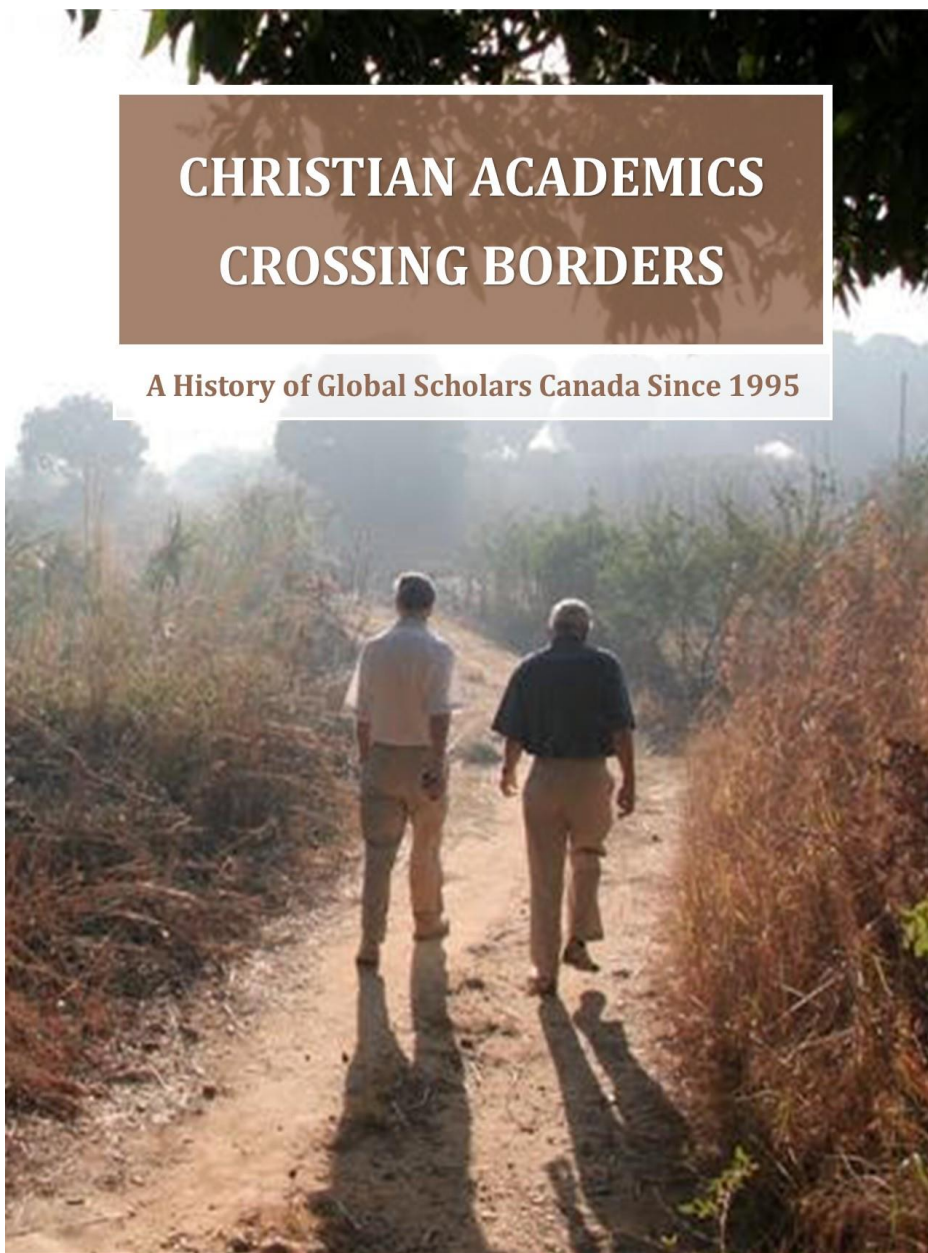


CHRISTIAN ACADEMICS CROSSING BORDERS

A History of Global Scholars Canada Since 1995



Christian Academics Crossing Borders - A History of Global Scholars Canada since 1995

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Cover: Adrian Helleman and Henk VanAndel in Jos, Nigeria in 2007, walking on the University of Jos campus grounds.

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*Now see what I've done. I've opened a door before you that
no one can slam shut.*

- Revelation 3:8

This short folk history is dedicated to Adrian and Wendy Helleman, our two founders, dedicated scholars, and tireless supporters. Your foresight, nourished by God's grace and faithfulness, opened a door.

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Foreword

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

- Revelation 7:9a

Whether you are newer to Global Scholars Canada or someone who has been a part of this organization for much or all of its twenty-five (+1) year journey, the stories included in this booklet will be a faith-building source of inspiration and vision. They are a testimony to a deep faith in Jesus Christ that has found expression in an abiding commitment to a worldwide academic mission that has its foundation in Scripture.

Two passages come to mind as Biblical touchstones for the animating vision of Global Scholars Canada--Colossians 1:18-20 and Revelation 7:9-10. The former proclaims the supremacy of Christ and his renewing work in all of life and creation: the latter expands this all-embracing vision of renewal and celebration to include every tribe and tongue and nation under heaven. Together, they form the foundation for a global vision of a Christian missional academic witness in every discipline on every university campus.

The pages of this booklet also tell a story of a prayerful and Spirit-led willingness to change the way in which this mission has been understood and carried out over the years. Global Scholars Canada, along with its US partner, Global Scholars, has always been an innovative and entrepreneurial undertaking, both on the part of its frontline Christian scholars, its board members and executive leadership, and its donors and supporting constituencies. This openness to the Spirit's leading has also led to increasingly learning the value of collaboration with Kingdom partners.

From the initial vision of bringing a Christian academic witness to overseas public university campuses through the establishment and staffing of Christian Studies programs, to the wider vision of sending

Christian missional academics in all disciplines to be a Christian presence on these campuses, and now to equipping indigenous Christian academics through a global, internet-based society of Christian scholars, the impulse of this mission has not only been sustained but has also been transformed in its breadth and reach.

This same Spirit has also found expression among the scholars in the field, as they not only taught a wide variety of courses and carried on their scholarship in varying institutional settings but also responded to local and disciplinary needs through such undertakings as the establishment of institutes and programs for training academic and professional colleagues, the writing of textbooks for various levels of Christian education, and the creation of scholarship programs to enable more students to pursue formative programs they offered at local universities, to name a few.

And they, as well as Global Scholars Canada as an organization, have been generously supported by a wide variety of people in various constituencies who share this same sense of calling and urgency to bring a Christian missional vision to bear in every academic area and nation under heaven, as well as the same willingness to see this mission change and expand over time.

As a newer vision of concentrating less on sending western Christian scholars and more on equipping local Christian academics continues to grow and develop, led mainly by our partner, Global Scholars, we at Global Scholars Canada are also asking ourselves how we can assist in this new locally-led global venture, the Society of Christian Scholars, as well as find our own place in this new paradigm of equipping local missional Christian academics as the principal means of fulfilling our common vision of reaching every public university campus worldwide.

As we look to the future, new avenues of global impact include the reality of online teaching, which lowers the cost of traveling and relocating, as well as a potential new area of expansion and innovation in the equipping of emerging Christian academics. This may also involve partnering with other Christian groups to reach out to international graduate students at Canadian universities and to induct them into this vibrant vision of serving as Christian missional academics. As we continue this exciting journey, one thing is sure. We will thrive only as we will hold fast to our Biblically based mission of

seeking to serve and witness to the claims of Christ across the academy as part of a Spirit-led worldwide Christian network.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate what the Lord has accomplished through Global Scholars Canada, in partnership with Global Scholars. And please continue to pray for, support, and walk with us as we seek new ways of carrying out the great mission that animates us--working to ensure that a Christian missional academic witness is presented to students on every public university campus worldwide.

We also wish to thank our staff--Peter Schuurman, Executive Director; Harley Dekker, Finance Administrator; and Anna Sklar, Communications Coordinator --for their dedicated service in support of the mission and vision of GSC and for the special effort they have put forth to make this celebratory booklet possible.

May Jesus Christ receive all the honour and glory!

- Justin Cooper, Board Chair 2017 - 2021

Preface

From Judea, to Samaria, and to Every University:

Christian Professors without Borders

The significant battles of today are not fought in the air and on the sea and land but rather in the world of ideas, philosophies and thought forms... To be effective in this century any educational endeavour that does not have globalization at its core is not going to be effective... If the gospel of Jesus Christ is going to have an impact that is comprehensive and cross-generational it needs to partner with the university system throughout the world.

- Dr. Rod Wilson 2001, Former President of Regent College, reflecting on the work of GSC

Throughout his ministry, they called him “Rabbi,” meaning “Teacher.” He is the inspiration, the guide, and ultimate governor of Global Scholars Canada.

The ancient world was imperiled in its first century A.D. In Palestine, Jesus Christ entered this occupied territory with a redemptive purpose, and his short ministry demonstrated it: teaching, preaching, healing, and leading people closer to God and his new kingdom of radical hospitality and warm-hearted fellowship. This ministry roused both hope and scandal in a world rife with violence and unrest, and culminated in his death and subsequent miraculous resurrection to life, followed by his surprising ascension and, we are assured, reign as Triune God.

One of his most important instructions to his followers was quite simple: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” The Latin term for “send” is *missio*, from which we get the word “mission.” Now every business and government agency today has a mission, but this kind of mission is not our own enterprise. It’s God’s mission, the *missio Dei*, which is a full-orbed engagement with the world that draws its spirit from God’s kingdom of love, justice, and peace. This mission extends Jesus’ ministry of teaching, preaching and healing, offering Good News of forgiveness from sin and guilt through his self-sacrifice on that cruel cross. It simultaneously offers a fresh pattern for transformed

human relations, with special attention to those who suffer – a Way that has been summarized as the pursuit of shalom.

Throughout the history of the church, men and women have been inspired to further this welcome renewal of individual and cultural life in different ways. In the early years after the disciples' ministries, a time of corruption and violence, the monks retreated from the cities and sought to build alternative communities focused on contemplative prayer, theological study and creative work. In the subsequent Middle Ages, this sequestering proved insufficient, and the Reformation was born with the printing press, championing the authority of the Scriptures for all readers, and embracing God's call to a holy vocation in the midst of the ambiguities of cultural life, including formerly mundane jobs such as the merchant, the scientist, the artist and the professor. The world of "sacred" shalom-making was transferred into the "secular" landscape of home, the city halls, and the marketplace.

Shortly after in the West, a missionary movement was launched, dispersing the Christian faith around the globe in an unprecedented way. This resulted in colonies of Christian faith throughout South America, Africa and Asia – and although the gospel was implicated in some of the imperialistic practices of colonization, it also resisted them and brought literacy, medicine, and a new hope to these people – the living legacy of the love of Jesus Christ. This missionary movement permanently changed the colour and character of Christianity. Ironically, as the Christian faith began to wane in the West, crippled by materialism and imperialist guilt, it flourished in such a mighty way in the Global South that the majority world became the new center of Christendom on the planet. The ancient faith became a fresh movement of the Spirit, more affective, and more contagious, although lacking some of the institutional resources of its spiritual forebears.

In this context Global Scholars had its beginnings. Although the heart of Christianity was no longer in the West, many Christian academic institutions and resources remained in the secularized West. These resources needed to be stewarded – to be conserved, innovated, and shared through the wider church of Christ, to build up regional leadership and strengthen the local church and Christian cultural influence. Faith-based academic research and teaching especially needed to be exchanged across boundaries in public universities in order to both carry the Good News and work for cultural renewal. Universities are a center of cultural development and influence for all

sectors of society, and their gifts need to be re-distributed as an act of justice and shalom-making.

Here is the vision: *Missional Christian academics redemptively influencing students and colleagues, departments and disciplines, at every university worldwide.*

How this movement began and how it transitioned through the years is a story worth telling. That story is this book, and we will show how strategic the work of even one scholar can be a catalyst for God's kingdom—in students' lives, in university departments, and national movements. Scholars teach future leaders, they write books that spread good ideas, and they lead initiatives that can transform lives and communities across borders.

In what follows we divide the history of GSC into three chapters: a new dream (1995-2000), a new millennium (2000-2015), and a new name (2015-2021). We will introduce you to the pioneers, the patrons, and the professors themselves. This is a history of human ingenuity, but more foundationally, it is a testimony to God's providence for a precarious enterprise that crosses political borders, cultural boundaries, and language barriers with one goal in mind: a ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.

Jesus the Christ, this radical, charismatic, resurrected Rabbi from Nazareth prompted a renewal of God's creative intentions and an anticipation of a new creation yet to come. He demonstrated peace and love in a world of conflict and hate. Our scholars lean into this promise of forgiveness and shalom, with passion and persistence, knowing that they are agents of something much larger than themselves—a spiritual power called Grace that God gives through his Spirit to the church and all who will receive it.

