

The *Testimony*

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Entering the Next Phase

Eric A. White

When working around the house, I break down any large project into smaller phases. I find that small bits have their advantages. On the one hand, I can plan the use of my time better. On the other hand, I am able to gauge my progress; I can see things happening. The largest of these projects, however, never takes longer than a season, be it summer or winter. It is difficult to think about a project that would take two or three years to finish. If you ask me to imagine a project that would take over twenty years—and even after that period of time still be incomplete—I might resign before I ever start. Central Seminary's ministry of training pastors in Romania is quickly approaching the twenty-year mark. It is not coming to an end, however; it has just entered into the next phase.

The first phase began in 1992 when Central Seminary faculty offered classes in Romania. As part of his teaching load, each faculty member had to carry boxes of books with him by plane, train, and automobile to provide resources for the students. Because communism did not allow for the publication of Bible study materials, the students were hungry for both reading material and classroom lecture. Still, the original commitment was for only one year. For some of the students, that was enough; for others, it was truly just a beginning.

In 1997, realizing that language and travel were barriers to student learning, the faculty selected a few Romanian pastors to become teachers in the seminary in Romania. Thus, the second phase commenced. Those would-be teachers were enrolled in Central Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program, and they travelled to Minneapolis to complete

their classes. The fruit of this endeavor was that Benjamin Costea, pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church in Arad, Romania, and Richard Redding, missionary in Romania, completed their Doctor of Ministry degrees.

During the years following, the administration discussed the possibility of training more men at the doctoral level in order to create a distinctly Romanian faculty. Just four years ago, that possibility began to take shape. The faculty in Romania were maturing not only as professors but also as leaders in the institution.

At a meeting of the Romanian faculty in the fall of 2005, I asked them to discuss their vision for the campus in Romania. No one responded. So, afraid that I had been misunderstood, I asked the question again. Silence. Finally, Sergiu Dobre, who teaches in the Systematic Theology department, asked, "Do you want to know what we think?" A little surprised by the question, I responded, "Yes, I want to know what you think." The floodgates opened, and the thoughts and concerns rushed out.

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Fall Courses Ph.D./Th.D./Th.M.

Sep 30 - Oct 2

*Postgraduate Seminar in
Hermeneutics
Faculty Integrative Seminar*

*Providence of God
Jeff Straub*

*Advanced Greek Grammar
Rodney Decker*

Take a Seminary Class as a "Visitor"

Visitors pay a flat fee of \$75 per seminary course and fill out a simple form to register. They are not required to do any class work nor go through the regular application process.

For more information
email: admissions@centralseminary.edu
call: 763.417.8250

Pratt's Perspective on Paul

During the 2008-2009 school year the seminary faculty began a once-a-semester event: the Special Chapel Series. One of our professors is chosen to lecture on a topic in his field during an entire week of chapel. Dr. Jeff Straub addressed the subject of the Emerging Church in the fall of 2008. On April 7-10 Dr. Jon Pratt, Professor of NT, gave a lecture series entitled, "The New Perspective on Paul: Evaluation and Critique." To learn more about this significant

and broadly-published mindset in New Testament studies, download



for free the lectures and notes from www.centralseminary.edu.

Resources at www.centralseminary.edu

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Bookstore

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amazon.com

MP3 Audio



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Fall Courses M.A.T./M.Div.

The following courses meet once a week:

Tuesday

*Homiletics
Church Administration
Baptist History*

Wednesday

Expository Preaching II

Thursday

*OT Introduction
NT Biblical Theology I
OT Biblical Theology II
Hermeneutics
Dispensations*

Weekend Graduate Courses

Sep 18-19, 25-26, and Oct 9-10
*Foundations of Counseling
Thomas Zempel*

Nov 6-7, 20-21, and Dec 4-5
*Methods of Biblical Change
Thomas Zempel*

First Board Member Emeritus

Central Seminary is a ministry of many people. In addition to a dedicated faculty and staff, a number of devoted Christian leaders serve on our

of service. The chairman of the board announced the unanimous decision to make Dr. Johnston board member emeritus and presented him with a plaque



board. This year, at the seminary's 52nd commencement exercises held on May 9, Dr. Charles Johnston, alumnus (M.Div. '65 and D.D. '85) and board member, was honored for his thirty-eight years

recognizing his countless hours devoted to the work of the seminary. Dr. Johnston also delivered the commencement address from Philippians 2:5-16.

