

NORTHEASTERN SEMINARY

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Middleton Appointment Reflects Core Enhancements

What happens when Northeastern Seminary's faculty sits down and thinks about how they can make the NES experience even better? This time it meant an enhancement of the Core curriculum and the related creation of a faculty position in biblical worldview and exegesis. Because our mission begins with the call to be rooted in both biblical and historical Christian faith and is often enacted by responding to a felt need, a continued development of the biblical studies aspect of the Core curriculum was central. Now, four new classes are aligned with the pre-existing four Core courses—*The Biblical Era*, *The Formative Era*, *The Protestant Era*, and *The Modern and Post-Modern Era*—and in each case are interwoven with the content of those Core classes. The first one, *Biblical Worldview*, provides an overview of Scripture with *The Biblical Era* as its context. *Biblical Exegesis I, II and III*, taken concurrently with the three subsequent Core courses, will provide students with hands-on training of exegetical methods salient to their respective eras.



We are pleased that biblical scholar Dr. J. Richard Middleton will take the lead in this area as he fills the newly created faculty position, teaching each new course in the redesigned Core. Dr. Middleton is a familiar face, previously serving as professor of biblical studies at Roberts Wesleyan College and teaching part time for the Seminary. He also serves as adjunct professor of Old Testament at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in Kingston, Jamaica and, beginning this year, is the newly elected president of the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association.

A native of Jamaica, Dr. Middleton moved to Canada for graduate studies before settling in the United States. While in Canada he coauthored *The Transforming Vision* (Intervarsity Press, 1984) and *Truth is Stranger Than It Used to Be* (InterVarsity Press/SPCK, 1995), which received a book-of-the-year award in 1996 from *Christianity Today*. Dr. Middleton holds a B.Th. from Jamaica Theological Seminary, an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Guelph, and a Ph.D. in Theology from the Free University in Amsterdam.

Richard is married to Marcia, his teenage sweetheart, and they have two sons, Andrew and Kevin. Due to their mixed cultural and national heritage, they consider themselves "Jamericadians."

Interested in studying under Dr. Middleton? *Biblical Worldview* will be offered as a five-week class during the fall semester. He will teach *Leadership and Power: Studies in I and II Samuel* on Monday evenings, as well. To enroll in these classes, please contact Jillian Pietruch at chilson_jillian@nes.edu or 585.594.6802.

Dr. J. Richard Middleton

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Visiting a Chinese Orphanage and Hope is Transformed

By Niki Brodeur, 2011 M.Div.

Equipped with coloring books, crayons, crafts, beads, toys, bubbles, lots of stickers and, admittedly, some apprehension, we entered the three-story orphanage halfway around the world. After many hours of travel, our team of 14 people from Northeastern Seminary and Roberts Wesleyan College finally arrived about an hour outside Fushun, China to share our first day with the children. This was like no other class I had taken so far at Northeastern Seminary.

From the teenage boys who lived on the first floor, to the younger children and teenage girls on the second floor, to the babies, toddlers, and severely disabled children on the third floor, what began as a mindset that viewed them with sympathy and distress gradually transformed into a perspective that allowed us to see each child with God's love and God's hope. Many of the children we grew to love during our six-day visit were living with palsy, Down syndrome, and other disorders. We were fortunate to visit an orphanage equipped to handle children with disabilities, including a therapy room and a doctor that regularly visited the children.

Coordinated through Visiting Orphans, a Christian organization dedicated to bringing the love of Christ to orphaned children, our team was able to share through smiles, hand gestures, and just by being present with them. The simple act of loving a child helped to bond our group, as well as bond each of us with the children. While we may have entered the orphanage with little hope for these children, we did not leave that way. As we watched them interact with each other, with their nannies, and particularly with the orphanage director, our hope grew into conviction that, though they may not have families, these children were loved by their caregivers.

One of the fun activities we had was shopping for toys and supplies for the orphanage. Over the course of the year the Seminary sold snacks to students, faculty and staff, a "snack ministry" of sorts, to raise over \$600 specifically for this purpose. We accompanied the orphanage director, who was like a kid in a candy store, as he picked out highchairs (that converted to a table and chair), rocking horses, and other toys. It was amazing to see how much could be provided for the orphanage with what we felt was a small amount of money. It was even better when we got to see the children's faces as they played with their new toys.

Though the team connected with many children, there was, of course, one that was to capture each member's attention in a special way. For me, it was a six-year-old boy. I called him "Ma-Fan" (Chinese for "trouble"). We spent most of the last few days together, painting, coloring, jumping rope, and laughing with and at each other. The last day, he kept repeating a sentence in Chinese to me. A nanny translated; he "wanted to go to my home and be American with me." I wept tears of love and sadness when we left.

Since the time I had registered for the course that assured me of "an opportunity to study the historical, political and cultural life of China" and "provide me with a context for critical theological reflection on the relationship between Christian ethics, theology and global culture," I had still wondered why God had me going on this trip to China. But the Spirit revealed the answer to me on the way to the orphanage one morning. Deep within me a hope steeped in reality grew—one day I would return to adopt a child. Until then, I (and the rest of our team) will continue to pray for China's orphaned sons and daughters and we encourage you to do the same. Not a day goes by that we don't think about China and its orphans. As for me, I will always remember how God changed my life and my heart, helping me to realize that love truly has no boundaries or barriers when it is wrapped in the love of Jesus Christ.



