

# PRTS

## Update

PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## The Publication of the Word of the Lord

*“The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it” (Ps. 68:11).*

Our text declares that God gives His Word to men who would publish that Word to others. God has raised up men throughout history who have faithfully published that Word. We ourselves are the blessed beneficiaries of others in previous generations who were moved by God Himself to publish His precious Word to us.

Clearly, the Lord Himself is the moving Cause of the uninterrupted publication of His Word. What a marvelous display this is of the heart and character of our triune God! He is a God whose desire it is to reveal Himself, especially to the children of men. We immediately meet God in Genesis as a communicating God who verbally speaks the universe into existence, and who then, as the crowning piece of His creation, creates man in His own image. In so doing, God equipped man with the unique faculties that would enable Him to communicate with man, and enable man to respond. Prior to the fall, He communed with Adam and Eve in the cool of each day, expressing His love to them and rejoicing in the reciprocal communication of their love to Him.

Tragically, all of this changed as of the fall. Adam no longer desired the word of His Creator, and instead hid himself from His presence. However, though Adam no longer desired to commune with God, God still desired to commune with him, and in the original gospel promise (Gen. 3:15), He gave Adam His word—His word that in the fullness of time His eternal and living Word, His beloved Son, would come into the world as the Seed of the Woman. Adam and Eve believed that gospel promise, and they published the word



of the Lord to their sons, Cain and Abel. Abel, whom Christ identified as the first prophet (Luke 11:50–51), published that word to the first generation of a fallen humanity.

From that moment on, God has seen to it that the word of His salvation is published so that mankind can know that God has no pleasure in the death of sinners, but that they would turn to Him and live (Ezek. 33:11). Regarding the publication of that word, the apostle testifies, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son” (Heb. 1:1–2a). The Father’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is indeed the ultimate and living communication of that word. John introduces Him as such in the opening verse of his gospel, saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

The essential message of the written Word of God is that the Lord gave the Word made flesh (John 1:14)—the Son of God becoming the Son of Man, so that the sons of men might again become the sons of the living God. The Living Word of God merited that complete redemption by His death and resurrection, and now as the exalted Savior makes sinners the beneficiaries of that redemption.

However, He accomplishes that by the ongoing publication of His written Word to the very ends of the world, calling fallen but redeemed men to be the publishers or proclaimers of that Word. We believe that God has raised up PRTS to prepare another generation to be faithful publishers of that Word. This great privilege defines our great responsibility: to be instrumental in giving His Word to others because the Lord has sovereignly given that Word to us.

May PRTS and its graduates be an essential component of that great company that will publish the Word until Christ returns, proclaiming that “the Lord gave the word”—the Father’s unspeakable gift of His living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.

—REV. BARTEL ELSHOUT



## STUDENT INTERVIEW with Mark Wagenaar

***Please tell me a bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? Anything you want to share about your family? Are you married?***

I grew up in the small town of Vineland, Ontario. It is in the heart of the Niagara Region, surrounded by orchards and wineries and close to the city of St. Catharines. I loved growing up in Vineland and most of my childhood memories include playing street hockey with my three older brothers, building forts in the woods, or going on family vacations to Sauble Beach. When I was seven, my mom passed away after battling with cancer. This was really hard on our family, but God brought my dad and siblings closer to each other as a result. I am especially grateful for my older sister who stepped in to take care of me during that time. A few years later, my dad remarried and I was blessed with a new mom and a younger sister. Since then my family has grown to include a brother-in-law, two sisters-in-law, and ten nieces and nephews! After high school, I went to Brock University and received my Bachelors in Business. I also met my beautiful wife Sarah at the Christian group on campus. We were married last year and just celebrated our first anniversary in October.

***When you were 7, what did you want to be “when you grew up”?***

I think I wanted to be a hockey player or a policeman. I also remember reading stories about David Livingstone and wanting to be a missionary to Africa. I remember feeling compassion for people with less and wanting to reach out to them.

