



Paul's epistles to young pastor Timothy are full of guidance for ministry. One of his calls is: "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead" (2 Tim. 2:8). This call sounds so simple. Do people need to go to seminary to learn to remember Jesus is risen? A colleague at Puritan Reformed once said that much of ministry is reminding people of what they already know. If that is true, then ministers are to remember continually the most fundamental things of Christ.

Often we forget these things to our hurt. When hostile forces surround us, like they surrounded Paul, writing from prison and Timothy in a hostile city, we then become so weak. When ones like Hymenaeus overthrow the faith of some, we become confused. When temptation comes, we become an easy prey. When we feel our own weakness and sin, our hands hang down and our hearts droop.

The remedy for these maladies is in remembering Jesus Christ. Literally, the exhortation is to "Remember

Jesus Christ...having been raised from the dead." Remember Him who shed His redeeming blood and was raised by the Father who is satisfied with that price! Remember this Seed of David who reigns forever on the throne above. Remember this living Savior whose word is not bound and whose gospel will be effectual! Remember this Jesus who suffered and now reigns to lead His suffering ones to His throne! Remember this risen head of His church!

This remembering is the knowledge of faith which produces love, submission, and adoration toward the risen Christ. This Spirit-worked remembering gives deepening humility, greater hunger to learn more of Him, and a stronger desire to teach others of Him. Such remembrance of Christ is essential for Puritan Reformed to foster and feed in students (and staff) who are to minister to others. When the living Christ blesses the seminary's service in this way, He alone will be great.

—DAVID KRANENDONK

GRADUATION RECAP



We are immensely thankful to God for yet another year of His faithfulness and kindness to the Puritan Reformed faculty, staff, and students. On Friday, May 5th of 2023, Puritan Reformed celebrated the graduation of 23 students from different programs with their annual graduation ceremony. Puritan had two graduates from the Master of Arts (MA) program, seven from the Master of Divinity (MDiv), eight from the Master of Theology (ThM), and six from the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program. From these 23 graduates, 12 of them are international students, many of whom plan to return to their home countries to further advance the kingdom and gospel of Christ by His grace.

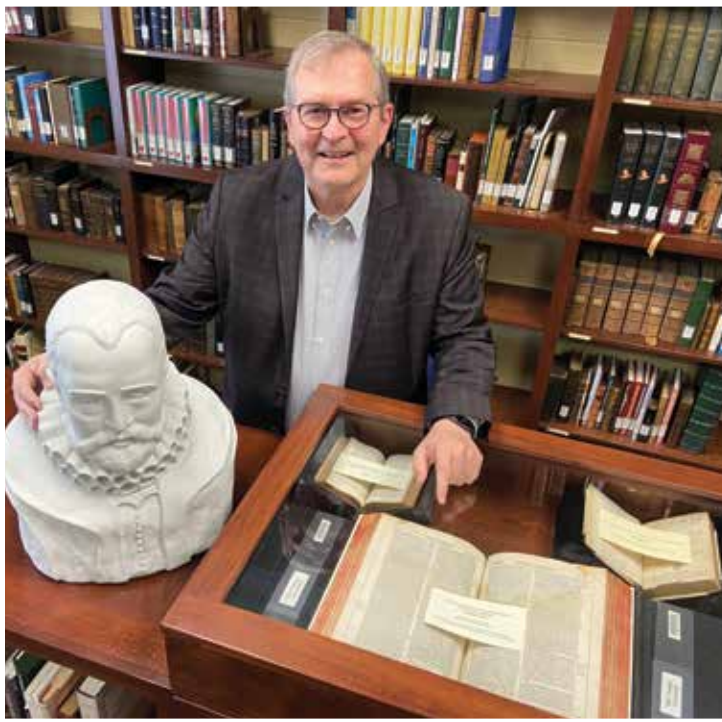
The ceremony itself entailed a commencement speech from Rev. Dr. David Garner, the Chief Academic Officer, Vice President of Global Ministries, and Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary. His commencement address, entitled “Moorings for Faithful Ministry,” was both a challenge and encouragement for the graduates to serve in their respective ministries while receiving strength and grace from Jesus Christ daily. Dr. Joel Beeke then gave a personal charge to the graduates, focusing on the need for discriminating preaching. As usual, he also gave a “Bunyanesque” name to each of the graduates.

The following evening, the Puritan Reformed community further celebrated these individuals at the annual graduation picnic, which was a time for the seminary community and families to come together in fellowship over a meal. This time together is a great opportunity for the entire community alike to bond with one another and to cherish many of the memories that have been created throughout the years at Puritan Reformed.

