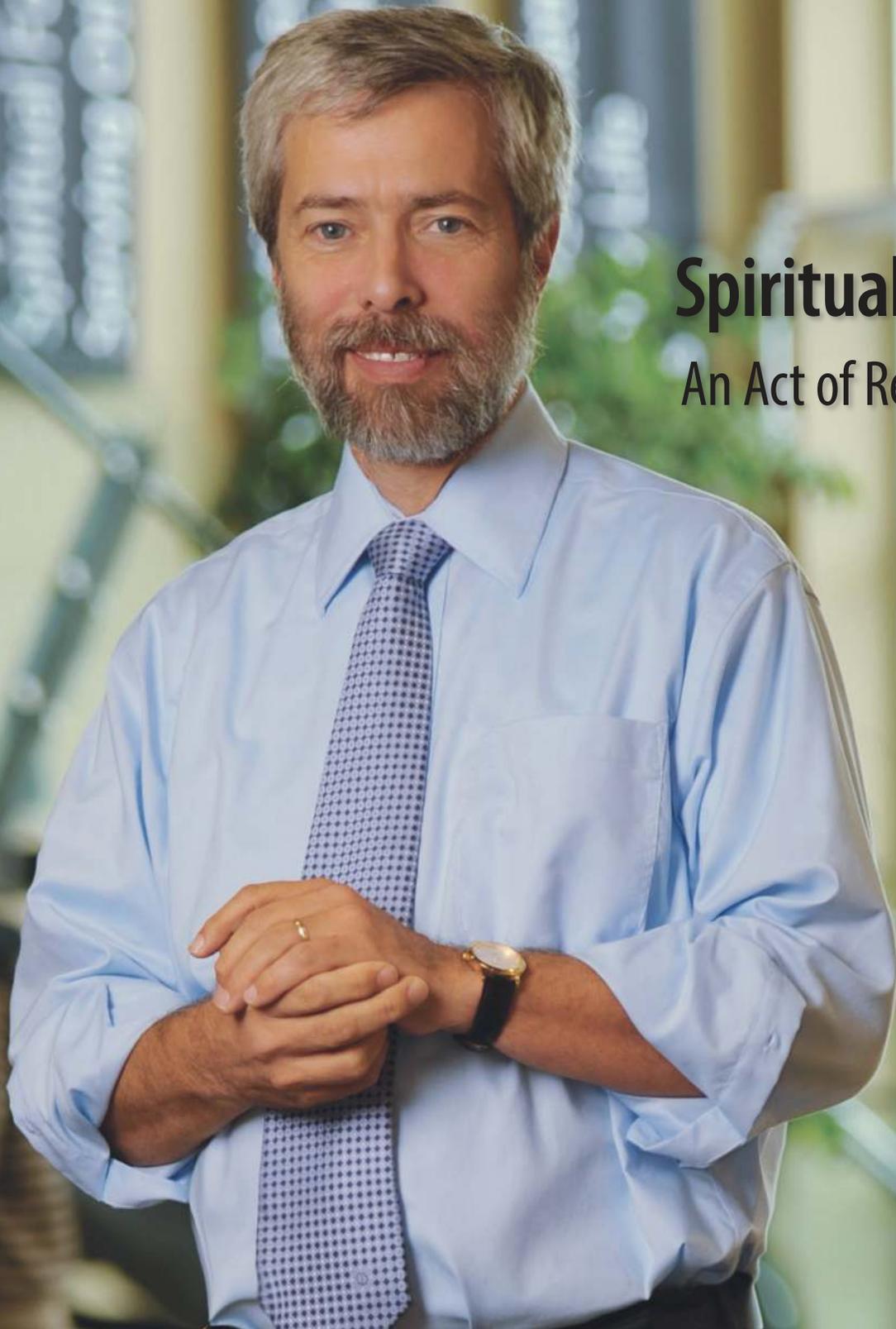


anthem

The magazine of Ambrose University College • Seminary

FALL/WINTER 2012



Spiritual Emphasis An Act of Response to God

AMBROSE







Dr. Gordon T. Smith was installed as president of Ambrose University College and Seminary on November 1. He is seen here waiting for the ceremony to begin with (L - R) his mother, Eunice Smith; Rev. David Hearn, president of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada; and guest speaker Dr. David Barnard, president and vice chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

Inside

6 Mentoring, Nurturing, Teaching

Dr Miriam Charter reflects on her return to Ambrose.

7 Answering the Call

Alumni Cam and Candace Aitken answered the call to a challenging ministry on Vancouver Island.

11 Transforming Power

Dr Smith shares his thoughts on the transforming power of higher education.

12 Presidential Installation

Dr Smith's installation was a day of joyous celebration and solemn undertaking.

-
- 2 Editorial
 - 3 Academic News
 - 5 Profiles
 - 8 Educational Travel
 - 14 Anthem Extras
 - 16 Athletics
 - 19 Family Ties
 - 21 Final Word



A M B R O S E
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

anthem

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Fall/Winter 2012

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Dr. Gordon T. Smith

EDITOR
Elly Wick

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING**
Wes Campbell

LAYOUT
Verge Design

PHOTOGRAPHY
Erich Wong
Daniel Yu

PRINTER
Rhino Pronto

Ambrose University College • Seminary
150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary, AB T3H 0L5

General Inquiries 403.410.2000
Enrolment 800.461.1222
Website www.ambrose.edu

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AMBROSE
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Threads of the Tapestry Weaving Together the Story of Ambrose



Dr. Gordon T. Smith
President

In the pages of this journal – *Anthem* – we tell our story. And it will not take you long to appreciate that it is a compelling story. I have just joined the Ambrose community, starting in August of this year as president, and I have been struck

from my opening days by the opportunity that has been given to us – to those of us who are part of the Ambrose faculty, staff, alumni, board, supporters and, of course, students. God has brought together a remarkable group of people – whether it is the dedicated members of the board, the diligent staff members, the raft of new faculty who have just become part of the teaching corps, or the members of the community whose financial gifts are so vital to our mission. And I keep saying to myself: what a gift, to be able to work with these people, in such a strategic ministry!

Each chapter or entry into this issue of *Anthem* is another dimension of our story – yet another perspective on the Ambrose teaching-learning community, and the mission that God has given us. Each is but one thread in the tapestry – whether from the classroom, the opportunity for a travel-study experience, the athletics program, the research and writing of our faculty, or the days that we set aside for “spiritual emphasis.”

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Fellowship for the Future

Recently, the Ambrose Seminary Chinese Ministries' first annual student retreat took place at the scenic Rundle Mountain Lodge in Canmore, Alberta. Dr Jason Yeung, who was installed as principal of the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary (CCSTAS) last spring, celebrated the retreat as an opportunity for spiritual formation and team-building. An exceptionally strong 95 percent of registered students in the Chinese program participated in the event, many with their spouses. Along with collegial fellowship, attendees enjoyed a sermon and a time of sharing. Student spouses were also able to share their challenges as they prepare for a future in ministry.

Dr Yeung believes that the Chinese Ministry studies program brings “mutual caring and in-depth communication” to the rest of the Ambrose Seminary community. He encouraged his students to return to Scripture “to re-think the meaning of being God’s servants.”

Presently, 25 students are enrolled in the Master of Divinity or the Master of Arts in Leadership and Ministry programs in the CCSTAS, which began offering classes in fall 2011.

The Chinese Language programs are offered by Ambrose Seminary in

collaboration with the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association (CCACA). The target group includes Chinese-speaking lay leaders, part-time and full-time seminary students, and pastors in ministry. This program emphasizes the biblical, practical, and contextual values of North American Chinese churches.

Courses are taught in Cantonese and are offered in various locations in Canada including Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. 

For more information contact Dr Jason Yeung, principal of the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary
Email: jyeung@ambrose.edu

Commuter Students Play Vital Role in Campus Life

This September, Ambrose students flooded back to campus for a new semester of classes, sports, and activities. With the recent construction of new student housing, Ambrose constituents may be surprised to learn that commuter students actually comprise 75 percent of the student body. Through the new Commuter Life Program, Director of Commuter Life and Director of Career Development Joy Ulrich will support commuter student life. The Commuter Life Program serves as part of the Student Development department.

Vice President for Student Life Wally Rude explains, “in talking to individual commuter students, many expressed a difficulty in connecting to the campus community – the exact opposite of the residential student experience.” Ulrich adds, “the Commuter Life Program is designed to address their specific needs and concerns so their learning experience can be meaningful academically, personally, and spiritually. Community or a sense of belonging does not always happen automatically; while it cannot be contrived, it can be intentionally facilitated through

a designated space and a commitment to hospitality.”

To this end, VP Rude has a specific vision for the physical space created to serve the large commuter population. “The Watkins Commuter Collegium is meant to be a home away from home. It is a comfortable, convenient, beautiful, and community-minded space designed for conversation, study, and developing a sense of belonging. If commuters develop a sense of belonging with each other, they will be better positioned to connect more effectively with the entire campus community.”

