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*Connection* (Tyndale University College & Seminary), Preview Edition (Fall 2010)



# connection

Fall 2010  
[preview edition]



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**TYNDALE**  
University College & Seminary



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tyndale University College & Seminary is a unique place. For over a century, through expansions, name changes, geographical relocations and institutional crisis, it has kept its focus. Never has it wavered from its mission—to form and educate generations to be effective and transformational people of faith in the times and places in which they are located.

Courageous leaders have made daring choices. Initially, they established a school in downtown Toronto, which later merged with London College of Bible and Missions. Then a seminary was birthed, and most recently the Bible college transitioned to a university college. None of these decisions were easy. They were, however, critical and strategic. I am humbled by those who have gone

before me and excited to be joining Tyndale in this chapter of its life.

Tyndale is one of the best kept secrets in Canada. The seminary is a creative and cutting edge centre for theological education. Innovative delivery systems make theological education accessible not simply to pastoral leaders but to the whole people of God. The local church and





its mission are at the centre of its focus, and the multicultural nature of our reality in Canada is embraced through programs in Chinese ministries and global intercultural studies. Tyndale is recognized as the most multi-cultural seminary in North America. The innovation continues.

Moving to university college status in this new millennium came at a time when Bible colleges were seeking to find their place in a rapidly changing society. It was not a value judgment on the past but rather a response to the needs of the future. The context has changed but the need is ever the same—to produce faithful people willing to engage winsomely and wisely the cultures in which God places them. In just seven short years, the wisdom of that decision is already flourishing. Our students are moving from accredited degrees into the marketplace, from honours studies into graduate schools in Canada, the United States and abroad, and from the exploration of undergraduate education to degree completion programs that allow them to finish long-desired dreams.

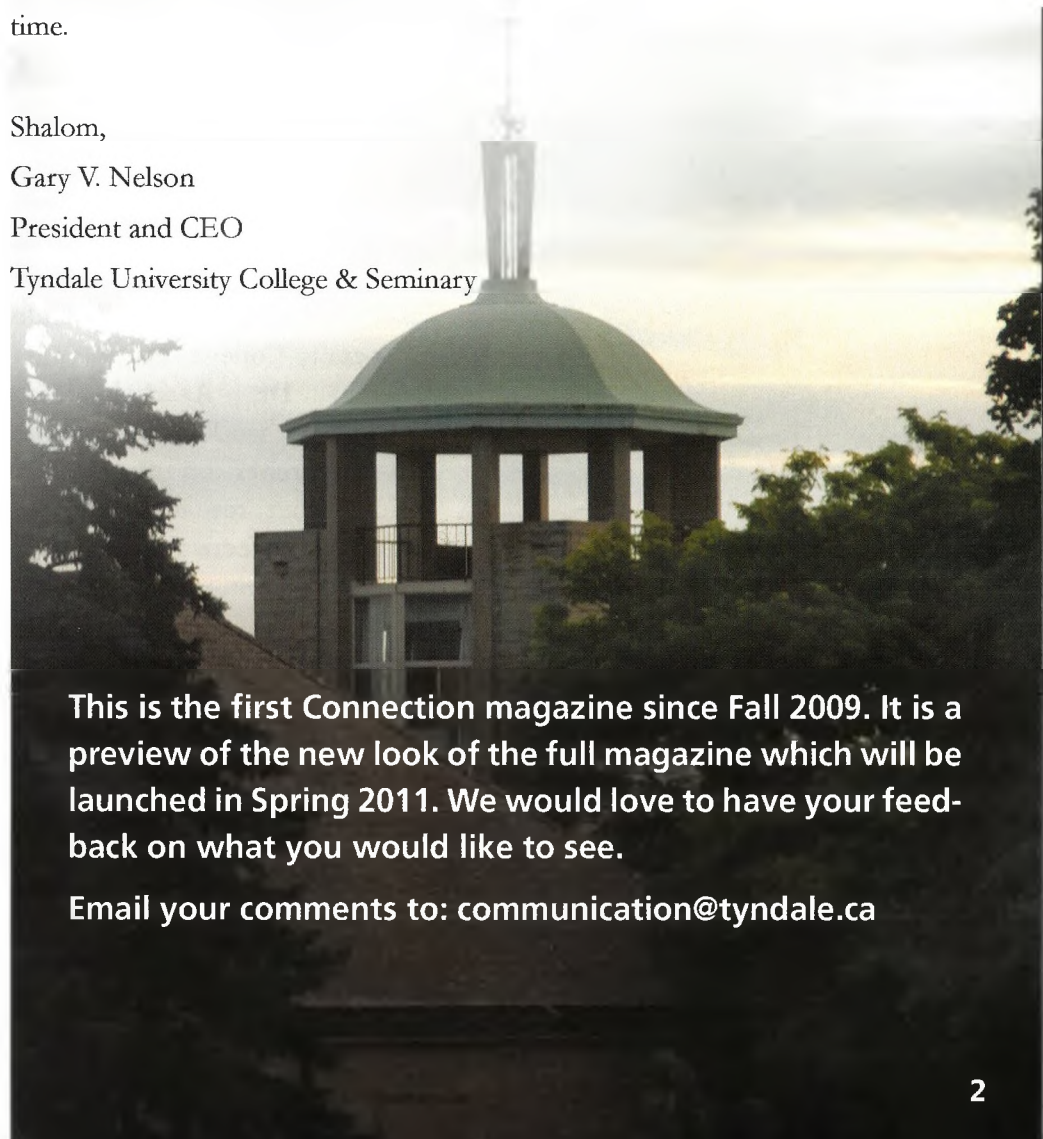
**“We began on the ‘main street’ as two small dynamic schools—one at Spadina and Bloor in Toronto and the other on Queen St. in London—and our move to Bayview returns us to that context.”**

