

**SCHOLARSHIP OFFER AND STUDENT INFORMATION**

NWTS is the recipient of a generous scholarship donation of one-year's full tuition to a qualified applicant to the M.Div. program for 2011-2012. If you know of persons seeking seminary training for the ministry, please inform them of this opportunity. For more information, contact NWTS at 425-787-5144. Application forms are available at [nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu) and are now being accepted for the coming year. In addition, we expect three returning students in the fall. We covet your prayers for our student body.

**KERUX AVAILABLE ONLINE: MAY ISSUE**

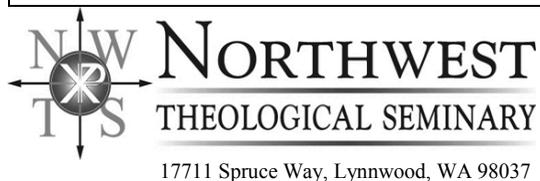
*Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* is now a digital, online journal as of the May 2011 issue. Featured are a number of previously unpublished letters by Geerhardus Vos. All new, as well as old issues of *Kerux*, may be downloaded at no charge or subscription fee at [kerux.com](http://kerux.com).

**FALL BIBLE STUDY—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS* (chs. 7-13) by Jim Dennison. Thursday evenings at 7pm, beginning Sept. 8.

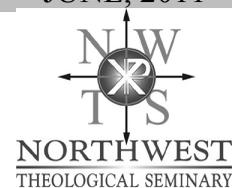
**WEBSITE RESOURCES**

Please visit [www.nwts.edu](http://www.nwts.edu) for schedule, class updates, downloadable lectures and more! We are indebted to George Young, our webmaster, for all the work he has done over the past year, including making these resources accessible to you on the web. Our thanks also go to Mary (Mrs. Peter) Vosteen for recording and editing all our audio lectures this year.



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

# *Our Story*

**THE SON OF GOD IN THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES**

In Galatians, the Son of God draws us into his history (death to this age and resurrection to heaven) by drawing us into the apostle Paul's life-history, raised from death to life—the paradigm for dead Gentiles now justified in Christ. This drama is not of men or human merit, but of Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead (Gal. 1:4, 11).

Drama often contains stages of opposition, each concluded by significant insights by the main characters. This leads to character development and propels the narrative forward. In Gal. 1-2, we find such insights. First is the implicit insight found in the conversion of the apostle Paul, once a blasphemer, now a worshiper of the Son of God. Christ's designation "Son of God" emphasizes his identity as the giver of greater sonship in the new age in which Jews and Gentiles are equal heirs "in Christ" (3:28-29; 4:4-7). As apostle to the Gentiles, Paul now takes on this identity of the Son—"to reveal his Son in me" (1:16). This commences a stage of the drama (1:15-24) in which Paul lives out this commission among the Gentiles—seen by the churches of Judea (character insight)—who glorify God because of him.

As drama continues, in our next stage (2:1-10), Paul goes to Jerusalem because of a revelation and there presents the gospel he preaches among the Gentiles. Titus embodies this gospel of liberty—he will not be circumcised! And Paul holds fast his freedom. The Jerusalem pillars "seeing" (character insight, 2:7) God's work equally embodied in the Gentile apostle as well as the Jew, give to the Gentile missionaries the right hand of fellowship. No cry for Gentile circumcision, no trumpets call them to the Jerusalem feasts of old—only that they might remember the poor in that city. Thus, the apostle of the Son of God leaves that city—it has been transcended by the Jerusalem above (4:26).

But then comes a foreboding reversal and this fellowship is broken (our next stage, 2:11-14). Peter, now come to a Gentile city, breaks faith. He will not be transcended. But Paul—with faith above in the risen Christ—sees ("when I saw", character insight) and speaks (2:14). As the first recorded dialogue in our narrative, Paul's words are climactic. They reveal his character—the Son of God revealed in Paul—now come to full flowering. This identity he then expands (2:15-21). "I died to the law, that I may live to God" (2:19) and so too the Gentiles in him, justified apart from the law, heirs of the transcendent life above in the Father and the Son. Paul stands alone, not fearing men, but as one risen above. In the risen

Christ, he embodies the gospel that is not of men or by men, not of the law or human merit but of the Triune God. What a sweet union is seen in the apostle—even for the Gentiles: the union of sons with their Father above in the eternal Son of God—Scott F. Sanborn