Ulrich, a CBC/CTS alumna, is passionate about fostering community in the place she loved as a student. “I affirmed in my heart that I would be back. The personal and spiritual development that happened at this school laid the foundation of my life. The prospect of being able to collaboratively facilitate this in Ambrose students as part of the Student Development team thrills me.” 

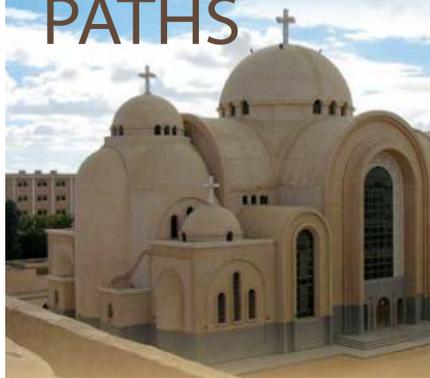
For more information contact Joy Ulrich, director of Commuter Life and director of Career Development
Email: julrich@ambrose.edu

Research Examines Religious Involvement in Canada

Among other research initiatives, Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr Joel Thiessen has nearly concluded ninety face-to-face interviews with individuals in Calgary who either identify with a religious group and attend religious services weekly, identify with a religious group and attend primarily for religious holidays and rites of passage, or do not identify with any religious group and never attend religious services. This project, funded by the Church of the Nazarene Canada, addresses three questions: (1) What explains higher and lower levels of religious involvement?

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For more information contact
Dr. Charles Nienkirchen:
cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu
www.downancientpaths.com

All ventures can be taken for credit, audit or personal enrichment.

(2) How should we assess the degree of religiosity or secularity in Canada in light of the religious beliefs, practices, and involvements among people in these three groups? (3) How might church leaders use these research findings to strengthen their ministry in their local context?

Thiessen's data analysis is preliminary, but he anticipates devoting notable attention to processes of conversion, de-conversion, and re-affiliation and to the factors surrounding the growing "no religion" category in Canada. Beyond his immediate goals to publish a book, some articles, and deliver public presentations based on this research, he hopes to re-interview these same individuals every ten to fifteen years to track their religious beliefs and practices over the course of their lives. 

A Sabbatical Adventure to Remember

*Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr Paul Spilsbury embarked on a six-month sabbatical in December 2011.*

A sabbatical is a time to re-engage in scholarship and to find fresh inspiration for the work of teaching, writing, and service that is at the heart of university life. So it was with deep gratitude and anticipation that Bronwyn and I, along with our two teenage sons, set off in late December of 2011 for a five-month sojourn in the Holy Land.

Jerusalem is a place of confluence and convergence. Besides the Arabs and Israelis who call the land home, tourists, pilgrims, diplomats, scholars and all kinds of others are there from all over the world; and along with them come all of their ideas and ideals, their hopes and their convictions. It is a place of intense devotion and strongly held views about everything from politics and religion on the one hand to the best way to prepare hummus or falafel on the other. Sadly, it is also a place scarred by generations of mutually inflicted suffering and disappointment, and we were soon drawn into the pathos of the many human stories that make up the national and cultural fabric of Israel and the West Bank.

Throughout our stay we lived at Tantur Ecumenical Institute, a university-owned residential study centre on the southern edge of the city and within full view of Bethlehem a stone's throw further to the south. Our daily routine amounted to a rather prosaic schedule of predictable activities. For the boys it was online school (with thanks to the Calgary Board of Education), while for Bronwyn and me it was research and writing. I was assigned a private office in the Library, and my attention very quickly turned to the task I had come there for: my ongoing contribution to a major international collaboration on the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus.

And in addition to all this, of course, was the opportunity to explore the land and to experience the warmth, the friendship, and the hospitality that is so characteristic of the Middle East. In the midst of it all we found time to swim in the Dead Sea and to ride camels up Mount Sinai. We visited Masada, and Quram, and Carmel. We skipped stones on the lake of Galilee, and walked the desert wadi to Jericho and the Jordan. And before we knew it, it was time to leave, though now with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of a family adventure that we shall not soon forget. 

For a fuller account including pictures, go to spilsburysabbatical.blogspot.ca

Accreditation Visits Encouraging

The Faculty of Theology hosted site visits from both of our accrediting bodies in October. The Association of Theological Schools accredits our Seminary programs, and the Association for Biblical Higher Education accredits our undergraduate ministry programs. While we will not receive their official reports until sometime in the new year, preliminary reports from both bodies are very encouraging. We are deeply grateful to all those who contributed to this excellent outcome, including board members, local pastors, alumni, students, staff, and faculty. 

Where Faith and Science Meet

Dr. Aaron Alford
Assistant Professor of Biology

If you were to ask my mother, she would tell you that “why” has always been my favourite word. On that basis, then, I think it would be safe to say I have always been an inquisitive person. I was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California, a region of immense biological diversity and aesthetic beauty. The smell of pine, the coolness of winter fog, and the silhouettes of mountains: these are the things that punctuated my childhood and influenced me to pursue science. I also was blessed to have been raised in a Christian home, and having accepted Christ at a young age, I came to recognize the beauty of the outdoors as God’s creation. I also came to see my interest in the natural world as an expression of my relationship to its Creator. My passion for faith and science has been a major theme in my spiritual and intellectual journey, and continues to mark my life today.

My formal education in biology began at Rockhurst University, a small Jesuit institution in Missouri. Jesuit tradition emphasizes learning within the context of a relationship with God. As such, my biology curriculum included not only a range of sciences, but also philosophy, theology, art, history, and literature. At Rockhurst, I came to view learning as not just an act of personal achievement, but as a means of serving others.

Following graduation with my B.Sc., I was able to put this principle into practice. I was invited by my Rockhurst faculty advisor to teach biology for undergraduates and for home-schooled families within the



My passion for faith and science has been a major theme in my spiritual and intellectual journey, and continues to mark my life today.

community. I continued teaching biology as a graduate student at the University of Central Missouri, and upon graduation with my M.Sc. in 2000, accepted a full-time teaching appointment there.

Feeling God’s lead to pursue a teaching career at the university level, I returned to graduate work in 2004. My research examined the effects of woody plant encroachment into grasslands. I was interested in understanding how this process influences wildlife diversity and human land use, and how management practices can restore grassland species diversity following encroachment. Since

graduating with my Ph.D., I have taught in a variety of academic settings, including two years at Southeastern Illinois College and, more recently, at Linfield College where I developed and taught a course in grassland ecology.

Although my educational experiences have brought times of intellectual and spiritual joy, there have also been recurring times of struggle. As a student, I often found it difficult to integrate a scientific understanding of the world with my Christian faith. Some of my peers and mentors suggested that faith and science occupied separate spheres of life. Their sentiment was this: *either* one had faith and believed in God, *or* one had science and did not need to believe in God. At times, I felt that I needed to make a choice between faith and science. Through God’s providence, I became acquainted with people who were willing to engage these struggles with honesty and grace, and to articulate perspectives on faith and science that acknowledged their interdependence.

A robust faith in God should stimulate our desire to learn more about Creation, while scientific study shows us God’s creativity and power. We can celebrate with the Psalmist saying: “God’s works are so great, worth a lifetime of study – endless enjoyment!” (Psalm 111:2, The Message)

The mission of Ambrose clearly acknowledges the importance of Christian spiritual and intellectual formation, and provides a framework for exploring the intersections of faith, academic discipline, and teaching. As a Christian and scientist, I look forward to using my experiences to help create a community characterized by its vibrant faith and intellectual rigour. 

Mentoring, Nurturing, Teaching

Developing the Next Generation

If you were to have the privilege of asking Dr Miriam Charter, newly appointed associate professor of Intercultural Studies, what it is about her current ministry at Ambrose that energizes her, the response would be immediate and enthusiastic: “Teaching the Introduction to Missions class this semester has filled me with renewed hope that God is ‘up to something’ among our Bachelor of Ministry students at Ambrose. Their responsiveness to the class as we explore topics germane to missions has brought great joy to my heart.” And for Dr Charter, “missions” is not a theoretical concept: she spent significant time in Eastern Europe working with the underground church to teach small groups of women ministry basics.

She was born in China almost to the day of the beginning of the Communist revolution and so returned with her family to Canada at a young age. Her father’s passion for the suffering church was passed along to her as a child and so, when she was invited in the early 1980s to join an underground seminary in Eastern Europe, she knew that this was what God had created her to do. Seminary education was taken to the pastors, meeting in clandestine ways and places that would not endanger the church. Although initially sent to build a New Testament Greek program, it quickly became apparent that the men would not accept Greek from a female teacher, and so a women’s ministry was born built on the Biblical principles of 2 Timothy 2 – each generation passing the teaching on to the next.

Fast forward a number of years, and several different assignments, including one in Toronto (with Canadian Theological Seminary) and another in the United States with Trinity Evangelical Divinity School,



Bringing real-life examples into the classroom demonstrates that missions and missiology are living realities.

and Dr Charter is once more back in Canada, and once more back at Ambrose. Surely her experiences behind the Iron Curtain are just a distant memory, now? Not so, says Charter. “I have wondered at times how my ministry in Eastern Europe has relevance to a generation, most of whom were born after the fall of the Berlin Wall! But much of the world this generation will go into is not unlike the Eastern Europe of the past: repressive regimes such as Islamist states and communist North Korea still exist and that is where there is a need today.” By being able to bring real-life examples into the classroom, Charter can demonstrate that missions and missiology are living realities, not simply principles and ideas in books.

