

GROUND BREAKING

Construction is underway at The Yellowstone Center.

On June 2, 2016, The Yellowstone Center Board of Directors, faculty, staff, and friends gathered to dedicate the property on South 19th in Bozeman. During the groundbreaking ceremony, Center president Dr. Jay Smith and board member Karen Gilhousen made brief remarks affirming the commitment that, in addition to being the home of Yellowstone Theological Institute, The Yellowstone Center is intended to be a resource for the entire community.



Dr. Jay Smith (Yellowstone Center president), Karen Gilhousen (board member), Greg Dennee (architect), and Chris Budeski (engineer) put gold shovels in the ground at The Yellowstone Center's property on June 2, 2016. [CHRIS HODGE PHOTO]

"The Yellowstone Center is born out of a generous Christian faith, a faith that does not judge and loves deeply," said Dr. Smith. "It is a faith that loves Bozeman and seeks to build bridges of peace, joy, and cooperation in our community, our state, and our region. We desire to complement and partner with our fellow non-profit and ed-

ucational institutions in Bozeman for the improvement of our community."

The property will include a chapel, classrooms, offices, and library space for Yel-

lowstone Theological Institute, a café featuring produce grown right on the Center's grounds, and an array of recreational

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Stand Up.

There is a time in all of our lives when we must ‘stand up’. We must find the courage to bear witness to our convictions with our heart, our voice, and our person. As followers of Christ, we find ourselves being tested in the fall of 2016. It is an election year in the United States, and we have been placed in the unenviable position of having to choose between two highly debated candidates. Our country is radically divided over politics, race, gender, and economics. Our country has been cut to the heart by unceasing violence: white against black, civilians against police officers, and police officers against civilians. We are angry and hurt, we mourn, and we surrender. There has been a ‘lull’ in the fighting, but it has been an uneasy truce. There has been no real peace.

We cannot recapture the halcyon days of another time, but we can create a better tomorrow. As followers of Christ, I pray that all of us may find the courage to stand up for Jesus, as Jesus stood up for us. To stand up for Christ is to stand up and seek justice for all human beings: black, brown, yellow, red, white, Democrat, Re-



publican, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, sinner, and saint – it did not matter to Jesus. He forgave the thief on the cross, the woman caught in adultery, the Samaritan woman, the four lepers, Nicodemus the Pharisee, and many others. He received them and loved them.

Yellowstone Theological Institute is focused on being a game changer. To follow Christ with all of your heart, to love others unconditionally, and to seek justice for the impoverished, the marginalized, and the oppressed is almost 100% guaranteed to get one crucified, but it will change the game. YTI stands at the forefront, bringing Christ to culture in a powerful statement of crucifixion and resurrection. Stand with us as we stand for Christ in our world.

Grace & Peace,

Dr. Jay Smith, President



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and cultural amenities for the Bozeman community, including trails, fields, courts, gardens, and fine arts studios.

Madison Engineering and Sime Construction of Bozeman have already been working on infrastructure for the property, including sewer, water, traffic signals, and roads. Building designs are currently

being finalized by Locati Architects.

Construction on Phase I of the Center’s facilities will begin later this year. Architects and engineers say the facilities should be ready for occupancy by August 2018, with a few buildings ready by late fall 2017.

Please keep this building process in your prayers! 🌿



EVERYONE BELONGS TO GOD

DR. JAY T. SMITH

YTI PRESIDENT

I've been reading quite a bit lately—no surprise to anyone who knows me. But recently I have been reading something that simply happened across my desk, *Everyone Belongs to God*, by Christoph Blumhardt, a 19th century German Lutheran, Pietist, and founder of Christian Socialism in Germany. He became renowned as an evangelist and faith healer. Although he became involved in politics in the late 19th century, he later gave that up to focus on preparing for the coming of God's kingdom.

Blumhardt's thesis is surprisingly simple and powerful, like the gospel itself: everyone belongs to God. Living in the 21st century, this phrase struck me as a bit naïve. In an age where the very idea of God is marginalized, trivialized, and even euthanized, the concept that "everyone belongs to God" seems out of place, if not completely unintelligible. But it is a message that brings hope.

Looking for Hope

And so I read on. In this political year, in this terribly lost country, I need

hope. I need hope that God has not abandoned us, that we have not been left to our own foolish devices, and that there is a future for the people of God, the imago Dei.

Maybe you are like me. Maybe you have similar thoughts: Our times seem hopeless. Peace seems impossible. There is little or no love for neighbor. Blacks, whites, Latinos, straights, gays, the religious, and the secular are in a constant state of civil war. Disorientation feeds hurt, and hurt fuels hatred. Hatred spawns uncontrollable violence.

We need hope. We need love. We cry out in prayer.

