

DENVER SEMINARY

MAGAZINE

Counseling:

Care of the Soul and Transformation of the Spirit



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IRA Tax Law Enables Stewards to Make Larger Gifts

If you are age 70 or older, new legislation now allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 in 2007 from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities such as Denver Seminary without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

in your church

- Pg. 5 This feature article traces one woman's journey through grief and loss. How does Terra's journey help you understand the spiritual formation process of those suffering in your church body?
- Pg. 9 Did you know that an extension of Denver Seminary's counseling program is our Shepherd's Gate Counseling Clinic? This low-cost clinic is available to the community. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 303-762-6987.
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- Pg. 20 Consider attending our faculty book signing. This would be a great way to meet some of the Denver Seminary faculty and pick up some good reading materials in the process!

...And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly
and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 NIV

president's message

by Dr. Craig Williford



In response to their unfaithfulness to God, the people of Israel asked what the proper acts of contrition and repentance were. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Micah listed three relational commitments that are just as relevant to us today. First: to follow God by acting justly in our relationships with other humans as God has done with us, especially those oppressed and suffering injustice. Second: to love mercy—better understood as expressing steadfast love toward God and others. To walk humbly with God is Micah's third requirement: seeing ourselves and others as God does while acknowledging Christ's lordship in the manner in which we live our lives. Jesus reaffirms these responses in the New Testament when he explains the greatest commandments as "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22: 37ff

This issue of the *Denver Seminary Magazine* highlights our degree programs in counseling. While our Master of Arts in Counseling (licensure) might be the most traditional degree pursued by our students with an interest in a counseling ministry, we also offer the following: a Master of Divinity with a specialization in pastoral counseling; Master of Divinity with a specialization in chaplaincy; and Master of Arts with a major in counseling ministries. We are also excited about a new specialization that will train accredited school counselors for private and public schools in Colorado. In all of these programs, our goal is to equip counseling leaders who will think biblically, live faithfully and lead wisely for a lifetime in whatever vocational setting they may find themselves. We humbly acknowledge that the Holy Spirit, using God's truth, love and grace, is the One who changes lives. Through His guidance and empowerment, our graduates have the privilege and responsibility of helping people and transforming some of our societal injustices for the sake of the oppressed and underrepresented. What an excellent calling, to assist others to live justly, to give and receive steadfast love, and to live their lives for the sake of others and in the fullness of the love of Jesus Christ.

This feature includes articles by Dr. Fred Gingrich, the new counseling department chair effective this summer, and long-time counseling faculty member Dr. Joan Burgess Wells. We also announce the hiring of Dr. Dieumeme Noelliste as the Director of the Vernon Grounds Center for Public Ethics and Professor of Theological Ethics, beginning in August 2007.

Thanks for your partnership with Denver Seminary. Please pray for us, serve with us as a mentor, recommend your friends to join us, and even take some classes yourself!

With appreciation,


Craig

Rev. Robert Jones Appointed Vice President of Student Services

Denver Seminary is pleased to announce that the Reverend Robert Jones has accepted our invitation to serve as vice president for student services at Denver Seminary. Prior to coming to Denver Seminary, Robert served as vice president of enrollment management at Colgate Rochester and at Asbury Theological Seminary. At Asbury, he provided leadership during their rapid increase in enrollment while improving the academic quality of incoming students.

Robert's commitment to Christ, his family, and the church provides a solid foundation for his service. Additionally, his theological training—including previous experience as a pastor—coupled with his extensive experience and expertise in leading student services provides the breadth and depth of firsthand knowledge needed for leading our student services department. Robert will assume his duties in April 2007.



Vice President for Student Services Robert Jones

Robert and his wife Marcia have two children, Jonathan and Sharayah. Please join us in welcoming them to the Denver Seminary community!

Seminary Alumnus Speaks at Conference for World Christians

1997 M.Div. alumnus and native African Anthony (Tony) Weedor served as the speaker for the 2007 Conference for World Christians, held Jan. 29 and 30, 2007. This annual conference challenges the students and community of Denver Seminary to maintain a global perspective and encourages global ministry involvement. Representatives from several mission agencies were on campus both days.

Weedor was born and raised in Liberia, but fled his country during the civil war in the 1990's, walking

from Liberia to the Ivory Coast with his wife and child. Currently he serves as the director of Centerpoint International, a ministry called to reach Muslims and raise up leaders in the African church. Tony's messages were titled "Overview of the Church Going Home" and "The Homeward Bound – Asia, Latin America, Africa." We invite you to listen to both of these messages. To do so, please go to denverseminary.edu/worship/media.



Tony Weedor, Conference for World Christians speaker



Biblical Studies Conference Addresses "Christians and the Future"

The annual Biblical Studies Conference was Feb. 9-10, 2007. The topic this year was Christians and the Future: the Bible and Premillennialism.

The recent popularity of books and movies such as the *Left Behind* series demonstrates that interest in Biblical prophecy and the future remains strong. At the conference, scholars of theology and the Bible joined to discuss the role of premillennialism and the Bible's account of the future. Our commitment to globalization allows us to examine these questions in larger contexts such as that of worldwide Christianity. As such, the topic addressed the significance of premillennialism for broader questions of Christian life and mission.

Speakers for the weekend included Dr. Craig Blomberg, Distinguished Professor of New Testament; Dr. Hélène Dallaire, Associate Professor of Old Testament; Dr. Richard S. Hess, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages; Dr. Don Payne, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ministry; Dr. Sung Wook Chung, Associate Professor of Christian Theology; and Dr. Oscar Campos, Director of Graduate Studies, Seminario Teológico Centroamericano, Guatemala.



International Christian Mentoring Network Launched

Prior to the 2006 National Conference on Mentoring, held at Denver Seminary, approximately 25 conference attendees from around the world came together to discuss the possibility of an international organization designed to support Christians involved in the ministry of mentoring. There was a clear and strong consensus that the need exists and the time is right. Six of these individuals subsequently volunteered their time to serve on the launch team of the International Christian Mentoring Network (ICMN). The launch team (now also serving as the interim board) consists of members from Arizona, California, Colorado and Northern Ireland. In Dec. 2006, the network was legally incorporated and is currently in the process of securing non-profit status. The website (www.tri-mentoring.org) is under design, nearing completion and should launch in the spring of 2007.

The ICMN defines “mentoring” as “an intentional relationship that includes God, mentor and mentee for the purpose of growth.” The vision for the ICMN is to encourage and resource the global community in the practice of Christ-centered, life-transforming mentoring. The mission of the ICMN is to pursue this vision by:

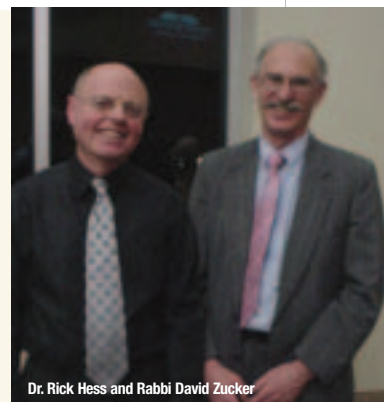
- Demonstrating the importance and potential of mentoring
- Encouraging mutual support and networking within the Christian mentoring community
- Identifying, developing and disseminating mentoring resources
- Providing training and learning opportunities for mentoring
- Promoting reflection, evaluation and research related to mentoring

The ICMN website will provide a variety of helpful general resources to all who visit, but will also include a fee-based member organization. Membership will allow further access into the website where members can participate in forums related to mentoring in various institutional contexts, access articles and cutting-edge research on mentoring, participate in threaded discussions related to various mentoring topics and network with others around the world with mentoring experience and insight to share. Annual membership fees are projected to be \$50 for individuals or \$125 for institutions (three from the same organization). The Apostle’s Creed will serve as the confessional basis for membership in the ICMN.

