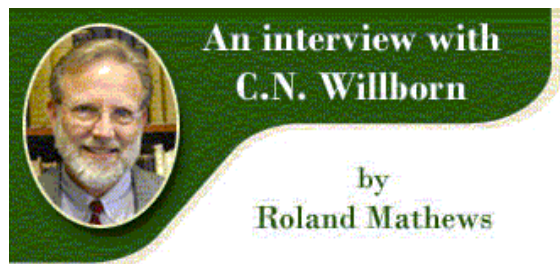


Subject: Greenville Seminary July 2009 E-newsletter
From: Brenda Benson <bbenson@gpts.edu>
Date: Fri, 10 Jul 2009 14:27:21 -0400
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
BCC: staff@gpts.edu, faculty@gpts.edu

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

July E-Newsletter

Please add bbenson@gpts.edu to your address book to ensure delivery of email newsletters and other updates from Greenville Seminary.



Dr. C.N. Willborn, Associate Professor of Historical and Biblical Theology at Greenville Seminary has recently accepted a call to serve as Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. We are very thankful to Dr. Willborn for his years of service to the students here. We rejoice in this opportunity he now has. Although the faculty, staff and students will miss Dr. Willborn and his family we are looking forward to his continued contribution to the work here as an Adjunct Professor.

Roland: Thank you for taking the time to share with our e-newsletter readers. Please start by telling us a little about yourself.

Dr. Willborn: I have been on the faculty of Greenville Seminary for nine years. I have been called to pastor Covenant Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I am married to Carol and together we have three children, Sophie, Cas and Ian.

Roland: What was it that brought you to the Reformed Faith?

Dr. Willborn: For friends, the easy answer I always give is that it was through reading the Bible. I grew up Baptist and went to a couple of Baptist seminaries. I came to the

July 12 – Dr. Shaw – Bethel Presbyterian Church, Cardiff, Wales

July 12 – Dr. Dyer – Faith Presbyterian Church (OPC), Cookeville, TN

July 12 – Dr. Pipa – Providence OPC, Oak Ridge, NC

July 19 – Dr. Curto – Covenant Community OPC, Taylors, SC

July 19 – Dr. Shaw – Covenant PCA, Oakridge, TN

July 24-25 – Dr. Pipa – Stone Mountain Theology Conference, Stone Mountain, GA

July 26 – Dr. Curto – Covenant Community OPC, Taylors, SC

July 26 – Dr. Dyer – Cash Hollow PCA, Bluff City, TN

August 2 – Dr. Pipa and Dr. Shaw – Covenant PCA, Oakridge, TN (Installation of Dr. Willborn as Pastor)

August 2 – Dr. Shaw – Oakbrook Community Church, Summerville, SC

August 3-7 – Dr. Pipa – GPTS Pastor's Institute, Taylors, SC

August 23 – Dr. Pipa – Draper's Valley PCA, Drapers, VA (Ordination and Installation of Roland Mathews as Associate Pastor)

August 27-29 – Dr. Pipa – Conference on Calvin for the 21st Century, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

Ongoing:

Dr. Smith is teaching an Adult Sunday School class at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Brevard, NC

Dr. Carrick is serving as stated supply at Geneva OPC in Woodstock, GA beginning June 28th, 2009

Reformed faith in the course of studying Greek. My professor in my intermediate Greek courses had us draw certain passages to study. The passages I ended up drawing were luckily, Calvinistically speaking, Romans 8 concerning the Golden Chain, Romans 9 concerning Jacob and Esau, and Ephesians 1. By the time I finished doing those passages I was pretty *Calvinistically* inclined, but I still had a lot of Dispensational baggage. I went back and studied the Scriptures and realized there was an overarching unity to Scripture. The final thing that drew me to the Reformed tradition was my work in New Testament studies on the role of the Elder and Deacon. By the time I finished seminary I was a Presbyterian, although I did not know what to call it. That came with reading James Henley Thornwell's volume on ecclesiology.

Roland: When did you fully embrace Presbyterianism?

Dr. Willborn: I was ordained as a Baptist when I was in seminary. When I left seminary I was convinced that I was a Presbyterian and later received ordination in the PCA in 1994 in Philadelphia Presbytery.

Roland: Your ordination into the Presbyterian Church coincided with your doctoral studies at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia?

Dr. Willborn: Yes. Through a number of providences and the encouragement of professors, I went to Westminster to undertake work for a PhD. It was during the course of my PhD studies that I sought ordination. Philadelphia was a good time.

Roland: What was the topic of your dissertation?

