A Big Tent for the Times

BY RICK MARANTA

We recently sat down with Wycliffe College’s new Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bob Hamilton to talk about the future of the College and the important role it will continue to play in the future of the whole church.

RM: Bob, you have been Chairman of the Wycliffe Board of Trustees since November of 2014, but how did you first come into contact with Wycliffe?

Bob: I’ve been interested in theological education for a very long time. When I lived in Vancouver, I attended Regent College as a student. It was a really rich time for me academically and as a Christian.

About 10 years ago, after we got back from the UK, Cathy and I were invited to a fundraiser in Toronto. There I met George Sumner and Rob Henderson from Wycliffe who communicated clearly that theological education could have a big impact on the church for the next generation and not just on the individual. That statement shifted my focus. Having been a Christian and church goer all my life, I had been critical of the church at times and so I recall saying to Cathy in the car on the way home, “we have to support this!” We agreed then that if we really believed that the church could grow with the Spirit and ‘get better’ at serving the next generations, we had to get behind Wycliffe. And so we did!

Bob: I’ve been interested in theological education for a very long time. When I lived in Vancouver, I attended Regent College as a student. It was a really rich time for me academically and as a Christian.

RM: Please tell us a little about yourself and your background.

Bob: I have been married to my wife Cathy for 41 years. We have two married children as well as four grandchildren with one more on the way. I had the great pleasure to work for the Toronto Dominion Bank for 34 years in a number of locations around the world such as Asia, the United States, the UK as well as Canada which allowed me to see the world as well as work for a great organization.

I eventually retired from TD, and after a brief hiatus, went back to work for a family foundation who’s founder was a client of mine. Now, I am retired again and spend my time working for different Christian charitable organizations where I feel I can make a difference.

RM: What is your vision for the future of Wycliffe College?

Bob: Earlier in my board tenure I had the opportunity to chair the strategic planning committee. We thought and prayed with faculty and other board members about where Wycliffe fits into the landscape of theological education in North America. We wanted to understand what God was currently doing at Wycliffe and how we as leadership could join and develop a strategic plan based on that.

My role as Chair over the next number of years is really to follow through on that plan and help the school make strides in communications,

Continued on page 3...
Principal’s Message

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. As you may know, I was recently elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. Only now am I starting to get over the stunned feeling. I believe that God’s hand is in the midst of this call. At the same time, I felt a mixture of emotions, most strongly, a sense of sadness at the prospect of leaving Wycliffe College. This school, and city, and Church, and country, are our home, and so we are living through a mixture of excitement and loss. But it is all under the wing of God’s providential care for us all.

After election in the Episcopal Church, a process of consent by diocesan standing committees and bishops takes up to four months. I am still, in the meantime, the principal of Wycliffe College! During this period I will be shuttling between Toronto and Dallas. The consecration will be on November 14. There will be a public chance to celebrate and say ‘goodbye.’ In this period, after a very strong year of donations and recruitment, we are in a strong position to move forward.

One of our great strengths is our able board, which has a solid understanding of the school, its tradition and direction. Our chair, Mr. Bob Hamilton, is moving ahead ably to take the first steps toward a search.

In keeping with Episcopal canons about consent to elections, one such first step has been to name former Wycliffe Principal, Peter Mason to provisionally serve as interim Principal in the fall.

*Festina Lente*: make haste gently. That is what we aim at, namely to move as quickly as possible while making sure the College searches fully. We will keep everyone abreast of developments. With our strong board, faculty, and staff, as well as loyal friends and alumni/ae, I am very confident the transition will be smooth and expeditious.

In the meantime, keep me and the College in your prayers as we move forward. We will be announcing later in the summer opportunities to celebrate our ministry together before I depart.

Peace,

The Rev. Canon Dr. George Sumner
Principal and Helliwell Professor of World Mission

---

**PARTNERING FOR IMPACT**

A primary motivator for launching Wycliffe Serves! was to bring the best of Wycliffe College: our top rated faculty, well-articulated theology, robust evangelical orthodoxy, and cutting-edge research to the church and broader society. Last year through our Society and Culture Lecture Series, and through the power of the internet, we brought top scholars and leaders from around the world to join our own faculty and deliver a series of events that explored important themes of faith in the context of our world. In articulating an evangelical response to the hot-button issues of our time, and further engaging in dialogue with those outside traditional theological disciplines, our hope was to establish ourselves as a voice within our society on these issues but at the same time learn to engage with the pulse of our nation. This past year's set of lectures were a great start to the impact we could have in the coming years.

Our plan this year is to become more intentional and more strategic. The operational word is 'partnerships'. We have been working over the past few months to cultivate partnerships with groups such as RZIM, Faith Today, Power to Change, Network of Christian Scholars and Leader Impact Group to develop a series of events that will help bring a national scope to our project.

