

PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PRTS

Update

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS we have witnessed the rapid and encouraging growth of PRTS, surely a sign of God's gracious benediction upon the work but also a cause for much joy and thanksgiving among the alumni of the seminary. With every noble advance of God's kingdom, however, the church needs to redouble her vigilance, as cautioned by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself: "Watch and pray" (Matt. 26:41). The Bible continually warns us not take things for granted and rest upon our laurels. This is when the danger is the greatest. There is one thing, and one thing alone, that keeps any seminary from going the way that so many other prestigious institutions have gone, and that is unrelenting spiritual alertness.

What a tragedy that in the hour of His greatest need, the Lord's disciples were fast asleep. Yet the reality is that one of fallen man's greatest weaknesses was exposed on that fateful night—spiritual slumber at the time he needs most to be awake. Is it not strange that on two occasions when the glory of the Lord was almost tangible—His transfiguration on the mount (His deity) and the soul agonies of Gethsemane (his humanity)—the disciples slept? It is during the time of heightened spiritual blessing that the church and her ministries become most vulnerable, the devil becomes most malicious in his attacks, and the flesh lulls us into a sense of false security.

What the Lord counsels us to do, as it were, is to pray with our eyes open, as was the case with Gideon's three hundred who maintained a spirit of watchfulness even in the harmless act of drinking. Peter, one of the three who fell fast asleep that night, learned his lesson well, because he would later write, "Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer... be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). With the growth and expansion of the seminary, should this not much more be the case? The hindrances are many, not least the temptations from the world and the devil but also the inward culpable bias, our flesh, that for some mysterious reason would have us neglect the one thing most needful. Is this sad reality of our fallen nature not our greatest enemy in performing those duties most necessary? Prayerful watchfulness is commanded by our Lord to counter this very weakness we have as men: "...that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The temptation? Presumption and lying down to rest awhile. The reason? As Dixon says, "The godly are in great part

Prayer and Theological Education

"Watch and Pray"

DR. ARTHUR MISKIN

flesh and unrenewed and so easily ensnared by temptations that the spirit and renewed part has so much more need of the help of Christ." Converted, renewed, and sanctified, as believers are, they still carry about with them, says Ryle, a mass of indwelling corruption, a body of sin. Yes, the spirit is indeed willing, as Paul confirms in Romans 7:22: "I delight in the law of God after the inward man." But the flesh is weak, ever ready to hinder and to drag down, especially during those times when we are in greatest danger and the matters most concerning us are at hand. The apostle confirms this for us in the verse before: "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me."

At the time when the light seems to be shining most brightly at PRTS, let us pray for our seminary. These prayers should transcend our daily prayer meeting where a few particular needs are shared. This is important, but those who have a burden for theological education, which is in itself a noble thing, ought to recognize that particular dangers attend upon this form of ministry. We need to be cognizant of these dangers so as to better inform our prayers.

Pray for the eyes to see "the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11, 18). For power to "...resist him, steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8–9). The devil would delight to see the demise of conservative theological schools—he will send discord, conflict, false teachers, and empty scholasticism.

Pray for the preservation of the president and the staff in doctrinal purity and boldness in confronting error. Pray that the overarching purpose in theological education would be clearly kept in mind—the worthiness of Christ together with a sense of our own unworthiness for this unspeakable privilege of training the under-shepherds of Christ (Col. 3:17; 2 Sam. 9:8).

Bring constant confession before our Creator of our total insufficiency for the task set before us with the declaration of dependence upon the sufficiency of Christ alone (John 15:5) and that we as frail men have many shortcomings and as sheep are prone to wander (Ps. 119:176).

But, above all, pray that we do not fall asleep in the light that so brightly shines around us.

Dr. Arthur Miskin is a professor at Mukhanyo Theological School in South Africa.

PRTS Building Expansion Update

ON APRIL 16, 2013, we opened a meeting with about forty prospective contractors with the words from Psalm 127:1, “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.” Our prayer then and throughout our seminary expansion project was for the Lord’s blessings of protection and provision.

At the time of this writing, July 16, 2014, we announce with gratitude that the Lord has provided! Our building is almost complete; the finishing touches and renovations of the existing building are being addressed. The Lord sent challenges with lack of contractor man-power, a long and harsh winter, complex soil conditions, and fire marshal mandates, but He carried the project forward. No one sustained injuries and there was minimal disruption of our daily operations.