With such wide and varied experience, one gets the sense that Dr Charter could have served “anywhere.” However, she is unequivocal in her belief that her call

today is to Ambrose. “As we debriefed with returning OnSite* students earlier in the semester, I was deeply moved by the maturity with which young men and women spoke of what had happened in their lives as a result of OnSite placement. I was energized, and my commitment to the task to which God has called me for this phase of my career was reinforced as I heard their stories.”

Despite having only been with Ambrose a few short months, that was not the only occasion on which the call was reinforced: “Sitting with students during a recent retreat and just ‘hanging out’ with them, I was struck by the students’ verbalization of their yearning for someone to walk with them during their exploratory journey as they examine their sense of call to cross-cultural ministry. ‘This is what I do best,’ I thought, ‘This is where I want to be!’ I’m continually amazed at the openness of these young people to have someone three times their age speak into their lives. In this I am energized and rejuvenated.”

Dr Charter confesses a passion for mentoring the next generation, nurturing what God is doing in the lives of students and perhaps having a role in “fanning into flame” a gifting or call as Paul did for Timothy. The opportunity to teach on deeper life, on missions, and on the church, and to do so in a geographic and theological context that is “home,” were all elements that led Dr Charter back to Ambrose. And we are grateful for her obedience to the call and to have her back on faculty at Ambrose. **A**

*OnSite is the Ambrose Intercultural Studies internship program where students serve overseas for 6 to 12 months as part of their program.

Answering the Call

The Township of Esquimalt, just west of Victoria, BC, has a population that includes just over 1700 youth between the ages of 10 and 19. Many of these young people come from areas of low-income housing, two native reservations, and military housing, but, until recently, there was no youth work pointing to Jesus as the only true saviour and healer. Cam and Candace (Yeoman) Aitken, both Ambrose graduates, answered the call to this vital ministry on Vancouver Island.

Together they run a youth work called The Community that delivers a number of programs that provide opportunities for youth to ask questions about faith in a safe environment. As Cam notes, “A lot of us are under the false assumption that youth today basically know the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. . .not true.”

Just over a year into this ministry, this isn’t where either Cam or Candace originally saw themselves when they were making the big decisions about their lives after high school. Cam was originally training for a career as an electrical engineer but realized one day as he soldered a board that “. . .if I was to do this for the rest of my life I was going to be really miserable.” As he knew of Ambrose from attending Youth Conference, Cam enrolled in the one-year ACCESS program with limited funds, but a strong sense that it was what he should be doing. That same year, Candace had also come to the realization that the career she was training for was not for her and she, too, arrived at Ambrose. They met each other in their freshman year and married four years later, in May 2007.

As their time at Ambrose extended – Cam graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of



Theology degree, Candace with a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies in 2006 and a Master of Arts in Leadership and Ministry in 2010 – they each recognized a call to vocational ministry, although they still did not know exactly how or where this would be fulfilled. Answering the call to Esquimalt was a big step of faith, but both Cam and Candace saw that their giftings met the need for the ministry and so they were prepared to take the step.

As the Aitken’s have to raise their own funding for the ministry, Candace works full-time at the University of Victoria to help with finances, but she is still fully involved with the youth activities. Although the challenges of the work are many, the Lord is faithful and provides moments of affirmation, those “yes!” moments when they can see results. One such example for Candace was when a 13 year old girl who comes from a single parent home, living with her father, asked Candace if she would go shopping with her: “That this young woman wanted to hang out with me was awesome enough, but our time spent together doing girly things, and allowing me to perhaps be a female role model for her, sparked a “yes” within me, confirming “this is why I do this!”

Spending a significant amount of time at the local high school Cam sees first-hand the pain and dysfunction of many families in the area. Through his involvement in the daily breakfast club he is able to connect with these young men and women and, in his words, “. . .speak truths about ‘the father to the fatherless’ who ‘places the lonely in families’ and ‘sets the prisoners free and gives them joy’ (Psalm 68) to youth who have a very broken concept of what a father and parent should be.”

Their work is challenging and there is no template that can be applied to the ministry, but both Cam and Candace credit their time at Ambrose for providing resources they need daily. “Classes in Bible, theology, and the nuts and bolts of ministry have been and continue to be extremely helpful,” explains Cam. Candace agrees: “The many opportunities I had to put what I was learning in the classroom into practice through student leadership at Ambrose have played a large part in my preparedness for the ministry we currently find ourselves in.”

From the highs of seeing attendance at the youth group double in a year, to the lows of finding a young teen sleeping in a park at night because they had been thrown out of their home, the Aitken’s ministry keeps them busy and always reliant on God as they work to bring Light to the youth of Esquimalt. They pray constantly: for the young men and women they come into contact with, for the community, and for God’s leading in this essential ministry. **▣**

If you would like to know more about their work so that you can join them in prayer or finances, you can contact them at thecommunityyouth@gmail.com

China and Central Asia

Ancient Syriac Christians, Marco Polo and Matteo Ricci on the Silk Road



Nomadic settlements on the Pamir Plateau

Charles Nienkirchen, PhD

Marco Polo, Kublai Khan, Tamerlane, Samarkand, Gobi Desert – these names still rattle around in my aging cranium, vestiges of elementary school days. A penchant for history books spawned a boyhood fantasy of joining a camel caravan snaking its way across windswept dunes to exotic Xanadu, immortalized by Coleridge’s famous poem. During college years, I was captivated by an ancient tradition of Nestorian Christianity which though professorially dismissed as “christologically deficient,” courageously missionized the Silk Road. It arrived in China perhaps as early as

the 6th century CE but then mysteriously evaporated leaving behind sparse traces of its original existence. Later, in university, the claim of scholars that Nestorius, the fourth-century “heretic,” was in drastic need of theological rehabilitation, made its way onto my intellectual radar screen. Recently, I have engaged the scholarship of a growing group of historians who have abandoned the use of the term “Nestorian Church” in favour of a more accurate and redemptive designation, “Church of the East.” Its full name is the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

The moniker “Silk Road,” which originated with the German geographer and explorer Ferdinand von Richter in

1877, alludes to a near 8000 kilometre trade route that connected China and the Mediterranean world in antiquity. In fact, “The Road” was an arterial network of trade routes from Central Asia to Europe, China and India which spanned over 12,000 kilometres and developed over three millennia. One enduring legacy was the exchange of religious beliefs and practices in a setting where multiple Asiatic cultures converged.

The most daunting *Down Ancient Paths* venture to date took a group of intrepid, seasoned, lifelong learners on a sweat drenched, month-long adventure through the deserts of northwest China and Central Asia (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in search of the ancient Syriac Christians who once plied the Silk Road.

We acclimated ourselves to Chinese culture and climate in the architecturally overwhelming megalopolis of Shanghai and then flew to Xi’an (called Chang’an in ancient times) situated in the Guanzhong Basin of the Yellow River. As one of China’s seven, venerated, historic capitals, it boasts the country’s best preserved wall from antiquity. For the Chinese, the Silk Road began here in the cultural heartland of ancient China.

Our quest for Christian antiquity drew us southwest of Xi’an to the obscure, leaning, Daqin Pagoda which received international attention with the publication of Martin Palmer’s controversial book, *The Jesus Sutras* (2001). Here we rendezvoused with David Tam, a Chinese alumnus of Canadian Bible College from three decades ago. He had come to meet us from Hong Kong where he had been researching *jingjiao* (the luminous religion), a Chinese term used for Christianity during the T’ang Dynasty. David’s fluent translation skills made possible an in-depth conversation with the government-employed site director. Surprisingly, though the latter made no claim to Christian allegiance, he nonetheless endorsed the archaeological and epigraphical evidence for the pagoda being a remnant of the earliest, “monasticized” Christian church in China.

The next day a visit to the Forest of Stelae Museum in Xi'an revealed a remarkably preserved, 8th century CE, Nestorian tablet which records the first 146 years of the history of *jingjiao* in China from the arrival of Aluoben, an official delegate of the Church of the East, in 635 CE.

At the outset of our travels we successfully pulled back the curtains of time and stood face to face with the ancient, Syriac mission to China. The sweltering days that followed would not disappoint. At Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu Province, we strolled the muddy shore of the mighty Yellow River (where western caravans would initially have encountered it), dubbed the “Scourge of the Sons of Han” for all the suffering its destructive flooding has imposed on those living near its banks. From here we accessed the Hexi Corridor which runs for 1200 kilometres between two ranges of mountains, providing the historic link between China and the West through which the Silk Road passed. Polo would have envied the ease with which we travelled the Corridor on the national highway soaking in the ever changing vistas of stark and stunningly beautiful Silk Road topography.