The other part of the equation is to develop partnerships with local churches across the country. Our dream is to have churches, house groups, and individuals tune into our live-streamed events (especially together with seeking friends and colleagues – perhaps over a meal) and use them to grow in their faith and understanding of important questions. We want this to be both an evangelistic opportunity and discipleship tool. Our broader goal is to bring issues of faith to the surface of our culture and to be able to meet these issues in an intelligent fashion, providing a Christian perspective to the topics that will shape our society in the coming decades.
our new PhD and many other excellent programs, international student opportunities and finding new ways to serve the broader church through a new department called Wycliffe Serves! I’m quite pleased with the progress that we’ve made even in the last 18 months.

RM: What makes Wycliffe unique as an institution? Why would students want to come here?

Bob: First, I think we have a very clear and deeply rooted identity. We come from an evangelical Anglican tradition. Although we have a diverse group of students from various denominations, we know well who we are at our core and students are attracted to that. While we have these roots we know that our learning here together is a service for the good of the entire church, no matter the denomination and that in particular excites me.

The second thing I think that sets Wycliffe apart is that we are ideally located geographically as a school. We are in the centre of Toronto and right in the heart of the University of Toronto campus. Many of our degrees are conjoint degrees with the University of Toronto which is a world class university and students are attracted to that also.

Third, I think our faculty is world class. It would be hard to find one as well-regarded and harmonious anywhere else in North America but you’ll forgive my bias!

All of this gives us a compelling story and one that continues to attract great students and garner support from many friends who see the value and impact the College continues to make on the Church.

RM: How would you describe Wycliffe in terms of how we express our faith?

Bob: We are Evangelical. I like that word but it is one that is misunderstood often. For me, evangelical means that we are good news people and bible people. I think that we express both things in how students learn, how faculty teach and how we worship as a community here. These things are engrained in us. While there is a lot of shifting ground around us, we are deeply rooted in our identity and we will continue to hold to that and engage the culture through the Church or higher education for another 135 years God willing!

Though we are rooted in a particular tradition, Wycliffe is more and more becoming a ‘big tent’ for students from all sorts of different denominational, geographic, and ethnic backgrounds. Each student wants to find a place to learn, to be spiritually formed and to dialogue with others so that when they leave, they can make an impact in His name. We want to equip them to do that.

RM: It was recently announced that Principal Sumner has been elected as Bishop of Dallas, tell us a bit about his impact on Wycliffe College.

Bob: George has made an outstanding contribution to Wycliffe College. It will be hard to say goodbye to him. He has been God’s man in God’s time for this place. What makes George very special is that he is an academic but he’s also a man of the Church, always listening for the Lord’s leading in all his work here. We are grateful for his long service and the many legacies he has created here in programs, church relations, and enriching the community life which so many students are drawn to.

He has worked both in academia and he’s worked in the Church and now he is going back. That’s what Wycliffe is all about too. We are rigorously academic but also focused on engaging and equipping the Church – doing so from our deep roots but extending our canopy of branches outward to the entire church body for the glory of Christ. We will miss him but we know that this is God’s will for him in Dallas.
THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR
OF MINISTRY
Peter Lloyd Armstrong

THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR
OF THEOLOGY
Jeng-Zen Huang

THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF DIVINITY
Steven Ernest Van Dyck

THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF DIVINITY, HONOURS
Alan Robert Nikkel
Jason Albert Postma
Andrew Paul Stuart (Pioneer)
Richard Craig Webb

THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF DIVINITY
Nigel Alexander Bone
Grace Kan Cheung
Irina Dubinski

James Russell Dyche
Jonathan Bruce Dykeman (Pioneer)
Howard Frank Edwards
Susan Y. Eng
Philip Alan Gearing
Ronald Jung-Tae Kwon
Heather Kathleen May Liddell
Edgar Nho
Brian Leslie Kenneth Raney
Antoine Jermaine Rutherford
Martin Chi-Sing Tam (Pioneer)
Monique Georgette Taylor

THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF THEOLOGICAL
STUDIES IN URBAN & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
John Edward Gee
Deanna Marie Hove
Sonia Hsiang Ning Hsiung
Amos Ho Kei Kwan
Kenneth King Chi Ma
Michelle Rae Roberts
Bosco Chun Sing Tung
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Chris Bundoc Evangelista
Eileen Elizabeth Harbottle
Timothy David Likely
Brenda Lynn O’Connor
Terrance Andrew Spratt
DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Christine Huei Soong P’ng

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEOLOGY
University of St. Michael’s College
Conferred November 2014
Andrew Murray Adkins
Igal German
Brian Thomas German
Marina Hofman

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY
University of St. Michael’s College
Conferred November 2014
Robert Geoffrey Thomas Edwards
Joshua Martin

Class of 2015
HONOURARY DEGREES CONFERRED IN 2015

The Degree of Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa)

THE RIGHT REVEREND DAVID EDWARDS
The Right Reverend David John Edwards is currently the Bishop of Fredericton, NB. Over the years he has worked tirelessly in the areas of Mission and Evangelism with the Church Army. He has been the principal of Taylor College, Rector of St. John’s Stone Church, a Development Officer for the Diocese of Fredericton, and Archdeacon of St. Andrews. He received a Doctor of Divinity.

