

# BTS Newsletter

An alumni newsletter from the Bethel University Department of Biblical & Theological Studies Winter 2014

## Missional Ministries major replaces Youth Ministry

By Will Lee '14

Last spring the BTS department released the following announcement, printed here for your information:

“The BTS department is pleased to announce that an extensive revision of the current Youth Ministry major has resulted in a new Missional Ministries major beginning in the fall of 2013. Missional Ministries retains the strengths of the Youth Ministry major, including solid biblical and theological foundations as well as internships, but deepens and broadens students’ preparation for ministry. While it is rooted in Biblical & Theological studies, the proposed revision is multi-disciplinary, emphasizing leadership and management skills, providing options for practical experience beyond youth ministry settings, and offering emphases on communication, faith formation, and cultural studies.

Current Youth Ministry majors have the option of continuing in that major or, if appropriate, switching to the Missional Ministries major. The department will continue to offer the required Youth Ministry courses (or their Missional Ministries equivalents) until current Youth Ministries majors have graduated.”

Since making this announcement last spring, the new Missional Ministries major has been very well received. As of the fall semester there are 47 declared Missional Ministries majors, 25 of whom have claimed a double major. The most

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### Missional Ministries Statistics

**47 MM Majors Overall**

**25 Double Majors (Most common being BTS, followed by Reconciliation Studies, Education, Business, Psychology, and Social Work)**

**26 Freshman MM Majors**

**10 Sophomore MM Majors**

**11 Junior MM Majors**

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### Upcoming Events

#### January 2014

Interim Courses include:  
Holiness in Biblical Perspective  
Greece/Turkey  
Biblical Theology of Reconciliation  
Female and Male in Biblical Perspective  
A Biblical Theology of Justice

#### February 6, 2014, 7-9 p.m.

Panel Discussion in February in Benson Great Hall:  
“Remembering the Holocaust in Literature, Film, and Theology.”



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common pairing to the Missional Ministries major is the BTS major followed by Reconciliation Studies, Education, Business, Psychology, and Social Work.

In a world where jobs are increasingly more difficult to come by, current students are coming to the major because of its flexibility and ability to open doors to many different fields. Junior Anne Fenton notes how “there is an almost endless list of organizations and ministries that I could partner with.”

The major also includes job shadowing

and two internships that Junior Zach Goscha says will help him “get a better understanding of [my] calling.” With the job shadowing and internships the BTS department offers students hands-on experience in a variety of fields so that they can know what type of ministry they do (and don’t) feel called to.

Classes for the new Missional Ministry majors have also been well received. Classes taken thus far have been Foundations of Ministry and Ministry Practicum I. Junior Zach Horejsi recently finished Ministry Practicum I and loves how he gets to learn about the 3DM model of ministry being used in “the post-Christian society [being

experienced] in the UK”. Upon reflection Fenton has seen that “my Missional Ministry classes challenge my thinking, bring up relevant questions, and add to my knowledge (of both the head and the heart).”

Most importantly, the Missional Ministries major is integrating faith and theology into every facet of life through challenging and enriching classroom experiences. Junior Kassie Hendrickson says it best: “I love that Missional Ministries is not just a degree: it’s a lifestyle.”

For an additional read on the new Missional Ministries major visit [bethel.edu/news/clarion/articles/2013/april/](http://bethel.edu/news/clarion/articles/2013/april/)

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## Faculty Updates

### FROM JIM LEWIS:

- Publication: My article "Vietnamese Religions, Asian Studies and the Rule of Law" was published summer 2013 along with those of international and national scholars from Purdue University and Boston University in the *Review of Faith & International Affairs* on the topic of religious freedom in East and Southeast Asia.
- Classes at local churches: I made presentations spring and fall 2013 to adult education classes on the topic "Can Muslims and Christians Talk Together?" at Trinity Presbyterian Church (Woodbury) and Colonial Church (Edina).
- In the fall of 2013 my highly valued mid-twentieth century archival-grade Hmong woman's costume from northern Vietnam was gifted to the Science Museum of Minnesota for their collection.

- I am looking forward to teaching REL201 "Religion and Art in Asia" in Spring 2014.

### STEVEN ENDERLEIN

In the fall of 2011, associate professor Steven Enderlein published an article in the *Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters* entitled “To Fall Short or Lack the Glory of God? The Translation and Implications of Romans 3:23”. Two years later his article garnered a response that was published in the *JSPL* this past summer in conjunction with Enderlein’s surrejoinder.

The response article written by Stanley Porter and Wally Cirafesi is entitled “hustero and pistis Christou in Romans 3:23: A Response to Steven Enderlein”, while Enderlein’s surrejoinder is entitled “The Faithfulness of the Second Adam in Romans 3:21-26: A Response to Porter and Cirafesi.”

