



## Why The Church Should Care About Seminary Training

One of the greatest concerns of those involved in the work of the Reformation was the intellectual preparation of future ministers. It was generally recognized that the ignorance of the clergy in matters of faith and practice contributed to the decline of the church in morals and in doctrine. Now today, it is not uncommon to find people who think that seminary training is an accessory, a luxury, or even unnecessary. Some say that if the apostles themselves were recognized as “uneducated” (Acts 4:13), why should we aspire to more? The fact is that Scriptures do have strict standards for pastors to achieve, and a good academy can certainly help them reach those biblical demands.

### **The academy helps to test the call of a churchman.**

One of the most difficult aspects of pastoral ministry is to know if one has really been called to it. A candidate may have the skills, but that does not mean he has been called. While an inner call to the ministry refers to the candidate’s own conviction, the outer call is the church’s confirmation of the calling. It is precisely here that the academy can help. Professors in a seminary are members of the church and their calling is to train men for ministry; they are always observing behavior, decisions, and responses, and are able to help a student regarding his outer call.

### **The academy helps to test the character of a churchman.**

The Scriptures describe in detail how a man is fit for ministry (1 Tim. 3:1–7): he should be above reproach, self-controlled, hospitable, gentle, and not quarrelsome. The context of a seminary is a wonderful place to test all these

characteristics; for example, is he hot-headed in a classroom where there are differing opinions? The seminary’s intercultural environment offers instances to exercise hospitality.

**The academy helps to test the knowledge of a churchman.** The main requirement for someone who aspires to the ministry is to be “apt to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:9). But how does he know what to teach? The curricula of seminary training prepares him to feed God’s flock.

**The academy helps to test the abilities of a churchman.** What if a man knows doctrine but is unable to make that clear, experimental, and practical to others? To be able to teach requires knowledge but it also requires ability to communicate. The academy not only provides classroom time but also chapel time to be exposed to expository preaching. The delivery of a sermon is more caught than taught. As preachers are carefully selected to deliver practice sermons in the academy, candidates have the opportunity to learn both by theory and example. They themselves at a certain moment will also be tested regarding their own ability to teach and will be humbled by the critiques they listen to from professors and peers.

Paul warned that “there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision” (Titus 1:10). Seminary training can aid the church in its hard task of ordaining men to pastoral ministry. Let us pray for the continuance of seminaries where men can be trained and sent to preach the whole counsel of God.

—BRENO MACEDO  
Pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Brazil

## MEET DR. DANIEL TIMMER



In God's grace, I was born and raised in a Christian family and came to know the Lord as a teenager. In university, I studied mechanical engineering and worked in industry for several years before sensing a call to serve the church in theological education. I began my theological studies at PRTS and completed them at Trinity International

University in Chicago. During that time, I met and married my wife, Andreea. In 2004, I moved to Montreal, Quebec, where Andreea was teaching chemistry, to teach

Biblical Studies at the Faculté de théologie réformée Farel. In the following years, our sons Nathan and Felix were born, and I was ordained and served as a ruling elder in the Reformed Church of Quebec, a very small but biblically faithful French-speaking denomination. In 2009, we moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where I taught Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary while continuing my involvement with Farel Seminary. In 2012, we returned to Montreal where I began teaching Old Testament at the Faculté de théologie évangélique.

I am interested in all aspects of the Old Testament and biblical theology, and my recent research and writing has focused on the prophetic books and the contribution of Reformed epistemology to biblical interpretation. I look forward to my work at PRTS, and trust that in God's grace it will help prepare students for faithful ministry and serve the advancement of the gospel.

## ALUMNI NEWS FROM INDIA AND MALAWI!



**MR. SIVA SANKAR "ISAAC" GAJENDRAN** (2016) recently received a call to a faculty position at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dehra Dun (Northern India). He will be teaching theology and church history courses as early as this coming fall semester.

Isaac writes, "The Lord has been gracious and wonderful to Sabina and me, and by way of gratitude, I would like to thank our seminary family. PRTS has equipped us with solid, biblical doctrine and the practical application of such in our Christian lives. As I read various Puritan works and prepare lessons to teach, my heart is filled with thankfulness and I give glory to God and remember His people at PRTS. The Lord has blessed the work, efforts, prayers, and support that everyone put in to training us for kingdom work. I want to thank the faculty for teaching with a pastoral heart, and for treating us with dignity, as well as for loving us as brothers and sisters in the Lord. While there, I was taught how to honor and celebrate the Lord's Day. I learned the importance of growth and maturity in the Christian faith, and what it means to mortify sin, as well as the importance of prayer. I saw firsthand what a pastoral heart and

godly humility look like in both the faculty and the staff. I was taught our rich Reformed, confessional heritage and doctrine, the importance of missions, and Reformed experiential preaching, something greatly needed in our day. All of this was made possible because of faithful supporters who gave to the Scholarship Fund. I would also like to say that while in Grand Rapids, I never missed India. I was lovingly welcomed by and added to the PRTS family, and for this I am very grateful."