The building is beautiful! We added close to 17,000 sq. ft. of finished space as well as 8,000 sq. ft. of basement storage with the future potential of two more classrooms, restrooms, and a student fellowship place. Ample parking and landscap-

ing enhance our campus. Please come and see what the Lord has provided. Our dedication service is August 21 at 8:30 p.m.

The entire project cost, including new construction, renovation, furnishings, media, and technology, comes to approximately \$3,670,000. We are deeply humbled to report that the Lord, through His people, has provided these funds. Truly, the Lord builds!

PRTS and RHB staff are to be commended for their flexibility with the various adjustments they made to accommodate the construction while serving in their tasks and the huge task of moving into our larger spaces. The entire library of 65,000 volumes is being moved to new shelving!

Our confession is with the psalmist, “Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain.” Please pray with us that the Lord will keep our seminary, providing the protection of His banner of truth over us and our daily operating needs as we continue with His calling to train men for sacred ministry.

— HENK KLEYN, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Faculty Itineraries & Publications

DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | Itinerary:

September 1: Hamilton, Ontario: FRC Seminary Day
September 7: Metamora, Mich.: Pilgrim Presbyterian Church
September 14: Metamora, Mich.: Pilgrim Presbyterian Church

Writing Project:

The Next to the Last Word: The Message of the Post-Exilic Prophets

DR. JOEL BEEKE | Itinerary:

August 4–9: Norway: with Mary—celebrating 25th wedding anniversary
August 10: Northern England: Whitby Evangelical Church
August 11–14: Aberystwyth, Wales: Aber Conference
August 17: Northern England: Haworth HaU Green Baptist Church and Leeds Reformed Baptist Church
August 21–23: Grand Rapids: PRTS Conference
September 11: Orlando, Fla.: Reformation Bible College
September 14: Hull, Ia.: Heritage Reformed Church
September 19–21: Cheyenne, Wyoming: Reformation Conference
October 2: Litchfield, N.H.: Grace Free Presbyterian Church
October 3–5: Limington, Maine: Tenth Annual Maine Conference on Reformed Theology
October 9–12: Ocean Shores, Washington: Conference on Family Relationships and Parenting
October 14–17: Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil: FIEL Conference
October 17–18: Salvador, Brazil: FIEL Conference
October 19: Salvador, Brazil: preaching in two Reformed churches
October 30–November 1: Wake Forest, No. Carolina: NCFIC Conference
November 11–13: Hamilton, Ont.: NAPARC

Recent Publications:

How Should Teens Read the Bible? Grand Rapids: RHB.
“The Incarnate Word” and “The Cross of Christ.” In *The Triune God*, ed. Ronald L. Kohl. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R.
Editor, *The Beauty and Glory of Christian Living*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

The 17:18 Series: The Book of Matthew, with Rob Wynalda. Grand Rapids: RHB.

“Praying for Our Children’s Salvation.” *Tabletalk* 38, 7 (July):64–65.
“Calvin’s Teaching Office and the Dutch Reformed *Doctorenambt*.” In *Biblical Interpretation and Doctrinal Formulation in the Reformed Tradition*. Ed. Arie C. Leder and Richard A. Muller. Grand Rapids: RHB.

“The Perspicuity of Scripture.” In *2014–2015 Yearbook, Heritage Reformed Congregations: Church and School Directory*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

“Assurance of Salvation: The Insights of Anthony Burgess,” with Paul Smalley. *PRJ*.

“Reading the Puritans.” *PRJ*.

DR. GERALD BILKES | Itinerary:

September 14: Hamilton, Ontario: Hamilton FRC
September 19–21: Southfield, Mich.: Southfield 180 Conference
October 15–16: Puslinch, Ontario: FRC Ministers’ Retreat
November: Grand Rapids: Trinitarian Bible Society Annual Meeting

Writing Projects:

Miracles of Jesus
Studies in James and Jude

DR. WILLIAM VAN DOEDEWAARD | Itinerary:

September–December: Grand Rapids: Preaching at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
September 19: Capetown, South Africa: Distance Lecture on Calvin’s Preaching, Capetown Bible Institute
September 25–26: Halifax, NS: Canadian Presbytery (ARP) Meetings

Writing Projects:

The Quest for the Historical Adam (RHB)
“The Marrow Controversy” in *Eighteenth Century Controversies and Diversity* (Vandenhoek & Ruprecht)
1 & 2 Peter (Evangelical Press)