A growing and thoughtful liberal arts program is supported by burgeoning Psychology and Business departments. The new Bachelor of Education degree after graduating two classes already is bearing fruit. Public and private school boards are recognizing Tyndale students as particularly well equipped for the classrooms of today.

In fact, over 80% of graduates from the first BEd cohort have a teaching position—an amazing statistic given today’s hiring market. Tyndale education professors are some of the leading participants in the development of textbooks and curriculum resources for Ontario schools.

Our move to the new Bayview Campus brings us back to our beginnings. We began on the ‘main street’ as two small dynamic schools—one at Spadina and Bloor in Toronto and the other on Queen Street in London—and our move to Bayview Avenue returns us to that context. The mission is the same. What a privilege to be asked to serve as President at this time.

Shalom,  
Gary V. Nelson  
President and CEO  
Tyndale University College & Seminary



**This is the first Connection magazine since Fall 2009. It is a preview of the new look of the full magazine which will be launched in Spring 2011. We would love to have your feedback on what you would like to see.**

**Email your comments to: [communication@tyndale.ca](mailto:communication@tyndale.ca)**



# Social Skills Camp for Children with Autism

Tyndale psychology students gain an opportunity for hands-on, practical research



Tyndale Research in Autism and Community Education (TRACE) is a not-for-profit organization which has been formed to conduct research, offer autism intervention services such as social skills summer camps, and provide seminars and training programs to parents and professionals.

**“I love working with kids with autism,” says Dr. Amanda Azarbehi, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tyndale University College. For the past decade, Dr. Azarbehi has focused her work as a therapist and researcher on autism. At Tyndale, her research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of early autism intervention programs.**

This year, 29 children with Autism Spectrum Disorder participated in a series of week-long Social Skills Camps conducted on the Tyndale campus—the first in March and four in August. Tyndale’s Social Skills Camps create unique learning experiences for everyone involved.

