



# The Flame

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## from the president: investment for impact

Yes, it's almost year end. **The past year has been our best ever in training God's people.** As 2005 draws to a close it's time to consider how you will give to charitable organizations. I hope and pray that every one who receives this letter will be a supporter of Urbana Seminary's Annual Fund. Some of you give every month or quarterly or once a year. That is deeply appreciated. I'm so grateful to the Lord for each of you. God is using you as you pray and give; we truly could not *equip people to love, know, and serve God* without you.

My burden this year is to expand our support base in order to seize growing opportunities right in front of us. For those who have not given to the Annual Fund, please pray about it! Consider a gift this final month of the year to the Seminary. Whatever the amount, be it \$50 or \$50,000, we need to draw support and accountability from a larger base of people than we have in the past. When you give, it not only impacts the lives of students tremendously, it touches countless others in the years to come through their ministries and gives you a stake of ownership in the school. **The impact will keep on expanding.** Guaranteed.

A school's Annual Fund is the source for basic operating expenses, from salaries to paper, and everything else, which enables us to fulfill the role God has called us to in the Kingdom. Your gifts are ... *a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.* (Philippians 4:18d) The work expands dramatically as each student is trained and then goes out to touch others. **Would you join me in giving to Urbana Seminary this year?**

In Christ,

*Ken*

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one  
already laid, which is Christ Jesus.  
1 Corinthians 3:11

## marcel fontijn

My name is Marcel Fontijn. From Switzerland I came here to Urbana, Illinois to learn English in the fall of 2003. Through the active involvement of my parents in Missions [especially Operation Mobilization], I got introduced to missionary work at an early age. In recent years I started to get convinced about my own calling. Last year then, I decided then to pursue a seminary education. Urbana Seminary, my first choice, offers me a high level education with personal attention. This Semester I'm enrolled in *History of Christianity 1, Hebrew 1, Christian Leadership* and *Biblical Counseling*.

The *History of Christianity* class totally changed my perspective on World History and showed me the influence the Church has on the course of history. It also gave me a clearer picture of God's sovereignty throughout history. In my *Hebrew* class I like the expositions and insights Mike Shea gives us from the original scripture. I believe that this is a valuable class even though it is a lot of work. *Christian Leadership* is my most reading intense class. All the readings make me think a lot about leadership and in particular my own approach to leadership. My last class, *Biblical Counseling*, gives me very practical insight on how to counsel myself and other people. I tried what I learned on some of my small group members. Overall, my classes offer me more than just biblical knowledge and insight. It offers me a Christian community which encourages and helps me to grow in my own relationship with God.

For the future, I believe that God wants to use me to educate, prepare and help missionaries. I believe Urbana Theological Seminary can give me the right theological education. But I also believe that Urbana Theological Seminary offers me examples to follow so that I can grow not only in understanding, but also obeying, the Word of God.



Marcel Fontijn  
Master of Divinity Program

## 2005: highlights

2005 was a watershed year in the history of Urbana Seminary. Three events stand out:

- From Spring to Fall, enrollment mushroomed—number of students doubled, credit hours taken tripled, full-time students from 1 to 7, creating a whole new environment to train servants and leaders.
- In April the Illinois Board of Higher Education gave approval for Operating Authority, creating the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion degrees.
- In June Todd Daly accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics.

...to build the kingdom of Christ by equipping people to love, know and serve God.

## lindsey hansen



Lindsey Hansen  
Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies

My name is Lindsey Hansen, and I'm originally from Wisconsin. This is my first time living in Illinois. I did my Undergrad at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls in Elementary Education.

I went on a mission trip to Bangladesh. The experience led me to dive deeper into the Word and learn more about the Lord and the Bible, his works in this world. I found out through a couple friends of mine about Urbana Seminary. It really excited me that it had a one year program, the Certificate, which I'm enrolled in right now. It gives me a lot of freedom to focus on the areas I wanted to within the 27 credit hours. There are three areas I have to take classes in, but I can take whatever courses within those areas I want. That has been awesome to have this freedom.

