

northwest news

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SHARE IN THE WORK OF 'CHURCH-BASED MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT'

KENTON ANDERSON, PH.D., PRESIDENT

Northwest has a big vision for the future of its ministry. While we are not a large seminary, we have a large sense of what God can do through us as we pioneer innovative ways of pursuing ministry leadership development in partnership with our churches. We are all about developing Christ-centred ministry leaders in the church, for the church, and in partnership with the church.

our friends. We appreciate that not everyone can join our faculty or staff. We also understand that the passion for this ministry does not exist only among our employees. Many of you are looking for ways by which you can participate meaningfully in this work of *Church Based Ministry Leadership Development*.

Compelling Reasons to Participate

There are several reasons a person might feel compelled to get involved...

Are you...

- ▶ an alumnus who wants to give back to Northwest?
- ▶ someone who loves the Fellowship?
- ▶ an innovator who is excited about Church Based Training?
- ▶ a Christian who loves the Gospel and simply wants to see it preached?

If you are an **Alumnus** and God has used Northwest to shape you personally, you will want to give back so that Northwest can continue to work to shape the next generation of leaders like yourself.

If you **love the Fellowship** and you are committed to the work of this particular group of churches, you will want to join us as we own the responsibility for the next generation of leaders for our movement.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Deb Schuiling
"The Second Half"



Vern Middleton's
New Book



Harold Dressler
"End of an Era"

In our vision, Northwest is preparing significant numbers of students who are committed to their Bible and who know their theology, having forged these commitments in the context of real-time, ground-level ministry in the church under the close scrutiny of seasoned and caring pastoral and academic mentors.

We see Northwest, in the fore-front of a new wave of integrated learning structures that ensure we have leaders who not only know their stuff, but who can live it out in relationship with actual people.

To see this vision through, we rely upon

A Division of Northwest
Baptist Theological College

A Member of ACTS Seminaries
of Trinity Western University

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

THE SECOND HALF

DEB SCHULING AS INTERVIEWED BY LYLE SCHRAG, D.MIN.

In February 2009, you were the featured student in the Northwest News just as you were starting your studies. Three years later, as you prepare to graduate, I want to revisit your story, a “before and after” reflection.

In 2008, you and your husband Don came to the Lower Mainland in a move that was largely family oriented. Your son, Chad, enrolled at Trinity Western University and you moved from Calgary to support him. Your other son and daughter had “launched” into their adult lives and chose to remain in Calgary. Chad has a unique brain related disability that has called for your support since his birth and you and Don have considered your care for Chad a “calling.” Your story in 2009 focused on how God had blessed your move as Chad began his studies, Don became the Pastor of Family Ministries at Maple Ridge Baptist Church, and you found a chance to pursue studies in the Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. It’s a wonderful family story. Now I want to focus on your part of it.

Lyle: I’ve noticed an increasing number of students who are ‘of a certain age’ preparing for a “second career” in ministry. As one, why do you think they are doing that?

Deb: There are choices not available thirty years ago afforded to those who are willing to invest in further training and education. I saw it as the opportunity to invest in an area that I was already serving alongside my husband and am also passionate about. The prospect of increasing my skill set was attractive, and opened professional doors that I wouldn’t have previously had, allowing me to be more effective in supporting marriages.

Lyle: I’m sure that some of our mature students enter their programs with some “trepidation.” What sort of challenges did you face at first?

Deb: There is the inevitable question: do I really belong in school at 50? Is this how I should be investing my energies? And, do I still have a ‘brain’ that could function in an academic setting as I join other students the age of my children?

Lyle: How did those feelings change? What helped?

Deb: The questions were answered as I began to experience academic success. I recognized that my life experience as a pastor’s wife, mother, and advocate for the world of disability were assets that I brought to the table. Having lived life gave me resources that I could draw on that I hadn’t taken into account as valuable for educational achievement.

Lyle: I noticed in your 2009 article, that you described your sense of a counseling ministry as “our” work, meaning you and Don. What sort of future has your training opened for you ... as a person, and as a couple?

Deb: In some senses it hasn’t changed; the focus for Don and myself continues to be counseling couples and supporting marriages. My skill set and training from my studies is reflected in our marriage retreats now, enriching the content. In addition, I have a profession and have been hired into a local counseling centre. This affords me a broader impact to those who might never seek out support through a church context.

Lyle: What advice would you give to someone who, like you in 2009, is sensing God’s nudging to take ministry to another level?