***Any favorite trips or vacations you want to tell about? What made it so memorable?***

Apart from our family vacations to Sauble Beach, there are two trips that really stand out in my mind. The first one was a missions trip to northern Mexico when I was in grade 12. This was a critical time in my life as God had been convicting me of how I was living my life. I was recklessly wasting the opportunities that He had given me and living in sin. When I was in Mexico, I saw eye-opening poverty. Despite the terrible working and living conditions, the smiles on the Mexicans' faces convicted me of my own ingratitude. After my trip, I found it much harder to complain!

Another memorable trip was this summer when Sarah and I traveled to Europe. We went to the Netherlands, England, and Germany, enjoying the old architecture, great food, and breathtaking landscape. Some of our favorite memories include visiting with my relatives in Holland and Sarah's in England. We finished off the trip by hiking in the hills along

the Rhine and taking a river cruise between the medieval towns. We were amazed by God's creation and the history of the towns and castles.

***How did you hear about PRTS and what drew you to this seminary?***

I have been acquainted with Dr. Beeke's ministry my whole life, so PRTS has always been somewhat familiar to me. In 2013, I had an opportunity to meet Dr. Beeke and discuss what it is like for a student to study at PRTS. I loved what I heard so he encouraged me to take a distance-learning course online. I took Puritan Theology, which was a great introduction to studying at PRTS. After that course I looked forward to studying full-time at the seminary. Also, the Puritans have made a positive impact on my life and I knew that this would be the best place to go to learn more about them.

***What has been the most rewarding thing since relocating to Grand Rapids?***

The most rewarding thing since moving to Grand Rapids has been the community of believers that we have met here. I am able to study under and with humble brothers in Christ on a daily basis. The professors teach with passion for truth and a heart for the students, which helps to bring their teaching to life. Also, fellowshiping with other students in prayer groups or extra-curriculars (soccer, ping-pong, etc.) have been joyful experiences.

***You've been here in Grand Rapids for one full semester. Are there three pieces of advice you would share with somebody newly relocating?***

Get Greek out of the way before starting at PRTS! Other students and faculty members gave that advice to me and I am so thankful they did. Also, fight hard to keep your priorities straight. If you have a family, remember that they come first. Make sure you are regularly communicating with your wife about her joys and struggles. It is easy to feel the pressure to do well academically and to neglect the home situation. Your family has sacrificed a lot to be here, so show them lots of grace and love as they struggle to find a daily routine. Lastly, enjoy every moment of seminary life as it is such a blessing to be studying here!

***After you graduate, Lord willing, what then?***

After I graduate, I hope to receive a call and serve as a pastor for a congregation in the Free Reformed Church of North America.

## Proposed PhD Program

PRTS has petitioned its accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), to begin a PhD program. Although we cannot officially begin the accredited program until approval has been granted, we are allowed to offer course work on a non-matriculating basis. Those interested in becoming candidates for the prospective program can find application details on the PRTS website. In order to sustain the program, the search has begun to fill the positions of Director of the PhD program and Professor of Historical Theology. This new program has amazing potential to prepare leaders for the worldwide church of Jesus Christ. The goal is to train Doctors for the church. Pray with us that God supply us with highly qualified professors and students for His own glory.

—Michael Barrett



## Dr. Barrett's Installation as Professor Theology

On December 20, 2015, Dr. Beeke had the privilege and honor of installing Dr. Michael Barrett, who is now an ordained Heritage Reformed minister, as Professor of Theology in Old Testament for Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, where he also serves as Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Beeke preached from Psalm 23:5b, "Thou anointest my head with oil," and gave Dr. Barrett a ten-point charge from the life of Simeon to be a humble, godly, listening, righteous, experiential, expectant, Christ-embracing, God-glorifying, surrendering, and mission-minded man (Luke 2:25-32). Pray for this dear brother who has been serving at PRTS for three years now, that God will continue to bless him together with his special wife Sandra as he presses on with his labors here.

## NEW PRTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In our commitment to provide affordable tuition, PRTS is pleased to announce a number of new annual scholarships. Each scholarship has been named after an eminent Puritan.

We have five needs-based scholarships that are awarded annually.

- The Flavel Scholarship – \$16000.00 (1 available/year)
- The Perkins Scholarship – \$4500.00 (8 available/year)
- The Owen Scholarship – \$4000.00 (2 available/year)
- The Ames Scholarship – \$4000.00 (2 available/year)
- The Bradstreet Scholarship – \$4000.00 (2 available/year)

There are two merit-based scholarships.

