

Renewal

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Western Seminary

President Roberts Celebrates God's Work at Western

Welcome to the third edition of Western Seminary's electronic newsletter. In this issue you'll find various news items that illustrate the diverse ministry impact of Western. To that end, a few words of introductory comment may be helpful.

We are pleased to give this year's honorary doctorate to Steve Green to affirm the gospel-centered content and personal integrity that characterize his ministry through music. Steve's father, Chuck, graduated from Western in 1957 and the Green family served as missionaries in South America. To make this event a true family affair, Steve's brother-in-law Mark Bailey (another Western grad and currently president at Dallas Theological Seminary) will be the commencement speaker.

You will read about alumnus Carl Simonsen. Many of our alumni serve like Carl in ways known to few beyond the circles of those whom they directly serve, but whose faithfulness does not go unnoticed by the Lord.

You will also be introduced to two new trustees. We have been blessed with a wonderful board, and I am very grateful for the behind-the-scenes service rendered by these men and women who have been entrusted with ensuring the doctrinal fidelity, operational integrity and missional effectiveness of Western.

We also share news about our record enrollment, a pleasant surprise in this season of increasing choices and economic challenge. We take very seriously the responsibility to train well the next generation of Christian ministry leaders, and are encouraged to see increasing numbers of students choose us for that training.

On the faculty front, you will read about a well-deserved honor given by the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) to Dr. Gerry Breshears and the recent passing of a long-time faculty member from a prior generation, Dr. H. Crosby Englizian. All of us at Western are grateful to the Englizian family for establishing an international student scholarship fund in Crosby's memory, reflecting his heart for train-



ing Christian leaders worldwide. I encourage those of you whose lives were blessed by Dr. Englizian to prayerfully consider making a donation to that fund as one way of expressing your appreciation. Instructions for so doing can be found following Dr. Laney's tribute.

Finally, and on a more personal note, some of you may have heard that I was diagnosed with melanoma in January. I know in such circumstances rumor control can be challenging, so I want to share with you where things currently stand.

After a couple of surgical procedures, my doctors believe the melanoma has now been removed and that there are no signs of lymph node involvement. For that we are obviously very grateful, especially since an ultrasound had earlier revealed at least one lymph node with "atypical" characteristics. A couple of other things emerged during the battery of tests that are currently being checked out, but those are not related to the melanoma and are in a lesser category of concern. I still feel great and wouldn't otherwise know that anything was amiss, beyond missing a chunk of my left arm and a couple of lymph nodes! But all this is a good reminder of the wisdom of regular check-ups so that potentially problematic conditions can be discovered early enough to be effectively treated.

But this isn't a medical newsletter, so let's turn our attention to what's new at Western.....

THINKING ABOUT GOSPEL-CENTERED TRANSFORMATION

"... What actually happened when 'God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ' is a mystery whose depths we shall spend eternity plumbing...it would be most unseemly to feign a cool detachment as we contemplate Christ's cross. For willy-nilly we are involved. Our sins put him there. So, far from offering us flattery, the cross undermines our self-righteousness. We can stand before it only with a bowed head and a broken spirit. And there we remain until the Lord Jesus speaks to our hearts his word of pardon and acceptance, and we, gripped by his love and brimful of thanksgiving, go out into the world to live our lives in his service."

JOHN STOTT,
The Cross of Christ, p. 12

Specialized Ministry Alumnus Supports Rural Pastors

For Western Seminary graduate Carl Simonsen, attending seminary has proven to be a gateway to a second career of ministry. Embarking on his studies after a 29-year career at Intel, Simonsen was perhaps not what one would characterize as a “typical seminary student.” Today, his ministry follows suit. As a circuit riding pastor, Simonsen is demonstrating the same drive, creative thinking, relational commitment and kingdom focus in ministry that first brought him to Western as a student several years ago.



“One of the dynamics with smaller churches is that ... there’s often not anyone for the pastor to truly share with. But I can be a non-threatening ear for pastors. I’m able to listen and pastors can trust that what they share won’t go anywhere else.”

CARL SIMONSEN,
M.A. in Specialized Ministry, 2003

“When I started working for Intel in 1974, I always had an idea in the back of my mind that at the age of 50 I would stop working as an engineer and move into a church role,” recalled Simonsen. “As retirement neared, and Intel and I agreed that January 2003 would be a good time to separate, I anticipated that I would serve the AWANA ministry which my wife and I had been involved with for nearly 24 years.”

In preparation for his transition to a post retirement ministry, Simonsen began classes at Western in 2003. Simultaneously, AWANA went through some major changes and Carl’s son called to share that his family was moving to Jackson, California and asked his parents to considering moving there as well.