We invite all to read about this vision and to join in the mission of Christian professors without borders, praying for the students who will be inspired to carry the vision into another age, for God's glory and the common good.

CHAPTER ONE

A NEW DREAM

1995 - 2000



Pre-History: 1986 – 1994

The year 1986 was an explosive year for both east and west, seeing both the shocking end of the space shuttle Challenger and the meltdown of nuclear reactors in Chernobyl. It was also the year the International Institute for Christian Studies (IICS) was founded in Overland Park, Kansas, USA. The inspiration for this inter-denominational organization came from Dr. Danny McCain, who was an Old Testament scholar teaching Comparative Religion at the time. The vision was to start departments of Christian Studies in public universities around the world, not unlike Jewish Study Centers at major universities.

In August 1988 Danny McCain and his family moved to Nigeria to inaugurate the first IICS Department of Christian Studies at Rivers State University of Science and Technology in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Eventually this program landed at University of Jos.

Dr. Daryl McCarthy, a passionate board member and philosophical theologian, was originally hired to be the IICS Program Administrator, and was promoted to President soon after.

In 1989 the Berlin Wall fell and almost immediately IICS began to receive requests for scholars in disciplines other than theology. The IICS board agreed to start sending out scholars of *all* disciplines. As Dr. McCain puts it, "Our practice caught up with our theology of 'all truth is God's truth.'"

In 1991 IICS professors begin teaching in Russia, Ukraine and Romania. At Moscow State University, Dr. Dan Clendenin taught a Christian worldview course for students in the Faculty of Philosophy, what was then called the Department of Scientific Atheism; this was a course in ideology, required of all students to keep their university registration. Clendenin's work opened the doors for the Hellemans to teach varied courses in Philosophy in English, where they were very well received.

Wesleyan scholar Thomas Oden was influential in helping IICS recognize the potential of sending academics to Russia, both through his book *Two Worlds: Notes on the Death of Modernity in America and*

Russia (1992). One era was ending, but a new era was opening up. In 1993 new IICS programs started in Hungary, Poland, Belarus and Asia. By 1995 some of these opportunities were narrowing, although the military institutions in Russia were more open than the Communist Party's institutions. These countries were ripe for cultural exchange for the first time in decades.



This photo is taken in a hotel room in Kansas at a vision conference 1998. The Hellemans are center left, Fred Reinders is far back on the left and Gordon Smith is upper far right.

Pledge of a Scholar

This was a pledge that was often said at IICS summer conferences:

*To seek to bring glory to God in all situations;
To view every issue from the perspective of Christ's Lordship;
To surrender my rights and humbly serve the needs of others;
To daily read the Word of God and apply it to my life;
To love students & colleagues and welcome them into my home;
To respect the culture of our host country and its citizens;
To make worship, prayer & God's word the priority of each day;
To seek the daily infilling and anointing of the Holy Spirit;
And to be a good example for students, colleagues, and friends by living a
holy, honourable, and wholesome life of integrity patterned after Jesus.*

A Door Opens

Seldom do doors open this widely with such promise of a redemptive impact. I can scarcely imagine the ministry of a professor... in settings like the ones [GSC] envisions. - Gary Walsh 2001, Former President of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

By Adrian Helleman:

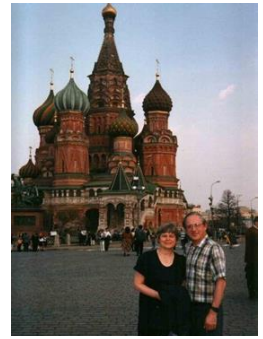
Our involvement in what is now GSC began with my search for full-time work. After getting my PhD, I worked for a while as an interim pastor, but I needed to find an academic position. Thus, early in 1994, I pursued an ad in *Christianity Today* for a teaching position in Port Harcourt in Nigeria with an organization called IICS. The ad listed only a phone number and a postal box. But the 800-phone number was not accessible in Canada, so I wrote letters to both *Christianity Today* and *International Institute for Christian Studies (IICS)*.

When IICS sent us the preliminary application forms we immediately filled them out. There were further forms, and when these were completed, we heard that we would be interviewed. That phone call came on my birthday in 1994. Instead of us going to Kansas City, where IICS headquarters are located, the President, Daryl McCarthy, flew to Toronto for an interview. We learned that he had a special interest in meeting the Canadian applicants as the potential start of a Canadian branch of IICS. Once this lengthy application process was completed, we were accepted by the board of IICS. Early in 1995 we attended an orientation session, mandatory for all applicants.

Our next step was to raise the necessary funds. IICS is a faith mission. Fortunately, we had a network of supporting churches and individuals, but to be able to issue tax receipts for donors, it was important to set up a Canadian charity that could receive funds on our behalf. The incorporation of this charity did not happen without a few legal hiccups. Our first assignment was to organize a board that would supervise our work and look after the finances. The first board members came from Ontario and British Columbia. The new name for this charity was Christian Studies International (CSI).

Now we needed a place to work. We were first considered for

placement in Lithuania or Romania. But then we learned that Dan Clendenin, serving at Moscow State University, was looking for someone to replace him. He had heard of our availability and wanted us to come to Moscow. We were still short of the funding needed for initial placement, but a generous donor in the US provided a grant sufficient for us to travel by September of 1995. That was how we arrived in Russia, where we spent seven wonderful years.



*Red Square
Moscow,
with St. Basil in
the background*

Excerpt from 1st Helleman brochure – Spring 1995:
Why teach in Russia?

In a country where many professional opportunities have been closed to Christians, and universities have been used to promote atheism, we felt challenged to reach students with a vision of Christ, and thus impact future leaders of Russia in heart and mind. It is possible, at present, to teach openly from a Christian perspective in the public universities of Russia, and to present an alternative to the prevailing atheistic/materialistic worldview. The door is now open, but no one knows how long this opportunity to teach the Good News will continue.

Excerpt from last Helleman newsletter in Russia – March 2002:

What results have you seen from your ministry?

Wendy: I've met some students who really responded and appreciated my teaching. To some extent our colleagues too have understood what we were trying to present in our work, who appreciated what we did, and told us that often. I have learned a lot about Russian culture, literature, and philosophy, which earned me an entry in some scholarly discussion, and allowed us to reach some Russian intellectuals in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as Russian scholars living elsewhere on the globe.

Adrian: I am pleased that I have been able to influence the thinking of so many students over the years. Some years ago I received an indication of that influence in a special moment at church in Toronto. I was tapped on the shoulder and turned to see "Ivan," a student from my political philosophy classes at Moscow State University. He told me he had returned to Christian faith because of my presence in the classroom.

Adrian Helleman 1995

Adrian and his wife, Wendy, were our founders and our first scholars. In many ways, GSC has been a constant in their life and work through the past two decades. Adrian has taught on 11 campuses in 5 different countries as a GSC scholar, including Russia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and The Gambia. Most of his classes focus on Philosophy or Theology. Adrian is also an author and has written and presented many other articles and lectures. He continues to fundraise for the Gambian Scholarship program as both he and Wendy have transitioned to service with GSC back home in Toronto, Canada.



Adrian earned 4 degrees from Calvin College - Bachelor of Arts (1966), Bachelor of Divinity (1969), Masters of Divinity (1977) and Masters of Theology (1988), and a Ph.D. of Philosophy in Theology at St. Michael's College in 1992.

Adrian & Wendy have 3 children, all living in different parts of the world!

From 1995 to 1998, Adrian taught at Moscow State University, Moscow Christian School of Psychology, and Open Christianity (St. Petersburg). Adrian's classes included Civil Society, Ethics, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, World Religions, Theological Anthropology, and Reformation.



Wendy & Adrian at Moscow State University with colleague Genia Pertsev

In Nigeria, from 2003 to 2008, Adrian taught at Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, St. Augustine's Major Seminary, Nigerian Missionary Institute, and University of Jos. His classes included Inter-disciplinary Colloquium (Master's level), Issues in Contemporary Theology (Master's level), Post-modernism and Religious Pluralism (Doctoral level), History of Medieval Philosophy, History of Contemporary Philosophy, and Ecclesiology.



2007 - Veenstra Seminary in Donga, Nigeria... the sweetest welcome came from these children, belonging with families of staff & students on campus.



This is a significant moment captured during a lively interaction with fellow faculty members at the 'tea-break' for a seminar we organized. The focus was Christian Worldview in dialogue with African & secular worldview approaches. We were thankful for the warm reception of our presentation.



Left - Teaching at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria

Adrian taught History of Political Thought (Master's level) at St. Augustine University in Mwanza, Tanzania in 2009.

He also taught Systematic and Historical Theology at the Gambia Theological Institute in Kololi, The Gambia in 2009.

Adrian mentored 5 Doctoral students,
15 Masters students, and numerous Bachelor student
projects during his teaching years.

Wendy Helleman 1995

Wendy has taught about 2,000 students during her tenure. She has taught on 15 campuses in 7 different countries in her life, including Russia, Nigeria, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Ukraine as a GSC scholar. Most of her classes focus on Philosophy or Early Christianity. Wendy also authored 5 books and was the editor for 3 more. Wendy continues to publish, fundraise for the Gambian Scholarship program, and mentor graduate students.



Wendy earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy (1980) and a Drs. in Patristics and Ancient Philosophy (1973) at the Free University in Amsterdam, an M.A. in Classical Languages at the University of Toronto in 1971, and an A.B. in Philosophy and Classical Languages at Calvin College in 1967.

From 1995 to 1998, Wendy taught at Moscow State University, Moscow Christian School of Psychology, and Open Christianity (St. Petersburg). Wendy's classes included Heroes, Saints and Martyrs, Sophia as Lady Wisdom, Early Christian Thought, Creation, Evil and Utopia, and other courses introducing students to philosophical terminology in English.

This represents one of the best classes I taught - Philosophy in English at Moscow State University. Here we are trying to choose the best articles for translation for the book The Russian Idea.



In Nigeria, from 2003 to 2008, Wendy taught at Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, St. Augustine's Major Seminary, and University of Jos. Her classes included New Testament Greek, History of Early Christianity, Basic Works of St. Augustine (graduate), Intertestamentary Language and Literature (graduate), Seminar on Research Writing Philosophy of Religion, The Impact of Science on Awareness of God, and History of Ancient Philosophy.

Wendy taught Introduction to Philosophy at St. Augustine University in Mwanza, Tanzania in 2009.

She taught The Apostolic Fathers, Introduction to the New Testament, and Augustine as African Church Leader at the Gambia Theological Institute in Kololi, The Gambia in 2010 and 2012.

Wendy also taught Early Christianity AD 1 - 500: History and Important Authors (graduate level) at Zaporozhye Bible College and Seminary in Ukraine in 2016.



This is an undergraduate class in NT Greek in session in our office at U of Jos. We were assigned an office in the corner of the building – excellent, because there was adequate light even when the power was off.



This represents consultation with one of the student representatives in our office at the University of Jos. A strike was threatening, so we were discussing information and materials that could be passed along to other students in the class in case of disruption to normal schedules.

THE RUSSIAN IDEA

Wendy says: "During the second year at Moscow State University (teaching philosophy in English) we realized the relevance of resurgent attention to the 'Russian Idea', focused on renewed integration of the Orthodox church and theology with state issues. We collected some 20 good articles from journals and newspapers and asked our students to summarize these and work on an English translation. This really challenged them, for regular assignments went from English to their own language, Russian. The project intrigued our MGU colleagues and generated many interesting discussions. In the final stages we got professional translators to check the translations; our own Russian was pretty good by that time, but we did not trust ourselves for publication of the material. It also took time to find a publisher, but finally Slavica accepted a group of essays, and *The Russian Idea: In Search of a New Identity* appeared in 2004; we presented a copy to the department when we visited in the summer of 2005."



Wendy has also mentored 8 Doctoral students and 15 Masters students during her teaching years.

Read more about Adrian & Wendy's Adventures on their blog:

Helleman News - hellemannews.blogspot.com

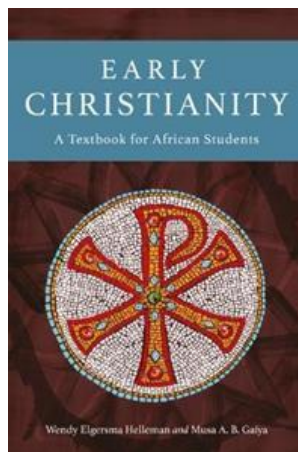
Book Review by Peter Schuurman:

Wendy Helleman's co-authored textbook on early Christianity has been called "significant," "timely," "substantive," "indispensable," "in-depth," and "comprehensive." I would also like to add the words "a redemptive influence" to the mix as this is the centre of our mission statement at Global Scholars Canada.

