

Speaking Engagements

Mike McQueen

Sept 18 Stratford Park Bible Chapel | Seminar on Islam I
Sept 5 Stratford Park Bible Chapel | Seminar on Islam II
Oct 16 Peoria Chinese Christian Church | Preaching
Nov 6 Chinese Bible Church of Springfield | Preaching
Nov 13 Chinese Christian Church of Peoria | Preaching
Nov 20 First Christian Church of Newman | Preaching
Dec 4 Chinese Bible Church of Springfield | Preaching
Dec 11 Peoria Chinese Christian Church | Preaching

Joe Thomas

9/25 Windsor Road Christian Church | Conversations Lunch Seminar | Religious Freedom

Todd Daly

Sept 18 Gibson City Bible Church | "Death, Dying and Medicine from A Christian Perspective"
Nov 11 Windsor Road Christian Church | Strong Families Conference | "Love, Liturgy, and Moral Formation"
Oct 11 Taste of Seminary | "What is Theology and Why Should We Bother?"
Oct 18 Taste of Seminary | "Does God Ordain People to Hell? Salvation, Sovereignty, and Human Freedom"
Oct 25 Taste of Seminary | "Clinton, Trump or Third Party Candidate?"
Nov 1 Taste of Seminary | "Born in the Wrong Body? A Christian Perspective on Gender Dysphoria"
Nov 8 Taste of Seminary | "Can I be a Christian and Believe in Evolution?"
Nov 15 Taste of Seminary | "Are We Really Treating our Kids as 'Brains on a Stick?'"

Ken Cuffey

Oct 16 Twin City Bible Church | Preach | John 15:1-13
Oct 23 Twin City Bible Church Midtown site | Preach | John 15:1-13
Oct 23 Covenant Fellowship Church | Mission Moment
Oct 30 Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church | Preach | Luke 19:1-10
Oct 31 Fellowship of Christian Athletes | Lay Institute Staff Training | *Where did our Bible come from?*
Nov 9 Christ Community Church Book of Esther | Lay Institute Training on Book of Esther

Melody Green

Sept 17 Cornerstone Fellowship, Urbana | "C. S. Lewis through the Shadowlands"

Pray for Urbana Seminary!

The following is an outline of some significant ways you can pray for the ministry of the Seminary here. Keep this in your Bible or on your nightstand—wherever you will be reminded and pray for God's Spirit to work in lives through equipping.

Praise God

- For a good *fall semester*
- For *our people*—students, faculty, staff, those who support and pray, those who come to any of our events
- For the ground-breaking outreach of the *Taste of Seminary* series with Dr. Daly
- For generous gifts to the Giving Tuesday *Life Happens campaign*
- For *events* that have glorified God—Tolkien conference (for Dr. Green's work with this), Spiritual Life Forum (for Rob and Jean Gill in their ministry on this day), ASK prayer for pastors.

Pray for

- Good and *robust Spring semester enrollment*—the right students in the right courses with the maximum benefit for them, for high quality new students coming in, for God to remove any and all obstacles to students' enrolling and completing degrees
- For *undergraduate students* to take advantage of the opportunities to enroll for Bible credit that will transfer into the University of Illinois (or other state schools)
- For *students undergoing hardships*—financial, health, family—that God would minister to their needs, that they could stay on course to complete their studies
- For *new outreach*—to lay persons in local churches, through Taste of Seminary, and through a new Institute that the Seminary is birthing.
- For *outstanding Year End giving*. For generosity and God's blessings. For this to give a good boost into 2017 and begin to open windows to expand the impact of the ministry.

An Investment that Keeps Bringing Results Would you consider a year-end gift to Urbana Seminary?

Please consider joining Urbana Seminary in the ministry of equipping men and women to serve Christ and lead in the church and world. How can you play a part? As the end of 2016 approaches, a gift to the Seminary allows you to exercise God-honoring generosity and become a meaningful part of our team in ministry. Your giving that has enabled us to keep tuition affordable and in reach to students. Your gifts have kept the incidence of educational debt low for our graduates. We value being able to pour our lives and training into our students and then see them directly able to use what they have received to touch other people. Your generosity also makes it possible for us to expand and grow the ministry here as we look to the future. In 2016 we've seen the beginnings of our following through on the Strategic Plan. More exciting developments are in the work, but more on those in 2017.

So, pray about it. And pray for the Seminary! And give generously! We gratefully acknowledge your part in making this service to our Lord a reality. It would not happen apart from our donor team. The card enclosed with this mailing contains the information you need to give, whether as a one time year end gift, or to become a regular monthly supporter. Either way we can't do it without you. So thank you many times over!