The seminary looks forward to hosting its fifteenth annual Puritan Reformed Conference from August 24-26, with this year’s theme being “Suffering and the Sovereignty of God.” The 2023 conference speakers will include Puritan Reformed faculty members, such as Dr. Bruce Baugus and Dr. Joel Beeke to name a few, but will also include speakers such as Rev. Ian Hamilton, Anthony Kidd, and Paul Washer. Please join us and pray for God’s blessing upon the conference and upon the speakers.

—Isaac Bronkema





WILLIAM PERKINS'S ARRIVAL AT THE WILLIAM PERKINS LIBRARY!

A few months ago, when I was speaking at a conference for Faith Free Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina, I was called to come up front to unveil an amazingly beautiful bust of William Perkins, often called “the father of Puritanism,” that a member of their church, Jodie Barnes, had sculpted as a gift for our William Perkins Library at Puritan Reformed Seminary. Pastor Jeff Johnson of the Grace Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church of Grand Rapids graciously brought the bust home with him from Greenville, and then over to us at the seminary, at the end of our daily prayer time, where it was unveiled a second time and enjoyed by some of our faculty and staff.

Having worked for nearly ten years on editing and printing *The Works of William Perkins* (10 vols., Reformation Heritage Books), and having lectured on him often, I was delighted to receive Mr. Perkins together with my Queen. We decided to place him in our Puritan Research Center

(PRC), which houses one of the world’s largest collections of Puritan writings, just beside an early seventeenth-century collection of his complete works that Charles Spurgeon owned (his personal seal is in each volume), and later A. W. Pink possessed (who sprinkled his pencil marks of approval throughout). Many thanks to Jodie Barnes for her fine work!

Above all, may God bless the rich heritage of Perkins and the Puritans that, happily, is increasingly being treasured around the world today, and that He would turn many theological students into God-blessed ministers of the gospel who would carry on the biblical, Reformed, experiential, and practical tradition in our contemporary and needy day that Perkins so faithfully proclaimed by his life, voice, and pen until God took him home at the tender age of 44. SDG!

—Joel R. Beeke



ALUMNI NEWS– MYANMAR MISSION UPDATE

The following update is from Naign Bu, PRTS alumnus, serving in his home country of Myanmar.

Greetings from Myanmar. The Lord has been gracious to my family and me, granting us peace in our labors. My wife is a precious and faithful helpmate to me in numerous ways, for which I praise God. Our son, David, is about to turn five, and our daughter, Grace, will be ten months old soon. We are enjoying the love and faithfulness of God in our daily walk, and we pray that the Lord will bring many more people into His kingdom in 2023.



We realize that we are just sinners saved by grace alone, and we depend solely on the Lord to carry out His gracious work through the Holy Spirit. We ask that you pray for us that we will be able to discern the leading of the Lord and always be submissive to His will in everything we do. Myanmar needs the Lord; He alone can transform the people's hearts through His gospel.

CHRISTMAS 2022

Over the Christmas season, we visited a few villages to share the story of Christ's birth and had a number of unbelievers attend our gatherings. One such place was Kala Kung Village, where we plan, with the Lord's help, to plant a church. When we share the gospel there, I ask the people which is easier, "man trying to become God or God taking on human form?" This is an intriguing question for Buddhists.

At our meeting we had a Buddhist nun who listened intently to our message. Approximately 50 unbelievers in all came out to listen to the gospel. Afterwards, we provided lunch for everyone.

We invited these unbelievers to our Christmas celebration in our home church. Many came and listened to the Christmas message. Once again, we provided a lunch for everyone who attended the service. We are praying that the message they heard will soon bear fruit in their own lives.

CHURCH PLANTING

North Dagon City Church is growing and on December 26, we had a baptismal service in which ten people were

baptized. We serve the community through a regular outreach program and distribution of food and other essential items, none of which we could accomplish without the financial support and prayers of others and the Lord's gracious blessing of it all. Thank you all for your support.

Because of our faithful partners, we have recently been able to do the following:

- We visited more than 40 homes and shared the gospel with the family members.
- We have shared over 500 gospel tracts in the neighboring communities.
- We have been able to rent a meeting hall for regular worship services.
- We have been used to edify and encourage believers through various activities.
- We have baptized ten people this year.
- We are seeing the Lord bless our efforts by increasing our numbers.



TRINITY COLLEGE

The last two years have been tragic due to the country's COVID and political unrest. However, 2022 marked a new chapter in the life of Trinity College. Our students enjoyed their studies immensely; something for which we have been praying. We pray for their safety and their fruitfulness.

