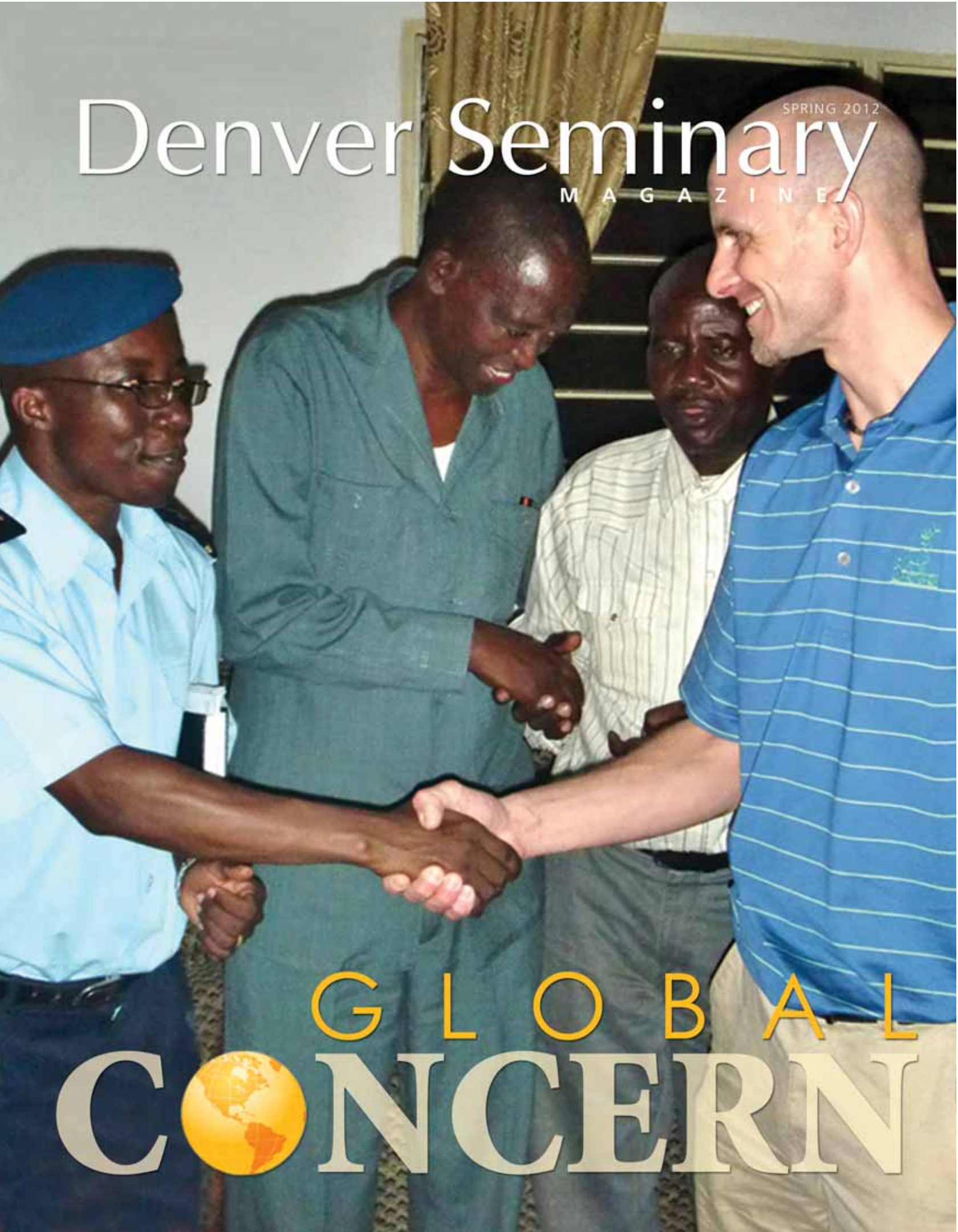


# Denver Seminary

SPRING 2012

MAGAZINE



GLOBAL  
CONCERN

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MAGAZINE



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# MISSION

Denver Seminary prepares men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.



## Message from the President

Each of the last five issues of our magazine has focused on one of the five core commitments that define Denver

Seminary. These core commitments ([www.denverseminary.edu/core-commitments](http://www.denverseminary.edu/core-commitments)) have formed and guided the Seminary since its founding in 1950.

- **Biblical Authority**—We are people of the Book, believing the Bible to be the final authority for faith and practice.
- **Vigorous Scholarship**—We are people of the Truth, committed to seeking truth in all disciplines through dedicated research and study.
- **Charitable Orthodoxy**—We are people of the Faith, committed to the great core confessions that have defined Christianity for centuries.
- **Redemptive Relationships**—We are people of the Gospel, a community of humbled and broken people who have found life anew in its redemptive power.
- **Global Concern**—We are people of the Kingdom, committed to global mission because of God's concern for the redemption of all peoples.

In this issue we invite you to explore with us what it means to mirror God's heart for the world. Our commitment to global mission isn't a sidebar or peripheral feature of the Seminary's programs. It provides rationale and urgency to our task. Note how the Seminary's mission statement expresses this clearly: the mission of Denver Seminary is to prepare men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

Denver Seminary is characterized by global concern because that's the very heart of God. There is no place on earth that lies beyond the scope of God's concern. There are no people who live outside the boundaries of His love. There are no souls for whom Christ did not die.

I remember vividly the moment when God's concern for the world slapped me in the face and got my full attention. Having traveled outside the US for the first time in my life, I found myself sharing the gospel with a group of teenagers in a small village in the beautiful Tatra mountains of southern Poland. They were so eager to learn, so open to hear about Jesus. And God used me to open the Scriptures so that they could see and believe. That day I committed myself to serve the Lord wherever in the world He would send me. Thirty years and forty countries later, God's concern for the whole world is so deeply embedded into my heart and soul that it touches every area of my life. Our commitment is that it would touch every area of Denver Seminary—every trustee, every faculty member, every staff member, every student, every program, every class—just as deeply.

