A Message from Calvin Theological Seminary
President Jul Medenblik

There's just something special about changing seasons in West Michigan. Whether it's branches budding, sun bouncing off waves, leaves changing, or a first snowfall, it's easy to see God's faithfulness and love for us through His creation. It is in that spirit I'd like to say how thankful I am for your faithfulness to give and your membership in the Presidents' Legacy Society. Just like the refreshing change that comes with each breath-taking new season, together we are changing lives all around the world through the power of the Gospel, and impacting generations to come.

To share our appreciation for your support, please refer to the information regarding the Third Annual Presidents' Legacy Society Gathering, shown later in this newsletter.

As you read this I hope you find encouragement for whatever season of life you find yourself in—and are able to see God's goodness in it.

Serving the Lord with you,

Jul Medenblik, President of Calvin Theological Seminary

Legacy Partner Testimonial

“When I entered Calvin Seminary (1954) I had been in the U.S. only a few years. I still was a stranger and this country was so immense. The Seminary became a home of sorts to me. The professors embraced us immigrant students; they were kind, interested, helpful, and they were fellow-believers.

In the Seminary one could sense the heart of the CRC. Through the Seminary I grew to love the CRC and God’s Word. I also found friends who became fellow-preachers of the gospel.

Through the years I regularly visited Grand Rapids. I think that I never pictured the city without the Seminary. I nearly always stopped by for a visit. Of the professors during those times, only Professor Karl Kromminga is still alive. I have fond memories of him. The Lord also provided other professors, and they, too, served with distinction. I feel connected with the Seminary. As in life, so in my parting days, I think it is fit that the Seminary remains near. What better way than to give it a modest place in my will.”

Louis M. and Jean Tamminga
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Buy a Brick Campaign

Each of us has a story to tell, and many of them involve someone special who has impacted our lives and faith in a significant way. As members of the Presidents’ Legacy Society, you’re part of a special group of people who have decided to contribute part of their hard-earned dollars toward the wonderful work God is doing at Calvin Theological Seminary. You are an important part of our story.

In conjunction with our new Veenstra Legacy Garden, we’re offering you a unique opportunity to help us write a new chapter on our campus. By purchasing a brick in the name of a loved one, you can support Calvin Theological Seminary and give honor to someone who has been an important part of your story—perhaps a parent, child, grandchild or dear friend. For more information please visit https://forms.calvinseminary.edu/giving/buy-a-brick

You’re Invited!

Join us for our 3rd Annual Presidents’ Legacy Society Gathering

We love to connect with our members and introduce them to one another. That’s why we are inviting you to our special upcoming event exclusively for Legacy Members.

Enjoy a special message from our featured speaker Lyle Bierma as we celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism, and fellowship with other Members over brunch.

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 10:00 A.M.
Prince Conference Center
1800 East Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Professor Bierma will explain why the Heidelberg Catechism is the most widely used and deeply loved confession in global Reformed Protestantism today.

*An official invitation will be mailed in the coming weeks.*
Let God Make Your Retirement a Re-firement

We've all seen the ads—a tanned, gray-haired couple laughing as they walk the beach arm in arm. Billions of dollars are invested every year to instill these carefree images in our minds, and to convince us that we can have the “good life we deserve.”

But with all the emphasis our culture puts on retirement, isn’t it interesting that the Bible is virtually silent on the subject? Instead, the Bible paints a different picture of “the golden years”—encouraging believers to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1). Rather than retire (which the dictionary defines as “withdrawal”), God calls us to re-fire, fanning the flames of our love for Him, for people, and for His service.

The question every Christ-follower must ask is ‘Why am I here?’ One day, we will stand before the Lord to give an account of how we used the time and resources He gave us (2 Corinthians 5:10). But what will we say about the last 20-25 years of our life? That we spent it improving our golf game, finding new restaurants offering senior discounts and collecting postcards on our vacations? Is God offering us something much more purposeful and meaningful?

Consider Moses, who followed God’s call at age 80—and continued serving as a judge and leader until he was 120. Or look at more recent examples such as Mother Teresa who served the poor until her death at age 87, or Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright, preparing evangelistic materials while hooked up to an oxygen machine until his death at 81.

Besides our time, we can also honor God with our retirement money, both during and after our lifetime. Since most retirement funds have been established with tax-free dollars, there is a substantial amount of tax due when the funds are withdrawn or inherited. By using other assets to benefit your children, and designating a ministry such as Calvin Theological Seminary as the beneficiary of your IRA, you can avoid the tax liability, using the full amount to extend your impact with Calvin Seminary.
How to Pray Through Financial Uncertainty

In a recent Christianity Today article, noted Christian author Philip Yancey shared that in one of the most turbulent weeks of our nation’s financial challenges, an editor at Time magazine phoned him and simply asked, “How should a person pray in a time like this?” Three compelling insights on prayer emerged in that conversation:

1. Help! Yancey explains that when someone faces a major challenge in their life, such as a job loss, health issue, or watching their life savings dwindle away, they tend to cry out for help instinctively. Prayer gives voice to these fears and worries. Yancey says he has learned to resist the temptation to try and edit his prayers to make them more “sophisticated” because God wants us to come to him as we are, with childlike faith.

2. Meditate. Yancey observes that times of uncertainty provide a good opportunity to evaluate what we are truly putting our faith in. He advises not only talking, but listening in our prayers, and asking God to show us what He wants us to learn from the current economic challenges we face.

3. Compassion for others. The third thought is perhaps the most difficult—taking our eyes off of our own financial worries, and looking with compassion and prayer on the staggering needs of others. Yancey notes, for example, that in the same week the global stock market sank by $7 trillion, the inflation rate in Zimbabwe soared by 231 million percent (in other words, if you lived in Zimbabwe and had $1 million yesterday, it would be worth just $158 today). Yancey concluded with a surprising challenge: “What a testimony it would be if, in these challenging times, Christians resolved to increase their giving to the needy. Such a response defies all logic and common sense.”