


CTS TODAY

Continental Theological Seminary
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CONTINENTAL
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Changing Lives...
to Change the World!

Another Set of CTS Letters to Be Read

SUMMER 2015

Dear friends of CTS,

We lived this school year under the motto, "God makes us grow through relationships and circumstances and since we have both at CTS, let's grow!"

Once the apostle Paul wrote the members of a church that he dearly loved, "You yourselves are our letter..." (2 Cor. 3:2). As we conclude another blessed year, I would not be wrong if I told our graduating students, "You are our letter."

Some of the students I would call, "**my Ephesians letter.**"

Throughout the school year they grew up quietly and steadily - they were on time for classes, did not miss any daily chapel and prayer time, and worked diligently on their assignments. They remind me of the Ephesians letter that does not deal with any particular church problem or a problem of some individual Christian. The Ephesians letter is not a problematic letter and right from the beginning abounds in praises, thanks and worship to God.

Some of the students I would call "**my Philippians letter.**"

Facing circumstances and relationships, they constantly grew; knowing that they still had to work on a few issues that looked minor and yet, were of great importance - just like the Philippians letter - a joyful and very positive epistle with one little correction at the end of the epistle that often escapes our notice: "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women..." (Phil. 4:2-3).

Some of them I would call "**my Corinthians letter;**" "**my prison epistle;**" "**my pastoral epistle.**"

Some of the days they faced turbulence caused by some circumstance, other people or themselves. Their growth happened under a temporary load of great challenges that affected their personality, learning process or even prayer life - just like many of these letters that contain great blessings from God, great progress of the gospel and yet challenges to be resolved. These are epistles in which joy and laughter are mixed with tears.

Some of them I would call "**my Galatians letter.**"

These dear ones fought with the thought to abandon the call. Satan used doubt to put in question what God had spoken but thank God they persevered through the end. The Galatians were shaken up because of people who exercised wrong influence upon them - influence that would attribute God and His grace a second place in their lives.

Four possible categories of letters and yet I love them all! Regardless of whether they grew up the Corinthians' way, the Ephesians' way, the Galatians' way or the Philippians' way, today our graduating students are our letters: the new set of CTS letters.

The story does not end here. As they leave to serve the church I would remind them that the greatest endorsement and recommendation comes from above, "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor. 3:3).

The writing is over; they leave CTS to be read!

Blessings,



Dr. Joseph Dimitrov
President, Continental Theological Seminary



Seasons, Stages and Surprises... That Summarizes What We See!

Our campus is dynamic!

The atmosphere is charged with the life of the Spirit because of the passion and the faithful prayers of students, faculty and staff.

Again this year we have seen the favor of the Lord being expressed mightily in every way. This has been a time of exceptional spiritual outpouring, outstanding ministry opportunities, and we have seen incredible development and progress in the lives of our students and in the life of our school.

Because of all of these things, we do see a lot of movement happening all around us. We all know that life in Christ is not static or diminishing ... not even close! He has promised an abundant, full-to-overflowing kind of life!

This dynamic process most often reveals itself to us in this way...

Seasons, Stages and Surprises... That Summarizes What We See!

While the will of God for our lives is fully known to Him, it is in fact, progressively revealed to us.

Seasons of Life

It is such a joy to see our students, faculty and staff move into rich new 'seasons' as they experience, encounter and embrace His will in a new and living way. Equally, it is a challenge to see members of our CTS family enter into a season of difficulty, pain or loss. But in it all ... we take it on together. What we are learning is that this doubles the joy and halves the pain! We choose to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn, just like Romans 12:15 encourages us to do!

Stages of Life

We also walk together when new "stages" of life begin to unfold. When you do life together like we do at CTS, this is always an ongoing reality for us. Life changes, things shift, decisions are made and we want to be ready to respond in a way that is pleasing to God, but also be highly supportive to those who are going through a major life transition. We shared several moments like that this year and in every case we were drawn closer together.

Surprises of Life

And we dare not forget the "surprises" ... good and not so good!

We were witnesses to surprising decisions, developments and announcements. Some were joyfully declared and others were painfully and prayerfully processed. In it all, we have taken it on together and that has added deep personal and spiritual value to CTS life!

We do want to celebrate all that CTS is, as well as all that it will become!

We know that in doing life together we are adding relational value to all that we share!

We can fully expect that God will continue to grant us these kinds of opportunities and we want to steward them well.

