

The *Testimony*

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The Reason We Exist

Kevin T. Bauder

A large part of Christian leadership consists in exposition and application of the Scriptures. For that reason, Christian leaders must become skilled at handling and communicating the Word of God. Christian leadership includes teaching.

Christian leadership also includes more. In addition to teaching and preaching, a Christian leader must model a transformed life. Therefore, everyone who graduates from Central Seminary should be a changed person. Our job is to transform students so that they will become effective spiritual leaders for Christ-exalting, biblical ministry. If we succeed, our graduates will exhibit transformation in at least three ways.

First, we want them to love rightly. "Loving rightly" means loving the right things. It means loving those things with a love that reflects God's own valuation of those things. It means loving those things with the right kind of love.

Most of all, loving rightly means loving God with the whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. To fail to love God, or to love something else more than God, or to entertain a rival for the love that God alone deserves,

or to love God with unworthy loves, is the essence of idolatry. This is no incidental matter. Indeed, it is the first and greatest commandment.

Second, we desire that our graduates judge wisely. Judgment is necessary whenever a choice must be made, and life is full of choices. Obviously, we want our graduates to be able to judge between good and bad, but we also want them to be able to judge between good and better, and even between better and best.

On one occasion, the apostle Paul told the Philippians how he was praying for them. His request, he said, was that "your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all judgment; that ye may approve the things that are excellent." For Paul, it was not enough that the Philippians were avoiding things that were obviously bad. He wanted them to be able to choose the things that really mattered, the things that would make a difference. Only thus would they be "sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." We desire the same for the graduates of Central Seminary.

Third, we hope to produce an entire generation of shepherds who will lead gently. We overtly reject the authoritarian and abusive

models of leadership that have too often characterized Christian churches. The transformed life of a genuinely Christian leader will exhibit gentleness.

Lack of gentleness has been a problem in every era of church history. The apostle Paul had to remind his readers that "the servant of the Lord must not strive." Peter had to forbid elders to rule as "lords over God's heritage." The model for spiritual leadership was established by Paul when he recalled, "we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls,

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Fall Courses

M.A.T./M.Div.

The following courses meet once a week:

Tuesday

Expository Preaching II
NT Biblical Theology III

Wednesday

Hermeneutics
Romans

Thursday

Church History I
OT Biblical Theology II
Homiletics

Fall Modules

M.A.T./M.Div.

New!

August 16-20 (I)

Foundations of Counseling
Thomas Zempel

September 27 - October 1 (II)

OT Introduction
Christopher Watson

October 4-8 (III)

Systematic Theology I
Kevin Bauder

Weekend Courses

Sep 17-18, Oct 1-2, 15-16

Systematic Theology II
Jeff Straub

Oct 29-30, Nov 12-13, Dec 3-4

Family Counseling
Thomas Zempel

Romanian Graduation

by Marius Birgean

Romanians are fond of holidays, celebrations, and special occasions. Recently, we enjoyed our own celebration of sorts. But do not worry, our celebration was far different from those of our countrymen.

On October 25, 2009, we held our sixth commencement exercises here at the Romanian campus of Central Seminary. Twenty-three men received masters degrees and twelve of those the Master of Divinity. Let me describe our commencement celebration.

At 9:00 a.m., students and professors entered the church solemnly. After a congregational song, one of the Romanian faculty members opened with an invocation, and another read a text of Scripture. The text used for this special occasion

guests from Minneapolis—Dr. Kevin Bauder (president) and Dr. Thomas Zempel (vice-president) of the home campus.

Another outstanding feature of the event was the music. Congregational songs and choral pieces were carefully selected. A real delight was the mandolin orchestra, a musical rarity among instrumental ensembles in Romania but a wonderful tradition kept at Emanuel and Grace Baptist Church in Arad.

What followed was a steady flow of short messages from graduates of both the Master of Arts in Theology and Master of Divinity programs. Afterwards, the Romanian teachers gave short exhortations to both graduates and congregants in the



was 2 Tim. 2:3-6, a passage in which Paul employs the soldier, athlete, and farmer as metaphors for the Christian minister. Then, the host of this event—Pastor Benjamin Costea—greeted all participants: students, their families, faculty members, and our honored

assembly. Particularly memorable was Pastor Gelu Pacurar's recitation in Hebrew of Psalm 1 and the substantive and practical exhortations from Drs. Zempel and Bauder. The graduates were challenged to consider the solemnity of God's call



and encouraged to rely on God’s sufficient grace.

The choir sang another wonderful piece before the much-awaited moment of offering the diplomas to the graduates. Each student was waiting for his name to be called—a kind of rehearsal for the moment when all God’s servants will meet at the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive the reward from Him (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10). After the closing prayer and doxology, the congregation sang the hymn “May the Lord of Peace Be with Thee” as the graduates made their exit from the crowded church. The ceremony lasted four solid hours, but each moment was worth it!