THE RIGHT REVEREND LYDIA MAMAKWA
The Right Reverend Lydia Mamakwa is the first bishop of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, of the Anglican Church of Canada. Bishop Mamakwa is from the Kingfisher First Nation, an Oji-Cree community in Northern Ontario. Prior to her installation as Bishop of Mishamikoweesh, she served in the Diocese of Keewatin as archdeacon and as area bishop for Northern Ontario. She is married to Chief James Mamakwa. She received a Doctor of Divinity.

DR. DOUGLAS ROBB MILLOY
Dr. Douglas Millloy has been chair of the Wycliffe College Board of Trustees for the last six years and a board member for 12 in total before retiring this past year. He has excelled as a family physician for many years and has been a Fellow of the Canadian College of Family Physicians for some 30 years as well as Physician of the year in 2003. Doug has lifted his practice of medicine into a ministry and has expanded into psychotherapy as well as serving in various correctional facilities throughout Ontario. Doug received a Doctor of Sacred Letters Degree.

RECENT ORDINATIONS

The following were ordained to the Deaconate on May 3rd.

The Rev. Christopher D’Angelo – 2013 (Far Right)
The Rev. Augusto Nunez – 2008 (3rd from the Right)
The Rev. Antoine Rutherford – 2015 (4th from the Right)
The Rev. Jonathan Turtle – 2014 (2nd from the Left)
The Rev. Irina Dubinski – 2015 (4th from the Left)
Greetings from Wycliffe
– by Bishop Peter Mason, Editor

Dear fellow Wycliffe grads and friends,

I am always fascinated by the breadth of ministries that you submit, describing pastoral, academic, and social pursuits that you undertake as graduates of our college. Here are some current samples of men and women who are serving God in Canada and abroad, veteran alumni/ae as well as recent graduates.

---

**Wycliffe College**

**Alumni/ae News**

**Alumni/ae Association WELCOME BACK BBQ**

**Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, Wycliffe College, Toronto**

If you plan to be in Toronto on Thursday September 10th, please join us in welcoming all returning and new students to Wycliffe. This will be a wonderful chance for alumni/ae to meet future graduates, show our support for them and even offer some sage advice! Please RSVP if you will be attending.

**RSVP to Florence Chan at:**

fchan@wycliffe.utoronto.ca or (416) 946-3535, ext. 2559

**WELCOME BACK BBQ**

**ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATION**

**NEWS**

From the 1950’s

**The Rev. Canon Peter Gratton, W56.** While it may be tempting in the “seniorhood” stage of life to be preoccupied with the nuts and bolts of staying alive, others find new opportunities to imagine, dream, and probe into the deeper challenges and meanings of theology. Thus Peter Gratton writes... The Big Bang theory in physics is often referred to as a “Singularity” – an unprecedented event resulting in the cosmos as we know it. This metaphor might also be applied to the biblical account of creation, only with a different outcome. This one-of-a-kind event in nature is followed in the bible by two further Singularities: first, by the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, resulting in a new spiritual creation; and second, in a third Singularity at the coming of the Parousia, and the resulting consummation of all things. These three biblical Singularities are equally one-of-a-kind events of revelation corresponding with the natural Singularity, only with totally different outcomes...Thank you Peter for these stimulating insights.

**The Rev. Peter Niblock, W58 & W61.** Here is another senior who keeps his mind sharp with serious theological reading and reflection. He writes...I have been greatly enriched by immersion into eco-theology stemming from a brief conference last October when Thomas Berry, Matthew Fox, and indeed Thomas Aquinas, were our leader’s chief mentors. Over the years I have been increasingly aware that some ingredient was absent from our theology, that was skewing that theology and divesting it of its proper vitality. These lectures have been a stirring experience, and my most recent hymn – *Love from on High*, tune *Kingsfold* has blended the macro and micro dimensions of God’s glory in their cosmic and personal attributes.

---

From the 1960’s

**The Rev. Doug Dittrich, W62.** Doug will be preaching on May 31 at St. Alban’s Church, Burnaby, B.C. where he is an associate priest in ministry with The Rev. Faun Harriman, W2002. On that occasion Doug will be celebrating the 53rd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood by the then Bishop of the Arctic, Donald Marsh, in the Wycliffe Chapel. Doug’s ministry has included service in the Arctic, the Diocese of Cariboo and New Westminster, B.C. He and Jean now enjoy life in a co-op housing complex in Burnaby.