The ICMN will participate with Denver Seminary in sponsoring and organizing the bi-annual International Conference on Mentoring to be held in Denver during the Spring of 2008. We look forward to hearing from those who may be interested in joining the ICMN and would value your input on how this organization can be of service to you in your mentoring ministry. Please contact Nicolette Johnson in the Training and Mentoring Department at nicolette.johnson@denverseminary.edu or at 303-762-6917.

Dr. Rick Hess and Rabbi David Zucker Address Mideast Crisis at Women’s Forum

On Feb. 8, 2007 the Women’s Forum tackled a hot topic of today in discussing the Mideast crisis. The largest group to date of 100 women came to grapple with the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Old Testament professor Dr. Rick Hess introduced this issue by sharing some of his personal experiences from living in Israel for 15 months in the mid-80s. He noted the complexity of the crisis in the distinction of so many different groups involved: based on religion (Jewish and Muslim faith), geography (Israel and Palestine) and heritage (ethnic Jews vs. ethnic Arabs). Even within Israel and Palestine, respectively, there are serious divisions to be found such as conflict between ultra-orthodox and secular Jews, Arabs who are Israeli citizens, and Christians living in Palestine. Local rabbi Dr. David Zucker joined the conversation in sharing the history of the Israelis and Palestinians, including the myriad of conflicts between the two for the past 150 years. In the end these are two irreconcilable religious groups coming from great historical traditions vying over the same piece of land. Clearly, there is no easy solution.



Dr. Rick Hess and Rabbi David Zucker

The Women’s Forum is a series of stimulating lectures and discussions designed for women in our community to wrestle with relevant issues of today, cultivate their own worldviews and pursue a deeper relationship with Christ. Our next event will be April 24 with Elisa Morgan, president of MOPS International. Join us for an 11 a.m. chapel service, followed by a women-only discussion from 12-1pm. To learn more about the Denver Seminary Women’s Forum, please contact Sarah Rymer at 303-762-6884 or visit our website at www.denverseminary.edu/events/womensforum.



MOTHER LODE: Mining for the God of Grace

by Joan Burgess Wells, Ph.D.
Professor of Counseling

As clinicians, we sometimes find that the psychological and spiritual coherence of our treatment journey with a client comes into greater focus in the aftermath of the experience. This may be especially true if the therapeutic process has spanned several years and involved multiple layers of work. Such was the case of Terra, a 29-year-old newly-married client whose initial presenting need was grief and loss therapy. Terra's mother, still in her 50's, had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and was given only months to live. My initial diagnosis of uncomplicated bereavement for an obviously competent, high functioning young woman seemed accurate and straightforward. Terra, however, was to become one of the most challenging and interesting clients of my career.

The major life adjustments of a new marriage, a recent move from another state, and a challenging professional position were reason enough for Terra's disequilibrium. I was soon to discover, however, that her life story was a layered narrative of trauma and deprivation. The crisis of her mother's imminent death had brought into keen relief a clinical picture replete with developmental fault lines, abandonment, depression, betrayal and a deep, pervasive sense of personal inadequacy.

Terra had become a Christian in high school. On the one hand she fervently desired the comfort and direction of God to see her through this time of personal crisis. Yet I found that her internalized concepts of God reflected a punitive, highly judgmental being. My work with Terra was to encompass the provision of a holding environment and the reconfiguration of an internal map. The re-framing of her understanding of God was a significant goal. Various writers have provided valuable discussions of the intricately interwoven process of the "self becoming" and the tandem development of faith in the individual. The construction of the self and the concurrent unfolding of faith development find their roots in the quality of the parent-child interaction in early

childhood. The subsequent reworking and redefining of the faith experience must occur across the developmental years. A loving, nurturing environment for the child is crucial.

The Early Years

Terra's mother's life was plagued with chronic mental illness and periodic hospitalizations. Terra's only sibling was an older brother with mental retardation. Terra's father left the home when the mother was pregnant with Terra. His re-entry into her life in her teenage years would add another wrinkle to a complex clinical picture.

Terra's depiction of her mother's parenting revealed a pattern of inconsistency. She was sometimes hovering and over-protective, micro-managing the details of Terra's life experiences. An anxious concern for Terra's performance—in music, in equestrian training, and in school, along with a preoccupation with social image were paradoxically accompanied by a shocking neglect of emotional and even physical safety needs. Terra had vivid memories of finding herself in circumstances markedly inappropriate for her chronological age. She was often placed in charge of her brother, Michael. Terra's exaggerated sense of duty, concern for others at her own expense, and general sense of hyper-vigilance were prominent themes of her growing-up years. Terra lost a piece of her childhood in the surrogate parent role in which she was cast, and in a myriad of other early experiences. Among Terra's earliest memories was the experience of being left alone in the house. Abandonment was another significant theme from Terra's early years.

Terra also related episodes of her mother's verbal rage and ranting tirades aimed at Terra's imperfections and infractions. Terra reported that she would remove the glasses that she wore as a child in order to render the visual image of her screaming mother less distinct during these outbursts. Her mother's expectations afforded no wiggle room or margin of error for the growing child. The person of this formidable mother loomed large. Terra became a pleaser.

The Adolescent and Young Adult Years

The stage was set for the overlay of the false self spoken of by various theorists. Terra's emerging self struggled against a growing child's most poignant terror, the loss of love. Terra knew only too well what



she was permitted to feel and think and be. Instead of possessing a sense of "confident expectation," Terra would negotiate the process of individuation on wobbly legs.



Joan Burgess Wells, Ph.D.



Re-birth of the self and re-birth of the spirit were to ultimately become her gifts from the kind heavenly parent, the Wonderful Counselor. Terra would meet her Savior during her high school years, a conversion which would, over time, provide the transformation domain for the healing and restoration of the self. Given her deep internal personal apprehensions, we could predict an uneven path toward wholeness for Terra, and indeed it was. The wounds to her soul were many; her need for the God of grace was great, but she as yet had very limited categories for Him.

Somewhere in Terra's freshman year of college, she became involved in a strict fundamentalist, cultish religious community. Terra was assigned a spiritual leader, a woman who was never to be questioned or defied. Terra was required to address her as "Mom." Mom's control ranged from the requirement for impeccable physical grooming to "rightly divining the word of truth," the gospel according to Mom. Terra remained in this community for seven years. In her mid-twenties, she gradually discerned that something was wrong with this picture. With the assistance of Christian friends outside the cult, she made her exit from this community. She entered a post-cult treatment group and it was there that she met her future husband, Jonathan. She also completed several years of individual therapy with a competent individual therapist. I believe that God orchestrated these encounters. Terra began to gain rudimentary confidence in her own capacity to make choices and form opinions. She had, by this time, also completed a graduate degree, which prepared her to enter a profession in the medical field.

