

Urbana Theological Seminary:

THE FLAME

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I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.
 Ephesians 1:16

Letter from the President...

The fall has begun. Classes in session, a healthy increase in enrollments, and another incoming class of quality people, dedicated to pursuing and serving Jesus Christ. Orientation, back to school welcome Barbeque, first worship service together, first Seminary Prayer Team of the school year. Simply to say this: I realize how blessed of God I am to be able to participate in what he's doing here! Though I'm learning a lot from teaching a new course on *The Bible: Canon and Unity*, I also am so gratified and challenged by each individual whom God brings into my life. A chance to "sow seed," to invest in lives, and grow together along with an amazing student body.

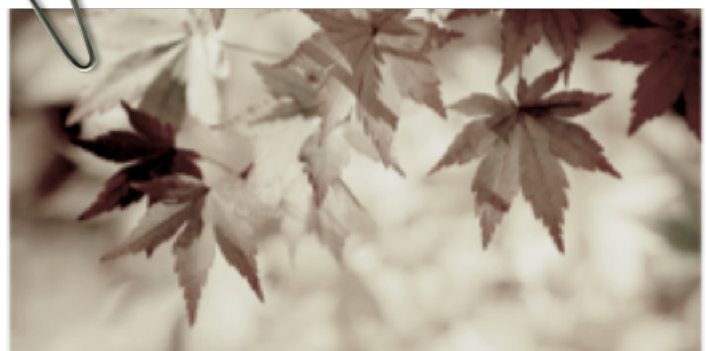
In Him,

Ken

Ken Cuffey

DID YOU KNOW?

- With the start of the fall semester, Urbana Seminary welcomed an incoming class of 11 students new to the programs. This represents a healthy increase in the size of incoming class and also a boost in the total program enrollment.
- If every person on our newsletter mailing list donated \$50 a month Urbana Seminary would cover our annual budget. Whether you can do this much, more than this or less than this - would you consider becoming a partner in training people for ministry through giving on a monthly basis? If you are willing to join the circle of those who give to support training, please fill out the enclosed form and return it in the envelope provided.
- One of our Certificate students, Bruce Vojak, took his term paper from Old Testament, did further research and rewrote it. He has submitted *A Statistical Consideration of the Censuses of Numbers I and XXVI* to one of the foremost journals in the field of Biblical Studies, *Vetus Testamentum*. This reflects our commitment as a school to explore new areas and advance the frontiers of knowledge in the theological disciplines. Congratulations, Bruce!



Bruce



"the joy of the LORD
 is your strength."
 Nehemiah 8:10f

... preparing people for Christian ministry and leadership, equipping them to love, know, and serve God...



Ash Scarbrough and Todd Daly



Ash Scarbrough: M.Div. student

GET TO KNOW ASH SCARBROUGH (M.DIV STUDENT AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT)

Ash spent four homeless days on the streets of Chicago. Hear in his words how this impacted his life...

When I began this journey with Jesus Christ five years ago, I struggled to understand what “faith” was. I found the definition proposed by the author of Hebrews (11:1) beyond my personal comprehension, and concluded, as many have before, that faith was little more than engaging in the belief that Jesus was who He said He was. But imagine my surprise when I discovered that the original word for faith meant more than believe, it meant trust. If faith means trust, then there is a deeply personal element to Christianity that calls us out of our self-established security and into the dangerous act of emulating Jesus.

Following in the footsteps of Christ became more difficult for me when I came to a harsh reality. Jesus had no place to lay His head. I decided to follow him to the streets as a homeless man. So, two friends and I changed into our most tattered clothes, carrying only a Bible, a pen, and some paper, and we took to the streets of Chicago. We agreed to live on the streets for four days, relying only on the grace of God for food, water, safety, and anything else we would need. We would each be on

our own, like so many of the homeless men and women I have met before; and we would meet together for a short time each night to encourage and pray for each other. We had two goals: To understand God’s heart for the poor, and to learn what it means to “pursue first His Kingdom and His Righteousness” when we had nothing of our own.

For four nights and three days we slept on the cold hard pavement of the city streets. We quickly discovered the value of human life as we were pushed from street corner to street corner, reminding us of the common perception that problems disappear if you can not see them. Most people would pass by us, diverting their gaze so as not to see. Others would yell at us asking what our problem was and why we were so pathetic. Yet, very very rarely, one kind soul would sit and talk, asking about life and offer whatever they could spare. The evening hours gifted us with cold biting winds from off Lake Michigan as well as swarms of mosquitoes searching for food; and sleep was a dear friend with which we were rarely acquainted. Hungry, tired, and suffering from social atrophy (one of us even was sprayed down with pepper spray), we embraced

the nothingness of the streets and found faith instead of despair.