You see, our scholars do not only teach emerging leaders and thinkers: they influence disciplines, departments, and university curriculum by their research and writing. Wendy Helleman's text, co-written with her colleague Musa A. B. Gaiya, specifically introduces African students to the beginnings of the Christian faith as it spread through Asia Minor, into Africa and Europe in the first few centuries until the fall of the Roman Empire. Moreover, its not just a generic text, but it comes with a Christian perspective that is deliberately accommodating to African beginnings, Muslim perspectives, and women's roles. This is significant for the inter-faith, gendered landscape of African universities today.

There is special attention paid to the role of women in this text – their role in the New Testament as well as in the early church and in the monastic movement. In fact, drawing on Rodney Stark, they argue that women were among the first to be attracted and committed to Christianity – in part for its rejection of abortion and infanticide, but also because of its embrace of female participation. Dr. Helleman tells me that this part of the text has been well-received, as women are moving into clergy positions in Baptist, Brethren, and charismatic traditions in Africa. She says, "At the university more than half of our students are typically women, and it is appropriate for them to focus on this aspect of the study of Early Christianity, to encourage them in their contribution."

Wendy is an exemplar of what she writes, not just as a university professor, but as a leader in GSC and in her field of philosophy and history.



Wendy co-published this textbook with Musa A. B. Gaiya. Early Christianity: A Textbook for African Students, 2019



FIRST BOARD MEMBERS

2005 - Nick Terpstra, Martha Kouwenhoven, Lucy Verstraete, Henk VanAndel, Steve Aceto, Daryl McCarthy, Eugene Kruysse, Fred Reinders

GSC could not function without its board members and their volunteer work and has been blessed with some very wise, experienced, and dedicated people through the decades. Here is a small window into the names, endorsements and some of their accomplishments.

Fred Reinders, the founder and owner of Maple-Reinders Constructors Ltd, was the first board chair and has been a generous donor throughout our quarter-century history. Much can be said about Fred's ingenuity, tireless support, and faith-filled vision, but suffice to say GSC would not exist today without him.

Fred wrote on the front of his company newsletter in 2020, just before the pandemic hit North America: “

Knowing your inner self is the key to being effective, being at peace with God and each other, producing gratitude and satisfaction with character. Popularity, title, and looks do not matter; nor does being smarter than others – it can be useful, but won't bring happiness. So moving forward in 2020 will be, as always, a challenge in performing with integrity. We are each called to examine our intent, governed by the sting in the consciousness of your heart.

Fred has a vision for leadership development marked by a Christian virtue that he models.

Wendy Helleman writes about Fred:

Fred Reinders was in on this project from the beginning. After we had initial conversations with Daryl McCarthy, and discussion with our friends the Van Meggelens, Voogds, and Wilma Bouma, Fred was the next person I talked with about the potential of a Canadian branch of IICS. Fred and I served on boards together for some years, so I asked him what he thought. He

was pretty positive from the start. Fred's engineering firm garnered public attention for environmentally sensitive work - among which an airport built in the far north, which has been the pride of his company. But Fred also has a serious interest and vision for Christian education - his company helped build Redeemer University and The King's University in Edmonton. He has also served on boards for various Christian high schools and colleges; but CSI was something else, so we were really happy that he agreed to chair the board, and did that for many years. In the summers Fred represented CSI on the board of IICS in Kansas, and for many years the CSI board gathered in Toronto in his office, with his company providing snacks for the meetings. We have been blessed by his generosity, his Christian insight, and balanced judgment on many issues, not the least of them asking Bob VanderVennen to become Executive Director. Bob served in that role until 2005 when Henk van Andel took over that position. We are grateful for Fred's wise leadership these many years.

Gordon Smith served on the board as Vice Chair from 1995 to 2002. Gordon has taught and been in leadership at bible schools in Philippines and Canada. He also wrote *Courage and Calling: Vocation and Vocational Development* (1999). He served as President of ReSource Leadership International from 2003 - 2012 and has been the president of Ambrose University in Calgary, AB since 2012.

Quotes from Gordon:

The world of education, in its programs of training students for institutional leadership, has often failed to understand the necessity of truth in cultural power structures and the need for faith-based direction centered in Christ. During its many years of service, Global Scholars Canada has focused on opening up broad Christian horizons at foreign university programs with the conviction that with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light (Psalm 36:9). Serving with this redeeming light of Christ in higher education worldwide has become a joy for myself and many others.

Global Scholars Canada plays a strategic role in global Christian mission - encouraging and fostering quality Christian leadership in the universities of the world. And what an opportunity (!) - to shape the minds of future leaders in countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. Emerging scholars should definitely consider this as an opportunity for international involvement.

Wilma Bouma served on the board until 2006, and her generous bequest made it possible for us to hire our first Program Administrator in 2018, Anna Sklar.

Wendy Helleman writes of Wilma:

As students at Calvin College in the 1960s, I became friends with Wilma Bouma. This friendship was to have a lasting influence on our lives for the years ahead. Wilma visited us numerous times in Terrace, northern BC, where Adrian was a pastor in the 1970s; she also visited us when we were teaching in the Philippines [1983]. In the mid 1990's we were reflecting on the potential of starting a Canadian branch of the International Institute of Christian Studies based in Kansas City, well before we talked with Fred Reinders and got his support for the idea. Jack and Martini Van Meggelen were also part of our long discussions with Wilma.

Their encouragement for us to go ahead was crucial. Wilma served on the board from the start, and remained an outstanding support for us, sharing our story with churches and other groups on the West Coast for many years. She had keen insight into the potential for this organization, and although actually quite shy and self-effacing, was so important for the contacts we made on the West Coast, including people like Harro van Brummelen (2010), who would become Executive Director after Henk Van Andel (2005). It was largely through the impact of her work as board member that CSI got a truly 'Canadian' profile, and was not just based in Toronto.

Ester Steen was the accountant for the first three years and **Eugene Kruysse** continued the work until 2012.

Paul Marshall (professor of Political Science at ICS) and **Simon Kouwenhoven** (a banker) both served on the board for the first few years. Simon was an accountant who worked with Fred Reinders.

Steve Aceto was an attorney who served on the board from 1995 until 2013. He continues to support GSC and the Hellemans with his friendship and prayers. Steve is appreciated for his quiet, unassuming ways, and his wise and helpful input.

Daryl McCarthy was the GS-US President and he served on the board from 1995 until 2011. In 1988 Daryl was a key figure in launching Global Scholars and served as CEO/President until 2014. Daryl and his wife Dr. Teri McCarthy lived in Lithuania from 2010 to 2015, where they taught at Lithuania University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius. She is the co-author of *Teaching in a Distant Classroom: Crossing Borders for Global Transformation* (2009), a helpful text for our original sending mission.



FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOB VANDERVENNEN
1997 - 2005

Bob grew up, raised a family, and studied in different regions of the USA. He was a researcher at the U.S. Naval Academy, a chemistry professor in both Mississippi and Chicago, and an academic dean. He moved with his family to Toronto in 1974 to assume an executive position at the Institute for Christian Studies until his retirement.

While working at the ICS, Bob did a lot of administrative work helping get CSI started. Board chair Fred Reinders then suggested Bob be paid and his work transformed into a role as Executive Director within a year or two.

Being ED in 1997 was (and remains) a part-time role, but the Hellemans say that he turned the administrative burdens “from night to day” and that “he really put CSI on the map in Canada.” He was a shy man, but a risk taker who knew how to get institutions started. “I don’t think we would have lasted in Canada without Bob,” said Wendy. “Bob reached out, got key people to write him endorsements and support the venture.”

Beyond his role at ICS, Bob played key roles in the establishment of King's University in Edmonton, Alberta and Redeemer University College in Hamilton, Ontario. Additionally, with a keen interest in the links between Christianity and science he was a long-time member of the American Scientific Affiliation and spearheaded the establishment of its Canadian branch, the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation.

Bob died in 2018 and he was described as “an articulate writer and speaker, driven by a sense of selfless service of others and a passion for the Gospel. Although in later years Alzheimer's Disease robbed him of his memory and at last attacked his body, he never lost his kind, gracious, polite, encouraging spirit.”

Back in March 27, 1998, in the *Christian Courier* he wrote:

There are times in the histories of nations when they undergo great change, led by change in worldview of the educated people. At such a time bringing the gospel to bear on key universities can change the direction of a whole culture.

Bob's life is a legacy of redemptive influence in the world of Christian higher education, and it was a blessing and boon to GSC to have him join and lead our fellowship when he did.

Wendy Helleman's address at Bob's funeral, on behalf of GSC:

Together with my husband Adrian we spent much of our teaching career in universities overseas until we so-called retired a few years ago. The organization which supported us in Russia and Africa is Global Scholars Canada, or Christian Studies International, as it was then called.

In his so-called retirement years, Bob was the first Canadian director of this organization, established as a Canadian branch of Global Scholars in Kansas City, a position he took on from 1997-2005. Not only was this a new venture for Bob. The contours of the work were themselves also new! So he had the challenge of shaping and growing the work for the Canadian scene, and we got to appreciate the careful and meticulous, but also personable way that Bob worked with the supportive community and with our US partners. It was our second year at Moscow State University, and I know that our own work there would have been much shorter without Bob's supportive role.

Under his capable and quiet leadership the organization here grew, and would send out more Canadians to Asia and Nigeria (Rudy and Marlene Wiebe). We could share some memorable occasions. One that stands out is the time Bob and Mary joined us in Moscow for talks with the dean of the Philosophy Faculty, and for walks in the center of the city, with rain turning to snow and hail, while a stormy wind threatened to blow us off our feet, as we scampered to find a café to get out of that weather.

And then there was 9-11, occurring just as we were ready to fly back to Moscow, and all the planes were coming down - Bob and Mary graciously hosted us while we waited to fly out some days later. Unforgettable days. Bob was not one to trumpet his own achievements, or pull rank, but we all benefited from his gifts and wide-ranging experience in administration. Global Scholars Canada is thankful for Bob's gift of humble service. We know that we have these treasures in earthen vessels.

The Vississitudes of Our Scholar in Asia 1999

For security reasons, this scholar has asked that the names be left out. His courage – and his wife’s tenacity – are a testimony to the dangerous borders that God may call us to cross and the sacrifices he may ask us to make. Their 20 years of faithful service have coloured a significant part of our quarter-century of ministry and the details reveal the vicissitudes of cross-cultural academic life.

We had the privilege of serving in Asia under Global Scholars Canada for over two decades. I think back to where it began for me in 1988 – in a dorm room at Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL – and close friendships with two Asian students who had just come directly from Asia. At the end of the school year the Tiananmen Massacre happened. While I was distraught over the political implications of the massacre, the pain I felt went deeper. It cut to the core of my soul that the only real solution for Asian people was salvation through Christ. God opened my eyes to see that He was calling me to work in Asia.

About 10 years later, my wife and I arrived in Asia with two small children: our son was 4 years, and our daughter was 2 years old. Throughout our time there, I worked continuously at the same university teaching a variety of English courses. After working at the university for 4 years, God led my wife to teach at the only Christian international school in our city. What began as a way to provide (free) education for our children, turned into a ministry to those families serving the kingdom in this country.

Along with teaching and influencing students and colleagues at the university, I had the joy to exercise my PhD training in hermeneutics by teaching seminary classes to eager and courageous indigenous pastors. We also were heavily involved in the international church in the city. I served as both a deacon and then an elder for a large congregation of over 3,000 expats for 12 years. Later we were called to help shepherd a church plant in a different location in 2012 that grew

from 20 to over 100 by the end of our time there.

Looking back through the years we can see how God was faithful in bringing us through joys and trials, triumphs, and disappointments. The things we have learned, the lives God has impacted, and the blessings we have received will continue to echo into eternity.

KEY MOMENTS

Arrival

Our family of four got off the plane after 17 hours of flying through three countries, dragging eight 70-pound suitcases with all our worldly belongings. We were exhausted and jetlagged but happy to finally arrive in the land to which God had called me years earlier.



We were met at arrivals by a very excited Miss Smith, a junior staff person in the Foreign affairs office of the university. She was holding up a sign with our name and picture on it jumping in place like we were some important celebrities she was going to meet. We got into a little “bread van” with all our suitcases and travelled for about thirty minutes along the main highway to reach the university campus.

When we arrived, we were shown to our apartment which was actually part of a hotel that belonged to the university. The room was filthy with the smell of cigarettes and mold in the air. The furniture was old and broken and a coat hanger had been strung across the bathroom to serve as a makeshift clothesline. The apartment had no hot water except for two hours per day—from 7pm to 9pm. *What had we gotten ourselves into?*

The next day Miss Smith took us to another apartment to see if we would be more comfortable there. It was the housing for university teachers. It was a one-bedroom apartment with 24-hour hot water, a small kitchen, and living room. By North American standards it was extremely basic, but we eagerly accepted this gracious gift from God. We lived in that apartment building for 5 years.

