

GIFTS *of Christmas*

DR. JAY T. SMITH

YTI PRESIDENT

Two thousand years ago, three Persian Magi came from the East, bearing gifts for the Christ child. Jesus, in return, gave hope, mercy, forgiveness, and love to the world. In 2017, Yellowstone Theological Institute will be bringing a gift to the Rocky Mountain Northwest: a cutting edge theological education, the likes of which no one has seen before. For the past two years, Dr. Bill Fowler, Dr. Scott Hamilton, Ms. Tracie Jernigan, Mr. Brett Desper, and I have been giving students in Boise, Bellingham, and Bozeman a taste of what is to come. The time has arrived to give birth to the “daring adventure” we have planned from the beginning. Starting in June 2017, new faculty members will be arriving in Bozeman.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas friends!

2016 has been a difficult, but rewarding year for the Yellowstone Theological Institute. In 2016, we continued teaching and growing our programs in Boise, ID and Bellingham, WA. We began development of our property in Bozeman, and as you will see in this issue, we have finished hiring our core faculty. Each has been carefully chosen for their understanding of our vision, his or her pursuit of academic excellence, unquenchable desire for theological inquiry, and his or her love of preparing people for ministry. Truly, they are a wonderful group of people. The difficult part of our year many of you already know: we lost our board chairman, Klein S. Gilhousen. Klein was a great man, and he shared our vision. He changed the way people in the Western world communicate—via the cell phone—and he wanted his lasting legacy not to be the cell phone necessarily, but rather the Yellowstone Theological Institute. His family foundation is the cornerstone of YTI financial support.

As YTI grows, let me encourage each of you to consider how you can support our mission: “To change the way the world understands God, and the way Christians embrace the mission of Jesus.” We need people willing to tell others about the incredible educational experience they can expect in the Rocky Mountains and the clear



beauty of Montana. We need people to consider finding people to invest in this vision. I want to encourage each of you who receive *Inscribed* to consider a regular financial gift to YTI. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, your contributions are tax deductible. Can you afford \$20, \$50, or \$100 per month and become a member of the Jim Bridger Society? Or maybe you would consider a large one-time gift, or even a naming gift? Become a partner to YTI; not simply a donor, but a partner in the ministry in which we are engaged. We are grateful for the incredible support of the Gilhousen family, but they want you to join in this adventure with them.

Will you give a gift to the students of the Yellowstone Theological Institute that will last a lifetime? Call our office at (406) 404-1600 and get more information about giving to YTI, or simply go to our website and click on the “Partner with Us” button, then scroll down the page to the “Donate Now” button. Join us in 2017 on this daring adventure, and visit us in December of 2018 as we dedicate our new campus!

Many Blessings to All of You!

Jay T. Smith, President



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Yellowstone Theological Institute

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DR. JAY SMITH

President, Professor of Theology & Ethics



It has been my privilege to be with YTI since its inception, first as a board member, and now as its President. I love teaching as much as I love research and have really enjoyed developing our satellite campuses. My personal scholarship is focused on the nature and function of the church, the theological imagination, and the doctrine of the Trinity.

I am fortunate to have three wonderful women in my life: my wife, Melissa, to whom I have been married for almost 30 years; my oldest daughter, Catherine, who lives in Texas with her husband Johnathan; and, my youngest, Hannah, who is a junior in high school.

In my spare time—what little of it I have!—I enjoy reading, writing, arranging music for band, choir, and orchestra, officiating soccer matches, as well as exploring Montana and enjoying its natural beauty. I might add that I have a real fondness for Weber's Root Beer located at Weber's Root Beer stand in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I believe that YTI is what theological education should be like. The vision statement, "Changing how the world understands God and how Christians embody the mission of Jesus," is lived out at YTI. We are model of community, scholars who love and live the life of Christ, not only in the classroom, but also in the community where we live. 📖

GIFTS, from Page 1

The first new faculty members are Rachel Toombs and Lance Green. Dr. David Wilmington and Dr. Scott Hamilton will follow these wonderful scholars in July. In September, Dr. Betsy Quammen and Mr. Brett Desper will follow. Our Chapel Dean and Professor of Worship Studies will be named in a later edition of *Inscribed*, but I can promise that you will be pleased. These people will be the nucleus of our faculty at the Institute, as well as the heart of a new church movement in the Rocky Mountains. This is the gift that has been gestating since 2011.