- The Sibbes Scholarship – \$3000.00 (3 available/year)
- The Goodwin Scholarship – \$2000.00 (7 available/year)

There are also a number of international scholarships awarded each year. This particular program is called the Rutherford Scholarship and the total amount and number of scholarships awarded each year may vary.

For more information on PRTS scholarships or to donate to any of these funds, please visit us online at [prts.edu](http://prts.edu) or contact Mr. Henk Kleyn at [henk.kleyn@prts.edu](mailto:henk.kleyn@prts.edu) with any questions.

### DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | Itinerary:

April 3: Mitchell, Ontario: Free Reformed Church  
April 15–17: Pittsburgh: Three Rivers Bible Conference

#### Project:

*A Radical Comprehensive Call to Holiness* in collaboration with Dr. Beeke

### DR. JOEL BEEKE | Itinerary:

March 8–9: Greenville, South Carolina: Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Conference  
March 25–31: Lisbon, Portugal: FIEL Conference and preaching in churches  
April 4–8: Colombia, South America: Conference  
April 15–16: Chicago, Illinois: Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPCNA) Conference  
April 23–24: Monarch, Alberta: Bethel Free Reformed Church—a topic and preaching  
May 13–31: Turkey and Greece: lead tour group

#### Recent Publications:

*The Portraits of Faith* (revised ed.). Grand Rapids: RHB.  
*The Lord Shepherding His Sheep*. Darlington, U.K.: Evangelical Press.  
*Mark Journal*, with Rob Wynalda. Grand Rapids: RHB.  
*The Works of William Perkins, Vol. 2*, ed. Paul Smalley. Gen. ed. with Derek Thomas. Grand Rapids: RHB.

## FACULTY ITINERARIES & PUBLICATIONS

Edit and foreword for James M. Garretson, *Thoughts on Preaching and Pastoral Ministry: Lessons from the Life and Writings of James W. Alexander*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

### DR. JERRY BILKES | Itinerary:

March 27: Bradenton, Florida: Florida Reformed Fellowship  
May 15: Hamilton, Ontario: Maranatha Free Reformed Church

### DR. DAVID MURRAY | Itinerary:

March 11–13: Grand Rapids: Reformed Baptist Conference  
March 18: Montville, New Jersey: Trinity Christian School  
March 23–24: Michigan: Bell Creek Community Church Conference  
May 24–27: Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth Pastors' Conference

#### Project:

PhD on *Matthew Henry: The Reasonableness and Pleasantness of Religion* (Free University of Amsterdam)

### DR. WILLIAM VAN DOODEWAARD | Itinerary:

April 7–8: Cambridge, Ontario: Canadian Presbytery (ARP)  
May 24–26: Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth Conference

#### Writing Projects:

*1 & 2 Peter*, Evangelical Press.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2015–11/30/2015

Training students today for service in Christ's church tomorrow is the mission that we have undertaken together. Your partnership in this endeavor, along with the Lord's blessing, is vital to its success. Please remember the seminary in your prayers and with your financial contributions in 2016.

—CHRIS HANNA

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>				
HRC/FRC				
Church Support	\$ 147,480	466,500	(319,020)	32%
Other Donations	700,565	1,022,500	(321,935)	69%
Tuition	139,548	350,000	(210,452)	40%
Scholarships	86,203	285,000	(198,797)	30%
Other Income	38,316	174,000	(135,684)	22%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,112,112</b>	<b>\$ 2,298,000</b>	<b>\$ (1,185,888)</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Instruction	\$ 365,152	847,600	(482,448)	43%
Scholarships	136,042	285,000	(148,958)	48%
Administrative	414,780	1,165,400	(750,620)	36%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 915,974</b>	<b>\$ 2,298,000</b>	<b>\$ (1,382,026)</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 196,138</b>		<b>\$ 196,138</b>	

## YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE!

- I would like to financially support PRTS by giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_, designated for:
  - 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 2016 subscription to *Puritan Reformed Journal*.
- Send me a free copy of *Mercy Revealed* by Jerry Bilkes.

## PAYMENT METHOD

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