

Mid-America kicks off Faculty Endowment Campaign

What is an Endowment?

An endowment is essentially a collection of donations intended to provide long-term support for a non-profit organization. For most institutions of higher learning, endowments are foundational for their long-term financial health.

Most endowments are designated to maintain a specific area of a non-profit's mission for future generations. The income from endowment investments provides a continuing and stable source of revenue for scholarships, faculty, and other important needs.

Although not labeled as an endowment, Mid-America's Student Aid Fund is a good example of an endowment that was established in the early days of the Seminary. The Student Aid Fund generates investment income that provides financial aid to students studying at Mid-America Reformed Seminary. The amount of investment income spent each year is carefully monitored by the Board of Trustees. The fund principal is protected in order to continue generating income to provide student aid for many years into the future.

At a recent meeting, Mid-America's Board of Trustees initiated a capital campaign to fund the Faculty Endowment with \$2,000,000 by 2011. The **Faculty Endowment Campaign** is now being officially launched.

The Board of Trustees established a Faculty Endowment for the purpose of generating income that allows the Seminary to develop its faculty without putting additional strain on the annual operating budget. This enables Mid-America to deliver greater instructional value, build reliable long-term support for the faculty, and provide confidence in long-range institutional planning. An endowment will help Mid-America secure the future of its mission to prepare men for the ministry of God's Word.

Why is Mid-America Building a Faculty Endowment?

One of the lessons that can be learned from the biblical story of Joseph in Egypt is the importance of preparing for future lean times. Mid-America's annual budget revenue is derived primarily from the annual contributions of churches and individuals throughout North America. Studies indicate that such giving comes primarily from persons between the ages of 45 and 65. The post-World War II "baby-boomers" who primarily comprise this demographic group are beginning to enter retirement when they will likely have less income available for charitable donations. The generation following the "baby-boomers" is only half its size; therefore, it is likely to generate less than half the current amount of charitable giving. Because fewer wage earners will be supporting more retirees, the next generation may have a smaller income percentage available for charitable giving.



Joseph recognized God's sovereignty, but didn't say, "We don't need to prepare for the future, the Lord will provide." He saw God's provision in the present and acted accordingly. While his view was based on God's direct revelation, responsible stewardship requires prudent planning that includes looking at forecasts and trends to help understand future needs.

Mid-America's mission statement makes it clear that the Seminary's primary purpose is "to prepare pastors for the ministry of the Word and sacraments," but Mid-America also provides solid theological training for others whose work in Christ's Kingdom may be furthered by a seminary education. Mid-America's Board of Trustees believes it is important to protect and preserve this mission by establishing an endowment to provide future financial resources.

What Will the Faculty Endowment Support?

The Faculty Endowment will generate income to augment the work of the faculty by adding additional full-time faculty or by utilizing adjunct faculty to teach specific courses in their area of expertise (for example, see inside story on Dr. George Knight's class). Through the Faculty Endowment, Mid-America can increase and provide more opportunities for the existing faculty; it can create flexible programs of study and enhance student instruction. In these ways, it can fulfill the Lord's command to send harvesters into the fields of Christ's Kingdom.



Development Report



Living by Faith

by Keith Le Mahieu

\$2 million by 2011. As you saw in the lead article of this issue of *the Messenger*, that is the goal set by Mid-America's Board of Trustees for the creation of a Faculty Endowment. \$2,000,000 is a significant goal. The fundraising consultants would likely wonder why *this* project and why now? They would probably advise that we would be better off building a library or a chapel. It is a well-known fact, after all, that people get more excited about giving to a building than an endowment. They would also wonder why we would launch *this* kind of project in the middle of what many are calling the worst economy since the 1930s. Humanly speaking, we admit our timing could probably not be worse. Thankfully, though, we live by faith, not by sight.

Humanly speaking, we admit our timing could probably not be worse. Thankfully, though, we live by faith, not by sight.

Is the goal of \$2 million by 2011 a foolish dream? We don't think so.

First, we know that God can do all things. No need to say more about that.

Second, we are confident that those who love Christ's church and the faithful ministry of His Word will rally to

support a plan designed to provide future generations of faithful church leaders. But how is it possible? Consider the following scenario:

Number of Participants	Annual Gift	Total 3-yr giving (2009-2011)	3-yr Group Total
2	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
10	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$300,000
25	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$375,000
50	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$375,000
75	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$225,000
150	\$750	\$2,250	\$337,500
150	\$500	\$1,500	\$225,000
150	\$250	\$750	\$112,500
150	\$100	\$300	\$45,000
762		Grand Total	\$2,145,000

Achieving this three-year goal will take commitment, but this commitment will pay dividends for many years to come as it provides important instructional resources for the training of future generations of faithful pastors. Will you prayerfully consider your role in helping Mid-America achieve this important goal?

