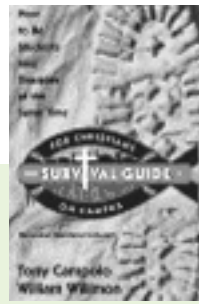


On The Bookshelf



Survival Guide for Christians: How to be students and disciples at the same time by Tony Campolo and William Willimon (Paperback)

Especially for university-age students, *Survival Guide For Christians* is a powerful book for today's students seeking to better understand and exemplify their faith in an academic setting. Through lively, engaging writing and solid theology, Campolo and Willimon encourage students to use the university experience to test, think about and ultimately strengthen their faith, not to shy away from tough questions. A great high school graduation gift.

We recommend Splintered Light books! www.splinteredlightbooks.com (434) 296-3977



OUR MISSION

To renew Christian thinking and discipleship.

OUR VISION

Church

To bring the rich resources of the Christian faith to bear in the church's distinctive identity and its engagement with culture.

Academy

To witness in the forums of intellectual life, communicating the good news that all truth belongs to God.

Community

To demonstrate the power of the Christian faith to heal and transform society.

You Make the Difference!

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www.theologicalhorizons.org



A Living, Learning Community

"We draw...people to Christ...by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it" (Madeleine L'Engle). At the Bonhoeffer House you practice and embody that--for those who already have a faith and those who do not.

We are all learning and questioning. We are embracing faith choices that ask us to redirect our lives. In this, we all need encouragement, support, prayer, and community. Theological Horizons offers that lived, learning community.

The environment in which we learn (and unlearn) is a social one, and the relationship one has with a teacher is essential. Theological Horizons provides the setting for relationships where we can explore, think thoughts that will effect change, and help one another venture beyond what is already known, guided by the "light that is so lovely."

--Beverly Wispelwey,
Theological Horizons board member

Expanding Horizons in Germany

At the invitation of the International Bonhoeffer Society and the Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany, I am currently serving as the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Visiting Professor at Humboldt University in Berlin. I ask your prayers for the Marsh family as we seek to build relationships and friendships with European Christians and German scholars and writers, to improve our language skills, introduce our children to new culture and worldviews, and, perhaps most importantly, situate, if not expand, the work of Theological Horizons in this intense, complex, and yet surprisingly upbeat city.



Max von Unger and Charles Marsh

Historic Humboldt University is renowned for such great minds as Hegel, Einstein, Planck and 29 Nobel Prize winners. Here I am embarking on a new project that promises to be the most demanding of my career. I am beginning a new biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (also educated at Humboldt University), who is not only a martyr of the Christian church, but indeed a Christian exemplar for our times. The biography will focus on Bonhoeffer's early years in Berlin, London and America. Its working title is *Bonhoeffer in America: A Biography*. The book's focus on these formative years illuminates the spiritual, intellectual and social motivations of his leadership in the Church struggle against Hitlerism, which led finally to his murder by the Gestapo in 1945.

In 1930, Dietrich Bonhoeffer came to Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was a straight-arrow academic whose star was rising, a twenty-three year old professor at Berlin whose doctoral dissertation had been praised by the great Karl Barth as a "theological miracle." His sights were set on a lifetime of academic comforts and rewards. When he left America a year later, he had laid aside his professional ambitions, determined to put his theology into action and to move from "phraseology to reality", as he said. By the end of April 1933, Bonhoeffer made his first public defense of the Jews and condemnation of the Aryan Clause when he told a group of Protestant theologians that in response to the rising specter of German anti-Semitism the Christian church was compelled not simply to "bandage the victims under the wheel, but to jam the spoke in the wheel itself." "Something had happened," his friend Bethge recalled.

My book will tell the story of what happened. That story holds great promise for us all.

May God's grace fill your hearts with joy and love.

Charles Marsh, CoDirector

GIFTS TO THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Gifts have been given in loving memory of Jenny Slocumb Ewing by Tommy Statham and by Coleman & Shirly Goodwin

A gift has been given in honor of Kathryn Jungman by Mr. & Mrs. Irvin H. Reeves

A gift has been given in honor of Will Jungman by Mr. & Mrs. Irvin H. Reeves

Gifts have been given in honor of Bob and Myra Marsh by Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Waits and by Elizabeth Russell

A gift has been given in honor of Mrs. Joy Roberts by Mr. & Mrs. Russell D. Roberts

A gift has been given in honor of Claire Kingma Wolterstorff by Bev Wispelwey and by Karen Wright Marsh



Following Jesus Christ then and now:

A mural on the Berlin Cathedral
In the Bonhoeffer House library



Experiencing the Welcome of Christ



Bishop Wolfgang and Kara Huber

“With my God, I can leap over a wall.” Psalm 18:29

Bishop Wolfgang Huber speaks with the Psalmist, as he has faced many walls of his own.

Wolfgang Huber has been the Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany, since 1995. After the Berlin Wall came down, he left the tranquility of a theology professorship at Heidelberg University to unite congregations long divided into churches of East and West struggling with cultural, economic and spiritual crises. Wolfgang now also leads the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), with its membership of 28 million.

The Germany of today is known to be secular in spite of the country’s deep historical roots in the Christian faith. In the great land of Martin Luther and J.S. Bach, only 6% of Germans attend church. Still, Bishop Huber sees promising signals of a return to faith. He says, “The German Evangelical church lives and is not finished!” He reminds us that we who “confess Christ alone as the word of God...have a center, core and fire that may be hidden under ashes but can still kindle a great flame.”

