

“...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 7, Issue 1

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Resourcing sustainable theological education in the developing world

## **Profiling the reSource Day of Prayer: Monday, February 28, 2011** An update from Gordon T. Smith, President

It has been our practice in recent years to identify one day a year as the “reSource Day of Prayer” – a day when as a board and staff we set aside time for focused intercession for the ministry of reSource, our partner schools and our supporters. We invite you to remember reSource in your own prayers and ask you to consider keeping us in your prayers at all times, but particularly on this day – Monday, February 28.

The following represents our ongoing intercessory points of interest, concern and thus prayer:

### **(1) reSource focus projects and ministries in the first half of 2011**

Two theological seminaries in Cuba: the Methodist Seminary in Havana and the newly established Konrad Grebel Seminary in Holguin. Pray in particular for those providing oversight for these schools: Victor Gonzales at the Methodist Seminary and Gonzalo Grimal at the Konrad Grebel school.

In Vietnam, the Institute of Bible and Theology in Saigon, now a well-established theological school. Also, please remember the ongoing conversations about the potential launch of two new seminaries – a second seminary in Saigon to serve an interdenominational constituency and another in Hanoi.

For both Cuba and Vietnam, please pray for those giving attention to the development of theological resources and libraries for the seminaries in these countries – Mariel Voth in Cuba and Penny Hall in Vietnam.

Also, remember the good work being done in the following schools, and this year we are asking that the focus of your prayers be for those providing oversight for the schools:



**The first class of the newly opened Konrad Grebel Seminary in Holguin, Cuba**



**Library under construction at Tim Lanh Bible School in Saigon, Vietnam**

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- Pentecostal Theological Institute, Bucharest, Romania – Dr. Corneliu Constantineanu
- Baptist Theological Institute, Bucharest, Romania – Drs. Vasile Talpos and Daniel Maris
- Macau Bible Institute – Ellis Ip
- Baptist Institute of Bosnia – Tomislav Dobutovic
- Evangelical Seminary of Port-au-Prince (STEP) in Haiti – Dr. Jean Dorlus

While we are certainly in support of a number of additional schools, we are asking that these be the focus of your prayers in these months.

## (2) **reSource Board and its work of governance**

Please remember the strategic work of our Board in overseeing the ministry of **reSource**. They meet twice a year to review the implementation of our mission and to monitor our financial well-being. In particular, remember the work of our Board Chair, Cal Buss.

## (3) **reSource Staff**

Please remember our staff in your prayers – Catherine Doyle, who manages our office finance and communication; Melody Mazuk, who has recently been appointed to oversee library development (*see a fuller presentation on her work on page 3*), and our president, Gordon T. Smith. For Gordon, it would be very good if your prayers could give attention to the following:

Upcoming site visits to our partner schools in Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Macau and the Philippines), Cuba and then also a gathering of seminary leaders upcoming in late March in Costa Rica. In each case, there is a string of meetings with seminary, church and academic leaders, faculty and students. These visits include: assessment of the progress of our projects and support for these schools; mutual encouragement and specific counsel on what makes for good theological education; working with our supporters and financial contributors to present our ministry with a clear vision and, as God enables, a compelling case for why this ministry is so strategic to the work of God in the world today.

Also, we appreciate your prayers for Gordon's work as a scholar and writer; in March and April, he will be working on presentations he will be giving in Manila in May 2011 on the theme "Equipping Women and Men for Wise Leadership in the Church: Theological Education as Formation in Wisdom."

## (4) **Financial Support for reSource**

In your prayers, we ask that you would remember God's provision of the financial means for **reSource** to continue its work of investing in the theological formation of leaders in the countries where God is currently enabling us to make a difference. We are deeply grateful for God's provision through our supporters for "core support" for our operational costs and for the generous investment in a whole range of projects that are ongoing.

Thank you for your support; thank you for your prayers. We depend on the prayers of those who believe in this ministry. And if we can pray for you, do not hesitate to give us a call – leave a message on the answering machine or drop us a note – snail mail or email. It would be a privilege to pray for you as you pray for us.



## Welcome Melody Mazuk, new Director of Library Development

Melody has served as librarian at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland (now in Prague, Czech Republic), and as Technical Services Librarian for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. More recently, she is the director the Austen K. deBlois Library and Professor of Theological Bibliography at Palmer Seminary in Philadelphia, part of Eastern University. She will remain on faculty at Palmer while also taking over direct oversight of each of the **reSource** library-related projects – and so will continue to reside in Philadelphia and telecommute with **reSource**.