Deb: Take the risk! If God is opening the opportunity, He will provide. You will be gratified on the “return on investment.” It’s worth the effort.

Lyle: Finally, how is Chad doing? Is he graduating this year? Who had the better grade point average, Mother or Son?

Deb: Chad’s thriving and loves his studies, especially theology. He will graduate in December and is applying for the Master of Divinity program at ACTS. In terms of the GPA, we are not competitors. I credit Chad for being the reason I entered this program and we’ve collaborated together to support each other’s success.



DEB SCHULING AND HER FAMILY

SHARE IN THE WORK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Perhaps you are an *innovator*, and you value creativity. You, then, might want to seed the next great direction in ministry leadership development – our Church-Based Training Program.

It may be that you simply *love the gospel* and you want to see it preached. If so, you will want to support those whom God is calling to give their lives to this great work.

Opportunities for Involvement

In the desire to develop new teams of people who are willing to get behind this compelling vision, we have identified a number of levels at which you could participate.

If you have received this newsletter, you are a part of *The Northwest Network*. Members of the Network are alumni and others who have reason to be interested in the work that we are doing.

Many of you have gone beyond simple interest, to participate in some significant way. We call this group *The Friends of Northwest*. These “Friends” are anyone who has recently given to Northwest, volunteered for Northwest, or demonstrated potential as one who might show commitment to the ministry of the Seminary. We look forward to welcoming our “Friends” to a series of free “Friends of Northwest Barbeques” to be held later in this year.

Some of our “Friends” will want to become *Student Sponsorship Partners*. These Partners are donors who commit to give on a monthly or annual basis due to their interest in supporting a particular student. For example, if we can find ten people who would give \$50 per month, we could completely cover the academic costs of one student in the Church-Based Training program.

We trust that some of you will want to take this to another level, becoming members of *The President’s Circle*. This Circle is a group of patrons who have given significantly to the ministry of Northwest, demonstrated either through a recent large gift, or a committed pattern of giving, or who have shown significant commitment to the ministry of Northwest as a volunteer, advocate, or student mentor. Members of the President’s Circle will receive a complementary invitation to an annual President’s Circle dinner, and will receive regular e-mail communications from the President, through which they will receive current news items, significant invitations to prayer, and the opportunity to advise the President on questions of significance.

In addition, we will be developing a group of *Northwest Advocates*, who will serve as volunteer “cheerleaders” for the ministry of the Seminary. Made up largely of alumni, board members, and enthusiastic donors, Advocates will work to

support the Development Team within their church and geographic region, identifying and encouraging potential supporters for our ministry.

Finally, some of our Friends will want to become *Legacy Partners*. These partners are distinguished patrons who have shown an exemplary level of commitment as a Friend of Northwest and/or a member of the President’s Circle, either through making Northwest a part of their estate, by giving a significant financial gift toward some special purpose, or by giving extraordinary service to the work of Northwest over a significant period of time.

Gaining Benefit from your Involvement

People that get involved in this ministry find it extremely beneficial on a personal level. One donor and former board member recently told us that, “being involved with Northwest was one of the most meaningful experiences of his life.” When you consider that this comment came from a former high-ranking business executive in a major Canadian corporation, you can appreciate the significance of what he had to say.

... being involved with Northwest was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life!

- board member

Of course, the primary benefit of participation has more to do with the ministry impact on our students and upon those that they will serve. There are, for example, a number of ways that a financial gift can be of help.

- \$400 – provides financial aid for one course for a student.
- \$1,000 – provides the development cost for one church-based training course.
- \$1,250 – provides financial aid for one full-time student for a full semester.
- \$2,500 – provides for a faculty member to teach in an international mission site.

These are just some of the possible incentives. Donors with a specific interest should speak to Director of Development, Ron Sing, or to our President, Kent Anderson, about other such possibilities – for example funding the Information Technology needs of the Seminary for a year, or paying the costs involved in holding a faculty-taught seminar within a local church.

Significant Work Requires Significant Involvement

This is significant work – of such consequence that some of us have given our lives to it. Please let us know of any interest that you have.

Romans 10:13-15 reminds us that the gospel can’t be heard if there is no one there to preach it, and there will be no one there if no one has been sent. We consider training to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

HAROLD DRESSLER

BY BRIAN RAPSKE, PH.D.



