

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Summer 2010

On the Side

» **"I am deeply honored to receive the Goodwin Prize, which supports and nurtures the art of theological writing. As students and scholars, it is easy to lose ourselves to the temptations of academic competition and ego. This prize honors instead the connection between the life of faith and intellectual curiosity, between the search for knowledge, and a commitment to the world."**

—MARY EMILY BRIEHL DUBA,
2009 GOODWIN PRIZE WINNER
(STORY ON PAGE 3)

QUOTABLE

"Our living as real human beings, and loving the real people next to us is, again, grounded only in God's becoming human."

— DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



Charles Marsh in Zionskirche, where Dietrich Bonhoeffer pastored in Berlin

Bonhoeffer In America: How one short year changed a German theologian's thought--and life--forever

W

hen German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer went to the United States in 1930, he was a rising academic star who had illuminated Berlin with his intellectual prowess. At age 24 he had already completed two doctoral dissertations and was on his way to do postgraduate work in New York

City at the Union Theological Seminary.

In his lecture as a Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, Charles Marsh tells the story of how Bonhoeffer was radically surprised and transformed by America. Charles, who also serves as co-director of Theological Horizons, is at work on a new biography of Bonhoeffer, who was murdered by the Nazi regime in 1945. You can get an early preview of this project by viewing the lecture online. Learn how Bonhoeffer's year-long stint in America changed a young theoretician into an on-the-ground proponent of lived faith, how it brought Dietrich Bonhoeffer "from the phraseological to the real".

See a video of the lecture at: http://www.americanacademy.de/home/audiovideo-archive/video/313//charles_marshall/

WHO WE ARE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information:

www.theologicalhorizons.org/events.htm

» Summer Salon Evening with the Marshes
The Bonhoeffer House
August 2010
karen@theologicalhorizons.org

» Fall Semester Programs begin at
The Bonhoeffer House
August 25, 2010

» Wahoo Welcome Lunch for students
The Bonhoeffer House
August 27, 2010, noon-2pm

» PROFILES

RACHEL, neuroscience major, U.Va. 2010

In college, students sometimes become so focused on making the grade that they forget to actively engage in thinking about vocation and their purpose in life. Theological Horizons is a place that allowed me to do just that. I am very glad to have been a part of it for four years.

I have enjoyed being a student at U.Va. and all of the opportunities I have had here. I am so thankful to have been able to pursue academics as well as social aspects. From the start, I knew I would earn a degree in neuroscience. My desire has been to help people with disabilities, and by studying the brain, I want to learn enough to make an impact one day.

At U.Va. I also became involved with volunteering and learning and found a great faith community through Theological Horizons. I have loved the emphasis of cultivating a faith-seeking understanding as well as engaging with other students and mentors. Being rooted in a vision of faith has been so helpful in thinking about how to integrate following Jesus with my academic pursuits. I have found it is possible to balance a life of intellectual curiosity while also growing spiritually.



CHRISTIAN NOWATSKY, pastor BERLINPROJEKT, Berlin, Germany

People talk about the dire state of Christianity and the Christian church in Europe, but you need to come here to Berlin to believe it. Almost every new friend I make has never met a Christian before in his life! As a 31-year-old, city-center pastor, I am virtually an alien. In this setting, the Berlinprojekt-Church has become a community, a place to explore the faith and learn about God in a way that is understandable and sometimes transforming for more than 400 people. When I told a German literature professor from U.Va., who knew about Berlin, how our church grew from 11 to its current size with many searching and new believers he had only one answer: "I don't believe you." I had to take out pictures. (Experience Berlinprojekt by video at www.berlinprojekt.com/partners/)

Theological Horizons and Berlinprojekt share a common mission. Most of our friends around the church have studied at a university. One of our passions is to truly reconnect the worlds we live in: the world of faith and the world of "normal" life, joining them thoroughly together. After all, we believe in a God who took on flesh—who, even in the most ethereal moment at Pentecost, made sure that this would be about bringing the message of "the wonders of God" into our everyday languages and cultures.

I always have been inspired by the "lived-out theology" of Theological Horizons. I believe that at the core of a theology that has to prove itself in the ups and downs of city life, lies an "actual sense of sweetness" of God's "holy and gracious" nature (J. Edwards), which is to me the greatest prize.



The Richard and Louise Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing



The aim of theological teaching is “to provide the soul with wings, to rescue it from the world and give it to God, and to watch over that which is in His image.” (Gregory of Nazianzus, 4th century)

Young scholars still follow God’s call to teach, braving years of financial sacrifice and rigorous study. A Ph.D. in the humanities requires an average of seven years to complete, and almost 50% of doctoral students drop out along the way. Those who do secure degrees then must compete for scarce professorships and little pay.

Theological Horizons comes alongside Christian scholars preparing for an academic vocation. Studies show that graduate students who publish are more likely than others to land tenure-track jobs. Our strategic Goodwin Writing Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing publicly recognizes the most promising graduate students from around the world.