As the church embodies Jesus and embrac-

es the mission He has for us, a new world is created in our midst. It is the movement of God's love, the Christ Community, where everyone benefits. When the magi gave their gifts to the infant Jesus, they knew something special was going to happen, even when they just gazed down upon the child. They believed. I don't think they could have imagined just how much power and poetry was in the baby, but they believed that He was the one.

As our nation and world continue to fall prey to anger, deceit, violence, and evil, a fresh and powerful embodiment of the Spirit of Christ is needed to face such a challenge. This core group of men and women at YTI are prepared to equip and

send leaders for just such a task. They are prepared to equip other men and women to think creatively and critically in the theological task. They are ready to equip those daring adventurers to go forth into a brave new world—not just to share the love of Christ, but also to be the love of Christ for the world. They are our gift to you.

In focusing on this gift, we have dedicated this issue of *Inscribed* to featuring the faculty members you see on the front cover. Our regular YTI Spotlight and Reflection pieces will return in the next issue. Until then, please continue to pray for YTI, and consider sending a gift this year to enable our students to participate without fearing a mountain of debt after graduation. 🌱



MS. RACHEL TOOMBS

Professor of Theology & Old Testament

We are both very excited to join YTI in the spring of 2017! A native Minnesotan, Rachel is currently writing a dissertation on Flannery O'Connor, Hebrew narrative, and the functions stories serve in shaping our theological imagination. Being both a Professor of Old Testament and Theology, Rachel is an interdisciplinary scholar, with a passion for the development and reception of the Old Testament, from its early development through the early Church. She spends time in medieval mysticism, in particular Hildegard of Bingen, and 20th century Catholic Renaissance literature.

Lance, a self-proclaimed Pacific Northwest expat, has focused his academic research on the thought of Catholic theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar, metaphysics, and phenomenology. As both a Lecturer in Theology and Adventure, Lance is excited to integrate the rigorous theological education of the classroom with an honoring and thrilling engagement with creation.



MR. LANCE GREEN

Lecturer in Theology & Adventure



Yellowstone Theological Institute embodies so many of our own passions, and we are excited to help foster the careful and faithful study of theology and the Scriptures, both in the classroom and the wilderness surrounding Bozeman. 📖



DR. SCOTT HAMILTON

Professor of Pastoral Care & Counseling

I never dreamed God would put me in a position to help equip others to do ministry; God truly has a sense of humor. Being with like-minded people, empowering others to see ministry through a different and exciting lens is becoming one of the greatest blessings of my life. My current research reading is at the intersection of Christian spiritual and psychological clinical languages, working to understand better to what extent the vocabulary overlaps.

Rebecca and I married almost 25 years ago. She has never wavered in her love for God and the care of our two daughters. My oldest is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in nursing to compliment her business degree. The younger will graduate from college in



the spring of 2017, equipped to teach early childhood through 6th grade. While I'm not a gym rat, I am an exercise enthusiast; I love to run, bike, and hike.

YTI's vision is, "Changing how the world understands God and how Christians embody the mission of Jesus." Helping students see life as an ever-expanding opportunity to participate in God's handiwork fuels my teaching and kingdom presence. Being on the expanding edge of theological education in the 21st century is a phenomenal gift and opportunity. 📖



DR. DAVID WILMINGTON

Professor of Theology & Philosophy

My family (wife, Molly, and our kids, Luke and Anna Grace) and I are excited and honored to join YTI. I have discussed the vision and progress of the Institute with Jay and Bill for more than a year, and I cannot wait to arrive in Bozeman next summer as Professor of Theology and Philosophy.

