



# NORTHWEST NEWS

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY @ ACTS

FIRST CHOICE FOR LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As I talk with people within our churches about Northwest Baptist Seminary, they are polite, sometimes interested in our ministry, but usually they struggle to discern a personal, relevant connection between their own journey with Jesus and our ministry. Of course, a “seminary” provides “theological education”, but for whom and for what purpose? The very term “seminary” seems problematic, no longer communicating well our mission. But you need to know that seminary is for you.

One of the common descriptors we use to describe ourselves as Christians is the word “disciple.” We take it straight out of the Gospels. Those who follow Jesus in Mark’s Gospel are named disciples. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus

puts “discipling” at the centre of the church’s mission. But what does this word mean and why did Jesus use it to describe his followers? The Greek term means someone

who learns, a pupil, an apprentice, a student. In the Gospels Jesus fills the role of teacher. He invites everyone to “learn of/from me” (Matthew 11:29). The message of the Kingdom forms the curriculum. After Pentecost the Holy Spirit assumed the teaching role (John 16:13), “leading [us] into all the truth.” He is now resident in every believer, our own personal, spiritual tutor.

As a seminary, Northwest exists right at the very heart of the Messiah’s mission – discipling people, equipping them to teach Jesus’ message and form Kingdom communities that impact the world. Theological education offers Christians ways and means to engage this task. Discipleship requires people to study God’s word and seminary teaches you how to do this deeply, thoroughly, competently. Discipleship means engagement with God’s people past and present, discerning how they understand God and his ways – the world of ‘theology’. Discipleship results in the formation of biblical worldview convictions that shape every decision for God. Discipleship embeds us relationally in the community of faith, the church, equipping us to “do the work of ministry” together. Discipleship centres us missionally, equipping us to be God’s Kingdom agents, evangelistically focused, always and everywhere. Seminary does this.

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION WHO IS IT FOR?



Theological education is for you, a person learning from Jesus in order to impact the world. It’s hard work. The questions get tough and complicated at times. Skill development requires personal change. Character gets chipped and pressed into a Christ-like shape. It hurts! It takes forever! But it is worth it. Paul says that “through Jesus’ poverty we become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Learning is one way this transaction happens.

Today a “seminary” equips people, through many means and at many different levels, to be Kingdom leaders. If you have graduated from high school and are passionate about serving Jesus, then we can probably help you in some way. If you have substantial college or university training (i.e. bachelor’s degree or technical diploma), we can offer you significant opportunities. Northwest News presents many opportunities for you to engage. Our website ([www.nbseminary.com](http://www.nbseminary.com)) offers more. If we can assist, please contact us.

by Dr. Larry Perkins

# ALUMNI INTERVIEW - JEFFREY AND RING KWOK AND MATTHEW

by Dr. Larry Perkins

*Jeff, Ring and Matthew Kwok are all alumni of Northwest/ACTS. Jeff graduated with the MDV in 1993, Ring with the MRE in 1997, and Matthew with the MA in Cross Cultural Ministry in 2008. Jeff is the one being interviewed.*



Ring, Matthew, Nancy and Jeffrey Kwok

***Tell us a little bit about yourselves – how you came to Canada, how you met and got married, etc.***

My mother is a dedicated, faithful Christian. She became a follower of Jesus as a young girl. When she got married, she prayed that at least one of her children would be called to serve God. In high school my elder brother was called to full time ministry. I was called later. So my involvement in ministry is a direct answer to her prayers. My brother and his wife serve in Hong Kong. I have two sisters and two younger brothers who are believers too. My dad, who passed away eleven years ago, became a believer in 1989 and publicly confessed his faith in 1995 after having immigrated to Canada. He was always supportive of our Christian faith.

Ring is the first believer in her family. When she attended high school, she was searching for God. This led her to join a Christian fellowship in her school. When we began dating, she attended church with me and through this made her commitment to Jesus. We were married in 1979. In Hong Kong I was working as a chief accountant in a company. Ring worked in the government as a secretary. I also taught accounting courses in college.

When Matthew was five years old we immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong (1988).

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

My mother and my wife, Ring, have exercised significant influence in my life. Both of them, more than anyone, are responsible for my decision to follow Jesus and for my involvement in ministry. As well, my elder brother has constantly supported my ministry development.