Still, my wife had a rough time at the beginning. She struggled with feeling isolated as she cared for two small children. She was homesick, yet we were unable to call long distance from our apartment, and the dial-up internet was very slow and limited. She was unable to form friendships with local people because of her lack of language skills. In addition, the environment and culture were *completely* unfamiliar — unlike anything she had experienced. I, on the other hand, was able to immerse myself more readily in the environment. I could talk to the students and some of my colleagues who knew English. In time, I was able to learn some rudimentary language skills. It took my wife almost two years to feel comfortable and at home.

During that time, we committed to have every student we taught come to our home for a meal. By the end of each semester we had fed over 150 students in our home and had several opportunities to talk with them about our faith and the Good News of the Gospel.

Robbery

After our first year at the university we returned to Canada to report to donors and to spend time with family and friends. Upon our return to Asia, we were scheduled to host a Global Scholars winter retreat for three days in a downtown hotel. We enjoyed the retreat but when we returned to our apartment, we were shocked to discover that our apartment had been broken into and we had been robbed. Two computers, a video camera, and several smaller items had been taken. The thieves were also looking for money, so they had thrown everything in the cupboards and the drawers on the floor creating quite the mess. Sadly, my half-completed dissertation was completely lost, and I had to start it again from scratch. It took another 13 years to complete. The worst part was that, along with the video camera, the thieves had scooped up all our home videos. These precious tapes included the births of each of our children, their first steps, and many other happy memories that could now only be replayed in our mind's eye. That was a bitter pill to swallow; we felt violated and unsafe in our own home.

Still, all things do work together for good (Rom 8:28).

The International Office staff were mortified and embarrassed that this had happened on their watch. They fully expected us to resign on the spot and leave Asia forever. When we did not get angry with them

or blame them for the robbery, it had a profound effect on our relationship with the university and with Asia. Miss Smith apologized profusely, saying there were so many bad people in Asia. I replied that there were bad people everywhere and not to worry too much about it.

From that moment on, the level of trust and support for us grew by leaps and bounds. Miss Smith could clearly see that we really did love Asia and Asian people and that a robbery, as painful as it was, could never change that. In a culture where relationship is everything, God was able to use this setback to strengthen and deepen our relationship with the university.

Move to Foreign Language College

In 2004, the university built a dedicated Foreign Language College. Up until that point, I had taught English classes like management and business negotiation techniques in the Economy and Management School to International Trade majors and research methodology to graduate students. Now, there was an opportunity to teach classes closer to my own studies in Bible and hermeneutics. My favourite class to teach was British and American Literature. This gave me the opportunity to discuss themes and character types that were explicitly Christological without fear that I was violating the school's policy against "proselytizing." My dissertation research examined how all of Western literature is actually sourced in the Bible. Themes of depravity and sin came out of *Lord of the Flies* or scenes like Gatsby's father coming for his son 3 days after his death in *The Great Gatsby* became building blocks to share the Gospel.

Joint Venture College

In 2014, I was moved again to a new college on campus – a joint venture program between a European university and my university which had started a few years before. All instruction is provided in English and when students graduate from the four-year bachelor program, they receive a degree from both universities. From its inception the program had had a difficult time recruiting quality English teachers to help support these students with academic English skills to facilitate their learning of engineering courses taught in English. I was brought in to help clean up the mess that had been

created and to recruit more qualified and responsible English teachers. Today, the program is running much more smoothly, and the English teaching staff has grown from 6 teachers to 15. It was a great deal of work, but God was faithful in making a way.

At first, I was strongly resistant to the idea of moving to the joint venture college. I was happy in the Foreign Language College. Everyone knew me and I had a good relationship with faculty, staff, and students there. I had honed my course content to the place that I did not have to spend much time preparing new lessons. Why should I change now?

God always knows what is best for His children. Despite my protestations, Miss Smith who was now the Head of the International Affairs Office moved me from Foreign Language College to the joint venture college. This joint venture had the highest priority for my university, so she wanted me to help them. What I did not realize was that moving to the joint venture would also bring a significant increase in salary. Over the next 6 years my salary *tripled* from what it had been at Foreign Language College. This gift from God came just as our children were about to head to university. Today, both our children have graduated from university debt-free because of the gracious provision of God through this switch to the joint venture.

The Christian International School

The first 6 years of the Christian school were exciting and encouraging as the students and staff grew both spiritually and numerically. Before the start of the 2011-2012 school year, however, my wife received news that there were big problems at the school. The owner/legal representative was feuding with the headmaster and the chairman of the board. When we returned, the situation was not only unresolved, it had escalated. The school year began, but the fighting resulted in a very tense time for the teachers. They were getting conflicting and worrying messages from those in leadership, and all salaries were suspended. By January it was unclear whether or not the school year would finish properly in June. As a result, there was a mass exodus by all administration, some of the families, and most of the teachers. The teachers who remained were left to run the school and deal with an unpredictable owner.

At the same time, my wife remembers a sense that God was at work providing for the teachers, sustaining them when it was hardest, and giving them the strength to complete the task to which He had called them. There were, in fact, times when they could almost palpably feel the Holy Spirit walking the halls of the school.

Teachers enjoyed sweet times of singing and worship during daily staff devotions. On several occasions, parents brought in food for the teachers, encouraging them to bring some home for their families. One mom came to the school and led a worship time focused on healing and forgiveness. Students prayed with teachers and wrote notes of encouragement. Her AP Literature class students invited her to dinner at a local western style restaurant so they could pray for her and the family. Several students came to faith that year because of the testimony of the teachers. Many other students were strengthened in their faith. It was very much a growing, stretching time.

The school went on to change license holders and locations 3 times between 2012 and 2020. During their time in the Christian school, my wife and both children were able to participate in several Enrichment Week trips. These trips were an opportunity to travel with an emphasis on education and service hours. The trips took them all over Asia including Korea, China, Thailand, and the Philippines.

TIME TO GO

After so many years in Asia, it was assumed by everyone we knew from school and church that we would be in Asia forever. I often joked that we would be in Asia until they killed me or kicked me out. However, starting in 2016, we began to see God closing the door on Asia and opening up a new as yet unknown calling for us.

We came to Asia for three reasons: (1) to minister to Asian students in the university; (2) to train indigenous pastors for the ministry; and (3) use my wife's gifts to provide a quality accredited education for the children of missionaries. One by one, these doors began to close to us.

First were the seminary classes. With the ever-increasing surveillance of cameras on the streets, the leaders of the seminary finally had to ask me not to teach for them anymore. It had become too dangerous for the local pastors/students. As a Westerner, it was very easy to track my every movement on the street and the secret police would arrest the pastors who met with me for classes. Regretfully, I

agreed. All classes are now taught only by people with Asian faces.

Next to go was the university witness. By 2018, the government had become very concerned with foreigners using the classroom to proselytize students. All university teachers would have to declare their religious affiliation, if any, to the International Affairs Office. Christians were specifically targeted. I was not too worried about this because I had made no secret of the fact for many years that I was a Christian and that my relationship with God was central to my life. The buildup of trust and relationship with the administration at the university over the years had allowed me to escape any scrutiny or backlash. Now the edict had come down from the highest levels of government to avoid hiring any new teachers who had a religious affiliation. As well, each class was assigned a dedicated spy whose sole job was to listen for and report anything that foreign teachers said that was negative toward the government or positive toward religion. Sharing Christ became almost impossible on campus.

The last straw was my wife's work. After the increased harassment towards foreigners and Christians (especially under the present leader), the number of missionaries in the city had been greatly reduced. This had a direct impact on the enrollment in my wife's school. The price of a Western style education in Asia is astronomical, and her school was the only affordable alternative. Teacher salaries were low to keep costs down and the school survived on the tuition of nearly 300 students. The student enrollment in 2019 dropped to half of that. The school was no longer sustainable economically and was taken over mid-year by an investment banking group who had no interest in retaining the Christian focus of the school.

At that point, COVID-19 hit and we were trapped in our apartment for the next 5 months. All of these factors together showed us that God had a new calling for us. We left Asia at the end of the school year for Canada and are waiting to see what door God opens next.

INSPIRATION

Bonnie

She wanted to learn as much about English as she possibly could, so she began to voluntarily attend all of my classes and all of my wife's classes too. After class she would come to office hours and call us for long chats on the phone. God was moving in her heart. Sometimes we

would talk about faith and spiritual things for hours. On Easter Sunday morning of 2007, we received another phone call from Bonnie. She had watched the Jesus film the night before. During the night she had a dream. In the dream Jesus spoke to her and told her that she needed to make a decision, would she follow Him or not. She awoke from the dream and gave her life to Christ. Since then she has grown rapidly in her faith. If Bonnie were the only person affected by God calling us to Asia, it would all be worth it.

Summer

She was one of the students my wife met at the university. Summer first came to office hours in late spring, and was painfully shy, skittish, and unable to make eye contact. She asked my wife if she could come to our home to get advice about a paper she was writing. The day she came, they talked for several hours. At one point, Summer was visibly struggling, agitated, and depressed. My wife was moved to read from the Psalms and to present the Gospel. It seemed to help. In the fall, Summer called and asked if she could come over again. When my wife was headed to meet Summer at the gate, she almost walked right past her. She was looking for the troubled girl she knew in the spring, but instead the girl was clear-eyed, joyous, and walking with excitement in her step. As soon as they closed the apartment door, Summer blurted out that she had become a Christian during the summer vacation. She had gone back to her hometown, had begun reading the Bible, and asked GOD to change her. During that summer, Summer had been transformed.

Cherise, Mama Lowe

At the church plant we started, a young woman named Cherise came into the service room one Sunday. She was very interested in church but knew almost nothing about Christianity. As a woman in her late twenties she was under tremendous pressure from her family to get married. She had no idea what to do and had many questions. Later she told me that she was impressed that we patiently answered all of her questions without ridicule. She continued to attend the church every week and after a few months she gave her life to Christ and was baptized. Today, she is married to another congregant in the church plant and her parents are very happy that she has found a husband.

Another local lady began attending the church. She had become a Christian while studying for her law degree in the UK. She was very concerned for her 78-year-old mother, Mama Lowe, who was not a believer. Even though her mother could not speak English, she would bring her to church every week and do simultaneous translation of the sermon so that her mother could hear the Gospel. After several months, her mother became a Christian and asked to be baptized. When she started to come to church, she was impressed by the care and concern that everyone showed to her. However, there was a problem. Because her husband's government pension she received was tied to his party membership, she would lose her apartment, her pension, and her health insurance if she became a Christian. Becoming a Christian would truly cost her everything that she had. After thinking about it for several months, she decided that Jesus was worth more than any of those things. When she told the party official for her district that she had become a Christian she was surprised to hear his response. "You are an old lady, there is nothing you can do to hurt the party. Keep your apartment and your pension. We will not bother you." God always takes care of His children.

Moses

One of my favorite students at the seminary was a pastor named Moses. He was a tall barrel-chested man with a long beard, kind of like Moses. In the country where we served, local pastors are not paid a salary. They survive by working a 9 to 5 job during the weekdays and minister to their churches on the weekends. Our seminary classes were held on 3 weeknights and all day on Saturdays. It is a very serious commitment. Moses' job required him to travel on business almost every week. There were many times he would stroll into class having come straight from the airport. I will never forget one particular class we had. It was near the end of the course and we were running out of time to cover all the material.

As the clock approached 10 pm and it was time to finish, I asked the students which of the three remaining topics they wanted me to cover. Moses led the students in a brief discussion in their native language and spoke very fast so that I would not understand. Then he said, "Teacher, we really value your teaching. It helps us understand God's Word. We don't want you to leave out any of the topics. We don't care if it takes all night. Please cover all the topics you planned to

share.” I was pleased but humbled and ashamed. When I was a seminary student, I would never have dreamed of asking the teacher to extend the class for me to learn more. After working all day, Moses and his classmates were eager to learn more of God’s Word. I will never forget their passion and zeal.

LESSONS LEARNED

When doing cross-cultural ministry, there is much to learn from the host culture. When you live outside your own culture, you begin to see your own idols in ways that you could not have before. C.S. Lewis puts it this way: A fish does not understand the meaning of water until you take the fish out of the water. You also are confronted with cultural values that in reality reflect Christian principles to some extent better than your own.

Honouring Parents

In Asian culture filial piety is not a Biblical mandate but a Confucian one. Still, I learned so much by observing the patience and respect afforded to parents and grandparents in Asia by their children. It taught me that I needed to consider my parents’ feelings and wishes when making decisions. I am not the captain of my fate, nor am I an island, able to act independently. God must direct my life and what I do reflects not only on Him but on my family as well.