Kendall Cox, a graduate student at U.Va., says that winning the Goodwin Prize in 2006 was “a huge gift—so exciting, so encouraging. Knowing that what you are writing about and working through matters tremendously.”

John Kiess, our 2001 winner, credited the Goodwin Prize for helping his



Goodwin Prize winners through the years, clockwise from top left: Jacob Paul (2003), Matthew Kustenbauder (2007), Kathryn Reinhard (2007), Shelli Poemessner (2009) with Charles Marsh, John Kiess (2003), and Kendall Cox (2006).

career. Kiess is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Theology and Ethics at Duke University, and says, “I think support and encouragement are important for anyone just starting to wade in the waters of theology, and it was tremendous to have the affirmation from Horizons.”

Dennis Feltwell, a Ph.D. student at Duquesne University and one of the 2009 winners, resonated with the mission of the Goodwin Prize, which he felt “reflects my commitment to making theological concepts

accessible and to non-specialists as well as scholars”.

The prize is endowed by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Garrett Louthan III in loving memory of Mrs. Louthan’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Goodwin.

In 2010 we are offering three prizes and have increased the awards to \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000. We’ve already broken past submission records this year as graduate students have enthusiastically responded to our call for excellence in Christian scholarship.

On the Bookshelf (what prize winners are reading)

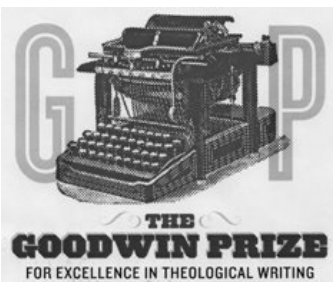
Matthew Whelan, 2008 winner:

>> *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, Willie James Jennings
Jennings explores Christianity’s implication in colonialism.

>> *In Amazonia: A Natural History*, Hugh Raffles
Raffles complicates the easy dichotomy between ‘nature’ and ‘culture’ by looking at Amazonia as a landscape where human and natural agency interweave in manifold ways.

Mary Emily Breihl Duba, 2009 winner:

>> *Dignity and Defiance: Stories from Bolivia’s Challenge to Globalization*, by Jim Shultz and Melissa Crane Draper
A powerful testimony to the courage of Bolivians, who are demanding that the developed world honor them as dignified people, not pawns in a globalization game.



Giving to HORIZONS

Special Gifts to Theological Horizons

*A gift has been given in honor of Rachel Thompson by Julia and David Thompson
A gift has been given in memory of Dana Goodwin Smith
by Shirley and Coleman Goodwin*

Give to Horizons

"In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

Theological Horizons steps into today's cultural debates with vivid biblical theology and faithful discipleship. This newsletter highlights some ways in which Theological Horizons discovers, mentors, and sends out young, thoughtful Christians who are "prepared to give the reason" for our hope.

Please join us here at the intersection of faith, thought and life. Support Theological Horizons with your prayers and your financial support. Make a difference in the lives of students and scholars, seekers and believers.

To give, go to: www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving.htm/



**Michelle Wang and Saranell
Hartman at Vintage**

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action

**THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS
SUPPORTS
CHRISTIANS IN ACADEMIA**

by advancing theological scholarship

by providing a welcoming home for engaging
faith, thought, and life

BONHOEFFER HOUSE

Theological Horizons is centered just steps from the University of Virginia at the Bonhoeffer House, the home of Professor Charles Marsh, Karen Wright Marsh, and their family. The Bonhoeffer House is a gathering place for students, professors, community members, and church leaders who come together for rich conversations about integrating the practices of theology into everyday life.

Stay in TOUCH

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Charlottesville, VA 22903
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From the Bonhoeffer House kitchen:

The Best Chocolate Sheet Cake Ever

We flipped over this cake when Saranell made it for Vintage!

Cake Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
¼ teaspoons salt
2 sticks butter
1 cup boiling water
½ cups buttermilk
2 whole beaten eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla

Frosting Ingredients

½ cups finely chopped pecans
1-¾ stick butter
4 tablespoons (heaping) cocoa
6 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 pound (minus 1/2 cup) powdered sugar

In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, and salt. In a saucepan, melt butter. Add cocoa. Stir together. Add boiling water, allow mixture to boil for 30 seconds, then turn off heat. Pour over flour mixture, and stir lightly to cool.

In a measuring cup, pour the buttermilk and add beaten eggs, baking soda, and vanilla. Stir buttermilk mixture into butter/chocolate mixture. Pour into sheet cake pan and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

While cake is baking, make the icing. Chop pecans finely. Melt butter in a saucepan. Add cocoa, stir to combine, then turn off heat. Add the milk, vanilla, and powdered sugar. Stir together. Add the pecans, stir together, and pour over warm cake. Cut into squares.

(Published by Ree Drummond, <http://thepioneerwoman.com>)