“The kids in the camp are getting a great camp experience. We’re teaching them

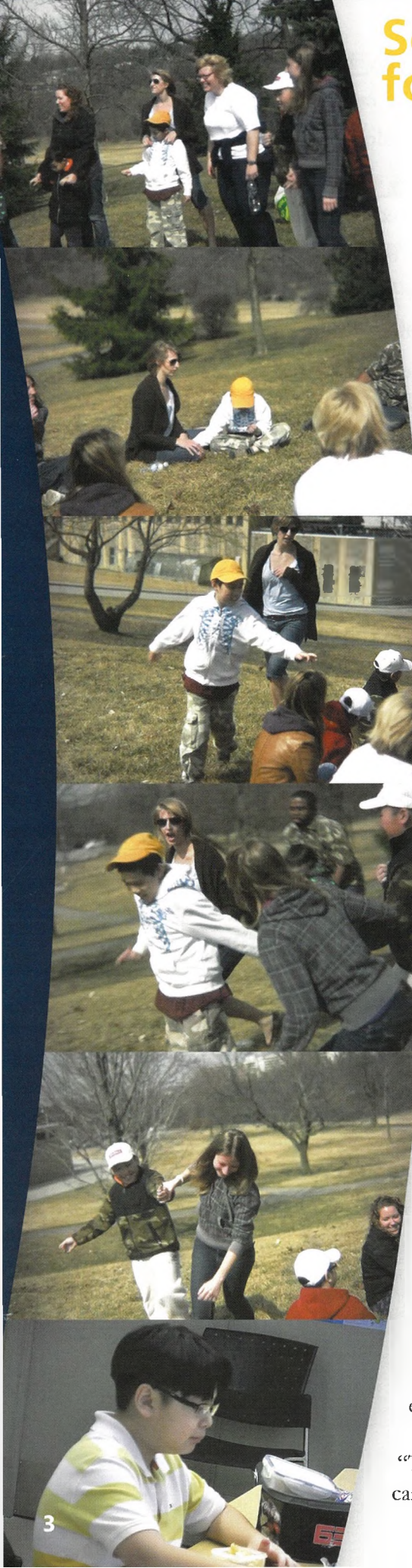
skills and we’re helping to develop the areas where they need to develop,” says Dr. Azarbehi. “At the same time, as a researcher I’m getting a great opportunity to gather information and research materials.”

The Social Skills Camps also provide unparalleled learning opportunities for Tyndale students, who serve as staff members at the camps. In addition, students will work with autistic children at two “play and learn” sessions planned for the fall.

“It’s been so fun and engaging, and really tested my teaching skills,” says Whitney Reeve, a fourth-year student in the Psychology program. For Whitney, the camps provided for her an opportunity to do hands-on research while helping children with autism develop greater confidence and learn to practice the skills needed in social settings.

As a small university, Tyndale is able to offer students exceptional academic opportunities like the Social Skills Camp, which are often not available at other schools. “Typically in undergraduate programs it’s all textbook learning,” says Dr. Azarbehi. “You don’t get any hands-on experience in a psychology program until you’re in a Masters or PhD. I’m so happy I can give my students here a taste of that experience.” The program will continue with bi-monthly parent seminars and children learn and play times throughout the fall and winter.

For more information about TRACE, visit [www.tyndale.ca/trace](http://www.tyndale.ca/trace).





# A MISSIONAL APPROACH

Tyndale has been educating and equipping Christians to serve the world for over 115 years. While the world has changed radically over that time, our goal remains the same. At Tyndale Seminary, we challenge students to understand this changing context and help them develop the skills they need to faithfully engage culture and participate in the mission of God in the world.

According to Donald Goertz, Director of the In-Ministry MDiv Program and Associate Professor of Church History, “There is a basic rhythm which helps us understand missional—that is, a rhythm of being sent and gathered. We speak of the church as a ‘sent out’ community, which listens together discerning where God’s redemptive reign is at work in the world and then enters into this activity in order to serve as Christ in word and deed, by the power of the Holy Spirit.” He further states that a missional approach is about coming together as a community. “We are a community gathered together by the Spirit from all walks of life, socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities and ages, intentionally serving as a sign of the Kingdom by worshipping our Lord and breaking down dividing walls.”

This past summer and during the fall, three exciting courses at three different locations are preparing Tyndale students to engage people in the city, across our country and around the world.

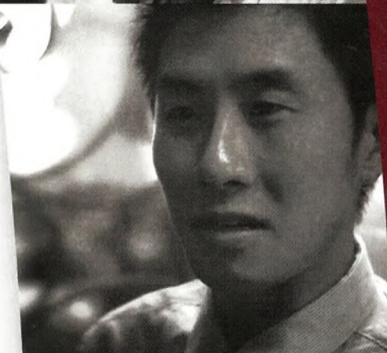
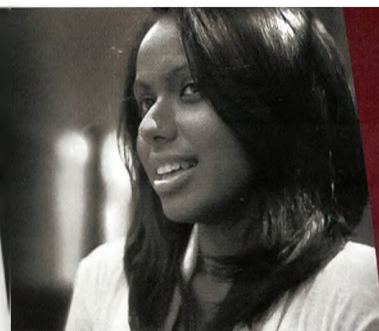
In July, Tyndale students explored the challenges and opportunities of presenting the transforming message of Jesus Christ to people in a

pluralistic world. *Evangelism and the Missional Church*—a course in Oakville led by alumnus Bruxy Cavey, Teaching Pastor of The Meeting House—helped students consider a variety of issues, including culture, contextualization, social justice and the revitalization of the local church.