**Melody Mazuk**

We are very pleased with this timely development for **reSource** and for our ministry to theological education in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. We have always believed in libraries; there is testimony to this in the legacy of our previous president – Bill Armerding – whose work left a mark on libraries in Jamaica, Colombia, the Philippines, Ukraine and points in between. Gordon Smith has continued this commitment. And yet, we have increasingly recognized that the question of theological libraries and resources may well be one of the most urgent and strategic needs of the theological seminaries in the developing world. We realized that perhaps the time had come to ask someone with this particular expertise to join our staff. And so we are very pleased to have Melody Mazuk join us at **reSource**.

Melody will advise seminary administrators and library staff on the best approach to develop their libraries and to establish theological resources, supporting the teaching of their faculty and their curricula.

She will advocate for libraries and help sustain an appreciation of the strategic importance of libraries for good theological education. When you meet her in person, it will not be long before you will hear her say some variation of “there is no good theological education without a good theological library.” Part of the challenge for theological libraries is knowing what role hard copies of books have alongside the increasing availability of electronic resources, what is needed in terms of adequate facilities, and of course, how to provide training and support for those who manage and oversee these libraries. Finally, last but not least, Melody will be working with accreditation agencies, assisting them with the articulation of accreditation standards that are appropriate for the new realities of theological libraries.

Melody will also be putting together a team of senior librarians to offer their expertise to our partner schools. She is already partnering with those librarians we have profiled recently – Penelope Hall who is working on library development in Vietnam and Mariel Voth who is our contact person in Cuba. But others have expressed their ongoing willingness to serve as advisors and, sometimes, just to be on the ground to volunteer with cataloguing and other basic tasks that libraries need from time to time.

Please remember Melody in your prayers as she gradually assumes this responsibility. She will be on site this spring with Mariel Voth in Cuba, reviewing the potential for theological libraries in this limited-access country. She will also be in Costa Rica to meet with seminary leaders gathered at a conference there, and she is planning to visit our partner school in Haiti later in the spring to see how best to help them on library concerns following the devastation of the 2010 earthquake.



## Farewell to Michael Lau

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Michael Lau, who has completed his tenure with the Board. We have been richly blessed to have had Michael serve on our Board for the past years. His wisdom, encouragement and collegial spirit will be deeply missed, but we appreciate his continuing support of the work of **reSource**.



Michael Lau

## Welcome to our newest Board members

**Tamara Simmonds** is a teacher, formerly with the York Region Board of Education. She completed her BA in Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto and her BEd at the University of Western Ontario. Tamara is currently pursuing a Master of Theological Studies in Old Testament at McMaster Divinity College. She is a wife and mother of four teenage sons and is currently living in King City, Ontario, with her husband, Bruce, and sons Benjamin, Joshua, Daniel and James. Her summers are most often spent at the family cottage in Muskoka or at Ontario Pioneer Camp where she is a volunteer in the Girls' Camp Kitchen. Her interests include reading, gardening, needlework and music. She plays piano and cello. Most importantly, Tamara identifies herself as a Spirit-filled member of the body of Christ with a passion for the missional objective of the church. Tamara and her family attend The People's Church in Toronto, ON.



Tamara Simmonds

**Angela Terpstra** is Assistant Head at The Bishop Strachan School in Toronto. She has a Ph.D. in education with a focus on English and technology, has worked at both the school and university levels and done teacher-leadership work with the Canadian Association of Independent Schools. Angela is a past Board member of the Christian Reformed Church First Nations Ministry Committee for Canada and served on other Christian Reformed church committees. Angela is married to Nicholas, and they live in Toronto where they attend First Christian Reformed Church. They have three children.



Angela Terpstra

## A final note from Gordon

The November 2010 board meeting included the standard motions to receive the report of the President and the financial reports on the recent fiscal year. We were delighted to confirm that we had again ended the year "in the black," that we were making good progress on strategic projects in Cuba, Vietnam and elsewhere, and further that we were about to appoint a new staff person (*Melody Mazuk* – see page 3) to join our team. We are deeply grateful to those who serve so generously on our Board.



The Board of **reSource**, at their meeting in late November, 2010

## 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](http://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.