Why Everyone Has Value and Worth

Our answer is simple. Everyone belongs to God: blacks, whites, Latinos, Arabs, Asians, straights, gays, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex belong to God. Everyone means EVERYONE. We belong to God and God belongs to us.

If everyone belongs to God, then everyone has value and worth. Everyone deserves love and acceptance. Everyone

deserves an opportunity to live and to love one another. God makes this possible. Science doesn't make this possible, philosophy doesn't make this possible, and religion certainly doesn't make this possible. God isn't religion and religion isn't God.

God is the ground and source of all that is. God is beyond any one religious expression, yet a clue to God is seen in all true devotion.

A New Reality for Humanity

Blumhardt understood that Jesus ushered in a new reality for all human beings. He sought to see the Kingdom of God—the Kingdom of Peace—come through love, prayer, and persistent social action. He sought the leadership of the Spirit in the reconciliation of people to God.

This is what The Yellowstone Center seeks. We believe everyone belongs to God. We believe there is something in everyone that is worth investing in, something that is worth redemption. If we can see that everyone belongs to God, then maybe—just maybe—we have true hope. 🌱



EAST MEETS WEST

Buddhism in America

Betsy Quammen, lecturer in religious studies, addresses the topic "East Meets West: Buddhism in America," in front of a packed house at the Bozeman Public Library on July 11.



As we enter a new academic year, would you consider standing with the faculty, staff, and students of YTI? We need men and women who will lift us up in prayer on a daily basis, as well as give generously to help us build an endowment to keep our tuition low. Would you prayerfully consider giving \$50, \$100, or \$200 a month? Maybe a one time gift to honor a relative or to endow a scholarship? You, our supporters, are just as important as our faculty! You are our success!

YELLOWSTONETHEOLOGY.ORG/GIVING-TO-YTI



Inscribed is the bi-monthly newsletter of
Yellowstone Theological Institute

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Soccer camp teaches skills for life

MATTHEW C. GREEN

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Dozens of soccer players gathered in Belgrade, Montana, from June 27-30 for the 2016 Yellowstone Soccer Experience. The event was hosted by The Yellowstone Center for Faith, Adventure, and the Arts in conjunction with Belgrade Community Church.

Against the majestic backdrop of the Bridger Mountains, soccer camp participants learned skills from experienced coaches while having a whole lot of fun with friends both old and new.

The soccer camp is an expression of The Yellowstone Center's intention to share God's love with the community.

"The Yellowstone Soccer Experience features a distinct Christian witness where the coaches not only teach explicit soccer skills, but also connect with the kids' lives in an encouraging way," said Center president Dr. Jay Smith. "The kids gain a greater understanding of life and the relationship of faith to life. They not only

are trained by great coaches, but they learn to be better people."

The lessons of soccer extend far beyond the field.



"The kids are building life-long skills, making life-long friendships at camp," said coach Malcolm Framjee.

"They call soccer the 'beautiful game' because it teaches so much that you need as a child," said coach Ben Bishop. "It teaches motivation, leadership, the dedication that you need to stick with something, the passion to learn to get better, and the focus and the drive to just continue to strive for excellence, to just become better in all aspects of life."

There is no doubt that camp attendees grew in their soccer abilities.

"I learned a lot and the coaches would really challenge my skills," said one participant.

Even more than skills development, however, the camp desires to foster a positive, uplifting experience for kids. It's an aim that wasn't lost on those who attended.

"I like soccer camp because the coaches were really nice, and there were a lot of people that you could make friends with," said one of the young people who attended.

"We had fun, and the people there were really nice," another agreed.

The Yellowstone Center and Belgrade Community Church are grateful for the support of our sponsors who helped make the Yellowstone Soccer Experience possible: KCMM 99.1 The One, Belgrade News, MAC Propane, Belgrade True Value, Kenyon Noble, Allstate-Marie Gary Agency, and Universal Athletic. 

YTI SPOTLIGHT: LAURA PEISKER

This summer, Laura Peisker has been helping out as an assistant at the YTI office in Bozeman. Currently a student at Dallas Theological Seminary, Laura has been getting a good taste of the YTI vision and adventure in the Northern Rockies.

How did you hear about YTI?

Dr. Smith and Dr. Fowler were both professors at Howard Payne University when I was a student pursuing my undergraduate degree. I never actually took classes from either of them, but I ran into them often. I knew Dr. Smith through the marching band: he wrote our music, announced for us at the football games, and would show up for quite a few of our practices. I met Bill at a fundraising car wash that my sorority was hosting: a few of my pledge sisters

had been in his classes, so they ran up to embrace him. His hugs looked so warm and inviting that I walked up to him and asked, “Can I have one of those, too?” Dr. Fowler has been like a spiritual father and mentor to me ever since, helping me through many life situations and choices to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. Even after Bill moved up to Bozeman to help Jay start a seminary, he would come and visit me and other former students when he happened to be in Texas, so I learned quite a bit about the vision of YTI.