In the fall term, Rick Tobias, Adjunct Professor of Urban Missiology and President and CEO of Yonge Street Mission, will focus students on the unique dynamics of ministry in an urban environment. The course, *Urban Ministry I - Understanding the City*, will be conducted at Yonge Street Mission and support students as they develop a biblical and practical approach to urban ministry while studying in an urban setting.

Also this fall, Dr. Wafik Wahba, Associate Professor of Global Christianity, will explore mission in the global context. The *Perspectives on Global Mission* course will help students understand the impact of culture on communication and explore new methodologies that complement traditional ways of doing mission. The course will incorporate Cape Town 2010, the third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization as it occurs in October.

Each seminary student who participates in these and other courses represents a unique opportunity to be God’s transforming presence in a different place and a different way. Gordon Poon, after completing an undergraduate degree in film, says, “I came to Tyndale to learn more and have got so much out of it. I’m really serious about being missional and feel compelled to be a witness not only in church but in our communities.”





# Sokreaksa Himm's Journey from the Killing Fields to Forgiveness

The story of  
Sokreaksa S. Himm, 2010  
distinguished alumnus of  
Tyndale University College

Sokreaksa was an eleven-year-old boy in a large Cambodian family when the country fell to the Communists in April 1975. Soon Khmer Rouge soldiers drove Sokreaksa's family—along with millions of other city dwellers—into the countryside to work in forced labour camps.

The day came when Sokreaksa and his entire family were marched out of the labour camp to a clearing in the Cambodian jungle. Standing by a freshly-dug, makeshift grave, young Khmer Rouge soldiers began swinging hoes and axes that cut down all 13 members of his family.

"There were a lot of bodies falling over me," remembers Sokreaksa, "and I heard the hacking blades, chopping, butchering, slaughtering, screaming."

The soldiers walked away laughing, thinking that everyone was dead. However, Sokreaksa survived and the next morning he climbed out of the grave and eventually reached the safety of a refugee camp in Thailand. In time, he made his way to a new life in Canada.

Although Sokreaksa had escaped the physical horrors of the killing fields, he remained an emotional captive to his traumatic experience. "The memories really hurt me," says Sokreaksa, "and I was living my life in deep depression."

When Sokreaksa found faith in Jesus Christ, he began a journey of healing that changed his own heart. Sokreaksa enrolled at Tyndale, where he grew in his faith and began to develop skills that enabled him to return to Cambodia. During those years, he published his first book, *The Tears of My Soul*, where he describes his journey from horror, suffering and loss into freedom, faith and purpose in life.

At the same time, God was preparing Sokreaksa for an incredible journey of forgiveness and reconciliation, which he describes in a second book, *After the Heavy Rain*. Once he completed a

graduate degree at Providence Theological Seminary, Sokreaksa returned to Cambodia. In his old village, Sokreaksa found two of the soldiers who had murdered his family. One of the soldiers showed no remorse for his actions. The other man told Sokreaksa that he had been ordered to kill or be killed himself. He knew what he had done was wrong and asked for forgiveness.

"I had longed to hear those words for nearly 30 years of my life," says Sokreaksa. "After those words, I just broke down."

Since then Sokreaksa and his wife Sophaly, along with their two children, Philos and Sophia, have planted five house churches and started a primary school. Among the 200 students at the school are five children of the unrepentant soldier.

Sokreaksa's experience has clearly focused his mission message. "Cambodians have suffered so much emotional and psychological pain, nothing will ever make them whole again, except the healing message of the hope, love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ."



Updates on the lives of our  
Tyndale alumni can be found on:

[www.tyndale.ca/alumni](http://www.tyndale.ca/alumni)



# DR. JANET CLARK APPOINTED

to Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs



**Dr. Janet Clark, Academic Dean of the Seminary, has been appointed Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at Tyndale University College & Seminary.**

Dr. Clark brings to the position proven experience as a senior academic administrator and a professor of counselling and experiential learning, as well as an international perspective from her work in global missions. She is passionate about holistic education that interweaves the

spiritual, vocational and missional dimensions of Christian engagement in a pluralist society.