I am especially excited to have the opportunity to help shape the character and witness of this ambitious place via advocacy of rigorous, Spirit-led theological critical thinking, precise language, and gracious embodiment of the Gospel. Since 2010, I have taught Christian Scriptures, Christian Heritage, and Intellectual Traditions (philosophy, theology, and literature) of the Ancient and Medieval worlds for the Baylor Religion Department and Great Texts Program. I have also taught courses in theology, Christian history, and ethics at the Masters level for Truett Seminary and (online) for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

I write about virtues ethics, patristic and medieval philosophy and theology (Bonaventure, in particular), and postmodern philosophy. I also bring all of my interdisciplinary training and experience as a musician (saxophone), soccer player and coach, filmmaker, and jazz evangelist into my research, writing, and teaching—scary, I know.



I am a dangerously enthusiastic fan of Patrick O'Brian, Tolkien, Mexican food, good tea, Mystery Science Theatre 3000, Thelonus Monk, mountain camping, Kieslowski films, and Liverpool Football Club. ■

2017 WINTER SESSION

BELLINGHAM

JANUARY 9-13, 2017

THEO202 Doctrines: Basic Christian Beliefs

BIB201 Old Testament: Torah and the Histories

BOISE

JAN. 30-FEB. 3, 2017

THEO202 Doctrines: Basic Christian Beliefs

BIB300 Advanced Biblical Studies: The Sermon on the Mount

BIB201 Old Testament: Torah and the Histories

BOZEMAN

FEBRUARY 20-24, 2017

THEO202 Doctrines: Basic Christian Beliefs

BIB201 Old Testament: Torah and the Histories

Sign Up Today! **YELLOWSTONE THEOLOGY.ORG**



MR. BRETT DESPER

Lecturer in Spirituality & Discipleship



As you can see from our picture, Kris and I are extremely happy this year that the Cubbies finally pulled off a World Series win; we are also both Green Bay Packers fans, although that doesn't look quite as promising this year.

No children, but we do have two English Springer Spaniels, Jack and Skipper, who keep us occupied! My wife and I enjoy movies, books, hiking (her more than me), and other activities here in the Bozeman area.

My scholarly interests primarily lie in spiritual formation and equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry. I love teaching and interacting with students. I am primarily teaching classes on spiritual formation (the process by which we are formed into the likeness of Christ) and spiritual practice (spiritual disciplines that help in that formation). I have an M.Div from Regent College and am currently in the Doctor of Ministry degree at George Fox University studying spiritual formation.

What I like most about YTI's vision is its desire to train and equip a future generation of leaders to engage all of society and the culture in whatever setting they find themselves in. I appreciate YTI's approach to ministry and teaching that seeks to integrate faith and theology with an understanding of how to reach the world around us with compassion and grace. 📖



MS. BETSY QUAMMEN

Lecturer in World Religions & Culture

Betsy is working on her Ph.D. on the nexus between religion and landscape use at Montana State University. She is due to defend her dissertation in 2017.

She founded and served as Executive Director of the Tributary Fund after visiting the Eg-Uur watershed and Dayan Derkh Monastery ruins in 2002 and falling in love with the religion, culture, landscapes, and people of Mongolia. The Tributary Fund worked to protect endangered wildlife and their habitats by celebrating and amplifying cultural traditions that honor nature in Mongolia, Bhutan, and the American West.



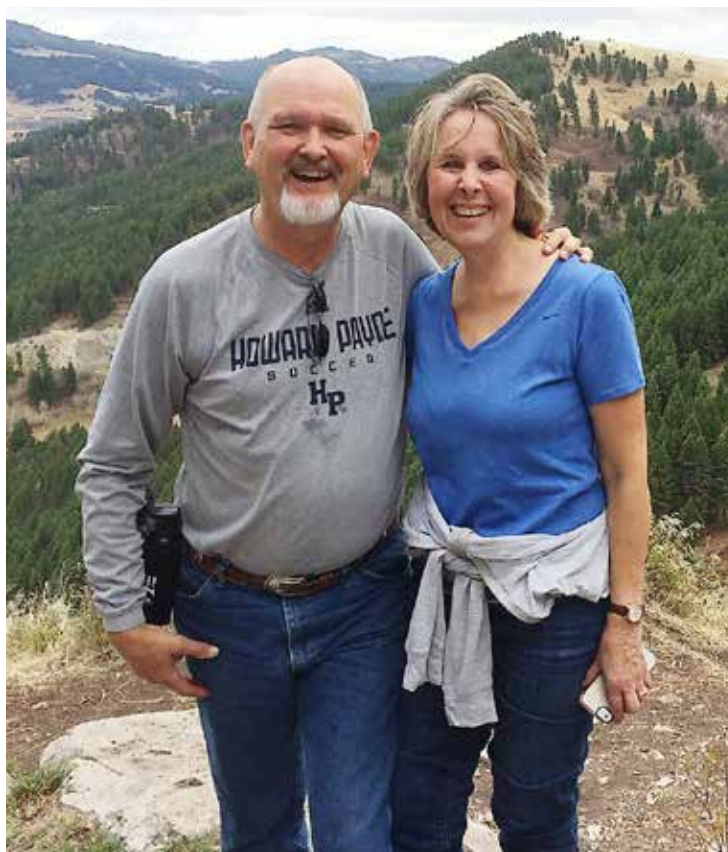
Betsy earned her MS in Environmental Studies at University of Montana. She lived in Kenya, working for the East African Wildlife Society and held positions at Montana State University's Center for Native American Studies and Wallace Stegner Western Studies program. Today she is a lecturer in World Religions and Culture at YTI. 📖