There has never been a generation more globally aware and connected than the current generation of students. They are a generation that is comfortable with multiple cultural perspectives and complex ethnic and racial realities. This generation of students is better prepared for global engagement than any generation of Christians before it. As a Seminary, we must take advantage of this tremendous opportunity and turn their comfort with a globalized world into a passion for the world that Christ died for.

At Denver Seminary we are committed to making the uncomfortable realities of a blinded and broken world an abiding cause for concern in our classes and our mentoring relationships. We must challenge one another to courageously face the indifference and self-indulgence that keep us from whole-hearted commitment to the mission of God in the world. That's why we can say without reservation that global concern remains a core commitment of Denver Seminary.

For His Name's sake,

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Denver Seminary admits qualified students of any race, gender, color, and national or ethnic origin.



# New Scholarship to honor Dr. Douglas Birk

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Dr. Douglas V. and Lucille I. Birk Scholarship Fund. Established by the Birk children in honor of their parents, the purpose of the scholarship “is to provide tuition assistance for deserving M.Div. students pursuing a career in full-time pastoral ministry.” The fund honors the Birks’ lifelong commitment to Christian education in the church.

Doug Birk’s long career at Denver Seminary spanned three decades and his influence endures to this day. He was the Seminary registrar and business manager from 1950–1955, the administrative vice president from 1956–1978, and the vice president of business affairs from 1979–1982. He was also a member of the faculty, teaching Christian education several years during the 1950’s. During Dr. Birk’s years at the Seminary, enrollment grew from 31 in 1950 to nearly 500 in 1982. In 2000 the Seminary conferred the honorary Doctor of Divinity on Dr. Birk. Dr. Vernon Grounds recognized Doug Birk’s significant contribution to the Seminary with these words:

“In those very earliest days it was Doug who tenaciously kept the ship afloat. It was he who infused something of his own dogged determination into the hearts of our irregularly paid, embattled colleagues, encouraging us to fight on when we were tempted to give up... It was he who had the vision to begin acquiring strategic properties in the neighborhood where the Seminary was located and thus he laid the financial foundation for the eventual purchase of our present campus... It was he, in short, who really created the Seminary.”

Along with their children, we celebrate the Birks’ long and faithful ministry at the Seminary with the establishment of this scholarship. For more information on giving to this scholarship, please visit [www.denverseminary.edu/giving](http://www.denverseminary.edu/giving).



Doug and Lucille Birk



## Mission Symposium 2012

Denver Seminary was honored to host the Mission Symposium January 27-28, 2012. Co-sponsored with WorldVenture, the Symposium was the third in a series of conferences organized by

WorldVenture. Denver Seminary president Dr. Mark Young has taught at all three conferences, covering various aspects of the planning and execution of theological education programs in light of God’s mission. This year’s conference set out to define the contours of a missional theology and identify its practical outworking in the lives of Christian leaders, churches, and organizations. It also sought to challenge and assist each participant to identify practical and specific steps they could take to see their life and ministry become more mission-focused. In addition to Dr. Young, speakers included Rev. Dr. Christopher J. H. Wright, author of *The Mission of God*, and Dr. Ramesh Richard, President of RREACH. Audio and presentation slides from the symposium are available at [www.denverseminary.edu/mission-symposium](http://www.denverseminary.edu/mission-symposium).





## The Passing of a Dear Friend

We are sad to announce that long-time friend to Denver Seminary, William (Bill) Orange, has passed away. A longtime resident of Cresskill, NJ, he died February 19, 2012 at the age of 99.

Mr. Orange, a childhood friend of Dr. Vernon Grounds, was a member of the quartet that is credited with having a huge spiritual influence on Dr. Grounds. As Dr. Bruce Shelley writes in Dr. Vernon Grounds' biography:

*The following summer (1933), however, while at home in Clifton, New Jersey, he (Vernon Grounds) listened one Sunday to a gospel quartet composed of his high school friends. After the church service, members of the quartet invited him to a home to discuss Christianity. Thinking that they might want of him a psychological insight or two, he went with them. But in conver-*

*sation with them that evening he was struck profoundly by the fact that they had indeed experienced something significant.*

*...Half skeptically, half seriously, as members of the group were praying aloud, one after the other, Grounds prayed too, asking God, if he was real, to show him that Jesus Christ could be his Savior too.*

*"I had no identifiable reaction whatever," Grounds later recalled, "except a twinge of amusement at the fervent jubilation of the ardent Christians. Yet at the bottom of my heart I meant that prayer."*

*Grounds soon joined his friends in the gospel quarter, serving as the team's primary speaker for their youth rallies.*

Bill and Dr. Grounds remained friends through the years, with Bill and his wife Eleanor supporting Denver Seminary since the early days. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Eleanor, and three children.

**TOP: Bill with wife Eleanor Orange**

**RIGHT: Bill with Vernon Grounds in their younger years**



## Learn About China by Going!

The Seminary is offering the summer seminar "Chinese Worldview Today." This 4-week seminar in

China is designed to equip students with a deeper understanding of Chinese philosophy and worldview. Spend June 28-July 15, 2012 in Beijing and hear lectures from leading Chinese scholars on Christianity in China as well as Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Marxism, and Islam. Non-credit cost is

\$1850 + airfare. The course is also available for 2 or 3 hours of credit. Contact Dr. Richard Hess at [rick@densem.edu](mailto:rick@densem.edu) for further information.



## Reaccreditation Process

Every ten years, Denver Seminary, like other colleges and universities in the United States, participates in a voluntary accreditation process. The accreditation process provides an opportunity for self-reflection and external feedback to allow the Seminary to continually improve.

Accreditation is a non-governmental, non-profit, self-regulatory, peer review process based on rigorous standards, and conducted in light of the Denver Seminary mission. Because accreditation is a process of self-regulation, it requires that institutions engage periodically in a comprehensive and candid self-study of their own strengths and weaknesses. Self-study is at the heart of accreditation, serving both external and internal purposes: quality assurance and institutional improvement through rigorous self-analysis.

We are proud to announce Denver Seminary has successfully concluded our participation in the process of reaccreditation with ATS (The Association of Theological Schools) and HLC (The Higher Learning Commission North Central Association of Colleges and Schools). Both organizations recently visited the campus to conduct an on-site visit and we are now awaiting their final decision. Thank you for your prayers during these past two years, and we welcome your prayers as we wait to hear the decision of both organizations.



