

Urbana Theological Seminary
Presents:
**ANCIENT ISRAEL IN
CHICAGO:
A TOUR OF THE
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE**

July 9, 2016

WHAT: A tour of artifacts from ancient Israel, Canaan, Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon, relevant to understanding the OT Led by Dr. Kenneth Cuffey.

SCHEDULE:

12:45 PM

Meet at Oriental Institute
University of Chicago Campus
(outside of front door)
1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

1:00-4:00 PM

Tour of Oriental Institute's Old
Testament related artifacts

4:00-6:00 PM

Explore on your own
(Museum, gift shop, nearby
bookstores)

6:00 PM (optional)

Dinner together at nearby
restaurant

RIDE: to request a ride or volunteer to drive

Email: Dr. Melody Green
mgreen@urbanaseminary.org

PRICE:

\$25 per person

To REGISTER

<http://www.urbanaseminary.org/events/>

For GENERAL QUESTIONS

(about the trip)
Email: Dr. Melody Green: mgreen@urbanaseminary.org

For SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

(about the tour of the Oriental Institute)
Email: Dr. Kenneth Cuffey: kcuffey@urbanaseminary.org

Student Spotlight: Continued

When asked what her favorite class was, Charlotte declared with a laugh, "This is hard—I love them all. And they all hold a very special part in my heart. It's like comparing your children. You can't love one more than the others. But the most memorable one that I would cherish deeply is the Lectio Divina class. It took me to a place in God I had never been before. It was what I was looking for growing deeper in spiritual formation, specially in prayer and my devotion time. Since taking the class, I have purchased other readings on the topic. Lectio Divina is a spiritual discipline in my private time with God that helps me be more relational with God. That shows in my being."

When asked for a favorite memory: "Again, there are so many. My favorite was when I came in 2008 to turn in my application and was told to wait in the library until someone can see me. While waiting, Dr. Cuffey came into the room. I didn't know who he was at that time and I began to tell him my testimony of how God led me to the seminary. I told him how I had just been ordained and how after 5 years of praying God had touched my husband and he gave me his blessing to pastor. And I'll never forget Dr. Cuffey asked me what the seminary could do for me as a whole. I just said to develop me into a stronger pastor. Later, I was sitting and talking with the Dean of Students in her office and Dr. Cuffey walked in. That's when she introduced me to the president and I said 'What?!? I am so sorry!' I would not have said all that to him if I had known. I feel so honored to attend UTS because of the modesty of the faculty. They are professional and yet modest at the same time. Some schools have unapproachable professors you are afraid of. I don't feel that with the professors here."

When asked how she feels about graduating, Charlotte said: "When I walk across that stage and I know that God has completed this assignment in my life, I know there is another door of opportunity that is waiting for me and my response will be 'yes, Lord.'"

Charlotte is one of the students who will be graduating on Saturday May 21st at 5PM in the afternoon. The service will be held at the Chapel of St. John the Divine and a reception will follow.

Recent Faculty Publications:

Melody Green:

"George MacDonald and Celtic Christianity." *North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald's Studies*. 34 (2015): 102-112.



Student Spotlight: Charlotte Blissit

In 2008, Charlotte Blissit, who had just been ordained as a pastor in the Apostolic Pentecostal International Fellowship, began taking classes toward her Graduate Certificate. After earning that degree in 2011, she decided to come back in the fall of 2014 to work toward her Master of Arts in Religion. Charlotte will be graduating this May. Not only is she currently the pastor of Truth Pentecostal Christian Center, but in 2014 Charlotte was ordained as an elder/overseer of the southern region in her denomination, overseeing church planting, ordaining ministers, and building ministries not only in Illinois, but also Florida, Atlanta, and Tennessee. Charlotte is the newly-elected president of the Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana, a local group of pastors that focuses on both the spiritual and social needs of the community. Recently Charlotte took some time out of her very busy schedule to talk with Dr. Green about her experience here at Urbana Seminary. Here is just a little of their conversation:

Charlotte enrolled in the graduate certificate program shortly after being ordained. When asked why, she responded: "I felt like I couldn't do it without it—I felt like I needed a stronger foundation to pastor." When asked why she came back for an MAR, she stated that "during my studies at UTS I have been pushed beyond my natural limits, I learned more about God. The information I have obtained I would never have been privy to had I not attended UTS."



