



In Memory of My Mentor by Professor Schuringa

Many fine professors and pastors played a role in my ministerial development, but one became my mentor, Dr. Alexander C. De Jong. (He was an uncle of President James De Jong.) I met “Doc” already at Trinity Christian College, on Chicago’s South side, where he taught theology in addition to serving as a local pastor. We hit it off, and ended up forming a Paul-Timothy relationship that would last over 25 years, until his death on April 10, 2003.

After college, we would never again live in the same city. So as I attended seminary and entered the ministry our relationship was nurtured with phone calls and occasional visits. When he was in town for board meetings in Philadelphia or San Diego, for example, I would pick him up at the airport and he would stay with our family. He and I would talk together over

long walks, leisurely meals and into the evening. Mary and our children remember fondly the times we entertained Doc in our home.

Since I was not raised in a minister’s family, I was grateful Doc took me under his wing to show me the ropes. I was surprised to learn later in life that many ministers did not have a mentor! Early on, Doc helped me through my first funerals, with difficult counseling cases, and when I would get stuck preparing a sermon. Most importantly, he guided my spiritual formation. He was never one to dictate, but was always ready with wise counsel when asked. He taught me the important things you needed for ministry, but couldn’t learn in seminary. At critical turns and junctures on “that winding road of God’s providence,” as Calvin puts it, my mentor was



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Missions and Academia: Are They Compatible? by Wageeh Mikhail

Here at Calvin, Wednesdays are special. After chapel time, there are nice refreshments. Serious and casual conversations often take place. One Wednesday, I sat with a friend, and we chatted about missions and academia. My friend thinks that the missionary task of the church is important. That is good since we all know that without missions the church will eventually be serving its ‘limited’ number of members—even if they are millions. This will lead, to be sure, to her future death. If you want to ruin the church, tell her members that they are fine without missions, that there is no need for it, that peo-

ple without Jesus are okay.

My friend, however, thinks that missionaries do not need to do graduate work in missions; they just need to go to the field. A Master’s degree in missions will, perhaps, be of some assistance, but graduate work beyond is not necessary. This position is frustrating, is it not? Why would missionaries who communicate the gospel with people in everyday life not need to study other theological disciplines—systematic, biblical, moral, etc.—on a more in-depth level? Should missionaries not bring theology down-to-earth? Why should this

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Schedule of Events

- **May 15, 16**—Reading Days, no classes
- **May 15** —Jehu Classic Seminary Golf Fiasco will be held at Cedar Chase Golf Club beginning at 9:00 AM. Cost is \$28 for 18 holes and a cart. Sign up at Amy’s desk. II Kings 9:20 - "The driving is like that of Jehu, son of Nimshi - he drives like a mad-man."
- **May 19-23**—Exam Week
- **May 21**—Hebrew Comp
- **May 22-24**—CTS Board of Trustees Meeting
- **May 24**—Commencement in the FAC at 11:00 am
- May 27-June 6—First Summer Session begins
- June 4—Greek Comp
- June 5-7—Bible and Ministry Conference: Preaching the Gospel of Isaiah in the 21st century
- June 9-20—Second Summer Session
- June 14-21—Synod at Dordt College, Sioux Centre, Iowa
- July 1-Aug 31—Facing Your Future
- July 21—Summer Hebrew Begins (6 weeks)
- August 4—Summer Hebrew 4 weeks begins
- August 18—Third Summer Session
- August 29—New Student Registration
- September 2—Returning student Registration; Orientation
- September 4—Classes begin; Convocation
- September 5—All-Seminary Conference

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there for me. I even ran something by him a couple months before his death.

The church was full for his memorial service. Included were thirty ministers who led the casket and sat together in the front pews. Members of the family spoke, as well as representatives from Christian organizations Doc influenced. The singing was glorious. Years earlier he had told me that I would be preaching his funeral sermon. The family chose a text he loved, Philippians 3:10-11. The procession to the cemetery was the longest I'd ever seen.

As a pastor, professor and even college president for awhile, Doc touched more lives in his 80 years than one could imagine— young and old, educated and unschooled, well to do and down-and-out. Throughout his retirement years he continued to minister to many, even leading Bible studies with disabled children at Elim Christian School and with recovering prostitutes/addicts at Tabitha House. God's people loved him—it seems everyone has Doc stories to tell. Accepting, never judgmental, never legalistic—that's how I'll remember him. Whether preaching, teaching or one-on-one, he radiated the powerful love of Jesus which he learned in the crucible of life. Undoubtedly, Doc played a significant role over the years in shaping my heart and life for ministry.

