



Renewal

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Western Seminary

Counseling Center Brings Hope and Healing

Approximately 70 clients have sought counsel and hope at A New Day Counseling Center since it opened its doors on the Portland campus of Western Seminary in mid-June. The innovative staff of A New Day Counseling Center is bringing to reality their mission to bring hope and healing to the region, with a special focus on offering low-cost counseling services to some of the neediest, most vulnerable and under-served members of our community.

Business Week has nationally ranked the Portland Metro area as number one for depression, number four for divorce, and number 12 for suicide. In 2011, nearly 40,000 callers contacted Oregon's crisis lines for help with mental health issues, which is a 71% increase over the year before. Unfortunately, hopelessness and suicide are also exacerbated by the economy. A 2011 report issued by the American Association of Suicidology states that unemployed individuals have between two- to four-times the suicide rate of those who are employed.

The Center is already making a difference. Since opening, 25% of client-hours have focused on relationship counseling. This means that parent/child and husband/wife relationships from around the community are being strengthened and actively working to reduce conflict, anxiety and depression.

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L to R: Dr. Kay Bruce, Cliff Stein, Dr. Norm Thiesen, Dr. Randy Roberts, and Debbie Woo. together cut the ribbon at the counseling center's grand opening. Bruce, Thiesen and Woo all serve as counselors at the center.

For more information about A New Day Counseling Center, visit their website at <http://www.anewdaycounseling.org>



Students like Jena Abaria are serving as interns at A New Day Counseling Center. When asked what makes her most excited about this internship opportunity, she quickly shares, "The increased opportunity to work with Christian clients and incorporate faith as a part of each counseling session" is particularly rewarding to Jena. In addition, "It is on campus. I already know the staff, so there is a certain level of comfort. My supervisor is amazing." Because of student interns like Jena, A New Day Counseling Center is able offer high-quality counseling to the community at a greatly discounted price.

News in Brief

NWCCU SELF-STUDY

Western recently completed a comprehensive self-study for NWCCU, our regional accrediting body. In one sense, this is akin to a corporate practice of the discipline of self-examination. As such, we learned some things that are very encouraging and also discovered a couple of areas where improvement is needed. That learning will continue when we host a NWCCU visiting team on October 17-19. A summary of major findings from the self-study process will be included both in the annual report mailed to donors this fall and on our website.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jon Holmes is now serving as the MFT Program Director at the Sacramento campus as Dr. Travis Owens focuses more time on his private practice. Wes Ehrhart is the new Sacramento campus Executive Dean as Dr. Dave Fredrickson recently returned to pastoral ministry though he still continues as a part-time faculty member. Also joining the Sacramento team is Dr. John Burson as regional Director of Development.

Dr. Liz Wosley-George has joined the counseling faculty at the Portland campus. Starting October 1, Steve Mansdoerfer joined the team and will serve as the Administrative Vice President. You can expect further introductions in future newsletters.

WESTERN MARKETPLACE

The Western Seminary Marketplace opened this past week. Now students, graduates and friends of the seminary can order their own Western Seminary items. From backpacks, beanies, and polo shirts to iPad cases, shoppers can select a product and then choose from images that specify their campus location, announce that they are an alumnus, or sport a collegiate block letter version of our logo for a more vintage feel. Shoppers get to customize their product to their satisfaction, and a portion of each purchase will be paid back to Western. You can start shopping here.



PRESIDENT'S HEALTH UPDATE

This has been a challenging year health-wise for Dr. Roberts. In the last newsletter you heard about his melanoma diagnosis in January. He also suffered a serious heart attack on July 4, and two days later was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Nevertheless, he feels great and is working a normal schedule. There have been no signs of the melanoma recurring and the prostate cancer currently does not require any treatment.

RECORD FALL ENROLLMENT

This fall marks another record-setting enrollment in both student head count and credit hours for Western Seminary. Over 750 students (a 10% increase from last fall) are enrolled for courses throughout the Seminary's three campuses and distance education programs. It is with great joy that faculty and staff serve this next generation of Christian leaders.

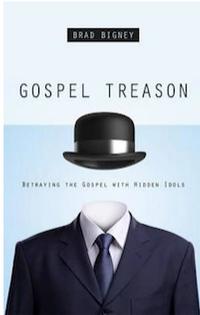
STEVE GREEN HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT



Western was delighted to award an honorary doctorate of fine arts degree to Christian recording artist Steve Green at this year's Portland campus commencement ceremony. Steve, who is the son of a Western graduate, was commended in particular both for the gospel-centeredness of his music and the personal integrity reflected in his ministry.

