

Redeemer's Strategic Plan

Why Faith and Learning Cannot be Separated



ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

At the beginning of January, ten prospective students traveled impressive distances to visit Redeemer's campus. My dorm was to host three girls from British Columbia for three nights, and boy were we ever eager to meet them. We'd had visitors before of course, but not from so far a distance, or for so long a visit.

When Emma, Olivia and Megs arrived, we tried to be mindful of their jet-lag, their entry into a totally new environment, and the way our smiles grew creepily chipper if prolonged. After dorm dinner questions, province comparisons, and that evening's Hot Spot, however, our exchanges grew genuine.

I knew they would soon swell with questions about dorm life, academics, clubs, and guy-to-girl-ratios. I knew that I could respond with personal insight, sincere interest, and a joke or two about Dutch roots and marriage proposals. What I couldn't have anticipated, however, was the pride with which I would talk about my school. A giddiness crept into my spirit when I cracked open my journal, turned to entries from my first year, and read bits of my experience — starting with a mud pit brawl.

It affirmed to me that I'd grown proud of the many moving parts that make up our school, our vision, and our impact.

Vice President, Marketing and Enrolment Head and History Professor, Dr. David Zietsma also delights in these things. When I met with him earlier this month to discuss the school's current challenges and future goals, his insight offered much for the RUC body to contemplate, and celebrate.

"My own personal belief," says Dr. Zietsma, "is that faith and learning can't be separated.

"The mind is created by God, for God. You can't say 'learning happens over here, and faith happens over there,' because they are so intertwined, and I believe Redeemer's whole Leadership Team shares in this thinking."

Then, Dr. Zietsma outlined Redeemer's latest strategic plan to uphold Christ-centred learning. This initiative seeks to (a) ensure excellence in academic programs, (b) engage Redeemer with external audiences, and (c) ensure the school's financial sustainability. These parts form a strong, three cord bond — namely — the 2020 Vision. While this article will outline the main goals of each part, a more extensive look at the Strategic Plan can be found in the last issue of Tangents Magazine.

This mission is, in part, a response to challenges effecting Universities across the nation. "We're in the middle of a significant demographic decline," Dr. Zietsma explains, "the population of university-aged people drops about 1.5-2% a year, each year." Moreover, the remainder of the target population is rethinking the purpose of further education. "The cultural view of post-secondary education is becoming more utilitarian — simply about training people for their jobs. It's not about God's world, discipleship, or calling. It's far more specific, and still narrowing in focus."

Another factor to consider is a change in views of Christian education. "Traditional feeder schools are changing," says Dr. Zietsma. "Sometimes they may seek to offset enrolment decline through opening enrolment up, and therefore fewer of their students might be interested in Christian post-secondary education." On top of that, he explains: "Our culture is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with Christian organizations. This makes accreditation more difficult for us — just look at Trinity Western's problem with their proposed School of Law.

"As a result, if we want a Bachelor of Social Work, Commerce, or Business Administration, or a Master of Education, it's more difficult to get. People doubt that it is possible to teach these disciplines from an integrated Christian perspective."

While these realities do present difficulties, Redeemer's 2020 Strategic Plan will aim to enhance and sustain what is indispensable.

The first area is aptly focused on academics, and making practical changes to keep programs excellent and relevant. Our revamped Core curriculum marks one of these changes, set to launch this fall. It is made up of 10 interdisciplinary courses designed over nearly two years of research and planning.

The Centre for Christian Scholarship, too, is key to enhancing Redeemer's academic programs. Faculty are more able to conduct meaningful research and join conversations with other educators, while remaining "unapologetically academic in method, deeply Christian in outlook, and firmly rooted in faith in common life."

"This is also a benefit for our students," explains Dr. Zietsma, "since faculty are engaged in research and respected in culture and communities." Moreover, this presents funding opportunities for faculty to include students in their own work.

The Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers is designed to help students "find their callings more effectively, and mesh the gifts they have through co-op opportunities and internships in every program."

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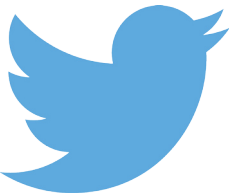


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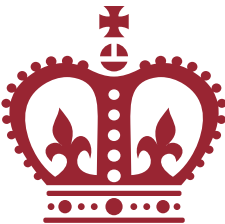
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Letter from the Editor

JOEL VOTH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The New Year is a great chance to set aside all the worries and stresses of the past year and replace them with positive thoughts and feelings. A New Year also means new opportunities. Opportunities to make amends with those you may have hurt as well as an opportunity to forgive those who have hurt you. It's a chance to learn from your mistakes and to start fresh with a clean slate, while remembering to not allow failure to determine how we live.

As an old saying goes, "Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and get back on the horse." The New Year is also a time to remember the amazing people we have in our lives and to reflect on lives that we have also lost. This is a chance to heal, to regroup from the pains of the past year. So with this positive focus in mind, I would like to say Happy New Year on behalf of the Crown and myself. I wish you all healing, peace, forgiveness and most importantly, Christ's love.

In this month's publication, we have a lot of exciting articles for you to read. Check out the article on Redeemer's 2020 vision. Read about the steps Redeemer is taking to rebuild and reposition them in this changing economy. Take a look at what's happening in Hamilton this month as the Crown team to a trip to review the Coach and Lantern where we try their food and drink — it was a blast. Read up on the article regarding Volkswagen, and how they are taking steps to correct their mistakes following their emissions scandal. Be aware that February 1-7 is Eating Disorder Awareness Week and take a look at the article about this important issue as we prepare for that. In addition, check out the article reporting on what's happening in the 'Wild West' as Ammon Bundy and his fellow militiamen have taken a stand against the US Government.



Finally, we are still in need of students who are interested in writing for the Crown. If you have a passion regarding topics and interests in your own personal life, studies, or in the world around us, please contact us; we'd love to hear from you. If you disagree with articles in the Crown, I encourage and challenge you to write an article addressing your opposing opinion. Article deadlines and information can be found on our website. If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at thecrown@redeemer.ca

Letters to the editor and article submissions must be sent to thecrown@redeemer.ca and must include the name and contact information of the writer, although we may print anonymously by special request. Works submitted as letters will be edited for clarity and length only.

The opinions expressed in *The Crown* are not necessarily those of Redeemer University College's student body, faculty, or administration.

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(continued from front page:)

Redeemer’s Media and Communication Studies Program has already been launched this school year (with a stellar promo video on the interweb), and an intensified Ministry Program is in the works. Dr. Zietsma explains: “Ministry used to be highly reserved for people who went to Seminary to preach off a pulpit, but plenty has changed in the last 10-20 years.”

“Churches have paid positions for Worship Pastors and Small Group Leaders who aren’t necessarily Seminary graduates. Where are they being trained? Shouldn’t Redeemer be a place to discover ‘Drama and Ministry?’ Or ‘Music and Ministry?’”

I think yes.

The plan’s second strand is to “increase our public profile.” This means more intentional use of media, a degree of rebranding, and improving relations with alumni, parents, churches, non-profit organizations, and think tanks.

“Think of organizations like the Canadian Bible Society, World Vision, Cardus, and International Justice Mission,” urges Dr. Zietsma. “We want to be a place where those organizations come to hire their marketers, their graphic designers, their writers, their accountants... their whatever!”

“We want them to recognize that the Redeemer Liberal Arts and Sciences grad is a student with deep faith, and a desire to serve God with their education. So we’d like to improve our relations with those groups.”

The final component centres itself on financial sustainability. The first priority is to eliminate budget deficit, by paying back loans originally meant to balance revenue and expenditures. Redeemer’s debt has been reduced by about 9 million dollars over the past four years. Continuing at this rate means reducing interest payments and having a more efficient operating budget,

which keeps tuition lower in the hopes of making it more affordable for students.

These three pillars — academic excellence, external relations, and financial sustainability — are not new to Redeemer and its leadership team. The 2020 Strategic Plan is simply a means of zoning in on each one with discernment, intention, and anticipation. They are meant to uphold the good we already have going for us, and tell more people about it.

“As our President, Dr. Krygsman, has said, ‘Our world needs deep Christian hope and wisdom,’” says Dr. Zietsma, “and that is what our graduates offer.

