



EVANGEL VOICE

Evangel Theological Seminary



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A NEW TIME

The passing of our annual graduation, June 11, 2006, officially launched Evangel Theological Seminary into its twenty-fifth anniversary year. It hardly seems possible that we have crossed the final threshold for the completion of a quarter-century of providing quality theological training and preparation to equip the people of God for ministry (Eph. 4:11-12). We thank and praise the Lord for His abounding **grace** and **mercy** these past twenty-four years that gave us strength to persevere in the midst of difficulties, discouragement and the spiritual warfare going on around us. We thank Him for His **faithfulness** in seemingly impossible situations and His magnificent **provision** for every need according to the promise in His Word (Phil. 4:19). We thank the Holy Spirit for frequently showing up and manifesting His power and revelation to us in extraordinary ways that erased any doubt of God's presence in our midst.



FROM THE DESK OF
THE PRESIDENT

With the commencement of the 2006-2007 academic year a new and exciting time is before us. It is a time for **reflection** and **evaluation**. It is a time for exposing Evangel's vision to the unerring scrutiny of the Holy Spirit allowing Him to revise, reshape, and yes, even replace it with His own perfected version if He desires. Perhaps it is a time to retire our present operating model and recast one that more perfectly fits the timeless Biblical pattern of discipleship and ministry and fills the pressing needs of the Body of Christ. All too often these elements are obscured and even lost in a sophisticated academic mish-mash that frequently resides under the heading of theological education.

Recently, I came across some sermon notes of a preacher who ministered more than two generations ago that really blessed my heart. Here are a few quotes from that preacher.

The greatest danger confronting the American church today is a possible decadence of the pulpit. There should no stronger argument or mightier appeal be heard anywhere than that which goes forth from the Christian pulpit. Preaching style is perfect when it is invisible. Many a man worried more over a paragraph in his sermon than over a soul going down to perdition. A preacher really great, speaks the Gospel so simply and so truly that all his congregation looking toward him see no man but Jesus only.

He goes on to speak of seminaries. *There is a great opportunity afforded the theological seminary for making itself a factor in the civilization of our country. Its supreme work - the training of preachers.* The title of the preacher's sermon was "The Minister as Prophet," and the preacher was my grandfather, Rev. J. Walter Thomas, an elder and pastor in The Church of the Brethren for decades. As I read through his thoughts I was impressed with their contemporary relevance, and especially encouraged by his comments almost a hundred years ago concerning the purpose of a

(Continued on page 2)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

Ephesians 4: 11, 12



A NEW TIME

(Continued from page 1)

theological seminary. To that end Evangel Seminary will always give priority to training effective expository preachers.

As our commitment statement declares, Evangel Theological Seminary is *truly a Seminary with a difference - with unwavering dedication to the primacy of the Bible in theological education and an unflinching commitment to innovative and flexible academic instruction and practical training*. The time we live in requires fresh innovation and flexibility and the creation of a broader and more inclusive ministry that encompasses all segments of the Christian Church.

Recently, I taught the course, entitled, *Life of Christ*. There were only three students in the class and midway through the course I told them that instead of the regular research paper requirement, I wanted them to write an evaluation of how the course material and time together in class had influenced and/or impacted their life. I felt strongly we needed to experience in some fashion something of the life of Jesus, not just talk about it. We invited the Holy Spirit to come and work as He willed in our midst, and as He did, some extraordinary things took place. Healings and prophetic words came forth. A deep sense of compassion for the surrounding community arose in the hearts of the students accompanied with a significant discussion of possibilities to implement their concerns. When the students' personal evaluations were turned in, I was pleasantly surprised as I read their responses. They wrote very candidly about their experiences, what had happened to them spiritually during the seven weeks we met together, and most of all, how the course provided a brief hands-on opportunity to live the life of Jesus in that limited time and space regardless of inconvenience, uncomfortableness, and reluctance. Each student praised the Lord for His presence in the class and much more importantly, in their personal lives. Martha and I thank God for His faithfulness and the unusual opportunity we had to participate in that time. One of the students described the course as "one of a kind." Hallelujah!

Now what does all of this mean to you, our readers? Allow me to suggest a few things you can do for E.T.S..

Pray: For the *students* - that every need would be supplied and they would hear God's voice more clearly than ever before concerning their future.

For the *faculty* - that they would be given Holy Spirit-inspired ideas for course content and the anointing to communicate effectively that information to their students.

For the *administration* - that they would recognize the Holy Spirit's prompting and anointing to implement needed revisions and additions to Evangel's curriculum and programs in this *New Time*.

For the *Board of Trustees* - that the members would be anointed to examine difficult situations and take what ever action the Holy Spirit deems necessary during this *New Time*.

New Students: Our registration for the Spring/06 term was down 1/3 from the previous year. As a result, the administration has set a goal of 12 committed new students for the Fall Term. If you know those who may be potential students, please encourage them to contact Evangel, and if possible, pass along their names, addresses, and phone numbers to us.

Contribute: June, July, and August are generally slow financial months. This summer presents an increased financial challenge because of the decrease in Spring registration. The *New Time* we have been talking about with its changing climate and vision will bring with it substantial new financial requirements as well. With all this in mind, I invite you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to E.T.S. now. Your gifts will help sustain Evangel's present ministry to the Body of Christ and provide for its expanded role in the future. As you give remember you are investing in the lives and ministry of men and women called to serve Jesus in a variety of ways to His honor and glory.

In closing, I am reminded of the encouraging words of promise spoken on God's behalf by the prophet, Jeremiah. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope* (Jer. 29:11). As we commence this *New Time* in the life of Evangel, we pray the Lord will bless and keep you and your families, and may your eyes be stayed on the One who has promised not to leave nor forsake us, and Whose grace is all sufficient, Jesus, the living Son of God, our Savior. Amen!

PRAISE & PRAYER REPORT

Praise God for His faithfulness as we approach the 25th Anniversary. Praise Him for the students and alumni he has brought and for our dear friends who have helped make this possible.

Praise God for the new website done by Frank Wilson, husband of Soo Wilson, 2006 graduate.

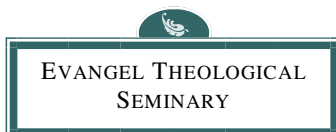
Please be in prayer for healing for Kathy, daughter-in-law of Walt and Sue Werner, current students.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW ADJUNCT PROFESSORS FOR FALL, 2006

Victoria Rocco, graduated from James Madison University with a degree in social work. She was a member of the 2006 class of Evangel, receiving a Master of Divinity degree and graduating with highest honors. Currently she is working on a Doctor of Ministry degree concentrating on a thematic Greek study of the New Testament. She is a member of Grace Covenant Church in Harrisonburg where she participates in the Soaking Prayer and Ministry teams and has been involved with short term missions.

Soo Wilson, graduated from George Mason University with a degree in sociology. She was a member of the 2006 class of Evangel, receiving a Master of Divinity degree and graduating with honors. She is going to begin work on a Doctor of Ministry degree this fall. Soo has a wealth of ministry experience including youth work, small group leadership, discipleship ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ at George Mason, and has been involved in short term missions to Mexico and Africa. She and her husband, Frank, live in Alexandria.

WATCH FOR NEWS OF OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



*truly a seminary
with a difference*



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