***How did you discern your calling in Jesus and how has this shaped your lives?***

Three times God has urged me to enter fulltime ministry – 1986, 1987 and 1988. The third time was very special. In 1988 Ring and Matthew returned for an extended visit to Hong Kong. On Easter Sunday as I was in church, God's call came into my heart for a third time. Simultaneously in Hong Kong that same Sunday

God was speaking to Ring and she received a call from God into fulltime ministry. Only after Ring returned to Canada and we shared our experiences did we realize that God had called us both the same Sunday, but in this amazing, independent fashion.

God has given both Ring and myself a special passion for overseas Chinese. When we came to Canada, we saw the eyes of the Chinese people here empty of hope. They were exceedingly industrious and busy in the marketplace, but lacked a life purpose. We want to share with them the hope we have in Jesus.

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

We waited about a year and half after our third call by God before taking the decision to attend Seminary. Early in 1990 a pastor friend and good mentor talked with us and encouraged me to apply for Seminary. He made the appointment for me to meet with Dr. Perkins. He took me to the Northwest campus (at that time on Marine Drive in Vancouver) to start the process. After much prayer we stepped forward with faith. I quit my job and began Seminary in fall 1990.

Finances were a big challenge. During the first semester when I was studying in the library, preparing for a test, our bank account had dropped to a few hundred dollars. We did not have enough to pay our bills for the month. I could not concentrate. So I left the library around 2pm because of the stress. When I arrived at home, Ring handed me a letter from my brother. It had been mailed from Taiwan a week before, full of their encouragement. Their small cheque reminded me that I must have faith in Jesus Christ. With that encouragement I returned to my studies and God provided. He gave us some small side jobs to provide for us.

In the case of Matthew, our son, he went with us to a country in South Asia for a missions trip when he was 9 years old. After the trip we asked him whether he would go with us into missions he said yes, if he was not required to learn the local language. In 2002 we together with Matthew returned to that country,



teaching in a Seminary and doing evangelistic work in small villages. Matthew was assigned to stay with a missionary and this trip changed his life. He too has received a clear calling from God to missions. Matthew completed his BA in Anthropology at Baylor University. As he was about to finish his undergraduate degree, he prayed about where he should go. He knew that God was calling him into ministry, but he wanted a ministry focus different from his father – something different than seminary. He applied to several graduate schools but most of the replies said that there was no professor present to support his preferred thesis work so he was not accepted. He then understood that God was wanting him to enter full-time ministry. He returned to Canada, enrolled at Northwest Baptist Seminary and graduated in April 2008 with his Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Ministry. Now he is working on his Master of Divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a focus in missions.

***Who have been significant mentors for you? How have they helped you?***

My pastor during seminary gave me great support. During three years of studies at Northwest, Dr. Vern Middleton influenced me significantly and I developed a passion for evangelism and missions. When Ring began her MRE degree in Spring 1995, she was encouraged by Dr. Perkins and Dr. Launstein.

***You both have been engaged in church ministry for many years. Tell us a little bit about this. What keeps you passionate about this?***

In 1992, during our second summer at Seminary, we decided to go overseas for a summer mission. We spent six weeks in a country in South Asia, doing mission work. When we returned, we became willing to serve God as missionaries overseas. We pastored in the Vancouver region for about six years and then applied to do the Ph.D. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, Texas). My focus was in evangelism. I learned the history and opportunity for evangelism and this affirmed my passion for evangelism. I began in 2000 and graduated in 2004.

Ring completed an MA in Theology at Southwestern and moved into doctoral work in 2001, graduating in Spring 2008. Her Ph.D. is in missions, with a special focus on Muslim Studies.

People excite us – particularly the opportunity to build Kingdom truth into people's lives.

More recently I have given leadership in the Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University to develop a Mandarin Language ministry training program, to develop ministry leadership for Mandarin speaking congregations. The immigration pattern has shifted and so now most of the immigration of Chinese people is coming from mainland China. When these people arrive in Canada, normally they are not believers, so there is a significant mission field among these people. We need Mandarin speaking missionaries and pastors who can share the Gospel with these people.