“Graduates who bring Christ-like leadership in politics and economics, reflect love in social justice, are committed to their families, churches and neighbourhoods, teach the next generation of students, and disciple their own children... We want to equip them to continue their transformative impact on the world.

“That’s our vision. That’s the 2020 Vision.”

And that’s a vision I’ll gladly relay to my new bright-eyed, British Columbian friends, so that they — and anyone else curious about what makes Redeemer unique — might understand the real and divine tie between faith and learning. The importance of growing in wisdom and knowledge, and the “renewal our minds” through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Redeemer is not perfect, but we do get some things right. My hope is that we’d each find things to be giddy about and things to be prayerful about. When we run after God’s heart for our school, He will provide all the discernment, innovativeness and resources we need. Let us, then, be a body that fervently asks for these things, that we might do Him proud, and move forward with ears to hear and eyes to see.

The Senate’s New Years Message

JOHANNA BENJAMINS
STUDENT SENATE

The end of January: The time of year when all of our well-meant New Year’s resolutions fade into oblivion and more realistic mindsets take their place. With the rush and pressure of attaining personal goals and scholarly deadlines, it’s easy to forget the reason why we are attaining them in the first place — to put God at the center of everything we do.

For me, the healthy perspective gained from time set aside to spend with God was the perfect reminder of why we are doing what we do, and that no matter what goals and plans we may have, God is working through them. When I committed to doing my devotions more frequently, God sent me Ephesians 2: 21 and 22 as a reminder of his resolution for my life:

“21In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

I think these verses also apply to my work with Student Senate. Like you, we as a group are always striving to learn, improve and grow, and there is no better time than New Years to evaluate the goals we set for ourselves and our plan for the future. We are SO excited for the goals and plans we have for the coming semester — Winter Retreat, Student Senate Election, and Spring Formal, to name a few.

Senators may be motivated by the work experience they gain, the fun they have, or even by the satisfaction of knowing that they are providing a service for their community, but even with all of these plans before me and my fellow Senators, I realized that these events are not Student Senate’s primary goal. Student Senate’s hope for this semester is that we may be facilitators of Christian community throughout all of the events coming in 2016. May the blessings of Ephesians 2 inspire your work in the community as much as it has inspired mine.

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Remembering Bethany Sider

THE CROWN TEAM

On the morning of Tuesday, January 12th, Redeemer Student Bethany Sider was involved in a very serious car accident near Cayuga. Bethany had had a brain aneurysm while driving, resulting in the collision.

She had extensive emergency surgery that afternoon at the hospital, then entered a medically induced coma as doctors monitored her condition.

On Friday, January 15th, the Redeemer community was notified that doctors had done all they could to better Bethany’s condition, and she died later that evening.

Bethany’s parents have expressed deep gratitude for every prayer, card, and blessing given so freely to their family, affirming that this campus has been another home to her.

Dr. Christina Belcher and her Education 306 class gathered this past Monday to remember Bethany’s sweet spirit and compile their memories into a humble tribute for her. The Crown is incredibly grateful to share this special keepsake with you.

DR. CHRISTINA BELCHER

This week we lost a shining light in our classroom community. Like a pebble thrown into a pond, the ripples produced were representative of the many, many ways in which Bethany was a blessing to us all. Our class, Education 306, spent some time on Monday sharing our wonderful memories of Bethany. In doing so, our voices speak of the beautiful person she will always be in our memories and our hearts.

One of our community, Stephanie, put this on Bethany’s Facebook page this past week, just after learning of Bethany’s accident. It represented Bethany so well: “On Monday I watched as you spoke in Ed class. The words you spoke with such care and concern, but yet with so much open mindedness. I was astounded. Then I was distracted by your beautiful ponytail, but my mind quickly wandered to how beautiful your soul is and how blessed

those students are going to be to have you as their teacher. A teacher who will pray fervently on their behalf and care so deeply for their hearts. I am sure Dr. Belcher will forgive my wandering thoughts...because my next thought was about the amazing journey each of those students will have because you encouraged them to dream, to think and to love, to pray. Praying for you and your family!”

Today in class, Jasmine and Brooke spoke of Bethany’s constant smile and her kindness to everyone. Jasmine said, “I loved how Christ’s love shone through everything that she did and it was all for His glory.” Jessica noted that Bethany always put people at ease with her transparency, authenticity, and welcoming manner.

As one of her close friends Elizabeth said, “Anyone who knew Beth can just easily imagine her spilling over with joy and literally prancing her way to her Saviour and Father... She didn’t just touch all our lives, she dove head first into them with so much abandon and love and compassion, such a reflection of Christ.”

Catherine saw the love of Jesus in her life, and in her hospitable way of engaging conversation with everyone. Bethany saw everyone as a friend. Adrianna reflected upon her passion for the French language, and her ability to go to France and live her dreams. She was passionate and all heart. There was nothing superficial about her. As Stephanie noted in her post above, Bethany challenged us all to dream big. As Curtiss put it, she saw the good in everyone and was hospitable to all.

Josh de Schiffert summed her up as being a refreshing presence, while Josh Elgeti appreciated the fact that she was always happy. Patrick reminded us that she was always personable, but even more, she always said your name, and greeted you with an authentic word of interest, not just a hello. As Emily put it — Bethany really cared. Tracey, who had been on a recent placement in the same school, described her as a natural teacher who was passionate about her students and her teaching. Michelle found her to be a compassionate traveller who understood loss, and offered comfort with an invitation to listen and to be available.

This was our Bethany.

I remember her spontaneous hug one day when she was thrilled with what she had learned in class. She was always encouraging, always a person of deep faith, and always an inspiration to us all. She made us think. She made us laugh. And now she made us cry. But she will never be lost.

Galatians 5:6 says “So, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight, and we are confident and satisfied to be out of the body and at home with the Lord.”

You can only be lost if no one knows where you are, and we know where Bethany is. She will live on with her Lord and Saviour, and forever dwell in our memories. Thank you for being a pebble in our pond, Bethany. You have left us with more ripples than you could ever know, and we will live our lives in a richer way for knowing you.

Bethany Sider's Funeral and Visitation Information

Friends will be received for Visitation at Jubilee Community Church, 7869 Highway 3 (corner of Jarden Road and Hwy 3 – a.k.a. Dunnville Road on GPS), Dunnville on Thursday, January 21st from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

