

*"...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 2

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Resourcing sustainable theological education in the developing world

## **The Strategic Importance of Theological Libraries** **An update from Gordon T. Smith, President**

There are no good seminaries without adequate theological libraries; in other words, a good library is an indispensable component of a good theological school. The library supports the teaching and research of the faculty; and the library is an integral factor in the curriculum, giving both students and faculty the tools they need to draw on the wisdom of their theological and spiritual heritage.

And yet many of us are beginning to think that libraries and librarians represent a weak link in theological education around the world. The partner institutions of **reSource** and our sister agencies in the Overseas Council Network are replete with well-intentioned librarians, quasi-librarians and libraries struggling to provide basic resources: empty shelves and shelves groaning with the wrong books; the lack of collection policies and the means to build collections in a cost-effective way; failure to appreciate the place of electronic and internet resources to complement hard copy collections; the lack of trained librarians; the lack of a vital link between library and curricula; the lack of vision from Bible schools and seminary presidents for the library; the lack of clarity about accreditation standards with respect to the library; and the lack of ability to coordinate with other libraries in their region (i.e., local university libraries or the libraries of other theological seminaries in the same city).

Consequently we are increasingly recognizing that the development of theological libraries is vital to the fulfillment of our mission. We have found it very encouraging to work with a number of senior librarians who have agreed to generously offer their expertise, advice and encouragement to the leadership and especially the librarians of our partner schools. And we are giving particular focus to the libraries and theological resources of our partner schools in two countries: Vietnam and Cuba.



**Methodist library in Cuba**



**Library at the Institute of Bible and Theology (IBT) in Vietnam**

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For Vietnam, we have contracted with Penelope Hall, general secretary of BETH (the European Association of Theological Librarians), to work with current and emerging partner institutions; we are thrilled that in the timing of God, Penelope has agreed to work with us in Vietnam, in that not only does she have extensive experience working with libraries, but also happens to speak Vietnamese. She served for a number of years as a missionary to Vietnam, back in the 1970s. Initially her primary work will be with the Institute of Bible and Theology (IBT) in Saigon, but she will also advise on the development of a resource centre for the emerging inter-denominational school.



**Penelope Hall**

In Cuba, we are very pleased that Mariel Voth is working with us. She is the former librarian of Bethel Seminary West, and prior to that, the Bible Institute of Buenos Aires. She is from Argentina and has extensive experience working with theological libraries in South America. Her work will focus on four seminaries in Cuba: the Baptist seminaries in Havana and Santiago, the Nuevos Pinos Seminary near Villa Clara and the new Methodist seminary in Havana.



**Mariel Voth**

Indeed, it is the Methodist seminary in Havana that really profiles for all these schools the urgency of the need; with over 200 students active in their academic programs, the seminary has a library of less than 100 volumes, few if any of which directly support the curriculum. They effectively have no library, though they have a beautiful space that could one day house a centre for study and research.

Many of our supporters recognize the strategic significance of libraries. And to each of you we offer our sincere thanks for your support and for investing in the work of Penelope, Mariel and others who have worked with us in recent months and years. Please remember these two women in your prayers. They face huge challenges, including limited funding, significant government restrictions and librarians in urgent need of adequate training. But they are both eager to give of their time and energy and to support those who do oversee the libraries and work creatively to help them secure the resources they need for their programs.

## A New Seminary for Holguin, Cuba

On September 18, we held a consultation with 18 church and academic leaders in the city of Holguin, Cuba's third largest city; the agenda was to examine whether there was sufficient support to launch an inter-denominational theological school to serve a region of Cuba, including Holguin, that until now did not have a formal program for theological study. I (Gordon Smith) moderated the day, along with Gonzalo Grimal who has been the primary factor in sustaining a vision for theological education in this city. It was a very



**Gordon Smith (left) with consultation group in Holguin**

gratifying day: the group overwhelming affirmed that there is a great need for such a program, and they are eager and willing to work together in an inter-denominational and cooperative venture.

Dr. Alfred Neufeld, church and academic administrator from the Mennonite Church in Paraguay, joined me on this site visit; he joined the consultation as an observer and provided both the group as well as **reSource** some good counsel as we explore the very real possibility of helping with this effort. He serves with the Evangelical University of Paraguay.

Next steps include identifying a core group of individuals who could serve as an organizing committee, along with that person who could serve as the key or central person to provide administrative oversight as a new academic program is launched. The involvement of **reSource** will be two-fold: expert counsel on the formation of a theological program and also the seed funding for the start up, which will take at least three years. This is a very clear example of where a program in theological education simply cannot be launched without external support, including financial support.



