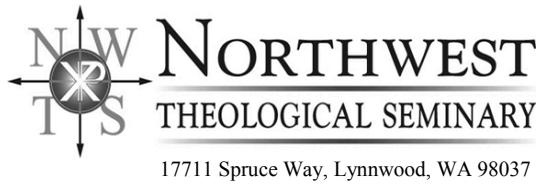


DONORS

How thankful we are for those of you have donated to the Seminary. We had wonderful support at Christmas time. We hope that you will remember us each month of the year. Without you, we could not continue this important task of training men for the future edification of the church.

We know that some of you cannot make a monthly gift, but your prayers are very important to us. We are certain that the Lord hears you when you plead with Him for us. The way that He has kept us going shows that supremely. We thank Him and we thank you.



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

Our Story

John Calvin on the Epistle of Jude

[In December 2011, NWTS, via its seminary journal (*Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*), published the first ever English translation of Calvin's small 1542 commentary on the epistle of Jude. He would later (1551) write another commentary on the epistle which appears in the usual editions of Calvin's Commentaries. We share with you an excerpt from the earlier work in this historic translation. The entire short exposition may be found at Kerux.com using this address: <http://www.kerux.com/pdf/Kerux.26.03.pdf>]

Jude terms himself a "servant of Jesus Christ" to claim through his vocation that he is doing his duty in teaching and admonishing them concerning what they have to do; in order that it will not seem that he is aggrandizing more authority and freedom to speak to the churches than belongs to him. Likewise, in this expression is contained a protest that he does not want to praise either his name or any creature, but only the Lord Jesus. Jude mentions the name of his brother, James, in order to give them more information by this identification and to better win the hearts of the faithful to listen to his doctrine. He does not try to take or seek his glory in the flesh, but writes in order that all good creatures may serve the honor of God.

At the beginning, he declares what are the fruits of the eternal election of God in those He eternally preordained to salvation. It is that they "are sanctified" in communion with the holiness of God which is bestowed on them by His Spirit. And they are preserved by Jesus, for He is our pastor and guide to whom we have been entrusted by the Father, in order that we may be preserved by His protection, so that sin, death, and the devil cannot harm us.

All the benefits which we could desire are included in this entreaty which he provides. For there is, first of all, the "mercy" of God which is His good will towards us, by which we are reconciled to Him, having Him as our Father and being made participants in His Kingdom as His well-loved children. From that follows "peace", which signifies all our prosperity, in order that, of all which we need, we lack nothing. Finally, mentioned in the third place, "love" is required to govern our lives well and with holiness toward our neighbor. Now it is necessary that all these things be multiplied, showing it is our duty to grow in our Lord all the days of our lives, until we have completed our course (Translated by Thomas and Geneviève Reid).



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FACULTY NEWS

Professor Dennison was diagnosed with prostate cancer in January. He has since had surgery and the prognosis is excellent. The cancer was all contained in the prostate and there is no evidence of it spreading through any of the surrounding tissue.

The third volume of Mr. Dennison's work on the *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation* has been published and is available for purchase (see the seminary website, nwts.edu, for details). This is a monumental work of which Irena Backus, a leading scholar of the Reformation era, says: "A comprehensive collection of the main statements of faith of all Reformed communities considered as orthodox. A must for every library."

Over the Christmas holidays, Professor Sanborn fell and injured his wrist. Since then, he has had it in a sling. However, it has not hindered him from teaching as he brings his books and notes in a rolling suitcase. Please pray for his speedy recovery along with Professor Dennison, who in spite of his surgery, is back teaching his classes after a two-week rest.

Professor Vosteen, who retired as pastor of Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church at the end of August, nevertheless keeps very busy. Besides teaching his classes at NWTS, he is the volunteer chaplain at the Everett Gospel Mission. He preaches there every Monday evening as well as doing counseling and filling in for the regular staff when they cannot teach their classes. Since Christmas, he also has been invited to conduct worship at: Trinity OPC in Bothell, WA (twice); Cloverdale United Reformed Church in Boise, ID; Emmanuel OPC in Kent, WA; the United Reformed Church in Lynden, WA, while preaching twice monthly at Lynnwood OPC.

New Student

A new student has applied for entrance to the Seminary in September. His application has been accepted by the faculty and we look forward to his matriculation. His name is Matthew Richardson. Right now, he is singing with the Seattle and the Tacoma Opera Companies. He is looking forward to becoming a minister of the gospel and we are looking forward to teaching him in the Fall.

From student Ben Davenport

Enrolling at Northwest Theological Seminary was one of the best decisions I have made in my life, but it has also brought challenges. I have never been stretched so far academically as I was my first semester at Northwest. Everything is that much more challenging now that Angela and I have added a new member to our family! Isaiah Alexander Davenport was born on February 5, 2013, a healthy boy of 8 pounds 6 ounces. Angela quit her job at Fred Meyer Department Store and is now working as a full-time mom, since I cannot help out much when I am out of the house so often at school and work. She makes it all possible.

My first semester at Northwest was a great experience. In Mr. Sanborn's Vos Readings class, it was a blessing to be introduced to Biblical Theology and the organic progression of redemptive history in the Bible. I am starting to have a whole new world open up as I read the Scriptures. Pastor Pete's Homiletics class benefited me greatly, as I have grown more comfortable with the prospect of getting in front of people and preaching the Word of God. I still have a long way to go and am thankful for the opportunity to continue to learn. I've preached on Psalm 23, Romans 8 and John 3.

I never really enjoyed history in high school or college, but I couldn't get enough of Mr. Dennison's Patristics and Westminster Confession classes and eagerly anticipated my Mondays and Wednesdays with him. He teaches the material in such a way that I can't help but grow in appreciation for the early church fathers and the Westminster divines. Part of Mr. Dennison's teaching style is to ask a lot of questions to keep the students on the ball, and while that was a bit intimidating at first, it really helps to get the material to sink in. It also certainly keeps me engaged. I wouldn't have it any other way—and I wish all my previous teachers had taught with that style!

It is a challenge to be one of only a handful of students at Northwest, but perhaps a result of that is that the few of us that there are appreciate one another all the more. It is a blessing to be able to grow in friendship with Carlo and Stephen. At the same time, I hope that God will send us more students to join in preparing for a life of gospel ministry. What it lacks in terms of numbers, Northwest makes up for in terms of the quality of the education the seminary provides to each student. Already I have grown so much in my understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith.

I covet any and all prayers as I am entering into an entirely new phase of my life with the birth of my son, and I would ask that you pray for my wife Angela as well. It is not easy to balance a part time job, a son, and the full time, rigorous seminary education at Northwest. The grace of God will be essential to pushing through this semester, but I count it all a blessing. I thank you for your support of the seminary and through that of me and my education. May the Lord richly bless you this year as He has blessed me.