Grief's Bravehearted Quest

When Terra became my client she had been married for only six months. Terra had found a professional position in a medical facility and the couple's new life together was busy but manageable. Tragically and abruptly,

Terra was presented with the news that her mother was dying of cancer.

Terra brought substantial personal competencies to our therapeutic work. She had a natural capacity for reflection and introspection. She was highly motivated as a client, and her resources included the ability to wrap language around her internal experiences. Yet, I perceived that the gaping hole opened by her mother's illness contained a nameless dread, a kind of content-less grief that transcended the immediate impending loss. The respect that she enjoyed as a skilled professional belied her impoverished inner state. She quickly developed a child-like dependency on me and lived in virtual terror that I would "dump her as a client." If my voice became too adamant in our dialogues, she would remove her glasses, as she had done in her childhood when subjected to her mother's fury. Her sense of shame and self-blame in regard to almost anything we discussed were intense. I jokingly told her once that I knew the details of all of her hair barrettes. (She would bury her face in her knees when she was overcome with feelings of shame and I was afforded frequent views of the top of her head.) Terra needed to test my constancy. Each week when I greeted her, I observed a searching, anxious look in her eyes. She was checking out the climate, as I'm certain she constantly did as a child. "Are you mad at me?" was often the question du jour.

Terra's mother lived for almost exactly one year from our initial therapy session. Again I was constantly struck by the incongruence between my client's personal competence and her own internal sense of inadequacy. She demonstrated much wisdom and skill in planning her mother's medical treatment, ultimately orchestrating a funeral and burial, settling an estate and overseeing the life-care of her handicapped brother. I could do no other than to affirm and commend her mature, responsible decisions. She was not

able to say all of the things that she needed to express to her mother, but I believe that, ironically, God allowed the very crisis that threw Terra back into the abyss of her developmental lesions to, step by step, provide the way out. Her grief was a dark cave, but she was learning about the presence of God in life's sorrow.

We worked together for another year beyond her mother's death. We grieved the past; we grieved the present. Gradually, Terra gathered greater inner resources. Prayer, affirmation, humor, savoring the words of scripture, tears, grousing around, reflection, and non-punitive confrontation—these were our tools. Prayer seemed our strongest ally. Terra related to me that she came to see God in a new way through our prayers, which detailed her deepest, most intimate needs. A God who listened and responded to these inner places of the heart was previously unknown to her. Deuteronomy 32:11 became her favorite scriptural metaphor. The strength and gentleness of God, the mother eagle, had great appeal to her. Our journey was, in part, one of re-parenting and God was the perfect parent.

Today, almost six years from when we began our work, Terra and Jonathan serve as deacons in their church. Both are active in the music program. She still hurts. She is not home free. Grief will, to some extent, shadow her until the resurrection when God will wipe away all tears and make all things new again.

Terra is pregnant with her first child. I suspect that the birth of her child will be a faintly sad, but mostly sweet experience. I suspect too that because of her quest for and her discovery of the God of grace that she will move forward with joyful expectation.

McDargh, J. 1983. Psychoanalytic object relations theory and the study of religion: On faith and the imaging of God, Dissertation, Harvard Divinity School.
Rizzuto, A.M. 1979. The birth of the living God. University of Chicago Press.

Addy Ho is pursuing a Master of Arts in counseling licensure. She is from Stillwater, Okla., and although she majored in Industrial Engineering and Management at Oklahoma State University, engineering was not to be her life course! We took some time to talk to Addy about her interest in counseling and her experience at Denver Seminary.

When did you first become interested in counseling?

My senior year in college, I realized that I didn't want to be a consultant for companies in corporate America. I decided to volunteer for a year at a residential care facility for troubled teenagers called Shelterwood in Westminster, Colo. I was a mentor ("big sister") and modeled life for these teenagers 24/7. Following that, I moved to Maryville, Tenn., where I worked for a therapeutic recreational facility called Mountain Challenge. I facilitated groups and processed experiential learning with the AA & NA 12-step recovery program. After a couple years out of college, I realized that God had me on a different career track than my undergrad education. I will continue to have an engineering mind—one that sees the bigger picture and how things logically fit together—but I'm confident that I am serving the Lord in the counseling profession.



the **transforming** power of counseling: *a student perspective*

Given that engineering mind, how has God uniquely gifted you to serve in a counseling ministry?

I think that God has given me a genuine caring heart and an ability to relate well with people. People naturally disclose information to me and are comfortable sharing difficult areas of their lives. From a spiritual gifts perspective, I believe God has given me the gift of discernment, and I see its working in sessions with my clients. The Holy Spirit is my source of insight and direction.

How have you seen counseling be effective in your life or other's lives?

I think counseling is beneficial for everyone, and it is unfortunate when it is seen as a source of weakness. People often associate counseling with hard times, but I think it can be beneficial at any phase of life. At Shelterwood, counseling was the catalyst for progress in the teenagers' lives. Their mood greatly changed as a result of being able to express emotions and process thoughts. In group therapy, they realized that they weren't alone. Also, it was fascinating to see how their families were involved in their treatment via family therapy. In Tennessee, counseling was the means to bring about self-awareness and promote healthy interactions. Participants challenged and believed in one another. As a group facilitator, I encouraged team unity and empowered participants to have a "voice" within the group.

What are your vocational goals, God willing, post graduation?

Ideally, I'd love to gain more experience in combining my passion for the outdoors and counseling people. I have seen first-hand how exposing people to situations outside of their comfort zones allows them to reach new levels of self-awareness and provides opportunities to discover peacefulness and beauty away from cell phones, televisions and other distractions. I have taken numerous backpacking trips with teenagers and have seen their growth spurred on by climbing a mountain or conquering their fears. I would love to work at a substance abuse facility that incorporated a wilderness component into their treatment process.

What do you think is the relationship between counseling and spiritual formation?

Because of the Fall, I think we are all broken individuals who have distorted the true "image of God." I think counseling is one vessel by which we can be restored to what God intended. When we unmask our fallacies and allow God to heal our wounds then we truly reflect His image. I think anytime you help people see new perspectives, have more insight into who they are, and walk alongside them, you are forming them spiritually. "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory..." (NIV 2 Corinthians 3:18). When we counsel, we are showing others God!

Why did you choose Denver Seminary over other seminaries and counseling programs?

Many of the counselors at Shelterwood were Denver Seminary graduates and that is how I found out about this program. Although I knew I could receive my counseling degree from any public institution, I was attracted to the Bible classes and seeing how counseling was integrated with theology. Lastly, I was attracted to Denver Seminary because of the mentoring program and how it is an important component in our spiritual growth.

So far, how is God using Denver Seminary to further equip you for a future in counseling ministry?

With my education from Denver Seminary, God is opening doors in the counseling field and providing new opportunities to use my calling. I know that being in the counseling field is God's will for my life. Counseling combines the gifts God has given me with His plans.