Faculty past and present and over three decades of students mourn Dr. Harold H.P. Dressler who passed away in October of last year after a lingering illness. Dr. Dressler served as a part-time instructor in Hebrew at Northwest from 1965 to 1972 and then as a professor full time from 1976 to 1987, teaching Bible, Theology, Homiletics and Hebrew. Until 2005, he was actively involved in a theological instruction initiative in Samara, Russia with the North American Baptists.

Dr. Dressler earned his Bachelor of Divinity from NBTC (1968) and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours from UBC (1972). He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, England (1975) before returning to Canada to teach. He was a published author in the areas of Ugaritic Studies and Old Testament and was a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and the Society of Biblical Literature.

Beyond his professorial vocation, Dr. Dressler maintained an active teaching and preaching ministry in the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist churches and beyond. He was a pastor of Bethany Baptist Church (NAB) from 1965 until 1971 where he was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1968.

Northwest friends, colleagues and students alike remember Dr. Dressler as a man devoted to Christ and the Gospel.

“SHARE” - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

be the critical part in sending. We would encourage you to join us as we seek to raise up significant numbers of highly qualified, ministry and pastoral leaders, for the good of our churches, for the good of God’s Kingdom, and for the good of God’s glory.

Thank you for supporting Northwest and our ministry. To make a donation please call our office directly at 604-888-7592 or Toll Free 1-888-402-3477. Please send your cheques to Northwest Baptist Seminary, 7600 Glover Road, Langley BC, V2Y 1Y1, payable to **Northwest Baptist Seminary**. For online giving please visit our website at www.nbseminary.ca/give.

On behalf of the Principal
Dr. Ken Radant,
the Presidents and Boards of
ACTS Seminaries

and in honour of our
graduating students,

ACTS Seminaries
requests the honour
of your presence at the

2012 Graduation Ceremony
Saturday, April 21st
at 1:30 p.m.

Central Heights Church
1661 McCallum Road
Abbotsford, BC

DEGREE COMPLETION OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTHWEST BAPTIST COLLEGE ALUMNI

Are you an alumnus of Northwest Baptist College who would like to continue with your studies at the seminary but lack the necessary academic background?

Our partner, Trinity Western University, has an Adult Degree Completion Program that is allowing busy adults the opportunity to finish their degree in as little as 18 months by attending class just one night a week. As one student said “I can’t believe how fast it is going – I can see my degree being done sooner than I ever thought possible”

They offer a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Leadership which could open up opportunities for you to further your dreams of getting into a Masters level program with Northwest. Their accelerated 6 week classes run one night a week.

To learn more go to www.trinitywestern.com and book today to attend an Info Session or speak with a Program Advisor at (604) 513-2067

PRESIDENT'S PEN

KENTON ANDERSON, PH.D.



I just received a glowing report from our first Church-Based Training session held at Burnett Fellowship in Maple Ridge last night. A number of people from the congregation gathered to hear Dr. Brian Rapske teach on the interpretation of Scripture.

Among them was Glory Destura, our first CBT student, who will be taking Brian's teaching further under the direction of her mentor, and Northwest alumnus, Paul Olsen. Brian's teaching was video-recorded and will be made available immediately to other students and churches who are preparing to participate.

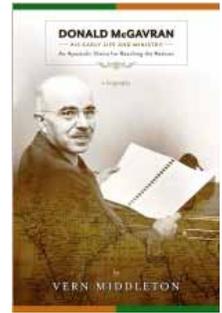
This is one example of the innovative approaches we are championing here at Northwest. Last month, we hosted Dr. Stephen Graham who came from The Association of Theological Schools to examine us in consideration of our application for full membership within the ATS. Currently, while we have a charter to grant degrees from the provincial government, our formal accreditation comes through our connection with ACTS Seminaries. We are now pursuing our own distinct and additional accreditation, particularly with interest to our innovative directions, like Church-Based Training.

It was deeply encouraging to hear Dr. Graham commend us for both the soundness of our operations, but also for the creativity of our vision. We believe that we are truly leading the way for the future of ministry leadership development and theological education in general. We are particularly pleased when people like you join us as Friends of Northwest, recognizing the value of supporting us as we work to provide leadership in the development of leaders. When you pray, give, and volunteer, you help to make this happen, and we appreciate it.

Please consider joining us for our ACTS graduation ceremonies, being held at Central Heights Church in Abbotsford on April 21, at 1:30 pm. We are proud of our grads, most of whom are already engaged in significant ministry leadership. We depend upon God for the future of our churches and ministries, but God has chosen to work through people – people like you, and people like our graduates.

VERN MIDDLETON'S BOOK: A REVIEW

REVIEWED BY MARK NAYLOR, M. TH.



