Welcome to the Fall 2015 Issue of Testament!

However, as we enter our 140th year of service, we see that additional support is needed and find that the annual gifts and legacy planning of many people are avenues by which one generation commends God’s work (including His ministry through Calvin Seminary) to another.

Today, Calvin Seminary has students from twenty-three different nations. I had the pleasure of visiting Egypt, Korea, and Indonesia this past year. I met alumni in those places who are grateful for the support and encouragement they received as students. I saw how these alumni are ministering to the next generation.

Your gifts and your plans are not only reaching the next generation, they are reaching the world! Thank you!

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:3-4

In His Service With You,
Jul Medenblik
President of Calvin Theological Seminary

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGACY GIFTS

My wife suffered a leg injury in June. X-rays did not show any damage, but something was wrong. An MRI showed that she had suffered a stress fracture of the left tibia. The doctor’s office called her and told her to get and use a cane as soon as possible.

Institutions also experience stress. Calvin Theological Seminary is under stress, but there is hope and a great deal of help from people like you.

It was not that long ago that Calvin Theological Seminary was fully funded by one church denomination. We are still supported especially by the Christian Reformed Church as well as other churches, and we are very grateful for that support.

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This fall marks the beginning of the fifth year for the Presidents’ Legacy Society at Calvin Theological Seminary. Time goes by fast! In May 2012, I had the privilege of participating in the inaugural lunch for the Presidents’ Legacy Society. The event was wonderful and I was able to meet many like-minded individuals and couples who shared a love for Calvin Seminary and a commitment to support the seminary with a Planned Gift from their estate.

At the time I remember thinking, “Wow, this is quite a turnout for the first Presidents’ Legacy Society event.” Little did I know that these people were just the first of a much larger group to commit their support to Calvin Seminary through a Planned Gift from their estate. As our lunch in 2012, I talked about how joining the Presidents’ Legacy Society was an encouragement to the seminary leadership and to others to join in their support of Calvin Seminary, as well as a wonderful example to our family and friends of what we value. In the four years since the initial launch of the Presidents’ Legacy Society in 2010, the year Jul and Jackie Medenblik accepted the call to lead Calvin Seminary, the number of members has grown to 500 members. Those first attendees truly did serve as an encouragement to others to join them in their support of the seminary.

We at Barnabas Foundation consider it a privilege to partner with Calvin Seminary in encouraging individuals to support the seminary with a gift from their estate and to assist individuals in determining how to support the seminary in the most appropriate manner for their situation. If you have not utilized our services, please consider doing so by calling 888-448-3040 for a no-cost, no-obligation visit with one of our estate planning attorneys.

- Henry Doorn
Making Better Choices God’s Way

How Giving Stock Can Impact Eternity

Moses was not only one of the great heroes of the faith listed in Hebrews 11, he was also a wonderful model of making better choices God’s way. Here are just a few of the practical lessons from the life of Moses that we hope will bless and encourage you.

1. Choose authenticity over prestige. By faith, the adult Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter (Hebrews 11:24). An encounter with God prompted Moses to throw away the prestige of a royal family to identify with Hebrew slaves. When God gets a hold of our hearts and minds, we shift from “What’s in it for me?” to “Does this honor God?”

2. Choose self-denial over pleasure. Moses chose to be made along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time (Hebrews 11:25). Moses understood that pleasure can be a good thing unless it conflicts with the will of God. Self-denial is also a good thing because it produces spiritual growth.

3. Choose heavenly rewards over earthly riches. [Moses] regarded the pleasures of this life as “not worth comparing to the value God gives us. We can choose not only to contribute to organizations such as Calvin Theological Seminary, but also how we give to the Lord’s work.

For many, writing a check or giving online is a wonderful choice. Others are discovering how we give to the Lord’s work.

All this strengthened my appreciation for what Calvin Seminary means, not just to me and my family, but to our denomination and, mostly importantly, to our world. God blessed this institution with a determined emphasis on academic excellence, a commitment to spiritual wholeness, and faithfulness to its expressed goal of service to both the church and the world. This legacy is ours to pass on, not only to the next generation, but also to those whose lives we have the opportunity to touch by the grace of the Word of God.

This rich legacy is not static. It is a living reality at this seminary. My wife and I are excited to help in our small way to provide financially as our individual legacy, the Lord willing, for the ministry of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Seminary Training Continues Through Ministry Experience

Testimonial by Gerrit and Ruth Koedoot

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“Dr. Larry Gerbens. He will unveil the Dr. Larry Gerbens Collection of art on the Prodigal Son and perhaps gain new perspective on areas in which we can make better choices God’s way. Here are just a few of the practical lessons from the life of Moses that we hope will bless and encourage you.

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