“I feel like I’ve been blessed with energy, creativity and a desire to do whatever it takes for these kids. To witness their progress is a miracle.”

-John Davis

X T R E M E

faith



John Davis celebrates the summit of Mt. Pisco, Peru, South America

If you live in the Denver area, you might have seen 1996 alumnus John Davis, founder and president of 2Xtreme, profiled as a “person to watch” on a local news channel or the nightly news. 2Xtreme provides clinically appropriate services to youth, families and individuals who are at-risk. “I work with some pretty extreme youth—extreme in that they might be placed out of the home or suspended or expelled, or involved with drugs or alcohol,” Davis explained. He hopes to be the best reflection of Christ to these troubled youth by extending grace to them, letting them know he wants to come alongside them in their daily journey—even if that journey is ugly right now. Davis holds a Masters degree in Counseling and is a Certified Addictions Counselor (CACII).

The counseling sessions Davis provides through 2Xtreme are not likely to occur in his office. “With the population I work with, if there is nothing personal to it, there will be no ‘magic’ in the relationship,” said Davis. “Where I seem to be most successful is when we do somewhat of an experiential activity, like rappelling or rock climbing,” he said. “That’s when I see them open up and share the most.”

It’s in these high-risk moments that John starts to build trust with youth. In later counseling sessions, he can open the door of asking them if they want to incorporate Christ in the counseling process, if they’re open to trusting Christ in the same way they trust him.

Nelson, a former client of the program had this to say: “In the program I was challenged to face life as a series of choices. All of these choices are mine to make, making the responsibility huge. Through working with John, I began to realize the significance of taking ownership and responsibility for myself. Every time I met with John we added another life-skill to my resume; one more thing that I had but didn’t know how to use. I learned to take pride in what I had. Overall, the program helped me see my true potential. By the end of it, I had achieved emotional, intellectual and physical peaks I never dreamed possible.”

Young people like Nelson who successfully complete this program prepare for—and are rewarded by—an adventure of a lifetime, such as climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. “I wanted to have a program that really celebrated growth, celebrated each of the guys for the choices they were making,” said Davis. The 2Xtreme Dream is a reward-based therapeutic program. Past adventures have included trips to Peru, South America, and Tanzania, Africa.

Currently, John is preparing for another 2Xtreme Dream experience—a journey to Russia in June 2007 to one of the most exciting places in the climbing world. John and a 2Xtreme team of 13 young men will climb and snowboard Mt. Elbrus (18,540 ft)—the highest peak in Europe. Too extreme? Not for Davis. “It’s exciting to see how excited these guys are about their own personal change,” Davis said.

Davis’ non-conventional approach to working with at-risk kids has earned him recognition as one of Colorado’s Drug and Alcohol Program of the Year, and a Channel 4 Hometown Hero Award. But the program also has statistics to back up its effectiveness: 85% of the youth are not re-offending or being sent back to probation or diversion, and they are staying clean from drugs and alcohol. However, neither accolades nor statistics are what drives Davis. “I feel like I’ve been blessed with energy, creativity and a desire to do whatever it takes for these kids. To witness their progress is a miracle,” he said. “And I do what I do because I love people, number one, and number two, I love kids.” It’s clear that John has an extreme passion for the youth he serves, no matter how extreme the challenge.

For more information on 2Xtreme, visit www.2Xtreme.info. Also, John has a book due for release in June 2007, *Extreme Pursuit: Winning the Race for the Heart of Your Son*, published by Navpress.

Dr. Fred Gingrich with his wife Heather joined the faculty in the fall of 2005. As Canadians with cross-cultural missions experience, their teaching cultural sensitivity and prevailing assumptions about how our faith is understood and how people can be helped. Of particular interest is the under- West and how relationships are understood and changed. The tendency in the individualistic West has been to assert the priority of self expression times in spite of relational commitments. This is in contrast to how many cultures promote the defining of individual identity only in the context of

God. The Scripture also wrestles with this tension and teaches that ultimately we find our relationship with Him and within the Body of Christ.

Reflections

on Christian Counseling at Denver Seminary

by Dr. Fred Gingrich

Associate Professor and new Department Chair of Counseling

The Christian counseling field has exploded over the past 30 years. When I began working at a Christian counseling center in the early 1980s the field was in its infancy with few authors, a handful of Christian counseling training programs and some serious diversity of opinion regarding its value and place within the Kingdom. Denver Seminary took leadership in this burgeoning field under the influence of Dr. Vernon Grounds and Dr. James Beck, and founded what has become one of the largest and most respected masters level Christian counseling programs in the country.

Decades later, the Christian counseling field has blossomed and now there are many authors, numerous books, training programs throughout the world, several professional associations, two highly respected academic journals and a number of doctoral programs training Christian psychologists.

It is not uncommon for people to have the idea that a seminary-based Christian counseling program is intended to train counselors for work within the church. This is only partly true of Denver Seminary. Over the years the Seminary has developed a variety of programs that offer students a range of options for involvement in people-helping ministries. Some programs are focused on church or para-church contexts, some prepare students for chaplaincy ministry, including in the military, and some programs prepare students for state licensure as community and school counselors.

My wife Heather and I are privileged to be a part of this program and to continue the rich, biblically-founded heritage of the Seminary as it seeks to train counselors and contribute to the maturing Christian counseling field. My own background in Christian counseling practice, marriage and family therapy, training of nationals in other countries, missionary counseling, and theological education at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels, adds to the other diverse backgrounds of the counseling faculty, and offers students a variety of models of Christian counseling professors, each committed to train sensitive and caring people-helpers for the Kingdom.



Dr. Gingrich, with his wife Heather, professors of counseling.

My commitment is to train counselors in a seminary context. That is not always a popular choice in broader academic circles since the task is different from simply training counselors. Our students are essentially required to have a double-major within a two-year program. A strong core of Bible, theology and church history is augmented by specialized courses in counseling skills, theory, and practice within an integrative context that seeks to build effective ministry competence on biblical foundations as well as to honor the requirements of state and secular accrediting bodies. The results are encouraging; students in our licensure program who choose to write the National Counselor Examination, on average, score much higher than students from other institutions, yet do so in a program that focuses extensively on Bible and theological foundations. The excellence of the program in terms of secular standards can easily be supported, and yet our students graduate with a ministry identity that gives them the competence and confidence to be in, but not of, the world.

My own vocational journey parallels this dual emphasis. I desired academic credentials that would allow me to be qualified and to function within broader contexts outside the church, but combined that with theological training that helped me root my clinical skills and approaches in the core doctrines and biblical knowledge that undergird my faith. While I was raised in a conservative church context that sometimes questioned my career choices, my father, a pastor who frequently regretted his lack of pastoral counseling training, encouraged me to walk the path of secular credentials and ministry faithfulness. Living out that tension has become the vocation to which God has called me.

frequently raises issues of understanding of marriage in the home and defining one's identity, at work and in relationships with others and how we find our identity and purpose in life.

My story is not unusual and is reflected in a variety of ways in our current counseling faculty. Dr. Beck retired in May 2006 and his legacy is seen throughout the program as the faculty seek to teach counseling responsibly within the richness of a seminary curriculum. The sidebar to this article gives examples of the many ways in which the full-time counseling faculty bring Christian tradition and values to the counseling material we teach.