**REV. BRIAN KAMWENDO** (2009), has recently been elected the Board Chairman of Christian Literature Action in Malawi (CLAIM limited), a publishing company owned by eighteen churches with a mandate for producing and distributing Christian and academic literature throughout the country. Rev. Kamwendo will serve as the chairman for the

next three years. Please pray that the Lord would bless his efforts and CLAIM to spread sound, Reformed, experiential, Christian literature among the people of Malawi.

## MICHAEL BARRETT | *Itinerary*

Sept. 3: Sovereign Grace URC (GR)

Sept. 17: Mitchell FRC (Ontario)

### Projects

Working on revision of *Beginning at Moses*.

Co-authoring *A Radical, Comprehensive Call to Holiness*.

Working on the message of Exodus.

Working on ATS recertification.

## JOEL BEEKE | *Itinerary*

Sept. 1–4: Conference for Immanuel Baptist Church (Sacramento)

Sept. 28–29: Reforming Families Conference (Kentucky)

Sept. 29–October 3: Ever Reforming Conference for Trinity Bible Church (Wyoming)

Oct. 9–11: Scottish Reformation Society and Puritan Reformed Fellowship (Glasgow)

Oct. 12–14: Reformation Conference (Newcastle, England)

Oct. 21: Conference for URC (Brantford, Ontario)

Oct. 22: FRC churches (St. George and Brantford, Ontario)

Oct. 24–25: URC Conference for Pastors/Wives (Ontario)

Oct. 26–27: NCFIC (Ridgecrest, North Carolina)

Oct. 27: Reformation Evening (Hamilton, Ontario)

Oct. 29: Preaching (Ripon, California)

Oct. 30–November 2: Reformation Conference (Bangkok, Thailand)

Nov. 3–4: Reformation Conference (Boise, Idaho)

Nov. 5: Preaching in 2 URC churches (Boise, Idaho)

Nov. 7–9: conference for Igreja Presbiteriana Cidade Nova, Pastor Jamie Marcelino (Manaus, Mexico)

Nov. 10–13: conference on Sola Fide and preaching in 2 churches (Brazil)

Nov. 17–20: Reformation Conference and preaching in 2 churches (Mexico)

### Recent Publications

With Paul Smalley, “Natural Theology: Some Historical Perspective.” *Puritan Reformed Journal* 9, 2.

With Rob Wynalda, *Exodus Journible*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids: RHB.

General editor with Derek W. H. Thomas, *The Works of William Perkins*, Volume 4, by William Perkins, edited by J. Stephen Yuille. Grand Rapids: RHB.

Editor and introduction with Randall Pederson, Brown, John of Haddington, *Counsel to Gospel Ministers*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

Editor, *The Beauty and Glory of the Christian Worldview*. With Paul Smalley, “The Worldview of the Puritans.” Grand Rapids: RHB.

*Family Worship* [in Chinese]. Trans. John Chen.

*Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach* [in Romanian]. Dascalu-Ilfov, Romania: Magna Gratia.

*Family Worship* [in Romanian]. Dascalu-Ilfov, Romania: Magna Gratia.

## JERRY BILKES | *Itinerary*

Sept. 3: Grace Baptist Church (Canton, Michigan)

October 12–13: Ministers’ Retreat (Ingersoll, Ontario)

October 16–19: FRC Committee Meetings (Dundas, Ontario)

October 29: St. Thomas FRC (Ontario)

### Projects

*Guide to Biblical Interpretation*.

Sermon on the Mount Study Guide.

## MARK KELDERMAN | *Itinerary*

Sept. 7: Presentation on Sexual Abuse at IRBC (Iowa)

Oct. 14: FRC/HRC combined Office-bearers Conference address on biblical and pastoral perspective on sinful sexual relationships

Oct 20–Nov. 3: Trip to Asia for conference and PRTS promotion

## DAVID MURRAY | *Itinerary*

Sept. 29–30: Reforming Families Conference (Kentucky)

Oct. 13–14: Raising Children in Digital Babylon - Conference at First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, South Carolina).

Oct. 20–23: Christ in the Covenants, PCRT Conference (Oklahoma).

### Projects

PHD Project on Mathew Henry.

*Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids* (September 2017).

*Refresh: Embracing a Grace-Paced Life in a World of Overwhelming Demands*, Co-authored with Shona Murray (October 2017).

## STEPHEN MYERS | *Itinerary*

Sept. 10: Preaching at Jordan HRC (Ontario)

Oct. 12–13: FRC Ministers’ Retreat (Ontario)

Nov. 3–4: Reformation 500 Conference (Boise, Idaho)

### Projects

Chapter on “The Theology of the *Marrow Controversy*” in *History of Scottish Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Various projects related to covenant theology.