Creative Partnerships

Chilliwack, BC Home Project

Set with a majestic mountain backdrop in Rosedale, a suburb of Chilliwack, a new home was constructed by friends of PRTS for the purpose of raising funds to benefit the seminary. Tradesmen, suppliers, and volunteers came together to work and supply discounts on materials to increase the profit that will be sent to PRTS. Brian Maljaars of Primo Contracting donated his time as the General Contractor, and Re/Max Corney Les Realty financed and marketed the project. The project began with the purchase of the building lot in June 2013 and the home was completed and sold by June 2014. Many volunteers helped, from the blueprints all the way through each stage of construction to the finished home. We greatly appreciate the excellent camaraderie and generosity that was exhibited by everyone throughout the project.



With the donated labor along with the discounts on material that were provided by the various trades and suppliers, a total of \$50,000.00 was raised as net profit. We thank all who were so generous in assisting with this project. We especially thank the Lord for providing so abundantly.

— CORNEY LES

Grand Rapids, MI Home Remodeling Project



In an effort to raise support for the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, a group of volunteers from the Heritage Netherlands Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, have assembled to completely remodel a home located in a historic district of the city. The scope of the work includes both interior and exterior restoration. In return for the volunteered labor, the home owner has agreed to make a sizable donation to the seminary.

Both the homeowner and the volunteers on this project are giving of their time, talent, and treasure because they passionately believe in the vision and mission of PRTS. Do you want to see a Reformed, experiential minister, missionary, or church planter in every major city of the world preaching the free grace of God in the gospel? If so, please pray about how best to partner with PRTS.

For more information on ways you can support the work of PRTS, please contact me, Chris Hanna, Director of Development and Marketing, at chris.hanna@puritanseminary.org or 616-432-3407. I would love to hear from you today.

— CHRIS HANNA

FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/13–7/31/14

Thank you for faithfully supporting PRTS with your prayers and financial contributions throughout the 2013/2014 academic year. The Lord has graciously met our every need.

—CHRIS HANNA

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
Income				
HRC/FRC				
Church Support	\$ 399,003	354,361	44,642	113%
Other Donations	1,053,978	920,000	133,978	115%
Tuition	324,734	300,000	24,734	108%
Scholarships	292,290	235,000	57,290	124%
Other Income	<u>173,042</u>	<u>117,000</u>	<u>56,042</u>	<u>148%</u>
Total Income	\$ 2,243,046	\$ 1,926,361	\$ 316,685	116%
Expenses				
Instruction	\$ 714,868	663,110	51,758	108%
Scholarships	325,874	235,000	90,874	139%
Administrative	<u>1,090,064</u>	<u>1,028,251</u>	<u>61,813</u>	<u>106%</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,130,805	\$ 1,926,361	\$ 204,444	111%
Net Income	\$ 112,241		\$ 112,241	

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE!

- I would like to financially support PRTS by giving \$ _____, designated for:
- Building Expansion Fund Pressing Operational Needs Scholarship Fund
- PRTS Foundation Puritan Resource Center
- I would like to enroll in the monthly giving program and give \$ _____ per month.
- I am enclosing \$20 for a 2014 subscription to *Puritan Reformed Journal*.
- Send me a free copy of *The Beauty and Glory of Christian Living*, edited by Joel Beeke.

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check/cash enclosed Charge my credit/debit card:
- Card type (circle one): Visa Mastercard Discover American Express
- Card # _____
- Exp. Date ____/____/____ Security Code _____
- Send me a free copy of *A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life* (for donations of \$100 or more).
Send me a copy of the PRTS promotional DVD PRTS 2012–2014 catalog
- Name _____
- Address _____
- City/State/Zip _____
- Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please include this form with your check.

Donations in the US need to be sent to:
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
2965 Leonard Street, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Canadian Donors please write your checks to:
Burgessville Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation
Attention: PRTS
685 Main Street, P.O. Box 105, Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1C0
For Credit Card donations to PRTS, please log on to
www.CanadaHelps.org

International Bank transfer information:

- Beneficiary Bank: Mercantile Bank of Michigan
- Beneficiary's Bank Swift: MEMIUS33
- Beneficiary's Bank Fedwire ABA: 072413829
- Mercantile Bank: 100061175
- Beneficiary Customer: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

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