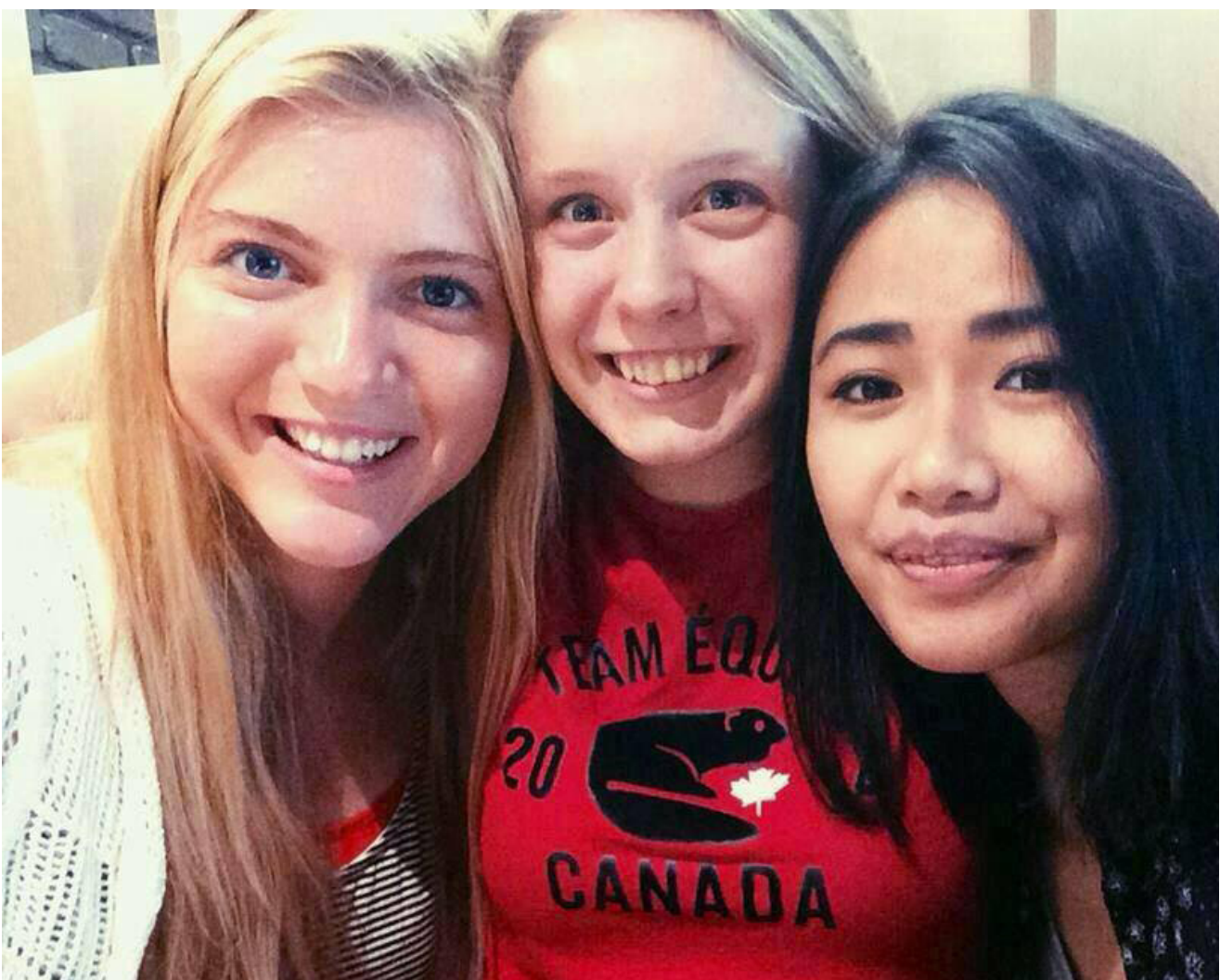
The funeral service will be held at Wainfleet Brethren In Christ Church, (corner of Perry Road and Hwy 3) on Friday, January 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow.

Donations in Bethany’s memory to Jubilee Community Church would be gratefully received.

A Book of Memories for Bethany is at the front reception desk for anyone wanting to include a favourite memory.

If you are willing to drive others or are looking for rides to the visitation or funeral, please make a note on the Ride Board on Dash.

“Look to the Lord and His strength; Seek His face always.”
(Psalm 105:4)



What is Love . . .

Recovering a Christian Perspective on Valentine’s Day

QUINTON MOL

With February around the corner, many people have Valentine’s Day on their mind. Some people are euphoric with the opportunity to spoil one’s spouse or significant other with flowers, chocolates, and an evening where many — in some ways — can paint the town red. Others groan at the gratuitous costs and the potential of being #foreveralone on this nonsensical holiday.

The celebration of love is an intriguing one in today’s society. Love is a very weighted term meaning many things to many people, both in definition and in practice. This is a day with a long history and much potential, but only if we stop being lied to about the truth of this holiday. It is a day rooted in Christian marriage, yet it has deviated far from this Christian institution. Let’s take a look.

There has been a lot of lore around the origins of the day in which we either commemorate St. Valentine or idolize infatuation. The most common of these brings us back to the Roman Empire during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. During his short yet successful reign as emperor (268-270 AD), he passed an edict banning marriage. Though some are quick to pin this as a religious indictment, it was more a military maneuver. In a report on the Christian Broadcasting Network’s webpage, they too clarified that Emperor Claudius thought that a single man would fight better than a married man, which is why he passed the edict. However, people continued to marry.

Marriage was very different in the polygamous society which was the Roman Empire, but as people kept converting to Christianity, they too conformed to the monogamous Christian way of marriage. A Roman priest known as Valentine was the one to officiate these marriages in the name of God. Emperor Claudius found out, had him arrested, flogged and martyred. Martyrdom for marriage. Death for the sake of love. That is the meaning we take out of this day: love. But a deeper meaning comes from recognizing St. Valentine’s obedience to the law of God and the Christian tradition.

What: obedience to the law of God? That seems to be a wishful claim to make from this story. But when one does the dirty work to dig into Scriptures we realize that love is equivocal to obedience. The Christian claim of “God is



love” (1 Jn. 4:8) and if you love [God], you will keep His commandments (Jn. 14:28) is far different from society’s definition of love. You see, we all have been lied to, being told that infatuation is the same as love. That if you love someone, you will always agree with them. But most detrimental of all, that love is selfish.

Now no one would admit that love is selfish outright. It is more evident in the way we phrase things: “I need to find my soulmate”, you need to find the person who “compliments you”, the one who “fulfills you”. You see, we are all selfish, and we are all sinful. So as long as we are selfish, we cannot love. And as long as you are sinful, you cannot obey God. Love must not be divorced from God. God is love. We need God in order to love and we cannot love if we do not follow God. Here we can recover meaning in Valentine’s Day. We can commemorate a day (and everyday) to love and to marriage just as St. Valentine did.

In order to do so, we need to know the true version of love. As stated above, love is rooted in the very character of God and manifested in obedience to God. That is where the epic

of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 gains its true weight, as Michael Emmanuel taught us at a recent HotSpot. It is true that “love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

This is only true as far as these traits are bound in lawful obedience to God, and it is lawful obedience to God that brings about the Kingdom of God here on earth. The true prayer of love is the prayer that Jesus himself taught us to pray: your kingdom come, your love be done.

We have a polemical issue at hand. We can idolize infatuation, or we can worship God. We can reclaim Valentine’s Day to make it more than a day devoted to romantic rendezvous. We can show the world the true likeness of God by showing them the true likeness of love. So before you say “I love you” to that special someone, be sure to first say “I love you” to the One who teaches us to love.

What’s Happening in Hamilton?

Local Spot: Coach & Lantern Pub

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER

Location:
384 Wilson Street East, Ancaster

Bus Route to Get There:
GARNER at REDEEMER UNIVERSITY
44 towards Ancaster Business Park
5 min (7 stops) · Stop ID: 4476
GARNER at FIDDLERS GREEN
16 towards Meadowlands
7 min (12 stops) · Stop ID: 4484
WILSON at ACADEMY

Hours of Operation:
Sunday 12-10pm,
Monday-Wednesday 11:30am-12am,
Thursday-Saturday 11:30am-1am

Must-Have:
The English Curry (try it vegetarian and spicy!)

“Sit long — talk much — laugh often” are the words printed in the menu of Ancaster’s Coach & Lantern Pub. Such words were the experience of the Crown team as we bonded together over a delicious dinner at this local gathering place. A British style pub, the Coach & Lantern boasts a beautiful entranceway (home to an ideal outdoor patio in the summer months), and possesses all the qualities of a quaint, dark, and cozy English pub interior. Situated between shops on Wilson Street, the pub is the third oldest building in Ancaster having been re-built close to 1823 after its original 1700’s architecture burned down in a fire. Once a hotel, the pub has historical roots; it was built for

St. John Rousseaux’s son. For those who enjoy Hamilton hauntings, the Coach & Lantern website shares some of the ghostly encounters on the pub’s premises!

After a busy day at school, this pub is an ideal spot for relaxing with friends. The menu boasts plenty of pub favourites with terrific pints to match. In addition to great food, Coach & Lantern has a variety of exciting entertainment during the week: Monday trivia, Thursday open mic nights, and live music on weekends. Looking for a place to celebrate a special event? The pub now hosts gatherings in their Upper Coach dining space. Only a short distance from Redeemer campus, this pub is sure to have you sitting for many hours over great conversation and much laughter! The Crown reminds readers to drink responsibly and not to drink and drive!



Humans of Redeemer

“Tell me about a time you saw prayer answered.”

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER



“This was during my time in England, with YWAM (Youth With a Mission). It could be a coincidence, but I like to think of it as a God moment. I knew this man who worked in a retail store, he was a cool ginger guy. They weren’t meeting the mark they needed to because they were low on business. We’d go to this place pretty regularly, and pray for him all the time, so I prayed for his store. When I came back a week later, he’d hit twice as much in terms of revenue.