**Pastors, lay leaders and denominational officials at the consultation in Holguin**



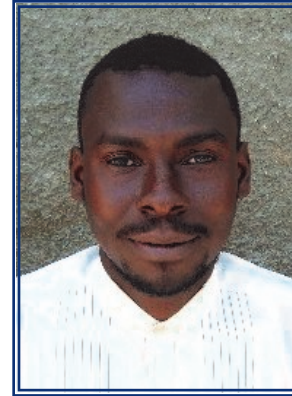
**Seminaire de Theologie Evangelique de Port-au-Prince (STEP), Haiti**  
**Librarian Training - 2010-2012**  
**Amount Needed: \$39,700**

Faculty Member  
**Berthony Elucien**

Field of Study  
Master of Information Science, Faculte des Arts et des Sciences

Program of Study  
Universite de Montreal

Current Positions  
Teacher at STEP - Spiritual Formation, Grade research papers, Haitian context course; and serves as pastor of Apostolic Church



**Berthony Elucien**

Education to date  
2002 – Bachelor in Human Sciences (State University, Haiti)  
2007 – Bachelor of Theology (STEP, Haiti) – recipient of **reSource** scholarship

Church Affiliation  
Apostolic Church

Personal Testimony  
Berthony was born in 1973 into a voodooist family of five children in Mapou, near the town of Esther in the county of Gonaïves. A few days after I was born, I was stalked by evil spirits that wanted my life. To protect me, my mother left Esther to seek refuge in Port-au-Prince, close to my father who was serving there in the army. Several years later, my mother gave her life to Jesus Christ as her Savior and burned the tools of her devotion to the spirits. In her happiness, she compelled all her children to give themselves to God as well.

I rebelled against my mother’s faith until the first Sunday of 1989 when the Spirit of the Lord convicted me of my sin, and I took hold of His outreached hand, putting my faith in Him after hearing the message preached that day: “Jesus, a Good Shepherd for a New Year,” taken from Psalm 23. That day, my life changed completely, as did my view of God. Once baptized, I became very active and regularly attended the various services of the church, leading through teaching, preaching and holding various leadership positions.

Budget for two year program

Tuition	\$34,500
Other school fees	\$1,647
Student travel	\$2,377
Onsite visits	\$1,176

**Total need**                      **\$39,700**

Needed for 2010-11	\$19,850
Raised to date	\$4,750
<b>Still Needed</b>	<b>\$15,100</b>

Needed for 2011-12              \$19,850



## Farewell to Evelyn Harrod

Since January of 2004, Evelyn Harrod has been the office manager; and she has recently advised us that she is planning to conclude her work with **reSource** this fall. She has been an invaluable member of the organization: the person who has managed our finances, maintained the flow of good communication and kept us connected with both our supports and with our partner schools. She has brought to her work a deep commitment to our mission, attention to detail, a personable engagement with each of those who connect with her one-on-one and a resolve that we will be managed effectively and professionally. She has worked diligently to assure all of us that we follow CRA (Customs and Revenue Agency) regulations. She has been the key factor in working to get **reSource** to have an up-to-date database. And Evelyn has patiently managed all the various line items, including of course the many projects that we manage around the world – all the reports due and when, by whom and to whom.



**Evelyn Harrod**

For all of this, we offer our sincere thanks to her and to her husband, Bill (for his support behind the scenes). And we wish her the very best as she moves into the next chapter of her life.

## Welcome to Catherine Doyle

Starting November 1, Catherine Doyle, based in Toronto, will be assuming the responsibilities of Office Manager, picking up the baton from Evelyn. Catherine has had a career in the corporate world, including an extended time with Thrifty Car Rentals; more recently, she has been the office manager of the Upper Room Community Church in Toronto, where she and her husband, Patrick, worship.



**Catherine Doyle**

## A final note from Gordon

My recent visit to Holguin, Cuba, included an afternoon in the nearby city of Banes, where I met with the president of a distinctively Cuban denomination – the Holy Church of Mount Sinai; in the evening I preached in one of their local churches. Over coffee and then a delicious meal, I learned about the formation of this denomination there in eastern Cuba and the particular longing of the current leadership for theological formation for their pastors. Pastora Felicita, pictured here, is the president of the denomination; she spoke of her passion for the church but also of the vital place of good theological training – something she did not receive – for the next generation of leaders for this church and others in the region.



**From left: Gordon Smith, Pastor Felicita, Mr. Gonzalo Grimal, Pastor Erlin Pupo**

## How to donate

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