One of the unique contributions of PRTS to theological education and pastoral formation is the emphasis on preparing not only the mind, but also the heart of the pastor. What does the heart of an ideal pastor look like? The Apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of such a heart in Galatians 4:19–20, “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice, for I stand in doubt of you.”

It is immediately apparent that Paul has a deep, deep love for the Galatians in spite of their departure from the gospel. He possesses these foolish Galatians by calling them, my little children. He has nurtured them in the gospel and he will not give them up to the Judaizers and their false gospel. He shows a tender love towards these Galatians by calling them my little children. He loves them as his children, reminding them as he did the Corinthians, “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.” And pulsating in the pastor’s heart is this divine love, the love of Christ that constrains Paul to continue preaching the pure and undiluted gospel (2 Cor. 5:14). It is this love that ought to be the pulse of the pastor’s heart and ministry, reflective of the love of Christ.

But there is another aspect of the pastor’s heart that is vital to a successful ministry. It is a heart that beats with difficult labor, quite literally the labor pains of a woman giving birth. It is intense, difficult labor to pastor souls into and within the kingdom of Christ. It is a labor that comes with personal expense—physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. He knows that as their pastor, he must do the hard, sweating gospel work to see the souls of the Galatians return to Christ. Paul writes that he is in travail again, until. These two words indicate an ongoing, unnatural, even permanent pain for those who need to be brought back to the basics of the gospel. It is perplexing pain because Paul has expended all this energy and it seems there is little return. He stands in doubt of the Galatians and does not know what to do with them anymore, even though he’s done everything to bring Christ to them.

Finally, Paul expresses every true pastor’s longing for the souls of the people to whom he ministers—until Christ be formed in you. This is the powerful pulse of the pastor’s heart. It is a longing that continues until the job is done—until the saint is finally ushered into glory into Christ’s glorious presence, wholly remade in the image of Christ. This longing drove Paul to preach Christ in all His aspects—a crucified Christ, an accursed Christ who redeems, union with Christ, life in Christ, the law of Christ—all so that Christ would be formed in them. He wants the image of the divine Son of God stamped upon the souls of the adopted sons of God and so Christ receives the preeminence in his ministry.

Pray for the students at PRTS to become such pastors throughout their lifetime of ministry. Pray for the professors of PRTS as they seek by the Spirit’s grace to mold and shape such men. Pray for your own pastors to continue developing such a pastor’s heart reflective of the heart of Christ. Finally, respond to the love, labor, and longing of your pastor’s soul for you, that Christ is formed in you, so that he might give an account to God with joy and not with grief (Heb. 13:17).

Rev. Maarten Kuivenhoven is a pastor of Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Training Together Today, Laboring Together Tomorrow

Over the last twenty years, about one hundred theological students have earned their theological degrees from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and are now laboring in the Lord’s vineyard. These alumni, which include thirty men from the Free Reformed and Heritage Reformed denominations, are serving in nearly twenty different countries from every continent, such as Brazil, India, Malawi, the Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, South Korea, Australia, Myanmar, and Zambia. They are church planters, pastors, theological faculty, and denominational leaders.

There are currently 106 students from twenty-one different countries enrolled in courses at PRTS. Many of these students are training on campus; others are taking advantage of the distance learning opportunities available at the seminary. In either case, the exceptional quality standards of the training which focuses on Reformed experiential theology and preaching remain the same. In dependency on the Spirit, we train men so that God may be glorified, the church of Christ edified, and sinners around the world called to repent of their sins and to seek and find forgiveness, comfort, and joy in the King of glory, the Son of God.

If not for the loving commitment of churches and individuals alike, giving of their time, talent, and treasure, much of what the Lord has allowed us to accomplish would not happen. PRTS is not the church, but it is a nursery where those called of the Lord to ministry are planted and nurtured for a season.

We are deeply grateful that the seminary follows the model of “by the church, for the church, to extend to the universal church,” meaning that though we have a special commitment to train men from the Free and Heritage Reformed denominations, we also have a passion to fill the world with Reformed experiential preaching. Our prayer is that the day may yet come before Christ returns on the clouds that every city in the world will have at least one Reformed experiential preacher and congregation, so that people will no longer have to grieve that they cannot find a solid Reformed church in their vicinity.

As a seminary community, we are deeply grateful for the two denominations that sit on the Board of Trustees (7 of the Board members are from the Heritage Reformed churches and 5 are from the Free Reformed churches) and also do most of the teaching (there the proportion is reversed, with the Free Reformed ministers doing more teaching than the Heritage Reformed). In this way, both denominations can view the seminary as their own while co-laboring in a balanced way for the welfare of their denominational churches and the worldwide church as a whole.

To learn more about the vision and mission of the seminary or the various ways in which you could partner with us, please visit us online at www.prts.edu. If you are going to be in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area, we would love for you to stop by and visit us. Give our Director of Development and Marketing, Chris Hanna, a call and let him know of your intentions (616-432-3407). Above all, please remember the seminary in your prayers and with your financial support. Your participation in this ministry is vital to the training of students today for service tomorrow.

This article is co-authored by Dr. Joel Beeke, President of PRTS, and Mr. Chris Hanna, Director of Development and Marketing at PRTS.