***Share with us something of the vision you have for working with overseas Chinese.***

Chinese people are scattered around the world. Between 1992 and 2008 we have been involved constantly in short-term mission work and have seen the great need and opportunity to equip Chinese believers overseas to reach out to the Chinese people around them.

Doing evangelism among Chinese people requires loving hospitality and the development of good relationships. In this context there is the golden opportunity to share the love of Jesus. The strategy for reaching them will be different depending on their point of origin. We need to understand their cultural background. There is a great cultural diversity among Chinese speaking people.

We plan to move into this kind of ministry fulltime by the end of 2008.

***What did you enjoy most about your graduate studies at ACTS/Northwest?***

I enjoyed the weekly session with my faculty supervisor during internship. This became a precious time for prayer, reflection, and encouragement. Small size classes and the availability of faculty outside the classroom were also significant benefits.

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

Be very clear about God's call and when that call is clear be ready to step out and go forward in faith.

***How can we pray for you as you prepare for these challenging opportunities?***

Pray for our health, because we still have some health issues that need to be taken care of before we can be sent. Pray also that God will clear the way for us to move forward with our mission vision.

Matthew – pray for him and his wife, Nancy, that God will create a clear vision for their future. Matthew got married this past June.

# "THE JOURNEY" - A PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

by Dr. Kenton Anderson

Northwest is pleased to announce our participation in "The Journey Centre: A Graduate Centre for Christian Leadership" located in Edmonton, Alberta. This new initiative fulfills a longstanding dream to offer graduate theological education in the prairies to service our FEBCAST churches. The Journey Centre is a joint project in partnership with the Baptist General Conference and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Other ACTS partners are considering joining in as well. Classes begin this fall with a course in biblical communication taught by

Northwest Dean, Kent Anderson and Introduction to the Bible taught by Ed Stuckey. The plan is to offer 30 credits worth of courses over a two-year cycle. Students who complete will receive a diploma and can transfer their credit into full Masters degrees through Northwest at ACTS. A key feature of the program will be the development of significant mentoring relationships within the student's local church. For more information, contact the Northwest office, or go to [www.journeycentre.ca](http://www.journeycentre.ca).

## FELLOWSHIP CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

by Dr. Lyle Schrag

You knew us as the *Northwest Centre for Fellowship Leadership Development*. Our title changed this fall to the *Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development* because of the reorganization happening in our Regional Fellowship Ministry Centre. Northwest and the Ministry Centre are working collaboratively to achieve our ministry leadership development goals and this change in name helps us all recognize our common mission.

The *Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development*, led by Dr. Lyle Schrag, continues to offer strategic leadership education training and assessment:

### 1. **Best Practices for Church Boards Basic Workshop** – November 1, 2008 (Fosmark Centre, TWU)

This workshop offers essential training for Church Leaders. Healthy churches demonstrate good governance and effective boards. This workshop has proven to be a solid factor in raising the health of local Churches and creating a stronger leadership development environment. Almost 40 churches have participated in the workshops, the basic as well as the advanced workshops. The Basic Workshop, scheduled for the Lower Mainland on November 1, 2008 already has representatives from three different denominational churches registered to attend.

### 2. **Student Care System** – encouraging and mentoring emerging leaders.

The Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development works within Northwest to mentor and care for students engaged in ministry training. The Student Care System initiated this Fall will follow students throughout their training, helping them discern their calling, network with

Fellowship leaders, and reflect deeply upon their ministry training. This system enables the Seminary/Ministry Centre to provide guidance, resources and the type of care that makes their education a significant part of a journey into ministry. The Student Care System will be able to connect students to the wider network of the Churches with a greater degree of focus and familiarity.

### 3. **Ministry Assessment Process** – helping emerging leaders assess their giftedness and capacity for ministry leadership.

The most significant initiative from the Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development to be launched this Fall is the Ministry Assessment Process [MAP] Supporting the leadership development goal of our Fellowship, the MAP is a formal process designed to help emerging leaders identify and assess their giftedness and pursue their vocational calling. A keystone event, The Emerging Leader Retreat, is being planned for April, 2009. Beginning in October, the director of the Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development will be in contact with church leaders throughout British Columbia, seeking to identify the men and women within the congregations who are showing evidence that God is leading them into an expanded field of service. As these leaders are identified, they will be invited to attend the Emerging Leader Retreat where they will be able to connect with other emerging leaders. Using tools similar to those used in the Church Planting Assessment Centre, trained assessors will meet with these emerging leaders to design and recommend a personal course for future steps into ministry.