Recently the story of Daniel has been on my mind. I resonate with him, living in exile, in a foreign, pagan land, not unlike our experience in this world as we yearn for the re-establishment of God's reign here on earth. Daniel, the text says, was chosen to be trained in the pagan King's palace, to learn all that the culture had to offer, to live as one of them, yet hold faithfully to his beliefs and represent in his life a higher standard of excellence and obedience. Our interactions with an anti-Christian culture may at times require us to take a stand against the "food" they want us to eat and lead us through fiery furnaces, but Daniel, with God's help and like-minded companions, managed to faithfully navigate the culture from within and have a profound Godly influence on the entire nation.

This is the model I offer our counseling graduates as they enter their stressful, demanding roles as Christ-like people-helpers in whatever context the Lord leads them.



Denver Seminary's Full-time Counseling Faculty

Dr. Heather Gingrich specializes in trauma and abuse. The long-term effects of abuse in families and society deeply impact the ability of victims to live productive Christian lives. Heather's elective course on this topic gives students the conceptual framework and helping skills to assist people to move beyond their victimized condition. The torment experienced by Jesus at the hands of his abusers forms the theological foundation for how such suffering can be redeemed for good.

Dr. Monte Hasz has served as the interim Chair of the counseling division. He has taught for many years as an adjunct professor while continuing a full-time clinical practice as a psychologist. This combination of extensive counseling, teaching and administrative experience has greatly benefited the division in the transitional period following Dr. Beck's retirement. Monte's teaching has included the required course on professional ethics. Though differing in the specifics, it is significant that secular organizations endorse codes of ethics and monitor professional conduct in ways consistent with Christian values. The difference is that ethical practice for Christian counselors emerges from a relationship with God that permeates both professional and personal roles and empowers a life of holiness and moral action.

Dr. LaVerne Jordan brings a wealth of experience in counseling and teaching contexts to Denver Seminary. Her recent achievement is the development of a school counseling concentration. One of her courses is Career Counseling, a required course for state licensure. Dr. Jordan roots the course material in a theology of work affirming that our God-given work is a creational mandate, not a result of the Fall. The "thorns and thistles" and "labor" are a result of the Fall, but Christians value their work, and Christian counselors assist people in finding God's purpose and direction in life and ministry.

Dr. Jan McCormack has a passion for people-helping ministries in organizations outside the church. Due to her teaching and leadership, Denver Seminary has become known nationally as a premier center for chaplaincy training. One of her courses focuses on brief counseling interventions. The reality of many ministry contexts is that people-helpers do not have the luxury of time and multiple interactions to help bring healing, so specific techniques to provide support and foster change are necessary. Jesus, in his brief interactions with many people as recorded in the Gospels, exemplifies the power of brief, compassionate, yet profound interactions with people in need.

Dr. Joan Burgess Wells has taught most of the courses in the curriculum in her 19 years at Denver Seminary and is one of the shapers of the current programs and emphases (see her article on p. 5). Out of her background in child therapy, she has developed and taught courses in the program related to children. Her concern and wisdom for responsible integration infuses her teaching and is the motivation for her current role as Clinical Director of the on-campus Shepherd's Gate Counseling Center.

D I D Y O U K N O W ?

Denver Seminary has a community counseling clinic that offers low-cost counseling services to individuals in the Denver area. Shepherd's Gate Counseling Clinic serves adults, teens, children and families. Our qualified staff of graduate counseling students are trained in the most current therapy techniques and are grounded in a solid theological understanding of the Bible. All staff are supervised by licensed faculty.

For more information, please call 303-762-6987. Shepherd's Gate is located on the south side of the Anita I. Graber Administration Center on the Seminary campus.



P A R A D I S E found

Dr. Dieumeme Noelliste to head Grounds Center of Public Ethics

Denver Seminary is honored to announce the upcoming appointment of Dr. Dieumeme (Dee-You-Mem) Noelliste as Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Grounds Center of Public Ethics beginning August 2007. He has been serving as President of Jamaica Theological Seminary and the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology since 1992.

Dr. Noelliste earned his Ph.D. in Theological Studies from Northwestern University with his primary focus in modern theology and secondary focus in philosophy. He received his M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Th.B. from William Tyndale College. Prior to that, he attended law school at Haiti State University and received his B.A. from the Ministry of National Education in Haiti.

Dr. Noelliste has been involved with the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) in numerous leadership positions since 1997, most recently serving as International Director. He also currently serves as President of the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA).

Dr. Noelliste has contributed extensively to a wide range of journals, delivered papers at numerous international forums, and been a special guest lecturer at a wide variety of institutions.

Dr. Noelliste and his wife Gloria have four young-adult children. They will be leaving their tropical island in the sea for the Colorado Rocky Mountains in July 2007, and we encourage everyone in our community to be in prayer for their transition.



But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV

Is there any Scripture that is particularly close to your heart, or any that has had special meaning to you as you have served in so many leadership positions over the years?

Yes. Two Scripture passages from the Corinthian correspondence have been of particular importance to me. They are 1 Cor. 15:10 and 1 Cor. 4:7. Together, these scriptures keep before me the fact that I am a product of God's grace and that consequently, I am forever indebted to Him for His huge investment in me. My involvement in ministry has been motivated by a sense of profound gratitude to God and a deep desire for God to receive some returns for what He has done for me.

How many years have you been involved with the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE)?

I have been involved in ICETE for 15 years, serving in various capacities. My connection with the Council began in the early 1990s and consisted mainly in the presentation of papers at its various international consultations. Toward the end of that decade, I assumed the role of Chair and began the process of revitalizing the organization following a period of lethargy and inactivity. When my tenure as Chairman came to an end in 2000, I was asked to continue providing leadership in the capacity of International Director. I remained in that post for six years. During this period, the Council bounced back, gained strength and grew significantly. Its membership increased and its international profile strengthened. My tenure as International Director came to an end last summer, but I once again assumed the role of Chairman.

My participation in the ministry of ICETE occurred while being involved in the efforts of several organizations on the national, regional and international scene. Some of the organizations were pursuing the global evangelical mandate, while others were promoting the wider educational agenda.

How do you think your experience with ICETE will shape your role at Denver Seminary?

No doubt the opportunity that has been afforded to me over the years to work with some of God's choicest servants on the international scene in the promotion of the cause of the gospel in general and theological education in particular, will have a bearing on the ways in which I carry out the ministry to which God has called me at Denver Seminary. The years of cultural cross-pollination and trans-contextual interchange have carved out a secure place in my soul for the global perspective. It would be surprising if that cosmopolitan bug did not pop in from time to time and intrude in the conduct of the task at hand, be it lecturing, preaching or leading.

Realizing that the Grounds Center for Public Ethics is still in the inception phase, what are some of your initial dreams for the institute?

Mainstream evangelicalism is often criticized for practicing a lopsided Christianity. It is chided for emphasizing orthodoxy to the neglect of orthopraxis, for paying attention to personal morality and downplaying social ethics. Where issues of social import are attended to, there is a tendency to be selective in the choice of the items identified for the socio-ethical agenda.