“I began praying what my ministry might look like in Jackson,” noted Simonsen. As a result he moved from the one-year diploma program that he initially enrolled in at Western Seminary to a master’s degree program. In December 2006, Simonsen graduated with a Master of Arts (Specialized Ministry) degree and moved to Jackson in the following months.

“Many of the towns around here have small populations of 400-600 people. The average church has around 40-60 people,” Simonsen commented. “One of the dynamics with smaller churches is that the church is already a functioning small group and there’s often not anyone for the pastor to truly share with. But I can be a non-threatening ear for pastors. I’m able to listen and pastors can trust that what they share won’t go anywhere else. When I first started sharing my passion for pastoral support some people told me that I was crazy and that pastors in rural churches liked being alone.”

Having lived in Almador County for over five years now, Simonsen currently has five pastors that he actively works with. He has developed a network of relationships not only with these pastors, but also with their congregants. “As I provide pulpit supply at each of these churches, I am no longer a stranger to the members. I know the people and they know me, which means that they don’t stay away from church on Sunday morning when their pastor isn’t there.”

Simonsen also serves on the board of the county food bank where he volunteers one day a week and is involved with the ministerial association of the county, which has opened up additional pulpit supply opportunities, the most recent being at a Lutheran church. Once a month he does a monthly devotional message for a local radio station. “I’ve had a couple of people talk to me about a devotion that they heard. So far, these people would never come to any of the churches that I work with, but they will listen to a radio program.”

Simonsen has a small advisory group comprised of three couples who meet together twice a year. “We have a meal together and then talk about how the ministry is going and what is taking place. This helps keep me accountable to someone more than myself,” he remarked. Providing both encouragement and accountability, this advisory group gets a first-hand glimpse into the ministry that God has called and positioned Simonsen to do: to come along side God’s people; to be a fellow-helper for pastors; to encourage their spiritual motivation; to test their theological thinking; to expand their evangelical passions and to stimulate their forward-looking leadership.

Since Fall, 47 Students Enrolled in Our New Coach Training Program

The popularity of the recently launched Certificate in Transformational Coaching (CTC) is evidence of the increasing popularity of coaching as a ministry skill. The CTC combines coach training, supervision, one-on-one mentor coaching and two culminating exams to develop leaders who coach at a professional level. The CTC takes 18 to 24 months to complete. It meets a need at the intersection of ministry, leadership and coaching, attracting students who want to coach at a professional level – be that in a ministry role, in a marketplace setting, or as a coach practitioner. Coaching, which is distinct from counseling in that it does not take a therapeutic or diagnostic approach, is a highly flexible approach aimed at helping others set goals and take meaningful actions.

Since the CTC was launched last September, 47 individuals have entered the program. Students include current M.A. and M.Div. students, ministry leaders who are transitioning to a career in coaching, counselors who wish to add coaching to their skill set, and veteran ministry leaders who see coaching as a vital approach for ministering in the 21st century. To learn more, visit www.westerncoaching.com or contact the Director of Coaching Chad Hall, PCC, at chall@westernseminary.edu.

Western Welcomes Two New Members to Board of Trustees

Western Seminary's board of trustees is excited to welcome two new members. Steve Mansdoerfer and Ken Wilmot will join the board in April and September respectively. Both Mansdoerfer and Wilmot bring extensive experience in finance as well as a long history with the seminary.

Steve Mansdoerfer served for four years as the director of financial affairs at Western Seminary in the 1990's. Mansdoerfer first learned about Western through the vice president of finance at Denver Seminary where his wife, Luanne, worked prior to their marriage. Returning to serve as a trustee for Western is something of a homecoming for Mansdoerfer as he'll once again work with some of the same administrative colleagues from his past tenure at the seminary. "Western Seminary was a special part of Luanne's and my life when we were here," Mansdoerfer commented. "The Seminary has provided a strong biblical foundation for many pastors, missionaries and lay people. It is exciting to see where God takes them."

Mansdoerfer served a total of 21 years in the Air Force (both reserve and active duty) as an accounting and finance officer. Since leaving Western Seminary in 1997, he has worked with Education Management Corporation, where he has been in his current position of vice president and finance specialist for the Greenhouse Team for nearly 5 years. "We are a team of startup specialists that start new colleges nation-wide," Mansdoerfer explained.

"Watching the Lord work in the lives of the students and graduates of Western Seminary," is motivation for his service on the board, Mansdoerfer said. "Working with a group of people who are blessed with many God given talents and experiences on both the board and the administration/faculty is an awesome opportunity," he stated.



**STEVE
MANSDOERFER**

Ken Wilmot first heard about Western Seminary from Cornell University's Campus Crusade for Christ campus director. Wilmot completed his undergraduate degree at Cornell, and upon graduation he loaded up his car and headed to Portland, Oregon, to begin seminary. During his tenure as a student, Wilmot earned three degrees: master of divinity (1976), master of theology (1979) and doctor of ministry (2011).