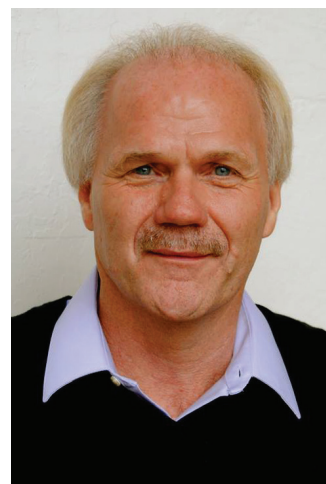
Seasons, Stages and Surprises... That Summarizes What We See!

In reality, we all have to be ready to take these things on. I can tell you that this is not a CTS phenomenon... this is just how life is for all of us!

I am ready to take it on and to do so together with others... how about you?

Seasons, Stages and Surprises... That Summarizes What We See!

Terry Hoggard
Development Team Leader



Faculty Spotlight: Glen and Dana Johnsen

If you've ever worshiped in a CTS chapel service, attended a CTS Singers concert or enjoyed a CTS Christmas event, you've likely been blessed by the ministry of Glen Johnsen, CTS Music Director, and his wife, Dana. Glen and Dana recently celebrated their 15th anniversary of serving at CTS, having joined the faculty/staff in November of 1999.

Glen majored in Biblical Literature and earned minors in both music and youth ministry at Northwest University in Kirkland, Washington. After directing Continental Singers tours for five years he earned his Bachelor's in Music Education from Central Washington University. While serving as assistant music pastor at Life Center in Tacoma, WA, he met and married Dana, also a graduate of Northwest University.

As music director, Glen teaches music classes, coordinates chapel worship teams, and directs the CTS Singers. In addition, he serves as Director of Student Life, overseeing dorm life, student leaders, work-service program and counseling.

Dana has served in the music department and academic office. She took a break from her CTS responsibilities to be at home with their young children, but has recently resumed her position as examinations officer for the MTh program.

The Johnsens are passionate about CTS and enjoy the multicultural diversity of the students and faculty. "CTS offers students a truly unique experience: to receive outstanding ministry training and hands-on experience in a diverse, international and yet, personal setting," said Glen.

Glen and Dana are parents of nine-year-old identical twins Benjamin and Nathaniel and four-year-old Laura. All were born in Belgium and attend Les Tournesols, a Christian French-speaking school.



CTS Colloquium Introduces Students to World-Class Biblical Scholars

The annual event helps position CTS as a center for theological thought and discussion.

Over 75 faculty, students, staff and guests attended the recent 2015 CTS Colloquium which explored the subject, "Jesus as Divine Son: What Did He Know and When Did He Know It?"

According to Dr. David Courey, Dean of Graduate Studies, the purpose of the colloquium is to introduce students to world-class Biblical scholars like the featured guest this year, Dr. Stan Porter, President of McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Canada.

Dr. Courey encouraged students to listen to the messages as fellow students of the Bible. "I told them to listen closely to each talk for a thesis statement and then ask themselves if the speaker proved his point. I had a few tell me they learned how to write a better essay!"

"We also want students to connect theology with worship," said Dr. Courey. "In a world that questions who Jesus really was, Stan brought a series of Christ-exalting lectures which affirmed that Jesus had a strong sense of both his divine person and mission. I believe students walked away with a larger awareness of the reliability of Scripture and Jesus' consciousness of his calling and destiny."

A long-term goal of the CTS annual colloquiums is to position the seminary as a center for theological thought and discussion. "We hope to continuously bring world-class voices to our campus, for the benefit of our students and the larger Christian community," said Dr. Courey.

Others who presented at the 2015 Colloquium included: Dr. David Trementozi, a new member of the CTS faculty; Dr. Patrick Nullens, Rector of the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven; and CTS lecturer Ms. Johanna Wyrwal, currently working on her PhD in New Testament.

Dr. Stan Porter (right) and his wife, Dr. Wendy Porter, enjoyed an evening at the Grand Place with Dr. David Courey, dean of graduate studies.



Institute for Islamic Studies Announces 2015 September Sessions

The Institute of Islamic Studies of Continental Theological Seminary has announced courses for the 2015 September Sessions.

“Ministry to Muslims in Urban Contexts” will be offered August 31-September 4, 2015 and “Folk Islam and Power Encounters” will be offered September 7-11, 2015.

“Both courses touch on areas extremely relevant for work in Europe among Muslims,” said Dr. Sam Brelo, coordinator of the Institute. “Muslims are congregating in major cities in Europe, bringing a particular set of dynamics that will be focused on in the first course, ‘Ministry to Muslims in Urban Contexts.’ In addition to this, it seems that the Islam of many Muslims is really a ‘folk Islam’ that has adopted ideas from their countries of origin and/or host cultures where Muslims live.”

Course instructors are Dr. Mark Hausfeld, of Springfield, MO and Dr. Don McCurry, of Washington, D.C.