The market in Kawangware, where Anthony grew up.



**Anthony grew up in Kawangware, a Kenyan slum known for drug abuse, prostitution, crime and high levels of poverty. He was enrolled in Compassion's sponsorship program at age six and graduated from the Leadership Development Program in 2008. Anthony is pursuing an M.Div. in Leadership at Denver Seminary with the hopes of returning to Kenya and making a difference by getting involved in the political system in that country.**

# Radiating His Love

*By Anthony W. Njoroge*

There is a saying back in Kenya that “money makes the world go around, but it is love that makes the world go round in circles.” Love is powerful. It’s the force that drives us to most of the things we do. It’s the reason most of us were born and it’s the fabric that connects us together. It’s the one thing most people spend their life looking for. Most importantly, it was created by God and God is love.

Growing up in the third largest slum in Kenya, love wasn’t something you got to experience. To most of us, love was something you read about in books or magazines, heard mentioned in movies, or overheard people gossip about. In the slum most people are concerned with survival, not love.

Love was hard to come by when your only parent worked four jobs to ensure that you had something to eat and would stay in school. It was hard for me to feel this love when I saw my friends dying out of hunger and malnutrition because they didn’t have parents to take care of them. Love isn’t there when you see mothers sell their 7-year-old daughters as sex slaves just to have food on the table or feed their own addictions. It was in this loveless environment that I spent the better part of my life growing up. I came to believe that love was just a four letter word.

This all changed after I was enrolled in a Compassion-sponsored program, where I experienced my first encounter with love in the form of a letter. The letter was written by my sponsor and in the letter she not only shared with me the love of Christ but the fact that she was willing to ensure I had my basic needs taken care of because of that love.

To me this is what global concern is all about. It is all about love: love for our family, our friends, our neighbors, our classmates, and even those we consider our enemies. Global concern involves projecting the love of Christ to a loveless world and showing people that Christ loved each of us so much that He was willing to die for each and every one of us—regardless of our background or nationality. Like the great commission, global concern first and foremost starts with those around you in your home area. Then it moves outwards because you cannot say you love others you don’t even know when you don’t love those that you already know.

Jesus is the perfect example of global concern and only through Him can we have hearts for the nations. He has promised to give us the nations and the only way to bring them to the knowledge of Christ is for us to radiate His love each and every day to all we meet. **DSM**

# A God for All Humanity

*By Alemayehu Mekonnen, Ph.D.*

I recently listened to the biblical and missiological speeches of Patrick Johnstone and Chris Wright from the United Kingdom. While Chris spoke of God's universal redemptive plan from the Old Testament perspective in an indisputable way, Patrick, based on scientific data and biblical reflection, portrayed the nature and feature of "The Future of the Global Church." Both speakers left me with an impression that the God we believe in is the God of all humanity who wants to seek the lost and can reveal Himself in any and every culture that He desires to show His glory, mercy, and love.

One of the core commitments of Denver Seminary rightly corresponds with Patrick's and Wright's presentations that I listened to:

We are people of the Kingdom, committed from our founding in 1950 to global mission because of God's concern for the redemption of all peoples. Our commitment to mission provides rationale and urgency to our task. We will make the uncomfortable realities of a blinded and broken world an abiding issue in our educational process and we will challenge ourselves to courageously face the indifference and self-indulgent tendencies that keep us from whole-hearted commitment to the mission of God in the world. Furthermore, we value and embrace the marvelous diversity of God's people and we will nurture meaningful partnerships with other like-minded schools and agencies in the work of the Kingdom around the globe.

As a person of African origin who teaches at the Seminary, and who is entrusted to students who are seeking God's will in their lives and willing to serve the Lord in the future, what does this core commitment mean to me? How can I have a part in it? What kind of contribution can I make? I address the following points to answer these questions, hoping to help the reader join us in this Christian journey and commitment of the institution. I firmly believe that to have global concern we need to have the following qualities and values stated in the commitment.

## **We need to know who we are.**

"We are people of the kingdom." Our understanding of mission, the world, and our engagement in ministry activities is the outflow of our self-understanding, both individually and collectively. For me, this means my true "belongingness" is with the people of Christ's followers within and outside of the political and geographical boundaries of

countries. This paradigm shift demands a lot of spiritual and cultural surgery. After 39 years of worshiping and serving God, I still have room to grow. Understanding the biblical teaching of the Kingdom of God and living out its demands leads to serious consideration of God's mission with the people of God globally.

## **We need to check our motive for Global Concern.**

Our motive should be "because of God's concern for the redemption of all people." History tells us that people, churches, and countries were involved in global mission for many wrong and bad motives. It is also important to know that it is not because of our good motive that we engage in global mission. It is primarily, "because of God's concern for the redemption of all people." Personally, this means to me a service of humility and love. Humility, because God has invited me to participate with Him in His redemptive work; love, because the scope of God's salvation is "all peoples," not only for the ones whom I like, those who look like me, or speak my language.

## **It is impossible to engage in global concern without a commitment.**

Mission is a costly and demanding redemptive work. It caused God to come in a human form and die on the cross. Our commitment to mission during good and bad times—and our commitment to the biblical revelation of God's redemptive plan for humanity—are essential to effectively participate in global mission. Our commitment is not a blind commitment. It "provides rationale and urgency." Rationale, because God has given us a mind to think biblically and strategically. God's mission is not for those who want to make a blind leap. There's urgency because we are told to "redeem the time" and every soul that dies without knowing Christ is destined to eternal condemnation.





### **We need to know our issue.**

We will make the uncomfortable realities of a blinded and broken world “an abiding issue” in our educational process and we will challenge ourselves to courageously face the indifference and self-indulgent tendencies that keep us from whole-hearted commitment to the mission of God in the world. As a person who grew up in one of the poorest countries and now lives in one of the richest countries in the world, I’ve had the opportunity and privilege to see human conditions in two extreme situations—poverty and prosperity. My conclusion is that “uncomfortable realities of a blinded and broken world,” and “self-indulgence tendencies” are not a regional problem. They are global. For me, global mission starts at my doorstep. By reading and engaging, I courageously face the things that hinder me and will make me indifferent to the mission of God in the world. Our issue is not seasonal. It will remain constant until Christ reveals Himself in glory.