“Dr. Clark has provided exemplary leadership as the Academic Dean of the Seminary over the last five years,” says Tyndale President, Dr. Gary Nelson. “She is well respected in her field of study and in the association in which we are accredited as a Seminary. Her transition to this position will allow her leadership and visionary skills to influence the entire academic life of Tyndale.”

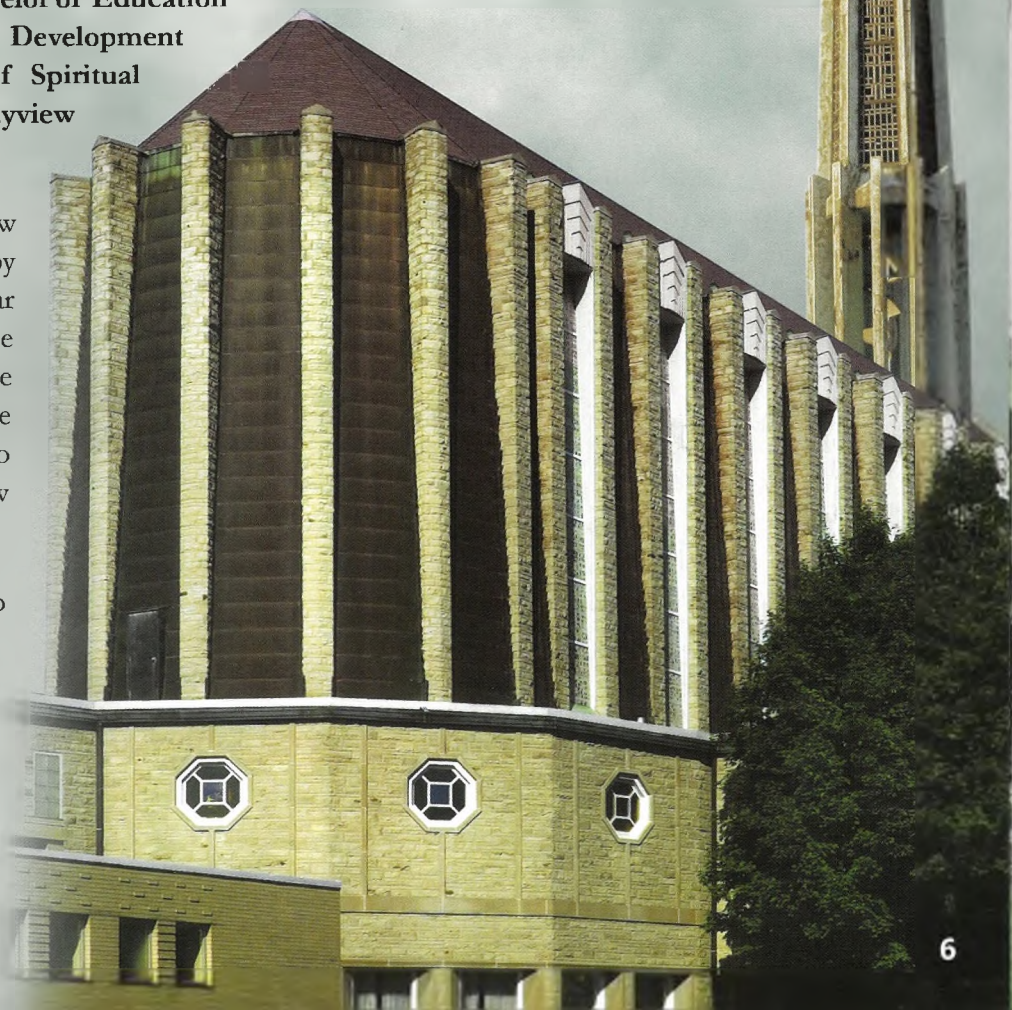
## Tyndale's Move to the Bayview Campus

**Moving day is an exciting time for any family. Since May 2007, the Tyndale family has been moving into our new and larger home, the Morrow Park facilities on Bayview Avenue. The Bachelor of Education program, The Tyndale Foundation, the Development office and the Tyndale Association of Spiritual Directors are already located at the Bayview Campus.**

Tyndale's move into the new Bayview Campus is ongoing and will be completed by June 30, 2013. During this three-year window, Tyndale will increase its presence on the beautiful campus while allowing the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto and the Toronto Catholic District School Board to relocate their existing programs to new facilities.