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## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY CENTRE SPONSORED EVENTS

**Ministry Workers' (& Spouses) Retreat** — November 19-21, 2008 — Sunnybrae Bible Camp, Tappen, BC. Registration details at [www.bcfellowship.ca](http://www.bcfellowship.ca)

**Convention 2009** — April 23-25, 2009 — South Delta Baptist — Speaker is Rick McKinley, author of "This Beautiful Mess: Practicing the Presence of the Kingdom" and "Jesus in the Margins" — Schedule will include "**Leadership training for Church Workers, Boards and Staff**". Details at [www.bcfellowship.ca](http://www.bcfellowship.ca)

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT NORTHWEST@ACTS

### PASTORS' & MENTORS' DAY OCTOBER 24, 2008

#### *The Church Responds to Abuse in Relationships*

The keynote speaker is Nancy Nason-Clark, a Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick and Director of the RAVE (Religion and Violence e-Learning) Project. She is married to Dr. David Clark, a clinical psychologist and depression researcher. They have two daughters, Natascha (21) and Christina (18). Check [www.acts.twu.ca](http://www.acts.twu.ca) for a registration form.

#### Conference Schedule

- 08:45 Opening and Introductions
- 09:00 Understanding the Holy Hush: Giving Voice to Silent Stories — Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark
- 10:00 Storytelling: Bruce and Karen McAndless-Davis

- 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 11:00 Beyond Blame: A Pastoral Response to Men — Magi Cooper  
MCC Abuse Prevention Program — Elsie Goerzen
- 12:00 LUNCH — Fosmark Center (included in cost)
- 01:00 Break-out sessions  
Working with Men in Groups — Magi Cooper  
Hope for Change in Couple Relations — Bruce and Karen McAndless-Davis  
After Disclosure: A Pastoral Response to Women — Lorrie Wasyliv  
“When Love Hurts” Group Facilitation — Elsie Goerzen  
Listening Between the Lines in Counselling/Therapy — Kathy Moodie
- 02:30 Shattering the Holy Hush: The Church Responds to Abuse in Relationships — Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark
- 03:30 to 04:00 Tour of RAVE website and Q & A

### SPECIAL WORKSHOP - THEOLOGY OF WORK NOVEMBER 7-8, 2008

#### *Christians in the Workplace – Engaging your Personal Mission.*

Billy Graham believes that “one of the next great moves of God is going to be through believers in the workplace.” If he is correct, then one of the most significant things we can do is help believers to be kingdom agents in their workplaces. For many believers, except for family, their workplace, is probably their most significant community. It is the “one place where the non-Christian can actually see the difference that Christ can make to a life – not for a couple of hours over dinner, but for 20, 30, 40, 50 hours a week.” Perhaps the people that know us best are not our neighbours next door, but our neighbours sitting at the next desk or working with us on the same project.

November 7-8, 2008 (Friday 6:30 – 9:30pm; Saturday 8:30am – 4pm) at the Northwest campus (Fosmark Building) at Trinity Western University, Dr. Perkins will be presenting a workshop entitled “Doing God’s Business: Theology of Work.” The cost is \$125 and this includes the workshop materials and beverage breaks (but not lunch). However, if you are among the first twenty registered, you will receive a \$75 subsidy, at the completion of the workshop.

Participants will be encouraged to understand their calling in Christ and develop their own, personal workplace ministry plan.

To register, go to [www.nbseminary.com](http://www.nbseminary.com) and click on November 7 in the Calendar of Events (top right hand column). Then click on “download and review information”. This will take you to the registration form. Print it off and mail or fax (604-513-8511) it to Northwest Baptist Seminary.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS

### PASTORS' & MENTORS' DAY MARCH 6-7, 2009

#### *“What was Jesus doing on the Cross? Exploring the Mystery of the Atonement”*

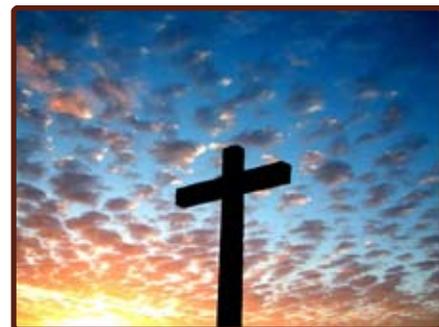
The word “atonement” carries tremendous significance for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus said his mission was to serve and give his life “as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Christians over the centuries have explained how Jesus’ death prepares the way for human salvation. Within our Fellowship Baptist context our Statement of Faith affirms the vicarious, sacrificial, and substitutionary aspects of Christ’s atoning work. But today some of these traditional explanations are being challenged.

