

the flame

THE HEARTH

URBANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Spring 2015

A New Beginning For A New Year ANTIOCH 2015 APRIL 11 You're Invited!

Every spring Urbana Seminary observes Founders Day to mark another year of God's provision and guidance for the ministry. Beginning in 2014, we have celebrated this with a new event called ANTIOCH! The 2015 version will be held on the evening of Saturday April 11th, beginning at 7 PM. ANTIOCH allows us to thank those who support the ministry by praying and giving, and also to share the vision of what God is doing. In this evening together we will hear about how God is using this ministry in the lives of our own students. We will also share news about directions for the coming year and how that will tie in with our Founders Fund campaign for 2015. I believe you'll find the life testimonies and news for the future to be exciting! Please write the date on your calendars, RSVP, and be there. Oh, and bring friends along too. Dessert will be served.

President's Pen

Not to us, O LORD, not to us But to your name be the glory, Because of your love and faithfulness. Psalm 115:1

The trustworthy consistency of God's character provides a solid basis for life no matter what we face. Grounding our plans for tomorrow in our knowledge of his nature, I'm heartened to see what God is doing in our midst. I'm excited to see a new venue for courses, as well as a new means for people to grow without becoming a full Seminary student. I am also excited, of course, about the plans for this year's ANTIOCH event. So mark the night of April 11th on your calendars and plan to be there. Also, consider a spring gift to the Seminary as support for training those who will lead the church into the decades ahead.

Grateful that God Brings Spring,

Ken

Fourth Annual Preaching Forum

Urbana Theological Seminary held its 4th annual Preaching Forum for area pastors. Dr. Robert Smith, Professor of Preaching at Beeson Divinity School, was this year's guest speaker. Dr. Smith spoke on "Preaching under Pressure." To the delight of his fellow pastors, Professor Smith punctuated his teaching with multiple demonstrations of his preaching style. He demonstrated how he used the biblical text to convey the message of God's hope to the trials that every congregation and preacher go through together and individually. Dr. Smith also addressed the pressures that pastors face each week. Over sixty pastors had the opportunity to discuss the needs and burdens with Dr. Smith that are a part of their individual ministries. One pastor noted that he found the Q & A times to be outstanding. The Preaching Forum is one aspect of Provisions for Pastors, a Seminary initiative aimed at strengthening pastoral leadership in the local church.



DON'T LIKE HOMEWORK?

announcing a new way to access seminary training:

Certificate of Completion

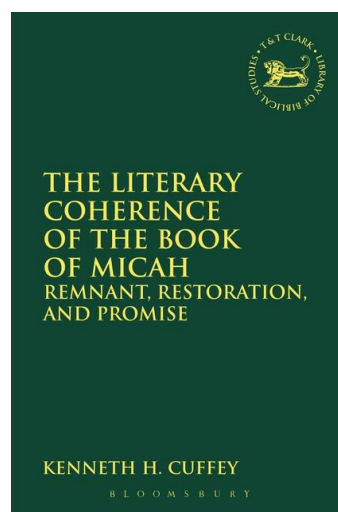
There is a new way to gain from a Seminary course without doing all the work! Up to this point, courses had only two options for benefitting—sort of an all or nothing. Either you enroll for credit and do the work, take the tests, write the papers (and indisputably garner a tremendous wealth of important and practical material for life) or audit, which means you can come to class and soak up the contents of the course's sessions and enjoy the network of fellowship with other believers. Now there is a third option between those two: You can sign up for a course on the Certificate of Completion level. A Certificate of Completion adds some accountability to deepen the amount learned over an audit. Instead of just sitting and listening, the Certificate of Completion requires you to verify doing a fraction of the reading for the course, usually in the neighborhood of 200 assigned pages and write a brief (~ 5 pages) reflective paper that addresses how you grew from thinking more about this topic. At the end of each course, students who opt for this approach will receive a Certificate of Completion. With a pilot trial running in one course this semester, the Seminary plans to expand this to all courses in the fall as a brand new option for lay persons to benefit more without actually taking the class for credit. Contact our office at office@urbanaseminary.org or call us at 217-365-9005 to receive more information about all the excitement!

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT: KANKAKEE AREA

This spring semester of 2015 Urbana Seminary offered an initial course in the Kankakee/Bourbonnais/Bradley area. Dr. Mike McQueen has "gone on the road" each week to bring *Gateways to Mission* up north. Based on our initial experiences, and heartened by the high level of interest and quality of the students, we are excited about the possibilities of having a brand new venue for teaching there. We even envision the possibility of a cohort that would stay together as we would cycle through courses required for a degree. The cohort design would create a circle of students who will learn and study together and benefit from course after course brought into that area. One of our MAR program students, Rod Miller, is the area representative for the Seminary's future programs in the K/B/B area. If you are in that area and interested in learning more, please contact Rod Miller at rmhisteach@aol.com or at our office at office@urbanaseminary.org

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATION

Dr. Kenneth Cuffey's book *The Literary Coherence of the Book of Micah: Remnant, Restoration, and Promise* was released on February 26th and is now available from Bloomsbury Press. While some Biblical scholars have argued that Micah is not one text but multiple ancient texts put together, Dr. Cuffey analyzes its coherence, showing how the text works as a whole and is indeed one complete piece. This book can be ordered through Bloomsbury Press or through Amazon.com



Professor Nominated to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity's Academy of Fellows.

Associate Professor of Theology & Ethics Dr. Todd Daly was recently inducted as an associate fellow to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity's Academy of Fellows. The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity is a Christian institute dedicated to excellence in bioethics research. The fellows are a community of scholars from around the world who work in a variety of academic fields. They meet on a regular basis to engage in thoughtful discussion of current issues in bioethics and to offer each other support for their research and work.



LIBRARY DONORS

Thank you to those who have donated books to the library over the past year! Your donations of books helps us provide quality resources for our students. So thank you to:

- Bonnie Arends
- Kenneth Cuffey
- Michael Halcomb
- Barb Kammer
- Mary Long
- Richard Miller
- Deborah Owens
- Ron Simkins
- Tim Simkins
- Tom Krawczyk
- Margaret Schrock

