



CHRIST'S LIVING MINISTRY THROUGH HIS LIVING MINISTERS

Christ speaks through His ministers—something we must remember as our seminary trains future preachers and teachers. Although Jesus Christ is no longer physically among us as He is exalted to the right hand of God, Christ's ministry continues by the Word and the Spirit (Luke 21:15; Acts 2:33). John Calvin said, "He received anointing, not only for himself that he might carry out the office of teaching, but for his whole body that the power of the Spirit might be present in the continuing preaching of the gospel."

Paul grounds the present ministry of the Word upon Christ's ascension. Ephesians 4:10–12 says, "(He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." William Perkins explained, "Christ is ascended to this end to teach the ignorant, to give knowledge and wisdom unto the simple, and to give gifts... unto his ministers, that they may teach his people."

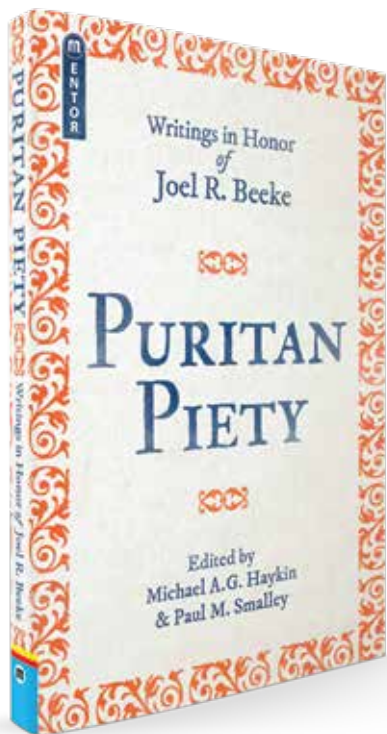
As the Shepherd of His people, Jesus leads them by His voice (John 10:16). Jesus said in John 10:26–28, "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said

unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." If you are saved by Christ's death, it is because you have heard the voice of your Shepherd—not speaking in a still small voice in your imagination, but speaking in the words of the Bible.

Christ is preaching still. What a glorious thought! Whenever we hear the preaching of the Word, we should look past the human preacher and humbly hear the divine Preacher. Calvin wrote, "When the pure doctrine of the gospel is preached, it is just as if he himself spoke to us," for "God himself visits us and comes to us" in the Word. Pray for the unction of the Holy Spirit upon God's preachers—present and future—that the sovereign voice of Jesus would ring out from our pulpits. On the other hand, pray that pastors and theological students would remember that they are authorized to teach only what Christ revealed in His Word. Men are but "ministers," which means "servants"—servants of Christ called by Christ to preach Christ's Word by Christ's Spirit to the glory of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

—Paul M. Smalley

Puritan Piety: Writings in Honor of Joel R. Beeke



August 23–25 marked the tenth anniversary of the Puritan Reformed Conference. This year's event included a second and very special moment: the presentation of a festschrift in honor of Dr. Joel Beeke and his efforts over the last several decades to promote and publish the writings of seventeenth century American, English, and Dutch Puritan authors. Dr. Beeke was very surprised, humbled, and grateful.

Puritan Piety: Writings in Honor of Joel R. Beeke was co-edited by Dr. Michael Haykin, Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality and Director of The Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Mr. Paul Smalley, teaching assistant to Joel R. Beeke at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and Pastor at Grace Immanuel Reformed Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Contributors to this well-written and profitable work include Chad Van Dixhoorn, Sinclair Ferguson, W. Robert Godfrey, Michael Haykin, Mark Jones, Ryan McGraw, Richard Muller, Robert Oliver, Randall J. Pederson, Joseph Pipa, Leland Ryken, Paul Smalley, and J. Stephen Yuille.

The book's contents include the following:

Preface: On Piety and Puritans – Past and Contemporary
Michael A. G. Haykin

1. Introduction: The Puritan Piety of Joel Beeke
Paul M. Smalley

Part 1: Reformed Theology and Puritan Piety

2. What is Theology? A Puritan and Reformed Vision of Living to God, through Christ, by the Spirit
Ryan M. McGraw
3. Christology and Piety in Puritan Thought...*Mark Jones*
4. The Kingdom of God in the Theology of Jonathan Edwards...*Paul M. Smalley*

Part 2: Means of Grace and Puritan Piety

5. Calvin the Preacher and the Puritans...*Joseph Pipa*
6. The Highway of Holiness: Puritan Moral Reform in the English Revolution...*Chad Van Dixhoorn*
7. John Cotton and the Spiritual Value of Psalm-singing
W. Robert Godfrey
8. John Owen and the Lord's Supper...*Sinclair B. Ferguson*
9. Principles and Practice for the Household: Thomas Gouge's Catechesis "with Practical Application" (1679)
Richard A. Muller