Today, ministry is tougher than ever. You need a "Paul" in your life, the sooner the better. The CRC has a program in which newly ordained ministers are assigned a mentor. That is to be ap-

plauded because it seems too many enter ministry completely on their own.

However, I'm wondering how many deep, *life-long* relationships can be arranged through official programs and channels. Start praying today for your mentor. Keep your eyes open for a godly person you would like to learn from, someone you "connect" with, and someone who feels called to take you under his wing. Such a relationship can't be forced, it just sort of happens. At least that's how it worked for Doc and me.

Dr. David Schuringa

Visiting Professor of Systematic Theology

Idioms to Think About...

Cram—try to learn as much as possible in a very short time. "Sidney did well on the test because he *crammed* for it. However, he probably won't remember any of the information a couple of days from now."

Crash course—short course designed to give a lot of knowledge/information in a very short time. "Tom's company is sending him to a business meeting in Istanbul. Should he take a *crash course* in Turkish?"

Cut it out!—stop doing that (that's annoying). "You kids are making too much noise. *Cut it out!*"

Far-fetched—difficult to accept; difficult to believe. "That story's pretty *far-fetched*. Nobody's going to believe it."

A klutz—an awkward, uncoordinated person. "Don't ask Jeff to dance with you. He's a real *klutz* and will probably step on your feet!"

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category of communicators be the least-equipped? Have we forgotten the many problems—theological in particular—that were caused by ill-trained missionaries?

I would like to propose the following points:

1) From a historical viewpoint, any separation between missions and academia is not legitimate and must not be maintained whatsoever. Christian scholarship is not a mere intellectual exercise; it is, indeed, missiological. That is to say, Christian scholarship is purposeful; it is and should always be employed to serve the Christian cause. Great missiologists were, at the same time, great theologians and, likewise, great theologians were great missiologists. Look at Paul, for example. He was, and still is, a great theologian for the church. Yet, he is the great New Testament missiologist. Paul, in his academia preparation, spent years in Arabia—a different type of theological training. His intellectual knowledge of languages and cultures of the Mediterranean basin made him more effective than other apostle, one might argue. Look at his theological and missiological production—most of the New Testament! This was possible, besides other factors, because of his missiological vision and academic training.

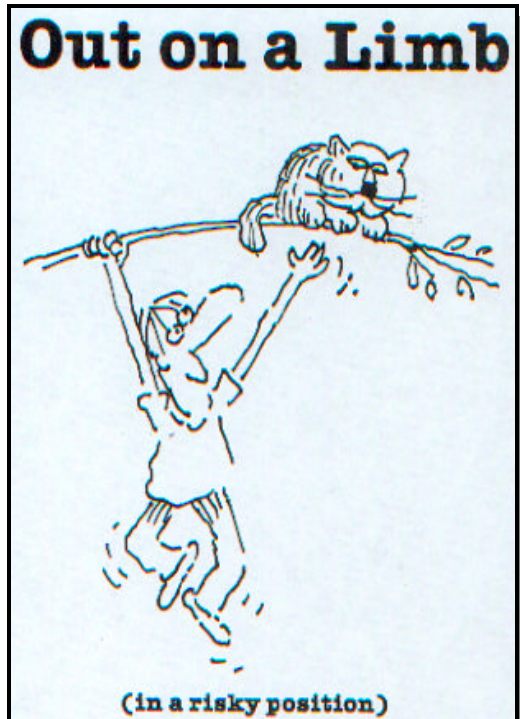
2) As love between couples is not enough to have a healthy mar-

riage, so jealousy or zeal for the name of the LORD is not enough for the success of missions. Jealousy and zeal are indispensable in doing missions. In fact, John Stott believes that they are the main motivation for missions. That is true, for if we are not so excited about Jesus and if we are not jealous for His Name, our presentation of the gospel will not be appealing to the hearers, which, in turn, might affect the reception of the message itself. We do not have to be charismatics to be excited about Jesus, do we? Missionaries need both zeal and solid theological education. This balance is imperative. Training church members for missions, particularly evangelism, goes far beyond the Four Spiritual Laws or the Five Steps of EE. Missiological training should have firm biblical and theological presuppositions. And, if available, missionaries should do some graduate work to guarantee the excellence and quality of their work. In saying this, I am not saying that those who did missions without graduate work will not have excellent ministries. This would be another extreme.