So the guy was like, ‘You need to be here more often!’”



“My dad was a Pastor in the States during the recession there, and we had to leave because the Church was unable to support my family. We moved back to Canada, and my parents were confident that God would provide a Church for my dad to pastor soon. Doors kept closing, though, so we ended up moving in with my grandparents while my parents worked minimum-wage jobs to keep providing.

My parents didn’t stop praying for a year, hoping in God, and my Dad just kept applying. He’d preach at churches for the weekend, but there weren’t any long-term opportunities. They felt a lot of stress, and since my grandparents were fostering three kids, there were ten of us in one house. Then, at the end of the summer, my dad got three or four job offers from different churches, all at once! It was amazing. God’s timing may be different from our own, but he will always provide.”



“It’s a long, convoluted story, but basically, it is this. There was a student from Calvin College in her final year, training as a music teacher. Before starting her practicum to go into the Michigan schools, she had to write a multiple choice competency exam covering a multitude of areas — not just music.

She tried these tests, but she failed them, which meant she couldn’t do the practicum, which meant she might not be able to finish her degree at Calvin. So, she contacted me, saying ‘I’ll try it one more time, but if I don’t make it, is there a possibility of finishing my degree at Redeemer?’

I told her we could certainly talk about that, but to focus on passing these tests first. I said I’d pray for her. And, she passed! She was saved from a whole bureaucratic snafu!”



“When I came to Canada almost four years ago, the culture shock was so grave that I responded with a neurological breakdown. My body began twitching semi-voluntarily, so we went to the doctors and they diagnosed me with all these weird neurological conditions — it was a very confusing time, because I was under a lot of pressure. My parents were on a honeymoon at the time and were very worried about me.

When they came back, my mom asked her friends and my church back in the Dominican to pray for me. The doctor said that my symptoms would go on for a year, but a few days after that, my mom said ‘You’re going off medication, God is going to heal you’ and then — with all the prayers from my church and friends — I was healed. I had a realization that God was with me, and that he had healed me.”



“When I first came to Redeemer, for whatever reason my OSAP came in really late and evaluated me really low. It was a month before school was supposed to start, so I wasn’t going to be able to be here. I was really distraught, and didn’t know what to do, so I just kept praying about it. And then — literally a week before school started — they reevaluated me on a whim, and gave me exactly what I needed to be here! So that was kind of fun, and stressful.”



“When I went to Scotland to study, I didn’t know a soul. So all summer I was trying to figure out where I was going to live, and somehow made a connection online with a Christian guy who was looking for a roommate, so we arranged to live together.

I had never met him before, so I was expecting to have to find my own way to the apartment and everything. I also needed a bed since the apartments didn’t come furnished, and my only transportation was a bus! So I prayed about it.

Then, the day before I came, my flatmate was like ‘Hey, do you want me to pick you up from the airport?’ and he didn’t even own a car. He got a friend to come with him, so I knew he was pulling favours to get me there, which was amazing.

Then, that same day, he got a different friend to come with his car and take me to Ikea. We were able to fit a mattress and bed frame into the tiniest car. So here’s this guy I’d never met before, taking three hours out of his day to help me get a bed (from then on, I called him Ikea Andy!). He thought it was the tiniest act of kindness, but it was my first day in a foreign country, and I had a very practical need — so that was huge.”



“One time at YWAM, my team was short about \$4000 two weeks before our outreach in China and Thailand. My co-leader and I were freaking out a little bit, and unsure of what to do. We were cutting budgets, planning to eat really simply, and counting on enough money to come in for us to go

Then anonymous donors started giving us checks fulfilling exact amounts. We saw the gap become smaller. People started to find cash on their beds — hundreds of dollars — from random people! A few staff members decided to help out anonymously, and one family paid a huge amount. We ended up with \$500-\$600 extra for the trip! We were then able to give more generously on our outreach. It was incredible.”



“God has always been faithful to my family and marriage. My husband used to be a Muslim, and then he was born again. My father-in-law became a Christian too — just before he died. That is a testimony for me.

This is how it happened. My husband and I were in England on holiday, and his father was sick. My husband was so bothered, asking: ‘is this man going to die unbelieving?’ But God came through. Of course, it took a lot of prayer and intercession, but without anybody putting any pressure on him, he asked for his wife’s pastor to come over. And with joy, he came and shared the Word with my father-in-law. He gave his heart to Christ, and not long after, he died. We didn’t mourn like those who do not have hope. We were sad because he was no longer with us, but we were glad inside because we knew his destination. That was a big miracle for us — and it still is a miracle. Salvation is always a miracle.”

Redeemer Bands Raise Funds for Syrian Family

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

On Saturday, January 16th, Redeemer held a Concert Fundraiser to help make Hamilton home to a Syrian refugee family. The evening featured Casual Fridays and To Our Divide, groups made up of Redeemer students and alumni. Originally scheduled to play at the annual Battle of the Bands competition, they kindly agreed to play their sets at the benefit concert instead when the contest was cancelled due to lack of student entries this year.

Brooke Piper and Stephen St. Pierre made up Casual Fridays, an endearing duo with power in their simplicity. Their setlist included covers of Twenty One Pilots, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Elton

John, and Ingrid Michaelson, with Piper on lead vocals and the ukulele and St. Pierre on back-up vocals and electric guitar. Piper's voice was velvety in tone, and St. Pierre's rhythmic melodies added a hearty depth to every song.

Next up were the winners of last year's Battle of the Bands' People's Choice Award: To Our Divide. Timon Moolman fronted the band on electric guitar, and sang alongside Tristan Persaud, whose electric licks brought style to every number. Tristan Kaarid tore it up on the bass, and Dan Jumaquio was the band's steady and skillful pulse. They played original songs, old and

new, and had the performance filmed for some upcoming promotional footage. This past year, Timon and Dan spent time refining their artistry at a school in Nashville. Their training certainly bore fruit that evening, as made evident by their musical mastery throughout the show.

While the Battle of the Bands cancellation was unfortunate, the concert was still a very meaningful one, and raised over \$200 in entry donations alone. All featured photographs were taken by Matt Linzel, and will hopefully give you a taste of the vibes that night — close-knit, brightly lit, and thick with sound.



Chemistry and Culture Making

An Interview with Dr. Edward Berkelaar

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER



Interviewing the Chair of the Departments of Chemistry, Environmental Studies, and Geography might have seemed an intimidating task for a student with a background almost exclusively in the Arts. However, upon meeting Dr. Edward Berkelaar, professor of Chemistry and Environmental Studies at Redeemer, I was immediately at ease amidst his joyful energy and the parade of plants and books ornamenting his office. When asked what inspired him to pursue an academic route Berkelaar shared, "I was always science-y and I always loved plants."

He explained that his academic journey was more a result of chance than precise planning. Encouraged by Faculty, Berkelaar completed a B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry

in Nova Scotia —where he grew up — and soon discovered a passion for research. "In the summer between my third and fourth year, I had [...] the chance to work on a research project which was on the interface between biology and chemistry, and I just delighted in it. Unknown problems, new ideas, working independently. It was right up my alley."

This enjoyment followed Berkelaar as he pursued an M.Sc in Plant Physiology and a PhD in Ecotoxicology, where he was able to further blend his background in both chemistry and biology. Berkelaar seemed destined for a life of academia; after a three year working experience for a non-profit organization with his wife in Florida, he admits "[he] missed being in University, in that environment of academia." This led him to teach at Redeemer University in 2003.

Our conversation continued to a question regarding the relationship between Science and Religion. In response to what drew him to teach the sciences in a religious context and what his discoveries have been as result, Berkelaar responded, "For me, always, studying the sciences has probably been one of the ways that I feel communicated to by God; in the sense that He speaks through His creation, and science is an investigation of the creation, and you just get insights and windows of beauty and complexity that inspire." He continued to comment that teaching in this manner felt, "more consistent and holistic" to him.

