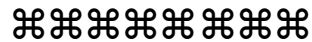


Please remember our students during upcoming exam week (April 22-26).



We extend heartfelt Christian sympathy to Board member Randy Bergquist and his dear wife Sandra together with their children, Tim, Stephanie and Daniel on the recent loss of their son, Alex, who was born prematurely and died at birth. "The Father of mercies and God of all comfort" bear you up in his arms.

We extend our deepest condolences to Jim Dennison and his family on the recent loss of their beloved father and husband, James T. Dennison, Sr. Please remember the Dennison family in your prayers.



**Northwest Theological Seminary
17711 Spruce Way
Lynnwood WA 98037-7431**

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

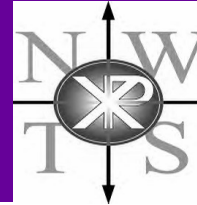
Our mailing address is: 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037-7431.

The Seminary phone and fax number is (425) 787-5144; website (www.nwts.edu).

All gifts to Northwest Theological Seminary are tax-deductible. Checks may be made payable to NWTS and mailed to our address.

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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NEWSLETTER



Our Story

Our story, the story of the church, is the story of Christ and the wonder of the salvation he has accomplished for his church. The writer of Hebrews calls Christ the "author of salvation" (2:10). As the author of salvation, it is Christ who brings the many sons (the church) to glory. The words "author of salvation" describe our Savior as the one who is the source of salvation. But while an author of a book can write about things he has never experienced first-hand, Christ is the author or source of salvation for the church because he experiences that salvation himself. This sounds strange to us and even unorthodox, but we need to remember that Scripture describes our salvation in terms of our union with Christ as the second Adam. In the incarnation, our Savior was united to us. He is made in our likeness yet without sin. He does this in order to be our representative so that we might be united to him in the salvation he accomplishes.

In Hebrews 5:7, we read of Christ that "in the days of His flesh, he offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his piety." Christ, in his humiliation, walks the path of sin, condemnation and death on behalf of his church. He dies under the curse as the sin bearer of his people. His resurrection is his salvation from death and the grave. Therefore it is said of our Savior that he was saved, and because our Savior was saved, Hebrews 5:9

adds, "He became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation." Our Lord is the "author of salvation."

The word "author" is pregnant with more meaning along these lines. Hebrews emphasizes the priestly ministry of Christ. The role of the priest was to lead the people in their approach to God. The word "author" also describes this high priestly ministry of Christ to lead his people into the presence of God in the heavenly sanctuary above. The word describes someone who leads in a path by way of his first experiencing it and traveling it himself. Christ is the leader of our salvation because he first experienced salvation himself. At his trial, he is judged to be the worst of sinners, worse than Barabbas, a robber and a murderer. His is the innocent one who is condemned, while guilty Barabbas goes free. He dies on the cross wearing a crown of thorns, cursed for our sakes that we might be crowned with a crown of life. But the path he pioneers does not end there. The path leads through the empty tomb and to his ascension into heaven where he is now seated at the right hand of God. He has pioneered the path to God. He has opened the way through the veil of his flesh. And having opened the path to God, his people follow in his wake. Christ is the leader of salvation. He leads us in salvation by himself first experiencing it.

All of this is further developed for us in other

passages where the word “author” or “leader” appears. Again in Hebrews (12:20), the writer calls Jesus the “author of faith.” Geerhardus Vos, in his article entitled “Hebrews, The Epistle of the Diatheke,” writes: “Jesus has not produced faith in us while (he) Himself lived above the plane and beyond the need of faith; it is through His own perfect exercise of faith that he helps believers to follow in his footsteps” (*Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, p. 213). We are not even in the first place, saved by our faith. We are saved by faith in the perfect faith of Jesus.

Peter, in Acts 3:15, calls Jesus the “author of life.” As the reward for his perfect work, our Lord upon his resurrection and ascension receives from the Father the promise of the Spirit. Jesus is the first to inherit life and in this way he becomes the source of life for his people. We are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). He becomes life-giving spirit to all who believe in him (1 Cor. 15:45).