Donald McGavran was one of the most influential protestant missiologists of the 20th century who, with his book *Bridges of God*, challenged many assumptions and practices of Christian missions and shaped a generation of cross-cultural workers. Through the biography, *Donald McGavran: His Early Life and Ministry*, Dr Vern Middleton has done the church a service by providing a well researched, thoughtful and penetrating look into McGavran's experiences and reflections that created such an impact in missions. Vern is Professor Emeritus of Missiology and Church Growth at Northwest after teaching here for over 25 years. He was mentored by McGavran while serving in India and later spent time researching his writings and interacting with McGavran during the last decade of McGavran's life.

The description of Donald McGavran's development from "theoretician to practitioner" reveals the mentors and influences that moved him to challenge common assumptions concerning missions efforts. This drive led him to research cross-cultural ministry on an international scale in search of church growth principles. In recounting this formative time, Middleton provides us with insight into the experiences and reflections of McGavran as he developed these principles. The detail and care in this chapter to accurately reflect McGavran's thought demonstrates the importance of this aspect of his work.

McGavran's theological convictions and spiritual depth play an important part in this biography. His desire for discipleship as the "heart of missions" is well documented and the separate chapter on his theological development is punctuated with heartfelt prayers. Middleton evaluates some of the prayers to point out, not just McGavran's devotion, but the theological foundations that drove his passion for missions and conviction that church growth is God's will. As stated in one of McGavran's quotes, "Church growth is basically a theological stance."



VERN MIDDLETON

We at Northwest are proud of Vern and grateful for his outstanding work and this gift to the Christian enterprise of joining God in his mission. We look forward to his promise of a further volume to be published at a later date.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

RON SING, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Bequests and Other Gifts - An Investment in Christ-Centered Leadership Development.

Spring is almost here! My family can't wait for sunny days and the promise of hot summer temperatures ahead! For us, it also means spring cleaning around the house and garden. It is also a great time to do some "financial spring cleaning". This is an ideal opportunity to review all your investments, update your will and ensure your estate plans are current to reflect your wishes.

A Biblical Perspective

In 1 Chronicles 29, King David leaves his wealth to a trustee to ensure the temple could be built after his death. This is a clear example of "planned giving or deferred giving". David bequeaths his entire wealth so that his son Solomon, could build the temple. To guarantee David's plans and to carry out his wishes, he gave his gifts to Jehiel the Gershonite (1 Chronicles 29:8). Jehiel became the trustee of the gifts to complete the construction of the temple.

Estate Planning

Estate planning and the preparation of a legal will and/or a charitable bequest, is an opportunity to honour God with our gifts. This enables us to give back a portion of the financial growth He has showered us with during our lifetimes.

Types of Bequests

Cash Bequest: Northwest receives a specific dollar amount from your estate.

Bequest of Property: Northwest receives specific assets (real estate, securities, or other tangible property – art or antiques etc)

This article is for general information only and does not replace consulting with your professional financial and/or legal advisors about your own situation.

Retirement Plan Bequests: Northwest is designated as a beneficiary of the remainder of your RRSP/RRIF. This is simple to set up. First talk to your plan administrator and complete a "change of beneficiary" form.

Tax Planning

Many people pay more tax in the year of death than in any other year during their lifetime. Complete estate planning should always include tax planning. Charitable giving upon death is an excellent way to reduce your tax liability.

In addition to your annual gift to Northwest Baptist Seminary, have you considered leaving a gift to Northwest in your will?

Thank you for your involvement in this ministry. It is through the your generous support and your financial gifts that allow us to pursue our ministry in Christ-Centered Leadership Development.

If you would like to discuss how to become a Legacy partner with Northwest please contact Ron Sing, Director of Development. ron@nbseminary.com

Direct: 250-821-3777 or toll free : 1-888-402-3477.



DR. LARRY PERKINS, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

We are pleased to announce that at the February 2012 meeting of the Board of Governors, Dr. Larry Perkins was conferred the title, President Emeritus of Northwest Baptist Seminary. This title shows our esteem and appreciation for his long and continued service to our seminary, allowing him the opportunity to remain part of our academic community in perpetuity, and retain access to the resources supportive of his research, writing, and occasional teaching. Congratulations Dr. Perkins!



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▶ A Division of Northwest Baptist Theological College
▶ An agency of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Western Canada
▶ Affiliated with Trinity Western University and a founding member of ACTS Seminaries.