### **We have to have the right Christian value of people.**

“We value and embrace the marvelous diversity of God’s people.” This is easier said than done. For the chosen people of God, both in the Old and the New Testament, embracing the diversity of God’s people was not an easy exercise. It is not uncommon for the church to exist and function within an ethnic, racial, economic, or tribal line with clueless knowledge and concern about each other. Embracing diversity en-

tails humility, teachableness, genuine love, vulnerability, trust, patience, commitment, and the like. One of the distinct marks of the Antioch church was diversity. The leaders of the church were from different nationalities and the congregation was from diverse ethnic background. Hence, the scope of the mission of the church was global and dynamic.

### **Then what?**

“We will nurture meaningful partnerships with other like-minded schools and agencies in the work of the Kingdom around the globe.” Christianity is not an abstract construct dangling in the air. It is a concrete relational faith. Our commitment to the world mission requires action. If we value and embrace the diversity of God’s people, the idea that God’s salvific plan is universal and that we are people of the Kingdom, it behooves us to “nurture partnership with other like-minded” people globally. That means it is important to examine ourselves, individually and collectively, and how we can be a strong and healthy link in the chain of partnership.

Without neglecting the needs around us in thought and in action, it is important to engage the needs of the broken world. The fact that our Savior is the Savior of the world should challenge us not to have a parochial view of salvation and be consumed by matters that are temporal and regional. Global concern requires global vision. **DSM**



**Alex Mekonnen, Ph.D., joined the faculty in 2008 as Associate Professor of Missions. Dr. Mekonnen has worked with the Evangelical Free Church of America International Mission (now called Reach Global) and has published three theological books in the Amharic language, the national language of Ethiopia. He has served the Lord as an evangelist, pastor, teacher, and missionary for the past three decades.**



# the **NATURE** of **DEVELOPMENT**

*By Kenneth Strzepek, Ph.D.*

- The number of people living under the international poverty line of \$1.25 in 2005 was estimated at 1.4 billion. Additionally, those living in extreme poverty represent 27% of people in developing regions. The current economic crisis is expected to increase these numbers.
- About one in four children under the age of five is underweight in the developing world.
- The estimate of the number of people who will suffer chronic hunger in 2009 was 1.023 billion up from 815 million in 1990.
- Almost 2 million children die each year for want of a glass of clean water and adequate sanitation.
- Millions of women and young girls are forced to spend hours collecting and carrying water, restricting their opportunities and their choices.
- Water-borne infectious diseases are holding back poverty reduction and economic growth in some of the world's poorest countries.

“One day... a missionary couple encouraged me to use my gifts to show God's love by meeting His children's physical needs. They shared with me Matthew 25:37-40: “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

It was the early 1970s and I was on my way to a career as an environmental engineer to save America from the evils of pollution. But during my freshman year in college, God's grace broke into my life and I accepted Him as Savior and asked Him how I could serve Him. Within the year I was spending the summer in Mali in West Africa building village water supply systems.

One day, after a six hour hike to get supplies, I was welcomed by a missionary couple who encouraged me to use my gifts to show God's love by meeting His children's physical needs. They shared with me Matthew 25:37-40: “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” I returned home that summer with a new vision for my life: one of serving Christ and His children.

With the new vision to serve the needs of God's people in the developing world, I returned to Boston. God continued to provide me with professional opportunities that developed my skill in water resource engineering. I got a glimpse into the issues of poverty and economic growth through my dissertation research, which involved nutrition and development economics. I also joined a phenomenal college student ministry called Seekers at Park St. Church. It was here I was discipled and given a vision for ministry in the church and missions beyond.

The most important event of my graduate student years was meeting my wife, Jamie, who was also discipled at Seekers. We found we had a mutual call to serve God overseas and complementary gifts. We saw our model of husband and wife as Priscilla and Aquilla and had a vision to be tentmaking missionaries in the developing world.

While God started my foray into development activities at the village level, he continually directed my professional career to broaden the scale and the focus from local water resource engineering to national development planning and policy. After graduate school Jamie and I left for Vienna, Austria to take a position at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, a think tank focused on addressing issues of global food and energy. Here I grew professionally working on water and food issues in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. Jamie was able to join me on many trips so that she had a first-hand view of the issues of poverty and development.





In Vienna God forged Jamie and me into a ministry team dedicated to serving His Kingdom. We became part of the international Chapel of Vienna (ICV), founded by a

Denver Seminary couple and we grew in many ways, including leading the college ministry. During this time our lives were changed by two Denver Seminary couples. Gary and Suzanne Preston, pastor of ICV, shared Proverbs 22:29: "Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank." This gave me the vision to focus more on large-scale and national-level policy in development issues. In addition, Gary and Ann Wooley taught us the principles and tools for being teammates in marriage for ministry.

Professionally, I focused my time on water resource planning and management in the developing world and looked deeply at whether investments in these large-scale projects were reducing hunger and poverty and contributing to economic growth. Sadly, I discovered that development and poverty reduction is more complex than pouring concrete for dams, laying pipes to cities, or building roads. Successful projects are related to many factors at the level of economic policy, development aid, and foreign policy. Further, I learned that response to disasters such as floods, droughts, and cyclones are not sustainable long-term solutions. In some situations, disaster relief efforts turn into development policies and can make the next event worse. For example, if wells drilled for drought relief continue to be used they can draw populations and livestock to the region. The results in the increased use and population are watershed degradation, groundwater overdraft and unsustainable natural resource use, making the human impact of the next drought even worse. This was the case in the African Sahel drought of the 1970s. Relief saves lives but we must work on environmentally sustainable economic development that leads to poverty reduction as well.

Two insights into development that have guided my career:

(1), there is a sectoral or silo approach to development and poverty reduction. The water sector, the agricultural department, the educational system and public health service all act individually and even compete over resources when in fact they are complimentary and most effective when planned as in an integrated manner.