Part 3: Individual Snapshots of Puritan Piety

10. Daniel Dyke and The Mystery of Self-deceiving
Randall J. Pederson
11. Milton's Sonnet on His Blindness and the Puritan Soul
Leland Ryken
12. A String of Pearls (Psalm 119): The Biblical Piety of Thomas Manton...*J. Stephen Yuille*

Part 4: Later Heirs of Puritan Piety

13. J. C. Philpot and Experimental Calvinism
Robert W. Oliver
14. Eminent Spirituality and Eminent Usefulness: True Spirituality According to Andrew Fuller
Michael A. G. Haykin

Chronological Bibliography of Dr. Beeke's Writing.

To listen to the 2018 Puritan Reformed Conference sessions, visit the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary page at www.sermonaudio.com. To purchase a copy of *Puritan Piety*, visit Reformation Heritage Books at www.heritagebooks.org.

—Chris Hanna

"It is a pleasure to commend this series of essays in Reformed theology and piety. The theological, historical, and pastoral scope of the essays, and the range of the contributors, from younger scholars Ryan McGraw and Chad Van Dixhoorn, to older scholars Sinclair Ferguson and Robert Godfrey, give this Festschrift a compelling attractiveness. Each of the essays focuses on an area of Reformed doctrine and practice dear to Joel Beeke's heart and dear to Christians who prize experiential divinity. It is to be hoped that this collection of essays will be read widely and digested deeply."

—DR. IAN HAMILTON

Interview with MDiv student, Cagdas Coskun



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

I grew up in Izmir (Symrna), Turkey, in an Alevi Muslim home as an only child. My lovely wife, Gulden, was raised in Kazakhstan and worked with Campus Crusade for Christ before we married. We have a four-year-old daughter named Mevsim. The Lord has richly blessed me with a godly wife and a wonderful daughter. I am truly a blessed man.

Could you describe what a typical day looks like for someone from Turkey?

Turkey is a Muslim country, yet it is, in many ways, a secular nation. However, because of its rich and ancient heritage, Turkish people spend most of their time, outside of work and/or school, with family and friends. For Turks, relationships are first and foremost. This is one factor why reading rates are low in Turkey. People would rather spend time together than to broaden their minds through reading.

As a child, what did you want to be “when you grew up?”

Like most little boys everywhere, when I was a child, I wanted to be a firefighter when I grew up. However, the Lord had different plans for me. When I was eight years old, I had an uncle who received a New Testament from a Christian while studying at university. After having brought it home, my mother began to read it as well. It was through that precious gift from an unknown Christian that led to the conversion of my uncle, my mother, and eventually, me. At the age of fourteen, I began questioning my Muslim faith and upbringing. It was the gospel that led me

to see my true nature as a sinner and my true need of a Savior. The works-based righteousness of Islam that I was taught from an early age crumbled away in the light of the gospel of Christ.

Are there any favorite pastimes, holidays, or foods from Turkey that the average North American person may not be aware of? Please feel free to describe one or two.

All Islamic holidays are celebrated every year in Turkey, the two biggest ones are Ramadan and Sacrificial Feast—the latter being a four-day event that honors Abraham’s willingness to slay his son at God’s request. Participants bring animals to be sacrificed. For the majority of Muslims, the annual sacrifice is an important reaffirmation of their faith in Allah.

How did you hear about PRTS and what drew you to this seminary? Also, how did the Lord impress on you your call to gospel ministry?

My pastor in Turkey knew Dr. Beeke before I decided to apply to PRTS. The main reason I was drawn to the seminary is its emphasis on preaching and pastoral ministry. I sensed a call to pastoral ministry almost ten years ago. It was after receiving news of the martyrdom of three Christian church planters east of Izmir, in a region close to Kurdistan. One of the three men was a convert to Christianity from radical Islam and someone that my family and I knew very well. God used these three men to bring the good news to many people who had never heard the true gospel. This event made a powerful impression on my heart and mind and confirmed my internal call to the ministry.

What has been the most rewarding thing since relocating to Grand Rapids? What has been the most challenging?

The most rewarding thing for me in coming to the States has been the privilege to attend PRTS. My family and I have been blessed abundantly from the seminary and Walker United Reformed Church (URC), our newly “adopted” family. From the moment we stepped off the airplane in Grand Rapids, we were warmly welcomed and cared for by Rev. Cory Dykstra and the congregation of Walker URC.