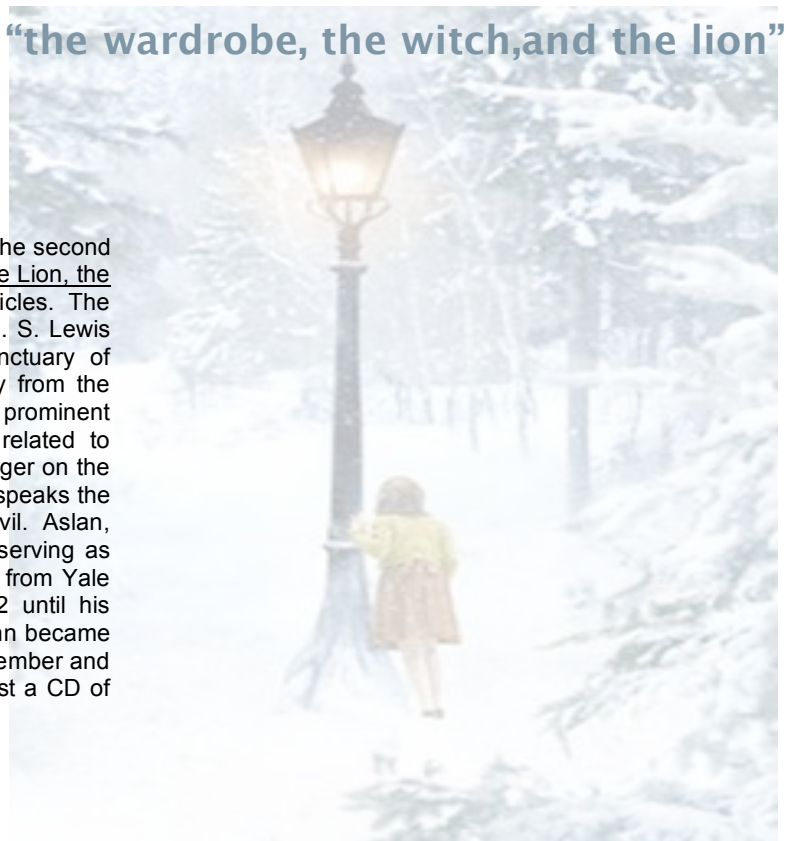
The classes I'm taking right now are *History of Christianity*, *Old Testament Survey*, *Perspectives on Christian World Missions*, *Biblical Counseling* and *Leadership*. It's a wide range of different topics focused on the Lord in some aspect or to some degree. So I really, really enjoy that. I'm learning a lot in all the classes, but the class I'm probably learning the most in, because I was the least knowledgeable about, is *History of Christianity*. There's so many details that we never hear about and we don't learn about. So this was really exciting because I'm not a big history buff, and to say that I like history is really big for me. That's been really fun.

I would also say the *Perspectives on Missions* class has been really challenging. Where is my heart for the Lord and for the lost? Am I focusing my energy and the free time that I have to really reach out to people who don't know Christ? It just amazes me how much here in America, we can be really self centered and focused on me, me, me, and be afraid to share the gospel with our friends and family. Yet more than likely we are not going to get killed over it, where in other countries, as in Bangladesh where I was, people sometimes die for Christ. This has been a great challenge - to see God's heart for the nations and challenge my heart for the nations.

## dr. u.milo kaufmann

On Saturday, November 5, Dr. U. Milo Kaufmann delivered the second annual Urbana Seminary Lecture, based on C. S. Lewis' [The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe](#), the first novel in the Narnia Chronicles. The lecture, entitled "The Wardrobe, the Witch, and the Lion: C. S. Lewis and Three Mysteries of the Faith," was held in the sanctuary of University Baptist Church and drew an attendance broadly from the community as well as of our students. Each of three prominent aspects of the novel reminds the reader of a mystery related to Christian doctrine. The wardrobe suggests that which is bigger on the inside than it at first appears from the outside. The witch bespeaks the mystery of the fall and the twisting of great good into great evil. Aslan, the Lion, mirrors the mystery of the incarnation, the finite serving as the vehicle for the infinite. Dr. Kaufmann earned his Ph.D. from Yale and taught English at the University of Illinois from 1962 until his retirement in 1994. During his scholarly career Dr. Kaufmann became known for his insight into C. S. Lewis. He is a committed member and a lay leader in the Free Methodist Church. You can request a CD of his lecture for only \$1 from the office.

## "the wardrobe, the witch, and the lion"

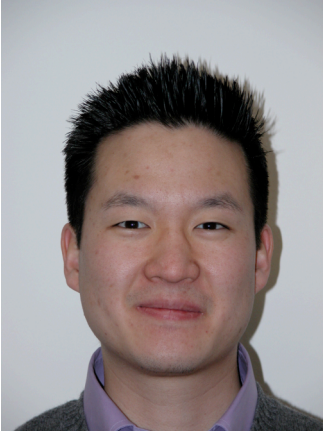


...to build the kingdom of Christ by equipping people to love, know and serve God.



## jim han

My name is Jim Han, and I'm currently working as a web developer at Horizon Hobby. One of the ways I think God is leading me and directing my life comes through a passage in John 21 about feeding Jesus' sheep. That's been on my heart ever since college. I never knew what direction or capacity he's leading me to, but after working up in Chicago for three years he challenged me to come back to my campus town, which is Urbana-Champaign. It was odd at that moment to obey because I was 26/27 (years old) and in the prime of my life and going back to the cornfield. I wasn't big on it, but I obeyed and came back to campus. I've been serving at Covenant Fellowship Church, which is a campus ministry, as a small group leader.



Jim Han  
Master of Divinity program

About two years ago God opened up an opportunity to help out at Urbana Seminary by building their website and I was very interested in taking some of the classes, so I started taking just one class a semester. As I was praying more about it, I started to believe that he is leading me to full time ministry, but also at the same time as I'm taking these classes, I realize that it is giving me a really good set of skills for me to give to God's sheep in terms of leading them, as well as giving them the word of God. So the past year I've been trying to take two classes a semester. The classes I really enjoyed taking are *Old Testament Survey*, taught by Dr. Cuffey and *Gospel of John* by Tony Jones. I think the two semesters of *Greek* are also very helpful. Not that I could open up a Greek New Testament and start translating, but at this moment I can recognize about 75 percent of the words just through vocabulary. I am really thankful to take that class because within my class we have an amazing teacher [Peter Spychalla], but also at the same time I have colleagues that are very excellent. A guy named JD knows the Word inside out, and Mariella used to be a German teacher, so just taking these classes with people that are very enthusiastic to learn helps me to push a little bit harder as a student as well.

