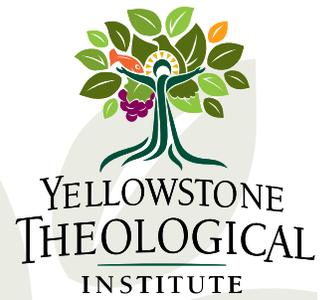


inscribed



News from the intersection of Faith, Adventure, & the Arts

AUGUST 2015 // Issue 01



Proposed chapel on the Yellowstone Theological Institute campus in Bozeman, Montana.

RENDERING COURTESY OF LOCATI ARCHITECTS

Yellowstone Theological Institute brings new vision for theological education in 21st century

DR. JAY SMITH

YTI PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first edition of *Inscribed*, the bi-monthly community newsletter of Yellowstone Theological Institute. *Inscribed* exists to keep you informed of the recent and future events of the Institute, as well as faculty accomplishments, student accomplishments, placement needs, and ongoing development projects.

We are extremely pleased with the reception YTI has received in the last seven months around the Northwest U.S. as well as in the gulf Southwest. Why is this? I believe it is because YTI provides a unique vision of what it means to deliver a meaningful theological education: YTI exists to provide a unique and relevant theological education for a changing world. We are “re-imagining a Christian witness” for the church in the 21st century.

We make no claims to extravagant facilities, and our faculty members are simply “harvest workers in the field of the Lord.” Nevertheless, our generous ethos and theology and our free-church orientation allow us to embrace a more diverse body of students than other seminaries or divinity schools. Additionally, YTI, though based in Bozeman, Montana, is equally invested in Boise,

See **YTI**, Page 2

YTI, from Page 1

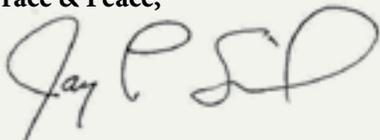
Idaho and Bellingham, Washington.

In recent months we have taught courses and given evening lectures in Boise, Idaho at First Baptist Church; Belgrade, Montana at Belgrade Community Church and at two locations in Bellingham, Washington – First Baptist Church and Hillcrest Community Church. We have recruited in several different colleges and universities in Texas, Idaho, Montana and Washington. We have engaged in servant ministries in the Gallatin Valley with the Yellowstone Soccer Experience, reaching out to over 50 participants and a hundred additional family members and friends!

Additionally, the YTI vision has been shared with writers from the Christian Century and other national publications. We have radio and print advertising in all of our geographic markets and have begun to field inquiries from potential donors.

We hope that you will follow us on this adventure. Our Master of Arts degree is only the first of four planned degrees for YTI. In 2017, we will begin our unique residential Master of Divinity program, followed in 2022 by a Doctor of Ministry and in 2027 by a Doctor of Theology. Remember, a seminary is not simply a school, but rather a living community where the Living God is encountered on a daily basis. Join us at Yellowstone Theological Institute, “Where faith meets adventure and the arts!”

Grace & Peace,



Dr. Jay Smith, President



COMING AUGUST 2015

LCLI brings convenient evening training to local churches

YTI is excited to announce the launch of the Local Church Learning Initiative (LCLI). The LCLI is designed to make training in focused areas accessible to

those who may not have a lot of time to devote to studies and who do not need to pursue a formal degree program.

LCLI courses are a total of 8 hours in length, which is typically spread over 4 consecutive evenings in 2-hour sessions; e.g., you may attend class from 6 PM to 8 PM, Monday through Thursday.

There are no tests or papers to worry about in LCLI courses – just in-person courses with passionate, qualified teachers and engaged fellow classmates.

Each LCLI course costs \$200 – the best part is that covers everything, including the lectures and any books needed for class!

The first LCLI classes, taught by YTI president Jay Smith, will be offered in Boise August 3-6, Bellingham August 10-13, and Bozeman September 14-17 on the topic ‘Interpreting the Bible.’

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Jesus for a New Generation
- Being the Missional Church
- Life & Teachings of Paul
- Persian Prophets: Daniel & Ezekiel
- Apocalypse and the End
- Leading a Sports Camp
- The Basics of Listening
- God Talk: What is Salvation, Really?
- Something Old, Something New: Ministry to Youth and Seniors!
- Understanding Addiction and Abuse
- Interpreting the Bible
- Dealing with Death...
- Basics of Leadership for Deacons, Elders, and Other Volunteers

YTI SPOTLIGHT: DR. BILL FOWLER

Yellowstone Theological Institute is blessed to have William Fowler on board as Provost. He joins YTI from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. The following interview highlights YTI's endeavors in theological work, as well as some of Bill's interests and joys.

How has your history of studying and teaching religion influenced your decision to move forward with YTI?

My earliest teaching experience was at the Canadian Baptist Theological College. The CBTC was an effort to provide theological training for Canadian students to minister in a Canadian culture with a distinct Baptist flavor. We provided theological training for the region so that ministers could both stay with their congregations and still be equipped to do ministry in their setting. At YTI, we are intentionally culturally conscious and regionally focused so that we can apply the same concept to our teaching, with a focus in the Rocky Mountain Northwest that will equip them to do ministry in a variety of settings.