The most challenging thing that I have found while being a student at PRTS is time management. Life moves quickly in America. My classes are rich in theological and practical truth from God’s Word. The assignments from my professors are rigorous yet rewarding. I am working on finding a healthy balance between my responsibilities to the seminary, my family, and our church.

You’ve been here in Grand Rapids for several months now. Is there one piece of advice you would share with somebody newly relocating?

One of the biggest challenges we faced in the first month or two was transportation; the second was accessing the internet. Once the new student apartments are completed, I don’t think that either of these two challenges will be issues for new students living on campus. However, for those students living off campus, they will need to learn the area quickly and obtain a driver’s license as soon as possible. If they can study for a driver’s license even before they move to the States that would help. If possible, they should also try to obtain an international driver’s license. This would allow them to drive in the US for a couple months before applying for a Michigan driver’s license.

I would also encourage new students to try and connect with foreign students who have already been studying

at PRTS for several months or more. Much can be learned from their experiences.

After you graduate, Lord willing, what then?

When I graduate, Lord willing, we will return to our home in Izmir, Turkey. We are prayerfully seeking the Lord’s direction in hopes of planting a new church in Izmir. We hope to do this with the help of our home church. The plan is to stay on at our home church for a few years before setting off to plant what will be the second Reformed church in Izmir. Our city has a population of five million people and yet, we currently have only one truly Reformed congregation in the whole city. In fact, ninety percent of the Christians living in Turkey claim to be Charismatic. We want to be used of the Lord to plant biblical, Reformed, experiential churches throughout our city and across our country.

If you had the opportunity to speak with supporters of PRTS, what would you say to them?

PRTS provides opportunities to Christians like me who do not have access to sound Reformed theological education in our home country. The seminary, through its faculty, staff, and supporters, is equipping me to carry the torch of Reformed, experiential theology back to Turkey. By God’s grace, the light of the gospel will shine forth through our efforts. It is my prayer and hope that God will use me and my family to make a permanent impact in Izmir and across Turkey, not just for our generation, but for generations to come. Should the Lord choose to bless our work, PRTS and the education I received there will have played a significant role in all of it. May the Lord Jesus be glorified in and through all of it.

From the President’s Desk

Dear friends,

As I write, students are already taking their mid-term exams for this semester. They are working hard. Many more students are applying to attend PRTS as well in our various programs. We are greatly blessed even as we are in considerable financial need at this time. It is not easy to raise funds for both a \$2.75 million Housing Project and a \$3.6 million annual budget for the Operating Fund at the same time in the same year. We are hoping and praying that by year end, God will grant the \$850,000 remaining for the Housing Project and \$1.2 million for the Operating Fund so that we can enter the New Year debt free on the former and with a two month balance for the latter. Please consider prayerfully giving a generous year-end gift to one of these two funds, as the Lord enables. Your help is needed at this time. Every donation is deeply appreciated, no matter what the amount. Please partner with us again by filling out page 8 of this Update, and thanks so much for partnering with us until now. And please continue to pray for and with us that God would continue to use this institution to the furtherance of His gospel truth all around the world.

Warmly, Joel Beeke



Q: Isn't cash the best gift to make to charity?

A: While most charitable gifts are in the form of cash because this is so familiar, this is not always the most cost-effective way for you to give. You may be able to increase your potential impact—and experience significant tax benefits—by giving non-cash assets such as:

- Stock or marketable securities
- Real estate
- Business interests
- Farm commodities
- Life insurance
- Retirement benefits
- Tangible personal property

To learn more about giving non-cash assets or other smart and powerful giving options, contact Chris Hanna at 616-432-3407 or chris.hanna@prts.edu

Q: Should I consider giving from my IRA?

A: If you are 70½ or older, the now-permanent IRA charitable rollover is a smart and powerful way to give to Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS).

This special provision allows you to make tax-free distributions from your individual retirement accounts to charity, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year. Gifts made through the IRA charitable rollover count toward your annual required minimum distribution, and none of the IRA distribution will be included in your adjusted gross income.

Q: I am interested in making a gift of real estate. Do I have to give all of it, or can I give just a portion?

A: There are many options and benefits when gifting real

estate. You can give all of it or a portion, and there are ways to give real estate that will generate an ongoing income stream for your lifetime. Additionally, you can realize a double tax benefit by receiving a charitable deduction and reducing or eliminating capital gains tax.

