

“...whatever you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others well.”
2 Timothy 2:2 (NRSV)

THE *SOURCE* NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 1

February 2010

Resourcing sustainable
theological education in
the developing world

March 8 - reSource Day of Prayer An update from Gordon T. Smith, President

We at **reSource** are deeply conscious of how dependent we are on the provision of God. And one expression of this is that we are setting aside a day for focused intercession. We invite our friends and supporters to join us; to remember this ministry on that day. Join us, please; take some time on that day to bring the ministry of **reSource** before the throne of grace.

The Board of Directors will begin the day in a telephone conference, praying through the opportunities and needs of **reSource**. And then also, at our offices (see the address on page 4) in Richmond B.C., we will be holding a prayer gathering for those in the area who would like to join us. We will be meeting from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

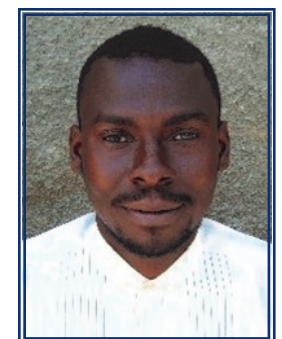
This comes as a special request – we realize that many of you pray regularly for us in your personal prayers. But this comes to invite you to give **reSource** special attention in your prayers, on that day. Consider the following in your prayers for this ministry:

(1) **Partner Schools**. Please pray for our partner schools – with particular focus on those that are the focus of our attention this year: newly established theological schools in Vietnam, Baptist and Pentecostal colleges in Romania, and then also our partner schools in Colombia, Ecuador, Cuba, Jamaica, Bosnia, Poland, Macau, Lebanon and the Philippines. Pictured within this article are students and faculty from each region of our focus that have been or are currently being supported through **reSource**. As you pray, remember the following:

- The students and their needs – pray for their academic, spiritual and ministerial development;
- For the faculty – the teaching staff of the school – that God would bless their preparation and give them effectiveness in the classroom;
- For the administration, especially the president, who gives



Asia – Abigail Teh, faculty at (AGS) Alliance Graduate School in the Philippines, currently being supported by reSource in her doctoral studies



Caribbean – Elucien Berthony, School Librarian & former student sponsored by reSource scholarships, (STEP) Seminaire de Theologie Evangelique de Port-au-Prince, Haiti – pursuing Master of Information Science at the Universite de Montreal fall 2010

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- oversight to the school;
- For the churches that these schools serve and in the end of the country in which they are located.

(2) **Haiti.** Give particular attention in your prayers to the crisis that is being faced by our partner school in Haiti (see page three of this newsletter for further details).

(3) **reSource Board.** It is important to remember that the board plays a vital part in the effectiveness of this ministry; remember them in your prayers – most notably our newly elected chair, Mr. Cal Buss. Pray that God would give them wisdom, discernment and insight as they provide accountability for the staff, support the mission of **reSource** and partner with the president in our connections with our constituency. Their commitment to raising Core Support is an ongoing matter for prayer.

(4) **Staff.** Do remember our support staff – Greig Shepherd, our Treasurer, and Evelyn Harrod, who manages our office. They have the challenge of caring for 101 things – often on the same day: they manage our finances, of course; Evelyn also handles communication with both our supporters and our partner schools, project management, and, of course, support for the work of the president.

(5) **President.** Dr. Gordon T. Smith – please pray for his safety and well-being as he travels on behalf of **reSource**, both domestically in Canada and internationally on site visits to our partner schools; pray for his capacity to encourage and support the leadership and faculty of these schools.

(6) **Affiliates in the Overseas Council network.** We value the partnership we have with our colleagues within the OC network, our sister agencies. Please join us as we pray God's blessing on their ministries – Stuart Brooking in Australia, Tony Plews in New Zealand, David Baer in the U.S.A., Andreas Kammer in Germany and Peter Sarl in the UK.

As you spend time in prayer for the ministry of **reSource**, please drop us a note [administrator@resourceleadership.com or the mailing address on page 4]. And let us know if you would like additional information on any one of these items for prayer.



Eastern Europe – Christian-Gabriel Gongola, Student sponsored by reSource, anticipating graduation in 2010, (BTI) Bucharest Baptist Theological Seminary



Middle East – Elie Haddad, administration and Provost of (ABTS) Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon, currently being supported by reSource in his doctoral studies



Asia – Judith Layosa, Student sponsored by reSource, (ATS) Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines



Haiti Alert Update:

Many of you have responded to our February 1st Haiti Alert e-mail. Thank you. \$16,015 has been raised to date which qualified for the Government of Canada matching funds to be administered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). reSource funds have already been sent to the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Port-au-Prince (STEP) to assist them in restarting their classes in order to save the year for many students.

Here is a recent note from John Dorlus, President of STEP:

In the last few days, things have improved on many levels in the country, in the city of Port-au-Prince, and on the seminary campus. Life is improving, slowly of course. Food products are available; to be sure, they are more expensive. The phone system works much better. Large distribution of food and water appears to be more regular and more orderly. There is no visible sign of shortage of gas, and in some places, electricity is restored. I have electricity from the grid for the first time today since the earthquake. How long will it remain? Well, let us remain positive. At the same time, there are tons of issues that appear insurmountable. Churches, schools including universities, and public buildings seem to have taken the hardest hits. It will be a while for most schools and universities to get back to business again.