Importance of Relationship Building

Asia is also a place where people are concerned with context and the feelings of others, much more so than in the West. It helped me increase my empathy by being forced to think of the implications of my statements or actions on those around me. Relationship is everything in Asia. Trust is built through loyalty and respect. I cannot count the number of times when having a good relationship with the university and the administration gave me wide latitude to do things for the sake of the Gospel. They knew that I would never do anything to embarrass them or bring trouble to them. I knew that they would help me in any way they could because of that relationship.

East Meets West

When you live cross-culturally for a long time, you *begin* to understand that culture, but you can never escape your own cultural heritage. Sometimes there is an advantage to that. When we had conflicts at the university that were caused by cultural differences, there needed to be someone who could be the bridge. After so many years of living in an Asian culture, God privileged me to be the bridge of reconciliation on many occasions. Just before we left Asia, the president of my university gave me a mug inscribed with the university's logo and a very humbling inscription. It had my name and then a colon followed by a simple phrase, "the place where East meets West." The pithy statement captured what I had desired to do and be. I was truly honoured.



A black and white photograph of a map of Central Asia. The map shows the borders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Major cities like Almaty, Bishkek, Ashgabat, and Tashkent are marked. The Caspian Sea is visible to the west, and the Aral Sea is in the center. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Finding Our Vocation

For many, the dawn of the new millennium came with Y2K fears, and our dial-up internet technology seemed shaky at best. Global tensions rose to an earth shattering crescendo in the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City a year later. Christian Studies International (CSI) was just five years young, and the urgency of its transnational mission only intensified. It was time to consolidate our vision, expand our academic ranks, and follow where the Spirit next led.

CSI originally was necessary to be a brokering agent for Canadian scholars who needed funding to travel across borders and serve in places where they received sparse compensation for their work. In short, CSI came into existence because of legal and financial logistical issues that required separate Canadian organizational support and management. The Canadian office did not have the resources to duplicate services provided from Kansas City in terms of orientation to overseas work, deployment, and developing relationships with overseas universities. So a generous dependency developed.

The Canadian office wasn't the first attempt to develop international offices. Earlier, IICS tried to get a UK branch going, but that never developed enough momentum to get off the ground. Later there was also an attempt to get a Latin American and South Korean office going, but that also did not materialize. So far, the Canadian office is one of a kind and the Executive Directors of both offices (US and Canada) sat in ex-officio positions on each others' boards until 2019.

CSI was a champion for the integrality of faith and learning, teaching, and scholarship. Historically shy of evangelism and focused more on public theology than apologetics, the Reformed influence in CSI made closer ties with Redeemer and King's Universities as well as to the Institute for Christian Studies. The focus was on developing a robust Christian worldview (later elaborated by Jamie Smith's "cultural liturgy"), and by using philosophical tools, unmasking the worldview assumptions of dominant academic paradigms. The US office has had natural connections to holiness churches and para-church organizations like Intervarsity, and apologetics and evangelism remain close to the core of the mission for many of the scholars. These differences have proven to be complimentary and enriched the missional character of the international network.

In 2011, IICS changed its name to *Global Scholars* and began to re-structure in order to be able to place and support 100 professors around the world within five years. The new name signals the organization is about scholarship in all disciplines, not just “Christian studies” in particular. It also signals a wider practice in transnational Christian organizations: to allow people to learn about us before their particular bias about “religion” or Christianity is engaged.

Board Members Through the Decades



John Franklin is the longest-running member of the board. He served from 1999 until 2017, and was the board chair for the last seven years of his tenure.

John is the Executive Director of *Imago*, a national initiative in support of Christians in the arts in Canada. He lives in Toronto and, before joining Imago in 1998, he taught philosophy and theology at Tyndale University and Trinity College at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. His special interest is in spirituality, theology and the arts. He has served on the Board of Lausanne Movement Canada for 13 years, and is Coordinator of the World Evangelical Alliance - Mission Commission's Task Force on Art in Mission.

Says Justin Cooper, current board chair, of John:

John Franklin served as board chair with a calm and steady hand, making sure that matters of substance were properly addressed, sometimes requiring a prompt to keep the meeting on track. And there were a considerable number of transitions and changes that took place on his watch.

But each meeting, we first looked forward to the meditations and reflections he would offer for our devotions, flowing from his living faith, and then the healthy and delectable snacks and lunches that his dear wife, Marion, would prepare for our breaks. With that spiritual and physical feeding, we would then tackle the issues of the day. These included not only appointing new global scholars but also dealing with the complexities of monitoring and

funding projects initiated by some of the existing scholars in ways that would satisfy the charitable requirements of the Canadian Revenue Agency.

Most notable were the changes in the staffing of the Executive Director position, with the untimely illness of Harro Van Brummelen in 2013, which included the appointment of three Executive Directors: Wendy Helleman as an interim, then Harry Fernhout, who served for three years, and finally Hubert Krygsman, who served for one year.

These changes in personnel were accompanied by transitions in the name and legal basis of the organization, as Christian Studies International became Global Scholars Canada, paralleling the name change of our US partner, Global Scholars. At the same time, a reapproval process for federal not-for-profit organizations presented the opportunity for reformatting and editing the by-laws before submitting these for confirmation.

Finally, under John's guidance GSC had begun to embark on a significant strategic planning and revisioning process when he stepped down in January of 2017. During his tenure GSC also received two significant donations that led to the establishment of the Harro Van Brummelen Fund to assist with the startup costs of newly appointed scholars and the Wilma Bouma Fund that was targeted to assist with the costs involved in transitioning the organization to a new level of operations to achieve this revisioning.

All in all, John made a significant contribution to the growth and development of GSC.

Martha Kouwenhoven (spouse of original board member, Simon) served on the board from 2000 to 2007. She brought warmth and sensible insight to the GSC board.

Nicholas Terpstra served on the board from 2000 to 2012. He is a professor and chair of history at Victoria College, University of Toronto, teaching Renaissance and early modern social history. In his research he has explored how civil society and social capital operate in Renaissance European society, and juxtaposes the humanity and freedom with the extreme poverty, harsh discipline, and the emergence of the religious refugee as a mass phenomenon. His website describes his passion this way: *The drive to work imaginatively across borders – geographic, intellectual, institutional – is most conspicuous in all his work.* Apropos for GSC.

Lucy Verstraete served as the Treasurer from 2000 to 2012. Baldwin (her husband and long-time GSC supporter) and Lucy also support charitable work in South East Asia, Malaysia, and Cambodia. They still visit with the Hellemans when they are in Toronto.



John Wood served on the board from 2007 to 2019, and was vice chair for the last 2 years of his tenure. John was the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at The King's University in Edmonton. He earned an MSc-Biology from Central Washington University and a PhD is from the University of California, Berkeley, in Stream Ecology and Insect Behaviour. Current research includes the behaviour of urban White-tailed Jackrabbits, developing environmental science departments on college campuses and campus sustainability.

The GSC board has been gifted with John's optimism and passion. When faced with difficult decisions, John has been the member that has explicitly led the board to wonder about the possibilities that God was putting before us. As a long serving member, he has held and helped us learn from the path that GSC has travelled. His own academic career and involvement in professional associations has opened doors for GSC and helped establish GSC's positive reputation amongst scholars of the biological sciences in particular. John has delighted in the work of GSC and we are a better organization at many levels because of his involvement. He continues to be involved as a leader in the American Scientific Affiliation, a singularly influential organization for Christians who are scientists in a wide variety of fields, including beyond the natural sciences.

Kathy Elias served on the board from 2008 to 2012. She had financial expertise and Wendy asked her for advice while she was Interim ED. Kathy freely helped and Wendy was very grateful to have the advice of someone so knowledgeable at that time.



Stan Wallace, the current President of Global Scholars USA, served on the board when he became vice president of GS-US in 2011. He then stayed on as an ex-officio member when he became President. In 2020, the exchange of organization leaders as members on each other's boards ended.



Harry Boessenkool lived in Vancouver as a retired banker and brought some financial smarts and bold questions to the board from 2014 to 2019. We continue to look for board members like Harry, as our board is often heavy with academics whose deeper interests often lie beyond the finances and fundraising.



In partnership with GS-USA, GSC hosted a North American Scholars Retreat at Tyndale in July 2019

The Canadians - Left to Right: Harley Dekker, Anna Sklar, John Wood, Harry Fernhout, Rudy & Marlene Wiebe, Anonymous, Wendy & Adrian Helleman, Glen Taylor, Mary Leigh Morbey, Jean Bieri, Justin Cooper, Peter Schuurman

A public lecture by Dr. Esther Acolatse (Knox College) was the climax of the event, entitled "The Spirit World in Africa and the West: Contextual Theology for the Global Church".

Rudy & Marlene

Wiebe 2004

It is with deep sorrow that we heard of Rudy's passing at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 in his home.

Rudy & Marlene served with Global Scholars Canada in Nigeria from 2004-2020, and Rudy taught about 4,300 students during his tenure there. Most of his classes were taught at the *Federal College of Education* in Pankshin, Jos Plateau, and a few classes were taught at the *Nigeria Bible Translation Trust* in Jos. Marlene worked alongside Rudy in the administration of the classes. Rudy also published 3 volumes of *Essentials of Christian Religious Studies in Colleges of Education*. Both Rudy and Marlene mentored students during their time in Nigeria.



Left: Jos, Nigeria in 2005.
The Wiebes have 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.
Rudy earned a B.Sc. from University of Windsor, an M.Div. from Toronto Baptist Seminary, and an M.A. from University of Toronto.

While studying for his Master's in Divinity at Toronto Baptist Seminary and Bible College (TBS), Rudy served as a pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Oakville (1971-1975). It was a busy time, with a growing family (Carla, Melissa, and Laura) and a growing church, mostly due their Vacation Bible School program. Rudy was then called to lecture in Greek and Hebrew at the seminary, where he also served as Registrar (1975-2004). He also completed an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Toronto (an eleven-year journey), and for four of those years he was acting editor of *The Gospel Witness*, the magazine put out by the Jarvis Street Baptist Church. Rudy demonstrated a gift for detail, for organization, and for teaching the ancient languages in particular.

Rudy's heart, however, was not in administration. "I want to teach," he said after 29 years serving at the seminary. He didn't have the PhD certification, but he had the dedication, and so he started looking for opportunities. Through an Evangelical Theological Society meeting in Toronto, he came upon this organization called Global Scholars, a group with multi-denominational connections and a passion for teaching indigenous leaders in under-served educational institutions. Rudy and Marlene went to attend their annual vision conference in Kansas in 2002 and were inspired by the people and stories. They met Wendy and Adrian Helleman (the Canadian founders of Global Scholars) and Danny McCain (the original founder) and they decided to see what opportunities might lie for them in Nigeria. Danny McCain knew the needs and he was well-connected in Nigeria from his post at the University of Jos, and so the Wiebes came for a visit in 2003.

The visit confirmed their call, and Rudy became a principal lecturer in the Christian Religious Studies department of the Federal College of Education (FCE) Pankshin, Plateau State, Nigeria (2004-2016).



Left: B.A. Ed. NT Greek using the Preus Greek Grammar revised by Lillo and Wiebe. 49 students in the class, including 29 men (posing with Rudy).

Right: B.A. Ed. NT Greek class also included 20 women (posing with Marlene).



He also taught at the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust in Jos. His classes included Introduction to Greek and Hebrew Grammar, Prophets of Israel: Amos, Hosea, Micah, Zechariah, Isaiah, Paul & His

Writings: Galatians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Introduction to Christian Ethics, Christian Doctrine, and NT Greek.

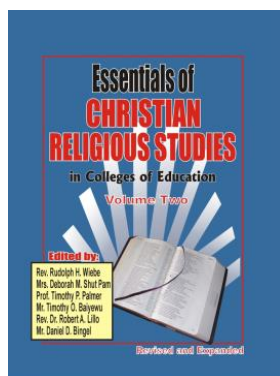
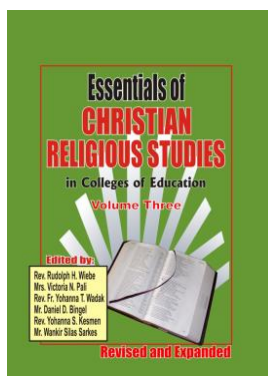
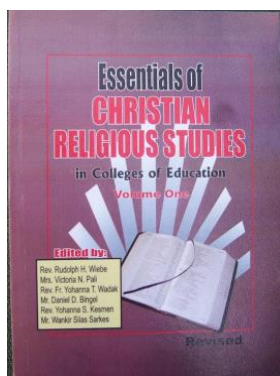
Rudy was a most persistent man. When he set his mind to a project or cause, no matter how daunting, he made a plan and then slowly but surely did what needed to be done in order to complete it. He was a meticulous fundraiser, knowing not only his donors' names, but their family members and dates when they last talked. Even as late as a year or two ago, he would tour through churches, raising support for his work, his projects, and for the wider mission of Jesus Christ. Even though he was living from one blood transfusion to the next, he would seek people out, listen and remember their stories, preach a sermon, and then get ready to move on to the next church community. His newsletters were detailed, colourful, and always on time.