The men and women in the picture above are first-year students working hard on their group discussions. We need your continuous prayers for our students and the work being carried out at Trinity College.

Please pray for...

1. The Church's growth and multiplication.
2. The students at Trinity College to mature in Christ.
3. Peace and order to return to the country.
4. That we would effectively share the gospel with the unbelievers here in Myanmar.
5. A permanent facility for the church to worship in.
6. A facility to house Trinity College for ongoing theological training.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNAL PRACTICES AT PURITAN REFORMED



Christian community requires intentionality. Far too often we run about in our busy lives forgetting that we, as Christians, are members of a very large family. This family, formed through the blood of Christ, consists of people from every nation and ethnic group on the earth. Puritan Reformed is a small microcosm of this larger worldwide community. It is a special opportunity, especially for students, to learn from their Christian brothers and sisters during their time at seminary.

To encourage students to participate in on-campus Christian community activities, the seminary's student council has taken the lead in coordinating three weekly communal gathering times. On Tuesdays and Thursdays

there is a corporate prayer time led by the student council. These times of prayer consist of singing and prayers, both for the needs of the seminary community and for the wider Christian community, with special remembrance of our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. Wednesdays are chapel days with a communal lunch following, to which everyone on campus is invited.

It is our hope and prayer that when students leave the seminary, these times will be a catalyst for them to remember their brothers and sisters in Christ and to foster Christian communal practices in their places of service.

—Kim Dykema
Events and Hospitality Manager



A CONFERENCE INVITATION

This August 24–26 will mark the 15th anniversary of the Puritan Reformed Conference. For those who have attended past conferences the time spent sitting under the Word of God, as expounded by some of the most gifted pastor-teachers of our age, has been both a beautiful and edifying experience. A conference, like that of the Puritan Reformed Conference, is more than the sum of its parts; it is in fact the worship of God by those who have been touched by the love of God in Christ. It is also the stirring of another's soul through a good word spoken in season, a corporate song of divine praise when doubts fill the mind and burden the heart; it is a warm smile, a listening ear, and a prayer on behalf of another to "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." We conference so that together we might receive the healing balm of Christ and shine all the brighter as vessels of divine grace.

The English Puritan, Thomas Watson, put it like this:

You that are the people of God, do you often associate together? "Those who feared the LORD spoke to one another" (Mal. 3:16). Christ's doves should flock together; one Christian will help to heat another. A single coal of juniper will soon die, but many coals put together will keep life in one another. Conference sometimes may do as much good as preaching. One Christian by good discourse drops holy oil upon another; that makes the lamp of his grace to shine the brighter.