**The Rev. Dr. John Furumoto, W67 & W97.** John writes to thank the Wycliffe family for prayers. “I am 81 years old and am well. Last year in April I went on a pilgrimage to Italy with an ecumenical group from Kobe, Japan. I had the honour of shaking hands with Pope Francis.” Many more good years, John.
From the 1970’s

The Rev. Canon Reg MacDonald, W74 & W78. Recently Reg has reached a couple of milestone anniversaries in his long and fruitful ministry. In December he celebrated 40 years as a priest, and marked the occasion by preaching at his former parish of St. John the Baptist, North Sydney, NS. Then a few weeks ago May 7 – he celebrated the 50th anniversary of commissioning as a Church Army officer, which took place at St. James’ Cathedral, Toronto. The MacDonalds enjoy good health and continue ministry wherever and whenever opportunities are found. “We have been so blessed...God is good...all the time!”

From the 1980’s

The Rev. Susan Tate, W88. Susan and Barry have enjoyed retirement in Fenelon Falls, Ontario, for 11 years. Time is consumed by keeping up with their two sons and seven grandchildren. Susan carries out fill-in ministry in the deanery, as needed. Most of their energy, however, is spent with the Fenelon Falls Lions Club and Lions Clubs International. Susan has just been elected as District Governor in her district, and beginning in July will visit the 52 clubs in her district and oversee its administration. Sounds like a bishop in lion’s clothing?

The Rev. Peter Armstrong, W89 & W2015. Major achievement, major move for Peter. He graduates this spring with a Doctor of Ministry, and has recently moved from Nova Scotia to the Parish of St. Brice, in North Bay, ON, in the Diocese of Algoma. Several past rectors of St. Brice’s have had Wycliffe connections, including the past incumbent, the Rev. Richard White, W94. Congratulations Peter and best wishes in your new ministry.

The Rev. Canon Kim Beard, W89. Overseas travel and mission ministry permeates Kim Beard’s blood. In July he will lead a mission team of 17 volunteers to serve in partnership with the Anglican Church in Gambella, Ethiopia, with Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand. Then in August Kim will be visiting the Anglican Churches in Egypt, Nepal, and Thailand. His parish of St. Paul’s on the Hill, Pickering, ON, will have mission teams serving in Kenya, Thailand, and Ethiopia this summer.

The Rev. Donald Rossiter, W89 and his wife Lynn are both retired, and living in London, ON. They attend St. George’s Church unless occupied with music ministry or preaching in other churches. Living close to Pinery Provincial Park, most hot summer days find them immersed in Lake Huron. “Retirement is great...should have done this decades ago!”

From the 1990’s

The Revs. Rob Luxton, W91 and Patty Dobbs Luxton, W93. The Rev. Rob Luxton has been rector of Old St. Paul’s Church in Woodstock, ON, since November 2014. Rob and Patty have been sharing the position of Associate Priest at St. John the Evangelist, London for thirteen years; Patty has now become the full time associate priest. They continue to live in London, with Rob commuting to Woodstock. Their children keep the whole family busy with synchronized swimming (Sarah) and hockey (Mark). No doubt this involves a steep learning curve as each family member tries to keep in step with the others.

From the 2000’s

The Rev. Chris Hayes, W2003. Chris and his wife Christine continue to enjoy rural ministry in New Brunswick. They, along with four Alumni/ae Updates continued...

WYCLIFFE ALUMNI/AE DAY AND AGM

On Tuesday, May 12th Alumni/ae travelled from near and as far away as British Columbia to gather for the Wycliffe Alumni/ae Association’s Annual General Meeting and Alumni/ae Day. We welcomed almost 30 graduates and honoured Alumni/ae who graduated from anniversary years. This year the honorees were those graduating in years ending with the number 0 and 5, including Dr. Nell DeBoer who celebrated her 25th anniversary and Ms. Sharon Laird who celebrated her 20th year of graduation.

The Venerable Dr. Timothy Connor was presented with The Archdeacon Harry St. Clair Hilchey Award for Distinguished Service.

The Association honoured The Reverend Peter Molloy with Honorary Alumnus Membership status.
children (and a zoo’s worth of pets) currently live in Petitcodiac, just outside Moncton where Chris serves a two point parish. With two growing congregations and a daughter, Laura, entering grade 12, life is hectic ...a blast! “Our Lord continues to bless us with good health, good friends, and a full life together as a family.”

Ms. Vanessa Rottner, W2005. Vanessa reflects on her ministry a decade after graduation. A dominant biblical motif for her is found at Matthew 4...Jesus declared, Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men. “I know that God uses our hands for his purpose...I realized that my jewellery and crafts were evolving into something brand new... My lay ministry consists of mentoring family and friends, listening and counseling within my boundaries, and reaching out to make new connections through the Diocese of Toronto.”

The Rev. Richard Clark, W2009. Richard and Cinda are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Lydia Margaret, on April 16! The Clarks live in Gainesville, Florida, where Cinda has completed the fourth year of a Ph.D. programme in Special Education and Research Methodology at the University of Florida. Richard serves as chaplain for Episcopal Campus Ministries as well as Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Diocese of Florida. They miss their Canadian friends, their home away from home at Wycliffe, and their favourite Canadian baseball teams – Go Varsity Blues! Go Jays! (And we would add...Go Gators!)