YTI is also intentionally relational. We believe that the Gospel moves most quickly and powerfully through relationships, and that churches grow best when people are connected by strong, healthy relationships. Hinder or block healthy relationships and you hinder the flow of the Gospel and its redemptive power in our world. As our faculty and staff live out relationships that reflect respect, care, appreciation, humility, inter-dependence, freedom, support, understanding, love, and vulnerability, students will grow in that environment and learn how to foster healthy relationships in Christian community as well.

At YTI, I sense the importance of what we were doing at the CBTC, the wealth of relationships we enjoyed at HPU, and the quality of education that I received both at HPU and at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary where I completed my M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees. YTI excites and delights me. I am blessed to be part of it.

What are you looking forward to most about working with YTI? About living in Montana?

For starters, I look at the team of people, faculty

and staff, that God has put together for this new seminary and my heart swells with anticipation! I am ready to rock with this band of brothers and sisters. Then, I want to get to know the pastors and other missional leaders in the Rocky Mountain Northwest. They have so much to teach me, and I want them to sense that YTI is there to support them too. Additionally, I can't wait to meet and work with the men and women who will trust us and come to YTI to be trained.

As far as Montana goes, there was, years ago, a commercial for Pontiac with the tagline "Life's better in Montana." I've never doubted it. Some people have expressed concern about the cold, but I lived 14 Saskatchewan winters, which are like dog years. You get seven years credit for every winter in Saskatchewan. My only concern is that if I ever want to venture away from the Gallatin Valley in the winter, I'll need 4WD.

You've just had an addition to your family, a grandson. Would you tell us a little about him?

His name is William Fowler, born 8 days after my birthday in March. Greeting my new (and so far only) grandchild and then leaving him is one of the most difficult aspects of this transition, but God has given Dianne (my wife) and I peace.

If you find some free time in the chaos of moving, what might we find you doing?

I have a fly rod for Northern Pike fishing in Saskatchewan, but I'll need to learn the finesse of stream fishing for trout. It's a whole new world to explore. I also love to play basketball. There is a retired pastor who plays regularly at the gym near my new home, and he's even older than I am (I'm 62). I'm working on the theory that you don't quit playing because you get old, you get old because you quit playing. The fact that they have a hot-water whirlpool at the gym sounds good too. I may be able to survive. 🍀



Dr. Bill Fowler

PERIPATETIC THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ministry training where you live and serve

Following the ‘peripatetic’ model of Jesus, Paul, and ancient Greek philosophers, YTI is committed to ‘face-to-face’ instruction in different locations alongside an online presence. This hybrid form of instruction, coupled with a commitment to the different geographic regions, is designed to meet the needs of the contemporary student and 21st century church. Courses are designed with practical applications of theological, spiritual, and biblical development in mind. From start to finish, the YTI student will be involved in a unique and life changing educational process, equipped to minister critically and wisely to the next generation.

Small class sizes help facilitate a strong flow of information, dialogue, and critical thinking in which the students and professors are comfortable enough to share their thoughts, and with classes taught on a 6-week quarter system (with one week of intensives and five weeks of follow-up), every student has the chance for both face-to-face contact with the professor as well as personalized online learning experiences for each student as they finish course work. This particular model is an extension of the model first put into place at Baylor University’s Truett Sem-

inary and expanded upon at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

YTI’s Master of Arts degree is a 2 1/2 year program of 40 hours (20 classes), and functions as the cornerstone of education for vocational ministry work (*see concentrations at right*).

YTI also offers two additional programs catering to the different educational needs and busy schedules of

potential students. The Certificate program is a short 3-class program in the field providing students with added expertise in a specific area of ministry (*see concentrations at right*),

and the Diploma of Ministry program engages students in basic ministry training with courses that also fit within the Master of Arts degree program (*see class listing at right*).

Our goal is to meet students where they are and to provide them with the education and guidance relevant to the needs of their communities. This is particularly true for Masters of Arts degree-seeking students, who will be assigned a local area mentor pastor and a YTI faculty mentor. These students will progress with their studies and their ministry with guidance and contact with both mentors as they work within their community for applicable and relevant hands-on experience. 

per-i-pa-tet-ic

(*adjective*) traveling from place to place, especially working or based in various places for relatively short periods

(*from Gr. ΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΕΪΩ*)

YTI Academic Programs & Concentrations

MASTER OF ARTS

Concentrations:

- Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Worship Arts
- Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Family Ministry
- Spirituality
- Biblical Studies
- Theology

[Prerequisite: Bachelor's Degree]

CERTIFICATE

Concentrations:

- Recreational Ministry
- Western Heritage Ministry
- Worship Technology
- Senior Adult Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Pastoral Care & Recovery Ministries
- Innovative Church Planting
- Entrepreneurial Ministry
- Cultural Exegesis

