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An Introduction to My Work



by
Margaret Talbot

Financial Update

Decisions, decisions, they are not always easy to make and they often result in something other than we expect. Two major turning-point decisions in my life led me to Greenville. In 1974, I had to decide how to respond to a request that I read the Gospel of John. I was reluctant to agree, but the person making the request had earned my respect. Once I read the gospel, I had to recognize the importance and the truth of Christ's claims. I told this to the person who had persuaded me to read it. As a former Roman Catholic and then agnostic, I thought this decision was going to make me miserable, but he gave me Boettner's Reformed Doctrine of Predestination to read and suddenly I was a Christian and a Presbyterian, and I had more joy then ever before.

In 2004, I called Dr. Pipa, whom I had met when he came to speak at my church's annual conference, and asked him if it would be possible for me to study theology and also biblical counseling at the seminary. He said, "Yes, but it starts in less than two weeks!" I was thrown into a whirlwind of decision-making. If you knew my church family in Maryland, you would understand my reluctance to leave them, but godly counselors encouraged me to take this opportunity. Coming to Greenville cost a great deal but brought many blessings, including being reunited with the person who persuaded me to read the Gospel of John, Pastor George Scipione. Another blessing was that, when I completed my studies in biblical counseling, I could devote more hours to my work as secretary to Dr. Pipa.

Contributions for the first seven months of the fiscal year are \$462,630.00. Donations for this quarter have increased compared to this time last year. Financial contributions are currently over budget by \$53,113.54, and our general expenses are \$16,300.00 over budget. Please join us in praising God for the completion of the renovation of the Old Taylors High School. We began classes in the new building this past week. This is an important milestone in the history of Greenville Seminary. The students, faculty, and staff are humbled by the knowledge that we could not have reached this point without the prayers of many faithful supporters. We will continue to report on the progress of the Capital Funds Campaign as pledge payments continue to come in and additional gifts are still being applied to the original campaign goals. As of the end of January 2008, income for the Capital Funds Campaign has reached \$1,878,845 and we anticipate another \$1,088,387 in outstanding pledges.

Those of you who know Dr. Pipa know that his secretary must always be busy and never bored. It is a great privilege to work for one who serves the Kingdom with such energy and has much wisdom and experience as a pastor and a teacher. As I write, we are in the midst of moving to the new building. This is an exciting time, full of changes and flurries of activity. You may imagine the numerous details, many challenges and stresses involved. Be assured, the Lord has blessed us throughout this time. We, the staff, faculty and students, have seen one another's strengths and weaknesses; gained more love and respect for one another, and become more closely knit together, with much reason to praise and glorify God for His gifts and His mercies.

In addition to my work at the seminary, I work for the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS), do biblical counseling for my church and have served on teams from my church traveling to work with churches in Bulgaria and Peru. All of my work- Seminary, ARTS, and Church – has much the same focus; the peace, purity and unity of Christ's Church. I hope that you will visit us at the seminary and please continue in prayer for us that we would serve well.



A
Reformed View
of **END TIMES**

THE SPRING THEOLOGY CONFERENCE
MARCH 11-13
in SOUTH CAROLINA

There is still time to register for our
Spring Theology Conference.
Register now before it is too late.

-  **Call** Greenville Seminary: (864)322-2717
(credit card only)
-  **Online** at <http://www.gpts.edu/conference>
(credit card only)
-  **Mail** either check or credit card info and registration
form to: *GPTS Conference*
PO Box 690, Taylors, SC 29687

STANDARD TUITION \$65/person
(for spouse or child over 12 add \$20.)

STUDENT TUITION \$20/person
(includes college-age and ministerial students)

TUESDAY DINNER \$8/person

WEDNESDAY LUNCH \$7/person
(children 4 and under eat free)

CALVIN 500 COMMEMORATIVE TOUR



GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IS ONE OF THE SPONSORS OF THE CALVIN 500 COMMEMORATIVE TOUR. SCHEDULED FOR JULY 2009, THIS PROMISES TO BE THE TOUR OF A LIFETIME AS WE CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE WITH THE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND LEGACY OF JOHN CALVIN. WHEN YOU REGISTER, PLEASE INDICATE THAT YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH GREENVILLE SEMINARY IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR GROUP DISCOUNT.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information about the tour, please visit: www.calvin500.org

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