



CANADIAN SOUTHERN BAPTIST SEMINARY & COLLEGE

Rob Blackaby, President

Introduction

It is still remarkable that in the mid-1980s a meager collection of Canadian Southern Baptist leaders embraced the daunting challenge of establishing a new convention of churches in their country. The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists (now the Canadian National Baptist Convention) purposed to operate in Canada with the same missional zeal typical of the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States. That fledgling denomination, in a unique partnership with the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, had as its first act the establishment of a seminary where Canadian leaders could be trained for effective ministry in Canada and around the world.

To the original Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary was later added the Canadian Baptist College. Together these schools have been marked by a commitment to train God-called men and women for twenty-first century leadership in tough places. As we embark on the next twenty-five years we believe the work of the seminary and college has never been more critical. The small group of churches that began the school has grown to almost 300 churches today, with a vision to become 1,000 churches in less than another decade. Our school can play a pivotal role in the realization of that vision.

With our twenty-third graduation ceremony on May 5, we witnessed God dispatch still more alumni to regions across Canada. We now have alumni of our school serving from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast and moving further and further north toward our expansive Territories. The church-planting vision of the Canadian National Baptist Convention has thoroughly captured the imagination of many, and they are daring to venture into Canada's tough places for the sake of Christ and the expansion of His Kingdom.

In addition to our alumni serving in Canada we have other alumni who are spread around the globe serving as missionaries. That missionary zeal infused into

our school since our inception has resulted in graduates who have chosen to leave Canada to go to places that are tougher still.

In this significant season of celebration I invite you to affirm anew our founding philosophy of education, "to be committed to achieving excellence in theological education, while maintaining a proper balance of zeal with knowledge, prayer with action, and dependence on God with the development of practical skills." (Seminary Bylaws, Article 1, Section 7) To accomplish these objectives seminary personnel are now, as they have always been, absolutely committed to the authority of God's Word in faith and in practice, and by their example and exhortation will lead students to a like commitment.

This anniversary year will be filled with a wonderful combination of memories, changes, growth, and new dreams. We thank God for the heritage we enjoy and we honour those pioneers who have gone before us to lay a solid foundation for theological education and training in Canada. We continue to work toward adaptations and adjustments necessary in the changing social and cultural environment within which theological education is delivered. We ask God to grow our abilities to be effective as we train successive generations of leaders for tough places. And we adopt a posture of expectancy for new dreams that God will give us for more expansive Christian ministry in the twenty-first century.

REPORT

As is my custom I will begin this President's Report with Ministry Highlights that have occurred since our last Trustee Meeting, followed by comments related to progress that has been made in addressing institution-wide Critical Issues.

Ministry Highlights

This year our Spiritual Emphasis Week was held September 13-16. The theme was "Participating in



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a Kingdom Movement". The speaker for the first four sessions was Cesar Parra, a member of our 2011 graduating class, whose theme was "Evangelism: Discovering New Kingdom Participants." The speaker for our final day was Gary Smith, whose theme was "Becoming a Catalyst for Kingdom Expansion". The week was a powerful and impacting charge with which to start a new academic year.

There is much to report that pertains to our Academic Department. Having received accreditation from ATS for two new masters degrees this past spring, we were excited this past fall semester to begin offering courses required for the completion of those degrees. The MA (Biblical Studies) and the MA in Christian Ministry (three tracks are Pastoral Leadership, Missions and Church Planting, and Applied Ministry) show early promise as effective and expedited avenues for training God-called men and women for twenty-first century leadership in tough places.

The special week in February dedicated to Academic Lectureship was a success as we welcomed Daniel Block to train us in "The Gospel According to Moses." Attendance at each of the five sessions was consistently good, and the lectures are now available to the public on our web site, under "Online Chapel Services."

In the absence of Kevin Peacock and Glenn Watson this past spring semester we were blessed to welcome back Dr. Jimmie Nelson as a guest faculty member. As in the past, he fit in well with our faculty and has made a good impact on our total school community.

In preparation for our 25th Anniversary Weekend, August 24-25, 2012, Barry Nelson is responsible for arranging for Dr. Karen Bullock to write a concise history of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College. Not only will this be a treasure for our school community and a further demonstration of Dr. Bullock's partnership with us in theological education, but it is also the most recent example of a rich and growing relationship with B.H. Carroll

Theological Institute. Also from this school in 2011 and 2012 we have benefited from Norma Hedin and Bud Smith, who have done a fabulous job teaching our students. Both professors are scheduled to teach for us again in 2013.