Enderlein says the argument focuses on “whether there are links between the ‘faith of Christ’ language in Romans 3 and the obedience of Christ in Romans 5, wherein Christ and Adam are contrasted.” In both his preliminary article and surrejoinder, he argues that there are links between Romans 3 and 5 “and that Romans 5 should be used to clarify the ambiguous language of Romans 3:21-26.”

*All articles can be found online by simply google-searching the titles.*

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## Alumni News

Please send us your news.

Send your information to Suzi Nelson at [bts-department@bethel.edu](mailto:bts-department@bethel.edu).

We look forward to hearing from you!

# Bernon Lee presents paper at Society of Biblical Literature

By Bernon Lee

Bernon Lee read a paper at the 2013 annual meeting of the society of biblical literature in Baltimore, Md. in November. The title of the paper with an abstract is included below.

“Upon the Threshold”: Perceptions of (Asian-American) Identity between Judges 19 and Exodus 11-12.

This paper offers a reading of the story of the rape and dismemberment of the Levite’s concubine in Judges 19 with the prescribed Passover rituals in Exodus 11-12 as a literary horizon. The vantage point for the endeavor is an Asian-American hermeneutic informed by Homi K. Bhabha’s conception of ‘hybridity’ in post-colonial discourse and Wolfgang Iser’s imputation of a ‘wandering viewpoint’ inherent to acts of interpretation.

The paper contends that constructions of space delimiting acts of violence and slaughter, lexical choices, and literary tropes across Judges 19 are reminiscent of those in Exodus 11-12. The reading uncovers in Judges 19 an ironic mimicry of ritual actions in the Passover that casts the Levite’s concubine as ‘sacrificial’ victim on both sides of the boundaries separating acts of (ritual) consumption and destruction. The unbridled and unjustified violence enacted upon the Levite’s concubine forces a reconsideration of the rationale(s) for the election of victims and beneficiaries in the events of the Passover ritual.

Imbued with the sensitivities of a subaltern perspective but also of those of the hegemonic ‘center’—the hallmark of Bhabhasian ‘hybridity’—and aided by Iser’s construct of a disposition that reads and rereads texts in an intratextual configuration in bilateral exchange, Asian-Americans respond with mixed reactions to depictions of election, retribution, and the Other in both texts. The texts are experienced as, at once, mutually enriching and subversive. The result is an acute awareness that all readings are tentative, troubled, and troubling. Such an ethos of reticence in biblical interpre-

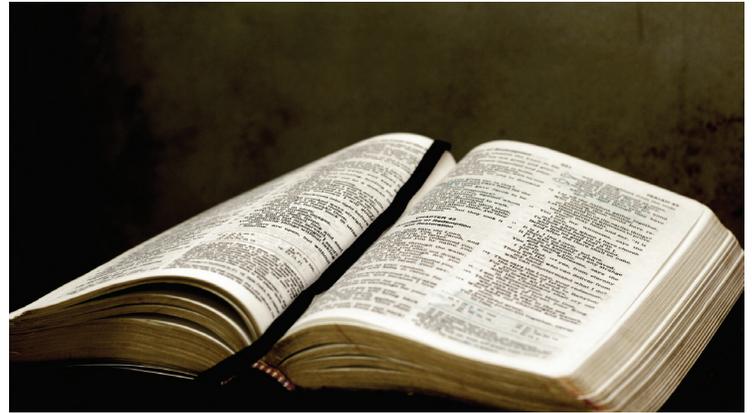
tation, in the final analysis, is reflexive of Asian-American perceptions of identity and place(s) in the evolving social rubric of power relations in America.

## JIM BEILBY

In a world that often demands so much from parents, Jim Beilby has chosen to do less writing and speaking to spend more time with his four children. As a parent he feels the need to be present with his children in their many activities, which sometimes means coaching.

Despite his pullback from writing and speaking he will have an essay entitled “Contemporary Religious Epistemology: Some Key Aspects for the Scripture Project” published in a book entitled *The Scripture Project*. The book comes out sometime next year.

Beilby is also working alongside Paul Eddy to compile the next book in the “four views” series. In *The “four views”* series, Beilby and Eddy work with other authors to compile four different views on a particular topic, as well as dialogue and responses between authors. All books in the series are known for the diversity of views presented as well as the irenic nature with which the views are compiled. Beilby and Eddy’s most recent publication was *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views*. The other “four views” books deal with topics such as divine foreknowledge and atonement.