Marlene played an integral role in the Nigerian ministry. She was hired on as a part-time Administrative Assistant for GSC from 2004 to 2020 and faithfully assisted Rudy during his years of teaching in Nigeria - typing up curriculum and marking papers for the classes at FCE. For the last few years Marlene served as an Associate with Global Scholars Canada as she continued her work on *The Phonics Reading Adventure* (TPRA) project.



Rudy on the left & Rob Lillo (GS-US) on the right with 9 Nigerian Bible translators to whom they taught NT Greek. After field testing Let's Study New Testament Greek by Mary Catherine Preus, a new edition was published in 2011 by Africa Christian TextbookS (ACTS). The Bible translators are translating into their mother tongue languages.

Rudy was part of a 15-member Christian Religious Studies staff who authored Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of *Essentials of Christian Religious Studies*, published by ACTS between 2012-2014. Rudy was the senior editor of the series.



SPECIAL MOMENTS IN GSC MINISTRY

RUDY - Mentoring

Three students stand out for Rudy, among the many he taught through the years at FCE Pankshin. These men attended his first classes, and Rudy has mentored them ever since. **Polycarp** went on to earn his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in theological studies, became a teacher himself, and now serves as pastoral staff at a local church. **Amos** went on to earn his Bachelor's degree and teach Christian studies at a local school. Rudy remembers Amos becoming a christian through an essay he wrote in Rudy's class. **Philip** went on to earn his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in theological studies. He wrote to Rudy, "May the Lord bless you for impacting my life and teaching me the right part to follow in life. Thank you very much Sir."

MARLENE - Literacy & Education

Marlene was an integral part of launching *The Phonics READING Adventure (TPRA)* curriculum, overseeing its completion, and presenting it to the Nigerian education system. She mentored and worked alongside **Hosea** (a former student) on the TPRA project. He now has a shop and office space which was dedicated in November 2019. In February 2020 Hosea received a certificate of incorporation for a new NGO titled *Center for Literacy Development in Africa*.



About 60,000 TPRA resources were printed and more than half have been distributed to date. 50 private schools in Nigeria are using the Teachers' Manuals, student Workbooks, Teaching Charts and Companion Readers as part of their curriculum.

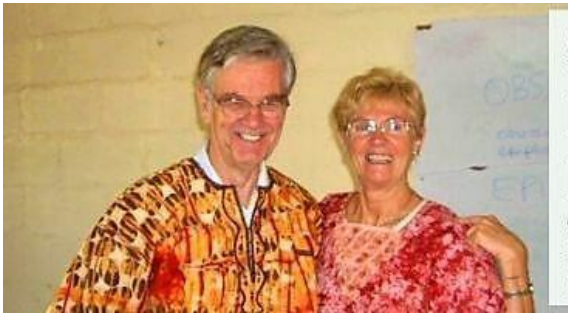


The Phonics READING Adventure (TPRA) curriculum. The three authors are left to right: Marlene Wiebe, Hosea Danjuma, Adrienne Lillo.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

- Marlene conducted Bible, Reading and Library clubs for years from her home on the Faculty compound of FCE Pankshin. Seeing the need to greatly improve the reading skills of the faculty children she was teaching, she teamed up with Hosea to do research and writing of the (TPRA) curriculum.
- Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center (BGHPC) - The Wiebes helped form a partnership between BGHPC and World Renew so that funds can be raised in North America to help in the building of three-wheeled trikes for polio victims and other disabled persons. They organized seven annual wheelchair presentations at FCE Pankshin. Each recipient also received a Bible.
- Faith Based Aids Awareness workshops conducted by Prof Danny McCain (Global Scholars USA founder) both at FCE Pankshin and in other parts of Nigeria.

University [professors] will not only be witnesses in strategic places, they will also be "neighbours" to those in need, and will, through their academic skills and understanding, be able to make important contributions to the social and economic development of their host countries. - Dr. Michael Tymchak 2001, Former Dean of Faculty of Education, University of Regina



SECOND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HENK VAN ANDEL
2005 - 2010

Henk is a physicist by profession, and taught for 15 years at the Universite de Montreal before joining King's University as its president in 1985. He retired in 2005 and became the Executive Director of Christian Studies International (CSI).

“Christian Studies International is very pleased to make this appointment”, said Fred Reinders, Chair of the Board of CSI. “Dr. Van Anandel brings a wealth of experience in Christian higher education to the position, and the CSI Board looks forward to working with him to expand the organization’s programs and increase its overseas academic staff”.

Excerpts from the Van Anandel’s report on their 2007 Nigeria visit:

We were asked to visit [the scholars] in Nigeria to learn about their work, and to lead a weekend retreat for the professors and their families. As well, at one of the universities we gave presentations on leadership and on mental health. Vicky’s talk on mental health attracted more than 600 students!

Global Scholars professors in Nigeria make a significant impact. (At the time Wendy & Adrian Helleman were teaching at the University of Jos, and Rudy Wiebe was teaching at the Federal College of Education in Pankshin.)

The dedication of these professors is remarkable. They work and live under difficult conditions. Classes can number several hundred students who meet in rooms intended for less than a third of that number, with rickety and even topless desks jammed together. Students often have to sit on the ledge of an open window. Educational materials are few and technical teaching aids are virtually non-existent. Teaching schedules tend to be haphazard, often interrupted by faculty strikes or infra-structure failures.

The professors working in Nigeria are all equipped to teach at colleges and universities in North America. However, they commit themselves to making a difference in Nigeria. Several of them have been there for many years. Their modest income is raised via donations from churches, family members, and

friends. Their living conditions tend to be simple. For some there is no running water and electrical power interruptions happen every day. Managing households is time-consuming. Cooking is done from scratch and water must be filtered. Traveling is dangerous. Pedestrians, buzzing motorcycles, and vehicles of all kinds share the narrow roads. Accidents are common. Everyone stops to pray before traveling anywhere. The spouses of these professors contribute in their own ways. They work in health care, teach, or lead bible reading clubs with neighbourhood children.

Nigeria is a country with a population of about 140 million (in 2007). People have to cope with difficult living conditions. Most are poor, with an average annual income of less than \$1000. Their average life expectancy is 48 years. HIV/AIDS is still seen as an important problem in Nigeria... Nigeria is one of a handful of countries in the world that still has not eradicated polio. (Global Scholar Rudy Wiebe helped in both these areas of need during his time in Nigeria.)

We found that wherever we went, Nigerian people seemed happy in spite of their hardships... They were hospitable, kind, and welcoming towards us, greeting us with a big smile, an outstretched hand, and always with the same words: "You are welcome"... Life is not easy, and their history is not easy either, but Nigerians have hope.

In summary, our visit to Nigeria was a wonderful, eye-opening experience. We met many generous people. We were introduced to the great work of professors and their families. We became more aware of the need to support them generously, both with money and prayer.





THIRD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HARRO VAN BRUMMELEN
2010 - 2013

Harro grew up in The Netherlands, and immigrated with his family to Canada in 1953. His degrees in Science and Education were earned in Canada. He taught at both the secondary and post-secondary levels, and also served as education coordinator and assistant dean at Trinity Western University. He authored two textbooks, published in several languages, and was a frequent international speaker. His best-known book is *Walking with God in the Classroom: Christian Approaches to Teaching and Learning*, available in 10 languages. Sadly, Harro passed away too soon, in 2014, after a courageous battle with a rare, incurable cancer. "Students and alumni remember Harro as a dedicated, thought-provoking, and transformative professor," said School of Education Dean Kimberly Franklin, Ed.D. "They were particularly impacted by his concern for social justice in education and curriculum planning that pointed learners toward beauty, truth, and goodness."

Quote from Application Letter to the Board, Nov 30/09:

I believe that as Christians in a global society we must make use of every opportunity to present the Gospel and its non-superficial way, wherever that is possible. University campuses can provide an excellent environment for such efforts, with great potential impact since they are a milieu for the education and nurture of future leaders of society.

Wilma Van Brummelen writes in 2020:

Global Scholars has been part of our lives for a few years and especially for Harro! He enjoyed being involved with your organization especially since he travelled a fair amount to many different countries and saw the need to send scholars to countries who needed help. I remember vividly the lunch Harro and I had with Stephen Ney downtown Vancouver and to hear his desire to be part of the organization. So neat to see he is still active there! Thank you again for the farewell gathering we had in New Westminster. Harro and I really appreciated it! Congratulations on 25 years of service! Much strength and peace as you follow God's call to minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Stephen Ney 2011

Stephen is a literary scholar focusing on colonial & postcolonial West Africa. Since joining Global Scholars Canada he has taught students in The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Canada.



The Neys live in Freetown, Sierra Leone, wedged between the beaches and the mountains, both of which they enjoy.

Stephen earned a BASc from University of Lethbridge, a Masters of Christian Studies in Old Testament from Regent College, and a PhD in English from University of British Columbia.

Working at small West African universities has allowed him the pleasure of teaching broadly across the discipline, including courses on Chaucer, Milton, contemporary African poets, and research writing for scientists. Working at universities where not many colleagues have PhDs has allowed him some opportunities for research, curriculum development, and mentoring that he might not have found in Canada. And even more, he has enjoyed the warm sociability of West African cultures, which means it's sometimes possible to be both an esteemed professor and a friend to students.

Currently Stephen is working mainly with International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) on a 5-year project (in partnership with the Templeton Foundation) that intertwines faith and science on campuses in Francophone Africa and Latin America. He also mentors IFES staff workers around the world in a special curriculum focused on "engaging the university" and doing exactly that himself by making some connections with doctoral programs in Sierra Leone.

SPECIAL MOMENTS IN MINISTRY

Dr. Ney writes:

In 2019 I had the honour of helping to organize the first Sierra Leone National Book Fair, which was a great success in increasing the visibility of Sierra Leonean poets and novelists. It remains a concern of mine to know and make known the literary artistry of West Africa.

My main work now is for IFES, helping to set up a global mentoring program for emerging leaders in the bringing together of theological with scientific knowledge. A few months from now we plan to begin recruiting young scholars and campus ministers from across Francophone Africa to embark on a year of training that will equip them to lead projects in their own cities such as academic conferences, scholarly associations, workshops for Christian students, and book publications.

I'm happy that former students from the University of the Gambia and the University of Sierra Leone are now teaching the courses I taught at both universities several years ago. It feels good know that in some sense I've worked myself out of a job!



Teaching on a Christian understanding of scholarship at a gathering for Christian scholars in Conakry, Guinea.

[GSC professors] *communicate an integrated worldview, a mature Christian perspective, and an inclusive Christian gospel, one which neither marginalizes the mind nor makes reason the touchstone of all truth.*

- Dr. John Redekop, Wilfrid Laurier & Trinity Western, 2001

TWO MORE GSC SCHOLARS

Gregory Sandstrom served with GSC for a few months at the Lithuania University of Education & European Humanities University. He taught in the Sociology department from 2011 to 2012.

Gordon Holmes served with GSC as an Associate Professor at Mongolia International University from 2013-2015. He studied Economic History.

In 2013, due to serious illness, Harro Van Brummelen resigns from his role as Executive Director of CSI



**ACTING
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

WENDY HELLEMAN
2013 - 2014

Wendy Helleman assumes the temporary role of Acting ED in 2013. She was still working with students and traveling at this time, but she took on the role of ED after the death of Harro VanBrummelen. "It was difficult to wear two hats," said Wendy, but she put her heart and soul into the work, intent on seeing the mission flourish. She reached out to new people, raised funds, and got 2 scholars started with CSI.

One of the significant changes during her tenure was the hiring of Harley Dekker as our new part-time accountant. He was hired in December 2013 with lots of experience in accounting and all the professional certification as a CPA. His attention to our accounts is a tremendous benefit.

They advertised for a new ED and Dr. Harry Fernhout applied for the job. Within a short amount of time, Harry brought a fresh vision and an acumen for organization and budgets.



FOURTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

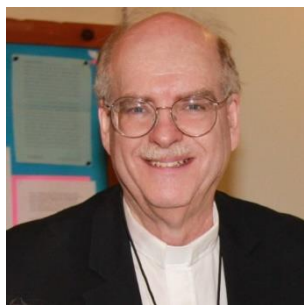
HARRY FERNHOUT
2014 - 2017

Dr. Harry Fernhout is one of many post-war immigrants to Canada from Holland. His vision for education was nurtured by such books as Herman Dooyeweerd's *In the Twilight of Western Thought* and L. Kalsbeek's *Contours of a Christian Philosophy*, reinforced by studies in Christian universities in the US and Canada, and capped by his PhD in education from the University of Toronto.