In 1984, Wilmot started working in the financial planning world and has continued in the field ever since. In fact, his dissertation for his recent doctorate degree was titled, "Thinking Theologically about Retirement and Wise Financial Planning for Kingdom Workers."

"There are some parallel concepts between finance and kingdom work," Wilmot shared. "The principle of leverage allows one to make a lot on a little invested or lose a lot on a little invested. In kingdom work the leverage only works on the positive. Investing in future global leadership in the kingdom allows one to impact the lives of potentially hundreds or even thousands. Invest in a potential leader today and you may change a nation tomorrow and the results affect eternity. Wow! Invest in a great company today and tomorrow it may be, well, gone."

When asked about why he is looking forward to serving on the board, Wilmot didn't miss a beat. He said, "Western allows one to leverage earthly resources to produce eternal returns."



KEN WILMOT

NEWS IN BRIEF

RECORD ENROLLMENT AT WESTERN SEMINARY

Our spring enrollment set a new single term record for at Western Seminary. We currently have 406 students at the Portland campus, 178 students at the San Jose campus, 141 at the Sacramento campus, and 15 distance education students who are pursuing their studies solely through the Center for Lifelong Learning, for a total of 740 credit students. During the same semester, we also served 103 members of our local communities who audited classes at each campus.

DR. GERRY BRESHEARS HONORED BY EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

At the 2011 National Conference for the Evangelical Theological Society, Dr. Gerry Breshears was publicly recognized for having made significant contributions to the society in leadership and scholarship. On behalf of the faculty and staff, Academic Dean Marc Cortez commented, "Congratulations to Gerry for his long and faithful contributions to an important society."

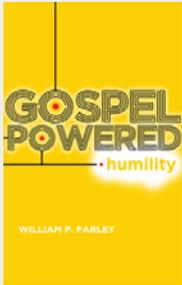
USE WESTERN'S WEB LINK TO LEARN IF YOUR COMPANY MATCHES CHARITABLE GIFTS

A new feature on our website allows you to see if your company is one of the many which offer matching programs for charitable gifts. Matching programs may effectively double or triple your gift to Western, and some companies even match gifts from spouses and retirees.

Please [click here](#) to visit our site and see if your company is currently participating in a matching program. If you need further assistance, please contact Vice President of Advancement Greg Moon at gmoon@westernseminary.edu.

Gospel-Centered Resources for Renewal

Here are some recent titles with descriptions from the Amazon.com website. [Click here](#) to make purchases through our Western associates link. A small percentage of each sale will be returned to the seminary as revenue, without changing the cost of your items.



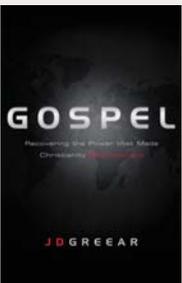
William Farley, *Gospel-Powered Humility*

Humility is not a popular concept in our world today. It is seen as weakness in a culture that prizes self-esteem and validation. Unfortunately, these worldly attitudes about humility have leaked into and influenced the church, as well. Far from being weakness, humility is the crucial virtue. Not only is it necessary for conversion and sanctification, but from its soil sprout the fruit of the Spirit. Yet many Christians are unaware of this crucial connection, and do not see the implications of humility in witnessing, counseling, and preaching. *Gospel-Powered Humility* argues that God has designed the gospel to provoke humility. In this vital book William Farley proves that humility, often the least emphasized virtue, is in reality the chief and most necessary virtue.



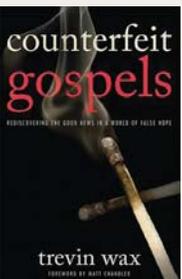
D. A. Carson, ed. *The Gospel as Center: Renewing Our Faith and Reforming Our Ministry Practices*

Important aspects of Christianity are in danger of being muddled or lost as relativism takes root in our churches today. What was historically agreed upon is now readily questioned and the very essentials of the Christian faith are in jeopardy. It's time to reclaim the core of our beliefs. To that end, D. A. Carson, Tim Keller, Kevin DeYoung, and other influential leaders have created this volume to defend the traditional gospel and to strengthen the church. *The Gospel as Center* will help you join in the movement—the movement dedicated to a Scripture-based reformation of ministry practices and the centrality of the gospel—and stand united under the conviction that what holds us together is worth fighting for. (Note: this book is comprised of 14 booklets already released by The Gospel Coalition.)