To the extent that it is true, my dream is that the institute will be used by God to encourage a broader understanding of Christian faith and a greater appreciation for the multifaceted requirement of the gospel. Biblical faith is not satisfied with right belief; it also enjoins right conduct. The gospel does not restrict its transforming power to just one dimension of reality; it wants to touch and reorient the various strata and dimensions of life: the personal, spiritual, social, the national and the global. It is not enough for righteousness to be private and personal; it must be pervasive. If the venture can play a role in the recovery of this holistic vision, the effort will be worth the while.

What kind of impact do you think it will have on our immediate community, as well as the community at large?

My hope is that the holistic vision spoken about above will first of all be embraced by our Seminary community. It would be a wonderful thing if the passion to see the whole gospel impact the whole life could dominate the hearts and minds of Denver Seminary's staff and students. If through outreach of the Center and the ministry and witness of the persons we equip and send forth, a greater awareness of ethical holism spills over beyond the borders of our Seminary and permeates the wider evangelical community, this would be gratifying indeed.

We also enjoyed the opportunity to visit with Dr. Noelliste's wife.

Gloria, what are your special areas of interest?

My life theme is "His Purpose, My Vision," originating out of the September 11 tragedy which caused me to re-examine my reason for being. My daily goal is to stay on red alert, meaning:

1. Stay at peace with God and man.
2. Ask God to establish His works for my hands and enable me to do them.

I believe His works for me now are to be involved in the ministries of prayer, encouragement and hospitality. With an open heart, mind and will, I look forward to experiencing how God will unfold this in my life as we walk in His direction for us.



In my recent years, social concern has been expressed chiefly through prayer and stewardship... And of course there is still the opportunity to encourage younger activists to hold high the torch of a biblical witness in the public square.

Dr. Vernon Grounds

Dr. Grounds' response, when asked to comment on his background, involvement and interest in public ethics, in addition to why he believes Christians should care about or be involved in issues of public ethics.

My own interest in social ethics dates back to high school days. I recall, for instance, my participation in the UV Time oratorical contest. Participants were required to write and deliver an essay on our American constitution. I advanced only to the county level but that experience kindled my interest in public affairs. That interest was deepened by my reading and study as well as my activity in intercollegiate debates.

As a student at Rutgers, before our country's involvement in the Second World War, I was active in the League Against War & Fascism. After my conversion experience at the end of my freshman year, I struggled to reconcile political activism with fundamentalist Christianity.

My sharpened understanding of Christian responsibility for applying Biblical principles to political life led me to become a member of Evangelicals for Social Action. I served as president of that organization for many years. During that time I wrote *Revolution and the Christian Faith* (scheduled soon to be republished) as well as *Christianity and Social Concern*.

In my recent years (I will be 93 in July) social concern has been expressed chiefly through prayer and stewardship. Those are two avenues of involvement unaffected by age with its diminishing vitality. And of course there is still the opportunity to encourage younger activists to hold high the torch of a biblical witness in the public square.

The Vernon Grounds Center for Public Ethics

How does one address complex issues like poverty, health care, justice, peace, war, euthanasia, bioengineering, nanotechnology, the environment and politics—just to name a few—while at the same time making the challenging daily decisions that call for personal and corporate honesty and integrity? Denver Seminary's vision includes preparing leaders to address and change those systemic areas of injustice that exist in our world.

In an effort to address some of these critical challenges, we are currently in the foundational efforts of establishing the Vernon Grounds Center for Public Ethics (GCPE), named for our beloved Chancellor, Dr. Vernon Grounds, who has dedicated his life to social action in the name of Christ. With humility, we believe that we have an urgent call from God to continue Dr. Grounds' example in this sphere. The GCPE will enhance the Seminary's mission by equipping leaders who have positions of influence, preparing them to impact culture

and the world. While appropriately including pastoral leaders, the GCPE will focus primarily upon those community leaders who serve in politics, legal professions, business, medical fields, engineering, scientific endeavors and media and artistic expressions. The GCPE will be training leaders in ethical and social responsibility. While many public and private educational institutions work to design ethical frameworks apart from all religious influences, the GCPE will strategically work to increase the contribution of religious thought to the arena of public thought and ethics. Helping community and pastoral leaders to think globally and multi-ethnically—not just nationally—about these issues will also be foundational to the GCPE's work.

The mission of the GCPE will be accomplished through the offering of numerous activities, including but not limited to training seminars, lecture series, roundtables, workshops and online delivery systems. Denver Seminary will present some of the

leading thinkers on ethics at the GCPE. The format of these activities will benefit students in that they will be brief, cost-efficient, suitable for professional continuing education credit, and not limited to a degree program. Leaders can participate in as few or as many activities as they prefer over a year or a lifetime.

To accommodate schedules of the working population, this training will be offered in the evening, on weekends or online. While people may come to the GCPE on our campus, we will also commit to taking it to the community. Not only will the GCPE host on-campus training; it will also serve as a resource to proffer on-site training to community leaders, churches, corporations, boards and other requesting parties globally. The GCPE may also support research projects, offering online resources and bibliographies. We hope to introduce preliminary seminars in the spring and fall of 2008.

Learn More about Denver Seminary's School Counseling Concentration

In January, Denver Seminary launched a new counseling concentration for the Master of Arts with a major in School Counseling (licensure). The school counseling concentration was approved by the Colorado State Department of Education last fall. The two courses necessary to complete the school counseling concentration are Introduction to School Counseling and Programs in School Counseling. The content of these courses is based on the American School Counseling Association national model released in 2002. This model shifts the emphasis from "service-centered for some of the students to program-centered for every student" and is a comprehensive and developmental model. This means that school counseling programs should function as an integrated part of a K-12 program and that they should be organized around a life-span development perspective. Patterning our program after this educational improvement model makes the Denver Seminary program cutting-edge among school counseling programs.

However, the uniqueness of the Seminary's program is the Christian philosophy and commitment of our students and faculty members. Each is involved in teaching and/or training because of a deep commitment to reach people with the love of Jesus through ordinary relationships. Most of our students will be placed in counseling internships within public schools. As with many community agency placements, the public nature limits the counselor's ability to speak to others in the name of Jesus. Yet our current interns are sharing experiences in class and group supervision indicating students and teachers have noticed that they reach out and care for people in a special way. Sometimes it is accompanied by a question as to "why" the counselor cares so deeply or works so hard on behalf of the student(s). Even in settings where our

ability to speak of faith issues is limited, once a person has asked what motivates us, we are able to speak with them about our faith and how that translates to serving our clients/students.

Currently we have four faculty/staff persons involved in the organization and delivery of this program. Dr. LaVerne Jordan facilitated the program development phase and designed the curriculum for the two new school counseling courses. Debbie Gemar, the internship coordinator for both community and school internship placements, began to make contacts with area schools and recruited internship supervisors. Jeannie Tiffany, a school counselor for 20 years, was selected to serve as an adjunct professor and is currently co-teaching both of the school counseling courses with Dr. Jordan. Sharon Hastings, a Denver Seminary graduate and head master teacher at Columbine PREP Alternative Middle School, supervises those involved in school counseling internships.

