



After Graduation and Kerux conference, I had the privilege of preaching in Corvallis, OR, Bothell and Lynnwood, WA. Then I was able to return to writing and research. This occurred in conjunction with the Reformed Confessions project

60 of which have never before been translated into English.

The first document to be rendered in English for this project was translated by the Ecclesiastical Latin class at NWTS for the academic year 2004-2005. The "Bentheim Confession (1613/1617)" of Germany appears in English for the first time in the September issue of Kerux: The Journal of NWTS. It was great fun for our class to perfect this translation.

My hope is that the Reformed Confessions project can be completed in 2 or 3 years. Translators for Latin, German, Polish, Hungarian, French and Dutch documents are still needed. If you are interested, or know someone with ability in one of these languages, please contact me at the seminary.

-James T. Dennison, Jr.
ACADEMIC DEAN, NWTS

of which I am general editor. The goal is to gather and publish, in English, all the Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th centuries. The fascinating aspect of this research is learning that Reformed Confessions were drafted not only in Germany, Switzerland, France, Holland and Great Britain (as expected), but that the Calvinistic Reformation reached Poland, Hungary, Transylvania and even Lithuania. I have compiled a list of approximately 120 Reformed confessional documents -- more than



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story *is...*

OUR STORY

Dr. William Dennison Teaches Apologetics, Systematics

This year's Spring concentrated classes were postponed due to illness of Professor William D. Dennison. They were rescheduled for August, and that made it possible for some additional listeners to attend. The *Introduction to Systematic Theology* included about a dozen students, four of whom were taking the class for credit. Class began with a discussion of the relationship between theology and philosophy, followed by ancient Greek theology and philosophy from Homer to Plato and Aristotle. Modern critical theology was traced from Bacon and Descartes, moving through the



President of the NWTS Board of Directors, Rev. Larry Semel, reflects on the graduation of the first student to complete the M.Div degree.

It was my privilege and honor as president of the board of Northwest Theological Seminary, to preside over the first commencement exercises of the seminary held on May 14, 2005 and to confer the degree of Master of Divinity upon our first graduate, Mr. Adam D. King. It was an historic occasion and it is my continual prayer that Adam is but the first in a long list of graduates from our fine institution.

I firmly believe that Adam has received one of the finest theological educations available today. The catalogue for NWTS states that the Master of Divinity program at Northwest "is a 3-year program, which equips qualified men pursuing ordination with the necessary preaching and teaching skills and knowledge to begin their ministry"(p. 4). Simply put, Northwest exists to



Enlightenment to recent theologians like Barth, Bultmann, Pannenberg and Plantinga. Having set the stage with this foundation, professor Dennison

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We had a wonderful internship with Benji and Christina Swinburnson this summer at Sovereign Grace OPC. Benji came to Sovereign Grace having had only one year of seminary training, but as a preacher he is far ahead of where I was at that stage. All his sermons had a clear outline which came right out of the text.

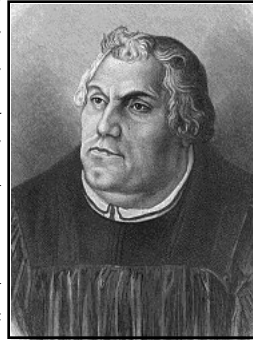
Rob Van Kooten, NWTS board member and pastor of Sovereign Grace OPC in Oak Harbor, WA reports on the summer internship of second year student Benji.



Our congregation enjoyed listening to his Christocentric preaching and saw it as a credit to his good training at Northwest Seminary. Benji was a joy to work and interact with each day and we look forward to having Benji and Christina back to visit us for pulpit supply opportunities in the future.

Reformation Celebration

On the evening of October 15, NWTS sponsored a reformation celebration at the Lynnwood OPC. The featured event was a cinematic presentation of the life of Martin Luther.



Academic Dean Jim Dennison lead the evening by using more than an hour of historically accurate clips from various cinematic productions and ended the evening with almost an hour long question and answer session.

Of course it's easy to get families out for a good movie night, but the attendance was still impressive, and there was only standing room left at the back of the auditorium.

Thank-you Carol Sing

The NWTS staff is sponsoring our second annual Christmas carol sing at the Lynnwood OPC on December 3 at 7:00 PM.

Looking for a way to express the gratitude of the seminary staff and students, we planned the first "Thank You Carole Sing" last year in response to many in the church and seminary community who felt that we don't usually get enough opportunities to sing the traditional advent hymns in the busyness of the season.