This May we have welcomed Dr. Alvin Reid of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to teach an intensive course on Prayer and Spiritual Awakenings, as well as Dr. Roger Freeman (recently retired from FBC Clarksville, TN) to teach an intensive course on John Bunyan and Pilgrim's Progress. This May we were also pleased to welcome Randy Davis, Executive Director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, to be the Commencement Speaker during our Graduation Ceremony. Our school still has a year and half left in the partnership between us and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

It is a joy to have already welcomed Kevin and Brenda Peacock back to our campus. Kevin will resume teaching in the fall semester. Glenn and Sherri Watson are scheduled to return in mid-summer ready to resume their respective duties in the fall semester.

We were saddened this semester to receive Jimmy Cobb's resignation. On April 27 he taught his last class as a faculty member with us. It is impossible to fully estimate the ways in which God has used him to enrich and develop our school since his arrival in 1996, but we can celebrate his legacy and express openly our appreciation for his exemplary life as a minister of the Gospel of Christ and as a first-class academician who never allowed his scholarship to be divorced from community life.

Again this year graduated 11 students. Four students completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Christian Ministry (BCMin) degree: Chad Garris, Joonha Hwang, Dan Rempel, and Yuta Seki. One student completed the requirements for the Master of Arts Biblical Studies degree: Hanjoon Lee. Six students completed the requirements for the Master Divinity (MDiv) degree: Shin Hwang, Zeta Lee, Amanda Porter, Nathan Vedoya, Sean Jay Vedoya,



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and Rachel Phillips.

Given the fact that we are operating this year on an amended budget, it is all the more miraculous that God has enabled us to increase our staff in the Development and Recruitment Departments. Early in 2012 Kristie Watson resigned from her position in the Development Office, and we prayed that God would direct us to an able replacement.

Instead God arranged for us to hire by the end of January two people, Dan Kazmaier and Mike Sharkey. Both Dan and Mike are current students, and will be working part-time in the Development Department. Each brings a wealth of skills and abilities. Also early in 2012 Jay Maynard resigned from the position of Cochrane Campus Recruitment Coordinator. By the end of February God arranged for us to hire Chris Ney as our Recruiter (chiefly responsible to be a presence at planned off-site regional recruitment opportunities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, and the Dakotas) and Jon Anderson as our Cochrane Campus Recruitment Coordinator (chiefly responsible to provide a consistent presence on the CSBS&C campus). It is amazing to see God's hand in all of this. To get four very qualified students working in two offices within the budget allotted for two people is divine grace.

As of a little over a month ago Shaw Cable has brought their line to the property boundary of our campus. This is a significant development in our infrastructure that could easily go unrecognized because it will soon be buried. But the arrival of high speed cable on our campus is a substantial upgrade. Rather than having to cope with the frustratingly inconsistent service of three separate towers we will be physically connected to the Shaw Network. It is anticipated that each student will soon have access to a bundle including phone, internet, and cable TV that ensures reliability. The CNBC offices will also benefit from Shaw services.

During 2011 much-needed and in some cases much-overdue physical improvements to our campus were

completed. In most cases these improvements were chronically postponed year after year due to a lack in available funds. But in both 2009 and 2010 we satisfied our Annual Fund Goal, allowing us to finally tackle obvious trouble areas. This summer, for example, we repaved a significant portion of the road into our campus. What was left of the funds from our Sewer Campaign covered the majority of the cost to our school for this project. Also this summer we finished laying new carpet throughout the Academic Building. The new carpet replaced the flooring original to the building which had become so worn in high-traffic areas as to become hazardous.

While physical improvements are easy to recognize on our campus, other improvements that are just as critical are largely unnoticed. Chief of these upgrades is IT improvements, like the overhaul of our exchange server. Wasim Ahmed has been a key asset to our school in helping us navigate toward technological soundness again. Few realize the precarious state that our IT infrastructure was in. We now have confidence in our systems and are in the midst of a system-wide upgrade to Windows 7 and Outlook 2010.

Critical Issues

The following headers represent the three Critical Issues we have been addressing as a school during the 2011/2012 academic year. While the detailed line items pertaining to each issue are not included here, I have provided a sampling of most recent accomplishments.

Critical Issue #1: Student Discovery and Enhancement

While we continue to work on finalizing blue prints for the Kids-Helping-Kids Building, we do not anticipate entering into a capital campaign until late 2013 at the earliest. At that time we will contract the services of a professional group (like The Timothy Group or The Focus Group) to work with us in developing a pre-campaign, campaign, and stewardship strategy.



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Al Landriault has been developing a comprehensive all-play strategy for recruiting that incorporates all CSBS&C constituents (faculty, staff and students). Ed Allen, our Facilities Manager, is a great example of this. Twice already this semester he has spoken on behalf of our school, first in Colorado and then in Alberta. Under Steve Booth's leadership faculty members are purposefully "calling out the called" wherever they speak. It is exciting to hear reports monthly in Faculty Meetings of prospective students discovered by each professor.

Current student participation in recruitment initiatives has been significantly heightened through the Student Ambassador Program. Beginning with the fall 2011 incoming class we are asking students to commit five hours per semester to help further the efforts of either the Recruitment Office or the Development Office. This is a reasonable response to the generous investment made in our students by our donors, convention, and partners.