Thirteen graduates received degrees—four M.A. in Theology, two M. Div., two Th.M., three D.Min., and two Ph.D. On behalf of the student body, senior class president Ben Straub presented to Dr. Bauder two plaques inscribed with the mission statement of the institution. These plaques have already been hung in prominent places in the seminary reminding us that we exist *to assist New Testament churches in equipping spiritual leaders for Christ-exalting biblical ministry.* ☞



ANNUAL LEADERSHIP GIVING

<i>The Founder's Circle</i>	\$10,000 +
<i>The President's Circle</i>	\$1,000 +
<i>The Dean's Circle</i>	\$500 - \$999
<i>The Friends of Education</i>	\$1 - \$499

OTHER LEADERSHIP GIVING

The Legacy Society

Those who have included Central Seminary in an estate plan

The Pillars

Local churches who support the seminary

Planned Giving

Did you know that through a Charitable Gift Annuity written with WaterStone, Central Seminary's service provider, you can generate retirement income, fund your grandchild's education, receive a tax deduction, and further God's ministry at Central Seminary and WCTS?

For more information, contact
 Ron Gotzman
 VP of Advancement
 763.417.8250
 rgotzman@centralseminary.edu

Banquet: What We Cannot Do

Forty-four tables and centerpieces, over three hundred chairs and place settings, hundreds of friends, and over fifty volunteers—on April 14 Central Seminary hosted the Friends and Family Banquet, the biggest endeavor of our year. More than three hundred guests enjoyed an outstanding pork loin dinner and dessert prepared by Mrs. Rhonda Stuckey. Mrs. Katrina Zartman contributed appetizers, a wonderful new addition.

As part of the program following the meal, alumnus Matt Morrell and current student Seth Grotzke talked about what Central Seminary cannot do. They said that the seminary could not call men into ministry or give students real life ministry experience, but that the school could come alongside churches

to assist them in these tasks. Dr. Bauder also noted that the seminary cannot survive without



the financial support of churches and individuals. With the help of a \$25,000 matching gift, the event brought in over \$50,000 to keep tuition affordable for our students.

We are thankful for all who attended this year's banquet. Special thanks to the table hosts and sponsors who made this event possible, and the hard-working volunteers who served the meal. ☺

Fall Conference Reformatted

The fall conference has a new look. Beginning October 12-13, Central Seminary will host the fall conference and Pastors' Day on consecutive days. We are excited to announce Dr. Robert Delnay as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Delnay formerly taught church history at Central Seminary. He will speak on the topic, "The Ties that Bind Us: The Basics of Fundamentalism."

Schedule

Monday – October 12

Pastors' Day

Lunch provided for pastors.
RSVP required.

Tuesday – October 13

Fall Conference

Alumni lunch and association meeting. RSVP required.

Why the change? In the past, Central Seminary hosted two Pastors' Days, the fall conference, and the MacDonald Lectures separately. Each Pastors' Day is

now in conjunction with either the conference in the fall or the lectures in the spring.



While still providing special emphases for students, pastors, and other attendees, we hope this new structure will allow more people to participate.

All sessions are free and open to the public. More information will be posted on the seminary website. ☞

Revisiting Biblical Womanhood

On March 30, Central Seminary hosted its semi-annual Pastors' Day. Over seventy people gathered to hear sessions on the topic "Revisiting Biblical Womanhood." Dr. Juvinall dealt with theological and practical results of Genesis 3 on contemporary women and the men who live with them, while

Dr. Bauder surveyed evangelical feminism and the Redemptive Movement Hermeneutic. Participants enjoyed a session of Q&A as well as fellowship over the lunch that followed the presentations. Audio from these lectures or other chapel messages can be downloaded free of charge at www.centalseminary.edu. ☞

Memorials

Central Baptist Theological Seminary and WCTS Radio have received gifts in memory of the following individuals:

In memory of *Dick Ahlberg*
by Bernard Plank

In memory of *Clara Miller*
by Harriett Pearson

In memory of *Miriam Strand*
by the family of
John & Miriam Strand

In memory of *Lois Thompson*
by the family of
Lois Thompson

Golf Tournament

Monday, August 31

Wild Marsh Golf Club
Buffalo, MN

Contact the seminary office if you would like to be added to the golf mailing list.





Upcoming Events

Aug 31	Golf Tournament
Sep 1	Fall Semester Begins
Oct 12-13	Pastors' Day/Conference

Entering the Next Phase (cont'd from page 1)

Of the goals and desires of the Romanian faculty, the highest priority is for the welfare of the churches. The men who teach for Central Seminary are all full-time pastors, and most of them pastor more than one church. Not only do they appreciate the education they received, but they also understand the role it has played in their ministries. They desire other ministries to be strengthened in the same way. Second to training pastors, the Romanian faculty see a need for theological writings in the Romanian language. In order to meet these goals, further education and resources would become necessary.

"For us to take advanced courses and to work on a Doctor of Philosophy degree is a dream come

true," stated one professor. "I cannot wait to teach this course because now I am prepared, and I want to add so much to my notes for the students," added another. One professor, Gelu Pacurar, is translating one of his Greek textbooks into Romanian. The faculty in Romania have also decided to create a theological journal in Romanian—the first of its kind. The early stages of the journal will include the papers that they write for their classes. They hope these essays will be useful to the Baptist churches in Romania, including pastors who may not be able to come to the seminary in Arad for training.

