



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

First and foremost, a hearty thanks to you all for your prayers, financial support, and love in partnering with us. We are deeply grateful. We couldn't carry on this ministry without you, so please receive our humble gratitude—and please continue with your faithful support. You all mean far more to us than you know.

Second, the organizational transitions at Puritan Reformed as well as other developments and enhancements that you can read about elsewhere in this Puritan Reformed Update are going well, by God's grace. More than half a century ago, when I worked in some of my teen summers for my dad who was a contractor, he would often greet us on the job by saying, "Good morning! Are you working hard or are you hardly working?" and of course, I would always say, "I'm working hard, Dad!" Well, let me assure you that everyone at Puritan Reformed, both faculty and the staff team, is working hard and has a big heart for this international and worldwide ministry! And our prayer times each morning at 9:45 a.m. are often the highlight of our day.

Third, it is exciting to see Dr. Bruce Baugus (from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi)

and Dr. Maarten Kuivenhoven, our two new, full-time faculty members this fall, among those working hard at Puritan Reformed these days, as they prepare courses in ethics and church history respectively for this fall semester. Please pray that both of these professors and their families will be greatly blessed and be a great blessing among us (Gen. 12:2).

Finally, we are in the midst of finalizing a faculty search for two additional professors that are needed especially at the PhD and ThM levels: one in New Testament and one in Historical Theology. Your prayers are coveted that God will guide us to the right professors for these important positions. Pray for faithful and godly professors who are gifted in these fields to teach our students from a solid biblical, Reformed, confessional, experiential, and practical perspective. And in your prayers, please continue to lift up our dedicated faculty and staff team for our triune God's indispensable blessing upon us.

Thanks again for all your prayers, love, and support. Every blessing to you and your families in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19)

—JOEL R. BEEKE

SEMINARY DEVELOPMENTS AND ENHANCEMENT

HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY

One thing that is being enhanced at Puritan Reformed is an increase in technology to reach more students and train them with the robust Reformed theology that the seminary is known for. The strong core values provide the framework for all courses and classes to be developed and presented. The harnessing of technology will enable the seminary to give more students the training and education to serve God's kingdom while maintaining rigorous standards and accreditation requirements.

The Lilly Endowment's Pathway for Tomorrow Initiative generously provided the seminary a grant used to run a pilot program to help define a program where students work with mentors and are embedded in their local ministry. Instead of attending all the classes in person, many classes were taught online, mentors were trained, and the program was monitored and assessed by Dr. Jerry Bilkes and Dr. Mark Kelderman. The program was designed to evaluate the competency of each student compared to a defined standard, and a specific program was developed for each student that would fit his situation and provide the needed education and training without sacrificing any courses or lowering standards in any way.

The pandemic also highlighted an increased need to provide online education and classes. This also acted as an impetus to develop more online resources that students can use no matter where they are. The William Perkins Library at the seminary has consistently provided top-notch resources and research databases, and expanding its digital reach has unrealized benefits. Seminary education can become much more accessible and affordable with technology while still providing accredited, robust theological training.

MORE COLLABORATION

We are partnering increasingly with other like-minded Reformed seminaries located around the United States and the world. The need for strong Reformed, biblical training has never been as relevant as today. Puritan Reformed is uniquely positioned to offer other seminaries that need more Reformed and biblically based resources to work together to train those whom the Lord calls to pursue a seminary education.

This past April, the seminary hosted an international consultation meeting—eight seminaries were represented here at the seminary, including Columbia, Honduras, Brazil, Serbia, Hungary, Germany, and Portugal—while two additional seminaries joined us online (Chile and Egypt due to visa issues). We acted as the host but partnered together; we are looking to how we can work together to provide the biblical, Reformed training for students around the world through a Puritan Reformed MA-embedded MDiv program in these countries. We formed partnerships and signed agreements to work together. We feel grateful and privileged to be working together for the welfare of the body of Christ.