(l. to r.): Virginia and Beth Gerhardt, Jan Francis, Nicole Brodeur, Peter Rios, Sheritta Williams



Some of the toys purchased for the orphanage



Faces of hope



Niki with "Ma-Fen"

Insights in Israel

By Eric Ware, M.Div. student

I didn't take summer classes this year and I missed Rochester's amazing Lilac Festival. But it seemed like a fair trade-off as I backpacked through the land of Israel in May and June. Through a variety of circumstances, I found myself with a plane ticket, a one month reservation at a hostel in the Old City of Jerusalem where King Herod's gardens once lay, and enough saved cash for expenses.

As I visited Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount I was amazed, over and over, that my mental pictures were not even in the ballpark of accuracy. I was frequently overwhelmed as I traveled the roads where the kings and prophets of the Old Testament walked, as I stood at Golgotha and inside the tomb of our Lord. It was truly amazing to explore the deep roots of Christianity as I stood at the tomb of Samuel—don't worry, I didn't bring a medium with me—and as I stood in Hebron where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried.

One special encounter emerged after traveling to Bethlehem and then going into Hebron in Palestine. My travel partners for the day were Natalia, an Australian Buddhist who was born into a Jewish family, and Bertrand, a Frenchman who had never heard a single Bible story or talked to a Christian before. The previous night Bertrand had asked me about why I am a Christian and this opened up an opportunity to talk about Jesus' love. But in Hebron we were visiting ancient tombs, and Bertrand was curious about why the Jews and Arabs fight so much. The three of us picked up a tea and sat in the public square for two and a half hours as Natalia and Bertrand kept their eyes and ears locked on me as I told the story of Israel from Genesis 12 through their entering into the Promised Land.

This was so seamless, so conversational, to share how God has interacted with humanity through the years. I am thankful that God gave me the opportunity to travel to Israel, and that Northeastern Seminary has been training me to be both rooted in scripture and faithful to respond.

Planting a Seed at the Kingdom Bound Festival

First-time sponsor, Northeastern Seminary, partners with Kingdom Bound, the annual music festival, as it celebrates its 25th year from July 31 to August 3. In this role Northeastern Seminary will plant seeds of instruction and encouragement as we present a seminar series for youth pastors and lay leaders, host the festival's Rock Talk program (Pavilion 3) where youth workers can receive counsel and resources from festival artists, and enable several underprivileged and special needs children and families to attend the festival.

The [seminar series](#), including sessions titled, "Life Cycle of a Youth Pastor," "Back to the Basics of Youth Ministry," and "Counseling in a Culture of Crisis," will be lead by Mike Kuhlkin, NES doctor of ministry student, and NES Master of Divinity graduate Doug Milne. Kuhlkin is pastor of student ministries at Pearce Memorial Church in Rochester, and Milne is an ordained minister and pastor of youth ministries at Grace Church of the Nazarene in Rochester.

Other seeds we hope to plant involve conversations with festival attendees about the programs and services of Northeastern Seminary. The thousands who attend the festival from around N.Y., Penn., Ohio, and Ontario need to know they have a seminary resource available to them. And to help them recall any seeds of vision and aspiration for a seminary degree that have been planted, or maybe how very "deeply rooted" we are, they will receive a packet of flower seeds. For more information call 585.594.6800 or [read news](#).



Ghenna looking toward the Kidron Valley



Visitors at the Western Wall

Come See Us at the Following Events:

Willow Creek Leadership Summit

Aug. 11–12 Hilton, N.Y. and Syracuse, N.Y.

COGIC 92nd Annual Holy Convocation

August 15–19 N. Chili, N.Y.

AME First Episcopal District Ministers' Retreat

Sept. 13–16 Hauppauge, N.Y.

City Reachers Fresh Encounter Conference

Sept. 9–10 Syracuse N.Y.

Christ's Love in Action with Jim Wallis

Sept. 21 Rochester, N.Y.

Southern Baptist Convention of New York

Sept. 25–26 Watertown, N.Y.

Generosity of Donors Means Scholarships for Students

Once again students will enjoy scholarships provided through the generosity of some very special individuals—this year totaling more than \$36,000. These endowed and annually given funds are awarded in addition to the need-based and merit-based scholarships that support our seminarians. As determined by the donor some scholarships are earmarked for individuals with disabilities or those of African-American or Hispanic descent. Others recognize such qualities as preparing for ministry overseas, in the Rochester area, in higher education, or in a particular denomination. Every eligible student who completed the application process received awards that ranged from \$1,100 to \$2,300 as part of this year's distribution. If you are interested in supporting seminarians through scholarships please contact Todd Daningburg in our development office at daningburg_todd@roberts.edu or 585.594.6644.