(2), one of the major barriers to development is corruption and greed (otherwise known as sin).

To help break down the silos, I began a 14-year journey to earn a master's in economics so that I could communicate with the parts of government and development agencies

that make policy and allocate resources. At the same time, Jamie and I were invited to be on the Board of Marriage Plus International, a Denver-based ministry "equipping couples for Kingdom Impact" founded by Gary and Ann Wooley, our mentors in Vienna. The ministry is active in the USA, Poland, Czech Republic, and Albania and we became staff partners helping to teach the courses overseas. We've been able to dovetail frequent travel for my international development projects with ministering for Marriage Plus.

My efforts to understand and address the integrated nature of development have provided me with the opportunity to work with the International Food Policy Research Institute, the World Bank, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, the World Institute for Development Economics Research, and national development aid agencies. Though I'm able to tackle the silos, I haven't been able to address the sin barrier.

Now that we are empty-nesters, Jamie and I have asked God what is next. He has spoken to Jamie to formally join the fight against poverty by enrolling in graduate school to get a Master's in Public Health. He has answered my prayer to link my passion with my profession through the creation of a new educational program at Denver Seminary: a Master of Arts degree in Justice and Mission designed to equip students to serve God through holistic mission outreach. We are thrilled to join the Denver Seminary community and look forward to helping students prepare to proclaim the Good News with an understanding of issues and tools that address social and economic development. **DSM**



**Kenneth Strzepek is a Research Scientist at MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change and Professor Emeritus of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, and Senior Research Associate at the United Nations University (UNU)-World Institute for Development**

**Economics Research. He received the Department of Interior Citizen's Award for Innovation in the applications of Systems Analysis to Water Management, is a co-recipient of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment and as a lead author for IPCC he is a co-recipient of the 2007 Noble Peace Prize. He will be joining Denver Seminary as an Adjunct professor for the new Justice and Mission program, beginning Fall 2012.**



Brian with kids in Burundi



Aimee decorating Easter bags at the orphanage in Tachov, Czech Republic

# Serving People Who Are Just Like Us

By Brian Kleager

I never set out to be a missionary. Even when my wife, Aimee, and I became missionaries it somehow didn't feel like we were "real" missionaries. After almost six years in the U.S. Army followed by four years at Denver Seminary, we now are a part of Cadence International and serve U.S. soldiers and their families. Sure, we live overseas in Germany—but we are serving people who are just like us. I just never was the one with a burning passion to go and serve people of other nations.

About two years ago God began to change that. While in prayer one day He reminded me of Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (ESV). He also brought to mind an illustration from one of my classes at Denver Seminary that this verse can serve as a good model for missions work. Jerusalem is our local ministry; Judea and Samaria our regional; and "to the end of the earth" makes it clearly global! As Aimee and I prayed and discussed this, God showed us three geographical areas.

## Our Jerusalem—Grafenwoehr, Germany

This is where we live and the people God has placed under our care. We consider them our primary flock. We continue to encourage and equip them to love God and others in their neighborhoods and jobs. We also began to challenge them to think globally.

## Judea and Samaria—Tachov, Czech Republic

I printed out a map of western Czech Republic and prayed for several months about where God would have us go. Then I took two days and began driving, literally asking God at every turn, "right or left?" He led me to Tachov which is about 1 1/2 hours from our home. I had been praying for a church and an orphanage that we could partner with in ministry. God led me to both in one town. We now go there every few months and relationships are forming. People in our ministry have personal investment in this work. Orphans look forward to our return and a local church that was not ministering to an orphanage in its own town is now loving these kids as well.

## To the End of the Earth—Burundi, Africa

The next area God laid on our hearts was Africa. I never knew where Burundi was until I found out I was going there! It is one of the five poorest nations in the world and was in a civil war less than a decade ago. Again through God's leading, we are now forming partnerships with local pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders in their Army and National Police. After two leadership trips, we are now planning to return with a team of people from our ministry in July to love and serve these people that have grown very dear to me.

As I reflect on what God has been doing, I see how He has been shaping a truly global concern in my wife and me and in the people in our local ministry. The vision of Cadence International is: "Exalting Christ in the nations through the lives of transformed military people." God has been transforming the lives of the soldiers and their families here in Grafenwoehr, Germany. They are now growing in their love for others as they serve people in Tachov, Czech Republic. In the months to come we look forward to seeing God provide ministry opportunities for us all in Burundi, Africa. His power is truly accomplishing great things for His Kingdom. **DSM**

**Brian Kleager has been following Jesus Christ since he was a junior in high school. Brian graduated from Denver Seminary in 2008 with a Masters of Divinity and works with Cadence International in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Brian has been married to his best friend, Aimee, for twelve years and they have three very active boys! You can read more about their ministry and personal lives at [www.thegrafhouse.com](http://www.thegrafhouse.com).**



Left: Brian (left) and Brad Ellgen (European Field Leader for Cadence International) at a police headquarters in Burundi.

Right: With a local Burundi ministry team (part of International Christian Ministries)

# Outthinking the World for Christ

By Douglas Groothuis, Ph.D.

Shortly after my conversion in 1976, I became deeply concerned about engaging the intellectual world for the good of the world and the church. Reading Francis Schaeffer's book, *The God Who is There*, convinced me that the Christian worldview was true, rational, and that it offered the only hope for all of life to a lost world. In light of this vision, I pursued campus ministry, writing, and eventually two advanced degrees in philosophy. When I came to Denver Seminary in 1993, I inherited a strong intellectual tradition led by men like Vernon Grounds and Gordon Lewis, who was my predecessor.

As a professor of philosophy, I challenge my Seminary students to love God with all their minds and to outthink the world for Christ. This means developing a rational biblical worldview and being able to critique non-Christian philosophies and religions—all to the end of extending God's Kingdom and mission in the world. Like Paul on Mars Hill, we should be able to understand and bring into question the prevailing philosophies of our day (Acts 17:16-34) by having a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Pet 3:15).