From the 2010’s

The Rev. Jason Ingalls, W2011, has been rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Waco, Texas, since June 2014. His wife Dr. Monique Ingalls is a new Assistant Professor of church music at Baylor University also in Waco. The Ingalls look forward finally to being settled after many years of itinerancy!

Luke Elliot, W2012, and his wife Yuko, with their children Grace, Faith, Judah, Josiah, and John Wycliffe, have been serving with OMFI International (formerly the China Inland Mission) in Japan since the spring of 2013. In March they moved to Aomori Prefecture in northeast Japan, where they have taken on the directorship of the Aomori Christian Center. Blessings on this ministry, friends.

Alicia Good, W2013. Alicia writes movingly of her call to ministry and her forthcoming ordination "...I will be ordained as a Minister at North Leamington United Mennonite Church, on September 20. In the Mennonite Church we are licensed to our pastorates for a minimum two year period as we test and discern the call to ordination. We enter into an intentional discernment process around ordination with the congregation and denominational leadership. We consider ordination to be a once in a lifetime event.”

Nancy Neuman, W2013. Nancy was recently ordained with Eagle Worldwide Ministries and appointed Associate Pastor at The Revival Centre in Hamilton, ON. She further explains... Eagle Worldwide is a relatively new group, having been launched in 2000 by Dr. Russ Moyer. EWWM has nine covenant churches and over one hundred affiliate churches in their network... We wish you and your church every blessing, Nancy.

The Rev. Jeremy Boehr, W2014. Having completed his M. Div. in 2014, Jeremy was recently ordained priest in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, and now serves as rector of the Parish of Nipawin and Arborfield. His ordination celebration included his wife Jane who is currently completing her M.T.S. at Wycliffe, and his proud mother, Trudy.

WE REMEMBER THOSE ALUMNI “CALLED HOME” IN 2014-2015

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Susan J. Cathcart Class of 2000, Dip. Lay Ministry

The Very Rev. Garry Dobinson Class of ’79, Master of Religion • Mrs. Naomi Hunt

The Rev. Dr. James A. McCullum Class of ’61, Lic. of Theology, Bachelor of Theology

Mrs. Barbara Poole, Widow of Alumnus • Mrs. Judy D. Weese Class of 2010, Dip. Lay Ministry

‘...seeing then that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run the race that is set before us.’

Hebrews 12:1
My name is Kai-Hsuan Chang. I was born in Taiwan, and received my Master of Divinity from China Evangelical Seminary in Taiwan. I am currently enrolled in the Th.D. program. My major area of study is the New Testament. I am particularly interested in the Apostle Paul - his theological concepts and ethical teachings. I’m also interested in interpreting Paul in the historical context, particularly in reference to the Greco-Roman world and Second Temple Judaism.

I came to Wycliffe primarily because of the excellent New Testament faculty. They are helpful in training me and provide insightful guidance in my area of study. After studying here for one year, I have found Wycliffe College to be a very special place for pursuing theological education. It is an evangelical seminary among the several diverse seminaries connected to the Toronto School of Theology (TST). This provides flexibility since I can take courses from any of them, and even from the Religious Studies department at the University of Toronto.

In addition to my own area of interest, Wycliffe also has a strong faculty of theology and theological interpretation. I find that I can freely have dialogue with various perspectives and can also keep my faith. I enjoy the many opportunities for historical inquiry and literary analysis and am always reminded to contribute to the Church practically.

I think being at Wycliffe College is an excellent way for me to prepare my future teaching at my home seminary in Taiwan.

Ray Aldred

I am attending Wycliffe College to complete my Doctorate of Theology. My wife Elaine and I found our stay here a high point of our years in ministry and study. The support and collegiality of the professors, administration and fellow students has created a sense of community that makes the training I receive here that much more effective.

One of the highlights was the weekly community Eucharist and dinner that followed. This was the opportunity to connect with professors and with fellow students and families. It was also an opportunity to hear from different alumni who have moved on to continue ministry in different locations in Canada and the world. All of this helps students develop a vision for Christian ministry.

Of course, the library resources available to me to do quality research at the University of Toronto were invaluable and since Wycliffe is a member of the Toronto School of Theology, it provides the opportunity to interact with folks from a variety of denominational traditions. This is particularly beneficial for me, since, in my ministry, I am involved with a number of denominations and Church traditions.

Finally, since Wycliffe is located in Toronto, I could minister and speak at several local congregations throughout the GTA. My wife and I were involved in ministry at Chartwell Baptist Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Andrews Presbyterian and we had regular interaction and ministry with Bishop Mark MacDonald, W78 & W99 and Rev. Andrew Wesley, W2003. This has been key to my ministry as an educator among my own Indigenous people.