Dr. Willborn: My dissertation focused on historical and theological studies. My studies at first were evenly distributed between Reformation and puritan studies on the one hand, and American reformed studies on the other. I became interested in the issue of adoption. My studies of the development

Dr. Shaw is leading a Men's Bible Study at 2nd PCA in Greenville, SC

Dr. McGoldrick is teaching a Short Course on the Protestant reformation in the Chapel Class at Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Please Pray With Us

July Prayer Requests:

- Praise God again for His on-going provision for Greenville Seminary. Please pray for the resources to cover debt accrued over the last 12 months
- Please continue to pray for students who are ministering in internships this summer.
- Please pray for new students enrolled for the fall semester that God will continue to confirm their call to the ministry.
- Please pray for Greenville Seminary trustees, faculty, current students and alumni that God will keep us faithful to the distinctives to which He has called us and zealous for the spread of His gospel throughout the world.

of the doctrine of adoption brought me to the nineteenth century. Since the nineteenth century does not formally fall under puritan and Reformation studies, I had to choose American reformed studies. My dissertation finally focused on the forgotten Southern Presbyterian John Girardeau. I investigated Girardeau's life and his context in the Southern Presbyterian Church.

Roland: You came to Greenville Seminary before you finished your dissertation. What led you to the Seminary? Why did you choose to teach there?

Dr. Willborn: For several years I had known Dr. Morton Smith and had spent time with him. If anyone is doing work in American reformed studies, and particularly Southern Presbyterian studies, you have to get to know Dr. Smith. Knowing him has been a great treat for me. I also came to know Dr. Pipa through the PCA General Assembly. Dr. C. Gregg Singer passed away in 1999, so the seminary needed a new professor to teach historical theology. I had finished my course-work and comprehensive examinations for my PhD at Westminster, so I was completed with everything except my dissertation. In the spring of 2000 the Administration Committee, Faculty and Board of Directors decided to bring me onboard.

Roland: What do you think some of the major strengths of Greenville Seminary are? What can the Seminary offer the Reformed Church?

Dr. Willborn: The most evident strength of the seminary is its practical theology, focusing primarily on homiletics. Along with this is a strong emphasis on ecclesiology and churchmanship. The Seminary strongly encourages men to place themselves under the care of Presbytery early on, and to be licensed to preach as soon as possible. We encourage men to become involved in local congregations. We want them to teach, and to observe and learn from the local Session. This distinguishes Greenville Seminary from many schools where the focus is more on the academic.

Five lectures from this years GPTS Spring Theology Conference: John Calvin a 21st Century Assessment will be aired on Pilgrim Radio (<http://www.pilgrimradio.com>) next week (July 13-17). The lectures will be broadcast at three times each day at 5AM, 5PM and 10PM (Pacific Time). Visit the Pilgrim Radio website to listen at those times or to locate a radio station which will be broadcasting them (all stations are on the US West Coast). The lectures to be featured are:

Monday: John Calvin: Theologian of Head, Heart and Hands by Dr. James McGoldrick

Tuesday: Calvin's Principles of Government by Dr. David Hall

Wednesday: Calvin the Preacher by Dr. Joseph Pipa

Thursday: Brevity and Clarity: John Calvin the Theologian by Dr. Carl Trueman

Friday: Calvin on Union with Christ by Dr. Mark Garcia

Recordings of the entire conference or any of the individual lectures are also available on audio or MP3 CD through the Presbyterian Bookshop (bookstore@gpts.edu or 864-322-2717, ext. 306)

The emphasis can and should be on both, and that is an effort at Greenville that should be applauded.

Roland: What are some of the memorable moments from your time at Greenville?

Dr. Willborn: Several things come to mind. I was at a graduation commencement and I was seated with the faculty. As I looked around I realized I was sitting with men like Morton Smith, George Knight and Jay Adams, and I remember being humbled by the thought of being included in the company of these men who for a long time have been leading voices in the Church.

I have enjoyed getting to know students who have come from various regions of the United States, as well as from various other countries.

One thing that strikes you when you begin teaching is that you really don't know anything. The opportunity to develop the courses, and maturing in your thinking as you progressively grow in your ability to arrange and teach the subject matter, is quite memorable. I hope that in the course of my own maturing in the course material I was able to encourage some students to read one of the classic texts in Reformed theology that has unfortunately been forgotten.

Roland: You have exerted a profound influence on a number of ministers over the years in your capacity as a professor. Now, however, you are leaving full time work in the academy for the pastorate. Could you tell us how and why you have chosen this route?

Dr. Willborn: Well, it was not an easy decision. I love the Seminary and the cause it promotes. I love South Carolina, and the great Presbyterian heritage found here. I was somewhat worried about who would expose students to this or that book, or have them become familiar with this or that theologian, but then I realized that I am not indispensable. Someone will take up that work. Overriding all of these concerns, however, is the call to the Gospel ministry.

For example, Rick Phillips, pastor of Second Presbyterian church in Greenville, SC, and I were taking one day about various things. He looked at me and said, "You do know Nick that the church is where it's at. The Church is what God put here." He is right about that.

The Church is God's unique institution for training disciples. With that in mind, when the opportunity arose to go and pastor a church that is committed to many of the same things to which the Seminary is committed, I could not say no.