In 1993, I began to lead the Philosophy of Religion Master's Degree as well as teaching students in the Masters of Divinity and other programs. I revamped the program to make it more academic and to serve as a preparation for doctoral work in philosophy. Since then, we

have placed students in Ph.D. programs and several who have received their doctorates are working as part-time or full-time philosophy professors. Other graduates serve overseas, teach at the high school level, or are involved in various church and para-church ministries.

However, in recent years it became obvious that pursuing philosophy as an academic career was becoming increasingly difficult. Our graduates had trouble getting into certain doctoral programs and some had to take another master's degree at a different school to be admitted into top-tier doctoral programs. The number of openings teaching philosophy full-time has been dwindling for years and has recently gotten far worse. In light of this, we decided to fade our old Philosophy of Religion degree in favor of a new degree in Christian Apologetics and Ethics.

The new degree will continue the Denver Seminary tradition of high intellectual standards while shifting the emphasis toward apologetics ministries as opposed to purely academic work. This new program will retain several classes from the older program, including Defending Christian Faith, Christian Ethics and Modern Culture, Religious Pluralism, and several electives. But it will also add several new classes such as Contemporary Apologetics, Advanced Apologetics, and Advanced Ethics. This degree will equip students with a biblical worldview, as well as the apologetic skills to argue for the truth and rationality

of Christianity in a pluralistic world. The Christian Apologetics and Ethics department will be working with apologists and best-selling authors Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg of The Institute at Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch, CO. We envision several joint ventures, such as my recent appearance at a conference sponsored by the Institute where I spoke on "Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask." We see our graduates serving in churches, campus ministry, the mission field, and in para-church organizations.

Despite the change in degrees, our department goals remain the same: to educate women and men to love God with all their minds and to take their Christian convictions into the world of ideas with knowledge and integrity. The Kingdom of God demands nothing less.

Learn more about the Christian Apologetics and Ethics Program at [www.denverseminary.edu/apologetics](http://www.denverseminary.edu/apologetics).



**Douglas Groothuis, Ph.D., is Professor of Philosophy and the author of *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. He has been on the Denver Seminary faculty since 1993 and is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society, Evangelical Philosophical Society, and Society of Christian Philosophers.**





Paul and Marjorie Lewan with Chancellor Gordon MacDonald

# A Half Century of Support

*Paul and Marjorie Lewan*

A mutual love for the Lord drew Paul and Marjorie Lewan together. He was a Rutgers University graduate who served a two-year stint in the army. She was a student at the University of Northern Colorado. They met her senior year, married and had three children.

Paul's connection with Denver Seminary began in 1956. Prior to meeting Marjorie, he attended Trinity Baptist church in northwest Denver. Vernon and Ann Grounds also attended. Vernon was the president of the Seminary at the time and a connection was made.

Paul began Lewan & Associates, an office equipment company, in 1972. He was so impressed with the quality of the Seminary students that he hired a steady stream of students and their spouses to work in the company. Paul and Marjorie are still in touch with many of these Seminary families today.

As Paul's business grew and the Lewans' income increased, they decided that rather than raising their standard of living they would raise their standard of giving. They continue to be comfortable with this lifestyle choice and are passionate about spreading the love of Jesus Christ throughout the world, knowing that Jesus said, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Paul and Marjorie support Denver Seminary for several reasons. First and foremost, the Seminary teaches that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Only through Him can we know and experience forgiveness of sin and the abundant life that God intends for every person. Dedicated professors

not only teach the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God, they also teach its practical application to students.

The Lewans' own faith walk also encourages their support of the Seminary. Knowing that without seminaries churches could not find pastors, they happily support the work of teaching so that graduates can take the Word of God both near and far.

Friendship also influences the Lewans in their support as they know Dr. Mark Young, his wife and many staff members. Dr. Young's leadership in encouraging academic excellence, understanding and use of the Holy Scripture, the importance of personal spiritual growth and having a heart for the lost speaks to values shared by Paul and Marjorie, who feel their contributions are well used.

It began with a connection to the Seminary in 1956 and continues today, over 50 years later. The Lewans are thrilled with the new campus, the growth of the student population, and the impact for Jesus Christ that the Seminary is having around the world. Psalm 71:18 expresses their hearts. "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." **DSM**

# Thank You!

Over the years, Denver Seminary has received enormous support and encouragement from donors like you who believe in the *mission of the Seminary*. We want, first of all, to say thank you for the contributions you have made in the past, but we also want to take this opportunity to say how much *we appreciate* your participation in our current effort to raise \$2.4 million for the 2011-2012 Growth Initiative.

Construction and upgrades are complete, and we have raised \$2.1 million of the \$2.4 million needed. And you made it possible. For this, *we are grateful*.

To view pictures and video of the finished product, or to make a contribution, visit [www.denverseminary.edu/invest](http://www.denverseminary.edu/invest).

[www.denverseminary.edu/invest](http://www.denverseminary.edu/invest)



Dr. Daniel Carroll R.



Dr. Richard Hess



Dr. Randy MacFarland

# Appointments

**Dr. Daniel Carroll R.** was appointed as NHCLC National Spokesperson on Immigration. NHCLC, also known as the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, is the nation's largest Christian Hispanic organization. Dr. Carroll R., who celebrates his heritage from both

Guatemala and the United States, is currently Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, as well as a NHCLC board member.

“**The Scriptures have much to say about God’s love for the sojourner.**”

“It will be an honor and a privilege to serve as the NHCLC National Spokesperson on Immigration,” said Dr. Carroll R. “The Scriptures have much to say about God’s love for the sojourner. My hope is that the NHCLC continues to provide a clear and constructive Christian voice within the national discussion on immigration.”

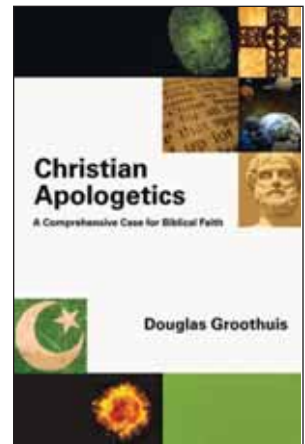
**Dr. Richard Hess** has been named the 2012 Senior Scholar for the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion. His lecture, “The Value of the Human Person in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Textual Sources,” was delivered Friday, March 23, at the Regional meeting at Brigham Young University.

