew up with a strong sense of being part of a church community. I became a Christian at age six and was baptized on Thanksgiving Sunday when I turned eight. It's a fabulous thing to come to faith and to grow up in this kind of environment. But there is a whole other world



beyond the shelter of such an upbringing, where personal choices have to be made and this can be tough.

TELL ME A BIT MORE.

Well, being a Christian parent, I can appreciate much more the way I was raised and I'm trying to model this with my own kids. When I was in my mid teens, my folks entrusted me to God's care in the task of making certain choices. They stood by me in the process, watching as I made my choices—some good and some not so good—and there were great times of interaction. I deeply respect my parents for giving me the freedom to grow in this way. The choices we often have to make are not always black or white; right or wrong. God will sometimes say, "There was a better choice to be made. But Todd, I am with you and I love you." That's what my parents modeled to me.

I learned to trust God and prove his reality. Choices were also

a way of showing me where my heart was. This was an early schooling to prepare me in the weightier choices that I would eventually make—like whom I would marry and what calling or profession I would choose.

YOUR CHOICE TO STUDY AT NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY WAS A PRETTY MOMENTOUS ONE. HOW DID IT OCCUR?

That's an interesting one. I was doing my fourth year of studies at Trinity Western University moving toward a teaching degree when I sensed that I needed to do a check on the direction of my life. I asked God for time away from my studies to reflect. This meant getting a job in fairly short order. My sense that God was with me in this process was immediate. The next day, I was approached by someone who asked me if I would be available to work up in Powell River at a fishing lodge. It was during this five month period of time that God helped me to an increasing conviction on many important life decisions, including going to seminary.

When you make a choice to follow God, you actually commit yourself to engage a whole sequence of choices. My first day at seminary was the day after the birth of our first daughter,

Delany. She arrived 6 weeks early.

I remember thinking, "I'm starting seminary. My wife Karen is now mom to a premature newborn and can't work at her job as an ER nurse and we have to live with our parents. Finances are going to be low and expenses high. God is going to have to put this together." I had to renew my trust in him all along the way, and God came through.

I wouldn't describe myself as a 'formal education' kind of guy. But the choice to trust God in this new venture energized me. The studies were a challenge. But there was also an amazing joy and sense of fulfillment in pursuing the choice; my grades were never better! I got the formal education. I was also positively affected by the professors who respected me and encouraged and challenged me to grow

in my relationship with Christ. Through seminary there were numerous opportunities for experiential application of God's truth—especially in the internship I did at North Valley Baptist. I was faced with opportunities to try new things and to trust God further. What I'm saying is that the big choice to prepare for ministry was followed by a whole sequence of choices to live and learn and trust God.

TODD, YOUR MINISTRY AT SMITHERS BAPTIST CHURCH WAS NOT A SHORT ONE AS FIRST PASTORATES SOMETIMES ARE.

No. In fact, we served there for seven years. Smithers was a big change for us. I had been interested in taking an associate position after seminary. God's open door to me was a senior pastoral one. The choice to go to Smithers in October of 1999 had to be filled with trust in God's provision. The move carried implications for Karen's nursing career. It meant moving away from extended family and we would miss them greatly. It



meant moving to a church community with a young family to a church with few young families. By the way, in Smithers they have *real* winter; that was another change!

Over and over again, though, God proved his goodness as we chose to follow him. I was a pretty young and inexperienced senior pastor—

only twenty-five years old. But the church was amazingly flexible, giving room for me to grow and to try new things. Then there were those defining moments of assurance: an amazing sense of restfulness and confidence that God gave to us as we entered our second year of ministry in Smithers; the day that one of the elders came up to me and told me, "Todd, you're my pastor and I'm going to follow"; and when my father-in-law took me aside to tell me, "You and Karen are meant to serve this church."

We are called to stand by God-honoring choices. But the great joy is that God also stands by us when we take them!

YOU'VE BEEN AT AUGUSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CHURCH FOR JUST OVER A YEAR NOW. TELL ME ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE GOD AND THE CHOICES IT'S ENTAILED.

Well, it is absolutely fundamental to choose a course of action for the right reasons. That's especially important when it's a choice to answer a call to a new church. Karen and I always affirmed to God that we would continue in our choice to serve Smithers until he indicated otherwise. The process of being approached by Auguston, interacting with the search committee and then moving through a more intensive exploration process was God's means of providing us the information and encouragement we needed. I remember wondering how long it would take to sell our house in Smithers. The 'for sale' sign went up without our knowledge by a friend in Smithers. A lady came to the door asking to view the house the day we got home from the Auguston interview, and three weeks later the house was sold. Getting into our house in Abbotsford was as remarkable a sign of God's provision and assurance.