[continued on back]

From the President's Pen

It's hard to beat working at a Seminary for being able to watch what God does over the long run! Spiritual growth is a slow process for almost everyone, but over the course of a degree program with lots of learning and stimulus, I can see students deepening and drawing closer to Christ. Graduation will be here soon (Saturday, May 21st at the Chapel of St. John the divine, Champaign, IL). What a great opportunity to celebrate with those who have finished their training for serving Christ, as well as to mark off in their lives how they've developed and changed. I hope you can come!

Also, early this summer we will hold our 3rd annual ANTIOCH celebration of the graduates, which allows students to share individual stories of growth and refinement. Students look back on the last several years and reflect on their digging deep into God's Word, their learning about who God is and how He is at work, and how they sharpened skills to touch other people. You'll receive an invitation to this spectacular event in the mail or via e-mail—everyone is invited! It's worth it to see how God works steadily over the years.

And then there's the satisfaction of seeing God take what has been imparted and use it in creative, and sometimes unexpected, places. For example, every other year I teach a course in *Inductive Bible Study Methods*, which gives an extremely practical approach to the text of the Bible, and explores how to hear God speaking to you through His Word with greater clarity. It's fun to teach, and I trust enjoyable for the students to be driven deeper into Scripture. It's also startled me and been gratifying to see how those who have enrolled in the past have reproduced and passed on what they learned in varied settings. It's been used in churches locally here in Illinois, and has also shown up in New Jersey and California. Then, in an e-mail received just this morning I found out from a recent student that it's being used to train pastors and church leaders in Southeast Asia! Who wouldn't love watching growth in Christ unfold in individual lives, or seeing newly acquired ministry skills get put to use, or hearing about skills and knowledge reproduced in all sorts of new ways and areas? God's at work! He's building His servants for the decades ahead.

Ken
Ken Cuffey, President

✂ "cut and return"

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Urbana Theological Seminary

Summer 2016 Courses | Classes start 1st week of June

CH 740

Bonhoeffer: Life and Thought

Instructor: Joe Thomas
Dates: June 2 - July 29
Time: Thursday | 6PM - 9PM
Credit: 2 hours
Location: Meadowbrook Community Church
Drop/Add Date: June 9, 2016

Description: The life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer has been celebrated in countless writings, biography and film. His inspirational life and profound theological insight into the disciple's call to follow Christ and the idolatry of unchecked government power make his work timeless. This course will explore the interrelationship between Bonhoeffer's life and thought and its importance for today.

CT 740 210

The Doctrine of Election

Instructor: Todd Daly
Dates and Times: Fri. June 3rd, 6-9 PM; Sat. June 4, 9-4; Mon. June 6, 6-9 PM
Credit: 2 hours
Location: University Baptist Church | Basement
Drop/Add Date: email office@urbanaseminary.org

Description: The doctrine of election as it relates to salvation, tracing its development from Augustine, through the Middle Ages, to the Reformation and up to current times. Students will be exposed to the writings of key figures as well as contemporary writings by those on both sides of the debate.

FM 740 115

Group Spiritual Direction

Instructor: Peter Spychalla
Dates: June 1 - July 27 (will not meet July 6)
Time: Tuesday | 6PM - 8:30PM
Credit: 2 or 3 hours
Location: First Christian Church | Room 109
Drop/Add Date: June 8, 2016

Description: An introduction to the theory and practice of informal, group spiritual direction. Exploration of approaches, practical skills, and relationship dynamics that promote effective prayer, reflection, discernment, encouragement, and paying attention to God together. Cultivate increasing awareness of God's presence, grace, and working in the midst of ordinary life experiences and grow deeper in personal relationship with God. Survey of the historical background, key concepts, and central practices of contemporary informal spiritual direction and soul care.