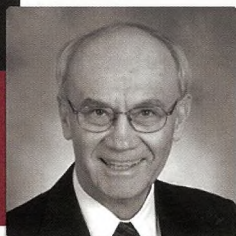
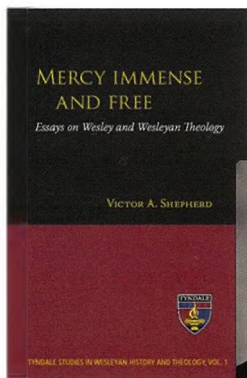
We are delighted that Tyndale will be able to use some classrooms and related areas of the school at the Bayview Campus during this period of transition.

We look forward to the opportunities that the Bayview Campus will allow us to pursue. And we thank God and the support of His people for helping us realize this dream.





# Faculty Highlights



## Dr. Victor Shepherd

**BA and MA (University of Toronto), BD and ThD (Emmanuel College, University of Toronto), STD (Roberts Wesleyan College)**

Dr. Victor Shepherd is Professor of Philosophy and Theology cross-appointed at the Seminary and University College. He was the first occupant of the Donald N. and Kathleen G. Bastian Chair of Wesley Studies at Tyndale and is also an Adjunct Professor at Trinity College and Wycliffe College, University of Toronto where he supervises doctoral students. In 2005 he was made Professor Ordinarius of The University of Oxford, U.K., and is a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Author of eleven books, Dr. Shepherd has written extensively about the theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin, and is considered to be among the world's best Calvin scholars. Dr. Shepherd has also addressed learned societies, including the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. Dr. Shepherd's most recent book is titled *Mercy Immense and Free: Essays on Wesley and Wesleyan Theology*. In the book, readers explore the intellectual, social and religious context of John Wesley's theology to appreciate the broad and significant influence of his thinking in many streams of the church.

A pastor for four decades, Dr. Shepherd believes that Wesley's insistence on "practical divinity" remains exceptionally relevant for all Christians who seek to express their faith in the turbulence of the modern world.

## Prof. Trevor Brown

**BA Hons and MA (York University), PGCE (Birmingham University)**

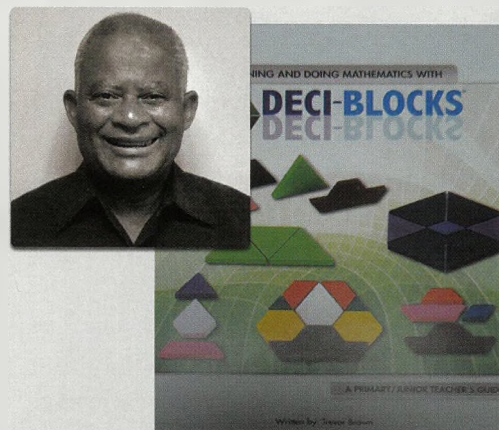
"Mathematics is far more than a series of exercises in a book," says Trevor Brown, Associate Professor of Education at Tyndale University College. As an educator, he believes "the teaching of mathematics is to show students how to think mathematically, to look at alternate ways of solving problems."

Brown's dedication to this goal has made him a well-known conference speaker in the Canadian mathematics community. He combines a dynamic presentation style with thought-provoking ideas that inspire teachers to look for new ways to help students solve problems.

He has contributed to many new mathematics publications including the Addison Wesley textbook series, *Mathematics Makes Sense*. He is past Director of Mathematics Education at OISE/University of Toronto and editor of *The Abacus*, the publication of the Ontario Association of Mathematics Educators. Brown continues to invest in teachers as a math consultant.

"As teachers we are continually looking for innovative and exciting ways to motivate and stimulate our students to think mathematically," says Brown. And to that end, he has recently developed a novel educational tool called Deci-Blocks that relates mathematics directly to a student's experience.

In his latest books, *Learning and Doing Mathematics with Deci-Blocks: A Primary/Junior Teacher's Guide* and *Learning and Doing Mathematics with Deci-Blocks: A Junior/Intermediate Teacher's Guide*, Brown shows how teachers can use this mathematical tool to teach concepts such as fractions, ratios, decimals, area, perimeter, percent and algebraic thinking.