In Zhangye, the richest oasis in the Corridor, we aroused the curiosity of the locals by our photographic obsession with an epitaphed monument to Marco Polo which serenely occupied the centre of a congested traffic circle. The Caucasian countenance of the Italian explorer looked strangely out of place, as did we! At the western end of the Hexi Corridor we came to the strategically situated Jiayuguan Fort. It stands as a lonely sentinel in the desert, the last outpost of the Great Wall proper beyond which lie the vast, stony sands of the Gobi which can burn through the soles of a hiker's boots. Here civilization melts into oblivion.

A nocturnal train ride through the mineral rich, wild solitudes of Xinjiang Province brought us to Turfan, the hottest city in China which makes the claim to be further away from the ocean than any



A camel caravan at Dunhuang

other city in the world. It is surrounded by ruins of lost Silk Road cities. We savoured its refreshing oasis culture made possible by an ancient, ingenious, subterranean canal irrigation system called *karez*. Lunch and dinner under the protective cover of grape vine trellises in the courtyards of a traditional Uighur home and a local restaurant substantially lowered the stress of surviving the blazing sun.

Following the trail of Marco Polo took us from the charming, noodle-famous market town of Kashgar up to the Pamir plateau. We ascended into thin air with oxygen bags on board. Accompanied by his entourage Polo likely traversed the Jade Road, a centuries-old hazardous caravan route which has now metamorphosed into the Karakoram Highway, the world's highest altitude paved road. It was constructed over twenty years by Chinese and Pakistani engineers to cover the 1300 kilometres from Kashgar to Islamabad. Cut precipitously through glacial moraines and bottomless ravines, it navigates the majestic Pamir mountains which tower to 8000 metres. The region, close to the Afghan border, is a melting pot of Kazakhs, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, and Uighurs

interspersed with strictly monitored, militarily sensitive areas.

We arrived at Tashkurgan (the “Stone Fortress”), doorway to the most southerly of the Silk Road's routes. It overlooks the world's largest water garden dotted with white felt yurts. The town's now mostly forgotten name was once as alluring as those of the other great Silk Road emporia – Dunhuang, Bukhara, and Samarkand. Polo has long vanished but a local hotel worker confided in hushed tones of her involvement in a transcontinental venture of a different kind – the Back to Jerusalem movement of the Chinese house churches engaged in evangelism westward along the old Eurasian trade routes.

Our travels demanded ascetic effort from time to time. We exited China for Central Asia via a sleep deprived, overnight flight from the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi to Ashgabat in south Turkmenistan. Our eventual destination, reached by a short drive from Mary over a pocked, crudely asphalted road was Merv, a onetime urban pearl of the Silk Road whose cultural splendour has long been consumed in a dust bowl. It is the largest archaeological venue in Central

Asia and the impoverished country's only World Heritage Site. More for purists than tourists, it remains a prized destination for history lovers given its pristine, relatively unrestored state. Within the severely eroded remains of the city's once imposing ramparts, we endured the blast furnace heat, dipped deep into our depleted energies, and climbed the weathered mounds of two barely discernible Assyrian churches to contemplate what had once transpired there.

Turkmenistan sports a minimalist version of Islam, leader megalomania, and long-necked steeds. It is mostly a lizard-filled landscape of desert scrub and boulders shrouded with drifting sand. The country's few cities seem more like isolated frontier outposts. We crossed the famous, fast-flowing, Amu Darya River (aka the Oxus River in classical times) and arrived at the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border which, at first glance, had the semblance of a marooned point of transit

to nowhere. Having parted company with our air-conditioned bus, a veritable mobile oasis, we were now held hostage at high noon by an antiquated, Soviet-styled bureaucracy. After a couple of hours, it released us reluctantly from its clutches into the hospitable, welcoming arms of our Uzbek, Armenian Christian guide. However, there were still hundreds more kilometres of scorched aridity over dubious pavement to be travelled before finally reaching legendary Samarkand.

Over the centuries this storied city, known as the "Fourth Paradise," has inflamed the literary imaginations of westerners. Famed for its exquisitely constructed turquoise-blue tiled mosques, mausoleums, and palaces, Samarkand was once the oldest of the Church of the East's metropolitanates. A grand church here honouring John the Baptist and perhaps celebrating the conversion of Mongol tribes, described by Marco Polo, has disappeared without trace, another casualty

of time along the Silk Road. Today the city celebrates unabashedly the rapacious exploits of the anti-Christian Tamerlane (aka Timur the Lame), who made it the capital of his fourteenth-century empire.

Evidence of Syriac Christianity resurfaced in Uzbekistan. It took the form of gravestones featuring Syriac script and symbols on display (but easily missed) in the Tashkent History Museum. Cemeteries, moreso than the remains of churches, have yielded fascinating glimpses into the life of the Church of the East in Central Asia towards the close of the first millennium CE.

Our Silk Road odyssey concluded in Beijing (once named Khanbalik, the "city of the Khan"), which became one of the most prestigious and intriguing cities on the Silk Road from the Mongols onwards. In the spirit of the east-west cultural exchange fostered by the Silk Road, the onetime "great capital" of Kublai Khan served up more Christian treasures from the early modern period. I visited the grave of the savant and Jesuit missionary, Matteo Ricci (b.1552; d.1610 CE), who brought western science to China in the sixteenth century. He is remembered with distinction among the Chinese as one of the first European scholars to master the Chinese script and also honoured as the first westerner to be invited into the Forbidden City. Ironically, his grave is located on the campus of the elite Communist Party University where it is currently undergoing restoration. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Beijing's oldest Roman Catholic Church established in 1605 by Ricci, stood in close proximity to our city centre hotel and commanded a visit. It lives on as an active and spiritually vibrant parish. Ricci's tomb and the Cathedral which he birthed, known to the locals as "the South Church", stand as stalwart witnesses to the "second coming" of Christianity to China where atheistic communism is revered as the official state "religion." 

Dr Nienkirchen is the creator/director of the government award-winning *Down Ancient Paths* travel study program.



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The Transforming Power of Higher Education

Gordon T. Smith
President

We call them “Spiritual Emphasis Days.” With good reason. These two days – held in September each year at Ambrose – are consistently an excellent opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to be challenged in their faith, encouraged to grow in that faith, and to hear afresh the call of Christ upon our lives. As a Christian university and seminary, it should surprise no one that these two days are an essential part of the Ambrose program. We have a deep commitment to academic excellence; we also are diligent to prepare women and men for effective service, in the church and in the world. And yet, our studies and our service are deeply informed by our resolve to grow in faith, hope, and love. It matters so very much that in all things we live in dynamic union with the risen and ascended Christ.

So, we have Spiritual Emphasis Days. Everything we do, we trust, will be shaped and profoundly influenced by what happens on those two days.

And yet, there is another perspective on the mission of Ambrose that must not be missed. The potential danger in calling these “spiritual emphasis” days is that we might begin to think that what we do on those two days is more “spiritual” than what we do on other days. That, somehow, our plenary sessions with a guest speaker and our seminars on the different dimensions of the spiritual life, are perhaps in some way more spiritual than other critical dimensions of the mission and ministry of Ambrose. More spiritual than courses in biology and American poetry, and more spiritual than writing a paper for a philosophy course, or more spiritual than hours in the library doing research for a sociology project. We might think that these days are more spiritual than a volleyball game (that, if all goes well, the

Ambrose Lions will win), more spiritual than the conversations that happen around the lunch table.

What must be stressed – even if we stick with the language of “spiritual emphasis days” – is that everything we do that is so central to our mission of higher education is spiritual, indeed deeply spiritual.

To equip for kingdom service is a deeply spiritual “emphasis.”

Consider two ways in which the work of higher education – teaching and learning – is so very spiritual.

First, the Christian mission is so much about teaching and learning; we make disciples by “teaching them.” No religious or spiritual tradition takes education more seriously than Christianity. None. Well, perhaps the Jewish tradition. And indeed, with this Jewish tradition we share the great resolve to teach and to learn – to grow in wisdom as we teach and learn. But it seems to me that this is intensified even more when Jesus comes to us – incarnate – as a teacher who then commissions us to make disciples through teaching. Indeed, what both Old and New Testaments affirm is the following: That there is no holiness without wisdom; a holy person is a wise person. And wisdom comes by knowledge and knowledge comes through teaching.

And this knowledge includes the whole of the truth and wisdom of God. All truth is God’s truth. We insist on it each day at Ambrose. And with passion, discipline and diligence, we honour God and bless the Creator when we pursue with care and persistence the truth that reflects God’s

glory. And this is a very spiritual work.

Second, the Christian mission is about equipping women and men for effective service – a service that reflects the particular call of God on each life, and the call of God on the church. And at Ambrose we are deeply taken with the diversity of ways in which God is calling women and men into service for the kingdom. God is calling people into business, education and the arts. Some are being called into higher education themselves, as scholars and teachers. Yet others are studying biology with the intention of pursuing medical studies.

And then of course, at Ambrose there are many whose studies will lead them into pastoral ministry and leadership – an education that will provide them with the capacity to equip others for the very kingdom work to which they are being called.

This, surely, is spiritual work: to equip for kingdom service is a deeply spiritual “emphasis.”