Berkelaar's latest project, in collaboration with Dr. Brouwer, focuses on "Monitoring the water quality of the Spencer Creek and Chedoke Creek watersheds". Berkelaar's explanation of the project inspired me to look critically at what is happening in our local landscape. He described the creeks that are now buried beneath the city, including one "buried underneath the entire Hamilton mountain until it gets to the escarpment", eventually manifesting as the Chedoke waterfall. The water samples they gathered this past summer were a means of "measuring bacterial

contamination", which are "indicators of aquatic health". Berkelaar and Brouwer plan on presenting their findings to the Hamilton Conservation Authority in February and to the public in the future.

When asked how he might consider inspiring those resistant to studies in chemistry, environmental studies, and geography to investigate these areas of study, Berkelaar admitted that, "there is a math and science phobia which is unfortunate." But rather than teaching concepts and math formulaically or traditionally, he strives for a different approach.

"One thing we've been working on hard here is to show to students how chemistry itself is [...] actually a form of culture making," Berkelaar stated. He referenced the work of Andy Crouch (who recently visited Redeemer) and elaborated on chemistry's role in producing many of the modern means we encounter daily, including those which impact the environment.

"Science and technology has led to human flourishing to some extent but it has also led to some really significant health issues and environmental issues that need addressing as well," and questioned, "how do you balance [...] the properties of science and technology in service of others?" Berkelaar's considerations continually return to a care for student learning and inquiry. "When you weave those stories through even basic chemistry, it's a bit eye-opening for students to realize that this matters beyond the math."

Beyond matters of math, Berkelaar shared that he finds peace while weeding in a garden during the summer months. "I can be at peace with extremely routine tasks," he explained. As for a question regarding how he might spend an ideal day off of school, he admitted, "I would spend probably three or four very early hours doing work." After that, he delightedly expressed "I'd be with family," and imagined spending the day with his four kids skating, playing in the snow, and making good use of their backyard ice rink.

Living a Full Life

Reclaiming my Life from an Eating Disorder

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER



When I first discovered that I had an eating disorder, I had few words to describe exactly what I was experiencing and how profoundly it was affecting my life. I knew something was wrong; my health was declining, my ability to be around friends became a struggle, my relationship with my parents grew increasingly hostile, and my relationship with myself was one of intense competition, self-deprecation, and inconsolable loneliness. My relationship with food, unsurprising to me now, mimicked these feelings. By not nourishing myself, I was sending myself the message that I was unworthy of living a full and happy life. I tried desperately to control my life by controlling what was on my plate. I equated food to failure. If I ate, I believed that I lacked self-control, that I was pathetic, and that there was nothing special about me. I believed that having an eating disorder meant that I had a purpose.

What is particularly insidious about eating disorders is that they promise a life of meaning while slowly draining the life from those they affect.

The negative mantras of not feeling good enough, attractive enough, smart enough, or successful enough are ones that eating disorders take severe advantage of. For those unfamiliar with eating disorders, it is confusing why the person struggling doesn't "just go eat." That way of thinking is similar to telling someone with depression to "just not be sad." The complexities and nuances of mental illnesses require holistic approaches that take all aspects of a person's life into consideration. Once I learned that eating disorders weren't only about food, I began to look at my life in a different way.

I came to realize that the eating disorder was an external way for me to cope with anxiety and fears I did not know how to face. I was using food and body image as an external means of finding comfort. I eventually came to acknowledge that the eating disorder served a purpose in my life, but it no longer served me. It kept me on the periphery of experiences and prevented me from authentically connecting with myself and the world around me. I clung to the eating disorder for fear that I would disappoint myself and others. I now realize that it is okay to have these fears; they are what make me human.

Shortly after my diagnosis, I found a treatment facility where I learned meaningful, healthy ways of overcoming the disorder. Those in my health care team are some of the most incredible individuals I have connected with on my journey. Because of them, and the work I continue to do, my previous shortage of words to talk about eating disorders has turned into nothing short of a dictionary as I fight hard to gain understanding and to reclaim my life. Early on in my treatment, I remember wanting desperately to overcome the disorder so that I could put it behind me, never to look back on it again. I now believe that recovering from an eating disorder has made me a much more grounded, empathetic, and authentic person. I have always possessed a great capacity to love and care for others, and I now have the opportunity to give that same compassion to myself as well.

In anticipation of Eating Disorder Awareness Week (EDAW) which runs from February 1st-7th, the Crown has placed posters from The National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) around the Redeemer campus. The posters read, "Eating Disorders Are As Diverse

As The People They Affect", a message I believe is of deep significance.

Eating disorders manifest in different ways and affect many different people. Not all those who suffer from an eating disorder have physical indicators of their struggle. Eating disorders live and thrive in secrecy; the more awareness and conversations we can have about this illness, the more we can dispel its power and help those who are struggling.

For those who are new to eating disorders and their impact on those they affect, I would encourage you to ask questions, start compassionate conversations, and send support to those impacted by the illness. If you are someone battling an eating disorder I want to tell you that you are not alone in your struggle, and that you are worthy of love and of living a full life. Recovery is possible. Loving who you are is possible. This process begins with asking for help. Seeking support reveals incredible strength and I encourage you to reach out for this help.

I have now come to a place where the disorder does not rule my life. It certainly still peeks its head out when I'm trying to order a meal, when people talk negatively about their relationship with food or their bodies, or when someone innocently asks me what I've packed for lunch today. But it doesn't dictate my life or prevent me from living it. Recovery is an active process, and I am proud of myself for arriving at a place in my journey where I can openly share that process with you all.

I remember telling someone very dear to me, when I was at a low point in my recovery, "When I look in the mirror, I don't like what I see." She responded with utmost sincerity, "Rebekka, when you love your life, you will love what you see." As I continue to align with wellness and recovery, I am beginning to see exactly what she meant.

Pastoral and personal counselling services are available to Redeemer students. In addition to these supports, mental health services are offered through St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. Please visit <https://www.redeemer.ca/campus-life/health-wellness/mental-health/> for more details. Information on eating disorder treatment can be found at <http://www.nedic.ca/>

RUC Presents: Cotton Patch Gospel

"The Best Darn Chapel People Will Ever Come To!"

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Men don't live on grits alone.'" Act I, Cotton Patch Gospel.

Earlier this week, I was able to sit down with Professor and Theatre Director Ray Louter to hear about Redeemer's upcoming musical production.

"In a nutshell," he explained, "it's the story of Jesus."

About 30 years ago, a man named Clarence Jordan did an adaptation of the Gospel of Matthew. He called it the Cotton Patch Gospel, a part of a series translating New Testament books into the prose of the American South in the 1980s. When an actor and musician duo got a hold of the Cotton Patch Gospel, they began to turn it into a musical, and it's been an incredibly successful show ever since.

"The whole idea of the story is to try — in the way that many writers, dramatist and playwrights have done — to find a way to let the gospel speak in the language of 'the now.' When Jesus told the parables, he told them in the idiom of the time. He talked about a Shepherd and sheep. He talked about a rich traveler, dangerous roads, and other images that the people understood." Redeemer's theatrical team has drawn the stories even further into the present, hoping to "pull it onto our stage in 2016, with

some more contemporary feelings, style and approach."

What will an audience see when they come to Cotton Patch Gospel? "We call it a straight-on spiritual revival. We also call it the best darn chapel service people will ever come to! With great music, singing, spirits being stirred, storytelling, and congregational involvement to some extent. We hope that people will have a really genuine experience of the incarnation."

The production's framework began about a year and a half ago. "I was looking for a gospel-centred show," he recounted. "So I thought of the big ones: Jesus Christ Superstar, Godspell, and Cotton Patch Gospel. Jesus Christ Superstar and Godspell both have awesome musical scores, great for an orchestra. But both are problematic in the sense that they both end up with the Jesus figure dead — the stories are tragedies for that reason. The Jesus-figure dies, and c'est ça."

"The Cotton Patch Gospel is the whole of the good news — that death is defeated!"

The process began with hiring Janine Noyes as music director in the summer, then casting the entire music ensemble in the fall. "Then," Prof. Louter shared, "for a whole host of different reasons, we lost three of the musicians, and the one actor who was going to play Jesus." Those departures were daunting. When the first actor left,

the cast and directors immediately began reconsidering the show. Seeing as there were many more women than men, and a specific vocal range required, the role could not easily be filled by a single cast member.