There are even options that allow you to give real estate, but still make use of it during your lifetime. This arrangement is referred to as a gift “subject to a reserved life estate.” You can receive a charitable deduction for a portion of the value of your home, and at your death, the property will be sold. The proceeds from this sale are then distributed to PRTS and your other favorite kingdom causes.

Q: When does it make sense to give stock to charity?

A: If you have appreciated public stock that you've owned for at least a year, you can receive a double tax benefit by donating this stock to charity. Not only will you receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, but you'll also avoid paying capital gains tax. This makes giving appreciated stock a much more cost-effective option than giving cash.

If, however, the current value of the stock is less than what you paid for it, giving it to charity is not a good idea. You would be better served to sell the stock, recognize the loss of the sale on your income taxes, and make a cash gift to charity with the proceeds.

To learn more about gifting stock to charity and other smart and powerful giving options, contact Chris Hanna, Director of Development and Marketing at PRTS at 616-432-3407 or chris.hanna@prts.edu. You may also speak to one of our partner representatives at the Barnabas Foundation at 888-448-3040.

QUOTABLES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST'S DEITY AND HUMANITY

“He who does not perceive Christ to be God is blind amidst the brightness of noon-day.” (John Calvin)

“Anything that one imagines of God apart from Christ is only useless thinking and vain idolatry. I have had so many experiences of Christ's divinity, that I must say: either there is no God, or He is God. If Christ is divested of His deity, there remains no help against God's wrath and no rescue from His judgment.” (Martin Luther)

“He suffered not as God, but He suffered who was God.” (John Owen)

“Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was he a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man.” (Charles Spurgeon)

“A cloud over the sun makes no change in the body of the sun; so, though the divine nature of Christ be covered with the human, it makes no change in the divine nature.” (Thomas Watson)

Brick by Brick ♦ Student Housing Project



The Lord has blessed the construction of our sixteen-unit student housing project, and we are anticipating occupancy late November. Today, September 27, the construction site is very busy with trades working inside and outside. Cabinets and trim are going into some of the units. Painting and heating/cooling installations are going on in others. Curbs and sidewalks, driveway preparation, and landscaping are progressing outside.

Watching the progress has been a personal delight. I walk over and scan the scene every morning when I arrive, getting an update from the contractor. Often, before I leave, I check inside one or two units to get the latest impression. Students and their families are getting excited. Fourteen of the sixteen apartments have been reserved by tenants coming in over the next three months. It will be a joy to see the apartments filled with students and their families forming an on-campus community. By January



2019, forty-seven individuals will have taken up residence if all goes well with their plans.

Each apartment is close to one thousand square feet. They each have two bedrooms, a kitchen/dining area, and a family/living area. Each has a laundry



room with a washer and dryer, a utility closet with the heating/cooling unit and hot water system, and a balcony with a storage closet. The pictures may give you some impression

of the appearance and space. We are impressed and deeply grateful.

We have a financial challenge. We always try to operate and build without incurring debt. The Lord has blessed us to this point so that we have not had to borrow money. The housing project, however, currently has no-interest and low-interest loans totaling \$260,000. As of today we need another \$850,000 USD to complete the project without borrowing. Thank you for your interest and prayerful support. We see this investment generating returns of approximately \$144,000 per year to our operating budget if we don't have to carry debt.

May God do as He has done in the past and provide the needed funds prior to occupancy. We trust in His provisions through His people.

—Henk Kleyn VP for Operations

FACULTY ITINERARIES & PUBLICATIONS

MICHAEL BARRETT | *Itinerary*

January 27: Lakeland, Florida: Covenant Presbyterian Church

Recent Publication

How Can We Live Our Faith from the Inside Out? (RHB)

JOEL BEEKE | *Itinerary*

November 2–5: Sacramento, California: conference for Robert Briggs

November 9–11: Cape Cod, Massachusetts: conference for James La Belle (OPC)

November 15–17: Denver, Colorado: “Canons of Dort” (ETS)

December 1–2: Raleigh, North Carolina: Reformation of the Family Conference for Shiloh Presbyterian Church

December 12: Grand Rapids: Churchman’s Luncheon Group at New Community Church

January 13: Wyoming, Michigan: Maplelawn Baptist Church

February 28–March 3: Minden, Nevada: Grace Community Church

Recent Publications

Puritan Heroes (with Glenda Mathes) (RHB)

Dying and Death: Getting Rightly Prepared for the Inevitable (with Christopher Bogosh) (RHB)

Biblia de Estudo Heranca Reformada (Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible in Portuguese), gen. ed. (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible in Spanish, gen. ed. (RHB)