Wolfgang Huber has long been a friend of the Marsh family. In the Dome Room of the Rotunda at the University of Virginia, Wolfgang gave the 2003 Theological Horizons Capps Lecture: “Truth, Guilt and Reconciliation: Christian Faith in a Violent World”. He is an advisory board member of Theological Horizons and host to Charles Marsh in Berlin this spring.

Wolfgang Huber holds fast to the “core of our faith: *Dominus Jesus*. Jesus is Lord.” It is our great privilege to be in partnership with Wolfgang and his wife, Kara, a teacher and writer, as they minister in Germany. Pray for them and for the many seeking the hope and trust to be found in Jesus Christ.



Spring in Germany promises renewal and life:

Daffodils by the Staatsoper

The St. Marienkirche

The \$1,000.00 Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing is awarded each year to a graduate student whose essay demonstrates creative theological thinking, faithfulness to the Christian tradition and engagement with the community of faith. Masters and pre-dissertation doctoral students are eligible. Due June 1, submissions must be original, unpublished essays. For more information, please go to www.theologicalhorizons.org/writingprize or write to us at info@theologicalhorizons.org.

We warmly invite all graduate students to apply!

Singing Across Time

To be in Berlin is to inhabit at once the past and the future. As we live and work here for the semester, my family and I are dazzled by the architectural landscape that is this city. In the years after the Wall came down in 1989, cranes dominated the skyline of Berlin, the largest construction site in Europe. At the same time, between the soaring Sony Center at Potsdamer Platz and the Gucci storefronts, history lives all around us, in grand Prussian palaces, Holocaust memorials and unexpected street corners.



Christians in Germany are celebrating the 400th birthday of their greatest hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt. This “sweet singer of Lutheranism” lived through the tumultuous Thirty Years War, suffered the deaths of his wife and four children and was embroiled in church conflicts. Despite Gerhardt’s trials, in his hymns we hear the voice of one reliant on God, convinced of God’s goodness and rejoicing in God’s gifts.

On a recent sunny morning, we sat in the medieval St. Marienkirche amidst richly carved stone and wood. As the worship service began, we were transported by Gerhardt’s poetry with brass, choir, organ and even accordian, singing all together: “Ich singe Dir mit Herz und Mund, Herr, meines Herzens Lust.” “I sing to you with heart and mouth, Lord, my heart’s Desire.”

The witness to God’s perfect gifts was gloriously clear in this unity of past and present. Even after 400 years of wars and traumas, intellectual and cultural developments, and innumerable individual personal human histories, Paul Gerhardt’s faithful theological affirmations rang true, sung by a living congregation.

My work with Theological Horizons often brings me this deep experience of spirit felt truth. My modern sensibility and temporal concerns come into perspective when I read the words of Karl Barth, Clare of Assisi, Augustine and so many others in our vibrant tradition. Their wisdom transcends generations, brothers and sisters of Christian faith standing by to encourage me today. Theology is by no means a dusty discipline. Rather, it is a grand conversation, even a hymn, across time, singing out faith with such great beauty that it carries me along.



Karen Wright Marsh, CoDirector

Who will be Tomorrow’s Professors?

Making it in the mainstream academic world is tough. Graduate students invest many years at great personal cost to attain a doctorate from a well respected university. Harvard, for example, allows seven years for a Ph.D. in Religious Studies. The end of the doctoral ordeal brings the daunting search for a college teaching job. These young scholars are worthy of our respect and our prayers, for those who persevere are tomorrow’s professors, the ones who will teach our children and impact our intellectual world.

Theological Horizons supports promising Christian scholars on this demanding journey. We nurture their sense of ministry and advise them as they make their way through the academic labyrinth. For if “we grant that all truth is God’s truth, then intellectual work can be God’s work as much as preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry or healing the sick. It too is a sacred task.” (Arthur Holmes)

Raise our Theological Literacy Rates

Theological Horizons witnesses to God’s truth at the heart of culture, influencing the ideas and people who shape our world.

Our field of ministry is a culture, where faith too often lacks intellectual substance. Theological Horizons responds to the great need for quality teaching, thinking and writing by Christians in our universities, churches and communities.

Won’t you please make a strategic investment in Theological Horizons? Your partnership is needed and greatly valued.

Your tax-deductible gifts to Theological Horizons are welcome through online contributions at www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving.htm. Consider shares of stock, corporate matching gifts and checks, which may be sent to 1841 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Talk, think, debate, pray

The Friday Reading & Reflection Group meets at the Bonhoeffer House, the center of Theological Horizons. It offers a safe place to bring questions into the open as we discuss Richard Foster’s collection, *Spiritual Classics*. **Gerda Koenigsdorf**, a German national living in Charlottesville, says, “*Theological Horizons* addresses the needs of young people, presenting a forum where they can connect and grow spiritually. The college community comes together with permanent residents, bringing a broader perspective to both. As we relate the material to every day concerns, I have been blessed by the students’ point of view. It would be wonderful to have in Germany!”

Undergrad **Will Jungman** says: “*Theological Horizons* has provided a place where I can end my week with a time for reflection on how God influences my thoughts and actions. There is an intimate atmosphere for fellowship, thought, and prayer. I look forward to the weekly meetings at the Bonhoeffer House when I escape the bustle of college life and concentrate on the Lord.”

Read along with these students by joining our online Reading Group. For this and much more, visit www.theologicalhorizons.org.

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This newsletter provides information about the efforts of Theological Horizons, Inc., to foster Christian reflection & responsibility in the church, the community & the academy. It is distributed free to interested parties. Address questions & comments to Karen Wright Marsh.

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