In other words, a spiritual emphasis is happening every day at Ambrose – in the classroom, on the volleyball court, in our offices, and at the lunch table.

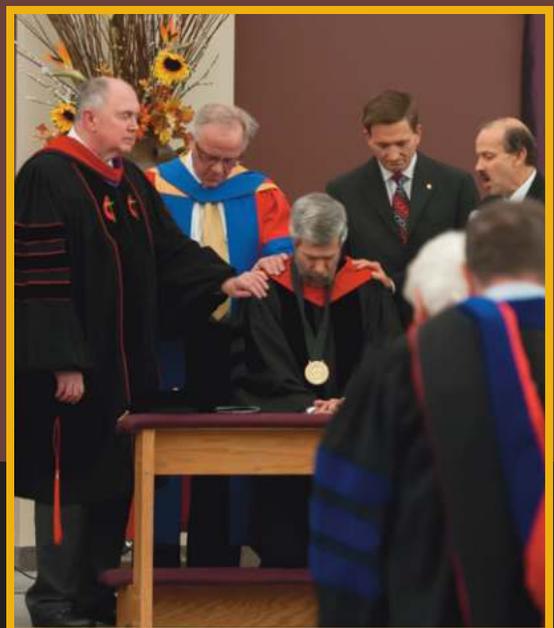
And yet, the days we call “spiritual emphasis” are essential to this very emphasis. Along with chapel and the many other events of worship, spiritual conversation and guidance, and prayer, the Spiritual Emphasis Days are so very important and an integral part of the Ambrose whole. It is not that these days are somehow more spiritual or that the activities of these days are more spiritual. Rather, it is that the focus and events of these days foster precisely this: To see and respond to everything we do, in the classroom and on the volleyball court, as an act of response to God and to God’s call on our lives. **E**

PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION 2012

Welcoming Dr. Gordon T. Smith as the new president of Ambrose University College and Seminary.



The Ambrose community came together to mark the occasion at Calgary First Church of the Nazarene. Guest speaker Dr. David T. Barnard, president and vice chancellor of the University of Manitoba, commended Dr. Smith to those gathered during his installation address.



Denominational leaders and Ambrose governors conducted the Prayer of Installation. (L-R): Dr. Clair MacMillan, national director Church of the Nazarene Canada; Dr. Marvin Fritzler, governor; Mr. Alex Baum, board chair; Rev. David Hearn, president Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.



The academic procession included representatives from fifteen sister institutions as well as Ambrose faculty and the Ambrose Board.

Photos: Daniel Yu Photography, www.danielyu.com



The Ambrose Chamber Singers performed two very different pieces during the ceremony.

Surrounded by family, friends, Ambrose colleagues, the Ambrose Board of Governors, and representatives of sister institutions, Dr. Smith received the charge from Board Chair Alex Baum to "...distinguish your office with wisdom, leadership, devotion, compassion, hospitality, and godliness."

An essential part of the proceedings was the Prayer of Installation where the denominational leaders from both the Church of the Nazarene Canada and The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (C&MA) prayed specifically for Dr Smith and his new role. Speaking after the ceremony Rev David Hearn, president of The C&MA, noted that, "You could sense the dynamic convergence of church leaders from the Alliance and the Church of the Nazarene, along with the faculty, staff, and students of Ambrose in a wonderful celebration of God's goodness to us."

Rev Gordon Fowler, a friend of the Smith family for a number of years, commented that "along with the ceremonial dimensions of the day there were unusually strong affirmations of our president from numerous leaders of companion schools." Representatives of sister institutions came from as far afield as Minnesota and Oklahoma.

In his response to the investiture, Dr Smith took time to thank his colleagues at Ambrose, the Board of Governors, and the local Christian and academic communities for their welcome to the institution and to Calgary. He also paid heartfelt tribute to his parents, his wife Joella, and his family. He also gave thanks to God for, "...God's gracious provision for Ambrose thus far and for this calling and opportunity to be part of something that has such potential."

Spiritual Emphasis Days Hearing from God



Photo: Daniel Yu Photography, www.danielyu.com

A stilled, receptive spirit may prove elusive in the bustle of an academic semester, but during Spiritual Emphasis Days – held this year in late September – that is exactly what planners hoped to foster. With the theme *Hearing from God*, the flurry of activity on the Ambrose campus slowed to a standstill as students, faculty, and staff took a break from classes to come together as a community for two days. From workshops to worship to facilitated mealtime conversations, corporate, small group, and individual activities gave rich context to campus opportunities for acts of service. Rev Steve

Rev. Steve Kerr speaks at the Spiritual Emphasis Days

Kerr, an alumnus of Ambrose University College and lead pastor of Gateway Church in Caledonia, Ontario, pushed even further the theme of *Hearing from God* as this year's keynote speaker.

Campus Pastor Dr Gordon Grieve explains the felt need for contemplation among a student population. "Students are incredibly busy. The majority of Ambrose students are commuters. Many students are juggling studies, jobs, relationships. It is so easy for the life of the spirit to be crowded out by multiple demands. I know I speak with the planning team when I say that our prayer has been that students discover the delight of communing with Christ – not only during scheduled "quiet times" but also throughout the day. As Steve emphasized, every human being has a profound thirst that God intends to be satisfied in a relationship with Himself."

Rev Kerr presented his keynote addresses in such a way as to make "contemplation" and "stillness" anything but sleepy. "He brought many things to the table. He was able to engage everyone from the get-go, demonstrating a deep grasp of the full scope of God's revelation in Scripture and making it interesting and relevant. His humour and transparency kept listeners interested and responsive."

While Rev Kerr preached during the plenary sessions, Ambrose faculty and staff facilitated further opportunities for learning, reflection, and growth. Students were invited to participate in a diverse

array of workshops, like "Centering Prayer: A Pathway to Experiencing God's Presence," taught by Dr Miriam Charter. Students learned that "Centering Prayer is a gift to us from the Desert Fathers who sought a way to deepen their relationship with the living Christ. It is 'listening' prayer that may become for the serious pilgrim a pathway for receiving and experiencing the gift of God's Presence."

Faculty and staff members also hosted lunch discussions while other faculty and staff members served the students lunch. An Operation 5:16 project offered students the option to engage in a community clean-up. More horticulturally-inclined students were invited to help plant bulbs in the "1000 Yellow Daffodils" project with a goal to "bring some spring joy to the Ambrose community as well as to our Springborough Community neighbours." Handmade thank-you cards were delivered to the neighbouring Springborough Professional Centre, and a table was set up for students to utilize materials for crafting encouragement cards.

President Gordon T. Smith noted that, "Spiritual Emphasis Days could hardly have gone better. Steve Kerr provided superb messages in the plenary sessions and the other seminars and related events were all consistently well attended." And VP Student Development Wally Rude put it this way: "Attendance records (in recent history) were reached and there seemed to be a new level of community engagement and unity... I believe the Spirit was at work in our midst, administering grace, love, and mercy. In short, I believe we joined God in His work." **a**

Paint Fights, Bonfires and Movies at Dusk

Students encountered a new brand of Ambrose hospitality when the Ambrose Student Council hosted the inaugural “Welcome Week” during the first week of classes. After receiving the usual pile of daunting new syllabi in classrooms each day, new and returning students found an event planned every night of the week.

Undergraduate Student President Nathan Hildenbrandt shared that the student activities went beyond typical orientation processes. “The events included a campfire, an outdoor movie, and a giant paint fight – and they served as a way in which both Freshmen and upperclassmen connected with one another in a safe, friendly environment. Welcome Week was hugely beneficial to freshmen in particular who might have been looking for a place within the school to connect.”

Coordinating the week-long series of events during the first week of the semester was no mean feat for Student Council members who were themselves returning to the classroom. Each member took on a role in the team. “Welcome Week involved renting equipment, contacting local companies to seek donations and contributions, designing and ordering t-shirts, and promoting and advertising the week’s events,” explains Hildenbrandt. The effort is part of a concerted drive to affect student life for new and returning students. And the initiative didn’t conclude with the close of Welcome Week. “We are continuing to serve new students at Ambrose by seeking to be really present within the school by hosting events throughout the semester that give students a chance to connect.”

While Hildenbrandt relished meeting new students and reconnecting with friends after the summer break, he admits that one Welcome Week activity was, by far, his favourite: “the paint fight was easily my favourite event; it was a big hit with students, and just a ton of fun for everyone involved!” **A**

Vice President for Advancement Appointed

Ambrose is pleased to announce that Ms Adele MacDonald, BA,CFRE, has been appointed as the vice president for Advancement. Adele brings a wealth of experience to the position. In her new role she will oversee donor relations, church relations, government relations, and alumni relations, along with enrolment management, communications, and marketing. **A**

A-Live Brings Unique Worship to Calgary Youth

From special lighting equipment to original worship music composition, A-Live (“Ambrose Live”) student leaders are bringing a fresh, collaborative worship experience to Calgary youth groups. This is the first year for the series of worship arts services, which will be hosted once every two months.