Donate while you shop at Amazon!

Do you buy books or other items from Amazon.com? If so, you can now donate to Urbana Theological Seminary while shopping at Amazon! Go here for more information:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1332634>

Students:

Don't Forget to order your text books @
<http://www.urbanaseminary.org/library/bookstore/>

Looking for a Christmas present for your Urbana Seminary student or alumni?

Interested in items that show off your support of UTS? then check this out:
<http://www.cafepress.com/urbanatheologicalseminarygiftstore>



The President's Pen

A semester draws to a close, Christmas approaches, and another year is about to begin. God's grace has been in evidence in a Fall Semester almost accomplished. It's felt mellow in the sense that it is deeply satisfying to teach people who are mature and motivated, breathless in that it's been a busy semester. Between classes and events, significant ministry has been carried out here. And somehow we've kept above water! To God be the glory!

By the time you read this, the Seminary-sponsored fall events will be history—combining the bigger and better than ever before booksale to benefit the Library, info tables at several area churches since August, the 3rd Annual Spiritual Life Forum on *Tracking God's Fingerprints in Your Life* with Rob and Jean Gill, the 5th Annual Tolkien Conference, the start of another year of Provisions for Pastors ASK prayer gatherings. Add to these the launch of the *Taste of Seminary* series of public discussions that Dr. Daly has created and overseen, to hearty response from people who usually haven't connected with classes. God's at work. And we get to move along with him.

It's almost the end of the year. For the Seminary, as for many ministries, this is an important time for giving. Would you join me in prayerfully assessing what we each can donate at year end to God's work through Urbana Seminary? I encourage each one who receives this *Hearth* newsletter to give generously as the curtain comes down on 2016 and 2017 dawns. We can't do it without you! As you give and pray for the school you are a real part of our ministry of training new generations of leaders for the church, academy, and marketplace. In advance, deepest thanks to each of you who will contribute a year end gift!

Gratefully,

Ken

Ken Cuffey
President; Professor Biblical Studies



Student Spotlight: Steve Whited

Why did you decide to come to Urbana Seminary?

I chose to attend UTS because I sensed God directing me to acquire more training and to refine some of my skills in order to be a more effective campus minister.

What has been your favorite course so far?

This is hard because I have many. Hebrew and Hebrew Exegesis, as a unit, has probably been the most exciting for me as I am now able to engage with the Scriptures, reference tools, and commentators in ways that I could not before.

Describe an Urbana Seminary memory that stands out for you:

The Bonhoeffer course with Dr. Thomas was very small, (you all missed out by the way!). So instead of meeting in a classroom at night, we decided to have class on his porch in the mornings drinking tea and discussing the life of a great man. It felt like the Finkenwalde Seminary experience. (Bonhoeffer's own underground seminary in Nazi Germany).

What ministry/ministries are you currently involved in?

I am a missional team leader for Bridges International, a ministry to international students. I have been with Bridges for 11 years.



What else should our readers know about you?

My wife and I are both non-native Illinoisans. I'm from southern Ohio and studied accounting at Ohio University (Bobcat, not a Buckeye). Melanie is from Indianapolis and studied at IUPUI, UIUC (EdM), and is now working on her MSW.

Urbana Theological Seminary

Spring 2017 Courses | Classes start January 17, 2017

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BI 502 - 100 3 Hrs
New Testament Survey
Dr. Kenneth Cuffey
Wednesday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Twin City Bible Church

BI 620 - 200 3 Hrs
Old Testament History Books and Israel's History
Dr. Kenneth Cuffey
Thursday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Location: TBA

BL 502 - 100 3 Hrs
New Testament Greek 2
Dr. Peter Spychalla
Monday and Wednesday 4:00PM - 5:45PM
Grace Community Church

CHRISTIAN HISTORY & THOUGHT

CH 502 - 100 3 Hrs
History of World Christianity II
Dr. Joseph Thomas
Thursday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Meadowbrook Church

CT 502 - 100 3 Hrs
Theology II
Dr. Todd Daly
Monday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Location: TBA

CT 600 - 100 3 Hrs
Theology and Contemporary Issues
Dr. Todd Daly
Friday 6:00PM - 9:00PM | Saturday 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Jan 27-28 | Feb 24-25 | April 7-8 | May 5-6
Location: TBA

CT 740 - 350 3 Hrs
Christianity and Children's Literature
Dr. Melody Green
Tuesday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Location: TBA

PRACTICAL MINISTRY

FM 740 - 140 2 Hrs
Vocation and Everyday Callings
Dr. Peter Spychalla
Saturday 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Jan 21, Feb 18, Apr 1, Apr 29
Location: TBA