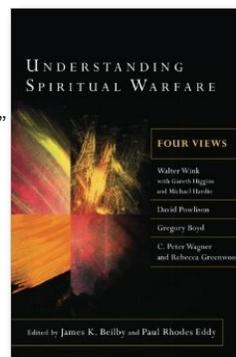


## PAUL EDDY

Paul Eddy is currently experiencing some life change as his involvement with Anabaptism increases. An Anabaptist organization is supporting his research and writing and they have agreed that he take a lighter teaching load to have more time to do more focused research and writing. As some of you may know, Eddy is also a teaching pastor at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul. Eddy says their church is “currently exploring the possibility of a formal association with one of the historic Anabaptist groups (e.g. the Mennonites or the Brethren in Christ).”

Eddy is excited about these changes as well as his two articles published in the 2013 edition of *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. His two articles are entitled “Cynics and Cynicism” and “Orality and Oral Tradition.”

*Faculty Updates continued on p. 3*



## JUAN HERNANDEZ

Associate professor Juan Hernandez is well known for his New Testament textual criticism, particularly those concerning the apocalypse. This fall, his work received some international recognition. After a well-received presentation at the Society of Biblical Literature in the fall of 2012, Juan Hernandez was invited to present his findings in greater detail at the Kirchliche Hochschule in Wuppertal, Germany in the fall of 2013.

The research he presented focused on the Apocalypse's seventh-century corrections in Codex Sinaiticus. The manuscript of the Apocalypse was originally copied and corrected in the 4th century. However, it was corrected again in the seventh century. Hernandez discovered that there were some crucial errors made

regarding the dating of the manuscript's correction. "If my discovery holds," he says, "it will change the way scholars understand the Apocalypse's transmission history and impact future studies of the book's textual history."\*

In addition to presenting his findings at the Kirchliche Hochschule, Hernandez had the privilege of hearing reports about the various projects underway regarding the Editio Critica Maior. The ECM is a critical edition of the Greek New Testament that seeks to answer the questions "How does the text change in the course of history and why?" and "How was a text received in early Christianity?" \*\*

Thankfully, presenting his work in Germany has not kept him from writing new articles. Keep your eyes peeled for his article "The Creation of a Fourth-Century Andreas Text Type" coming out in January 2014, published in *New Testament Studies*.

[bethel.edu/news/articles/2013/april/juan-hernandez](http://bethel.edu/news/articles/2013/april/juan-hernandez)

[uni-muenster.de/INTF/ECM.html](http://uni-muenster.de/INTF/ECM.html)



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# Antioch Way program to end after 2014-15

*By Will Lee '14*

This past year Bethel has been in a process of Prioritization and Review. Part of that process has resulted in cuts of majors, minors, and other programs within the university. The BTS department did not receive cuts of majors or minors. However, the Antioch Way program, directed by Dale Durie, has been officially cut by the university.

Antioch Way is a program designed for students of any major who sense a call to ministry as a career. It serves as a co-curricular activity for students, providing mentoring, internships, job shadowing, and retreats all aimed at preparing students for a career in full-time ministry. The program has been especially beneficial to BTS majors sensing a call to ministry as a career, providing practical experience and support for their growing sense of call. Current Antioch Way mentor Robert Shell ('12) notes how the program united the academic and practical realms of faith and truly taught him about the "unity of loving the Lord with ALL our heart, soul, mind, and strength."

The first cohort of Antioch Way students graduated in the spring of 2010. Students currently in the program will be able to finish out the program without losing all of the opportunities presented to previous students of the program. The last cohort of students will graduate in the spring of 2015. By that time, 110 students will have participated in the program.

Antioch Way alumni have entered many different fields of ministry, but especially pastoral ministry. Many of those who have gone on to seminary have said the Antioch Way helped them feel well-grounded about their sense of calling and well-prepared for the rigors of ministry and seminary.

Alumni of the program report that their experience in Antioch Way was one of their most significant experiences at Bethel University. Shell openly expressed that he "would have withdrawn from Bethel without its impact." This sentiment has been echoed by many others in addition to statements like "Antioch Way directly led to the pastoral job I have today!"

Durie, director of Antioch Way, will remain at Bethel in a part-time capacity in 2014-15 to see the final cohort to graduation. He notes, "Antioch Way has felt like one of the clearest in-breakings of the kingdom I have ever been part of. I am so thankful to have been part of the lives of the students in this program."

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## BTS hosts October Colloquium

*By Tim Anderson '14*

The BTS department hosted a colloquium in October, 2013 for students and faculty to promote community among the department as they were invited to listen to two lectures and then discuss and ask questions of the orators. Victor Ezigbo (assistant professor of Systematic and Contextual Theology) was the keynote speaker as he delivered his lecture "God in Human Word: A Look at the Contextual Character of Theology." Following Ezigbo's lecture, Bernon Lee was invited to give a response, giving his reflections on Judges 19 (see also Bernon Lee's article on page 2).