He came to GSC as ED in 2014 with extensive experience in higher education and its administration. President Emeritus of The King's University in Edmonton (2005-2013) and previous to that President of the Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto (1989-2005). He became the Executive Director of IAPCHE at the same time (International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education) and forged some important connections between Global Scholars and IAPCHE (now INCHE).

Harry led the name change from CSI to GSC in 2015, and helped set up GSC scholars and scholarships in The Gambia. He brought greater visibility to the organization and even traveled to some of the places we serve to visit our scholars. Harry loved us so much he came back after a few years hiatus to join our board of trustees.

Ian Ritchie



Ian earned a PhD in Religious Studies from McGill University (2003), an MCS from Regent College (1979), and a BA in Religion from Queen's University (1976). Ian taught in Nigeria, traveled with GSC scholars to Africa, and worked with Glen Taylor on the Gambian Study Center. He is excited to do more as he's able in the future. Currently Ian serves with the Anglican Diocese of Ontario – he also taught at Concord College in Winnipeg and served in student ministry.

CHAPTER THREE

A NEW NAME

2015 - 2021



Expanding Our Focus

As the Canadian office evolved, CSI staff and board members realized the agency could be more than just a broker for charitable receipts and there have been many dreams of development. In 2015 the name shifted from CSI to GSC to correspond with the US office name change, and the US office helped with that transition. More recently in Canada, there has been so much turnover in the Canadian ED role and connections with the US have been thinner than usual. Visioning in Canada has also come in fits and starts. There seems to be less in-person travel between Kansas City and Ontario, a reality that has coincided with the increase of online communication.

On the other hand, Anna Sklar's addition to the team as what became Communications Coordinator has enhanced the visibility of the organization. Furthermore, new initiatives have developed such as "short-term" scholar appointments, academic conference planning on Canadian soil focused on "faith and scholarship," and the hosting of an international scholars' retreat with the US office at Tyndale University in Toronto in 2019. The GSC website and Peter Schuurman's blog received thousands of views by late 2020, and in spite of COVID restrictions, support for the mission continues to grow – in terms of its number of scholars, its budget, and its ecumenical breadth.

GSC has expanded its denominational variety beyond most board members and staff coming from the Christian Reformed Church to new members who are Anglican, Mennonite, Pentecostal and Baptist.

We have also recently seen the retirement of some of our core full-time overseas scholars: the Hellemans, the Wiebes, and the anonymous scholars in Asia. Recent additions of scholars have varied quite substantially in terms of their missional model: while the Spans have gone overseas to Africa, Jean Bieri awaits international appointment from his current position in Montreal, and David Koyzis makes connections to multiple countries from his office in Hamilton, Ontario. The Gambian scholarships program remains a significant part of our mission and takes substantial work on behalf of our Finance Administrator, Harley Dekker.

Dr. Schuurman has been making connections at public universities across Canada through his campus ministry network, through

Intervarsity faculty director Susan Norman, and through other serendipitous encounters. The regional Power to Change office, for example, happens to be in Guelph and Schuurman and Harley Dekker attended their annual student conference in Toronto in December 2019, with a booth in their missions exhibition hall. Another example is the MORE Network, a cooperative of mission agencies that focuses on missionary member care, which has regular Zoom meetings where best practises are shared. These are all national connections intended to increase our visibility across Canada, facilitate recruitment of scholars, and open up potential opportunities for information sharing and partnership.

One final surprising development: the welcoming of a student intern in April 2021. Estela Kasaba, originally a refugee from the Congo, encountered Schuurman in his World Religions class at Redeemer University, and asked for an internship with GSC. A new student internship program was suddenly born. Estela's goal is to move our mission forward through her gifts and connections and is being mentored by Schuurman in Christian perspectives on the academy.

In fall of 2020, P.M. Justin Trudeau announced 1.2 million immigrants would be welcome to Canada within 3 years. The world is coming to us now. We look forward to seeing which doors God will open next with campuses worldwide – on Canadian soil through partnerships and student interns, and on international soil through scholars and their connections.

Today there is a great need for Christian scholars the world over to network with one another and discuss what it means to integrate faith and learning, and for this discussion to take place across a variety of disciplines and cultural contexts. Global Scholars Canada seeks to meet this need by serving as a hub that will connect this global community of Christian teachers and researchers, facilitating important cross-cultural conversations and collaborations. I strongly endorse this work, and look forward to participating in GSC's efforts to connect this dynamic global academic community.

- Dr. Ronald A. Kuipers, President, Institute for Christian Studies

Strategic Plans and GSC's Future

Numerous transitions on the Canadian side hampered its own strategic development – mostly with regards to the transitioning of executive directors. The 20th anniversary celebration in 2015 solidified the transition of the name change from Christian Studies International to Global Scholars Canada. In 2016 a consultation was organized to consider strategic pathways forward, followed by “Strategic Directions Discussion” in 2017, with a written response by the new ED Hubert Krygsman. A “Next Steps” paper was developed later that year, and re-evaluated a year later when Peter Schuurman became the ED.

A small strategic planning committee developed the “Working Paper on Mission” in early 2019 that reviewed the history, vision, mission, and opportunities of GSC. It was noted with some surprise that there are an estimated 10,000 Christian professors in Canada. That includes about 1500 as part of Christian Higher Education Canada (CHEC) and about 10 percent of the public university faculty demographics (given that about 25 percent of Canadians identify as Protestant, and 8 percent as Evangelical). Furthermore, Canada hosted by 2017 (pre-COVID) about 500,000 international students, of which a percentage are graduate students looking to become international scholars.

So there appears to be room to grow our ranks and this means developing a network of Christian professors and emerging scholars across the country. This vision seems to be crystalizing slowly and links with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) and Power to Change (P2C) have been percolating in this direction. SCS could potentially be a resource in this direction, as an electronic gathering platform and network to the wider world of Christian academics.

Other notable items in the working paper include the recognition that we have numerous different models at work already that do not fit the classic “sending” paradigm. Scholars work transnationally from their home in Canada making connections and offering their services through electronic media. Our scholars, too, are not all born and bred Canadian Christians but come from Korea, Congo, France, and the US and seek to do academic ministry through us. We are in many ways

already not acting as a “West to the rest” mission.

This reflection resulted in a new Strategic Plan (2019-2022). This included a freshly articulated mission, vision, and values, as well as six clear goals:

1. **Cultivate** a spiritually vibrant ethos within the culture of the organization
2. **Connect** with our scholars and potential missional Christian academics
3. **Communicate** the mission of GSC to our constituency, churches, and the broader public
4. **Curate** working partnerships with related organizations
5. **Collect** sufficient funds to enable GSC to fulfill its mission and vision
6. **Collaborate** with scholars on special projects

These goals came with key performance indicators to clarify staff work for the years to come.

Staff continued to clarify vision, partnerships, and operations in their weekly staff meetings. This helped reveal what makes us unique: an ecumenical Christian vision; our focus on public higher education; our global reach; and an emphasis on underserved institutions. They also identified a guarantee we want to stand by with regards to our scholars: *We bring missional imagination to academic vocation.*

Additional discussions have happened at the board level naming the need to increase the denominational and ethnic diversity of our board and support community, not to mention intensifying informal partnerships with organizations like ReSource Canada, IVCF, P2C, INCHE, ICS, CHEC, and IFES. We have also entertained creative ideas for expansion: a Western representative for GSC; forging our way into online education; and serving in indigenous Canadian contexts. These conversations will continue to develop as we mature as an organization past our 25(+1)th anniversary.

GSC VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

VISION

Missional Christian academics redemptively influencing students and colleagues, departments and disciplines, at every university worldwide.

MISSION

The mission of Global Scholars Canada is to identify, develop, send, equip and support missional Christian academics for work, primarily in open enrolment post-secondary institutions around the world, with the objective to inspire and influence students and institutional communities with the promise of Christian vocation and worldview for a deeper participation in God's kingdom, including the flourishing of people and the planet, locally and globally.

VALUES

Rooted in Jesus Christ as Lord
Vocation and Kingdom-focused
Ecumenical and Interdenominational
Transnational and Cross-cultural
Academic and Unpretentious
Student-Oriented
Economical and Innovative
Transparent and Trustworthy

The Gambia

Christian Religious Studies Program



Left to Right:

Manhee Yoon & Layne Turner (teaching full-time in The Gambia), Glen Taylor (Program coordinator, fundraiser, and part-time teacher), Bannie Manga, Wendy & Adrian Helleman (key supporters & GSC scholars)

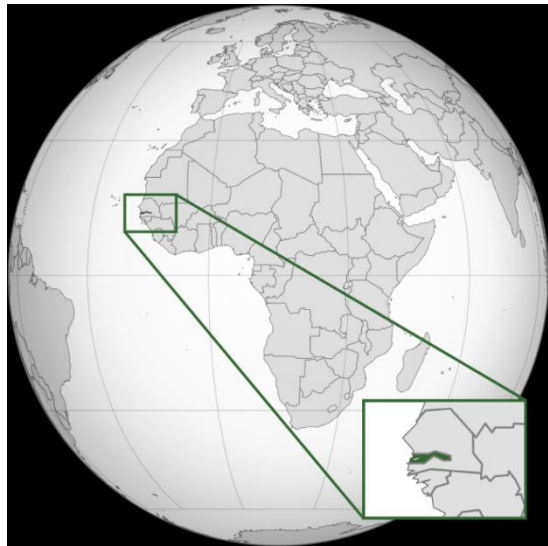
“If the Christian Studies Program does not start this year, you can forget about it!”

This was most certainly a set back after three years of hard work to develop a department of Christian Studies at the University of The Gambia. These were the words of an impatient university dean and it did not bode well. Some Christian scholars had been working with representatives of the country’s evangelical minority to design a program that trains Christian leaders in the small nation’s only university. There are no seminaries or Bible colleges to produce pastors for this majority Muslim nation – or English-speaking training schools for Christians in much of West Africa. This seemed to be a door God was opening in order to spread the gospel farther and deeper into this part of Africa. But years of red tape and disagreements on numerous fronts threatened the entire enterprise.

At the same time in 2015 larger issues loomed: the nation’s president declared The Gambia to be an “Islamic State.” That would not help a Christian Studies program get established. Still, supporters

on at least two continents prayed that God would open the door and provide the necessary professors for the program. One of our scholars said the dean's threatening words "propelled us to action. There is too much to lose."

The Gambia has a population roughly the same as the city of Toronto and territory equal to the size of Cape Breton Island. It is the Africa's smallest country with a shape like an undulating snake about 240 miles from nose to tail, an average of just 27 km wide. It is a nation divided and dependent on the great Gambia River, from which it takes its name. It also cuts in half and is



surrounded by its only neighbor, Senegal. Ninety-six percent of the more than 2.3 million Gambians are Sunni Muslim. The former president's claim to being an Islamic state aside, the Gambian constitution guarantees freedom of religion. This was almost changed in 2020, but thankfully the votes swung in the direction of religious freedom.

Providence smiled on this fledgling project in faith. In September 2015, Dr. Layne Turner, a Global Scholar who had served in China, became the first full-time faculty member of the Christian Religious Studies program at the University of The Gambia (UTG). With the help of pastor Benjamin Michael, and scholarships from money raised mostly in Canada, the first cohort of students enrolled in classes. Two years later, Dr. Manhee Yoon, an Old Testament scholar at Wycliffe College, Toronto, joined Dr. Turner with Glen Taylor's encouragement. Rev. Bannie Manga, an indigenous Gambian professor, made the program into a faculty of three, with Dr. Taylor joining when he could. Today there are over 60 students that benefit from the program at the UTG. With deep gratitude, Dr. Turner wrote in 2019:

After getting my grading done and the grades turned in, we will have completed three years of the first batch of Christian Studies students of UTG.

Time is moving quickly. It doesn't seem like three years have gone by. What was a dream for many for quite a long time is now a reality coming to fruition in the lives of the students!

The Christian Religious Studies program is a Bachelor of Arts program in the humanities division at the UTG. Praise God, the program saw its first round of 11 graduates in February 2020 with the Hellemans and Glen Taylor joining the celebrations just before COVID travel restrictions began. In February 2021, GSC scholar Manhee Yoon held an impromptu celebration for the second round of 7 graduates – Layne Turner and Pastor Benjamin Michael also attended. **There are now 18 alumni and 39 students enrolled in the program.**

We are so thankful for the donors who have given thousands of dollars to provide scholarships for these students, many of whom would otherwise not be able to receive this training in Christian leadership. Tuition costs are roughly \$1000 CDN annually per student in The Gambia, and scholarship money can go a long way there. This number is so much lower than the cost of North American tuition, not to mention the travel costs involved for students who come to train in North American schools. As we always say to donors: if you consider the cost of bringing a student to be educated in Canada with the \$1000 tuition price of training them in The Gambia, questions of strategy and stewardship are easily answered.