Covenant Presbyterian has made provisions which will allow for me to continue in my academic life. Carole and I want to stay connected to the Seminary, and we will on a number of levels. I will continue as an adjunct professor at Greenville Seminary, teaching a few intensive courses. We hope to have interns serve in the church over a period of two months during the summers, and thus provide them with the opportunity really to develop as churchmen. We will have interns work alongside the session and diaconate, live in the home of the pastor, and learn from them. This will hopefully provide them with a model church with which to undertake their own ministry when they leave seminary. Through the internships and the modular classes I will be able on some level to stay connected to the life of the Seminary and its students.

Roland: What do you hope to accomplish in the coming years? Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Dr. Willborn: Well, I would say old and grey, but I am already old and grey. I hope to continue my work on the Diaconate. I've already published one piece, and delivered several papers on the diaconate at various conferences. I have another paper coming out this fall. I eventually want to take what I've written on an academic level and bring it together with some of the more practical material I've developed and publish a book on the Diaconate. This should materialize within the next three years. The book would be an historical and theological text that

outlines the meaning and function of the diaconate. It will provide practical directions in how to fulfill this important ministry.

I hope that Covenant can plant a daughter church after ten years. I would like to have some good young men who could come alongside with me in the ministry, helping me to do the work of the Gospel.

Roland: What advice can you give to future Seminary students?

Dr. Willborn: Choose a good seminary! Oftentimes men will want to go to seminary to get a broad theological education. However, seminary is not a place for broad education. That is what the university is for. You go to seminary to learn about God's Word and God's people; you go to learn how to think biblically and holistically. The best way to think biblically and holistically is to enter a curriculum that approaches the task of theology covenantally. As you look for these qualities in a Seminary, Greenville should be a first consideration. Second, while you are in seminary remember that you are still a member of the Church. Do not let seminary be a time of academic exploration; let it be a time of spiritual development within the framework of your life in your home church. The church is vital to the spiritual development and maturity of the seminarian. She is, so to speak, your mother, and you need to stay close to mom.

Roland: Thank you Dr. Willborn for taking the time to talk a little bit about yourself and your ministry to Christ's Church. We hope and pray that the Lord will bless you in your work for His kingdom.

GPTS now offers a Master of Ministry for Deacons. One of the courses in the program is a course that Drs. Willborn and Pipa have developed on on parish ministry and the diaconate. For more information about the program contact registrar@gpts.edu.



Below are financial numbers for the month of June which was the end of our fiscal year. Last month we mentioned in this e-newsletter our goal of bringing in \$100,000 beyond our normal budget. Although we have not met that goal, God has graciously provided and we are thankful for each of you who have generously donated throughout this fiscal year. We still have about \$80,000 in debt from this past fiscal year that we need to pay off within the next few months.

General Fund Update

	June Budget	June Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for June	Fiscal Year to Date Budget	Fiscal Year to Date Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for Fiscal Year to Date
Expenses	\$ 77,931	\$ 62,970	\$ 14,961	\$ 895,581	\$ 924,422	\$ 28,861
Donation Income	\$ 57,354	\$ 60,570	\$ 3,216	\$ 630,894	\$ 714,043	\$ 25,795
Other Income	\$ 20,577	\$ 15,025	- \$ 5,552	\$ 183,108	\$ 194,468	- \$ 9,217
Total Income	\$ 77,931	\$ 75,595	- \$ 2,336	\$ 891,933	\$ 908,511	\$ 16,578

Capital Funds Update

Goal	\$ 3,500,000
Receipts	\$ 2,199,864

Outstanding Pledges	\$ 908,529
New Income Needed	\$ 391,607
Outstanding Bills	\$ 49,500
Monthly Note	\$ 8,500

Pastor Bill Shishko, Pastor of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, NY sent us the picture below from the ordination service of Brad Hertzog on Saturday, June 6. 6 GPTS alumni were present for the ordination service. Brad Hertzog (2008) was ordained to the office of evangelist with a call to plant a church in Queens). GPTS graduate Ben Miller (Associate Pastor of the OPC in Franklin Square) led the ordination prayer, and GPTS graduate Peter Van Doodewaard (Pastor of Covenant Community OPC in Taylors, SC) gave an outstanding charge to Brad. Also present were GPTS alumni Nathan and Melissa Ketchen and Jonathan Holst (Pastor of Westminster OPC, Hamden, CT). Pastor Shishko who serves as a GPTS Adjunct Professor administered the ordination questions to Brad. What an encouragement to see how the Lord is using GPTS in in metropolitan NYC and Long Island.!



It is not too late to order a brick in support of Greenville Seminary's Capital Campaign. Bricks already ordered have arrived and we are making arrangements now to install them in front of the building. For details please contact the Development Office at development@gpts.edu or 864-322-2717.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please reply to bbenson@gpts.edu.

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