

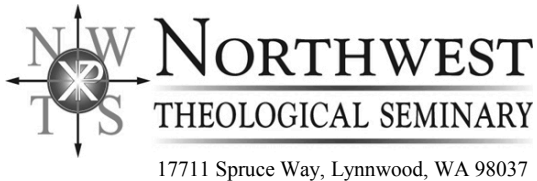
### How You Can Help NWTs:

- *Pray without Ceasing!*
- *Recommend NWTs to Students*
- *Donate Your Used Car By Calling 1-800-320-0476*
- *Direct Financial Contributions*

### BRIAN BELH RESIGNS

Development Director, Brian Belh, resigned his position at NWTs effective May 14 in order to accept a call to be pastor of the Park Woods Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Overland Park (Kansas City), Kansas. During the time he served the seminary, Brian significantly increased awareness of NWTs, especially via visits to Christian college campuses. We wish him and his family Godspeed in their new home.

**NEW LOOK AT [KERUX.COM](http://kerux.com):** Watch for the up-dated and completely revamped Kerux website ([kerux.com](http://kerux.com)). All issues and articles from 1986 to 2005 will be available for downloading free of charge. Our thanks to George Young and Ling Harrell for their help with the site.



Volume 9, Issue 2  
June 2008



NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER

His story is...

# Our Story

## BENJI SWINBURNSON SUSTAINS ORDINATION EXAMS

APRIL 26, 2008

J. Peter Vosteen

It was a bright sunny Thursday morning in the great Northwest. Benji and I were in my 1985 BMW purring along Interstate-5 to attend Presbytery in Portland, Oregon. I noticed that Benji was not his usual relaxed self. When I asked him about it, he told me he was a little up-tight about the exams and the questions that might be asked. I told him that he had nothing to worry about. Being on the Candidates & Credentials Committee, I had heard many exams. There weren't any questions that he could not answer.



When we arrived at the Portland OPC, the other members of the Committee were already there. It was now time for Benji to be on the hot seat. He had submitted written exams in Church History, Apologetics, and Pastoral Theology. The Committee quizzed him on these papers, but there were no serious exceptions taken to any of the positions he had espoused and all of the exams were approved. He went through with flying colors.

On Saturday morning, he opened the

*Continued on page 2*

day's session by preaching on I Peter 4:7-11. One of the elders told me afterward that he settled in for a normal devotional.

Suddenly, he realized that Benji was putting forth such marvelous insights that he scrambled for pen and paper to write them down. Indeed, I agreed with him that Benji had brought forth a very insightful message that was challenging to the pastors and elders who were there.



Next came the oral exam consisting of an intense survey of the system of doctrine found in the Westminster Confession of Faith. It started with the doctrine of Scripture and finished with the church and eschatology. Because of Benji's succinct and straightforward answers it only lasted about an hour. After the examiner finished, a few of the delegates asked some additional extraneous questions. The exam was arrested and the assembly voted unanimously to sustain the exam and ordain Benji to the Gospel ministry.

After the exam was completed, I overheard men saying that this was the best exam that they had ever heard. One pastor who had taught at various seminaries asked me how old Benji was. I told him 26 years old. (Actually he was 27 since he had a birthday shortly before.) He then said, "That young man is certainly very wise for his age."

After the Presbytery was adjourned and the delegates were on the way home, while I was getting my car ready to leave, an elder came up to me to ask me this question: "Why did Benji do so well? Was it because of his native ability or because of the training that he had received?" After we discussed this question for a bit, we concluded it was both. God had indeed gifted Benji. Nevertheless, there are many gifted men at other seminaries who do not exhibit what we heard at Presbytery that day.

We then prayed and thanked God for Northwest Theological Seminary.

## ORDINATION UPDATE

On Friday evening, June 13, Benji was ordained by the Presbytery of the Northwest, OPC, as Associate Pastor of the Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. James T. Dennison, Jr. preached the sermon ("Ezekiel's Prophetic Narrative Biography Sandwiched Between Shepherds False and True," Ezek. 34:1-24); Rev. Robert Van Kooten (member of the Board of NWTS) charged the ordinand from Paul's epistle to Philemon; and Rev. J. Peter Vosteen, Pastor of the Lynnwood OPC, charged the congregation from Hebrews 13. A reception followed the service with thanksgiving to God for his gracious gifts to Benji.



*"Whoever speaks, let him speak as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen.*

*I Peter 4:11*

## FREE TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

The Board of NWTS is pleased to offer a free tuition scholarship for the M.Div. program to a qualified full-time applicant. The scholarship applies to the tuition for the first year only, beginning with the Fall 2008 semester. The M.Div. application form and requirements outlined in the seminary catalogue are available online at [nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu). Questions may be directed to the Academic Dean at 425-787-5144 or [academic\\_dean@nwts.edu](mailto:academic_dean@nwts.edu).