The story of salvation is first of all the story of the salvation of Christ, the second Adam, accomplished on behalf of his people. The story of our salvation is the story of his. The story of the church’s salvation is his story.

—Lawrence Semel

‡ **LYNNWOOD REFORMED** ‡
CONFERENCE

The seminary continues to participate in ministering to the Christian community in Washington state. At the Annual Lynnwood OPC Reformed Conference sponsored by Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church, James Dennison

lectured and preached on the Song of Solomon. The conference drew several members from various Reformed congregations in the Washington area for a time of biblical teaching, fellowship and worship. Lynnwood OPC has made available a set of 5 conference tapes of the Song of Solomon lectures and sermons. If you are interested in ordering a set (handouts included) by mail, please send your name, mailing address and a check for \$5.00 (postpaid) made payable directly to Lynnwood OPC to: Mary Vosteen, 8526 13th Place NE, Everett, WA 98205.

≈≈≈ **BOARD MEETING** ≈≈≈

The Board of NWTs met via conference call on Saturday, March 23. With thanks to our bountiful God and Savior, the Board voted not to increase faculty staffing for 2002-2003. In part, this decision was based on the fact that our present student body (all of whom are part-time) will need the courses of the first year curriculum available through the next academic year. In-coming students will also start with courses from the beginning M.Div. and M.R.S. programs. Thus our curriculum for 2001-2002 will be repeated for 2002-2003 with Dr. William Dennison as adjunct professor for Apologetics and Systematics (May 2003) and Mrs. Ling Harrell as adjunct Greek instructor. At this writing, we expect four students in September (one full-time; 2 part-time and one auditor).

A budget of \$243,214 was presented and adopted for fiscal year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Director of Development, John Lee, was present for a discussion of philosophy and methods of expanded financial support. Since Mr. Lee’s employment in September 2001, the donor

base has increased by 55 persons and giving has increased by \$5,000 per month. Three additional Reformed churches have become contributors. The meeting was closed in fervent prayer for God’s blessing upon our labors.

**SUMMER PASTORS
INSTITUTE**



Our summer institute will feature Dr. Jeffrey Weima, Associate Professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary who will speak on “First Thessalonians: From Text to Sermon.” He is currently finishing a commentary on 1 & 2 Thessalonians for Baker Books. The afternoon speakers will be Robert Starke on the Life of Samson, Robert Broline on the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, James Lee on Worship, and James Dennison on the Redemptive History of Irenaeus of Lyons. Our summer institute will feature material useful for pastors, but the meetings are open to all interested brothers and sisters.

Time: August 19-23, 2002

Place: Lynnwood OPC

Schedule: Morning Lecture by Dr. Weima (Monday through Friday). Afternoon guest speaker lecture (Monday-Friday).

Registration Fee: \$30.00 (payable to NWTs). Please send pre-registration fees to us at 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037. Lunch is provided with registration. A book table will be available.

Accommodations: airport pick-up; transportation; hotel/motel options; other arrangements—call David Inks (425) 438-1347.

Come join us in the lovely Pacific Northwest for spiritual food, fellowship and encouragement in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OUR FINANCIAL NEED

In recent months, our financial support has not kept pace with the level of our needs as an institution committed to Christ-centered Reformed theological education. How we thank God for every one of you who has sent us a gift and remembered us in your prayers. But as our Lord has encouraged us to “ask” according to his will and “it shall be given to you” (Mt. 7:7), so we spread our hearts before you asking you to help supply our financial needs for the remainder of this term and the coming academic year. As noted above, the Board adopted a budget of \$243,214 (or approximately \$20,000 per month) for fiscal year 2002-2003. Please help us with your financial support. We earnestly need you for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, his glorious kingdom and his precious Bride, the church.

Contributions should be sent to:

NWTS
17711 Spruce Way
Lynnwood, WA 98037-7431

Please call (425) 787-5144 if you wish to contribute by credit card (Mastercard or Visa).

❖ **PRAYERS FOR OUR** ❖
SEMINARY FAMILY

John Lee will be taking his third chemo treatment early in April. His recent biopsies have been very encouraging. We thank God for his mercy to John.

Please pray for David and Ling Harrell as the doctors continue to run tests in search of a diagnosis for David’s health condition.