“Both Dr. Hausfeld and Dr. McCurry have had many years of experience in vital ministry to Muslims,” said Dr. Brelo. “Both are excellent scholars and have influenced scores of people through lecturing and writing. Students will be vigorously engaged by their dynamic communications skills.”

The Institute of Islamic Studies at Continental Theological Seminary in Brussels offers intensive, one-week courses on Islam to prepare students for direct ministry to Muslims. Offered in an English-language international context, the courses involve classroom teaching as well as field experience in Brussels where the Muslim population is more than 15%.

“Many Christians inside and outside of Europe are hindered by an incomplete knowledge of Islam, negative attitudes such as fear, and the unfamiliarity of skills and approaches that will engage Muslims in a practical way,” said Dr. Brelo. “Our courses address these concerns.”

Students can register for one or both classes and take them for academic credit at a Bachelor’s or Master’s level or audit the courses for personal enrichment. Students taking the courses for academic credit must be enrolled in bachelor’s or master’s programs at CTS or a similar institution.

Deadline for registration is Friday, August 21, 2015.

To register or for more information, see www.ctsem.edu.



The Institute of Islamic Studies
at Continental Theological Seminary announces

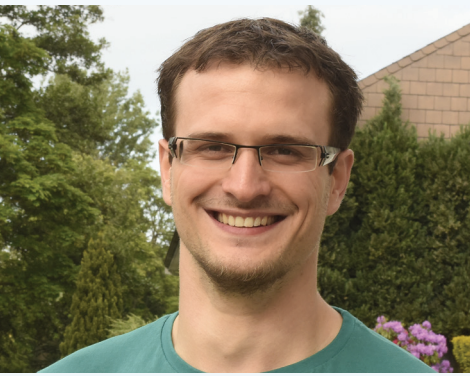
THE 2015 SEPTEMBER SESSIONS

August 31 - September 4

MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS IN URBAN CONTEXTS

September 7 - 11

FOLK ISLAM AND POWER ENCOUNTERS



Mickaël MÜLLER — *Sorgues, France*

Degree: Bachelor in Bible and Applied Theology with a Pastoral Counseling specialization

What CTS has meant to me: “CTS has been a place of great changes in my life at every level: spiritually, academically, and personally. I can even say that I am no longer the man I was when I got here. My relationship with God, His Word, my brothers and sisters and even myself has deeply changed.”

Future plans: “I am planning to follow the French Master’s program over the next two years. Seems like CTS is not over for me yet!”

Sara PYNNÖNEN — *Lahti, Finland*

Degree: Master of Theology in Biblical Studies

What CTS has meant to me: “CTS... So many emotions connected to those three letters. The key word to describe the school of God as I saw, felt and experienced it is ‘growth’. CTS has been a place of intellectual growth, spiritual growth, emotional growth, relational growth, and cultural growth: a place of any and every kind of growth. CTS challenged me to change at each and every turn. For a few years, CTS was also the closest place to a ‘home’. It became a family to me. In my first year I encountered several big sisters and brothers, and in my last years I got many little sisters and brothers. Not to forget the ‘aunties’ and ‘uncles’... For these relationships I am truly grateful.”

Future plans: “I will continue working with the youth in Cambodia for now. My heart goes to the poor, the lost, the hurt and the broken. And those who have never heard of Jesus and the amazing, abundant life that He has to offer. So ten years from now I will hopefully be found in a Third World country, with my hands dirty, working with God to realize His plans and dreams. ‘So that all can hear.’”



Mark KLAASEN — *The Netherlands*

Degree: Bachelor of Divinity

What CTS has meant to me: “CTS has played a very special role in my personal, spiritual and academic life. I have met friends for life here through which I have learned so much about myself and God. Through classes, chapels and cultivating my own personal walk with God, I can really say I know God better. CTS has created a place where through the classes, sometimes your previously held beliefs about God are challenged, but during the chapel services, you can once again have an encounter with the God you know, who ensures you that no matter what, He remains the same forever. The academic assignments have been shaping me intellectually in a way I could not imagine before coming here. But through my constant pursuit of knowing God intimately, fueled by the encouraging environment of CTS, I now know that everything I do should only have one goal: to grow in the love of God, which is to know Him more, to learn to be loved by Him and to make Him known to the people around me.”

Future plans: “I plan to get my master’s degree after this, and then pursue a PhD. Ultimately I hope to get to a position in life where I can see people’s lives transformed when they encounter the love of God through teaching, preaching and/or counseling.”



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Our Mission

Continental Theological Seminary, a Pentecostal Center for higher education, exists to provide theological studies in an international environment to prepare men and women for Christian ministry and challenge them to develop spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and culturally in order to serve God and their fellow men.

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