"That's when we went with the idea of a communally held Jesus role." The Director beamed as he explained this creative interpretation of the script. "In our Cotton Patch Gospel, the role of Jesus is played by seven or eight different people. What we do is we try to guide, in a symbolic way, the view of the audience, so that they know who Jesus is now. It changes fluidly all throughout the play."

He then explained that when you ask several people to take pieces of the role, it becomes "theologically rich. It adds complexity, as everyone brings their own understanding to the role." Some characters are said to embody the "sweet, parental Jesus," others the "witty, sharp" Jesus, and still others the "innocent, goofy boy Jesus."

"They all bring a little piece of themselves into the equation — it creates space for people to think imaginatively about the story. Including the actors themselves." Prof. Louter admits to wondering whether the audience or cast will be more impacted by the event. "Our hope is that the audience will be touched and changed. That it will be amusing and entertaining, of course, but that they would be deeply touched by the possibility of life that doesn't end. (... continued on next page)

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“It has a particular kind of poignancy, especially this week.”

He encourages faculty, staff, students, and friends from all spheres to come see the show. In fact, he deems Cotton

Patch Gospel “a great primer for reading the Bible for the first time. If there is ever a show that we do here, that would be the show to bring a friend who’s a searching soul — aren’t we all, though — this is a great way to get into the gospel with fresh eyes.”

So if you have yet to see a major event produced by a

department on campus yet, this is the time. The show runs from January 26th - 30th, with tickets available at redeemer.ca/cotton-patch.

“Go with your dorms,” urges Prof. Louter, “go with friends, and invite people that are searching. Take their own sorry souls — and come! There’s no reason not to.”

Tame Impala – Currents

An Album Review

JOSHUA VOTH

Currents is the latest album by Australian psychedelic rock musician, Kevin Parker (also known as Tame Impala). Released in July 2015, this album is a rich combination of psychedelic pop, synthpop, R&B, and disco. Currents is the third album given to us by Tame Impala and in many ways sticks out as being different, transitional and fluid.

Many of the songs on this album can be described as warm, melancholy and catchy. The album definitely mirrors Parker’s own life; he describes the parallels between song names and his own thoughts on the ever-changing nature of life, and reflects on the changes that have been made to Tame Impala over time. Songs like ‘Eventually’ and ‘Let it Happen’ embody his own personal philosophies of life being transitional and not static.

The song ‘Eventually’ is by far my favourite song on this album. Parker describes this song as the one having the most impact on his own life and identifies closely with it on a personal level. The song is about the emotional, internal struggle of ending a relationship. This is best captured in the opening lines: “If only there could be another way to do this / Cause it feels like murder to put your heart through this.” Later, he goes on to say, “But I know that I’ll be happier / And I know you will too.” We feel the intense emotions during the bridge when the

clear ring of strings pulses like a siren in an almost soothing manner as he says “Eventually” over and over.

The album art is also unique to the album as it re-emphasizes the idea of currents with a visual depiction of liquid being disturbed. The artwork was created by Robert Beatty, an artist in Kentucky. Beatty describes in an interview how he came to create the design for the album; he had met with Parker, who requested the artwork to be “based on turbulent flow, the way liquid or air flows around objects.”

Without a doubt, Parker has made Currents a self-reflective album, and we can definitely hear that in the tone of the lyrics and the rhythms behind each individual song and as a whole. We also see a shift in style, and this album has a more dance-like feeling with synthesizers on the guitar portions.

The album received positive ratings from electronic and rock music enthusiasts from around the world. On Metacritic, Currents currently holds a score of 84/100, and Rolling Stone magazine placed this album at number 13 on its list of the “50 Best Albums of 2015”. Within the first week after the release of Currents, the total number of vinyl copies sold was 14,000, and as of December 2015, Tame Impala has sold 120,000 copies in America.



I encourage you to give this album a listen from beginning to end. I would describe the album’s approach to conveying its message as gentle and enjoyable, and the music as a massage for the brain.

The Volkswagen Emissions Scandal

JOSHUA VOTH

Most, if not all, of us have heard something regarding the atrocious news surrounding the emissions scandal involving the Volkswagen Group, a famous and well-loved German automobile manufacturer. This article will dispel all lies and rumors and will keep you up-to-date with the goings on at VW.

On the 18th of September, 2015 German automobile manufacturer VW was issued a notice of violation of the Clean Air Act by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Clear Air Act is a federal law enacted by the United States of America. It was created to control air pollution on a national level and it also strictly outlines and dictates the air quality laws for the rest of the world.

After extensive testing of Volkswagen automobiles (which was, in part, performed by the West Virginia University), it was found that diesel vehicles manufactured between 2009 and 2015 had been directly and systematically programmed to evade emissions testing. The extensive testing performed on vehicles found the erred results in the TDI (turbocharged direct injection) engines. The programmed electronics were engineered specifically to evade emissions controls tests; basically the cars were engineered to lie, giving false information to owners, drivers, mechanics and dealerships.

This was a huge error on Volkswagen’s behalf, resulting in economic and environmental repercussions. The ethics then in question are quite troubling, as the emissions given off do in fact have large-scale effects on our planet’s well-being as well as negatively affecting human health. Peer-reviewed studies published by ERL (Environmental Research Letters) estimated that approximately 59 premature deaths will and have been caused by excess pollution between 2008 and 2015. These are directly linked to vehicles with what are now called “defeat devices” installed; they produce inaccurate results, satisfying standards while being egregiously inaccurate.

With the release of this awful news, CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned and the automobile manufacturer announced plans to make amends by spending \$7.3 Billion to fix the estimated 11 million cars which had the defeat



devices installed.

But how was the data falsified? After all, Volkswagen is not the first to have been caught doing this. Suffice it to say that the TDI Jetta exceeded U.S. emissions limits by a factor of 15 to 35, and the TDI Passat had exceeded them by a factor of 5 to 20. Emission standards show that both of these emission factors greatly outweigh safe and legal limits for emissions in both the United States of America and Europe.

It is unfortunate and perhaps sad to see such a profitable and trusted brand such as VW fall into deceit. Deutsche Welle, a German broadcaster, said that this scandal has dealt a blow to the country’s psyche and the famous “Made in Germany” branding. However, Volkswagen has committed to fixing their issue. It is purported that in January 2016, vehicles will be recalled and fixed, and new vehicles will be installed with proper hardware, without any defeat devices. They are also issuing vouchers to current owners so that they can fix their vehicles free

of cost — that, however, will be up to the owner (unless governmental legislation in the USA requires all TDI 2008 through 2015 to have their cars fixed). It has also been reported that one quarter of these vehicles have already been deprived of their defeat device.

Popular tech figure and CEO of Tesla Motors, Elon Musk, was asked to comment on this emissions scandal. His response was quite positive when he said, “What Volkswagen is really showing is that we’ve reached the limit of what’s possible with diesel and gasoline. The time has come to move to a new generation of technology.”

Whether this was shameless self-promotion or an honest effort to encourage ethical behaviour, we do need to remember that our decisions have a huge impact on those around us, whether it be the machinery we create or the ones we operate. After promising to make amends, Volkswagen hopes to rebuild its customers’ trust as it continues to manufacture high-quality, trustworthy vehicles that are safe for our families and our planet.

What is Happening in Oregon?

The Oregon Militiamen: Patriots or Terrorists?

MICHAEL EMMANUEL



“Political language,” said George Orwell, “is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.” It’s simply the propaganda machine those in power use to enforce orthodoxy, that is, the correct way of viewing history and current events. As Supreme Chancellor Palpatine once explained, those with power fear most to lose it. They must rewrite reality in order to protect and justify their hold on power, especially when that hold is illegitimate, illegal, or lawless.

Given this state of affairs, anyone paying attention to events south of the border beyond the tireless drone of the presidential campaigns may have heard of the terrorists in Oregon. They are occupying a wildlife refuge, demanding the government set free some local arsonists and return land to inhabitants who long ago sold it to the refuge.