Someone may ask, “What is so particular about a Romanian graduation experience?” Most graduation ceremonies—regardless of where held—have much in common. The answer does not have to do with ritual or style or the special music or the number of exhortations given or even the whole length of the service. The answer lies somewhere else—in the very significance of the

event judged in its overall context. To see how a new generation of Baptist pastors are better trained and equipped for the complexities of ministry in a post-communist Romania is quite amazing.

Romania recently celebrated its twentieth year free from the oppression of the Communist



dictatorship. Even after two decades of freedom and transition, Romania is a country still marked by many contradictions and uncertainties.

(cont. on p. 4)

Fall Modules Ph.D./Th.D./Th.M.

October 6-8

Hermeneutics
Faculty Integrative

Advanced Ecclesiology
Larry Oats

Spring Modules M.A.T./M.Div.

January 3-7

Systematic Theology V
Kevin Bauder

Hermeneutics
Jeff Straub

January 10-14

Systematic Theology VI
Kevin Bauder

Baptist History & Polity
Jeff Straub

Marriage Counseling
Thomas Zempel

January 16-20

John
Jonathan Pratt

D.Min.

January 4-7

Theology of Counseling
Thomas Zempel



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

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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
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763.417.8250
rgotzman@centralseminary.edu.

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Romanian Graduation

(cont. from p. 2)

The evangelical churches and, in our case, the Baptists in Romania, were affected by the dramatic changes of their society. A sense of losing the confessional identity in a religious setting where Eastern orthodox predominance coexists with strong secular and postmodern influences makes pastoral ministry very demanding and complex.

Yet, by the grace of God, Central Seminary, representing the best of Christian scholarship and biblical commitment and sincerely desiring

to see Christ's glory spread, has left an indelible mark upon many pastors here. An estimated 20 percent of all Baptist pastors in Romania can look now with gratitude to the vision, sacrifice, and diligence of Central Seminary. Add to these all of the churches these alumni represent. Only eternity will reveal the full measure of influence that the seminary has had in Eastern Europe. Maybe this is what makes Central Seminary graduations in Romania so special. For this, may God alone be glorified!

New LinkedIn Group

We have created a LinkedIn group primarily to facilitate ministry placement for our alumni and friends. As part of our LinkedIn group, churches may announce ministry positions available and

prospective pastors may post their contact information.

If you are on LinkedIn, find our group, called "Central Seminary Alumni & Friends," and request to join today.

Resources at www.centralseminary.edu

Online Bookstore

Powered by
amazon.com

MP3 Audio



Alumni & Friends of
CENTRAL SEMINARY

facebook



MacDonald Lectures Series

Despite a snowy reception, a good number of pastors, friends, and students of Central Seminary attended our annual MacDonald Lectures Series on February 8 and 9. The keynote speaker (and one of our alumni), Dr. Rodney Decker, professor of New Testament at Baptist Bible Seminary in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, spoke on the subject “Crucial Issues in the Book of Hebrews.” In addition to Dr. Decker’s stimulating discussions on the warning passages, the New Covenant, and introductory matters (e.g., date, structure, and provenance of the letter), guests enjoyed hearing Dr. Kevin Bauder, who provided a discourse entitled “An Antidote to Worldliness from Hebrews.”

We also added a wrinkle to this year’s lectures, asking our OT professor, Dr. Roy Beacham, to offer a response to Dr. Decker’s lecture on the New Covenant in Hebrews. After the response, Dr. Decker was given the opportunity to offer a rejoinder.

While this type of give-and-take occurs regularly at academic conferences and in postgraduate courses, we have not historically held debates of this nature during the lectures series. Everyone who attended, however, found the exchange to be invigorating and helpful in understanding important issues in Hebrews. We hope you will be able to join us for our next event.



Memorials

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

In memory of Betty Ahlgrim
by Mr. & Mrs. Merle Harmon

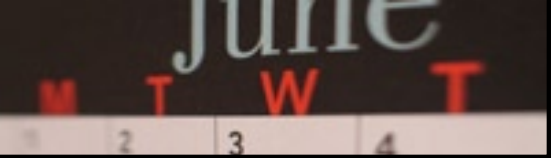
In memory of Berwyn Endicott
by Ms. Anita Pearson

In memory of Doris Gould
by Ms. Anita Pearson

In memory of Lyal Hefflefinger
by Mr. & Mrs. Ron Darling
Mrs. Audrey Nyquist
Mrs. Sharon Parsons

In memory of Everett Pope
by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Pope

In memory of Sam Stephens
by Ms. Anita Pearson



Upcoming Events

- Aug 16 Fall Module I
- Aug 30 Golf Tournament
- Sep 27-Oct 8 Fall Modules II & III
- Oct 11 Fall Pastors' Day
- Oct 12 Fall Conference

The Reason We Exist (cont. from p. 1)

because ye were dear to us.”
Could anyone offer a more tender image than a nursing child

at its mother’s breast? This is exactly the picture that Paul employs when describing his own leadership. The New Testament prizes gentleness among Christian leaders. If we mean to prepare leaders according to the New Testament pattern, then we must prize it, too.