## Dr. Elizabeth Davey

BA (Seattle Pacific University), MA (University of Washington), MA (York University), PhD (University of Wales)

Dr. Elizabeth Davey has taught English Literature at Tyndale since 1976. Over the years she introduced a variety of courses—*Milton*, *Studies in C.S. Lewis*, *Canadian Literature and Culture*, *Key Figures in American Literature*, and *Religious Themes in Literature*. She was instrumental in developing the Writing Centre and has also served the University College as Associate Dean, Director of Leading Edge and Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department.

She has just finished her doctoral work on Margaret Avison, who twice was awarded the Governor General's Award for poetry and made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1985. Dr. Davey's work, *A Kind of Perseverance: Margaret Avison's Poetry as Christian Witness*, explores the textures of the renowned poet's deep and complex Christian faith.



## Dr. Mark Chapman

BRS (Tyndale University College & Seminary), BA (University of Waterloo), MA (Wilfrid Laurier University), PhD (University of Toronto)

As of May 2010, Dr. Mark Chapman was appointed Assistant Professor, Research Methods for the Doctor of Ministry program. He has previously worked as Director of Extension Education and Assistant Professor of Christianity & Culture at Ambrose University College and as a sessional lecturer at Wilfrid Laurier University, McMaster University and the University of Toronto. His current research examines networks among Canadians who are trying to start new churches; the relationship between evangelical churches and visual art; and artists and interaction between Christian churches.

The Tyndale Doctor of Ministry program has been designed so that students may continue in their areas of ministry while studying at Tyndale. The program requires students to be on campus for three weeks, twice per year. While studying and pastoring can be demanding, Preston Pouteaux, a pastor in Calgary and DMin student, finds self-directed study and distance learning to be convenient. "Balance is always a challenge," he said. "But if you're doing something you love, it's very meaningful. All that we're learning is very applicable and pertinent. My biggest focus here is a deeper exploration of what it is to be *missional*," Pouteaux said in an interview from his Calgary office. "That's an important reason why I chose Tyndale, since Tyndale is focused on an exploration of being missional."



DMin Cohort with Dr. Mark Chapman (second from left) and Dr. Paul Bramer, DMin Director (first from left)



# Guest Speaker

## Dr. David Barnard

BSc, MSC, PhD (University of Toronto), DipCS (Regent College)

Dr. Barnard is the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. He is a distinguished academic leader and administrator. Prior to his appointment as President and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Manitoba in 2008, he served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina.

Previously, Dr. Barnard spent 19 years at Queen's University where he was a Professor of Computing and Information Science as well as serving in a number of senior administrative roles. Dr. Barnard is a plenary speaker at the Scholar's Colloquium, *Tyndale Thinks & Writes*, on October 1, 2010 at Tyndale's Ballyconnor Campus with the address, 'The Role of the University in the 21st Century.'

## Dr. Anna Robbins

BA (Carleton University), MRE and MA (Acadia University), PhD (University of Wales)

Dr. Robbins is Senior Lecturer in Theology and Contemporary Culture, London School of Theology, UK. She is the author of *Methods in the Madness* and *Sharing the Feast*. The focus of Dr. Robbins' work is the interface between theology, contemporary thought and apologetical method. She researches, writes, and speaks internationally, challenging Christians to think clearly about living a biblically-transformative faith in a rapidly-changing world. Dr. Robbins is also a plenary speaker for *Tyndale Thinks & Writes* on October 1, 2010 at Tyndale's Ballyconnor Campus. Her address, 'Can Societies Repent? Reflections on Ethics as Apologetics and the Moral Development of Society,' develops these themes.

# Highlights

## Dr. Eugene Peterson

BA (Seattle Pacific University), STB (New York Theological Seminary), MA (Johns Hopkins University), DHL (Seattle Pacific University)

Dr. Eugene H. Peterson is Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College, Vancouver. Among his many books are *Practice Resurrection*, *Under the Unpredictable Plant*, *Working the Angles*, *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work*, and *the*

popular contemporary Bible translation *The Message*. Tyndale Centre for Leadership has invited Dr. Peterson and others to speak at *The Lonely Road? Friendship and the Pastoral Life*. The conference—held at Tyndale's Ballyconnor Campus on October 25-27, 2010—will focus on the importance and recovery of Christian friendship in the pastoral life as a way to richly live out God's kingdom.