Wycliffe College plays a key role in my on-going ministry and for this we are most thankful.
Was Paul an Anglican?
B Y T E R R Y D O N A L D S O N

W E ARE APPROACHING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY of Martin Luther’s posting of the “Ninety-five Theses,” an event that marked a decisive step on the road to the Reformation. Luther’s criticisms of the church, of course, were grounded in his reading of Paul’s letters, and since then the Apostle Paul has had a special place in the churches of the Reformation. It is the Lutherans and the Presbyterians especially who have taken him as their own, and I know of at least some Anglicans who are prepared to say that these other churches are welcome to him. As one who has appreciated Paul for a long time, however (and who feels that Paul has not always been well-served by his Protestant interpreters), I do not count myself among this number.

In fact, I think that there are very good reasons to believe that Paul himself was actually Anglican. I was hoping that, in David Letterman fashion, I could present a top ten list of reasons to believe that Paul was Anglican or (for our friends of American persuasion Episco-Paul, we might call him). So far, however, I have only been able to find seven. But seven is a pretty significant number in itself, and the seven reasons add up to quite an impressive case. Here they are:

(1) He knew that when all other arguments failed, his parishioners would be convinced by the argument that this is the way it has always been done (1 Cor 11:16).

(2) Like Henry VIII, he wasn’t prepared to accept the primacy of Peter (Gal 2:1-15).

(3) He ends all his letters with the grace (see especially 2 Cor 13:14).

(4) He wants everything done decently and in order (1 Cor 14:40).

(5) He encourages his young curate to drink wine for the sake of his health (1 Tim 5:23). We would have had a clearer indication of his Anglican leanings, perhaps, if he had said sherry, or, in some circles, scotch; but it’s close enough for present purposes.

(6) One particular sermon caused a member of the youth group in the church at Troas not only to fall into a dead sleep but also to drop out of the church entirely (Acts 20:7-10).

(7) As we can see from 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, he had a hard time persuading his parishioners to contribute to the stewardship campaign.

And the number one reason why we can believe that Paul was an Anglican:

(1) He was engaged full-time in evangelism and the development of new congregations.

Perhaps in the end, then, we should not try to claim Paul for ourselves, whether we are Anglican or Lutheran or Presbyterian or whatever. Instead let us join with all other Christians in being thankful for the legacy of Paul (and of Peter and all those “who were apostles before [Paul]”; Gal 1: 17) and for the faith that we all share.

SUMMER READING

JOSEPH MANGINA

Joseph Mangina recommends the novels of the American writer Anne Tyler, e.g. The Accidental Tourist (Knopf, 1985), Ladder of Years, (Ivy, 1995) A Patchwork Planet (Knopf, 1998), and many others. Tyler does better than just about any novelist I know the way time works on us, the minutiae of daily life, and the way contingent incidents change us forever. She is also very good on families. Though I don’t know Tyler’s religious views I would classify her as a “Christian humanist.” Her novel Saint Maybe (Knopf, 1991) is a profound exploration of the fact that while forgiveness is free, it is not cheap.

MARION TAYLOR

Marion Taylor recommends The Cross and Genderecide: A Theological Response to Global Violence against Women and Girls (IVP, 2014), by Elizabeth Gerhardt. In her theological response to the problem of violence against women and girls, Gerhardt calls the church to take up Jesus’ mission of freedom and healing: “The time for ministering to abused women and girls is now. The time to work for structural change that will improve the lives of women and girls is now. The time to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves because of oppressive systems that deny their human dignity is now. Genderecide is a confessional issue . . . [Jesus demands] ‘Come, follow me.’” (171).

GEORGE SUMNER

The Sunset Limited (Vintage, 2006) is a play by Cormac McCarthy, the rueful Catholic author of works like No Country for Old Men (Vintage, 2007). It tells of the conversation of a converted ex-con and a nihilistic academic, whom the former has just saved from suicide. It is one of the most insightful sources for an understanding of sin.

All books can be ordered through CRUX Books, Wycliffe College: 416-599-2749. 1-866-607-3348. sales@cruxbooks.com.
RM: Tell us a little bit about the summer course you recently taught at Wycliffe College.

Josiah: We looked at Islam in context from the Christian point of view. The main purpose, I believe, is to expose students to how Muslims present their own religion. Our goal is not to interpret Islam, but to allow Muslims themselves to tell us who they are as Muslims and what their religion is all about.

RM: What is your teaching expertise and what are the topics that interest you?

Josiah: As you would see from my class, Jesus and the Quran interest me because, for me, it's a bridge to getting into the heart of the Quran and what it has to say about Jesus so we can understand the major differences between Islam and Christianity.

The second thing, particularly when it comes to a Cosmopolitan place like Toronto where you have a lot of Muslims coming in, is the whole idea of dialogue. Dialogue not only helps you understand your own religion, but also another person's religion from his or her own point of view so as not to interpret the other person's religious faith.

