



In 1 Timothy 4:11–16, the apostle Paul tells Timothy, who was pastoring the church in Ephesus, what he should do in order to be an instrument of God’s sovereign redemption in his pastoral labors. What are these priorities so central to the gospel ministry? Do we value them in our churches today?

First, Paul says that if he wants to be used by God, Timothy should speak the truth clearly and confidently (vv. 11, 13, 16). There were false teachers in Ephesus who were teaching lies. But Timothy was to teach true doctrine carefully and conscientiously. Seldom is that easy. There are truths of the faith, such as God’s triune being, that can be difficult to understand and explain. There are other truths, such as the call to follow God’s Word rather than the traditions of men (Matt. 15:9), that are easy to explain, but painfully hard for a pastor to preach and apply. Do we value men who speak the truth? Or do we value men who tell us things that are easy to understand and comfortable to apply to ourselves?

Alongside speaking the truth, Paul calls Timothy to live a life of ever-increasing holiness (vv. 12, 15). The true Word that Timothy proclaims is to shape his own life in ways that are obvious to the people whom he serves. Timothy is to live and minister among God’s people with a holiness that they should emulate and a humility that allows him to recognize that he still is growing in that

very holiness. Do we value, in our Christian leaders, a holiness pervaded by humility? Or are we seduced by the same “dynamic” personalities that would rise to the fore of any worldly organization?

Taken together, these injunctions give substance to Paul’s command in verses 11–12 that Timothy is to ignore worldly priorities. In the first century, age was revered and youth was a liability. But even though he was a young man (probably in his mid-thirties), Timothy would be teaching the word of the eternal God and he would be living a life conformed to that word. When God’s people saw that, they would respect him and follow him. Timothy’s age would matter to everyone else in Ephesus, but it should not matter, and it would not matter, to God’s people. Do we evaluate things the same way? Do we value men who possess the gloss that this world desires, or do we value men marked by the qualities that God desires?

If Timothy wants to be faithful in his ministry, he is to set aside the things that this world might value and seek after truth and holiness. If we want men who will be used for God’s glory, we should seek to inculcate these same priorities. That is the task set before us at PRTS—to take men whom God is calling and train them to think, live, and minister in ways that are contrary to this world’s assumptions, yet faithful to the living God.

—DR. STEPHEN MYERS

2018 PRTS GRADUATION

On May 4, the seminary community watched as sixteen students received their hard-earned degrees. This year, we awarded three Master of Divinity degrees, three Master of Arts degrees, and ten Master of Theology degrees. Our commencement speaker was Dr. Michael Reeves, President and Professor of Theology at the Union School of Theology in the United Kingdom. Please continue to pray for the seminary's alumni around the world, its current students, and its faculty and staff. We trust the Lord will continue to bless the theological education of each of these graduates as they serve in Christ's church throughout the globe.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

In recent months, the seminary's Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a plan to build student housing for on-campus students and their families. This much-needed project that has garnered the support of many generous PRTS partners throughout North America has nevertheless had an impact on the seminary's Operations Fund. We closed last year below our hopeful expectations, making the first quarter of 2018 a bit of a financial challenge for the seminary.

However, we agree with the sentiments of George Müller who, reflecting on his ministry to orphans, once said:

The chief and primary object of the work was not the temporal welfare of the children, nor even their spiritual welfare, blessed and glorious as it is, and much as, through grace, we seek after it and pray for it; but the first and primary object of the work was, to show before the whole world and the whole church of Christ, that even in these last evil days the living God is ready to prove himself as the living God, by being ever willing to help, succor, comfort, and answer the prayers of those who trust in Him, seeing that He is both able and willing to supply us with all we can need in His service.

As a seminary mostly dependent upon the donations of faithful partnering individuals and churches, we have experienced firsthand the outpouring of the Lord's provisions in meeting our every need, and for this we are humbly grateful. I truly believe that together we are training students today to serve in Christ's church tomorrow.

Currently, we have only a one-month balance. The seminary's BOT wants to see us carry a minimum two-month balance, if possible. If you've donated to PRTS in the past, I want to thank you, and encourage you to continue your much-needed support. If you are considering a partnership with us for the first time, I want to encourage you to make that commitment today. We need the help of everyone who believes that this institution is needed more now than ever. Please assist us by contributing to the Operations Fund and help us close the gap on the \$500,000 needed to meet

our obligations. Whatever you give through June will be doubled, thanks to pledged matching gifts.

STUDENT HOUSING UPDATE

I am delighted to announce that the student housing project is underway. Loving supporters and partnering churches throughout North America have graciously donated more



than half of the \$2.8 million needed for the project. In an effort to close the gap on the remaining need, we have a \$600,000 matching gift campaign running through the end of July. A donation of any size that you would like to make to the project will be doubled and greatly appreciated.