Our fourth **Baptist Identity Conference** will be addressing this significant pastoral, missiological and theological challenge. There will be a number of speakers addressing this important subject. This conference, jointly sponsored by Northwest Baptist Seminary, Canadian Baptist Seminary and the ACTS Consortium

will form the Pastors' and Mentors' Day focus for Spring 2009.

The Conference will also serve as a key part of a course entitled **Baptist History and Thought**. If you are pursuing a role in ministry leadership within our Fellowship or have become a ministry leader within our Fellowship family from another denominational setting, you would find this course helpful in orienting you to our vision as one part of God’s kingdom. You can register for the course and be involved in the conference concurrently.

A registration form will be available on the Northwest website after January 15, 2009.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### *"Making a Difference Campaign"*

Our goal remains \$515,000. We thank God for a recent gift of \$10,000. It will be applied to the development of leadership training curricula. With this gift we have surpassed the \$400,000 mark in our campaign. Our goal is to bring this current campaign to a conclusion by the end of 2008. If you would like to discuss the possibility of contributing to the various leadership development projects that this campaign is supporting, please contact Dr. Larry Perkins (604-888-7592; perkins@twu.ca).

### *Annual Ministry Fund Goal*

In 2008 we are trusting God for \$115,000 in financial gifts to fulfill our mission and equip people for ministry. At this point we have received \$33,500 in gifts and designations and so continue to look forward to God's provision of the remaining \$81,500 by the end of December, 2008. Perhaps Northwest's ministry can be one of your stewardship investments in the coming weeks.

Would you prayerfully consider whether or not you might participate in this ministry financially?

## NORTHWEST HAS A NEW LOGO!

You may have noticed a new look on our website or on our envelopes and letterhead. We have adopted a new logo here at Northwest. For the past number of years we have merely used the name Northwest Baptist Seminary as our logo with no graphic of any kind. This past year we procured the talents of David Ediger and he designed the logo you see here. The logo, symbolizing the centrality of the Cross and the Word with an onward depiction of flowing movement give a sense of innovation, creating purposfulness and clear direction with a solidly grounded foundation. So, even though there is a new

look, the vision and mission of Northwest have not changed. Our mission is "to prepare effective leaders for Kingdom Ministry through the



provision of quality, innovative, biblically-faithful education." Our hope is that this logo will help to remind all of us of our reason for existence.

## REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2008

It seems like we just finished summer but the fall semester is well and truly underway and students are studying, reading, listening, asking questions, discussing issues and delving deeper into preparation for the passion and mission God has placed on their lives. The overall enrolment this semester is 299 (50 with Northwest) people from all sorts of countries, backgrounds and interests - but with one common purpose. The diversity of God's calling on individuals is reflected in how Northwest's students are spread throughout our degree programs:

- Doctor of Ministry ..... 6
- Master of Divinity ..... 12

- Master of Theological Studies ..... 3
- Master of Arts in Christian Studies ..... 12
- Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Studies..... 1
- Master of Applied Linguistics and Exegesis ..... 2
- Master of Counselling ..... 1
- Graduate level Diploma and Non-Program ..... 13

We are privileged to participate with God in His work in the lives of these men and women. Would you pray with us this semester as we engage them in their preparation for the ministries God is leading them to?

## RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

- Application/registration information
- Student information
- Alumni information
- Academic program information
- Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development
- Blogs by Northwest faculty
- Helpful material on preaching
- Helpful articles and material on Church Boards
- Photo albums of activities here at Northwest/ACTS
- Academic transcript requests
- Church/ministry employment postings
- Event calendar
- Church web resources

You can find all of this and much more at:

[www.nbseminary.com](http://www.nbseminary.com)

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

