

The Morning Star

Wycliffe College Community Newsletter



Some rules on developing leaders in and for the church

By Peter Robinson

Chris Wright, a biblical scholar and the International Ministries Director of Langham Partnership, has suggested that the great commission in Matthew 28:19, 20 is not so much a mandate to go to the far corners of the earth as it is about making disciples and baptizing wherever we are. Chris is not downplaying an emphasis on missions. In fact, his argument is that we should be involved in mission wherever we find ourselves: in whatever we do and wherever we are we should be engaged in God's work of drawing all people to himself.

Since Jesus was speaking to his immediate group of eleven followers in Matthew 28 it is possible to suggest that this charge is to leaders in the church. This view would seem to reinforce the commonly practiced 20/80 rule in which a small minority within the church do the majority—if not all—of the ministry of the church. That would be a problematic understanding both because of the unequal division of labor and the limitation it would place on the ministry of the church, but perhaps most significantly because of the immaturity it fosters in communities.

When we read Matthew 28 in the context of an Ephesians 4 model of the church, the 20/80 rule is turned on its head. For Christians to grow up in

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WYCLIFFE?

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their faith and for the body to function properly, to move toward maturity, every part needs to be working together for the building up of the whole body. And this requires leaders who know how to lead rather than leaders who do the work of ministry themselves.

We need a brief comment here about a trend in churches in which it is suggested that everyone in the church has gifts of leadership. Referencing Ephesians 4, proponents argue that everyone in the church has at least one of the five gifts of leadership listed. As appealing as this approach might seem to be it doesn't bear out in the local economy of our church communities and it reflects a misunderstanding of the particular role in the church for those with these gifts of leadership. Instead, we should recognize that Ephesians is describing a particular role in the church for those with gifts of leadership: it is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ." Leadership gifting does not confer the responsibility to do the ministry of the church. Rather, it is a call to invite, equip, and encourage the whole body to do ministry in and for the world.

A healthy body is one in which every part works together for the whole just as a healthy church is one in which the whole community works together, both gathered and scattered, in God's work of calling all people to himself. At issue here is the recognition that some have particular gifts of leadership precisely so that in using those gifts to build up the body everyone in the church might find their own *métier* in ministry.

Leadership gifting does not confer the responsibility to do the ministry of the church.

The tendency towards a professionalism of ministry is so potent that it is essential to work proactively against it. With that in mind here are a few rules that help us foster an Ephesians 4 model of the church. These aren't broad rules for how we minister (which would require a much more thorough list) but are, instead, practices that serve to help disciple others as they grow into leadership.

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To read the complete article, visit the Wycliffe blog, "Vestigia Dei—Traces of God" at wycliffecollege.ca/blog

About the Author

Peter Robinson is Professor of Proclamation, Worship and Ministry at Wycliffe College.



Upcoming Events

Poetry for the Journey with Malcolm Guite — Tonight, Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

An event brought to you by Wycliffe College in partnership with IMAGO. Malcolm will read some selected poetry and discuss the role of imagination in the journey of faith. Special music with Celtic harp musician Esther-Ruth Teel. Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poetry-for-the-journey-tickets-57549887262>

Theology Pub — April 5, Friday at 7 p.m.

There is a fascination in today's world with the unseen world. What are Christians to think about witches, warlocks, ghosts, demons, psychokinesis (or telekinesis), and other occult, spiritual, and other-worldly phenomena? Our guest, David Reed, acted as a theological expert for forty different paranormal cases presented on Ghostly Encounters, which ran for 2005 to 2011. David in conversation with Steve Hewko, will dig deeper into this topic. A question and answer period will follow. See you on Friday in Leonard Hall at 7 p.m.! No registration is required.

A promotional poster for 'Theology Pub' events. On the left is a stylized black and white illustration of a beer mug with foam, featuring the text 'THEOLOGY PUB' and wheat stalks at the base. The background is a textured orange. To the right of the mug, the text reads: 'WHEN: Last Friday of every month, 7:00pm', 'WHERE: Leonard Hall, Wycliffe College', and logos for 'the meeting house' and 'Wycliffe College' at the bottom.

WHEN:
Last Friday of every month, 7:00pm

WHERE:
Leonard Hall, Wycliffe College

the meeting house Wycliffe College

The Plight of the Middle Eastern Church: A Lunch with Rev Dr Canon White — April 29

Join us for a light lunch and hear from our special guest The Rev. Dr. Canon Andrew White. This event is open to the public but space is limited. *Note this event has been moved from Apr 1 to 29th. Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-plight-of-the-middle-eastern-church-a-lunch-with-rev-dr-canon-white-tickets-58655070896>

News & Announcements

From the Registrar

Featured Summer Courses: Would you like to participate in an on-campus course, but cannot get out of the office? Consider one of the two evening courses offered this summer. The first is **Revolution, Prophecy, and Millennialism, 1789-1850**, runs over six weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings, and is taught by Thomas Power. It is offered at both the 3000 and 6000 level and is cross listed in history and theology. The second is **Beyond Bumper Stickers: Christian Ethics for Ministry** and runs over eight weeks on Monday evenings. It is co-taught by Jonathan Clemens and Michael Buttrey. Please see the Wycliffe course listings for further details on each:

www.wycliffecollege.ca/summercourses. **Registration for summer courses opens April 1, 2019.**

April 29th—TST Language Exams and Registration

Please note that TST Language exams will take place on April 29th. Please register by April 19th. See details here: <https://www.tst.edu/academic/language-exams-courses>

Chapel Services

Morning Prayer
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.

Wine Before Breakfast
Tue, 7:22 a.m.

Taize Evening Prayer
Mon, 5:30 p.m.

Sung Evensong
Tue, 5:30 p.m.

Community Eucharist
Wed, 4:45 p.m.

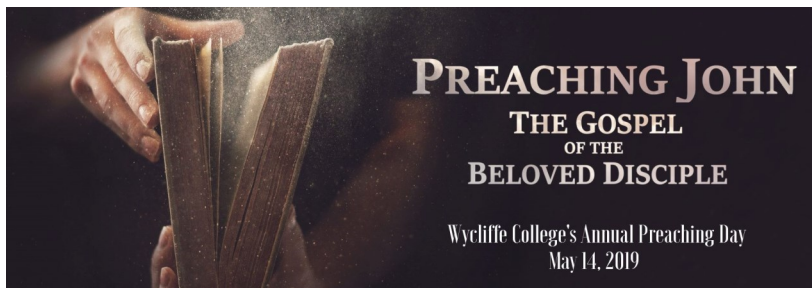
Prayer & Praise
Thu, 5:00 p.m.

Informal Evening Prayer
Fri, 5:30 p.m.

More Event(s) Coming Up

Preaching Day — May 14, 2019

This year Dr Joseph Mangina and the Rev. Dr. Annette Brownlee will be looking at the gospel of the beloved disciple, the book of John. Dr Mangina is close to completing a new book on John's gospel while Dr Brownlee's recently released book *Preaching Jesus Christ Today* provides a constructive approach for the busy preacher who seeks to be faithful to the text. <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/preachingday>



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