The contractor, BDD Construction, broke ground in March and is expected to complete the project by the end of this year. The project will consist of two units: ten apartments in one unit and six in the other. Each apartment will have two bedrooms, so as to accommodate either multiple students or married couples with children. The objective is to offer on-campus students (and their families) affordable housing that is also close to the seminary. Although the rent will not be subsidized or free, it will be substantially lower than rental rates in the greater Grand Rapids area.

Our ability to offer low-cost student housing will benefit a number of on-campus students in three ways: 1) provide affordable housing; 2) help stretch scholarship dollars, especially for international students who are dependent on those funds to cover their education and living expenses; 3) foster fellowship and strengthen lasting relationships among the students living in the apartments.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this much-needed project with a donation of any size. Together, we are training students to serve Christ and His church around the world.

2018 PURITAN REFORMED CONFERENCE

This year's Puritan Reformed Conference, *The Beauty and Glory of the Last Things*, will be held at the Prince Conference Center, August 23–25. It will be the last of our beauty and glory series, but not the last of our conferences. The theme for the 2019 conference will be holiness. This year, however, I am excited to announce that we will have two very special speakers on the platform with several of our own exceptionally gifted PRTS faculty members. Rev. Edward Donnelly, former pastor of Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church in Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland, will be with us, as will Rev. David Strain, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS.

Rev. Donnelly has published three books: *Life in Christ*:

Walking in Newness of Life (1995), *Peter: Eyewitness of His Majesty* (1998), and *Biblical Teaching on the Doctrines of Heaven and Hell* (2001). Rev. Strain is a regular writer for TableTalk magazine and is currently working on completing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS.

Each year, I am humbled by and grateful for the positive responses from conference attendees. I am praying that the subject matter of this year's conference will be particularly helpful to everyone seeking to understand this very important topic of the last things. I want to encourage you to take advantage of the early-bird pricing (\$75 per person) and join us **August 23–25** for the Puritan Reformed Conference. You will be glad that you did. —JRB

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE



To say that education is changing is a truism. Every day, technology is reaching farther into regions of the globe which previously we had despaired of ever reaching. The seminary is taking a close look at this changing landscape and taking steps to leverage this expanding reach in order to bring Reformed teaching to new areas.

To accomplish this most effectively, the seminary is not only increasing the number of our distance courses but also how we deliver such courses. Under the older model of distance education, we would bring distance students into our classrooms via video-conference. Then we would expect these students to meet all the same standards and deadlines that the on-campus students did. Papers, exams, quizzes, even attendance were the same for both on- and off-campus students.

This model, however, had some serious drawbacks. First was the obvious issue of time zones. Students in California would have to log in at 5:30 a.m. to attend an 8:30 a.m. class on our campus. Second, this model of distance education put the distance student at a real disadvantage in terms of participating in the class. It was very awkward for them to address questions to the lecturer or to participate in a discussion. Third, this model was very demanding on our technology. Maintaining a live broadcast with multiple video inputs, mics, screens, soundboards, mixers, and a powerful computer trying to manage it all was a challenging task. Finally, this model was very demanding on the student's technology. If for any reason, the student's

technology failed, he would have missed that part of the lecture, and there was no way for him to retrieve it.

In the last year, however, we have been transitioning to a new model of distance learning. The new model continues to follow our normal semester schedule but it entirely dispenses with the live broadcast. Students do not need to attend a lecture at a prescribed time; the lectures are now pre-recorded and posted for the student to watch whenever he likes. Furthermore, the work of the course is divided into weeks. Each week, the student is expected to participate in discussion forums, complete the assigned readings, watch/listen to the lecture(s), and complete the assigned quizzes or worksheets, and all this work is due on Saturday at midnight.

This model presents several clear advantages over the previous model. First, the student is no longer bound by time zones. Second, the discussions now take place online in a discussion forum, instead of in a classroom. This greatly facilitates interactions between all the students and the professor. Every lecture which the student watches is followed by a forum in which the students discuss how that particular lecture impacts them personally as well as their church. The students also discuss how the lecture could be taken further or in a different direction as well as what questions still remain unanswered even after watching the lecture. Finally, the demands made on our technology as well as the student's technology are far less. This makes for a more reliable delivery system.

We are excited about this new model of distance education and what it makes possible for students who not only cannot come to our campus but whose life and work make it impossible for them to attend normally scheduled classes. Join us in praying that these courses will be used by God to establish His church all over the globe.