This semester both required school counseling courses are being offered, along with school counseling internship placement to allow current students to take advantage of this concentration. Fourteen students are now enrolled in the course and two former students are taking the course as an audit option. In the future, one course will be offered in the fall and the second will be offered in the spring.

Please pray that this concentration will impact our schools and the students with the transforming love of Christ. The command Jesus gave to his disciples is still the command that we have. "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Luke 10: 2. (Abundant Life Bible, New Living Translation).



D I D Y O U K N O W ?

Denver Seminary offers several degree programs with a counseling emphasis:

- Master of Divinity with a specialization in pastoral counseling
- Master of Divinity with a specialization in chaplaincy
- Master of Arts with a major in counseling ministries
- Master of Arts with a major in counseling licensure

Please visit www.denverseminary.edu for more information on any of these programs or call 303-761-2482.

IRA Charitable Rollover Tax Law Enables Stewards To Make Larger Gifts

If you are age 70 or older, new legislation now allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 a year from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities such as Denver Seminary without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This is good news for stewards who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty. Since the provision is currently effective for the 2007 tax year only, please act by December 31 to take full advantage. Contact Brian Fort at 303-762-6924 or brian.fort@denverseminary.edu for more information.

Who is most likely to benefit?

- Individuals who take mandatory minimum withdrawals but don't need additional income.
- Individuals who wish to give more than the deductibility ceiling (50% of AGI).
- Individuals whose major assets reside in their IRAs and who wish to make a charitable gift during their lifetime.
- Individuals who intend to leave the balance of their IRA to charity at death.

This information is not intended as tax or legal advice. Please consult your own tax or legal advisor.



Phonathon 2007 Launched With \$125,000 Challenge Gift

“Hello, my name is Angela and I am calling on behalf of Denver Seminary...” You may receive a call this spring asking you to prayerfully consider making a gift to Denver Seminary. As our students are actively studying, we have again joined with ComNet Marketing to ask for your support for the Seminary Fund. To encourage many alumni and friends to give, our Board has extended a \$125,000 challenge gift matching every dollar given up to that amount. Please consider making a gift when you receive a call or letter.



Gone Fishing

July 12-15, 2007

Come experience a great time of fishing, fellowship and fun with a faculty member and friends of Denver Seminary. Enjoy two-and-a-half days of wade and drift boat fishing on the “Blue Ribbon” waters of the North Platte and Encampment Rivers in Saratoga, Wyo. The four-day, three-night trip includes round-trip transportation from Denver Seminary, food and lodging for \$475. (Fishing equipment, license and transfers not included.) For more information contact Brian Fort at 303-762-6924 or brian.fort@denverseminary.edu.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Join our prayer partners team
- Serve as a proctor for our comprehensive exams
- Assist our librarians with over 160,000 volumes
- Be a mentor and touch the life of a student
- Help stock the food closet for our international families
- Staff the registration table at periodic events

Contact Melanie Eagar to get involved at melanie.eagar@denverseminary.edu or 303-762-6949.



Board member Larry Graber, Vice President of Advancement Gary Hoag

Transformational Stewardship in the Local Church

Friday, May 4, 2007
2:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Executive Board Room

Come to this stewardship seminar to learn how to increase giving in your church. Vice President of Advancement Gary Hoag and Board of Trustees member Larry Graber will share biblical stewardship principles for the church and suggest steps for leading a successful annual or capital campaign which results in a congregation of transformed stewards.

Please register for this no-cost event online at denverseminary.edu/events/stewardshipchurch.



April 11-21, 2008

EUROPEAN REFORMATION TOUR

Join President Craig Williford and wife Carolyn, Vice President Gary Hoag and wife Jenni, and Professor of Theology David Buschart and wife Nancy for a fascinating overview of Christian history in both Germany and Switzerland, with stops at towns of key significance, such as Lutherstadt-Wittenberg, Eisenach, Erfurt, Schleithem, Zürich, Lausanne and Geneva. Walk in the footsteps of Luther and Zwingli as we visit important sites of Reformation origins.

For more information or to register, contact Melanie Eagar at 303-762-6949 or melanie.eagar@denverseminary.edu.





Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling: Resources For the Ministry of Healing and Growth
Howard Clinebell (Abingdon Press, 1984)

This standard text in the field of pastoral care and counseling has been updated to include changes that have occurred in the field, including crisis intervention, the emergence of lay caring groups, the feminist movement and numerous others.



The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers
Gary Collins (NavPress, 1997)

The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers will guide readers to a practical, working knowledge of Scripture and the basics of the Christian faith—the core of what Christian counselors must know to be truly effective in helping others.



Care for the Soul: Exploring the Intersection of Psychology and Theology
Mark R. McMinn and Timothy R. Phillips, editors (Intervarsity Press, 2001)

This collection of essays is a multidisciplinary dialogue on the interface between psychology and theology that takes seriously the long, rich tradition of soul care in the church.



Care of Souls: Revisioning Christian Nurture and Counsel
David G. Benner (Baker Books, 1998)

When troubled people seek guidance from the church, should they hear the same advice they would receive from a secular counselor? A practicing psychologist and director of a center for psychospiritual health, Benner explores the role of the church in “soul care,” advocating a method of counseling that anchors modern therapy in timeless biblical principles.



How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth
Henry Cloud and John Townsend (Zondervan, 2001)

This book reveals why all growth is spiritual growth and how you can grow in ways you never thought possible. Unpacking the practical and passionate theology that forms the backbone of their counseling, Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend shatter popular misconceptions about how God operates to reveal how growth really happens.



The Human Person in Theological and Psychological Perspective: A Biblical Anthropology for the Twenty-First Century
James R. Beck and Bruce Demarest (Kregel, 2005)

This comprehensive textbook explores the relationship between origin and destiny, substance and identity, function and behavior, and relationships and community in the human person. The authors argue that an integrated approach of theology and psychology not only enhances our understanding of what it means to be human, but is also key to that understanding.



Jesus and Personality Theory: Exploring the Five-Factor Model
James R. Beck (Intervarsity Press, 1999)

In recent years, researchers in human personality have come to a rarely achieved, nearly unanimous conclusion: human personality is structured around a very few major traits, namely: openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. How does this five-factor model fit with a Christian understanding of human nature? How does it compare or contrast with the way Jesus lived, taught and counseled?



Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling
Mark R. McMinn, M. R. (Tyndale, 1996)

What happens in your Christian counseling office? How do you integrate your spiritual life with your psychological expertise and theological understanding? This book will help you evaluate how you can effectively integrate prayer, Scripture, confession, forgiveness and redemption into your life and counseling practice.



Transforming Spirituality: Integrating Theology and Psychology
F. LeRon Shults and Steven J. Sandage (Baker Academic, 2006)

With one author a psychologist and the other a practical theologian, this book gives us cutting-edge interdisciplinary research concerning biblical texts, doctrine, psychological theory and case studies. It attempts to establish a more holistic framework for what it means to live in the likeness of Christ.

Why A Counseling Program?