In the midst of this, it is refreshing to see acts of generosity, to hear about true bravery, to observe people worshipping the Lord on street corners, etc. As I try to perform different duties related to my role as STEP president, I meet a lot of people, believers as well as non-believers, and they have a lot of questions. The streets have become my office, and it seems to me that the questions there are more difficult than those in the classroom and much more concrete too. A very wealthy businessman asked me to give him some pointers on what it means to live for God and not for himself. Another one who narrowly escaped death and has lost much in terms of friends and material possessions asked me if there is any sense at all in all that happened. I minister to these people, the faculty and some students in the ways that are available to me. Last Sunday, I presented the Word at a partner church of the seminary on the book of Habakkuk. He too was very perplexed by what was going on around him and what the Lord wanted to do about it. After the sermon, a lot of people were encouraged just like Habakkuk was as he reported in the last chapter of the book. Based on what I see and hear so far, it appears that a lot of people will turn to Christ, and many believers will take their walk more seriously.

Mr. Tim Stafford, senior writer from Christianity Today Magazine, just spent a week with my family. I helped him around the country to put the story of the earthquake together. We visited a lot of people, including senators, pastors, business people, scholars, NGO workers, missionaries, common folk, etc. We went to a lot of places, including the city that was the epicenter of the earthquake. Tim was very grateful by what he learned



Every flat bare space is now covered with bedsheets, sheets, tents and people. One of STEP's first censuses counted 1,500 children and 2,500 youth and adults.



Medical clinics have been set up in front of the Underwood building with classroom tables being used for consultations and treatment. Seminary students and staff have helped as aids and with translation.



This is the front middle section of the Administration building with all the damage. The rubble comes up to the top of the ground floor, so in this photo, the second floor and attic are visible. There were three classrooms and nine offices on the ground floor.

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during the trip.

I have had several meetings with the executive team of STEP, and more are coming to assess the situation in order to know what can be done to secure the future of the seminary. We would love to begin again if at all possible as early as March 1st and finish the semester, but there are many issues to tackle and a number of unknowns. We are still assessing the general conditions (health, housing, a death in the family, financial needs, etc.) and the state of mind of the student body, as well as that of the faculty and staff. That is a major undertaking if one wants to do it well. So far, most students and faculty would like to begin again; it is therapeutic at the very least. I am also in contact with a school in the U.S. that has offered some scholarships to some of our graduates and current students to complete their studies. I met with a group of 15 students today at my house, my yard that is, praying for wisdom, direction and provision. As we pray and

A note from the Board Chairman

It is my honour to serve as the Board Chair for **reSource Leadership International**. I have had the pleasure of serving as a member of the Board for the past three years and continue to be amazed at how God uses our “small but mighty” organization. I would like to take this opportunity to provide a bit of insight into what it is about **reSource** that I find compelling and my desire to serve in this capacity.



Mr. Cal Buss

As we are all well aware, we are gradually emerging from one of the most significant financial crises of the modern era. If the recent economic crisis has taught us anything, it is the necessity to be prudent, effective and extremely efficient with our resources. As a result of my involvement with **reSource**, I believe that our approach to providing support to theological education which is occurring in Third World countries meets all of these criteria. As we all know, the success of churches and society rise and fall on the abilities and character of their leaders. Helping to support theological schools to prepare local leaders for the benefit of church and society is both effective and efficient in its approach to providing a tangible level of support. Accordingly the opportunity to positively influence and support the development of strong character-based leaders is one of the most important contributions we can make. However, the support which **reSource** provides is far more than that of financial resources. While the financial contribution is always appreciated and provides our entree, it is the advice and wisdom provided by our president and our other affiliates which really provide the value far in excess of what money alone could do.

The second theme that recent events have taught us is that of the importance of excellence. Organizations which strive for excellence in the value they provide fair far better than those that don't. The focus of **reSource** on fostering excellence in theological education is fully aligned with this theme. Resiliency and sustainability are yet two other overarching themes arising from the events of the past year. Organizations which were not able to deal with the adversity caused by the financial crisis did not survive. Those that had focused upon being resilient not only survived but also were the first to rebound in the slow but steady recovery which is upon us. Sustainability has now become an imperative regardless of the resources involved. To be able to point to a sustainable future is the mandate of all successful organizations.

So, the reasons I am proud and honoured to serve **reSource** are because the organization is so well aligned with what have now become the requirements in the aftermath of the financial crisis. All of this is very well captured in our goal: **resilient schools that sustain effective theological education and serve the church (and society) in their region.**

How to donate

There are many ways you can help fund theological schools through **reSource**. You can donate directly through the **reSource** website: www.resourceleadership.com, or you can download a donation form or set up a monthly giving arrangement. You can also give gifts of securities/stock, a gift in your will, a gift of life insurance, a gift of an RRSP or RRIF, or set up a trust or endowment fund through the **reSource** Foundation. Please see our website or call our office for more details.