## **Crisis in Japan**

As a seminary devoted to the preparation of men for the gospel ministry, NWTS would like to place before its supporters the need for the preaching of the gospel that has been raised by recent events in the Far East. On March 11, Honshu, the main island of Japan, was rocked by a massive earthquake centered off its Northeast coast, and then inundated by a tidal wave that swept over five miles inland. Just two months later, a perusal of all the major news sources shows that this disaster has dropped from the radar. Yet the situation is still desperate, as thousands of lives were lost, homes destroyed, and over 150,000 have been forced into temporary shelters, many with poor living conditions. For some, the shelters are bases from which they work to clean out, repair or rebuild their damaged homes. Still others suffer from the memories of lost loved ones and the terror caused by daily aftershocks. Currently, Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) missionaries, Cal Cummings and Murray Uomoto, are working alongside the Japanese pastors, reaching out by entering neighborhoods and helping to clean out and repair homes that were flooded by the tsunami. There is a great need for more of this kind of work to be done, and it is a prime opportunity to show Christ's love to the Japanese people. Church buildings and homes of believer and unbeliever alike need to be repaired or rebuilt. The OPC Japan Mission, currently aided by a team from the OPC Diaconal Committee, is working to set up a base where volunteers can stay, help continue these efforts, and preach the gospel, too. Alongside of the physical are the emotional needs: deep wounds inflicted in the hearts of many as they have lost loved ones and now live in fear of future disasters. While offering a helping hand, the missionaries seek to point those grieving to the only one who has conquered death, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are presently three small, Reformed denominations in Japan totaling fewer than 10,000 members. These are a part of the less than one percent of Japan's 120 million people who bear the name of Christ. The rest are Buddhist, Shinto, or atheist. The bleakness of the temporal situation must remind us of the spiritually desolate state of the Japanese people, and impel the church to send ministers of the Word to testify to the love of Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the hope that we have in him. The destruction wrought by the power of the sea mirrors the destruction wrought by the reign of the prince of this present evil age in Japanese hearts. Yet this pales in light of the eternal judgment that presently awaits them. Only the gospel of Christ and his Resurrection life can truly heal their wounds, shining light into their spiritual darkness. This is the single greatest opportunity for preaching the gospel and serving the people of Japan that has presented itself since the close of World War II. Pray for the OP missionaries and the Japanese pastors as they seek to assess where to focus resources. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send laborers to the field of Japan. Pray that Christ would be glorified through the preaching of his gospel in the nation of Japan.

For news and updates, see [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org) and the OPC Disaster Response page on Facebook.  
--Stephen Lauer

### **DONATIONS: PLEASE REMEMBER US**

We truly appreciate the continuing faithfulness that our supporters have shown during these financially difficult times. Please continue to remember us during the summer months, as they tend to be a time of lean giving, challenging our reserves. Our general fund reserves are growing low. We are very grateful for your prayers, support and the sustaining providence of our Triune God.

### **SUMMER INTERNSHIP**

First-year student, Stephen Lauer, began a summer internship on May 15 at Trinity OPC, Bothell, WA (Marc Renkema pastor). Please remember Stephen and his family in your prayers.

### **PRAYER FOR OUR BOARD MEMBERS**

NWTS board President, Larry Semel, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Please pray for Larry's care and for his family, that they may be nurtured with the gracious presence of Christ.

We thank God for the continuing rehabilitation of board member, Dan Knox, pastor of Grace OPC, Sewickley, PA, who suffered a stroke last fall. Please pray for Dan's further improvement and the blessings of Christ to the Knox family and Grace Church.

### **FACULTY NEWS**

Jim Dennison, Prof. of Church History and Biblical Theology, gave several lectures commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the OPC for the annual Lynnwood Reformed Conference at Lynnwood OPC (April 8-9). Subjects included J. Gresham Machen and the founding history of the OPC. For CDs contact Lynnwood OPC at (425) 743-9157.

Dr. Bill Dennison, Prof. of Apologetics and Systematic Theology, was Distinguished Scholar Invitee (Spring 2011) at the *Craig Center Doctoral Seminar* (Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia). He led a seminar—*Religion and Culture: Rudolf Bultmann's Paradigm for the Modern Christian Life*; gave a lecture ("Christology in the Gospel Passion Narratives"); and preached in Chapel ("Mark 14: 26-31: The Loneliness of Christ"). Bill's recent publications include: "The Christian Academy: Antithesis, Common Grace, and Plato's View of the Soul." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (Mar 2011): 109-31.

J. Peter Vosteen, Prof. of Homiletics, recently conducted the OPC Ministerial Training Institute Seminar on Homiletics with Rev. Bill Shishko.

Scott F. Sanborn, Prof. of Systematic Theology, is preparing his fall course on the Gospels. His completed lectures on Galatians are available at [nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu).

### **SHORT SERIES ON THE BOOK OF DANIEL**

Audio lectures on the Historical Prophecies of the Book of Daniel (including maps, charts, and handouts) are available at [nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu). Jim Dennison provides rich historical background to and illumination of the divinely inspired prophesies of the book of Daniel, as well as a detailed analysis of the marvelous 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. God's providence in the rise of Gentile nations (from Babylon to Rome) and their opposition to the Jewish people is superseded by the transcendent heavenly kingdom of Christ—a kingdom in which Jew and Gentile are united in him. Don't miss out on this wealth of material.

### **SUMMER COURSES**

August 1-19 (evening classes), Dr. Bill Dennison will teach Apologetics (6 to 8pm) and Prolegomena to Systematic Theology (8 to 10pm) at NWTS. For more details, see the NWTS Course Catalogue at [nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu) or call the seminary office. Auditors are welcome.