TUITION

Graduate: \$325 / semester hour
Audit: \$325 / class
Certificate of Completion: \$425 / class

FEES

Summer Fees: \$75

REGISTRATION

To register for classes and for course locations visit our website at: www.urbanaseminary.org
... click "ONLINE REGISTRATION"

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Champaign, IL 61820
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Recent Faculty Speaking Engagements:

Ken Cuffey

January 31-March 13, 2016

"Historical Books of the Old Testament"
Adult Education
Twin City Bible Church, Urbana, IL

April 3, 2016

"Creation & Origins: Genesis 1-2"
Conversations Lunch Seminar,
Windsor Road Christian Church, Champaign, IL

Todd Daly

Feb 6, 2016

"The Hope for Youth and the Youth of Hope:
Theological Reflections on Slowing Aging,"
The annual meeting of the Academy of Fellows at the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity (CBHD), Chicago.

Melody Green

Feb 14, 2016

"C. S. Lewis: Faith, Imagination, and Reason"
Emmanuel Memorial Church, Champaign, IL
Lessons from Famous Anglicans lecture series.

Mike McQueen

Preaching

Jan 17, 2016 - First Christian Church of Newman

Jan 24, 2016 - Peoria Chinese Christian Church

Jan 31, 2016 - Stratford Park Bible Chapel

Feb 07, 2016 - University Baptist Church

Feb 14, 2016 - Peoria Chinese Christian Church

Mar 06, 2016 - Peoria Chinese Christian Church

Apr 03, 2016 - Peoria Chinese Christian Church

Apr 10, 2016 - Champaign Chinese Christian Church

Peter Spychalla

Feb 7, 14, and 21, 2016

"Drawing Near to God." Sermons series.
East White Oak Bible Church, Carlock, IL.

Feb 28 and Mar 6, 2016

"Hearing God."
Adult Sunday School
East White Oak Bible Church.

Joe Thomas

February 27, 2016

"The Healing Power of Faith"
First United Methodist Church midwinter retreat.

An MAR Student reflects on the Preaching Forum by Margaret Shrock

On March 7, I attended Urbana Seminary's 5th annual Preaching Forum at Windsor Road Christian Church. The purpose of the forum each year is to challenge pastors and seminary students to consider how to better communicate the Gospel. This year Dr. Charles Zimmerman of Calvary Church in Souderton, PA (formerly also on the faculty of Biblical Theological Seminary) spoke on *Balancing Faithfulness and Relevance*, a call to stay faithful to the Biblical text and at the same time communicate the Gospel in a culturally relevant manner. His excellent speaking skills and the interesting experiences he shared kept my attention riveted on how as a pastor he maintains the balance between being true to an ancient text and connecting with people in today's very different society.

"To walk this tight rope" in communicating Dr Zimmerman called us to be students of both the Scripture and of culture. Since culture is dynamic our challenge is always to be conscious of the distance and resultant tension between the times in which the Bible was written and the world of the people we address on a Sunday morning at church. He shared "the Story," a visual tool developed at Calvary Church to communicate the overall story of the Bible in six acts. I found this especially helpful for placing individual Bible stories within the big story of God's work to bring people to himself. And I was challenged as he taught us to view Scripture through what he called a "Christotelic" lens, that seeks to ensure that the grace of Christ is always at the center of the application of Scripture.

Our current culture is post-Christian, post-literate, post-parochial, and post modern. Whether we like it or not, we must learn to communicate within this culture. Dr. Zimmerman creatively used music videos and advertising clips to demonstrate the dramatic cultural shift that has occurred in the last 50 years. He challenged us to view cultural expressions, such as movies, TV shows, and music, both as windows into our contemporary world, and "Christotelically", by looking for links to the gospel in them.



New Online Bookstore

Starting Summer 2016, books for Urbana Seminary's classes will be able to be ordered directly online through the new Urbana Seminary online bookstore! There are two ways to access this bookstore: the first is at this address: <http://astore.amazon.com/urbantheols0f-20>. This will take you to the bookstore itself, where you will be able to find textbooks for your classes, faculty publications, and other items as they come available. The second is for students to go to the Populi page for your class. Click on the "Info" button. On the left hand side there will be a link called "Bookstore." When you click on that link you go directly to the bookstore page for that class, which lists the required textbooks. And while this is an Amazon store, a percentage of the price of each book that is bought through this page comes right back to Urbana Theological Seminary.

Urbana Theological Seminary

Founder's Fund

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