—Chris Engelsma,
Director of Distance Education



Running a network and planning for future infrastructure deployments aren't the most exciting subjects. And for PRTS it is hardly our most visible resource, but it certainly underlies a good portion of the work that the faculty, staff, and students perform. In the five years I've worked at PRTS as Director of Technology I've seen our storage resources grow from 2 TB to now over 100 TB of combined storage and data backup on and offsite (if my math is right, that's a 4,900% increase). Additionally, we have moved from ten servers for application services to more than forty managed servers that now handle everything from security monitoring and virus protection to synchronization and print services. Because of technologies known as virtualization, this runs on only three physical servers and takes up a space not much larger than a couple of desktop computers and uses half the energy of the system I inherited when I started here. We've also upgraded our email system so that it is hosted offsite and improved our data backup, so in the case of a disaster we can easily recover our systems and return to normal services.

One of the more exciting projects I've had the opportunity to work on has been in cooperation with the library. PRTS's William Perkins Library, under the leadership of Laura Ladwig, has developed several web-based research tools. The first, and most mature, is what we currently call the Puritan Studies Index, or PSI. It has already become much more than merely an index, however. Originally designed to simply list the secondary literature articles we already had in the collection relating to Puritan studies, it has turned into a growing, searchable, full-text database

that analyzes the work, context, and scholarship surrounding the Puritans and Puritanism. This tool sets us apart; I don't know of any evangelical seminary that has taken the time and resources to create and develop a tool of this kind. Our hope is that this will become the definitive database on Puritanism and the Puritans for research. The second, unique resource is one that we call PeRT (Puritan Electronic Research Tool). This was originally the brainchild of Dr. Joel R. Beeke. Its basic purpose is to aid ministers, students, and laypeople by providing a list of print and audio sermons, articles, portions within books, and manuscripts on any given scripture reference. There are only a few tools that provide a similar service, and what makes PeRT so unique is that it is a curated list of available resources that directly reflects the outstanding collection held in the William Perkins library, and that makes all the difference. First, the librarians ensure that what is provided is orthodox and confessional, and second, these resources are placed appropriately in their biblical context. PeRT 1.0 is up and running right now, but version 2.0—with more complex search capabilities, filter refinement options, and an attractive user interface—is scheduled to release sometime early fall of 2018. Both of these resources, with some limitations, are available for everyone.

Puritan Studies Index (PSI): <https://prts.edu/psi-search/#/search>

Puritan Electronic Research Tool (PeRT): <http://legacy.prts.edu/library/pert/>

Seth Huckstead is the Director of Technology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and a member of the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, MI.

Interview *with* Pastor Aaron Shaw



Please tell me a bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? Anything you want to share about your family? Are you married?

I was born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio, but left Ohio when I entered into the United States Air Force. After my conversion in 1989, I left the military and met my wife, Rachel Willis, while attending a Bible institute in 1992. We were married and currently have seven children, ages 21 to 5. Out of our seven children, four are biological and three have been adopted.

How did you hear about PRTS and what drew you to this seminary?

I first heard of PRTS from my brother-in-law, Andrew Willis, who took a PRTS class in Sarnia, Ontario. He shared the various things that he had been reading from different Reformed authors that struck a chord in my soul. In 2010 a pastorate opened for me north of Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I felt called to accept this pastorate, I also had hopes of attending PRTS.

In what positive way(s) has your seminary education impacted you? What has been the most challenging thing about your training?

PRTS has impacted me in a holistic way. The thoroughness of the classes filled in blanks that were present even after Bible college. The professors' interaction and love for Christ shone through the rigors of the academic lessons and further drove me to love Christ more. Even with being an older student, there

was great encouragement given at various times to persevere through the workload and honor Christ in my studies.

As someone who entered seminary later in life, is there one piece of advice you would share with somebody your age who is thinking about entering into theological education?

Growing spiritually and deepening one's intellectual knowledge should never be driven by concerns of one's age. God gave me an opportunity to start seminary in my forties and now I am finishing it in my fifties. If eternity will be a continual growing in the depths of the person of Christ and growing in our understanding of the wonderful triune God, then further theological development should be the norm for Christians of all ages.

How has your seminary training and experience better equipped you for the pastorate?

I have not only learned much of the Word of God, but seminary has helped me to understand the process of studying God's Word. I find now with the tools that I have acquired at PRTS the ability to dig deeper into the Word of God and in that digging I am better equipped to preach and teach the people of God whom He has called me to serve.

Rev. Aaron Shaw is one of sixteen men who graduated from PRTS on May 4, 2018.