Critical Issue #2: Institutional Advancement

For close to two years Barry Nelson and I have been meeting with (what we have termed) a Land Development Team. This small group of local businessmen is working with us to develop a portion of our property for the purpose of income generation. These men have made initial presentations to officials with the Town of Cochrane for the purpose of establishing a storage lot for RVs, etc. on the southwest corner of our property.

Beginning in the fall semester Sabine Koster and I began to rent out to the public at least six (a block) of our vacant student housing units. This is being done in six month lease terms. This summer we will increase the number of public units to eight. When those are full, it will generate in a year close to \$100,000 of revenue for our school.

In June our Mountainview Christian Bookstore was the sole distributor of materials at the Calgary Beth Moore conference. This was a sizable event, and Marion Brunning and Sabine Koster successfully bid

for the right to serve the thousands of ladies who were in attendance. It is anticipated that this event will have ensured a healthy profit margin for our bookstore in 2012.

We continue to work toward the launch of a Toronto Regional Campus. We submitted a proposal for funding to Toronto-based foundation. They asked for a secondary and more detailed proposal to be submitted by mid-May. That proposal has now been submitted. Once we have secured funding we will be able to move forward.

The transition from the North American Baptist Education Foundation to the Women's Missionary Union Foundation is complete, and we are thrilled with the relationship that is developing between our school and David George, WMUF Executive Director. They have been of great help to us with marketing in the United States, communication with our current donors, and the discovery of new donors.

Critical Issue #3: Enhanced Ownership by Constituency

Much work is being done on our 25th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend, scheduled for August 24-25, 2012. Beginning on the evening of August 24 we expect to welcome alumni and friends of our school for a camp out. Saturday will be a full day of activity, and we will conclude the weekend with live performances by High Valley and Carolyn Arends. This will be a unique and important opportunity for us to recognize the community God has developed in, through and around the CSBS&C, and to give us increased exposure in the Calgary area Christian community.

Recent Testimonials

I would like to share two testimonials from 2011 seminary graduates. Both men were led spontaneously to send notes of encouragement to our school, and these notes are representative of numerous other encouraging correspondences we received throughout the past year. The first came from Trevor



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Schaffrick, now a CNBC pastor in Fairview, Alberta. He wrote:

[CSBS] prepared me to expect little earthly gratification for my kingdom labour, rather to seek the face of God for my encouragement. Jesus, whom Paul calls the "lord of glory" in 1 Cor. 2:8, says of himself that he "came not to be served, but to serve" (Mt. 20:28), and I think that his example is reflected in the lives and the teaching of the seminary family. I left seminary with the understanding that neither the world nor the church nor God owes me anything. And as a result, any benefits I receive in the harvest field are not a dividend which I am owed, but a gift I must receive by grace.

I have no doubt that there are tougher places to serve than mine. I tip my hat to every church planter and missionary whose only contact in their field is the God who has gone ahead of them. I have simply found that wherever I am called, or could have been called, I am in debt to the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary for driving home the fact that not a single blessing I receive has been duly earned, but comes over and above the rewards that wait beyond my earthly tour of duty. And as my church is celebrating Pastor Appreciation MONTH (as if a day had been too short), I am evermore certain that I cannot out-give God. Let us all take for granted that obedience to God ALWAYS leads us to a tough place, so we will be genuinely surprised and overwhelmed by the mercies we find along the way.

Cesar Parra, who is preparing with his wife Mary to be deployed to Europe as one of our International Mission Board missionaries, said:

I write this note because there is a man in our church that criticized my preaching from the

beginning of my ministry. Criticized me in business meetings, in my visions and passions, but always faithful in present every Sunday. But this past Sunday, he walked up to me, hugged me for the first time and said, "My dear pastor, thank God for our seminary, for your obedience to go because they have trained you to be a great preacher and today it was an honor to hear you preach." I said, thank you brother, and thank you for being faithful to this church while I was away. . . . I just wanted to say that you guys have changed my life in ministry. I miss you and every time I prepare a sermon I remember all of you when I study the language, the history, the theology, the ethics and the application of my sermon. Thank God for the great men God prepared me with. I hope and pray that I may finish well and represent our seminary well here and if God willing in Europe because it the least I could do for all you've done for me!

What an encouragement these letters are to us as we once again embark on a journey of faith in Christ.

Concluding Remarks

As I reflect on my past five years (as of April 1, 2012) of service as the President of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College, I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given to participate in the worthy goal of **training God-called men and women for twenty-first century leadership in tough places**. I feel privileged together with all of our faculty and staff to provide theological education for those called to lead in churches, marketplace ministry, and other Christian ministries seeking to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in Canada and around the world. It remains my honour to serve as the President of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College at such a time as this.