MANAGED GROWTH

The seminary has experienced growth. This past May, we had the largest graduating class ever! Praise be to God. There were twenty-eight graduates from fifteen countries. We now have six accredited degree programs, including the MDiv, MA, MABC, ThM, DMin, and PhD degrees. The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC) is a new program designed to train men and women who serve under the local church's supervision. The program is thoroughly based on Scripture and the Reformed faith.

As we grow as a seminary, you can be assured that plans were prayed over, discussed, and brought to the Board of Trustees. The responsibility of training God's ministry leaders is an immense task that is not taken lightly. In today's world, where standards are eroding, we are dedicated to maintaining the "old paths" (Jer. 6: 16) where our core values and mission statement are thoroughly and prayerfully upheld and promoted.

In the next several months, we will share more of our plans, and we ask that you join us and pray for our seminary. Please pray that God blesses our plans as we refine and carry out our calling. Pray that our projects will reflect His will for our seminary. Pray that the Holy Spirit will remain active in the hearts of our faculty, staff, students, donors, and partners, and bless our efforts richly. To God be the glory!

—Karla Soule



We look back with gratitude for the Lord's provision in every way for the academic year 2021–22 and continue to depend on Him for the new academic year 2022–23 that lies before us. We are thankful for the arrival of new and returning students from around the world, returning and new faculty members, Dr. Bruce Baugus (Systematic Theology and Apologetics) and Dr. Maarten Kuivenhoven (Church History), and returning and new staff members, Ms. Karla Soule (marketing, communications, and philanthropy), Mr. Zachary Ash (digital transformation—supporting digital strategy and our online education), Mr. Erich Lee (bookstore—the place for used and new theological books), and Salome Neele (intern marketing and communications). Together with the search to fill two open faculty positions—New Testament and Historical Theology, one easily can see that biblical, Reformed, experiential, and practical theological education is in demand and provided for by a committed faculty and staff. The academic and spiritual formation of the students, which takes place through Word and Spirit and in the community of faculty and staff at Puritan Reformed is both a privilege and responsibility.

We are excited to begin to roll out three new initiatives in the new academic year: (1) the Field Study Center enhancing the practical training of our MDiv studies by

working with diaconal and aid organizations throughout Grand Rapids, (2) the partnerships with seven small, Reformed, conservative seminaries (Colombia, Chile, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Portugal, Serbia) that will make use of Puritan Reformed MA online degree programs as part of the training of pastors in their countries, and (3) a consultation meeting for Spanish-speaking theological education. The latter has grown out of multiple requests over the last couple of years from Reformed and Presbyterian churches and seminaries throughout the Spanish-speaking world asking Puritan Reformed to support their ministries in theological education. In fact, we may speak of a growing hunger for biblical, Reformed, experiential, and practical theological education in Spanish-speaking Latin America, and beyond. As a seminary, we felt we should respond to this “Macedonian call” in a coordinated way.

Last but not least, to enhance our communal practices, we will have every Tuesday and Thursday with the entire seminary—all on-campus students, staff, and faculty, a time of praying and singing together followed by “coffee time,” and Wednesday to continue our chapel services with preaching, singing, and prayer, which now will be followed with a communal meal. We covet your continuing prayers and ongoing support of the students, staff, and faculty.

—Adriaan Neele, Vice-president



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOING ON A BIBLICAL JOURNEY?

Join Dr. Joel R. Beeke, Dr. Michael Barrett, and Dr. Jerry Bilkes and visit Israel and Jordan.

MAY 8–20, 2023



This is a wonderful opportunity to visit sights and places mentioned in the Bible. Professors from Puritan Reformed will provide additional background and teachings about the sites and areas to provide you with a fuller understanding.

You will see Mount Carmel, Nazareth, and Jerusalem and even take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, Garden of Gethsemane, and many more. The tour includes an English-speaking tour guide and first-class accommodations.

Contact Ann Dykema 616-977-0599 ext. 135 or email: ann.dykema@prts.edu for more information.

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Your monthly contribution is a real encouragement to our seminary in terms of financial support but it also serves as an encouragement to our faculty and staff. Know that your contributions are appreciated and as we partner together to equip students for service in God's kingdom, may God be glorified.

Thanks for your consideration.



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