[Prerequisite: High School Diploma/GED]

DIPLOMA OF MINISTRY

7 Courses:

- Old Testament: Text, Theology and Interpretation
- New Testament: Text, Theology and Interpretation
- Theology of Prayer
- Basic Christian Theology
- Basic Communication for Ministry
- Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Spiritual Disciplines

YTI INTERN TAYLOR PFEIFFER

A Gallatin Valley Summer

Taylor Pfeiffer, a Truett Seminary student at Baylor University, came to Bozeman early this June for an internship with YTI. He has worked primarily with Dr. Jay Smith, but has also been involved with Belgrade Community Church, joining their worship team and helping with events such as their recent VBS program and YTI's Yellowstone Soccer Experience. Taylor returns to Waco, TX this August to begin his last year of seminary.

How did you hear about YTI?

I first heard about Yellowstone Theological Institute when I began reading a book written by a professor of mine, Dr. Roger Olson. On the back cover of the book were various statements about the book and the author; one such commenter was Dr. Jay Smith of Yellowstone Theological Institute. After inquiring about him from Dr. Olson, I learned that Dr. Smith is a friend of his who, with some others, was starting a theological institute in a town called Bozeman, Montana. I was immediately intrigued.

He could put me in touch with Dr. Smith so that I could do my mentoring course, a combined internship and class, with YTI; we were able to talk about YTI and their vision there. Fascinated by what they were doing, I accepted Dr. Smith's invitation to "Come on up!"

How do you view the vision of YTI? What about its people?

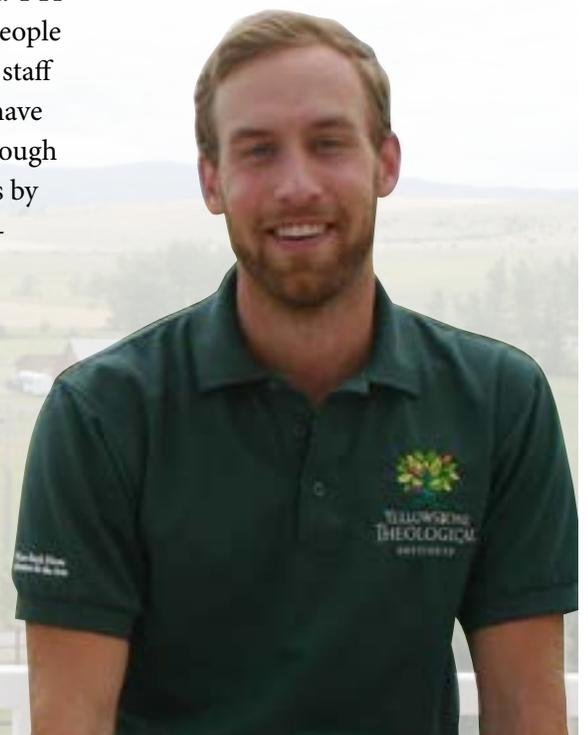
I view YTI as an institute that aims to work for the Kingdom of God by re-envisioning what it means to be a "seminary". They recognize that a theological institute does not just have to be a place where you sit in a classroom, do your homework, receive your grade, and then leave; it could be so much more. With YTI, it is. Their vision is to have a place that not only educates students but also gets them involved with the community, which would, in turn, get the community involved with both the students as well as what God is doing at YTI. They are breaking down the walls of the classroom and opening theological education to have a broader, fuller, and further-reaching impact, first on Bozeman, Montana, and then to the greater Northwest. YTI can only do this, of course, if its people are doing this – and they are. The staff and faculty at YTI love God and have a passion for sharing that love through education and outreach, as well as by modeling the love of Christ themselves.

Can you describe the Gallatin Valley? Your summer in Montana?

The Gallatin Valley is a beautiful and vibrant place. The

country is filled with mountains, trees, wildlife, and natural beauty that I imagine would be hard to rival anywhere else one might look. In addition, the culture is as rich as the land. The people here thrive on the natural draw of the Valley, but make it into so much more by the exploring the sights, sounds, tastes, and uniqueness that this community brings. My summer in Montana has reflected this in many ways, as I have climbed the mountains, floated the rivers, walked the streets of downtown, eaten amazing food, and gotten to know the wonderful people.

I am incredibly thankful for my summer here and would encourage anyone and everyone who has the opportunity to take a class, hear a lecture, or meet the people at YTI, to absolutely do so. 🌿



Taylor Pfeiffer

Summer soccer fun under the Big Sky!



The 2015 Yellowstone Soccer Experience was held July 13-17 in Belgrade, Montana. Altogether, there were 52 participants attending the camp, led by accomplished coaches and soccer players visiting from Georgetown, Texas. YTI co-sponsored the event with Belgrade Community Church.



YELLOWSTONE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Mailing: P.O. Box 1347
Bozeman, MT 59771

Physical: 601 S. Pine Butte Rd
Bozeman, MT 59718

406-404-1600
yellowstonetheology.org