Dialogue also helps various communities to actually sit down and talk and share towards better understanding. Dialogue is not about compromising one's faith but rather an opportunity to understand where you agree with your neighbour, where you disagree with your neighbour, know why you agree or disagree and to learn to live with your differences.

RM: Tell us about your former role and a bit about your new role as Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and what you bring to it.

Josiah: I have been bishop of a small diocese at the heart of the country which has been described as a flash point between Christians and Muslims. My role there is to encourage and promote the spirit of peaceful co-existence despite our differences. In other words, to encourage the culture of respect for differences – particularly our religious understanding.

But I also have to do the work of ordaining and leading the diocese in the work of mission and evangelism as well as exposing my dioceses to the larger community.

I have not assumed my new role as Secretary General of the Anglican Communion yet, but I at least have an idea of what I’ll be expected to do. Principally it is to apply my training and my interest in bringing Christians and Muslims together to the task of bringing Anglicans of different persuasions together to live, to respect differences, and to promote the culture of understanding between members of the same family who may have different understandings of what it means to be in this family.

RM: What are some of the challenges of the global Church and how can Wycliffe help?

Josiah: The major challenge within the Anglican Communion has to do with theological education. There is a world of difference between the Northern hemisphere and the Southern hemisphere - excluding a place like Australia. When I say southern hemisphere I’m referring more to Africa.

In Africa, the schools where we send our students are more like religious studies or comparative religion. The whole question of serious theological study found in a place like Wycliffe is just not there. Wrestling with doctrinal issues is not there back, I heard about Wycliffe College and got to know it as an excellent evangelical college with deep Anglican roots where people wrestle with theological problems from the Biblical point of view and try to relate the gospel to society.

What makes Wycliffe unique is its scholarship. It’s one of the few colleges I have knowledge of where a Biblical scholarship is taken very seriously - contextualizing a scholastic study of theology to our current society. I would highly recommend students to look at Wycliffe. I would.

RM: You have been involved with Wycliffe for some time. What do you feel is unique about Wycliffe?

Josiah: When I came to Toronto for the first time for a conference a few years
and should be – not in a dividing sort of way, but in dialogue. And a place like Wycliffe is good at that.

One of the major roles I believe the West can play within the communion is to help us to know the richness of theological studies, and how to relate that to the various cultures we have in the Southern hemisphere.

RM: Just to flip it, what can places like Africa teach us?

Josiah: We generally find it easier to live out our faith and grow the Church in that part of the world. Of course that is not without some question marks. We also find it easier to share our faith. Whereas, you aren’t as relaxed about it here. It doesn’t come as naturally to Christians here to share your faith as openly.

While faith here in the West is deep and well informed; to really share your faith in your culture is another matter. However, to us, it seems to come a bit more naturally. So I think we bring that - a little more relaxed and natural approach to expressing your faith. Perhaps you are a little too uptight here in the West (Laughs). However, perhaps in places like Africa, we are a little too relaxed and take serious theological issues a little too lightly. So we need a bit of both and can learn from our brothers and sisters across the world as we dialogue.

WYCLIFFE’S NEW INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

BY THE REV. JULIE GOLDING PAGE, DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS AT WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

This August, Wycliffe will roll out a new Indigenous Leadership Development Program. Team-taught by Wycliffe faculty and Indigenous church leaders, the week-long course, scheduled for August 31 - September 4, will be the first of several offered in a three-year pilot program. We hope to extend the pilot into a longer-term venture. Thanks to a donor’s generosity, the class instruction, travel, room and board will be provided free of charge.

Our goal is to supplement existing diocesan programs across Canada, in strengthening the faith and ministry of Indigenous leaders. An innovative, relational model of team teaching will promote mutuality among students and teachers alike, incorporating discussion-based learning, practical application and ample networking opportunities. This year’s program will focus on baptism. Time will also be set aside for worship and a Gospel Jamboree, plus field trips to watch the Blue Jays and visit Niagara Falls.

Indigenous Bishops have been instrumental in spearheading Wycliffe’s Indigenous formation opportunities. Bishop Lydia Mamakwa (Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh) comments that these courses "will be beneficial for our people who are seeking to further knowledge about the Holy Scriptures. We give thanks to Wycliffe College for taking this important initiative."

National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald has been working with Wycliffe to shape the program: "This is an important venture, seeking to serve a growing spiritual movement among Indigenous Peoples with materials that will assist discipleship and support ministry."

With the input of Canadian bishops, students have been selected from across the categories of generation, gender, and lay/ordained. We are delighted to say that the program is now full to capacity, with students coming from Newfoundland to the Arctic to British Columbia - representing Canada from sea to sea to sea.

The long-term vision is that this team approach to teaching and learning will begin to change the relationships between Indigenous and other Christians in the whole Church, as we practice learning, teaching and living the Gospel together. We pray that we might help each other find new ways to live out God’s mission in Canada.