These radical right-wing militiamen have concocted a conspiracy where the federal government has been stealing land from innocent ranchers and, in the name of anarchy, have begun vandalizing government property, terrorizing the local inhabitants, and wasted tax dollars due to the efforts needed to contain these pseudo-revolutionaries. Further research will reveal that the Bundy brothers, leader of these armed soulja boys, have been involved in similar standoffs with the government before. They appear to be troublemakers who travel across the U.S. attaching themselves to regional squabbles, against the wish of locals, in their vainglorious war against the federal government. Such is the orthodoxy streaming from the establishment loudspeakers.

We must not be so naïve as to believe “the revolution will be tweeted.” What with the possibilities of internet censorship, and as the web remains a source of decentralized information, there is another narrative which paints quite a different picture.

The story begins in the 1870s when ranchers began settling in the Harney Basin and building a state-of-the-art irrigation system to enrich their lands. The thriving basin soon began attracting wildlife, particularly birds as they migrated north. As governments do, President Roosevelt declared the unclaimed land federal property under the guise of an “Indian Reservation,” though no “Indians” inhabited the area, to preserve the “breeding ground for native birds.” Already the orthodox narrative had altered the reality.

Meanwhile, according to the American Constitution, “the supreme law of the land” (Art.6 s.2) , the federal government cannot own any territory outside of D.C. unless it is a military site which the state in question has allowed (Art.1 s.8). The Feds were violating their legal jurisdiction by claiming the land. Still, at the time, nothing could seem less sinister than establishing the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

In the 1970s, the consequences of ignoring checks and balances made themselves clear. The massively expanded Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and constitutionally unnecessary Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began buying up local ranches and adding the property to the refuge. The expanding refuge soon surrounded the property of

the Hammond family, who had been ranching since the early 60s. When the Hammonds and other ranchers refused to sell, however, the FWS and BLM concocted a scheme to force more ranchers out. In the 1980s, they diverted waters passing the meadow lands into the Malheur Lake, causing the rising lake to flood the surrounding plains. Their property ruined, many more ranchers were forced to sell. With useless land, the only buyer was of course the BLM.

Susie Hammond began compiling facts about the Wildlife Refuge and its federal cohorts. She found a 1975 study taken by the FWS — and subsequently hidden away — which revealed that, as is often the case, private property around the wildlife refuge attracted four times more wildlife than the actual refuge. Unsurprisingly, when men “take dominion over the earth,” the earth and all its creatures flourish. When governments let land sit... not so much. The established bureaucracy didn’t take too kindly to being exposed and so the Hammond family became the target of systemic abuse and harassment by the FWS and BLM from then on.

One of many incidents occurred in August of 1994; the Feds began illegally building a fence around the Hammond’s water source. When Dwight Hammond (Susie’s father) attempted to stop this, he was arrested for “disturbing and interfering with” federal officials, and was locked up for two nights and then suddenly released without bail.

Then the Feds revoked the Hammond’s grazing permits without any court proceedings taking place. Oregon is a fence out state, meaning it does not obligate an owner to keep their livestock within a fence to control their livestock’s movement. Without the grazing permits, the BLW demanded the Hammonds build a fence, since their cattle was not permitted to graze on “public property.” Without the money to build and maintain fences along miles of property, the Hammonds were forced to sell their ranch and buy another property with enough grass to feed their cattle.

But the real trouble began in 2006 when a lightning storm started a fire which posed a threat to the Hammond’s land and home. Steven Hammond started a backfire to keep the wildfire from damaging their property. The backfire was successful in saving much of the range and vegetation needed to feed the cattle through the winter, but in the crisis, the Hammonds had failed to inform the public authorities of their activities. The very next day, federal agents filed a police report and Dwight and his son Steve Hammond were arrested by the County Sheriff and a BLM agent. After reviewing the case, however, the Harney County District Attorney decided to drop the charges. The BLM needed to bring the case to the federal courts if they were going to have their way.

Five years later, 2011, the report was taken to the federal attorneys and the Hammonds were charged under the Federal Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996. The Hammond’s mugshots were featured on the news under the title of “arsonists.” A trial was held which was skewed against the Hammonds in favor of the Feds from the start. While the Hammond’s attorney was given one day to review the evidence, the federal attorney was given six. The jurors

selected were not peers, but individuals intentionally selected for their ignorance of the customs and cultures of the ranchers, many of whom lived far from the courthouse, meaning the constant travelling would exhaust them. Such was the case when after six days of being pressured by the federal judge to give a verdict, while being intentionally kept unaware of the consequences of a guilty verdict, the jury finally pronounced the Hammonds guilty.

For some reason, the federal judge thought it would be “cruel and unusual punishment” to deliver the minimum sentence under the Anti-Terrorism Act of five years in prison, even though the Hammonds had supposedly just been found guilty of terrorism. Instead, the judge sentenced Dwight to three months and Steven to twelve months along with an additional fine of \$400,000 for each. Even after the Hammond men suffered through their terms, it seems the Feds were not finished with them. In what cannot seem to be anything but vindictive and malicious behavior, the BLM again brought the Hammond’s case to the federal courts, demanding that the ranchers be made to serve the full five year term. So in October of 2015, the Hammonds were re-sentenced.

This is where things get interesting. On January 2nd, in Harney County, a protest rally was held in support of the Hammond family. In attendance were the Bundy Brothers and other patriots, as they call themselves. Following the rally, the brothers and their group of armed militiamen trekked up to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge headquarters, “The facility [which] has been the tool to do all the tyranny that has been placed on the Hammonds” and other ranchers, as Ammon Bundy put it. With supposedly as many as 100 supporters, the militiamen took control of the refuge that was closed for the holidays. They then released statements that they intend to hold the headquarters for the next number of years unless the Hammonds are released and the ranchers given back their lands. They promised they will not hurt anyone, but did not rule out violence if the government tries to remove them.

Since then, the militiamen have been occupying the refuge. The federal government, establishment media, and their ilk have had a field day with the group, labeling them as terrorists and vandals — for tearing down fences. To date, only one man has been arrested.

The question becomes, what do we make of the Bundy brothers and their followers? Are they terrorists, or are they patriots? As Canadians, we haven’t really had to deal with this dilemma since Louis Riel defended the Red River settlement from our central government, so we might have a difficult time sympathizing with the Bundys or accepting their terrific claims about their government’s grand conspiracy to enslave the American people. On the other hand, the facts fit the bill.

Legally, the Bundys have done nothing wrong. The land they occupy does not, cannot in fact, belong to the federal government. Constitutionally, the Bundys are occupying public land owned by the State of Oregon. If the State of Oregon wants them gone, that’s their business, but a totally different matter. The only lawless group here has been the American Federal government. The Feds may have acted with the power of law, but they acted in violation of the law which gave them the right to do it — the Constitution. And whenever any government acts against the law, it acts arbitrarily. And arbitrary government is little less than tyranny.

This is a version of events that the powers-that-be cannot stomach. We may not agree with the Bundys tactics, but as one commentator observed, “The problem with real-life cases like this is that they are always messy. The victims of government never have squeaky clean lives and practices. If the defenders of rights and property wait to speak out only when non-messy cases present themselves, we’ll wait forever.”

Perhaps as Christians we might want to propose alternative approaches, like the non-violent resistance used by Gary McHale in defending the property rights of families in Caledonia. Whatever the case, the lesson here is to be aware of the propaganda asserted as the facts. When we accept that anyone who stands up to arbitrary government must be a criminal, a lunatic, or a “trouble-maker,” then we shall be taking a large step along the road to serfdom.

New Year, Same You!

Setting Realistic Resolutions for the New Year

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER

At some point in human history, it was decided that bringing in the New Year must be accompanied by an extensive list of how to radically alter our lifestyles. We might feel a more intense drive to change our habits, our bodies, our motivations, and our way of life on a grand scale, creating a new regime in the hopes that we might create a new sense of purpose and identity. Unfortunately (or perhaps quite fortunately), these changes don’t just happen because the clock strikes midnight and it’s 2016. A new year does not mean that everything about you has been stripped away and you are free to climb into a completely new being. A new year does not mean a completely new you.