Student Council Vice President of Spiritual Life Evan Cikaluk describes the teamwork that is fueling the production. “We have numerous groups of students from every program involved in A-Live. Liza Mohan will be the worship arts coordinator for the events, Andrew Dyck and Josh Webber serve as sound and lighting personnel, Calista Naismith is leading our prayer teams, and Marc Pritchard and Amy Wright – our men’s and women’s ministry coordinators – have been active in the planning of the events. There are countless people who have invested into A-Live.”

The purpose of all this extracurricular work is clear to each individual involved: reinforcing the unique value of communal worship. “We want to bring the youth groups of Calgary together in these worship services to show them the power of gathering together – just like the believers did in Acts 2,” remarks Cikaluk.

To this end, the student volunteers are pulling out all the stops to transform the Ambrose gym into “a sacred space

dedicated to worship” through “atmosphere design,” so that, “everyone can expect a night of high-energy communal worship.”

At each A-Live event, Ambrose student leaders will share with youth groups “what it means to live as a Christian evangelist, bringing the love of God to the people around us.” A-Live certainly will prove to be just such a labour of love. **A**

Governor Wins Prestigious Award

Dr Marvin Fritzler, vice chair of the Ambrose Board of Governors, was recently awarded Alberta’s highest science award: the Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) “Outstanding Contribution to the Alberta Science and Technology Community Award.”

The award is presented to an individual who has made extensive and tangible contributions to the Alberta science and technology community in education, public awareness and/or ambassadorship and has facilitated its growth in areas such as infrastructure, finance and strategic partnering and technology transfer.

The ASTech organization noted the following about Dr Fritzler: “As a builder and leader of organizations, Dr Marvin Fritzler has devoted his tremendous talents and outstanding skills in shaping the Alberta science and technology community that exists today. This in addition to having a successful career as a biomedical researcher.”

Dr Fritzler is professor of Medicine and Arthritis Society Research Chair at the University of Calgary and currently chairs the Alberta Research and Innovation Authority.

“My most important accomplishment is the impact I’ve had on the Alberta community in helping to shape and position science and technology to enhance the economic performance and social security of the province,” he says.

The Ambrose community is delighted to be able to congratulate Dr Fritzler on this remarkable achievement. **A**

Ambrose Lions Athletic Staff

Ryan Willison – Director of Athletics and Ambrose Lions Athletic Staff

Ryan began working at Ambrose in the fall of 2004. He graduated from Briercrest Bible College with a degree in Pastoral



Ministry and he also played hockey for the Briercrest Clippers for five years. Along with being the Director of Athletics at Ambrose he has also coached the men's hockey team from 2004 to 2012.

"When I began as the Athletic Director, the Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL) was still in its infancy and our athletic program in its current form was relatively young as well. We had some great athletes, and fine coaches, but we lacked the depth that we are so thankful for today," says Willison.

The Ambrose Lions have been members of the ACAL since 2003 and have won thirteen championships in four different sports over the course of those years. In 2010, Ambrose gained acceptance to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) in the sport of futsal. A volleyball application will be submitted this fall and basketball will follow in the coming years.

"We have had a desire to move our entire athletic program into the ACAC for a number of years now," states Willison. "This move allows our athletes to play at the highest collegiate level in Canada and expose Ambrose on the national stage."

While the Lions look to raise the

level and profile of the athletic program, Willison never wants them to forget where they came from or why competing at Ambrose is different than almost anywhere else.

"I would like to see our program follow the example of our name: the Lions. The lion is the king of the jungle, feared by all other creatures. I want the Ambrose Lions to strive for excellence and greatness and be respected and revered by other members in our league. It is my desire that our athletes would strive to become more like Jesus in the way that we play and the way that we conduct ourselves. The lion is a communal animal, living in prides and very connected to family. I want our athletes to always remember that we come from a rich heritage and strong family line. From the CBC Crusaders to the CBA Rise; the CNC and NUC Blues and the AUC/NUC United. Regardless of the name or the uniform colour, each member can consider themselves as part of the Ambrose Lions pride. And we are proud of the pride."

Colin Kubinec – Assistant Athletic Director

Colin joined Ambrose in the summer of 2012. He served a year as the head coach of the men's volleyball team at St. Mary's University College in Calgary and prior to that he played volleyball at Briercrest College and completed his degree in Biblical Studies.

Colin is passionate about volleyball and about sharing his love for Christ with the athletes and coaches. One of his main responsibilities is leading the volleyball



program and working on getting the team ready for the next level of competition in the ACAC.

He has also been tasked with game day operations, sponsorship, alumni relations, and summer camps.

Colin notes, "Ambrose already has an exciting athletic culture and atmosphere. I feel blessed to have become a part of Lions Athletics. Growing up in a home where my dad was a physical education teacher, I have always experienced the gift that sports can be. My hope is that all Lions athletes recognize the gift of sport, pursue excellence with their God-given abilities, and enjoy an athletic culture that welcomes the Presence of Christ."

Originally from Trochu, Alberta, Colin enjoys playing all types of sports, reading books, going home for family events, and spending quality time with friends in his spare time.

Volleyball

Phil Wideman and Mike Dandenault

Phil began coaching the women's volleyball team in 2009 and has served as head coach for the past four years. Phil is a former pastor and that is very evident in his coaching. He cares about his players and he desires to see them grow in their faith in Jesus as much as he desires to see them become better volleyball players.

Phil has been assisted by Ian Trigg for the past four years and this year they have been joined by Colin Kubinec. The three of them make a strong trio, each bringing different strengths to the program.

Mike is a former player for the Ambrose Lions men's volleyball team. He played from 2008 to 2010 and now returns in his second year as the head coach.

Mike is a strong technical coach; he understands the game well and also knows how to motivate these young men to be better on and off the court. He is assisted this year by Colin Kubinec.

Basketball

Sean Boyer and Don Jaspas

Sean is one of the longest serving coaches with the Lions athletic program. He was a player during their AUC/NUC United days and also coached both the men's and women's teams in the mid 2000s. Sean is now in his third year coaching the women's basketball team and has done an impressive job.

He took them from a team that won two games in 2011, to the bronze medal game last year. He has a great group of players this year and they are expected to be in contention for an ACAL title.

Don rejoins the Ambrose Lions coaching staff after a long hiatus. Don was the athletic director at Canadian Bible College in the late 80s and early 90s. He also coached the basketball teams during his time as AD and took the teams to nationals on a couple of occasions.

He is a great motivator and team builder. His teams have traditionally been very close and cohesive. This is a testament to Don's character and leadership. He has a young group of players to work with this year, with only four returning players, but the expectations are still high.

Futsal

Paul Barnett and Ryan Shantz

Paul has coached our men's and women's futsal teams at different points over the last number of years. He took the 2011-12 season off to focus on school related to his job, and now returns behind the bench for this coming season.

Paul has done a great job over the years, leading our men to a championship in 2004 and then leading our women to back-to-back ACAL championships in 2009 and 2010. He has built a solid team and they should improve upon their fourth place ACAC finish from one year ago.

Ryan is in his fourth year as the men's futsal coach and has built a reputation as being a tough coach, but also a player's coach. He challenges his teams to be very

fit and technically strong and he demands much from the players. At the same time he is well respected by his troops.

This is the second year for this team in the ACAC and last year was a learning experience. While they didn't win a game, they were close in nearly every match.

With a strong core of players returning and an exciting crop of rookies, this team will likely look much different in 2012-13.

The Ambrose community is grateful for this great group of coaches and the impact they have on the lives of their teams. 

Player Profiles



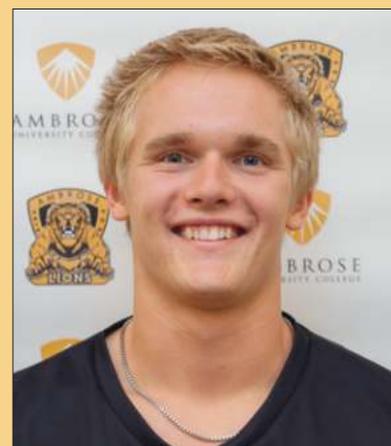
Jordan Denham

Jordan is a first year student from Innisfail, Alberta, and she is in the General Studies program, but looking to transfer into worship arts. She plays the position of leftside on the women's volleyball team and has already earned a starting spot, which is rare for a first year player.

She chose to come to Ambrose because a good friend told her that it is a great school. Attending a Christian institution was important to her as she wanted to build solid, lasting friendships as well as to have the opportunity to get a ministry degree.

"A highlight for me at Ambrose is the excitement and support from all the students at the games, as well as getting to know so many people and beginning to build relationships."

Jordan plans to graduate from Ambrose, and then find a church where she can lead worship and serve in every way she can...and once she has found that church, maybe find that special someone and get married!