JERRY BILKES | *Itinerary*

November 4: St. Thomas, Ontario: St. Thomas Free Reformed Church

November 18: Kansas City, Missouri: Covenant Reformed Church

Recent Publication

How Can I Stop Worrying? (RHB)

DAVID MURRAY | *Itinerary*

November 30–December 2: Lansing, Michigan: University Reformed Church Magnify Conference

December 13–16: Greenville, Michigan: Second Presbyterian Church

January 8–9: Atlanta, Georgia: Depression Conference

January 14–18: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Teaching DMin Course at Westminster Seminary

January 28–30: Minneapolis, Minnesota: Desiring God Conference

ADRIAAN NEELE | *Itinerary*

November 8–16: South Korea: Hapdong Theological Seminary

January 14: Los Angeles, California: Gateway Seminary

GREG SALAZAR | *Itinerary*

Recent Publication

The Works of William Perkins, Volume 6, ed. with Joel R. Beeke (RHB)

Chad B. Van Dixhoorn, ed., *The Minutes and Papers of the Westminster Assembly, 1643–1653*, 5 volumes (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012). Reviewed in the *Puritan Reformed Journal*.

DANIEL TIMMER | *Itinerary*

November 13–15: Denver, Colorado: ETS

November 16: Denver, Colorado: Institute for Biblical Research

November 17–20: Denver, Colorado: Society of Biblical Literature

December 2018: Repentigny, Quebec: teaching 2 adult Christian education courses at Église réformée St-Paul

January–April: Montreal: teaching at the Faculté de théologie évangélique

Recent Publications

A review of Michael P. Maier, *Völkerwallfahrt im Jesajabuch*. BZAW 474. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2016, in the January 2019 issue of the *Puritan Reformed Journal*

A review of Bibleworks LLC, *Bibleworks 10*. 2017 in the January 2019 issue of the *Puritan Reformed Journal*

“The Church in the Old Testament” in the November issue of the *Banner of Sovereign Grace Truth*

“Reading the Old Testament as Part of a Two-Testament Witness to Christ,” pages 95–108 in *Reading the Old Testament Theologically* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018).

WILLIAM VANDOODEWAARD | *Itinerary*

November 1–3: Louisville, Kentucky: Commonweal Project Colloquium, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

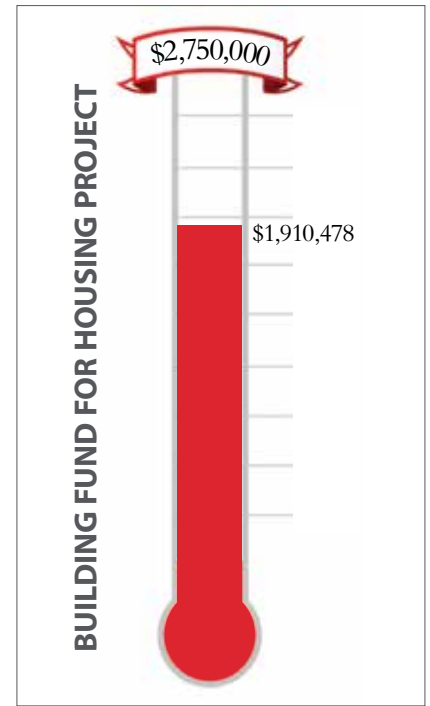
FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2018–9/30/2018

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
Income				
Donations	317,102	2,541,100	(2,223,998)	12%
Tuition Income	338,752	530,000	(191,248)	64%
Scholarship Donations	31,835	385,000	(353,165)	8%
Other Income	<u>22,241</u>	<u>38,900</u>	<u>(16,659)</u>	<u>57%</u>
Total Income	\$709,930	\$ 3,495,000	\$(2,785,070)	20%
Expenses				
Instruction	\$ 339,701	970,652	(630,951)	35%
Scholarships	214,041	385,000	(170,959)	56%
Administrative	<u>235,061</u>	<u>2,139,348</u>	<u>(1,904,287)</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 788,802	\$ 3,495,000	\$(2,706,198)	23%
Net Income	\$ (78,872)			

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

—CHRIS HANNA



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- PRTS Foundation Puritan Resource Center Housing Project
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- I am enclosing \$20 for a 2018 subscription to *Puritan Reformed Journal*.
- Send a free copy of *Reservoirs of Strength*, by Jerry Bilkes and *How Can I Build a Godly Marriage?* by Joel and Mary Beeke.

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- Send me a copy of the PRTS 2017–2019 catalog

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