Ezigbo's lecture began with his own story of his studies in theology. Through his studies and endeavors at Evangelical Church Winning All Seminary in Nigeria, Wheaton College, and Edinburgh University, he became cognizant of the lack of contextual thinking occurring in theology as a discipline. Ezigbo defined a person's context as their history, social location, thoughts, bias, experience, language, socio-political status, religious background, etc. He argued that context is an indispensable source of theology. To support his claim, Ezigbo gave examples such as the use of *homoousios* at the council of Nicaea, and the use of *kyrios* as a title for Christ by early Greek-speaking Christians. Both terms are deeply rooted in the context from which they arrive, yet the two terms were of massive importance in the development of theological thinking for the Christian church. Ezigbo charged the department to continue thinking contextually using the raw materials from their context and from the Bible to create theologies that are vital and specific to our contexts.

In response, Bernon Lee spoke on Judges 19 and its implications for Asian-American identity, shedding light on the perception of Asian-American identity in the United States.

The department hopes to continue hosting colloquiums in the future, as we continue to work to think in a community about theological issues.

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# Bethel Professors Receive Grant to Survey Opinions on Human Origins

By Gary Long

Adam Johnson (Psychology), Joel Frederickson (Psychology), Kyle Roberts (Seminary), and I received a three-year BioLogos grant to study human origin beliefs and the cognitive processes associated with them. One recent study involved several Bethel undergraduates as investigators, including BTS alum ('13) Eric Helander.

The study, "Human origins beliefs in evangelical Christian undergraduates," involved 1,280 Bethel undergrads. According to a 2012 Gallup study, for the past 30 years, roughly 45% of Americans (not just evangelicals) have believed in Young Earth Creationism (YEC), roughly 40% in Theistic Evolution (TE), and around 12% in Atheistic Evolution (AE). The study aimed to understand some cognitive processes around human origins views at a school like Bethel.

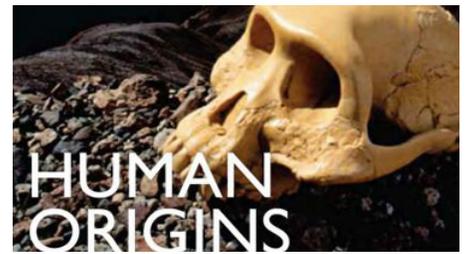
Using the same Gallup questions, 72% of the Bethel 1,280 respondents advocated YEC, 27% affirmed TE, and 1% held AE beliefs. The study also tracked responses by year. The proportion of our students affirming TE jumped by 10% in the senior year, a similar pattern to earlier research on dogmatism through a college career.

The study also examined the internal "consistency of belief," identified as the denial of an opposing view of human origins. "Inconsistent belief" considers an opposing view as "probably" or "definitely" true. The study also measured GPA, "need for cognition," "absolutism," and "faith commitment." Some of the findings:

- TE students (for males only) had higher GPAs than YEC
- TE students had a higher need for cognition than YEC
- YEC students scored higher on absolutism
- YEC students scored higher on faith commitment

But the study also showed the TE students had the highest level of "inconsistent belief." Inconsistent belief, when placed alongside those other findings, is more consistent with a response to peer pressure than with a failure in the logic of the belief. Approximately 30% of TE students do not deny YEC and produce logically inconsistent responses about human origins. The inconsistency might be explained as a response to social pressures. TE students are a minority among a more absolutist majority and perform better academically with a higher need for cognition than YEC students. And as students near graduation, there is a 10% uptick in the TE view.

This study, in part, has led to further investigation around whether human origins views are less about human origins than about social/peer relationships.



## Panel Discussion "Remembering the Holocaust" to be held February 2014

A panel discussion "Remembering the Holocaust in Literature, Film, and Theology" will be held in Benson Great Hall on February 6, 2014 from 7-9 p.m. The event is cosponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This year's event coincides with Bethel's hosting of the "Transfer of Memory" photo installation during January and February, illustrating Holocaust survivors living in Minnesota, in their homes, in full color. The exhibit highlights the role of memory and memorialization in the construction of community identity and the problematic and painful dimensions of that process, especially when a central event of the history of a community is something like the Holocaust.

Speakers on the panel include Victoria Barnett, director of the Program on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust, and Petra Schweitzer, associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at Shenandoah University.

For more information about the panel discussion and photo exhibit, visit [bethel.edu/events/transfer-memory](http://bethel.edu/events/transfer-memory).