Perhaps this viewpoint sounds harsh. I assure you, it isn’t meant to be. My impulse to write this article stems from a frustration toward the inundation of expectations we can place upon ourselves simply because it’s January of a new year. I believe that change is good, in fact I would say that change is necessary, but expecting radical results so suddenly is not sustainable — nor is it healthy. If we were to begin to create realistic, sustainable resolutions for our lives, we would see results much more meaningfully and with greater opportunity for longevity. Here are some points to consider when developing your goals for this year.

1) Make your goal realistic and catered to you.

Generic goals often need to be adjusted to fit individual needs and circumstances. For example, let’s say someone’s goal is to “be more fit” in the New Year. Perhaps this person has positive intentions for wanting to work out (their health isn’t optimal, they feel fatigued, they want to get out and participate in a group more, etc.).

However, let’s say this person has rarely been active in their life up until this point. They have made this resolution for the past two years and are increasingly frustrated three months into the year when they no longer have the time, the drive, or the enthusiasm to follow through with their goal. When the next year rolls around, they expect the same goal to magically work this time (the “new year, new me” notion). The honest goal of wanting to “be more fit”, although it sounds simple enough, is actually a very challenging goal. There is a lot of time, energy, and healthy supports that need to be in place if it is to con-



tinue effectively.

If this person were to set more reasonable goals for their current lifestyle, perhaps “being accountable to a friend once a week to go for a walk with”, suddenly the goal has a specific time, place, and person attached to it. The resolution is catered to the person making it with healthy and reasonable guidelines. Which brings me to another important concept to consider when making resolutions:

2) Resolutions ought to act as guidelines, not as rules.

The more rules we place upon ourselves, the more we are sending ourselves the message that we can’t mess up, that we are bad or we fail if we don’t adhere to a rule we strictly impose. This mentality is not the foundation of creating healthy habits. We need to have an element of softness around what we do and what we strive to do. For example, one of my resolutions for the New Year involves doing one calming activity before I go to sleep in order to transition from my active day to a leisurely bedtime. Some of these activities include: reading, journaling, yoga, and meditation.

Again, I need to be honest with myself and ask the question, “Can I do one of these tasks every single day?” The perfectionist part of me answers with a definitive “YES.” Theoretically, I could do these tasks each day, but the point of my resolution is not to stress me out with having to get one done in order to achieve some imaginary check

mark. The more important question I need to ask myself is, “Is it okay if I do not have time to do one of these tasks every single day?” and the answer to that is “YES.” If you are able to give yourself permission to not have to complete the tasks some days, that is being realistic and does not make you any less driven or dedicated to your resolution. It means you are human and leaving room for all aspects of your life.

3) Ask yourself why this resolution is important to you.

If you are eager to make some changes in your life, think first about why you are inclined to make those changes. Is your motivation coming from a place of care or from a place of self-criticism? Some resolutions stem from a desire to try new things or make time for favourite hobbies or encounters. However, some resolutions can come from a place of discomfort with how we perceive ourselves. It is important to be honest with why we are so eager to make changes and if there might be something about our current way of living that doesn’t sit well with us. Consider both these possibilities before diving head first into an intense new regime or riding the latest band wagon. Whether or not you have established a New Year’s resolution for yourself this year, set yourself up for success by honouring who you are with grace and gratitude. Invite 2016 to be a year where resolutions, no matter what they might be, come from a place that aims to make you a happier, healthier person: a servant of God in perfectly imperfect ways.

Straatsma Sets New Standard in OCAA Women’s Volleyball

PETER REID

The OCAA has a new all-time women’s volleyball career points leader. Redeemer’s Curtiss Straatsma has etched her name in the OCAA record books as the most prolific scorer in Women’s Volleyball history. Straatsma earned herself the record on the afternoon of January 9th, notching her 1,240th career point.

Straatsma needed just 12 points in her first match of the second semester to move herself to the top of the leaderboard. St. Clair College defeated Redeemer 3-2 during the Saturday matinee as Curtiss finished with a game-high 22 points.

For someone who has been breaking records her entire Redeemer volleyball career, this one will be considered to be the biggest milestone as a Royal. Holder of the all-time Redeemer career points and kills records, Straatsma is now on to the OCAA record book.

Humbled by the accomplishment, Curtiss commented, “It is pretty exhilarating, but also humbling because I know that none of this would be possible without the tons of people who have supported me. Volleyball is a team sport and without the other 13 girls on my team playing their hearts out, I could not have done it. As well, the coaches and athletic staff have done so much for me, and of course my family. I feel pretty honoured to be doing this with the Redeemer community behind me, showing that even though we are a small school, we can achieve big things.”

To put the milestone into perspective, Straatsma has a full

semester yet to add to her totals and has already passed Humber College’s Landis Doyle (1,120) and Kelly Nyhof (1,186) who previously sat #2 and #3 on the list. Both Doyle and Nyhof were CCAA All-Canadians and OCAA Athletes of the Year during their playing careers.

Straatsma was chasing Cambrian College’s Shawna Metcalf. Metcalf was the last volleyball great that Curtiss needed to hurdle in order to stand alone at the top. Cambrian’s Metcalf was a 3-time CCAA All-Canadian.

The women’s volleyball team returns home for their January 22nd match and there will be a presentation for her at that time to honour her accomplishment. Fittingly, the opponent that evening will be Metcalf’s former team as Redeemer will welcome the Cambrian Golden Shield to Ancaster.

Redeemer’s Women’s Volleyball Head Coach, Brad Douwes, has been with Curtiss the past 2 years and praised Straatsma and what she has brought to the program saying, “What Curtiss brings to our team is more than just the ability to score the ball. In the past two years, Curtiss has developed her leadership skills in a way that people may not have thought possible. Curtiss went from being the most gifted player in the gym to being the hardest working player in the gym. She has drastically improved her passing and defensive skills, which have made a huge difference for our team. She now leads by example and is determined to keep working hard to improve and this is something she encourages from her teammates.”



What’s next for the Royals? “This record is something that will be celebrated, but it is not the biggest thing Curtiss wants to accomplish this season,” commented Douwes. “The goal remains an OCAA Championship and the focus remains on that. A win on Tuesday against Conestoga College will get us one step closer.”



New Years Resolutions

P N M L O S L B K X J R H M B X G R G G
P R O M O I S D E T C E N N O C Y A T S
Q B A I X S N E Q K A F V E G S M S T J
P B X O T I E K N L U O Q F V A P J X F
E S M L I A B W T T L P W U R V W Z X T
I P L I C A Z H E U I Q X J C E W H O B
Q B E E Q B Y I N I V F C E K M F A O E
X I D G E E F T N Z G G O M C O W U A F
J A J H A P E S O A N H J I Q N A R G W
T X O T V E G N M I G A T T B E H Z N K
R S I L R K W J K S X R R Y K Y J V I K
Y N U Q B L B O S Q A Q O T A T V Z D T
G K N F E J M U V E D U T I T A R G A D
H H X V I S P U N C T U A L I T Y O E E
G L A A T R E L A X P T V A M T E I R E
I R R I J R G W G V O V V U Z T O E P B
T N U W X G S C A Q P L D Q E S N C X A
G Q C T E Z T L H G J R P M K P Z D H N
V B K V G Z I G L I N F J L U Q N V O X
E Q A Z T R S W N I E K I Z D C Y O P K

FITNESS
GRATITUDE
HEALTHYEATING
LOSEWEIGHT
ORGANIZATION
PUNCTUALITY
QUALITYTIME
QUITSMOKING

READING
RELAX
SAVEMONEY
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Pet of the Month
Feature Creatures of Redeemer

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER

Time to horse around with the pet of the month, Gucci! This perfect pony is companion to Rebekah Clark and was interviewed for our January issue of the Crown.

How long have you known Rebekah and how did you two meet?

I have known Rebekah for six years; we met on her twelfth birthday.

Have you participated in any competitions and won any awards?

Rebekah and I traveled and competed all around North America, and our most prized award was the Justin Rookie of the year award where we were ranked 2nd in North America!

What is one thing about you that people might find a little strange?

An odd fact about me is that I enjoy eating grapes and oranges, which is peculiar for my species.

What is your favourite pun featuring horses?

“I can’t talk right now, I’m a little horse!”