The great attendance and immediate popularity of the idea have encouraged us to perpetuate a new tradition. Students, staff, and faculty will provide accompaniment, poetry readings and prayer as we sing in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Prof. Sanborn Teaching /Writing

Professor of Systematics, Scott Sanborn reports that he has enjoyed teaching the Hebrew language class for the first time this fall, although the increased load on his already busy schedule has left him less time to work on the book he started writing last summer on Paul's view of the law. (He hopes to complete this book in the coming year.)



Don't miss his recent publication, "The Old and New Covenants and the Law: Was the Mosaic Covenant a Redemptive Covenant of Grace? Part II" *Kerux* 20/2 (Sept 2005) 26-46.

and holds the gospel to be foolishness but we are convinced that it is the power of God and the wisdom of God. May graduates of NWTS be faithful preachers of that message. The message judges everything. It is the judge of the messenger as well. There is no other gospel. We have received that message from God himself. It is the message that Christ received from his father and delivered to his disciples. They received it from Christ and delivered it to the church. And the church throughout this age until Jesus returns receives the message from the apostles and is called to deliver it faithfully from generation to generation. That message is being delivered to the students and graduates of NWTS. May they be faithful to receive it and deliver it to others.

Paul says that "God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." The message



saves. It declares Christ to us in all the perfection of his work that was done for us to save us from our sins. The message preached saves those who believe. By this message and by the power of the Holy Spirit who is pleased to work with that message, all who believe it are united to Christ and in him snatched from the threat of eternal death and transferred into the Kingdom of God, into the sphere of eternal life. This is the salvation that Jesus brought down to us from heaven. It is the message of salvation that He proclaimed. May Northwest Theological Seminary be used by God to train up men who bring the message that saves to all who hear them.

-Larry Semel
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, NWTS



Benji (Continued from page 5)

Our home church in Lynden, Washington, the Wisner Lake Chapel, has established a ministerial training scholarship program, through which people may give tax-deductible gifts to the church, which can be used for our support. Based on the level of support we have, the Chapel will establish a monthly stipend which will be sent to us to help with our expenses.

To help support or for more information on the Ministerial training Scholarship Fund at Wisner Lake Chapel, write to:

Wisner Lake Chapel
7121 Guide Meridian
P.O. Box 591
Lynden, WA 98264

Or call (360)354-2378. Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Christ,
Benjamin & Christina Swinburnson

Graduation (Continued from page 1)

train knowledgeable and competent preachers of the gospel who will by God's grace be used by him to gather and perfect his elect, to build up Christ's church, and to bring glory to God's name. When our students have completed their formal training, it is our prayer that they are pre-



pared "to begin their ministry" of proclaiming that gospel message.

It is that gospel message which is all important. It is the message needed for this lost and needy world. It is the message of salvation. Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 1:21, "...God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

Men trained at Northwest receive preparation to begin their ministries of proclaiming the gospel. But we believe that this formal training is just a beginning. When they preach the gospel, others will be listening to that message. But it is our desire to instill in our graduates that they themselves continue throughout their ministries to be listeners to the message that saves. They must diligently read the message in their own devotional life. They also need to hear that message preached and taught by others. And they need to take heed to the message so that their lives might by God's grace reflect that true religion and true ethic that has come down to us from heaven itself. May our graduates be listeners to the message proclaimed because that message is for their own salvation.

The men trained at Northwest must also be faithful preachers of the message to others. They have been taught to identify the relentless attack of Satan and this world of unbelief upon that message. The world rejects the scriptures

Dennison (Continued from page 1)



We are especially grateful for the special financial support of a number of givers who went out of their way to make unusual gifts to enable Dr. Dennison to teach these critically important core classes.

Dr. Dennison reports some health concerns for which he would covet your prayers, but he says he's recovering well overall.



son went on to lecture on theology within the Christian tradition, from the second century through work of the Patristic Fathers and the Medieval theologians, to the theology of the Reformers. The final series of classes covered 19th and 20th century Christian theology of men like Hodge and Warfield, Kuyper and Bavinck, Van Til, Vos, and Gaffin.

See Christ in the Word



SEE MORE - WWW.NWTS.EDU

From the Registrar

Dear Friends in Christ,

In May, my intention to retire this year from my position as Registrar/Secretary at NWTS was announced at graduation. This decision was not without some regret for my husband and me, but it will enable us to focus my time and energies on a new phase in our life as we seek the Lord's will for building our family. As the time approaches for the end of my employment, I have reflected on my work here and how I have loved it thoroughly. For the past four years, I have had a vantage point as the Secretary/ Registrar which causes me to thank the Lord for his gracious working among us all in the church and in this world.

I wish to convey my deepest and most sincere thanks to the Board, Faculty and Staff for dealing with me and the general affairs of the seminary in the most kind, honest and godly ways possible. As one behind the scenes, I count myself privileged to have seen their labors, sacrifices and desire to glorify the Lord in the internal workings of the seminary.