PM 503 100 3 Hrs
Biblical Preaching
Dr. Randy Boltinghouse
Wednesdays, 12:30PM - 3:30PM
Windsor Road Christian church

PM 605 - 200 2 Hrs
Advanced Heart Motives Counseling
Dr. Min Chung
Monday 6:30PM - 9:00PM
Location: TCBC

PM 608 - 150 3 Hrs
Islam and Radical Fundamentalism
Dr. Michael McQueen
Monday 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Location: TCBC

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

GN 700 - 100 3 Hrs
Integrative Senior Seminar
Dr. Brett Smith
Time: TBD
University Baptist Church | Second floor Classroom

UNDERGRADUATE

REL 105 3 Hrs
The New Testament
Dr. Kenneth Cuffey
Wednesdays 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Twin City Bible Church
Transfers into the University of Illinois.

A Special Thank You! You helped in a tangible way! Since life does happen . . .

The focus for Giving Tuesday on November 29th was our *Life Happens Campaign*. All of us here at the Seminary want to say a hearty "Thank you!" to those of you who gave in order to benefit students. As we shared, in any year there are a few students who have experienced financial hardships caused by such things as the loss of a job, or major, unexpected medical bills. Sometimes these blows make it exceedingly challenging for the student to complete payments for their classes. Your generous gifts are applied to allay the tuition expenses of specific selected and worthy students. The recipients are selected based on a combination of the severity of their financial need and their engagement in or promise for future effective ministry for Christ. The funds donated go towards lessening the amount they owe in tuition. We are grateful to you for relieving the stress felt by deserving and responsible students who encounter hardship!

"I Don't Want to Just Sit and Listen!" Upgrade an Audit to an Endorsement!

The Faculty have approved a new option that makes training available for more people from the community on a new level. An audit student typically just comes to class and listens. A student taking a course for credit has assignments to do—readings, paper, tests, etc.—and receives a grade and credit upon completion. The new *Endorsement Option* creates space at another level. Endorsement means that a person attends class (like an Audit) and does a limited amount of work outside classtime (like a credit student, but far less). When the semester is over the student receives a document that certifies completion of the course of study and a proportional number of Urbana Seminary CEUs. This is a great and affordable way of upping the take-home value of the time invested in a course as the material covered in class gains a second layer of reinforcement in the outside work performed.

Serving Teachers in Christian Schools

As of this Summer past, Urbana Seminary won approval from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) to provide CEUs for teachers at Christian schools (K-12). In order for these schools to gain accreditation from ACSI, each teacher must fulfill a compulsory requirement in Biblical training. The Seminary will use the *OT and NT Surveys* in particular to offer a way for teachers to gain the mandatory CEUs in the context of a quality and well-structured classroom. In the Spring the Seminary anticipates that the *New Testament Survey* class will be available for credit and CEUs from ACSI.

From M. Div. Student Brian Neradt

I'm very thankful for Urbana Theological Seminary. The structured study of the things of God is a blessing to me. I have a family and a day job, so I stick to one class at a time. I'm currently on my forth semester of Hebrew and the classes have been excellent. Dr. Cuffey does a great job helping us learn not only the Hebrew language, but also how to study a passage of the Old Testament, how to see its continuity within its context, how to profit from the variety of resources available to study any given text, and how to appreciate God's Word as a precious revelation of himself to us.



This fall, Urbana Seminary had a lot of events! Here are some highlights from them:



On Oct 22, we held our Library booksale. Any donated books that the library can't use go into the sale, where students and visitors can purchase them for incredibly low prices.



For six weeks, Dr. Todd Daly ran a free lecture series called "Taste of Seminary," which examined the Theological implications of a lot of important issues.



Dr. Green's Tolkien class took a two day road trip to archives at Marquette University and Wheaton College to see Tolkien's original manuscripts and to do research. In this picture Laura Schmidt, the archivist of the Wade Center at Wheaton, is showing the group a few treasures.



This year's Spiritual Life Forum was very hands-on! Rob and Jean Gill led several exercises designed to help attendees see how God is at work in our lives. This table is using pipe cleaners to communicate an idea.



Fifty-five people showed up to hear the speakers at this year's Tolkien conference. From left to right, they are Will Coats, artist; Duane Otto, director of Ithaca Fellowship; Colin Havard, who actually knew both J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis; Mike Foster, American Representative of the Tolkien Society; Debra Collett, from Trendsetters, LTD, a company that makes tie-in movie products; and Seth Kerlin, local pastor and librarian at Urbana Free Library.