PHOTO COURTESY OF: BISHOP ANTHONY BURTON IN STANLEY MISSION, SASKATCHEWAN
In late November of 2014 we heard that Wycliffe was arranging a trip to Israel and that there were still few spots available if we were interested in joining them. Without any hesitation, Joseph and I signed up for this great adventure scheduled for the coming February.

Professor Glen Taylor conducted some preparation lectures at Wycliffe College before the trip and he made them very interesting, informative and fun by providing the geographical and historical background of the places we would be visiting. We had the opportunity to get to know the many enthusiastic students and other fellow travellers we would be sharing this experience with, which really helped.

Once we arrived in Israel, as we travelled around Israel and Palestine in the places Jesus walked, the Old and the New Testament really came alive for us and provided us with a spiritual experience that is hard to describe. Not only that, the opportunity to have day to day interactions with the wonderful students of Wycliffe College had a lasting impression on us.

We started each day with the Morning Worship organized by the students on the tour bus. What a great way to start a day! The personal testimonies of the students were very inspirational and helped us to see that these young adults are really being prepared to address bigger audiences when they leave Wycliffe.

When we originally signed up for this trip, I had no idea (in a way it was a blessing!) that the places we would be exploring by foot would not be anything like we have here in Toronto! The roads paved with cobble stones with all the hills and valleys are challenging even in the best of weather, but we faced them with lot of cold rain and even snow! We were able to overcome these challenges of heavy rain, slippery...
narrow roads with no sidewalks, hills, and valleys, only because there was always a helpful hand to steady our walks. Our young fellow travellers would often hold the umbrellas for us while they themselves got soaking wet! My great dream of floating in the salty Dead Sea was only made possible because I was literally carried into the water by my some of my travelling companions! We will also never forget how Marion and Glen Taylor went out of their way so that we could take the detour to avoid the treacherous designated path and join the group at the pool of Salome!

This trip affirmed our faith in the new generations of students trained at Wycliffe. Wycliffe is moulding a special group of “Samaritans” rooted in Faith, to be “in” this world but not “of” this world. I know in my heart that God will use these Spirit-filled people to advance His kingdom. I thank God for Wycliffe, its faculty and students.

We are truly grateful for this wonderful experience.

It sounds like a song and very much could be – the rain-glazed stone of the streets after the heady scent of red wine wafer-thin flatbread flecked with seed and spice, the tastes lingering, an act of remembrance after a long day and stair after stair after stair and the steps that Jesus himself would have stood on— some take off shoes strip off sweaty socks to touch the stone with bare skin, then pose smiling for a photo to show back home.

Here am I in the Holy Land, standing where the embodied Lord of heaven once stood! Barefoot and smiling where He would have entered the temple – sandaled and sombre? angry and overturning tables?

Below us tour buses line up taking up the street and the sky clears of its rain clouds above to bring blue background for our photos. Birds nest in the crevices of stone above the stones on top of the stones where Jesus stood and we stand around to take photos so we do not forget.

Ash Wednesday in Jerusalem

By Kira Moolman (Recently Completed Her First Year in the MDiv Program)

Ash Wednesday in Jerusalem

By Kira Moolman (Recently Completed Her First Year in the MDiv Program)
Wycliffe College To Launch First MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)

As part of its commitment to making theological education more accessible, Wycliffe College is developing its first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). Entitled, Jesus at the Turning of the Ages, this online course is an introduction to the New Testament for young adults. It presents the different books of the canon in their distinctiveness, but with their main theme at the centre: who Jesus is, where we live (in God the Creator’s world, in the midst of all the nations of God’s world), and when we live (at the turning of the age, after God’s victory). The course will help participants read the books of the New Testament as they would be read, in light of Jesus’ resurrection, in the context of the first century A.D., and with an eye to our own world.

This free course is aimed primarily at young adults and assumes no prior biblical knowledge. The twelve units will include text, video, and audio presentations of each theme in an accessible format, free of academic jargon. They will include short readings, optional quizzes, discussion forums, and written assignments.

The project is funded through a generous grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada, and is set to launch in the Fall of 2015.

VISION...

Planning or Revising your Will?

Wycliffe College is pleased to offer a unique workbook that can help you plan your will or enhance the one you already have. It is free and yours for the asking. With over half of Canadians reporting that they do not have a will, the Wycliffe College Will Planner is designed to help people start that process or refine plans already made.

To receive your free copy, please contact Rob Henderson by phone at 416-946-3538 or email rob.henderson@wycliffe.utoronto.ca.

The Morning Star Seminar 2015

Wycliffe College Alumni/ae Association will be hosting:

Morning Star Seminar
October 6-8, 2015
Villa Loyola, Sudbury, ON

"Reading Genesis with Luther"
with The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews

Presented by the Wycliffe College Alumni/ae Association
Please visit www.wycliffecollege.ca for more details.

Space is limited. Reserve today at: fchan@wycliffe.utoronto.ca