From the Development Office

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—Chris Hanna

Speakers

Michael Barrett • Joel Beeke • Jerry Bilkes • Edward Donnelly
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The beauty and glory of the
LAST THINGS

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MICHAEL BARRETT | *Itinerary*

July 1: Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Wayside Presbyterian Church
 July 12: HRC Youth Camp
 August 23–25: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Annual Conference

JOEL BEEKE | *Itinerary*

June 4–6: Jordan, Ontario: Synodical meetings
 June 13: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Churchman’s Luncheon Group
 June 14–18: Little Rock, Arkansas: preaching for The Bible Church and giving 24 lectures on Puritan Theology for students from three seminaries
 July 9–23: Europe: leading the Rhine River Tour Group
 August 4–5: Monarch, Alberta: Bethel Free Reformed Church
 August 10–11: Washington, DC: Home School Conference
 August 23–25: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Annual Conference
 August 30–31: Philadelphia: Brainstorming session for Reformed seminary presidents

Recent Publications

Co-author with Mary Beeke, *How Can We Glorify God in Our Marriage?* (RHB)
 Editor, Petrus van Mastricht, *Theoretical-Practical Theology*, vol. 1, trans. Todd Rester (RHB/DRTS)

JERRY BILKES | *Itinerary*

July 10–13: Hastings, Michigan: HRC Youth Camp
 July 15: Dundas, ON: Dundas FRC
 July 22: Jordan, ON: Jordan HRC
 August 5: Hamilton, ON: Hamilton FRC
 August 23–25: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Annual Conference

DAVID MURRAY | *Itinerary*

On Sabbatical

STEPHEN MYERS | *Itinerary*

June 5–7: Flat Rock, North Carolina: Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church General Synod
 July 12: Hastings, Michigan: HRC Youth Conference

ADRIAAN NEELE | *Itinerary*

Teaching

May 3–15: Egypt: Alexandria School of Theology
 June 4–15: New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University
 August 1–15: São Paulo, Brazil: Martin Bucer Seminary

Preaching

Various Heritage Reformed and other churches

Recent Publications

Before Jonathan Edwards: Sources of New England Theology (Oxford University Press, 2018)
Jonathan Edwards’ Galatians Sermons, co-editor (Cascade Books, 2018)
Jonathan Edwards and Spirituality. Classics of Western Spirituality Series, co-editor (Paulist Press, 2018)
 “The Reception of Martin Luther in Reformed Orthodoxy,” book chapter (Latimer Trust Publications, 2018)
 “The Heidelberg Catechism: Politics, Pedagogy, and Preaching,” book chapter (Liberty University Press, 2018)

GREG SALAZAR | *Itinerary*

April 25–28: Cambridge, UK: Voce Viva/Oral examination defense of dissertation at Cambridge University
 June 11–13: Weston, Illinois: OPC General Assembly

DANIEL TIMMER | *Itinerary*

August 23–25: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Annual Conference

Recent Publication

Review of E. Di Pede and D. Scaiola (eds.), *The Book of the Twelve—One Book or Many?* *PRJ* 10.1 (2018): 291–96.

WILLIAM VANDOOEWAARD | *Itinerary*

August 23–25: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary Annual Conference



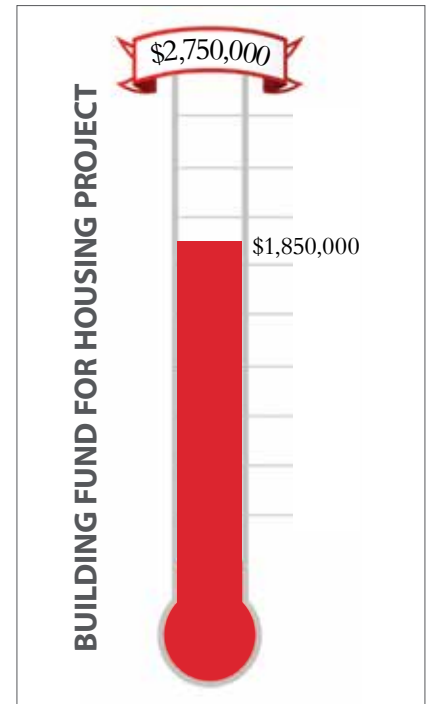
FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2017–4/16/2018

| Income | Year to Date Actual | Annual Budget | Variance | Percent of Annual Budget |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations | 1,526,402 | 2,269,404 | (743,002) | 56% |
| Tuition Income | 420,921 | 520,000 | (99,079) | 81% |
| Scholarship Donations | 158,140 | 285,000 | (126,860) | 55% |
| Other Income | 92,959 | 108,596 | (15,637) | 84% |
| Total Income | \$2,198,422 | \$ 3,183,000 | \$(984,578) | 61% |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Instruction | \$ 1,116,850 | 1,440,057 | (323,207) | 79% |
| Scholarships | 382,819 | 395,000 | (12,181) | 83% |
| Administrative | 1,021,080 | 1,347,943 | (326,863) | 73% |
| Total Expenses | \$ 2,520,749 | \$ 3,183,000 | \$(662,251) | 77% |
| Net Income | \$ (322,327) | | | |

Thank you for the ongoing support of PRTS. Your prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated.

—CHRIS HANNA



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