Any decent seminary is going to teach Greek and Hebrew. Any decent seminary will give instruction in hermeneutics and exegesis. Any decent seminary will ground its students in the biblical system of doctrine. Any decent seminary will train its students to put a sermon together competently. Many

seminaries do these things and do them well.

Not many seminaries, however, focus on transforming the character of their students. Of those that do, not all are aiming for the right transformations. At Central Seminary we believe that these three transformations need to take place before someone becomes a competent spiritual leader. We phrase them deliberately as exhortations to every professor, every student, and every alumnus.

- Love rightly.
- Judge wisely.
- Lead gently.

Central Seminary Student Focus

Why attend Central Seminary? When asked this question, students offer various answers: the faculty, the curriculum, the close relationship the seminary enjoys with local churches. For Chris Ames, second-year M.Div. student, the primary attraction was the “genuine Christian conservatism . . . being articulated and discussed within this institution. I had no desire to go [elsewhere],” Chris continues, “and learn how to perpetuate the type of Christianity that fathers cannot convince their own children of.”

Where Chris and his wife, Amanda, will go after he completes his degree is uncertain. They have considered church planting in Oregon. Wherever they go in the future, however, Chris considers his present role as a student at Central Seminary a necessary prerequisite.

When asked what knowledge and insight he is gaining from his coursework, he mentions, first, a growing appreciation for the diligence of his own pastor: “I now know how hard he works to produce sermons and teaching material that is sound and digestible for young believers.” Chris states two other benefits from his coursework at Central Seminary:

“Second, [the M.Div. program] is helping me to more clearly understand and articulate ideas from the Scriptures that are difficult and foreign to modern and postmodern minds. Third, I am surrounded by serious Christians who desire to do the Lord’s will, with all the benefits thereof.”



Professors and Pancakes

by Chris Ames

When most students begin the process of evaluating graduate schools, they have a definite rubric in mind. Others are steered by forces of nature: for example, a man's wife may insist that his seminary



training occur within comfortable commuting distance of a beach, mall, or competent gunsmith. A man in the former category may insist on certain doctrinal emphases in areas such as soteriology, eschatology, or hermeneutics. He may also require certain character qualities in those who would potentially be his mentors: no winebibbers, brawlers, or backbiters, etc. These are all commendable, but if the potential seminarian has gone thus far and no further, has he really considered everything pertinent to his choice?

The blatant example of an overlooked element (the elephant in the room, as it were) is Aunt Hazel's Pancakes. Near the end of the fall semester, the professors dress up like professors planning to cook breakfast. They then proceed to cook breakfast for the student body and anyone else who happens to show up. The crown jewel of the occasion is Aunt Hazel's Pancakes. They are light. They are fluffy. They taste like bananas. They make one somewhat lousy after consumption. Artists would no doubt depict them with a faint corona of glory or seated triumphantly on a white stallion. Their history is the subject of much scholarly debate, sanctified imagination, and gesticulation. To top it off, they're all-natural, biodegradable, reasonably aerodynamic, and a pleasant chestnut color.

Perhaps the reader is advising a young person in his or her choice of graduate schools. Let the reader recall that Aunt Hazel's Pancakes are not available in stores, on the internet, or at any other seminary. They may not be obtained on any other planet, out of the back of a white van in New Mexico, or by deciphering the encoded recipe which was discovered on a tablet found in the sands of Mesopotamia. Central Seminary is the only place to get them. The tablet has either been destroyed or catalogued in the archives room of the library.

Fundraising Golf Tournament

Monday, August 30

Wild Marsh Golf Club
Buffalo, MN

Contact the seminary office today and ask to be added to our Golf Scramble mailing list.

WCTS Radio

Steve Davis interviews Christian authors and other guests on



Christianity in a Changing Culture
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Visit us at
[wctsradio.com!](http://wctsradio.com)

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Travel Schedules

Kevin Bauder

Sep 19 Walnut Ridge Baptist Church Waterloo, IA

Dan Brown

Jun 22-24 IBFNA.....Charlotte, NC

Jun 27 Family Baptist Church..... Minneapolis, MN

Jul 28-30 Bible Faculty Leadership Summit..... Watertown, WI

Nov 17-19 ETS Annual Meeting Atlanta, GA

Jon Pratt

Jul 28-30 Bible Faculty Leadership Summit..... Watertown, WI

Nov 17-19 ETS Annual Meeting Atlanta, GA

Jeff Straub

Jun 20 Blaine Baptist Church Blaine, MN

Jul 28-30 Bible Faculty Leadership Summit..... Watertown, WI

Nov 17-19 ETS Annual Meeting Atlanta, GA

Thomas Zempel

Jun 14-18 Shepherds Seminary Cary, NC

Jul 2-16 Central SeminaryArad, Romania

Aug 8-14 Faith Baptist Theological SeminaryAnkeny, IA