**Dr. Randy MacFarland**, Provost/Dean, was elected to the board of WorldVenture. WorldVenture was previously known as the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society before changing its name to WorldVenture in 2006. Energized by the advent of the 21st century, and empowered by the Spirit of God, WorldVenture's vision is a worldwide partnership of churches fulfilling Christ's commission by evangelizing the lost, establishing churches, and equipping leaders.

# Awards

## Dr. Groothuis Wins Award of Merit

Dr. Douglas Groothuis, Professor of Philosophy, won the Award of Merit in the Apologetics/Evangelism category from Christianity Today for his book *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Intervarsity, 2011). In the book, Dr. Groothuis makes a comprehensive apologetic case for Christian theism—



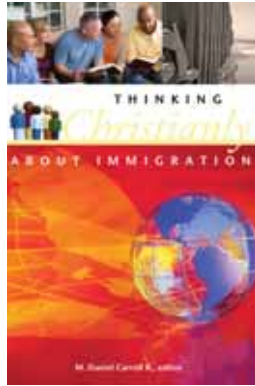
proceeding from a defense of objective truth to a presentation of the key arguments for God from natural theology to a case for the credibility of Jesus, the incarnation and the resurrection. Throughout, he considers alternative views and how they fare intellectually.

# Publications

## Thinking Christianly about Immigration

Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R., editor (*Littleton: Vernon Grounds Institute of Public Ethics, 2011*)

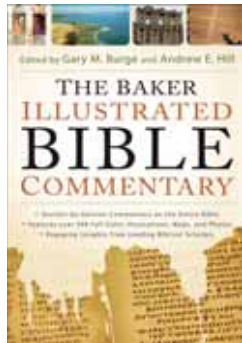
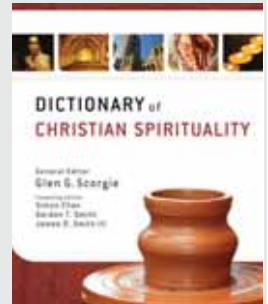
The fourth in the Monograph Series from the Grounds Institute of Public Ethics, this book discusses Immigration and how it requires serious Christian reflection. With such a complex topic, it is doubtful that readers will agree with all that is said in this volume, but if it can stimulate authentic and comprehensive Christian thinking on immigration, it will have served its purpose.



## Dictionary of Christian Spirituality

Glen G. Scorgiem, editor (*Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011*)

Dr. Bruce Demarest, Senior Professor, and Dr. David Buschart, Associate Dean and Professor of Theology and Historical Studies, contributed to this publication with “Human Personhood” (Demarest) and “A Comparison of Major Christian Traditions” (Buschart). This reference work provides readers with a global, biographical, historical, topical, and biblical understanding of the origins, development, and contemporary expressions of Christian spirituality.



## The Baker Illustrated Bible Commentary

Gary M. Burge and Andrew E. Hill, editors (*Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012*)

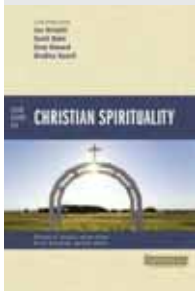
Dr. Hélène Dallaire, Associate Professor of Old Testament, contributed to this commentary with a chapter on Esther.

## Christian Spirituality: Four Views

By Dr. Bruce Demarest and Stanley N. Gundry, editors (*Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012*)

This book, which focuses on the Church's search for identity, meaning

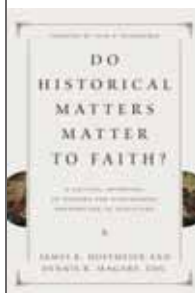
and significance as interpreted by the major Christian traditions, possesses considerable relevance to many in our day. Perspectives include the Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Liberal Protestant viewpoints.



## Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture

James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis R. Magary, editors (*Crossway, 2012*)

Dr. Richard Hess, Earl S. Kalland Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, and Dr. Craig Blomberg, Distinguished Professor of New Testament, contributed to this publication with “Yahweh's ‘Wife’ and Belief in One God in the Old Testament” (Hess) and “A Constructive Traditional Response to New Testament Criticism” (Blomberg). *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith?* offers a firm defense of Scripture's legitimacy and the theological implications of modern and post-



modern approaches that teach otherwise. In this timely and timeless collection of essays, scholars from diverse areas of expertise lend strong arguments in support of the doctrine of inerrancy.



## 99 Thoughts on Caring for Your Youth Group: From Coffee Shop Counseling to Crisis Care

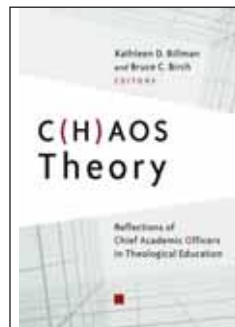
Dr. Brad Widstrom and Matt Murphy (*Fort Collins: Group, 2012*)

This book offers a wealth of practical tools, tips, and techniques to help equip youth workers to care for teenagers from the coffee house to the crisis moments.

## C(h)aos Theory: Reflections of Chief Academic Officers in Theological Education

Kathleen D. Billman and Bruce C. Birch, editors (*Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2011*)

Dr. MacFarland, Dean/Provost, contributed to this publication with “Building a Relationship that Furthers the Mission.” C(H)AOS Theory brings together in one volume perspectives from more than thirty deans and chief academic officers at theological schools across North America. These veteran administrators share their wisdom on a variety of topics related to academic leadership, from understanding institutional contexts and nurturing relationships to negotiating conflict, setting and meeting academic goals, building budgets, working with assessment and accreditation, and more.



# ALUMNI WEBINARS



Denver Seminary is pleased to now offer free bi-monthly webinars for alumni. These webinars last one hour and are typically on a variety of topics that can enhance your ministry. Past webinars are available to watch at [www.denverseminary.edu/alum-webinars](http://www.denverseminary.edu/alum-webinars).