DR. BILL FOWLER

Provost & Professor of Biblical Studies

After spending a week during the summer of 2012 with a small group brainstorming, dreaming, and imagining what Yellowstone Theological Institute would need to become, I was sold on the vision of a new way to do theological education, not just using new methods, but embodying a unique mentality of living Christ within culture as preparation for ministry. As we have recently experienced a major step forward in our peripatetic program (the one we take on the road) and as we anticipate the inaugural class of our M.Div. program in 2017 (the one we do in residence), I am delighted to be an integral part of this amazing endeavor.

Currently serving as Provost and Professor of Biblical Studies, I have also been active as a church relations ambassador in the Gallatin Valley. My wife, Dianne, and I awake everyday to these gorgeous surroundings and marvel that God would afford us this opportunity. We love hiking, kayaking, camping, and just being outdoors. She tolerates my love of fishing and hunting in this sportsman's paradise.



We miss our children and grandchildren, all in Texas, but manage to visit them on special occasions and host them in our world as well. I love my San Antonio Spurs and still play a little basketball myself. I am not as quick as I once was, but I am craftier than ever! Eddie Bauer has a slogan, "Live your adventure!" We are gratefully living ours at YTI!!

What Is IMPORTANT To You?

Yellowstone Theological Institute is dedicated to keeping tuition costs manageable for students.

The cost per credit hour for ATS accredited seminaries is between \$450 and \$1000 per credit hour, before any scholarships are added. It is no longer unusu-

al for students to leave seminary with \$70,000-80,000 worth of student loan debt. Tuition and fees for a YTI student are \$9,000 per year, for a total of \$27,000 for the degree.

To keep tuition manageable for these students, we need your help.

■ Members of the Jim Bridger Society give a minimum of \$1,000 a year to YTI in support of our mission. Would you consider joining to consistently help our programs? Visit yellowstonetheology.org/jbs

■ Would you consider establishing a scholarship fund for students?

■ Would you consider an annual gift to help underwrite the educational process?

■ Would you consider regular monthly giving to our general budget to support these incredible young men and women?

Send us an email, give us a call, or contact us through the website to become a part of the project that is the Yellowstone Theological Institute...and show us that we are important to you!

**With deepest care and respect,
Dr. Jay Smith**

SUFFERING SAINTS SINGLE MOMS

and the CHALLENGE OF PARENTHOOD



Local Church
Learning Initiative

BELLINGHAM | JANUARY 11 | 6-8PM

BOISE | FEBRUARY 1 | 6-8PM

Today, 25%, or 1 in 4, of the children born in the United States are being raised without a father—a total of roughly 17.4 million children. This makes single mothers one of the most important population groups in the country. Many issues contribute to single motherhood, but the most vexing problem single moms face is that of rearing children with only half the strength of a two-parent family. YTI's Winter 2017 LCLI, "Suffering Saints", addresses the problems that single mothers face, as well as possible solutions to those problems, from a theological and biblical standpoint.

LIGHT SUPPER BEFORE PROGRAM
and **CHILDCARE PROVIDED**



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