Coming to Auguston required real choices; calling for us to trust in God's continuing help. There are some very significant cultural differences between the communities at Smithers and Auguston and the churches. God expects me to serve faithfully, but he also expects me to serve in different ways. I can hear him saying to me in all of this, "I will provide. You'll have what you need. In fact, all you need is me; trust me." We miss our friends in Smithers. One of the big changes for me is to have my office

at home. It calls for discipline in carving out focused time for study and preparation. There is always more for which to trust God and in which he proves himself faithful.

I WONDER, AS YOU'VE REFLECTED ON CHOICES AND CHANGES, IS THERE A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE THAT YOU'VE FOUND PARTICULARLY HELPFUL?

One passage that I've found particularly helpful is 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Paul invites the Corinthians to reflect on what they were when God called them. Not many were wise, influential, or of noble birth by human standards. But, he continues, God chose those who were foolish and lowly by earthly standards to achieve his marvelous ends. This passage reminds me of three things: who I am; who God is; and what he can do through you. You can have absolute confidence in God through the challenge of choices. That's how life should be lived.

**Northwest's
Board of
Governors**

**PEOPLE CHOOSING TO
SERVE**

DR. LARRY PERKINS

Northwest Baptist Seminary's vision emerges under the skillful direction of our Board of Governors. Eleven men and women have chosen to serve as our churches' representatives and give time, wisdom, skills and resources to support the Seminary's mission.

Anne Thompson (retired school principal, member at Oakridge Fellowship Baptist Church) is the chair. Dennis Wasyliw (alumnus, pastor, business executive, member at Maple Ridge Fellowship Baptist Church) serves as vice chair. Ken Robson (retired banking executive, member at Central Baptist Church) fills the role of secretary. Brian Truman (retired college accountant professor, member at Parksville Fellowship Baptist Church) is the treasurer.

The chancellor of the Senate is Dr. Dale Beckman (professor emeritus, University of Victoria, member at Central Baptist Church). Merv Loewen (retired school administrator, executive pastor at Lloydminster Baptist Church) represents our Fellowship Churches in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Territories.

Other Board members include Harvey Peters (alumnus, pastor, member at Sardis Fellowship Baptist Church); Paul Beckett (alumnus, medical doctor, member at Albion Fellowship Baptist Church); Evan Scales (retired railroad manager, member at Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church); Colin McKenzie (financial manager, member at Ladner Fellowship Baptist Church); Gord Burton (alumnus, executive pastor, member at Central Baptist Church) serves as the Fellowship President's designee.

Dr. David Horita, the Fellowship Regional Director, is also part of the Board, but is a non-voting member.

I am truly grateful for the passionate commitment of each board member to help us achieve our mission.

NORTHWEST'S INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMS

FIRST CHOICE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

MARK NAYLOR, M.TH.

Pastoral staff with Cross-cultural training and experience are becoming more and more critical in our urban centers across Canada. Northwest Baptist Seminary and FEBInternational are meeting this need through the experienced-based Cross-cultural Leadership Training Program (CLTP). Building on prior university/college education (2 years) and utilizing intercultural opportunities in our Canadian context, the Gateway training center (www.gatewaytraining.org) and international short term experiences, Northwest provides quality undergraduate level biblical and cultural teaching in this one year program that can sequence into graduate level studies at ACTS. Patterned after the successful Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP), CLTP partners with the local church and FEBInternational to equip people for intercultural ministry whether in Canada or around the world.

We are excited to welcome Jarrod Haas to this program beginning in the fall of 2007. Together with his local church of Calvary Baptist in Castlegar, Jarrod has gained a vision for ministry to Asian students who have come to Canada to study. While working with a group of Korean college students, Jarrod recognized his need to develop cultural skills to communicate the gospel and relate effectively across cultural barriers. At the same time he was reluctant to sacrifice the important relationships and ministry that had developed if he was forced to leave in order to pursue a theological education. CLTP has provided an excellent solution. Not only is Jarrod given the opportunity to work towards an undergrad equivalency that would qualify him for entry into graduate studies at ACTS, but he is able to continue to minister through his church in a mentored environment. Moreover, experienced cross-cultural

*In the **Cross-cultural Leadership Training Program** Northwest Baptist Seminary partners with the local church and FEBInternational to equip people for intercultural ministry whether in Canada or around the world.*

train pastoral leadership with skills for effective cross-cultural ministry. An effective blend of theologically sound academics and mentored cross-cultural exposure both in Canada and internationally permits Northwest to partner with such churches resulting in servant leaders who will serve our FEBCC churches and FEBInternational for years to come.