## Webinar Schedule

### June 13, 2012

Bringing the Truth to Light: Christian Apologetics with Dr. Doug Groothuis

Dr. Groothuis will discuss the importance in having a rational and credible Christian witness before the world that involves discussing:

- The nature of truth
- Arguments for the existence of God
- The reliability of the Bible
- How we deal with people who hold other worldviews

### August 8, 2012

Topic and Speaker TBD

For details on past and future webinars, as well as to register, visit [www.denverseminary.edu/alum-webinars](http://www.denverseminary.edu/alum-webinars).

# Events

2012-2013 will be a busy year filled with many alumni events in cities throughout the country. We will be visiting these cities (dates are still being determined):

Portland, OR  
Seattle, WA  
Fort Collins, CO  
Colorado Springs, CO  
Denver, CO  
Boston, MA  
Chicago, IL  
Los Angeles, CA  
New York/New Jersey area

Check out the monthly *Alumni Connection* email for details about these events. **If you do not receive this email, send us your contact information at [alumni@denverseminary.edu](mailto:alumni@denverseminary.edu).**

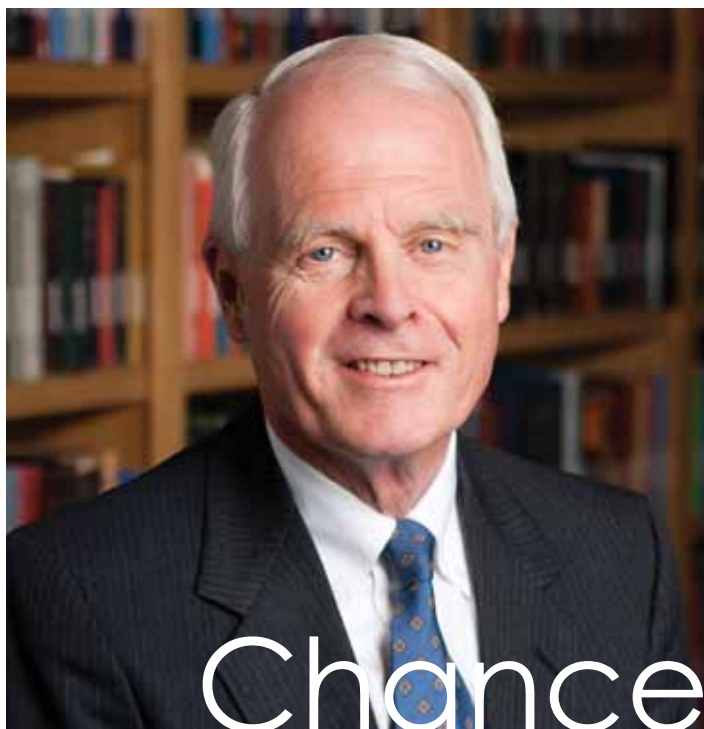


# Alumni Scholarship Fund

If you're like most alumni, your Denver Seminary experience didn't just happen. It took a lot of hard work—from you, your family, your professors... and you probably received some financial help along the way as well. You weren't alone. In fact, the majority of Denver Seminary students receive financial aid.

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was recently created to give alumni the chance to help current needy students. The fund's growth depends on the giving from Denver Seminary alumni and helps make a Denver Seminary education possible for deserving students. Please consider giving to this fund and helping *Denver Seminary prepare men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.*

**Visit [www.denverseminary.edu/giving](http://www.denverseminary.edu/giving) to learn more about giving to Denver Seminary.**



# Chancellor's Corner

*By Gordon MacDonald*

On a recent visit to Moscow, I gave a series of lectures to several hundred Russian pastors. The enthusiasm of the Christian affection offered to me was overwhelming and I found myself recalling the days of my fear-filled youth when our governments—theirs and mine—had taught us to be enemies. But on this day we sang together, prayed together, thought together.

How things have changed. Not just in Russia...but all over the world.

When a child, my view of the world was simple. It was us and them, Americans and non-Americans. What I knew about “them” largely came from paging through National Geographic magazines and listening to missionaries who visited our church with their 35mm slides. For me the “thems” seemed as distant as the moon.

Now, many decades later, I travel to the lands of the “thems” as casually as if I was on a morning commute. Among them are some I count as my dearest friends.

And what's more: some of the “thems” I once saw only on projection screens and magazines travel to my world to live and work and study. Once upon a time I never saw a real live Muslim, a yellow-robed Buddhist or a Hindu Sikh. Today, they are a common sight in my world. In short, many of those who were once “thems” are now my neighbors.

So it is, even in the evangelical Christian network. Things are different now. We North Americans are now simply a segment of the larger theological and educational community. We are humble partners with Christ-followers of other cultures when it comes to tackling the issues of human suffering. And we are often the learners when it comes to finding innovative ways to tell people the “old, old story.”

It's this changed world—full of danger and opportunity—we are talking about at Denver Seminary when we speak of global concern.

Global concern are spiritual in nature. How, we ask, do we speak and act in such a way that the name and power of Jesus the Savior is heard by those who have no knowledge of the amazing grace of a redeeming God?

Global concern can be physical. How do we bring resources (clean water, nutrition, and sanitation) to those whose lives are otherwise shortened by intolerable living conditions?

Global concern can pertain to health. How do we support efforts to bring medical care to places where disease and child-survival are critical issues?

Global concern should be prophetic. How do we confront, for example, the evils in human trafficking, rape-as-a-weapon-of-war, so-called ethnic cleansing and religious persecution?

Global concern must be about things which are educational and financial. How do we encourage literacy and skill-training so that people can find intellectual and economic resourcefulness?

Global concern—I hope—wrestles with issues such as abuse of the environment, the squandering of energy, the spoiling of creation's resources. How do we protect a creation which was meant to declare the glory of God?

Finally, global concern must include reconciliation, the peace-making initiatives in which former enemies and rivals are brought into fellowship with one another. How do we renounce the law of vengeance in favor of the law of love?

These are very big questions. But they are necessary questions for any learning community like ours that loves the world as God loves it.

What delights me about the modern Denver Seminary (which has been 60 years in the making) is that these matters of global concern are talked about freely, imaginatively, and lovingly in all those places where students and professors gather.

And wait! There's more. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is at the center of it all.

Find us at [www.denverseminary.edu](http://www.denverseminary.edu) and on



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