Tell us a little about that vision.

When I told one of my professors at Dallas Theological Seminary that I was spending the summer in Montana

helping the staff at YTI and explained to him the vision Jay and Bill have for it, he commented to me: “America is already post-Christian.” He affirmed the need that Klein Gilhousen envisioned (and that YTI is seeking to address): to provide the Church with a reinvented form of theological instruction that will meet the needs of a changing culture.

YTI’s vision for embracing everyone and seeking to have a dialogue between people possessing very different beliefs is challenging and necessary. Not only will the Church have no other option than to be genuine, but our world also desperately needs people to have the

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Laura Peisker takes a break from her duties at the YTI office to experience the wonders of Yellowstone.

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humility and grace to listen to one another. And I mean really, really listen: the kind of listening that makes you just want to cry because you have no idea how to handle what you are hearing, since the person talking sounds just like you. And you have nowhere to turn with this confusion but to Jesus.

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

Hmm... very different from the Dallas area? Haha! I struggled for the first month or so with truly grasping I was here in the midst of such unbelievable beauty. I feel as if my soul is recharging from spending countless hours listening to the silence at the top of Sacajawea Peak, gazing up at the sunlight through the leaves of the aspen trees, and watching the wind dance in patterns through the wheat fields. This past year was difficult for me, so the summer has been a time of healing and rest. I have loved spending time with the YTI staff and their families, whether that looked like going to movies, playing card games, sharing stories over dinner on a back porch, eating Wilcoxson's ice cream, or hugging their wiggling dogs.

What has been your favorite part of working with YTI?

The staff. Each co-worker has challenged me and encouraged me so much! Dr. Smith has pushed me to consider why I think the way I do (it's definitely uncomfortable to think about how you think). And Matt and Kathryn have laughed with me in the office and showed me how to communicate with integrity and professionalism. I know I have grown so much through having deep life-discussions with each person on staff. Their hearts are passionate, genuine, and caring.

What are your plans from here?

I am afraid that I'm headed back to hot, crowded North Texas to continue my Th.M. at Dallas Theological Seminary. YTI does not yet have the biblical languages program that I am interested in pursuing, so I am focusing on that area of study at DTS. I am excited, though, to see where God takes YTI and to possibly be a part of it somehow in the future. I am eager to return to my family and friends in Texas, but I will miss Bozeman and the people here who have challenged me to not just love "with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:18, NET) 🍀

FAREWELLS & HELLOS

DR. JAY T. SMITH

YTI PRESIDENT

It is never easy to say goodbye, so I won't, but rather, farewell.

**Kathryn Green**

A beautiful farewell to Kathryn Green, our office administrator, and Matt Green, our communications and marketing director, who are moving to Arizona in August to pursue graduate studies. Matt will continue his association with YTI completing graphic design projects for us remotely, and Kathryn will continue to provide some administrative support, so we will stay in touch.

**Matthew Green**

Additionally, our lovely assistant, Un Kim, is seeking her fortune in the Big Apple—New York City—as an editor in an established publishing house. Fortunately, Un will continue to edit our newsletter, *Inscribed*, so we can only wish her the best of luck!

**Un Kim**

We can't say farewell though without saying "Hello!" to our new office administrator, Mrs. Amy Figgins. Amy is a longtime resident of the Gallatin Valley. She is married to Matt and they have two wonderful children, Brooklyn and Derik. Look for an interview with her in an upcoming issue!

**Amy Figgins**

In addition, Chris Hodge, our media and marketing assistant, will be assuming the role of marketing director in August. Chris is married to Miranda, who is a student at YTI. 🍀

**Chris Hodge**

2016 FALL SESSION

BOZEMAN OCTOBER 3-7

- **9AM-NOON**
Transformation [THEO201]
- **1-4PM** Doctrines:
Basic Christian Beliefs [THEO202]
- **6-10PM** Hermeneutics:
The Craft of Biblical and Theo-Cultural Interpretation [BIB200]
- **6-10PM** Church: A
Theology of the Mission of God [THEO203]

B O I S E OCTOBER 24-28

- **9AM-NOON** Advanced
Theology: The Doctrine of Salvation [THEO300]
- **1-4PM** Transformation [THEO201]
- **6-10PM** Hermeneutics:
The Craft of Biblical and Theo-Cultural Interpretation [BIB200]

BELLINGHAM NOVEMBER 7-11

- **9AM-NOON**
Transformation [THEO201]
- **1-4PM** Advanced
Theology: The Doctrine of Salvation [THEO300]
- **6-10PM** Hermeneutics:
The Craft of Biblical and Theo-Cultural Interpretation [BIB200]
- **6-10PM** Advanced
Theology: The Doctrine of Salvation [THEO300]

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