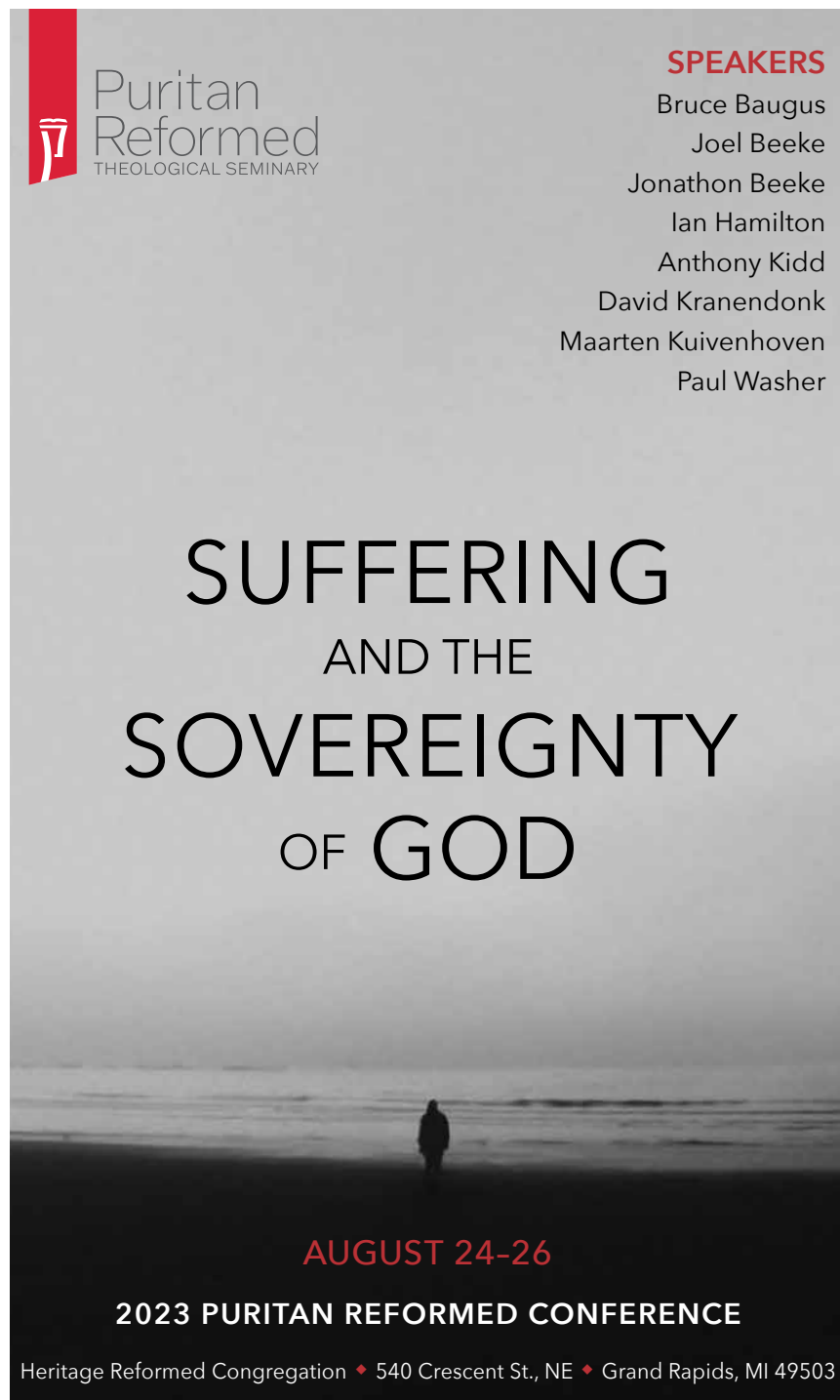
I hope to see you at this year's Puritan Reformed Conference. Its theme is one that we all wrestle with at some point in life; it is the theme of suffering and the sovereignty of God. Join us as our teachers, such as Paul Washer, Ian Hamilton, Anthony Kidd, and several Puritan Reformed professors, draw from the Word of God the manifold grace of God for the comforting and convicting of our souls, and all to the praise of our blessed Savior.

We are expecting several hundred to turn out for the conference and we would

like for you to be numbered among them. Reformation Heritage Books will be on site offering many edifying titles by our conference speakers and others, all at deeply discounted prices. So come, even if it is only for a part of the conference. You will be glad that you joined with the Lord's people and heard a good word for the wellbeing of your soul.

To register online, visit conference.prts.edu. You will be glad that you did.

—Chris Hanna
Director of Operations



Puritan Reformed
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SPEAKERS
Bruce Baugus
Joel Beeke
Jonathon Beeke
Ian Hamilton
Anthony Kidd
David Kranendonk
Maarten Kuivenhoven
Paul Washer

**SUFFERING
AND THE
SOVEREIGNTY
OF GOD**

AUGUST 24-26
2023 PURITAN REFORMED CONFERENCE
Heritage Reformed Congregation ♦ 540 Crescent St., NE ♦ Grand Rapids, MI 49503

CHURCH EMBEDDED MINISTRY EDUCATION

Support and momentum for our Church Embedded Ministry Education Model (CEMEM) of theological training continues to grow. We are pleased to announce the availability of a Church Embedded MDiv degree program for the fall of 2023.

The CEMEM program began last year with a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. The Pathways Initiative enables theological schools to take deliberate steps to address the challenges that are critical to ensuring that Christian congregations continue to have a steady stream of pastoral leaders who are well prepared to lead the churches of tomorrow.

Puritan Reformed's objective is to enrich our MDiv program with more practical experience by embedding students in their home church, another local church, or a service-based ministry while completing the bulk of their academic study remotely.

The Church Embedded MDiv program offers the same accredited degree and academic rigor in a way suitable for students who are better off not relocating to meet the residency requirements of the traditional MDiv program. The "embedded" aspect of the program enables students to remain in their congregation or local ministry, where they work under the direction and nurture of a personal mentor and supported by the local eldership or ministry board.

Most academic coursework will be completed remotely with others in live or online classes, under the direction of a Puritan Reformed academic mentor. The program uses a specially designed web application to track and assess assignments done within the ministry setting and to maintain the vital communication link between the student and both mentors. Embedded students will also benefit from the Puritan Reformed on-campus experience by joining others in two-week intensive course sessions that will be offered each year.