Dylan Squires

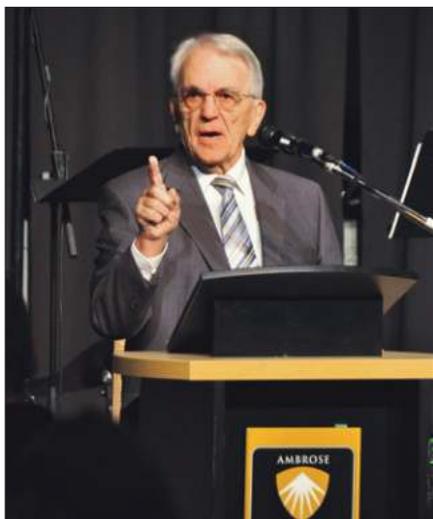
Dylan is a second year student from Eaglesham, Alberta, and is studying in the Behavioural Science program. He is a key player on the men's volleyball team where he plays the position of setter and he is also the team representative for the Ambrose Lions hockey team.

Dylan's sister-in-law suggested he come to Ambrose. "After doing some research I learned about the Behavioural Science program and the fact Ambrose has a competitive volleyball team really sealed the deal."

The best part about being a Lions athlete for Dylan is that he gets to play with close group of people. "It is such a cool opportunity to really love the game we play, the people we play it with, the coaches that push us to succeed, amazing fans that support us, and most importantly to pursue excellence for the glory of our great God."

Dylan plans to pursue a career centering on social justice, helping facilitate a realization of potential and importance among the broken, and often forgotten, in our society.

Chair of Evangelism and Preaching Established



Dr. Barry Moore

On Tuesday, October 2, the Barry Moore Chair of Preaching and Evangelism was established at Ambrose University College. This chair was made possible because of the faithful ministry of Dr Barry Moore, founder of Barry Moore Ministries (BMM), and the BMM board, including its chair, William White. A Legacy Partnership Agreement between the BMM board and Ambrose was signed in May 2012 by Mr White and then-Acting President Riley Coulter.

For over 50 years, Dr Barry Moore preached and evangelized in over 55 countries around the world as a Canadian-based ministry. Learning of Dr Moore's pending retirement, Ambrose suggested that the assets from the ministry be invested with Ambrose to establish the Barry Moore Chair of Preaching and Evangelism. This chair is dedicated to promoting and resourcing the vital function of biblically-based preaching and evangelism in the 21st century.

Ambrose has established a 90-year track record in this area with our graduates serving in churches, parachurch ministries, and mission agencies across Canada and in over 65 countries around the world. The chair will enable Ambrose to deepen its ongoing commitment to the emphasis

on biblical preaching and evangelism, strengthen our existing programs and launch new initiatives to provide resources to the church within Canada and abroad.

The person who will be selected to fill this chair will be an individual with a calling from God to nurture biblical preaching and evangelism in our time. Their primary duties as a faculty member will be to teach courses and engage in research that would advance the interests of preaching and evangelism. Also, as resources permit, this endowment will facilitate other new initiatives including, for example, public lectureship or workshops on biblical preaching and evangelism, scholarship funding for exceptional students called to minister within these arenas, and perhaps even bursaries and scholarships for preachers

and evangelists based in smaller urban settings across Canada to take advantage of events and resources sponsored by the chair.

In order to ensure that important records and artefacts from Barry Moore Ministries find a home that maximizes their availability to scholars, these items were received this past summer in the Ambrose Library, which will become their new – and permanent – home, as part of our archives.

During the chapel service, former BMM staff member Harvey Schroeder sang and colleague Roy Morden accompanied him on the piano; Dr Moore delivered a significant and timely message, "Where are the Preachers and Evangelists?" 

An advertisement featuring two hands forming a heart shape. The word 'support' is written in large green letters above the hands. Inside the heart, the text reads 'Xerox wholeheartedly supports Ambrose University College'. At the bottom left, the Xerox website 'xerox.ca' and phone number '1-800-ASK-XEROX' are listed. At the bottom right is the Xerox logo, which consists of the word 'xerox' in red and a red and white globe icon.

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President Gordon T. Smith with former presidents (L-R) Dr. Robert Rose, Dr. Riley Coulter, Dr. Rexford Boda, Dr. Ronald Gray, and Dr. George Durance.

Former Presidents Attend Installation Events

"Carol and I were blessed by the invitation and hospitality of being back on the campus for the installation of Gordon Smith, and to sense the enthusiasm for his leadership." This from Dr Bob Rose, president of Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary from 1988 to 1995, on the occasion of President Smith's installation. Ambrose was honoured and delighted to be able to welcome a number of former presidents on to campus during the installation events in early November.

Dr Ronald Gray, president of Canadian Nazarene College from 1974 to 1978; Dr Rexford Boda, president of Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary (CBC/CTS) from 1979 to 1988, and his wife Jean; Dr Rose and his wife Carol; and Dr George Durance, president initially of CBC/CTS from 1997 to 2007 and then of Ambrose University College until 2009, were all on hand to celebrate the installation of Dr Smith and to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the institution. Current Chancellor and president of Canadian Nazarene College, Dr Riley Coulter, who is also a former president of Nazarene University College, was also in attendance.

Celebratory events began with a presidential luncheon on the day before the Installation Ceremony where the presidents were joined by Board Chair Alex Baum and his wife, Cyndie. During lunch, each president spent some time sharing memories of their time in office, the events that stood out from their years in leadership.

The presidents and their wives then attended chapel and the luncheon following with local pastors on installation day and the Installation Ceremony and dinner later that afternoon. Dr Smith noted that, "It was very good to have the former presidents on campus – and to hear them speak of the goodness and faithfulness of God."

As well as celebrating the future of Ambrose, the visit was also a time of reflection. Dr Boda commented that he and his wife "...had many wonderful memories as we reflected on our 23 years of pleasant service, and the 20-plus members of our clan who have taught or attended the institution under its numerous names and programs."

And for Dr Durance he noted that, "As I walked the campus, everywhere I turned there was a physical reminder of God's faithfulness and answers to prayer. It left me once again profoundly thankful for the twelve years Bev and I had in this wonderful community. Seeing old friends who had served with me in a most challenging but rewarding time at Ambrose could not have been a more enjoyable experience."

But the reason for the visit, the installation of Dr Smith was uppermost in their minds. Dr Durance again: "Returning to Ambrose was invigorating

and motivational. Dr Smith's commitment and vision left me grateful to God for His provision of a leader dedicated to our historic values and service orientation."

Dr Boda concurred, noting also that, "It was a special privilege to be in Calgary to celebrate the next step in the development of what is now Ambrose University College. Our prayer is that building on the past, Ambrose will rise to new levels of effectiveness and impact for God through the ministry of students, faculty and administration."

We hope it will not be too long before we can welcome our former presidents back on campus once again.



CNC High School Graduation 1952-2012

On July 13 to 14, 2012, ten of the 1952 grade 12 graduating class from Canadian Nazarene College met at Twin Creeks Bed and Breakfast in Abbotsford for a reunion celebrating the 60th anniversary of their graduation. These graduates came from California, Washington, Calgary, Edmonton, Nelson, Whiterock, Victoria, and Abbotsford. In attendance were **Grant Reist** with his wife Emeline, **Roberta "Bobby" (Moore)** and Dale Beckman, **Sheila (Lawlor)** and Keith Holly, **Jean (Tweed) Vincent**, **Shirley (Laird) Brunner**, **Bill** and Gladys **Miller**, **Hertha (Rempel)** and **Glenn Follis**, **Deloris "Mirt" (Filipenko)** and Dave Jones, **June Miller**, and **Shirley (Rudyk)** and Ken Harter. **Bill** and **May Bahan** were also present as **Bill** was the Senior Class Sponsor.

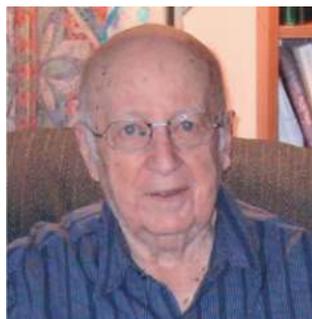
This was a time for recollections as some had not seen each other since college days – sixty years ago. Portals were examined, tales of grandchildren and great-grandchildren were swapped. It was a wonderful time of catching up with former classmates.

On Friday evening, July 13, a splendid dinner was prepared by Peggy Wiens, the hostess of Twin Creeks. **Pat Wiens** (NUC, 1994), Peggy's husband, is the pastor of Abbotsford Church of the Nazarene.

On Saturday, July 14, another 20 alumni from the local area joined the group for a delicious breakfast concluding with the singing of the school song, written by Roger Taylor.

The reunion had been anticipated by the graduates for a number of months. The turnout was overwhelming for a 60th year reunion. The accommodation and food were outstanding, and the visiting and fellowship to be cherished forever.

MEMORIAMS



Roland Perret (WCBI '47, CBC '82, on staff '80-'84) passed away peacefully in Kelowna on Oct 15, 2012, with his wife and children by his side. He was 91. A memorial service was held at Westside Alliance Church in West Kelowna on October 22, 2012. Roland was predeceased by his first wife **Betty (Valpy)** (WCBI '45, CBC '83) and is survived by his second wife Nita, and three children Merrill, Sherri (Foster) and **Rob** (CBC '80, CTS '84) (**Donna (Tjosvold)** (CBC'84)), 7 grandchildren and their spouses, and 8 great-grandchildren. His youngest granddaughter **Michelle** (Perret) Oenema graduated from Ambrose in 2009.