For further information about this program contact mark.naylor@twu.ca or check out the description of the program at www.nbseminary.com/academic/cltp/.

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

DR. LYLE SCHRAG

An increasing number of capable and committed Christians are expressing a desire to deepen the dimensions of their life in ministry. This increased interest reflects a keen sense of God's call to a greater and more extensive service in ministry and mission.

In his book, *Career Crossover*, Tom Harper, the co-founder of Church Central Associates, reported that 38 percent of all church leaders came from the secular marketplace. The research indicates that this number is growing. More people are entering the ministry as a second or third career choice [or an active retirement option] than ever before. Churches are hiring talented lay-leaders into staff positions at an increased rate. It is evident that the local congregation has become God's chosen environment to develop leaders in ministry. But, the fact remains that mature ministry requires mature ministers whose training transcends the ability to run programs. Mature ministry requires a greatness of soul, a depth of wisdom, and a breadth of perspective. The goal of theological education is to expand these horizons.

*The **Christian Ministry Training Program** is built around a core of eight learning courses that address three core ministry essentials: Conviction, Character and Competence.*

A unique partnership between the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches and Northwest Baptist Seminary has taken theological education to the next step. The **Christian Ministry Training Program** is designed to provide lay-people with training for mature ministry. The Christian Ministry Training Program makes it possible for students to study where they live, work, and minister.

The **Christian Ministry Training Program** is built around a core of eight learning courses that address three core ministry essentials: Conviction, Character and Competence. Each course is developed by qualified faculty of Northwest Baptist Seminary, and is conducted in the local setting between a student - or cohort of students - and a designated mentor. As students complete each course, their achievement is recognized with a certificate issued by the Northwest Baptist Seminary.

Some students may wish to receive credit for their work. Northwest Baptist Seminary has made arrangements not only for these courses to be taken for credit, but upon completion of all the courses, receive a Diploma in Christian Ministry. Students who earn the diploma and who have the equivalent of two years of undergraduate education will be eligible to apply for entrance into the Master of Arts in Christian Studies at ACTS. See the website for more details - www.nbseminary.com/academic/dcmp/.

NORTHWEST'S FACULTY FEATURE

"SOMEBODY PINCH ME!"

ARCHIE J. SPENCER TH. D.

This is what I was saying to myself as we were sitting at a table in Italy the week of August 20th, having dinner with Mario Mauro, the vice president of the European Union, not once but twice. Sometimes you wonder why God leads you in certain directions, and how you end up in situations you think are entirely out of your league, (I still do). This has been happening to me now since 1998 when I published a book review on *The Religious Sense* (1997), written by an Italian theologian named Luigi Giussani (1922-2005). The rest, as they say, is history. God has used this review to open a very interesting and unexpected door in my ministry. Since the publication of that review I have been invited to speak on the Protestant faith, as it relates to Catholicism, in a number of countries and venues. Four times I have gone to Italy to give witness to the reality of the Protestant understanding of the encounter with Christ and



From left to right: Dr. John Milbank, Professor of Theology at the University of Nottingham, Dr. Stefano Alberto, Professor of Theology at the Catholic University of Milan, Dr. Archie Spencer.

Archbishop of Venice, admitted that the Church could not do without the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which fall outside the mandate of the Church to control, but nevertheless are present in the Church. My impression is that Catholicism is not only changing, it wants to change. It wants to include individual experience into its ecclesial understanding of faith but is not always sure how. If I, as a Protestant, can help point the way in some small facet, I am only too happy to oblige. Who knows where and when this will end, but for now I will follow the Lord as he leads me into this adventure.

This year I was pleased to also meet representatives of the Evangelical fellowship in Italy as well and we were able to discuss how we might strengthen ties. Somehow they got wind of my lecture in Rimini and met me after the lecture. Who knows but that the Catholic connection is another way for me to also have a voice in European and Italian Evangelicalism. God works in mysterious ways! I am only too glad he includes me in the movement of his mystery.