A Word of Thanks

This past August marked my seventh year as the Director of Development and Marketing for Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and I continually find myself both humbled and amazed at the way in which the Lord provides for our every need through our many partners scattered across sixteen countries and six continents. Some of these friends give gifts of sustainability, while others are able to give transformational gifts.

Whether large or small, I can’t help but think that every financial gift to the Seminary comes from a heart that resonates with its mission and vision. Each credit card transaction, check, envelope with cash, or gift of stock is nothing short of an expression of gratitude for the grace of God in the gospel and the desire to see that grace declared around the world. I also believe it is a confirmation of the work going on here in Grand Rapids, and I am convinced that each gift is truly a labor of love—love for God and love for others.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Lord for His wonderful provisions and for each of you, our
ministry partners. I know that some of you give through special church collections, others simply write a check, and still others give as monthly partners. I am also aware that some give out of abundance, while others give simply the widow’s mite. We pray that all may, give out of a heart touched by the Savior.

Please continue to pray for and support the work of the seminary. Above all, please spread the word to those near and far whose hearts you know resonate with the mission of PRTS. Tell them that this seminary is worthy of their prayers and support because it is a school where students are being trained today to preach and teach the unsearchable riches of Christ to serve in His church tomorrow—a work that is ever growing and that is currently being carried out around the world through its alumni.

Again, I want to thank you for expressing your love for PRTS through your prayers and financial contributions. Our seminary is a seedbed for biblical, Reformed, practical theology and piety, which is being planted in the hearts and minds of those who will become future church planters, pastors, theological instructors, and other ministry servants. I know that without the Lord’s blessing and the prayers and financial support of His people, the work of this seminary would be nonexistent. So, praise be to the King of glory, for He is good and His love endures forever. Thank you for partnering with us in this labor of love.

—Chris Hanna

FACULTY ITINERARIES & PUBLICATIONS

DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | Itinerary:
November 1: Grand Rapids, MI: Heritage Reformed Church, Family Living Class
November 8: Grand Rapids, MI: Heritage Reformed Church (a.m.), and Immanuel Reformed Church, Kalamazoo (p.m).
November 19: Grand Rapids, MI: Heritage Reformed Church (a.m.)
December 6: Grand Rapids, MI: Heritage Reformed Church (a.m.)
January 3, 2016: Metamora OPC
February 16–19: Greenville, SC: Annual Bible Conference at Bob Jones University

DR. JOEL BEEKE | Itinerary:
November 1: Laurel and Jackson, MS: preaching for Audubon Bible Church (a.m.) and First Presbyterian Church (eve.)
November 7: Burgessville, Ont.: Young People’s Gathering
November 8: Ontario: Mitchell (a.m.), St. George (p.m.), and Hamilton (eve.) Free Reformed churches
November 10–12: Quebec: NAPARC Meetings
November 14: Aberystwyth, Wales: preaching Dr. Geoff Thomas’s 50th anniversary sermon
November 15: Aberystwyth, Wales: Alfred Place Baptist Church
November 16–17: The Hayes, Swanwick, England: Reformation and Revival Fellowship Conference
November 18–19: Atlanta, Georgia: Evangelical Theological Society Conference
January 8–12, 2016: Sun Valley, CA: course on preaching for doctoral students at John MacArther’s Masters Seminary.
January 15–17: Coconut Creek, FL: Emmanuel Baptist Church Conference
February 12–19: Seoul, Korea: KIRP (Korea Institute for Reformed Preaching) Conference

Recent Publications:
*The Beauty and Glory of Christ’s Bride*, ed. Grand Rapids: RHB.
“Study Bibles for Our Hearts, Homes, and Churches.” *TableTalk*, Sept. 2015.
*The Happiness of Enjoying and Making a True and Speedy Use of Christ*, ed. Grand Rapids: RHB.
*Building on the Rock*—first volume in Portuguese. Ananindeua, PA, Brazil: Knox.
*Why Should We Sing Psalms?* Grand Rapids: RHB.

DR. DAVID MURRAY | Itinerary:
December 1: Reformed Biblical Counseling Association

Project:
PhD project on *Matthew Henry: The Reasonableness and Pleasantness of Religion*

DR. WILLIAM VAN DOODEWAARD | Itinerary:
January 2016: Visiting Research Fellow in the School of History and Anthropology, Queen’s University Belfast.
February 25–27: Orlando FL: Ligonier National Conference

Writing Projects:
*1 & 2 Peter*, Evangelical Press.
### Financial Report

**For period 8/1/2015–9/30/2016**

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<th>Year to Date Actual</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<td>$ 79,740</td>
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  - Exp. Date ___/___  Security Code
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  - 685 Main Street, P.O. Box 105, Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1CO
  - Attention: PRTS

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- 685 Main Street, P.O. Box 105, Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1CO

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**To each of our ministry partners, let me say thank you. By God’s grace and your partnership the faculty and staff of Puritan Reformed are able to co-labor together to train our students today for service in Christ’s church tomorrow. To learn more about the Seminary and its needs, please contact Chris Hanna or Corney Les today.**

—CHRIS HANNA