Perhaps it is easier to think in monthly terms. For example, \$10 per month would provide an annual gift of \$120, while \$100 per month (about \$3 per day) would generate \$1,200 per year. If you are on our mailing list, watch your mailbox for more information on the Faculty Endowment and how you can participate. You can also learn more by visiting Mid-America's website at www.midamerica.edu.



Glories of Christ Conference

The second annual "Glories of Christ" conference will be held April 24-25, 2009, at the First URC in Chino, CA. The conference theme is: "Why In the World Are We Here? Living Out the Lordship of Christ in Today's Culture."

Three Mid-America professors will speak on "Serving our King through...": "Vigorous Evangelism" (Dr. Mark Beach), "Faithful Apologetics" (Rev. Alan Strange), and "Christian Education" (Dr. Cornel Venema).

Dr. Ron Gleason, a prolific writer and lecturer who pastors Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Yorba Linda, CA, will speak on "Serving our King through Fervent Worship." Dr. Scott Swanson, assistant professor of biblical and theological studies at Providence Christian College in Ontario, CA, and a member of First URC in Chino, will speak on "Serving our King through End-Times Obedience."

"First URC, Chino, and Mid-America have partnered in this conference with a view to instructing God's people of all ages to live out their Christian calling in following our Teacher, King, and High Priest, Jesus Christ," says Dr. Nelson Kloosterman, one of several conference organizers. "With the inclusion of a variety of speakers, we hope to provide life-changing and life-lasting biblical perspectives of the Kingdom of God and our calling in it."



Mid-America students have a high view of marriage, but they had a little fun at Gary Zekveld's expense a few days before his January 17 wedding. When joining fellow students for his bachelor party, he discovered he was to go bowling dressed as a convict, complete with ball and chain.

Changing of the Guard

Assistant Librarian Stan Riecken retired at the end of 2008. He had served as a medical librarian for 25 years before coming to Mid-America in the spring of 2000.

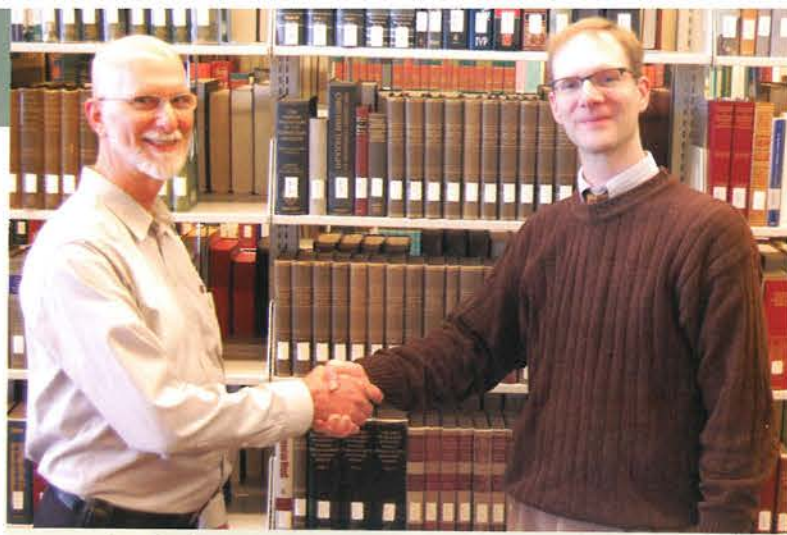
"Stan was, as befits a librarian, a detail man whose meticulousness helped to get and keep the library in good order," says Rev. Strange, Librarian. "He was very interested in all matters theological and relished working with the materials of the library."

Mr. Riecken is a ruling elder in Valparaiso's Good Shepherd PCA. He is a car enthusiast who also enjoys reading and writing, working around his house and yard, as well as spending time with his family. He and Nancy (an English instructor at the college level) have three married children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Bart Voskuil began his work as Associate Librarian at Mid-America on December 15, 2008. Mr. Voskuil earned his Master's in Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and has worked in public, engineering, college, and



Dr. Nelson Kloosterman chats with Erik and Georgina Stolte during the student Christmas potluck held on December 5 at the Seminary. Students, faculty, staff, and spouses enjoyed a meal, board games, and Christmas carols during an evening of fellowship that provided students with a welcome break from the books.



Stan Riecken, retiring Assistant Librarian, welcomes Bart Voskuil.

university libraries in Iowa, Texas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. He is a deacon in Emmanuel Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Franklin, NC.