Dr. Vernon Grounds

Even when our lives are exempt from serious troubles, we may find ourselves struggling with problems. They may be interpersonal tangles or intra-psychic difficulties. But whatever their nature, they perplex and burden, overtaxing our own resources of decision-making and wisdom. Is there, we wonder, somebody who can give us helpful insight? Gladly we turn to a trusted friend who can do more than simply lend us a listening ear. Not once, but as often as needed, we avail ourselves of that person who emphatically enables us to sort out our mixed-up emotions and vacillating choices.

But if no such helper is available within the orbit of our church community, we turn gratefully to a trained counselor who knows how to apply biblical truth and spiritual grace to our specific complex.

Scripture gives us instances of how, through the centuries, Spirit-endowed men and women have helped people work through their problems. In more recent times, trained counselors have performed that function both inside and outside the church. Counseling has become, in fact, a major ministry. And that is why since 1974 Denver Seminary has offered degree programs in this area of specialization. This is not simply secular psychology in disguise. By no means! Biblically and theologically oriented, they are preparing students to be conduits of therapeutic grace. Students in these courses are following in the footsteps of Jesus, the "Wonderful Counselor" (Isaiah 9:6), who went about healing the emotionally and spiritually oppressed (Acts 10:38). They are learning as counselors to "put feet to doctrine."

faculty travel: april-june 2007

Howard Baker

April 1 Arvada, Colo.

Preaching at Trinity Presbyterian Church

May 17-19 Littleton, Colo.

Western Region Spiritual Formation Forum

Craig Blomberg

April 20-22 Mansfield, Ohio

Keynote speaker for the annual conference for pastors in Alliance for Renewal Churches

May 1-4 Dublin, Ireland

Teaching M.A. Hermeneutics at Irish Bible Institute

May 20-June 24 Littleton, Colo.

Sunday mornings at Bethany Evangelical Free Church

Danny Carroll R.

April 16 Aurora, Colo.

Preaching at Restoration Christian Fellowship

May 14-18 Atibaia, Brazil

Accreditation visit to Seminario Biblico Palavra da Vida

Sung Wook Chung

April 16-19 Seattle, Wash.

Speaker, Annual Conference for Korean Pastors' Continuous Education

May 26-July 7 Seoul, Korea

Business trip for promotion and recruitment

Hélène Dallaire

May 13-29 Turkey and Greece

Lead group for DS Seminar on the Aegean (NT/OT)

June 11-14 Ashland, Ohio

Participant on Field Test Team for the CoHeLet project (Communicative Hebrew Learning and Teaching)

Bruce Demarest

April 7 Aurora, Colo.

Speaker, Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Cross Talk session—Ethiopian immigrants

May 3-5 Charlotte, N.C.

SIM Home Assignment Retreat

May 17 Littleton, Colo.

Plenary speaker, Spiritual Formation Forum Western Regional Conference

June 6-9 Deerfield, Ill.

Plenary speaker, Spiritual Formation Forum Central Regional Conference

Fred Gingrich

June 7-10 Toronto, Ontario

Counseling course instructor for Canadian Theological Seminary—East

June 28-30 Denver, Colo.

Attend Smart Marriages Annual Conference

Heather Gingrich

May 24-27 Toronto, Ontario

Counseling course instructor for Canadian Theological Seminary—East

LaVerne Jordan

April 20 Denver, Colo.

Colorado Career Development Association Conference

June 1-2 Winter Park, Colo.

Leadership retreat for the Governing Board of the Colorado Counseling Association

June 23-26 Denver, Colo.

American School Counseling Conference

Jan McCormack

April 27-May 2 San Francisco, Calif.

Assoc. of Professional Chaplains National Conference

May 2-6 San Francisco, Calif.

Board meeting, Association of Clinical Pastoral Education

May 14-18 San Antonio, Texas

Military Chaplains' Association Conference and Board Meeting

June 7-9 Grand Rapids, Mich.

Presenter, Christian Reformed Churches Chaplains' Conference

June 26 Minneapolis, Minn.

Presenter, Evangelical Church Association, Chaplains' Conference

David Osborn

April 19-21 Philadelphia, Penn.

Annual Meeting of the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education

Brad Widstrom

April 15 Denver, Colo.

Church of the Holy Spirit Youth Ministry Training Day

June 1 Buena Vista, Colo.

Metro Denver Youth Ministry Network Day

Craig Williford

May 21-29 Korea

Visiting several schools and their presidents and influential Christian leaders in Korea

May 31-June 1 Pittsburgh, Penn.

ATS Board Meeting

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Friday, April 27, 2007 ❁ 7:00-9:00 p.m. ❁ Simpson Chapel at Denver Seminary

Spring FACULTY BOOK SIGNING EVENT

Join us as we celebrate three of the newest publications authored by members of the Denver Seminary faculty! All publications will be 30% off the regular price the night of the event.

Readings will begin promptly at 7pm, followed by a signing reception.

The celebrated publications will be:

The One True Thing, Howard Baker

Karl Barth and Evangelical Theology, Sung Wook Chung

How to Treat a Staff Infection: Resolving Problems in Your Church or Ministry Team, Craig Williford

Women's Forum

CHALLENGE THE MIND, EXPAND THE HEART

April 24 • 11:00 a.m. Elisa Morgan, President of MOPS International
A Perspective on Servant Leadership

Join us for the last event of the year! A series of stimulating lectures and discussions designed for women in our community to wrestle with relevant issues of today, cultivate their own worldview and pursue a deeper relationship with Christ. For registration information, please visit our website at www.denverseminary.edu/womensforum.

LEADERSHIP LUNCH

Tuesday, April 10
Tuesday, May 8

Meet our world-class faculty. Hear stories from our students. Find out how you can become involved. Complimentary lunch begins promptly at noon. Campus tour follows at 1:00 p.m. RSVP one week prior to each luncheon you plan to attend at 303-762-6949 or melanie.eagar@denverseminary.edu.

Common Ground Chapel Schedule

April 2007

April 2-3, 2007 Henry Claman
April 9-10, 2007 Gary VanderArk
April 16-17, 2007 Fermin Whittaker
April 23-24, 2007 Elisa Morgan
April 30, 2007 Vernon Grounds

Chapel is held at 11 a.m. in the Simpson Chapel and is open to the public.

For more information, visit www.denverseminary.edu/worship/schedule.

Journeying with JESUS



Experiencing the Rhythm of His Life

May 17-19, 2007

Western Regional Spiritual Formation Forum
Simpson Leadership Center, Denver Seminary

Take part as Christian learners and leaders from the Western region journey together for three days, enjoying intentional formation experiences including seasoned speakers, rich worship and participative workshops. Through Christ-centered group exercises and times of personal reflection, we will strive to answer questions that will deepen hearts and expand ministries.

LEARN HOW JESUS

- was **attentive** to His Father's activity
- was almost always **together** with people
- protected time to be **alone** with the Father, and
- was marvelously **present** in every moment.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Vernon Grounds—Chancellor, Denver Seminary
Bruce Demarest—Professor of Christian Theology and Spiritual Formation, Denver Seminary
Vie Thorgren—Executive Director, Center for Spirituality at Work

Registration Fee: \$120 [group and student discounts available] www.spiritualformationforum.org



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