

Billy Graham Center Scholarship Program News

Diane Garvin, Coordinator

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Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year! Wishing you the comfort of His love, the joy of His salvation, and the peace of His presence.

—Diane Garvin
Coordinator,
Scholarship Program



News and Events

- Check out the new BGCSP website at www.bgcscholarship.org!
- Our new program assistant is Beth Clevenger, a 2008 grad from the Intercultural Studies/TESOL program. Welcome, Beth!



- In need of a good read? Check out the free Christian classics online at <http://www.ccel.org> and <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/OnlineBooks>.



Welcome to our new Scholars!

This fall, we were blessed to add 39 new scholars to the program, including seven international leaders, six furloughing missionaries, and eight missionaries in preparation.

Our new international scholars are pictured above. From left to right: Mr. Rameses DeJesus from the Philippines, Miss Sherelle Cotecson from the Philippines, Miss Anne Muthaura from Kenya, Mrs. Eleonora Tasheva from Bulgaria, and Mr. Raymond Osuchukwu from Nigeria, serving in Poland. Not pictured are Mr. Drazen Glavas from Croatia and Mr. Feliks Voloshin from Russia. (Photo courtesy of Mike Hudson Photography.)

If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, or need to contact us, please send an email to: bgc.scholar@wheaton.edu. Also, if you have moved or made any contact information changes, please send us your updated information.



Facebook Corner: Talk about global issues and catch up with friends, both old and new! The Scholarship Program has a group on Facebook, and we currently have 68 members from all over the world! Go to facebook.com to create a profile, do a search for us, and ask to join! (Alternately, you could email us for an invitation to the group.) Our group is called “BGC Scholarship Connection.”

Alumni Prayer Requests

- Lisa Anderson Umana ('91) is undertaking PhD studies; pray that this will help fuel her vision to develop leaders who develop leaders. Pray for the teams at Christian Camping Int'l in each Latin American nation to develop and equip church leaders.
- Chi Meei Ngo ('06): Praise God for an effective Children's Missions Conference in November. Pray for the continued growth of the Christian Education program at the church in both the Chinese and English congregations.

Dr. Jerry Root (Faculty/Staff Member) Reflects: “The Deep Significance of Telling Others of the Love of God, Part Two”

(The first part of this article was published in our Winter 2009 newsletter, available for download on our website.)

I love C. S. Lewis's work. But there is a point where I disagree with him. In “Mere Christianity” he wrote that he thought pride was the greatest sin. I disagree. It is certainly bad; and, perhaps we can legitimately say it is at the apex of all sin. But an apex, like that in a pyramid, is always supported by that which is much more substantive at its base. In other words, pride is at the end of a process. When I think about this wondering what precedes pride, I come up with insecurity or fear. In pride or pretense the tendency is to make myself look better than I am because I fear if folks really and truly knew me as I am they would reject me. Fear precedes pride. And this fear is often insipid in most human subcultures; perhaps because it is so deeply imbedded in our fallen sense of self. If we marginalized the strugglers in our midst with words like: “Out of fellowship”; “Carnal”; “Backslider”; though nobody would say it explicitly, implied in this is the expectation that everyone should be perfect in our subculture. Since nobody is perfect, this false expectation breeds pretense. Everybody goes about trying to make themselves look better than they are. This behavior is so contrary to real life that it seeks to be rationalized and validated and can only do so pharisaically. The community moves into grace-denying constructs. Pride as I mentioned above is preceded by fear and insecurity.

The Bible says that the antidote to fear is the love of God. “Perfect love casts out fear” I John 4:18. I think a corollary to that verse is that imperfect love breeds anxiety. You and me, Greg, we've never been loved perfectly by anybody. Remember: “Human love demands human meriting”. We are saddled with the burden of anxiety by well meaning folks who loved us as well as they might but were incapable of loving us perfectly. Of course it gets worse, nobody we've ever loved has been loved perfectly by us as well; we have burdened others with the anxiety of our well intended but deficient love. Only God, from whom we can hide nothing, God, who fully knows us, can love us thoroughly with the transformative love that casts out fear. So, if my analogy is correct, and pride is at the apex of the pyramid, than the greatest sin at the very base of the pyramid is the unwillingness to receive the love of God unto ourselves. We turn to surrogates. Yet still, He comes to us with Incarnate grace as He came to each of those listed above in their darkest hours to restore them. The true Kingdom of God is made up of broken men and women mended by the love and mercy of God. I do not know much; but I do know this is true. And I know that there is a reason why the Bible says, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News to others.” This is one of the most significant activities we can be involved with; and those who discover the truth of it find their lives full of purpose and significance.