We recognize that the effectiveness of remote education and mentorship programs can vary widely. We remain committed to upholding the reputation for academic excellence that Puritan Reformed has earned, while strengthening the practical experience component of training to better equip our graduates for ministry.

Do you know of someone who might be a good fit for this program? We encourage you to share this article with him. For more information please visit prts.edu/curriculum/church-embedded-master-of-divinity-mdiv. Please continue to pray for these students and their mentors, our project team, and for God to bless this program to provide more and better-equipped men for ministry.

—Bill Thies

FACULTY ITINERARIES AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | *Itinerary*

July 13: Hastings Michigan: HRC Youth Camp

July 25-28: BonClarken, N.C.: ARP Family Camp

August 13: Holland, Michigan: Messiah's Independent Reformed Church

August 27: Kalamazoo, Michigan: Kalamazoo Reformed Church

Recent Publications

"The Old Testament's Theology of Life after Death" in *Puritan Reformed Journal*

"Thoughts for a Sermon: Lessons from Two Fires (Lev. 9, 10)" in *Puritan Reformed Journal*

DR. JOEL R. BEEKE | *Itinerary*

June 1-6: Pukahu, New Zealand: Riverbend Bible Church Conference (3 addresses)

June 8-19: Singapore (4 conferences, 23 addresses/sermons)

June 21-22: Pretoria, South Africa: Mukhanyo Theological College (7 lectures)

June 23-28: Skogheim, South Africa: Skogheim Conference (5 addresses)

July 6-10: Franca, Brazil: Old School Conference (3 addresses)

July 11-14: Hastings, Michigan: Camp Michawana—Youth Camp (1 address)

July 30: Texas: ordination sermon for Sterling Taylor

August 11: Grand Rapids, Michigan: "Revive Us!" (1 address)

August 24-26: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Conference (1 address)

Recent Publication

Introduction to *Works of Thomas Boston* (12 vols.), with Randall Pederson (RHB)

DR. JONATHON BEEKE | *Itinerary*

June 19-23: Lisbon, Portugal (consultation with European seminaries)

July 31-August 4: Quito, Ecuador (Paper delivered and consultation with Latin American seminaries)

August 24-26: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Puritan Reformed Conference (break-out session)

DR. MAARTEN KUIVENHOVEN | *Itinerary*

May 31-June 5: Chilliwack, BC: Chilliwack HRC and FRC

June 6-8: Burgessville, Ontario: HRC Synod

June 11: Grand Rapids, Michigan: Grand Rapids HRC

June 18: Brantford, Ontario: Grace FRC

DR. ADRIAAN NEELE | *Itinerary*

June 5-9: New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University (teaching)

June 19-23: Portugal: Martin Bucer Seminary (teaching)

June 26-30: Apeldoorn, The Netherlands: Theological University (teaching)

July 3-7: Leuven, Belgium: Evangelical Theological Faculty (teaching)

Preaching in various congregations throughout the months June-August.

DR. DANIEL TIMMER | *Itinerary*

June 1-3: Wake Forest, North Carolina: Southeastern Baptist Seminary (Textual Production and Pluriformity Study Group)

INTRODUCING THE BOOKSTORE

The seminary now has a bookstore that sells many used Puritan and Reformed books. Most of these books have come from donations from retired pastors, friends, the seminary library and from Dr. Beeke!

The bookstore has new and used Reformation Heritage Books titles as well as new books by Banner of Truth, Presbyterian and Reformed, Crossway, Soli Deo Gloria, and more.

The bookstore is open Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our temporary store website address is: <https://bookstore.prts.edu>



Donating and Purchasing Your Used Books

The bookstore would really appreciate any donations from your collection of Puritan and Reformed books. Much of these savings will be passed along to students. If you are interested in donating or selling, please contact our store manager: Erich Lee at 616-855-5743 or email: erich.lee@prts.edu

—Erich Lee

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(See *Journal* for international rates.)
- ☐ Send a free copy of *Faith Working Through Love: The Theology of William Perkins*, edited by Joel Beeke, Matthew Payne, and Stephen Yuille

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PRAYER AND MONTHLY SUPPORT: BLESSING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you for your prayers and generous support of Puritan Reformed. Please continue to pray for our twenty-three new graduates, as well as our alumni around the world. As we enter the summer months, we ask that you prayerfully consider a gift of any amount to either our operation fund or scholarship fund. If you would like to make a direct impact on the daily needs of students, please consider a financial donation to the food pantry. The seminary's pantry provides our local students and their families with dairy and meat products, as well as fruits and vegetables on a weekly basis. Thank you again for your partnership.

—Chris Hanna

PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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