I think as I'm taking these classes it is a bit of challenge because I'm working fulltime and most of my time is spent at church leading an undergrad small group. But also at the same time I'm very thankful for this opportunity. As I look back, I realize that God was sovereign over his decision and how he led me. I'm really thankful that through Urbana Seminary I am able to work full time, serve at a church and take two classes. They are very flexible about the schedules they have. I'm very thankful for the opportunity to develop my dream, a dream that God has given to me through this seminary.

## christian counseling on the cutting edge

One of the courses offered this fall has been *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*, taught by Dr. Min Chung. The class has received rave reviews from its students as it has involved them in thinking about a broad range of interrelated areas that are foundational to working with people. Dr. Chung, who is known for his pastoral ministry at Covenant Fellowship Church, developed a unique approach to Counseling as part of his Doctor of Ministry degree program.



Elaine Carovilla  
Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies



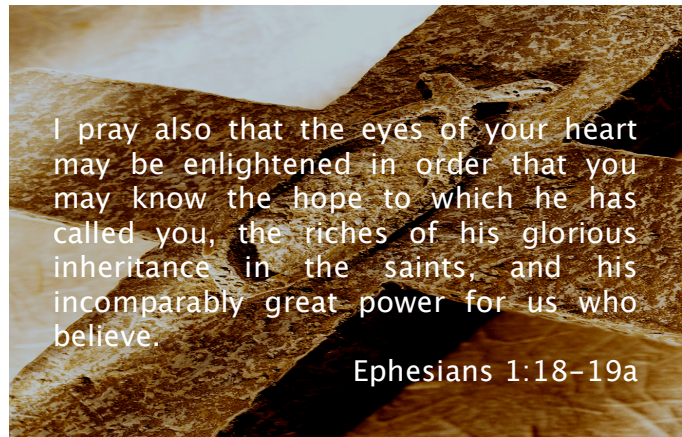
The ideas in "Heart Motives" counseling are grounded in an understanding of theology, examining God in all His perfections and seeing how we need to reflect those qualities, but fall short. As fallen humans, we tend to distort the image of God and misuse what should really be good qualities, as they are seen in God Himself. Understanding this allows a person to minister to another through being able to see what the heart motives are that drive each of us, and how the sinful nature has altered those from what they were originally designed by God to be.

...to build the kingdom of Christ by equipping people to love, know and serve God.

## giving options

Most who give to the Seminary write a check and send it in the mail. That's great. Thank you! But, are you aware that there are other ways to give to Urbana Seminary?

- It is possible to give a donation through a credit card at the new secure on-line site. The address to give in this way is <http://www.urbanaseminary.org/donation>.
- Should you wish to give securities to the school, we have an account to receive these through Ohio National Equities Sales (contact our office for directions on how to give through a broker and the appropriate numbers to use.)



## pray for the future: pray for students

God has blessed us with a tremendous group of people in our classes and programs. Their hearts are devoted to serving Christ, wherever He leads. They love His Word and to study about Him and His work. **Take a moment now, and lift up this student body before the Lord**—as they take finals and finish a semester, as they travel for Christmas and take time with family, as they serve Christ, as they prepare for the start of spring semester.

## the team!

One of the clear signs of God's hand is the way He has blessed Urbana Seminary with a great staff "team." **Sharon Reid** (Librarian) has had a banner year with software to automate the library, a growing collection and cataloguing in process (about 3,500 so far). **Gee Chung** (Office) has created an outstanding file system and designed a number of attractive pieces to share the school and its vision with others. **Adrian Lamkin** (Church History, Academic Dean) is enjoying teaching classes that are expanding in size each semester, doing curriculum design, and working on the catalogue. **Ann Jones** (Administrative Dean) is also working on creating the catalogue and overseeing the launch of the benefits plan, and has added a class at the University to pursue her Master's degree in Higher Education. **Ken Cuffey** (Biblical Studies, President) delights in teaching, as well as the people (students and staff), and has expanded duties to include more of the fund-raising for the time being. Several not on our regular payroll have provided their expertise as consultants: **Carolyn Govoni**, graphic designer for the catalogue and photography; **Jim Han** with computer technology; **Kenny Kim** as the web designer; and **Jenny Kim** with educational policies.

- Praise God for each of these people!
- Pray for them in their work that makes training for ministry possible here.

A special **Thank you!** from all of us who serve Him at Urbana Seminary. We so appreciate all you do in praying for the ministry, as well as giving to make this possible.

**Have a most blessed Christmas season!** Celebrate the birth of the One the angels announced: *I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.* (Luke 2:10c-11)

Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year!