Virginia (Dillen) Beaton (CBC '52) passed away on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at Precious Memories Care Home in Regina, SK. After graduating high school, she attended Canadian Bible Institute in Regina where she met her future husband, **John** Beaton. They married in 1952, and began farming in the Griffin area. John predeceased her in a tragic accident in 1965. **Virginia** continued

courageously to manage the farm and raise her two young children with the help of family and friends. Her deep faith in God carried her through the many difficulties of life, and her friendship and devotion to family touched many lives around her. **Virginia** is survived by her two children, David (Debbie) Beaton of Sedley, SK, and **Carol** (Ray) Simon (CBC '77) of Limoges, France. She was predeceased by one infant sister, Patricia, and two brothers, Charlie and Rick, and one granddaughter, Dayna Beaton. She is survived by four sisters, Mary (Jim) Roller, June Pass, Patricia (Rollen) Jones, and Bonny (Glen) Daku, as well as two brothers: Stan (Vicky) Dillen and Will (Val) Dillen.

Jill (Cooper) Baker (CBC '76; staff '80-'84) passed away on May 17, 2012. She met her husband-to-be **Ron** (CBC '76; CTS '83; staff '86-'94) in 1973 and they were married in 1976. **Jill** ministered with **Ron** in two pastorates in Saskatchewan. They have two children, Tim and Allison (married to Scott Opseth) and two grandchildren, Christopher and Hannah. **Jill** is survived by her mother Betty, sisters Brenda and Laura, and brothers Marc and Phil. Her memorial service was at Kindersley Alliance Church.

Jim Pratt (CBC '56) passed away in April 2012. **Jim** is survived by his wife **Doris** (CBC '55) and their children **Betty Lou** (Rick) Smith (CBC '00), **Sandy** (Bradley) Mix (CBC 1988), and **Heather** (Gerald) Deguire (CBC '87). **Jim's** memorial service was held at Beverly Alliance Church. ☒

2013 Seniors Retreat – Hold the date!

May 6 to 8, 2013, will be the date for the next Ambrose seniors retreat.

Our new president, Dr Gordon T. Smith, has graciously agreed to be our plenary speaker and the steering committee will be planning services and activities to complement these sessions. We are looking forward to another great time of fellowship, learning, and worship together. With the addition of our second residence we will have plenty of additional accommodation for those travelling from out of town. Why not bring a busload from your church and include some time in the Rocky Mountains while you are here!

More details will be coming soon, but you can ask any questions, or request more information by emailing Elly at seniorsretreat@ambrose.edu

A Community of Worshippers

Dr. Gordon Grieve
Campus Pastor

It was a glorious summer evening and I was one very excited guy! Head over heels in love, I was to be married the next morning. The rehearsal evening, with so many of our closest friends and family present, was just a foretaste of what would surely be one of the most joyous days of my life. There was just a small glitch. I didn't have the wedding ring! I was working in Calgary and asked a friend to pick it up for me pre-ordered from a jeweler in Regina and bring it to the wedding. Due to some miscommunication he arrived without the ring. What was I to do? Arlene scoured her home and found a music diploma rolled as a scroll and held in place with an imitation gold band. It looked like a real wedding ring and worked just fine! So well in fact that, following the wedding ceremony, the wife of the officiating pastor, asking to see Arlene's wedding ring, exclaimed, "It's so beautiful."

Yes, a fake gold ring did the deed! It was a genuine looking, low-cost solution to a significant dilemma. Yet, while I liked the idea of saving money – we were students after all – a fake ring would never do. It was not a fitting expression of my passionate love and devotion to my wife. So the next time we went to Regina, I immediately went to the jeweler to purchase the genuine article.

Recounting this incident at a recent chapel, I admonished the students, "when you play guitar, sing, write up a biology lab, spike a volleyball, work at a restaurant, study for an exam, write a research paper; it can be an act of worship. Will it be genuine worship? Will it be a fake gold

band or true gold – a genuine expression of love and devotion to God? The great apostle reminds us, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)." Giving God our very best – that is the essence of worship.

As Ambrose campus pastor, I see evidence of worship all around me. I say *evidence*, because worship is ultimately an attitude of the heart. God is the only one who knows our true motivation. Only God can discern whether what appears to be worship is the real deal. That being said, the *evidence* of worship at Ambrose is quite compelling. I see it in the unusually high level of commitment of student leaders and volunteers. I hear it in the passionate singing and expressive body language of students in chapel. I see it in the respect shown by students to a senior Christian

statesman who, when sharing his heart for evangelism to the student body, is roundly applauded. I see it in the commitment of the college president to adjust a demanding travel schedule to attend chapel at least once a week. I see it the numerous students whose hearts cry out over the travesty of human trafficking. I see it in almost any and every corner of the campus as students pore over books, study notes, and write papers.

True, only God knows for sure whose hearts are truly worshipping. Yet, for me the verdict is self-evident. The attitudes I encounter, the dedication I witness, the love for Jesus that permeates the life of Ambrose, all bear witness to an authentic Christian community. A community not content with the trite, or artificial. A community of worshippers with a passion for Jesus. **✠**



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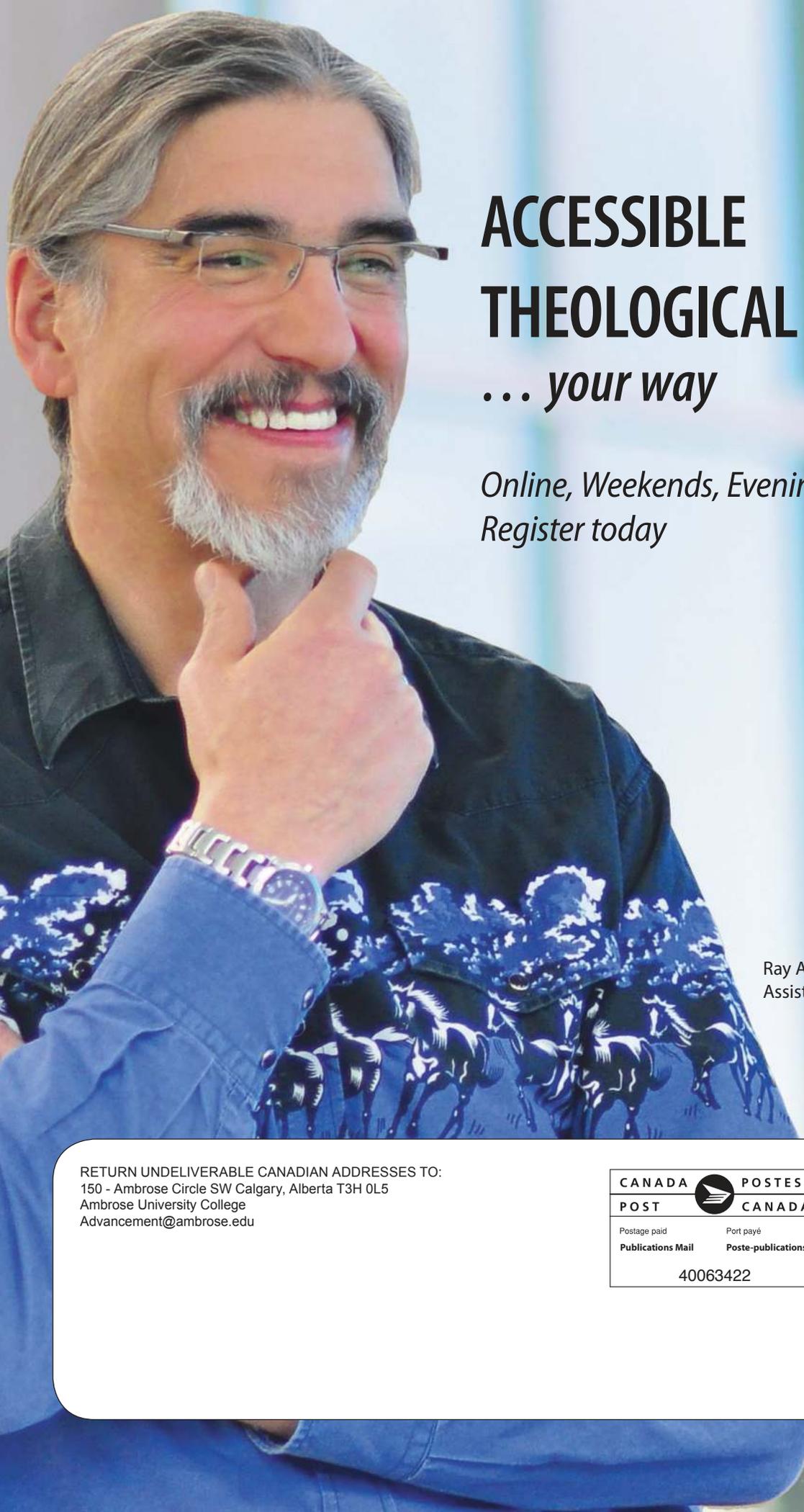


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