3) All the other theological disciplines, I believe, should have missiology in mind as they are developed. Our God is missiological; He is the greatest missionary. He, having done all the theological preparations for our redemption—which we call the ‘Divine Council’—sent His only Son to carry out the plan and to demonstrate to us that His Council is missiological and His love redeeming.

Theology and missiology are absolutely bound together. Should we not ask ourselves about the missiological implications of whatever we study? Is that not why we, after all, study theology?

I hope to see churches not only supporting the work of missionaries by giving from their time and money, but by paying for them to go to schools to do more studies. Theological graduate work is never against the progress of missions. Or, if it is, then, we need to close down all seminaries.



The members of the committee realized that their position against expanding the student aid program was an unpopular one, and that they were going **out on a limb** by voting against the program. Nevertheless, their position was justified to a certain extent. Although they knew that they were placing themselves in a **risky position**, they felt that other budgetary considerations were of greater urgency.

I am looking for submissions for September edition. Tell me about your summer, your year long, whatever. Send it to rbodini4@calvin.edu



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"By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place." Proverbs 3:19

Chip Shots from the Rough by Richard Bodini

I have been pondering over what to write for my last "soapbox" of the school year. I thought about writing on my experience in preaching class year. But I decided against it. Thank you Prof. Greidanus and Roeda for helping me to become a better preacher. I still need lots of help.

I thought about writing a note of encouragement to the graduating students as they prepare to walk across the FAC stage on May 24, receive their diploma, and then walk out the

point in the quarter. But I must say, that it has been a good release from the demands of my class work to hang out in the computer lab, to write a little, laugh a little, and share a little with those gathered around the computers. I do apologize to those I have irritated while you were working and I was "carrying on" at the end computer. I'm sure I was part of the reason for the Senate note on Computer Lab Etiquette.

I want to encourage those who are going off for their year long internships to enjoy their stay in far away places. To enjoy the people they will be serving. Learn, laugh, play, and celebrate the many good gifts God has given to you. Those of us who remain at CTS will look forward to hearing your "voices from the field." For those going away for a summer assignment, enjoy the short reprieve from West Michigan, from school, and from the busyness of school life. Have fun learning how to preach, do pastoral care, write reports, and do administrative work "church style." Get some rest from school work and see the country where you will be staying, play and relax.

Finally, I hope some time away from school and working in the field will help us to focus on the important things in our lives. To not get so preoccupied with counting the hours so we don't go over the workload limit, to not complain when they do, but rather to enjoy the opportunity we have to study. The privilege and honour we have been given by our churches, classis, friends, and family to attend CTS to learn how to be better servants in the kingdom work that awaits us. Take time out this summer to reflect on your past year of schooling and to look forward to the next one. To re-energize yourself. Do, as Prof. Schuringa instructs us, find a mentor with whom you can learn and grow and develop in becoming a truly godly person. Think about Wagheeh's words, work on the skills that will help you to be a mission agent in a world that is crying for academically trained theologians who can process culture, society, and preach the Word of God effectively and boldly.

God bless you wherever you find yourself over the coming months. May he grant you peace, love, and joy. May he gather us together again in this place this coming September.

door into the big, scary, wide world of ministry. But I didn't want to do that. They will receive a lot of praise and encouragement, and a good pep-talk at graduation. But here are my two cents. Well done, good and faithful servants! May God grant you peace as you wait for a call, prepare for mission work, wait for a teaching position, or as you learn about the new ministry position you have taken on.

What should I write about... First, I would like to thank you the readers who have encouraged me after each issue. For the thank yous, for the critiques, for the concerns over issues I have raised, written about, and inserted not only on this back page, but throughout the paper. I could not have done many of these things without your help.

I would also like to thank my professors for helping along through another school year. Thank you for helping us grow and learn and to become better servants of God.

Working on the *Kerux* has been fun. It does take up large chunks of time, usually at the worst possible