As the Associate Librarian, his duties include maintaining the technical functions of the library and taking care of the library computers, as well as ordering

books and periodicals, cataloging them and placing them on the shelves.

"Mid-America Reformed Seminary has a great collection," he says. "The library's journal holdings and indexing are also really impressive. It's a thrill to be a part of the library, and I'm very thankful for my job here."

New Secretary to the Faculty

Abigail Schaaf began employment at Mid-America Reformed Seminary on October 20, 2008, as the new Secretary to the Faculty.

In that position, her responsibilities include helping the faculty with a variety of needs, such as editing, proofreading, typing, scanning, and so forth. She is also working on digitalizing the audio/visual lab by converting sermons from cassette tapes to CDs and MP3s. She additionally is managing the Seminary bookstore and reformatting the Seminary's website.

"I have so much work to do, I don't think I'll ever be bored," she says. "It's good to be busy. It's exciting to see how the Seminary will benefit from a new website."



Abby Schaaf, new Secretary to the Faculty

Mrs. Schaaf graduated from Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL, with a Bachelor of Arts in art studio: graphic design. She is a member of Faith Church (RCA) in Dyer, IN.

Interim Class Pastoral Epistles

with

Dr. George W.
Knight, III



Six middler students and five alumni learned about the pastoral epistles from Dr. George W. Knight, III during Mid-America's interim break. The class was taught for three hours daily on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from January 5-16.

Dr. Knight's specialty is New Testament studies; he authored *The Pastoral Epistles* volume of the *New International Greek Testament Commentary* series. He is an OPC pastor and has served as Moderator of the OPC's General Assembly. According to Rev. Strange, Dr. Knight "embodies the happy marriage of piety and scholarship, being a quintessential Southern gentleman."

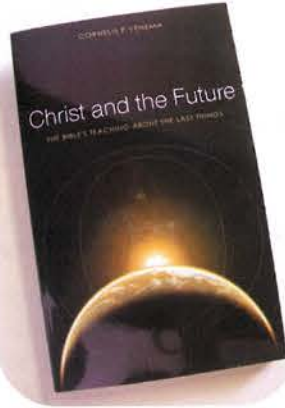
"Giving a class at Mid-America Reformed Seminary has been a great delight," says Dr. Knight. "I am thankful to the faculty for the invitation and to the students for their cordial acceptance. It is my hope that the class has been beneficial to the students in their academic journey and in their daily living."

Dr. Venema publishes *Christ and the Future*

Banner of Truth recently published *Christ and the Future: The Bible's Teaching About the Last Things* by Dr. Cornelis P. Venema, which is a popular abridgement of his earlier book on eschatology, *The Promise of the Future*.

The Promise of the Future has proven to be a definitive work on the complex subject of the last days, and publishers were eager to make Dr. Venema's excellent teaching available to a wider audience in a smaller paperback edition. The 488 pages of text in the original have been edited down to 224 pages with no footnotes in the new paperback version.

The new edition is not intended to replace, but rather to supplement the earlier volume. It is hoped that the average reader will be more likely to purchase and read the new paperback as an introduction to the subject of



eschatology and may then pursue the more in-depth study that is found in the original volume.

Christ and the Future is divided into twelve easy-to-read chapters that discuss a comprehensive list of end-times subjects. It begins by demonstrating the biblical foundation for the believer's present hope.

It contrasts unbiblical views with biblical teaching regarding the intermediate state between death and resurrection before delineating the biblical parameters regarding Christ's return. It then discusses "signs of the times," including the antithesis and impending judgment. A valuable feature of the volume is Dr. Venema's description and evaluation of the four major millennial views, which bookend his detailed look at Revelation 20.

The volume concludes with chapters on the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the doctrine of eternal punish-

ment, and the new heavens and earth. These chapters overflow with God's comforting and beautiful promises to His children, filling the believer's spirit with hope and joy. The believing reader is moved to gratitude to God for His great work of salvation and all that Christ has secured for the believer, already in this life and for the future.

Christ and the Future is available for \$14.30 from the Seminary bookstore.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees is soliciting the names of potential Board members (both ministers and laymen) to serve a three-year term beginning September 2009. Your suggestions are encouraged. When submitting a nomination, please include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, vocation, denominational affiliation, and leadership experience. This information should be submitted to the Seminary office no later than April 1, 2009.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
DYER, IN
PERMIT NO. 30

Tel: 219-864-2400
Fax: 219-864-2410



Mid-America Reformed
Seminary Association
229 Seminary Drive
Dyer, Indiana 46311-1069