The process of obtaining a Ph.D. is not easy. These men are pastors of their churches while teaching in the seminary. The class work is arduous. Although we are teaching some of the Ph.D. courses on our branch campus in Arad, Romania, eventually each professor has to travel to Minneapolis to finish his courses. This means a sacrifice of time away from family and ministry. This phase is perhaps the most challenging for both campuses. The goal, however, is honorable. To have a trained faculty in Romania, teaching 95 percent of the courses in the Romanian language and taking an active role in the institution, brings a sense of accomplishment—we are seeing things happen. While we have a few years before all of the Romanian faculty will be able to complete their doctoral degrees, they are encouraged to see the end in sight. ☺

Central Seminary Alumni Focus

David Meunier, Pastor

A Jewish lady had knocked at the door of every church between the hospital and her home, a stretch of seven miles. In God's sovereignty, her knuckles rapped the door of Plainville Baptist Church in Plainville, Massachusetts, where alumnus David Meunier serves as pastor. David recently shared some of the many occasions of God's drawing men and women to himself in Plainville, as He did this Jewish lady. "It seems," David reflects, "that God indirectly blesses our efforts in evangelism to let us know that He is in control of the harvest."

David and Lora have five boys: Paul (10), Richard (8), Timothy (3), Josiah (22 months), and Seth (5 months), and have served in Massachusetts since 2000. Before moving to New England, David earned an M.Div. in 1996 and served with Lora at Prior Lake Baptist Church for over four years. Of the influence his seminary education has in his current ministry, David says, "Central Seminary has given me the tools necessary to prepare messages that are biblically accurate and personally relevant. . . I am especially grateful that the professors took time to show me servanthood by their lifestyle." ☺

Through a Listener's Eyes - A Sharathon Reflection

Clear skies, warm sunshine, temperatures in the high 70s. It was a perfect September day, and Natilee chose to spend it indoors answering phones.

Natilee is a fourth-generation WCTS listener, and she was one of many volunteers at Sharathon 2008. Volunteers answered phones, helped with data entry, provided food, and even made on-air appearances.

WCTS debuted in June of 1965. Natilee's grandmother and great-grandmother were part of the original audience. Since then, Natilee and her family continue to listen.

"No matter when I tune in," she explains, "I know there will be something that will encourage and strengthen my walk with Jesus Christ, helping me draw closer to Him."

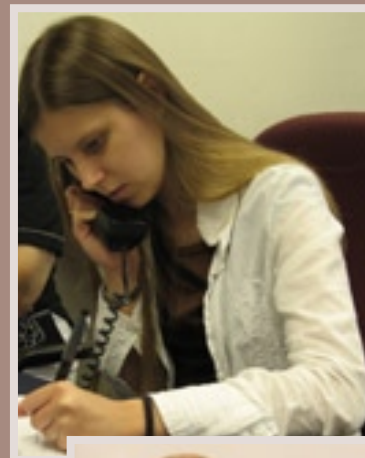
Reflecting on her experience at last year's Sharathon, Natilee says, "Each call is cause for

excitement in Phone Central, and it thrilled my heart to have even young children pledging to the work of this ministry."

Sharathon 2009 is September 21-25. That's only a couple months away. We are excited to see how God will provide for WCTS.

The focus of Sharathon is on raising financial support for the station. We also need prayer support from our listeners. We always welcome volunteers, like Natilee, who give their time to support WCTS.

Please consider how God may lead you to join us in this ministry. As we approach Sharathon, stay tuned for information on volunteer opportunities and specific ways in which you can pray for WCTS. ☺



Sharathon updates will be posted at wctsradio.com.



Your Christian Companion!

Stay tuned!

More announcements will follow on AM 1030 and wctsradio.com as Sharathon approaches.

Learn how you can support WCTS through:

Prayer

Financial Giving

Volunteering

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Traveling Schedules

Kevin Bauder

July 30-Aug 1	Bible Faculty Summit	Ankeny, IA
Aug 4	Inter-City Baptist Church	Allen Park, MI
Aug 6	Presidents' Prayer Advance	Atlanta, GA
Aug 16	Rochester Chinese Christian Church	Rochester, MN

Jeff Straub

Jun 25-July 4	Central Seminary	Arad, Romania
July 19	Blaine Baptist Church.....	Blaine, MN
July 26	Blaine Baptist Church.....	Blaine, MN
July 30-Aug 1	Bible Faculty Summit	Ankeny, IA
Aug 24-25	Andrew Fuller Conference	Louisville, KY

Thomas Zempel

Aug 10-14	Faith Baptist Bible College & Seminary	Ankeny, IA
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