Community News

Alumni

Troy Bassett (C15) developed a children's ministry curriculum for churches using a large-group model of ministry. Kid's JAM (which stands for Jesus And Me) is a program designed for 21st century kids in K-5th grade. For more information visit www.KidsJAM.com.

Barbara Bushart (C16) was ordained at the Genesis Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church on May 13. She serves at Community of the Savior in Pittsford.

Marlena Graves (C11) served as a workshop speaker at the Seminary's Conference on Ministry June 8. A writer for Christianity Today's Her.meneutics blog, Marlena shared her writing journey, tips for the writing life, and information about publication.

Minister **Jean O'Brien (C18)** and Minister **Adrienne Lockhart (C18)** were ordained March 27 at Pentecostal Temple.

Lynn Scarpine (C20) was ordained into the sacred ministry of word and sacrament on May 15 at the Trinity Old Lutheran Church in Amherst.

Students

Congratulations to the following for being approved as Conference Ministerial Candidates in the Free Methodist Church – **Janice Francis (C21)**, **Nathan Lesser (C26)** and **Eric "Tupper" Ware (C24)**.

Faculty

Patricia Welch, instructor of theological writing and **C15** alumna, was ordained on May 13 at the Genesis Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church. Bishop David Roller presided. Patricia also serves as an associate pastor at Northgate Free Methodist Church in Batavia.

Transitions for Gallery Curator

With deep gratitude we say goodbye to the B.T. Roberts Memorial Hall Art Gallery curator, **Kathrine Page**, who is relocating to Corning, N.Y. Kathrine's love of art was contagious and we are thankful for her years of faithful service. As part of earning her M.A. Theological Studies degree at Northeastern Seminary, her thesis laid the groundwork for establishing the exhibit space in Roberts Hall. What we have now enjoyed since 2004 is a regular schedule of art exhibits "appropriate to enhance students' spiritual awareness and formation and to educate them more intentionally in this arena of God's activity." Because of Kathrine's passion to "bridge the ecclesiastical gap between diverse artistic expressions and theological perspectives," the Seminary has been able to introduce beauty and poignancy to seminarians' experience, and provide points of contact between the seminary community and the community at large. Many thanks Kathrine for your vision and expression.

Do you know a PROSPECTIVE STUDENT?

Info Meeting

ROCHESTER

Tuesday, September 13

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Roberts Hall 213

If you know someone who would benefit from being at Northeastern Seminary, let them know about these information meetings and let us know so we can connect with them. Please contact JP.Anderson, director of admissions.



Kathrine Page

Art Exhibit:

Landscapes—Having Eyes to See

September 19 through December 15

What at first glance might seem like a series of photos journaling excursions through some of the wonders of our State and National parks, upon closer examination becomes an invitation to look beyond the obvious to that which is revealed in and through the landscapes. The scripture text from Romans 1:20 inspired Brian Babcock, former assistant dean of Northeastern Seminary, to see the ineffable qualities of both creation and the Creator—"By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse," the Message.

The exhibit reception will be held Monday, September 26 from 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. in conjunction with the McCown Symposium.



McCown Symposium with Dr. Joel B. Green:

Conversion as a Way of Life: Lukan Perspectives, Cognitive Insights

September 26, 2011

With the Gospel of Luke as the context, Joel Green weaves together insightful ideas for better understanding conversion. By investigating such suppositions as "a person is one's behavior," the "construction of the self is embedded in relationships," and "understanding the brain is informative for discussing the decisions we make," Green takes a careful and rigorous look at discovering what happens when someone enters the community of the people of God—conversion. Hear this interdisciplinary thinker and expert in biblical exegesis open up the distinctiveness of Luke's thought and its relevance to conversion.

11 a.m.	Lecture: <i>Invitation Anxiety</i>
12 p.m.	Lunch Discussion: <i>Believing is Seeing</i>
2 – 3:15 p.m.	Lecture: <i>Rethinking Conversion: Lukan Metaphors of Change</i>
3:45 – 5 p.m.	Lecture: <i>Habits of the Changing Heart</i>



Dr. Joel B. Green

For more information visit www.nes.edu/symposium2011 or call 585.594.6800.

All-Seminary Retreat—Intimacy with Others

November 12, 2011

Cultural Life Center, Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary Campus

Retreat leaders Drs. Mark and Lisa McMinn are professors of psychology and sociology, respectively, at George Fox University. Lisa holds a Nursing Diploma from Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, Portland, Ore., an undergraduate degree from George Fox College, a M.S. in Sociology from Portland State University, and a Ph.D. from Portland State University. Her latest book is *Walking Gently on The Earth*. Mark received his undergraduate degree from Lewis and Clark College and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Vanderbilt University. His latest book is *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling*. When not teaching, speaking, or writing, they are likely working with bees, digging in dirt, walking in the woods, or tending their orchard on Fern Creek.

Retreat cost for students, alumni and faculty/staff are covered by the Personal and Spiritual Formation program. Spouses are welcome and can attend for nominal cost.

Visit www.nes.edu/asr for information and registration.



Drs. Lisa and Mark McMinn