As the Registrar, students and auditors have shared with me their desire to learn, their humility in the face of the task of the gospel, and their enjoyment and growth in the Lord through our classes. I have copied voluminous amounts of primary source readings for classes and commiserated with the students who have to read them (although they are always glad to do so)! In my office adjacent to the sanctuary, I have caught snatches of Pastor Pete exhorting his students to read and preach God's Word aloud with reverence from the pulpit. From the hallway,



I have glimpsed the earnest discussion in which Scott is engaged with his students over the exegesis of the Greek or Hebrew text as they defend Reformed doctrinal views against liberal modernism. I have sat in Jim's lectures on the Gospel of John, taking notes furiously, trying to keep up with the structural points of each chapter, and seeing the Christological and eschatological focus of the text. In the May term, I have witnessed the collective camaraderie between Bill and his faithful students/auditors as they forge through the history of philosophy, religion, systematics and Van Tillian apologetics 4 hours a day, everyday for 4 weeks. From this perspective, I see the building up of the future ministers of the church, and the hunger and thirst for Christ in the body of believers—and I rejoice in this!

But it is also my unique position which has brought me into daily contact with you, our many supporters, who have encouraged us in so many ways. Over the years, your gifts, notes and phone calls reach my desk, each indicating your prayerful support, your gratitude for our work, and your concern for the welfare of the seminary and its students. You have called to ask about me and my husband, David, expressing your kindness to us in our journey with our health concerns. I will soon be as you are, praying for the seminary by faith, perhaps not seeing the end or even the everyday workings of it, but seeking the Lord's will for NWTS. For all this, I can only say that my heart is full of thanksgiving for you and I count you among my co-laborers in the Lord. To God be the glory!

Many thanks in Christ, Ling Harrell

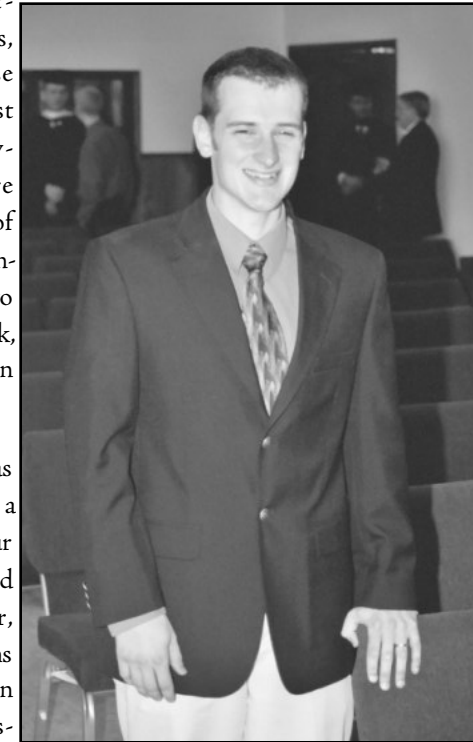
Update from Benjamin Swinburnson, Second Year M.Div. Student

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Christina and I are now in our second year of seminary. What a busy and productive year we have had! Classes, papers, tests, study, and preaching—these things have been my life this past year. My studies have covered everything from an overview of the entire Bible, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the history of Biblical interpretation since the Reformation, to early Church history, Biblical Greek, and preaching every other week in class.

Christina, on the other hand, has been working hard and faithfully for a company in Kirkland to support our seminary efforts. Things switched around a little bit in the summer, though. Christina took a few months off, and I went to work as an intern for Sovereign Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Oak Harbor. But we didn't just stay in Oak Harbor! We were privileged to also spend two weeks in Port Angeles at another OPC congregation; a church plant with about 25-30 members. Both of us learned a lot about the practical aspects of serving Christ's bride, the Church, and also got quite a workout preaching. Though our budget this year has often been tight, the Lord has been more than faithful to us in providing us a fair portion of the good things in this life.

Including (if you have not already heard) a new baby! During our internship in Oak Harbor, we found out that Christina was pregnant. We praise



God for this great blessing—what a joy it is to be able to bring new life into the world! Nevertheless, this does complicate things a bit. Until now, Christina has been shouldering the brunt of our living expenses by working full-time, and I have been able to work during breaks from school and some weekends. This will change when our baby comes. Christina will no longer be able to work full time, and my part time work will not cover all of our living expenses.

So we are asking for your help. Not just simply that you may help *us*, but that you may share in the work we are giving ourselves to. We count it our greatest privilege to have been granted a share in the eternal glories of Jesus Christ. And we now count it our greatest pleasure to have the opportunity to proclaim him to others. It would be a great honor to have you join us in that task.

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