J. D. Greear, *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*

Could the gospel be lost in evangelical churches? In this book, J.D. Greear shows how moralism and legalism have often eclipsed the gospel, even in conservative churches. *Gospel* cuts through the superficiality of religion and reacquaints you with the revolutionary truth of God's gracious acceptance of us in Christ. The gospel is the power of God, and the only true source of joy, freedom, radical generosity, and audacious faith. The gospel produces in us what religion never could: a heart that desires God. The book's core is a "gospel prayer" by which you can saturate yourself in the gospel daily. Dwelling on the gospel will release in you new depths of passion for God and take you to new heights of obedience to Him. *Gospel* gives you an applicable, exciting vision of how God will use you to bring His healing to the world.



Trevin Wax, *Counterfeit Gospels: Rediscovering the Good News in a World of False Hope*

What if the biggest danger to the church of Jesus Christ is not blatant heresy, the moral failures of church leaders, persecution, the rise of Islam or the loss of our rights? What if the biggest threat is counterfeit gospels within the church, ways of thinking and speaking about the good news that lead to a gradual drift from the truth of Scripture? The gospel is like a three-legged stool. There's the Gospel Story, the grand narrative of Scripture (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration). Within that overarching framework, we make the Gospel Announcement about Jesus Christ (His perfect life, substitutionary death, resurrection, exaltation). The gospel announcement then births the Gospel Community: God's church, the embodiment of the gospel, the manifestation of God's kingdom. A counterfeit gospel is like a colony of termites, eating away at one of the legs of this stool until the

whole thing topples over. This book exposes six common counterfeits (Therapeutic, Judgmentless, Moralistic, Quietist, Activist, and Churchless) that would get us off track. The goal of *Counterfeit Gospels* is to so deepen our love for the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ that we would easily see through the many counterfeits that leave us impoverished. So come, love the gospel, recognize and overcome the counterfeits, and be empowered for ministry!

A Remembrance of Professor Crosby Englizian By Dr. Carl Laney

Former Western Seminary professor Dr. Crosby Englizian passed into heaven on Friday, Feb. 10. Dr. Englizian taught church history at Western from 1966 to 1988 when he left for a two-year ministry at Tyndale Seminary in the Netherlands. He continued to teach as an adjunct after his return to Portland in 1990.

Dr. Englizian was of Armenian descent and was sporting a pin one day in chapel that said "Armenian Power." The chapel speaker misread the pin and announced, "It looks like I'm in good company today. I'm an Arminian too!"

His doctoral dissertation on the history of Park Street Church was required reading in his church history classes until it went out of print. His family is rejoicing that he did not linger long after going on hospice and that he lived his life well. Dr. Englizian will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Gifts in memory of Dr. Englizian may be directed to Western Seminary, Attn: Greg Moon, 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97215. You may also give online, by clicking here and selecting "other" from the drop-down menu. Please type "Dr. Englizian Memorial Scholarship" in the empty box below. These gifts will be used exclusively to sponsor international students pursuing theological training.



Western Prepares to Honor Steve Green For Gospel-Centered Ministry Through Music

This April, we are delighted to present an honorary doctorate to Christian recording artist Steve Green as part of our annual Commencement ceremony at the Portland campus. We will enjoy a special performance from Steve and celebrate his 28 years of faithful service to God's kingdom. Since starting his music ministry in 1984, Steve has shared the gospel at concerts in all 50 states, and in 27 countries. You are invited to join us for the Commencement ceremony on Saturday, April 28 at 11 a.m. at Village Church in Beaverton, Oregon. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and we encourage you to come early. For more information, please feel free to contact Assistant Registrar Kristin Gibb at kgibb@westernseminary.edu.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22 Annual Alumni Connect, San Jose

Join us this Thursday from 6:30-9 p.m. for dinner and a panel discussion. Today's mounting pressures on people require Christian leaders to refocus how we mentor others through new and complex challenges. Hear from a panel of Western professors, staff and alumni from various fields, including pastors, counselors and coaches. Mingle with former classmates and professors, and catch up on how God has been at work among Western alumni. [Click here to register.](#)

April 14 Women's Center for Ministry Conference, Portland Engage: The Call to Bridge the Generational Gap

The generation gap in women's ministry continues to grow each year. What's the problem? And what's the solution? Join us from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Imago Dei Community as we seek to address these stirring questions. Bethany Allen, Courtney Veasey, Jean Milliken, Deborah Loyd, Phyllis Bennett and Bev Hislop will join others in facilitating this inter-generational discussion. [Click here for more information.](#)

April 30 Summer Semester Begins

Did you know that Western alumni can audit one class each academic year at no charge? If you have not yet used the Alumni Audit benefit this year, consider attending one of our summer courses. You may use the Alumni Audit Opportunity and Non-Credit Registration forms to sign up.

For more, check out our Activities Calendar at <http://westernseminary.edu/Calendar/index.htm>