A meeting with my translator 'Anna' and John Zucci of McGill University.

each time I say, "ok, that's it, they have heard enough of this Protestant Baptist." Each time they prove me wrong and invite me to return, asap.!

This past August I was once again heavily engaged in dialogue, first at Meeting Rimini where I spoke to a crowd of some 7-10,000 Catholic Priests, political, lay and professional leaders, as well as many young students. Then some 700 of us retreated to La Thuile, in the Italian Alps, to discuss this same faith in smaller, but no less potent groups. Describing who attended there would take too long, but they included Cardinals, professors, priests, professionals and the vice president of the EU. Between scaling the Alps and chowing down on the best antipasto, gorgonzola, and pasta sauce you could ever eat, the discussions and presentations on everything from Christian experience to the historical Jesus were equally as sumptuous.

In one exchange Cardinal Angelo Schola, the Primate and



The size of the crowds at these meetings was incredible.

Our Fall 2007 Students

At ACTS Seminaries the Fall 2007 semester is well under way with a potential student body of 318 or more students for this semester. Of those, around 44 students are enrolled with Northwest. The numbers in our various programs break out as follows:

Doctor of Ministry.....	6
Master of Divinity	9
Master of Theological Studies.....	3
Master of Arts in Christian Studies	13
Master of Arts in Cross-cultural Studies.....	4
Master of Applied Linguistics & Exegesis	4
Master of Counselling	2
Graduate level Diploma and Non-program.....	3

As well, there are several students enrolled in our Northwest pre-seminary diploma programs.

Youth Leadership Training Program.....	4
Cross-Cultural Leadership Training Program.....	1

We have just opened our new and innovative in-church **Christian Ministry Training Program** and there is already considerable interest in that for this fall. So we may see a number of people registered to begin taking courses through that program within a few weeks. If that interests you see Dr. Lyle Schrag's article on page 4 and check out our website at www.nbseminary.com.

Three of our diploma students



Daron Crown (YLTP) in Salmon Arm



Jarrod Haas (CLTP) in Castlegar



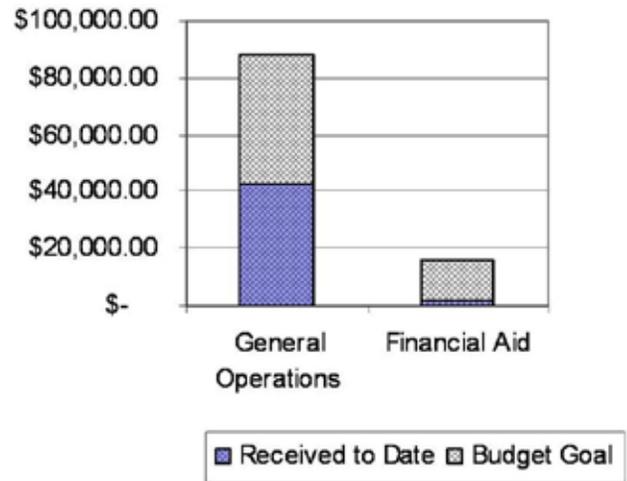
Andrew Eby (YLTP) in Maple Ridge

Financial Update

We have received estate gifts amounting to \$90,000 during the summer months. The Board will consider recommendations to place these funds in the Bursary endowment. This will provide an additional \$4,000 - \$5,000 for financial aid to students each year. These gifts also have moved us substantially towards the "Making a Difference Campaign" fund-raising campaign goal of \$515,000. We are praying that God will enable us to complete this campaign by the end of 2007. A significant goal of this campaign is to increase the Bursary endowment. We currently are seeking to have a gift in kind evaluated and sold. Please pray with us that God will enable us to secure good value for this gift.

Gifts towards our operational funds support two key things:
 Our daily Seminary business of training ministry leaders;
 Our financial aid awards fund for our seminary students.

2007 Contributions to Date



As the chart shows we have particular need for assistance with the Financial Aid fund at this point in our year. Over 20 of our students are receiving financial aid this semester. Your gift would significantly assist us to meet our commitments to them.

www.nbseminary.com

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY
 7600 GLOVER ROAD, LANGLEY, BC V2Y 1Y1
 CANADA
 PHONE: (604) 888-7592
 FAX: (604) 513-8511
 E-MAIL: NBS@TWU.CA
 WEB: WWW.NBSEMINARY.COM

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

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
 ACCOUNTABILITY
 CHRISTIAN CHARITIES