## GREG SALAZAR | *Itinerary*

Sept. 4: Seminary Day for the FRC (Hamilton, Ontario)

Nov. 1: Puritan Research Center Colloquia, “The Westminster Assembly, ‘Anabaptism,’ and Ecclesiastical Positioning in the 1640s” (PRTS)

### Projects

“The Deuterocanonical Books” in *Tabletalk*.

“Daniel Featley and Calvinist Conformity in Early Stuart England,” PhD Dissertation, The University of Cambridge.

Co-Editor of *The Works of William Perkins—Volume Six: Doctrinal Works on Predestination*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

## DANIEL TIMMER | *Itinerary*

Nov. 15–17: Evangelical Theological Society (Providence, Rhode Island)

Nov. 17: Institute for Biblical Research (Boston)

Nov. 18–21: Society of Biblical Literature (Boston)

Teaching at Faculté de théologie évangélique (Montreal)

### Projects

*Nahum* (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament).

“Nahum in the Book of the Twelve,” in *The Book of the Twelve: Composition, Reception, and Interpretation* (ed. L. Tiemeyer and J. Wöhrle; VTSup; Leiden: Brill).

“Reading the Old Testament as Part of a Two-Testament Witness to Christ,” in a volume of collected essays (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).

## WILLIAM VANDOOEWAARD | *Itinerary*

Sept. 8–9: Westminster Conference (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Sept. 28–29: Canadian Presbytery (ARP) (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Sept. 30: Origins Conference, SEMBEQ (Montreal, Quebec)

### Projects

“Genesis and Ancient Histories at Princeton Seminary, 1812–1851” in *Westminster Theological Journal* (forthcoming).

*1 & 2 Timothy*, Welwyn Commentary Series, Evangelical Press.

PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2016–7/31/2017

Income	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
Donations	2,287,390	2,120,500	(166,890)	108%
Tuition Income	495,153	520,000	(24,847)	95%
Scholarship Donations	381,357	285,000	96,357	134%
Other Income	195,760	162,500	(33,260)	120%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,359,660</b>	<b>\$ 3,088,000</b>	<b>\$(271,660)</b>	<b>109%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Instruction	\$ 727,992	801,713	(73,721)	91%
Scholarships	407,954	390,000	17,954	105%
Administrative	1,967,433	1,881,287	(86,146)	105%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,103,379</b>	<b>\$ 3,073,000</b>	<b>\$(30,379)</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 256,281</b>			

Please join with us in giving thanks to the Lord for having preserved and provided for PRTS over the last fiscal year.

—CHRIS HANNA

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[joel.beeke@prts.edu](mailto:joel.beeke@prts.edu)

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[michael.barrett@prts.edu](mailto:michael.barrett@prts.edu)

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[jerry.bilkes@prts.edu](mailto:jerry.bilkes@prts.edu)

Dr. Adriaan Neele, *Director of the Doctoral Program & Professor of Historical Theology*  
[adriaan.neele@prts.edu](mailto:adriaan.neele@prts.edu)

Dr. Stephen Myers, *Associate Professor of Historical Theology*  
[stephen.myers@prts.edu](mailto:stephen.myers@prts.edu)

Dr. David P. Murray, *Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology*  
[david.murray@prts.edu](mailto:david.murray@prts.edu)

Greg Salazar, *Assistant Professor of Historical Theology* – [greg.salazar@prts.edu](mailto:greg.salazar@prts.edu)

Dr. William VanDoodewaard, *Professor of Church History*  
[william.vandoodewaard@prts.edu](mailto:william.vandoodewaard@prts.edu)

Rev. Mark Kelderman, *Dean of Students and Spiritual Formation*  
[mark.kelderman@prts.edu](mailto:mark.kelderman@prts.edu)

Henk Kleyn, *Vice President for Operations*  
[henk.kleyn@prts.edu](mailto:henk.kleyn@prts.edu)

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[chris.engelsma@prts.edu](mailto:chris.engelsma@prts.edu)

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[chris.hanna@prts.edu](mailto:chris.hanna@prts.edu)

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[Seth.huckstead@prts.edu](mailto:Seth.huckstead@prts.edu)

Darryl Bradford, *Video Producer/Editor*  
[darryl.bradford@prts.edu](mailto:darryl.bradford@prts.edu)

Kim Postma, *ESL Tutor*  
[kim.postma@prts.edu](mailto:kim.postma@prts.edu)

Corney Les, *Development Coordinator (CAN)*  
[cles@shaw.ca](mailto:cles@shaw.ca)

## PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2965 Leonard Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
Tel: 616-977-0599 • Fax: 616-855-5740

Email: [info@prts.edu](mailto:info@prts.edu) • Web: [www.prts.edu](http://www.prts.edu)  
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