Recommended Resources

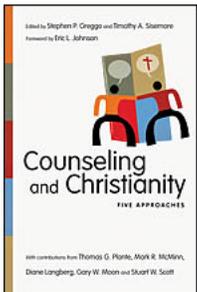
Here are several less known books that President Roberts recently completed reading that may be of interest. [Click here](#) to make purchases through our Western associates link on Amazon. A small percentage of each sale will be returned to the seminary as revenue, without changing the cost of your items.



Gospel Treason

by Brad Bigney (P & R, 2012)

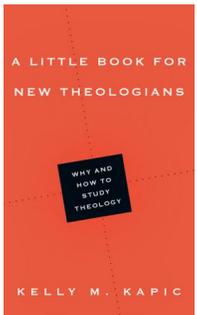
Is it harder for you to change and grow as a Christian than it should be? Do you wonder what is holding you back? Have you ever considered that it might be idolatry? Using real-life stories and examples, Brad Bigney shows us how the idols we might not even recognize can still have devastating effects in our lives. In this transparent, honest book, he helps us to identify our idols, understand how they lead us to commit treason against the gospel--and finally repent of them and root them out forever by turning to the only One who can fill our every need.



Counseling and Christianity: Five Approaches

by Stephen Greggo and Timothy Sisemore (IVP Academic, 2012)

What does authentic Christian counseling look like in practice? This volume explores how five major perspectives on the interface of Christianity and psychology would each actually be applied in a clinical setting. Respected experts associated with each of the perspectives depict how to assess, conceptualize, counsel and offer aftercare to Jake, a hypothetical client with a variety of complex issues. In each case the contributors seek to explain how theory can translate into real-life counseling scenarios.



A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology

by Kelly Kapic (IVP Academic, 2012)

Whenever we read, think, hear or say anything about God, we are doing theology. Yet theology isn't just a matter of what we think. It affects who we are. Kelly Kapic offers a concise introduction to the study of theology for newcomers to the field. He highlights the value and importance of theological study and explains its unique nature as a serious discipline. Not only concerned with content and method, Kapic explores the skills, attitudes and spiritual practices needed by those who take up the discipline. This brief, clear and lively primer draws out the relevance of theology for Christian life, worship, mission, witness and more.

Seminary Students Intern With Community's Most Needy

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In addition, A New Day Counseling Center will also serve as a training site for dozens of students. The Center provides students with an opportunity for valuable hands-on experience under the supervision of licensed counselors, who themselves also provide specialized counseling to select clients. This combination enables vulnerable individuals to afford Christian counseling who otherwise might not be able to do so. Donor support is being solicited to expand these subsidized services.

This training site will also aid Western in its pursuit of accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP), the most prestigious affirmation that a counseling program can acquire. With around 80 counseling students coming to the Portland campus for training each year, securing CACREP accreditation will ensure that part of the next generation of counselors will receive the best education and equipping possible.

Spurgeon Fellowship Begins Seventh Year of Ministry



Pastor Alistair Begg charges a record-setting crowd of 285 pastors at the Portland campus.

The Spurgeon Fellowship opened its seventh year of ministry as 285 pastors (a record high attendance) gathered to sit under the preaching of Pastor Alistair Begg and renew their fellowship with one another. Aiming to enhance the personal character and professional competency of pastors, the meetings are offered free of charge by Western Seminary and Trinity Church as an expression of our commitment to the local church. Spurgeon Fellowship founder Art Azurdia explains, “It is our desire to see churches in the Pacific Northwest renew their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ and reaffirm a stalwart commitment to grounding all ministry practices in the Scriptures. It is our prayer that Spurgeon Fellowship may, by means of Word and Spirit, contribute to the reformation and revival of local congregations.”

Meeting on the Portland campus three times per year, the remaining 2012-2013 Spurgeon Fellowship gatherings feature the preaching of Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. (November 13th) and Pastor Phil Swann (April 9th). We are also excited to announce our inaugural Spurgeon Fellowship Pastors’ Conference (January 21st – 23rd) at Cannon Beach Conference Center, featuring a Spurgeon Fellowship favorite: Pastor Alexander Strauch. Additional information and an audio archive may be found at The Spurgeon Fellowship website.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY:

The Coaching Cohort

What does it take to lead with impact in today’s ministry context? It takes skills for relating and communicating effectively with people who’ve heard it all, have access to a universe of information and still aren’t sure of truth, direction, or purpose. That’s why ministry leaders around the globe are discovering the power of coaching to help engage their community, motivate members, and transform lives.

Now, Western Seminary invites you to build this coaching skill set directly into your doctoral studies.

www.westernseminary.edu/dmin

New coaching-focused cohort forming in spring 2013

Proven coaching platform

On campus + online learning

No need to relocate

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