## Dr. Christopher Wright

PhD (University of Cambridge)

The Rev. Dr. Christopher J.H. Wright is the international director of the Langham Partnership International and serves on the ministry team at All Souls Church in London, England. Dr. Wright has a passion to bring to life the relevance of the Old Testament to Christian mission and ethics. He draws on a rich academic and ministry career that began as a high school teacher and has included serving as pastor, professor of Old Testament Studies, Academic Dean and College Principal. On November 9, 2010, Dr. Wright will lead a full-day symposium at Tyndale's Bayview Campus called *Reading Scripture through the Mission of God*.

Updates on our upcoming events can be found on [www.tyndale.ca/events](http://www.tyndale.ca/events).





# Community Updates



Stephen Harper w/ student Amy Gabriel ('10)

Amy Gabriel (BA '10) won second place and a \$5000 (USD) prize at the ISI-sponsored "The Culture of Enterprise" international student essay contest this summer.

Her essay, entitled, "Globalization: Two Alternative Visions," was developed during Dr. Craig Carter's course *Christianity and Culture* at Tyndale last Fall. The paper deals extensively with *The Brothers Karamazov*, and is a very well-crafted, interesting paper. She also worked as a summer intern for the Office of the Minister of National Defence in 2007.

## Alumni and former staff updates

### Bev Larmour

Bev Larmour (nee Petkau), (OBC, BRE '74) was a nominee for the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards for her volunteer work as the founding President of Asperger Manitoba.

### Peter Hagyo-Kovacs

Peter Hagyo-Kovacs (MDiv '01) is now a MA student at the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and one of the supervisors at the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavations in the Valley of Elah, Israel. Peter is currently researching and fund-raising as writer and director of his first documentary, titled, *Inside Jerusalem: Identity and the Ancient Past*, filmed in HD during Summer 2010.

### Sarah Lublink

Sarah Lublink (BRS '00), has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Oklahoma (OU).

## Books Recently Published by Alumni and former staff:

- *Majesty in Motion: Creating a Culture of Encouragement in All Your Relationships* by Stewart Brown (OBC, BTh '77 and OTS, MTS '85)
- *Choosing Work-Life Balance* by Walter Chan (MTS '01)
- *Unity and Diversity: Founders of the Free Methodist Church of Scotland* by Sandy Finlayson, former Library Director (MTS '02)
- *The Seven Messages of Revelation and Vassal Treaties*, Dr. David Graves (OBC, BTh '80)



## Tyndale Students serving Abroad

Tyndale students have been traveling all over the world as part of Tyndale's annual missions trips.

This past year, students traveled to Alaska, New Jersey, Kenya, India, Mexico and Japan to work with refugees, street children, remote

communities, oppressed women, university students and urban communities.

God has been doing incredible things through the Tyndale Japan Music team these last 3 years. The first-ever concert a Tyndale team had in Japan was the first ever Christian event of any kind to happen in the town. They have had opportunities to sing of God's holiness in Shinto shrines. The 2009 team even had a national Japanese news agency do an entire story on their work throughout Japan.

Tyndale has also had a team working in Kolkata, India for the last 4 years. The students have been working with child addicts and prostitutes as they partner with The Peoples Church Toronto missionaries, Monique and Stewart Shaw. Every year, as these team members work with the marginalized people of Kolkata, they learn to walk with them in their daily challenges, offering the hope of Jesus that changes both the student and those they serve.

If you would like to read the personal blogs of Tyndale students in mission, visit

[www.tyndale.ca/blogs/missions](http://www.tyndale.ca/blogs/missions).



Thank you for reading the preview of Tyndale's new magazine. It is the first since Fall 2009 and the full new magazine will be launched in Spring 2011. We would love to have your feedback on what you would like to see.

Email your comments to: [communication@tyndale.ca](mailto:communication@tyndale.ca)

## Tyndale's Mission Statement

Tyndale is dedicated to the pursuit of truth, to excellence in teaching, learning and research, for the enriching of mind, heart and character, to serve the church and the world for the glory of God.



Aerial view of Bayview Campus

[www.tyndale.ca](http://www.tyndale.ca)

25 Ballyconnor Court  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
M2M 4B3

Phone: 1-416-226-6380  
Fax: 1-416-226-6746  
Email: [contact@tyndale.ca](mailto:contact@tyndale.ca)