To our surprise we ate regularly. True to His Word (Matthew 6), God provided us with food and clothing. He gave us warmth and love, but it was never where we expected it. When in need it was not the businessman who helped... but another homeless man, giving all that he possessed. When we were walking through the cold rainy streets in the twilight hours, we were not sheltered by the haves... we were invited to share a blanket with the have-nots, as we passed by a homeless community. Homeless men and women took care of fellow homeless men and women, because it seemed like nobody else would. We would take what little money we had and buy as many items from the McDonald’s dollar menu as we could... And then give all of them away before we sat down to eat a burger ourselves. I have seen Jesus Christ, and if you need to find Him, he resides at the corner of Union and Roosevelt in Chicago, Illinois... alongside his “street family”. We feel called to return to the city streets to bless Christ, as He has blessed us. And we will learn what it means to “trust” him as we rely on Him for our every need.

Student Support and Prayer Partnership!

WHAT IS THIS NEW PARTNERSHIP?

To make theological education available to everyone God calls, Urbana Seminary relies on your support. Through the Support and Prayer Partnership, we invite you to contribute an amount you determine on a monthly basis. These donations will go toward the Urbana Seminary Annual Fund, a general school fund which will help keep tuition low for our students. In response to your pledge, we offer to partner you with one of our students for mutual prayer as they train and prepare for future ministry. The Seminary faculty, staff and students will all partner with you in this program.

WHAT ARE MY COMMITMENTS AS A SUPPORTER?

As a supporter, you commit to two things. First, ongoing prayer for the student the Seminary has paired you with. Second, your monthly contribution sent to Urbana Seminary on a regular basis.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT'S COMMITMENT?

The students who have agreed to be part of this partnership will regularly send prayer requests and updates to those who have partnered with them. They will also pray for you if you should choose to share your prayer requests with them.

WHAT IS URBANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S COMMITMENT?

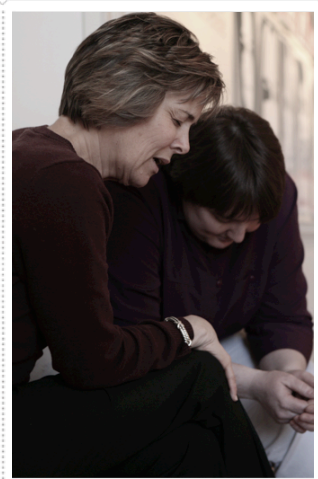
Urbana Theological Seminary has committed to partnering program students with supporters willing to pray for them and financially support the Seminary's Annual Fund. We will send you a photo and short bio of a participating student when you sign up for the program. Urbana Seminary will also send general prayer requests and news of the school to you, invite you to seminary lectures and graduations, and notify you of Community Outreach programs, while continuing to offer high quality education at low cost to our students.

HOW DO I BECOME A PARTNER?

Prayerfully think this partnership over and decide what commitment you would like to make. Then fill out the enclosed response card and mail it back to Urbana Theological Seminary. We will then partner you with a program student. Thank you for considering this partnership.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:17



BROTHERTON FOUNDATION GRANT CREATES A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In August, the Brotherton Foundation of New Jersey awarded a grant of \$25,000 to begin an endowment fund for scholarships for Urbana Seminary program students. The goal will be to increase the endowment over the next years and build it to the place where the earnings on the endowment will year to year provide one full tuition scholarship for a deserving student in one of our programs. This first year we will have an application and selection process during the spring semester, hope to announce the recipient at Graduation, and award a partial tuition scholarship for the fall.

SEMINARY ADDS THREE LECTURERS

In an effort to creatively and economically boost the resources available to our students, Urbana Seminary has created a new faculty position, the Lecturer. The Lecturer is a part-time faculty member, hired on an annual basis, who will regularly teach a part-time load of courses (usually one per semester) and take on some administrative roles to help the Seminary. These roles include assignments to advise students, participate in the evaluation process of the Seminary, coordinate the graduation ceremony, or serve as chaplain to the student body. We have hired three for this academic year: **Mike McQueen** (Lecturer in Missions and Evangelism); **Mike Shea** (Lecturer in Hebrew and Bible); and **Judy Webb** (Lecturer in Worship). Our goal will be to continue to build this resource for the Seminary and its students through adding more Lecturers in future years.

A NEW HIRE AND A BIG EVENT

In September, Urbana Seminary appointed one of our M.Div. students, **Ash Scarbrough**, to the position of Graduate Assistant with responsibilities especially in the area of development. Ash will be helping the Seminary connect with donors and encourage people to be involved with the ministry of giving. In particular, this semester he is responsible to oversee the famed *Student Call-Through*, in which our students contact everyone on our mailing list that we are able to reach. This effort lets us connect you with people who are direct beneficiaries of the Seminary's ministry, affords you the chance to ask them questions and find out what Seminary life is like, and get more excited about the vision of the Seminary.

JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP!

Urbana Seminary has a Facebook account. If you have an account, check us out and join up!

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
Ephesians 1:18-19a

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
Ephesians 1:19b-23