Teaching continues even through the vicissitudes of COVID and the students keep coming. May God continue to keep the door open and provide the professors needed to keep the program alive. This remains one of GSC's flagship programs.

- *Written with help from an article in the February 2019 issue of the GS PROFile newsletter*

Manhee Yoon 2017

Manhee serves with Global Scholars Canada in The Gambia and has taught about 300 students during his tenure there. Manhee teaches in the new Christian Studies program at the University of The Gambia in Serrekunda. Living conditions here come with intermittent basic services for the family.



Manhee has 2 children and his wife volunteers with IFES.

He earned a BA in English Language and Literature from Sogang University, an MDiv from Chongshin University, an MA in Biblical Languages from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Old Testament Studies at the University of St. Michael's College.

Manhee currently teaches Old Testament, Hebrew, Theology, Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics at the University of The Gambia. He also taught Old Testament - Intercession Courses at the American Theological Institute in Côte d'Ivoire & Senegal.

Manhee heard Glen Taylor ask for help with the Christian Studies program in The Gambia at a friend's PhD dissertation defense at the Toronto School of Theology one day. Something moved him and he volunteered to go and teach there pretty much on the spot. He did not really know where The Gambia was on the map. Neither had he spoken with his wife about it. "But she had always said she would go wherever we were called," says Manhee. He adds:

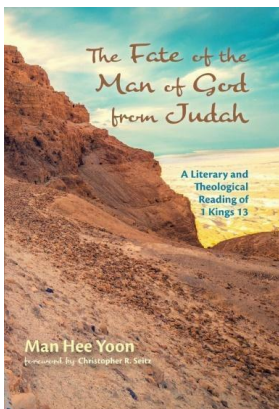
I had a strong conviction that God was calling me to the ministry of teaching in the new Christian Studies program at the University of The Gambia. This program began in the fall of 2015, and I joined the faculty in February 2017. God encouraged me to join this ministry with the thought that, if there is a need in The Gambia and I can be of help, I should be able to make myself available for the need. I am thankful that I have never regretted coming to The Gambia.

Teaching in The Gambia sometimes means no electricity and little running water for Manhee and his family. It means watching his children leave to be schooled in Senegal. It means living in the midst of significant poverty and need. But it also comes with a strong sense of purpose: training Christian leaders to strengthen the church in West Africa, a minority religious community with little resources but with a faith-filled vision for living and giving all they have for Jesus and his kingdom of love and light.



End of semester gathering

*Christian Studies Department
Orientation, Sept 2019. Manhee
is pictured beside Layne Turner,
Global Scholars US faculty*



Yoon's close narrative and theological reading of 1 Kings 13 take us to the heart of one of the most provocative and intriguing stories of the Old Testament story. Yoon opens up this vexing story about a man of God from Judah and an old-line prophet that has intrigued readers throughout history in a fresh way. He not only explains the story in a convincing way but calls readers to serious theological and ethical reflections upon the issues raised by the story.

– Marion Ann Taylor, Professor of Old Testament,
Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto.

Glen Taylor 2019

Glen retired from his role as Old Testament professor at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto in 2020. While he worked with Global Scholars Canada for many years behind the scenes with our Gambian project, he officially joined the ranks as one of our scholars in



2019. He has served for many years alongside GSC scholars at the University of The Gambia, developing the Christian Studies program there, and joining as an instructor when visiting. Glen visits The Gambia for about a month each year and plans to spend much more time there in the coming years.

When in The Gambia he functions as associate priest at a local evangelical Anglican church, while having opportunity also to preach in other churches and to appear on local Christian radio and TV programs.

Glen plays an integral role in the Gambian Scholarship program facilitated by GSC, and fundraises across Canada, having raised more than \$200,000 since 2010. Glen has taught in university, seminary and lay pastoral contexts in various places, including the Canadian Arctic, China, and Latin America.

Glen taught courses in Hebrew and the Old Testament at Wycliffe College until 2020, and was an Associate Professor of Scripture and Global Christianity. Glen loves to encourage students on their path of ministry in the Church or Christian scholarship, and he supervised approximately 20 doctoral theses in the area of Old Testament or Classical Hebrew at the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto.

SPECIAL MOMENTS IN GAMBIAN MINISTRY

Glen successfully designed a four-year Bachelor's degree in Christian Religious Studies for the Senate of The University of the Gambia while

spearheading a project to raise \$65,000 in start-up funding for the new program.

Since 2010 when Glen was asked to coordinate the development of the Bachelor's degree in Christian Religious Studies, he has been diligent in helping however he can - networking with prospective students, teaching intensive classes, and fundraising across Canada for scholarships with much support from Adrian and Wendy Helleman.

Says Dr. Taylor: "My times in the Gambia have always included some intensely rich and fun fellowship with Global Scholars – Drs Layne Turner and Manhee Yoon!"

2 Convocations and 18 Graduates in The Gambia



February 2020 - Adrian and Wendy Helleman and Glen Taylor travelled to The Gambia to attend the first-ever graduation ceremony for the new Christian Religious Studies program.

A few words from Glen about the occasion...

It was encouraging to hear of what God is doing already in their lives, many of whom we have supported together over the past four years.

Most are either teaching Christianity in the school system or pastoring churches. One is doing discipleship training for a group associated with IFES. A few are still discerning where God is calling them.

I'm sure the Hellemans who joined me for graduation will agree that the signs are very clear that God is at work in this project. He has opened doors in an incredible way and continues to be a blessing to the people of The Gambia, not the least through the remarkable students that come to prepare for a lifetime of Christian ministry at the University of The Gambia (UTG).



Pastor Benjamin (left) is crucial to the Christian Studies Program, also Layne Turner (GS-US & third from left) and Manhee Yoon (GSC & far right)

February 2021 - Manhee writes about the 2nd convocation of the Christian Studies Program at the University of The Gambia:

I believe we are writing the history of the Gambian Church together, so we should be encouraged by this. I keep hearing that there are still a lot of public schools that teach only Islamic subjects, but not Christian ones, only because there are not enough teachers who can teach the Bible. We are producing teachers to fill the gap, as well as pastors.

Layne Turner (serving with Global Scholars USA) is Manhee's colleague (and friend) in the Christian Studies Program. He writes of the convocation... *The 13th Convocation Ceremony of the University of The Gambia was held on Saturday, February 27th, 2021. This was the second time*

that Christian Studies graduates were included in this great event. This year there were 7 graduates. COVID restrictions in place, so only a few family members of the graduates were allowed to come to the ceremony. It was a grand occasion as the President of The Gambia, his Excellency Adama Barrow, gave his convocation address. He is also the Chancellor of the University.

After the ceremony, the Christian Studies graduates, the department faculty, and some family members of the graduates met at a nearby restaurant for a time of remembrance and celebration. Each student was given the opportunity to share what he or she is presently doing (they finished their studies last summer) and what their plans are for the future. The students also expressed appreciation for the sponsors who provided the scholarships that they received. It has been a long four years and for some five, but they made it to this day so there was much rejoicing.

Thank you for your part in making this day possible. Your prayers and financial support are a key part of what happened on Saturday.

Pastor Benjamin joined us for the GSC Virtual Gathering on June 6th, 2020 and had some kind words to share:

I'd like to use this opportunity to thank Global Scholars, and also thank all the donors who have over the years been giving to sustain the work here at the University of The Gambia. I would say that Global Scholars was a God-send – if they hadn't have come in this program would have collapsed here in The Gambia. When I think about it I give glory to God for bringing Global Scholars at the time that He did to anchor and to continue to sustain this work in The Gambia. It is a big blessing to this country... and every one of you who has played different roles, has given support in different ways, you are doing a great service to God's kingdom here in this part of the world. I'd like to thank all of you on behalf of the students... this means a lot to us... Adrian, Wendy, Glen – they've been astounding, I will say they've been ambassadors for The Gambia, and they've done a lot to really impact the church here through the scholarships... for us to be trained here is marvelous... the passion and zeal through the years to see this come to fruition... may God bless all of you, thank you so much!

Dia Diafwila 2016

Dia has been teaching for over 40 years on different continents. He serves with Global Scholars Canada in Cameroon, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and beyond. Most of Dia's current classes are taught online from Canada, but occasionally he visits DRC to teach in person and assist in administrating academic programs. Dia develops curriculum for use by hundreds of students each year and teaches online at the National Pedagogy University (Université Pédagogique Nationale or UPN). His courses include Social Work, Victimology, Pastoral Clinic, and Counseling Psychotherapy. He also helps graduate students with their theses, and has published 3 books.

Dia is an extensive world traveler and has attended academic and missiologial conferences in countries such as Germany, France, Asia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda, and many other African countries.



Dia lives near Ottawa with his wife.

He also has grown children.

He earned an MA in Educational Counseling from University of Ottawa (2006), an MA in Theology from McGill University (1989), a PhD in Philosophy from University of Ottawa (1987), an MA in Missiology from Saint Paul University (1984), and degrees in Philosophy (1977) and Associate of Higher Education (1979) from the National University of Zaire (now DRC).

Dia was a professor, campus chaplain, and pastor during his decades in Congo. He also had a special ministry to the rural people living in the forests and villages.

On January 3, 1999 Dia had to flee his home country for safety reasons, but in early 2020 he made the trip back to Congo and was welcomed with open arms. There were some special moments of reconciliation with those who abandoned him in the 1990s.

Dia explains his journey this way:

When we came to Canada we started a new life and the Lord blessed us. Everything was going well until a few years ago when I received a message from a former student in Kinshasa. He was now a professor, and he was asking me to help the university at the Master and the Doctoral levels. My wife and I prayed, and decided to help from a distance through online classes.

Then came the time to celebrate the first graduation of our students who completed their Master's degrees in Pastoral Clinic and Chaplaincy. It was the first promotion in this new discipline in the country. So I was asked to go to Kinshasa and participate in the graduation ceremony. This was our first visit back after 20 years.

When I arrived there, I was invited to be the first speaker at the 50th anniversary of the unity of the protestant churches. Soon after I was invited to preach in the church where I used to be pastor!

John 17:19-21 says, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in me, and I in You; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that You sent me."

Dia is a visionary leader and a true advocate for creating higher education pathways in his home country of DRC. Recently Dia launched into partnerships with local academic leaders and government officials to gain approval for an e-learning center in Kinshasa, the capital of DRC.



Dia leading a training seminar in February 2020 in Kinshasa



Graduate students and academic leadership at the February 2020 convocation in Kinshasa, DRC.



*One of the spaces
for e-learning currently set
up in DRC.*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, second largest in all of Africa, and the most populous Francophone country in the world. DRC has suffered enormously from decades of civil war. The Islamic faith and magic/witchcraft are widespread in DRC. Life expectancy is far below the global average, about 3/4 of the population is under 30, and poverty and disease are rampant. We welcome your prayerful support for this mission.



In 2017 Dr. Hubert Krygsman was appointed successor to Harry Fernhout as Executive Director of GSC. Hubert has been involved in Christian education for most of his life and career. He holds a PhD in History, served as a Professor of History at Dordt College (Iowa), President of Redeemer University (Hamilton), and Principal of Strathroy Community Christian School. Hubert was balancing other work along with his role at GSC, and found that he could not keep up multiple jobs. Nevertheless, we are glad to have him as part of our history, as his life and passions reflect our common vision.

Andrew Barron 2018

Andrew's passion is for ministry to under-served students and campuses. He serves with Jews for Jesus Canada as an academic in the service of Jewish Mission and he loves to teach about Jewish history and traditions, as well as a theology of disability. Andrew is adjunct faculty at Tyndale University, Wycliffe College, and Moody Bible Institute.



"I was born into a Jewish Family in New York City, and studied Astronomy and Physics at Florida Institute of Technology. I heard the gospel as a graduate student. I worked as an aerospace engineer for two years doing orbit design on the Space Shuttle Program but eventually felt called to ministry. I trained with Jews for Jesus and served in South Africa, Israel, Germany, and then Canada for the past 23 years."

Andrew teaches Classical Judaism in the Gospels at the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa. He traveled to ETC in 2018, but now teaches there online from Canada.





Peter Schuurman completed his PhD in the Religious Studies department at the University of Waterloo in 2016 with a dissertation on the shifting religious landscape of Canada, which became the book *The Subversive Evangelical: The Ironic Charisma of an Irreligious Megachurch* (McGill-Queens 2019). His research on megachurches, however, opened him up to a global network of such institutions, including in Korea and Nigeria. Dr. Paul Freston, a leading sociologist on global Christianity, was on his doctoral committee. Peter was working part-time at Redeemer University and Tyndale University while raising his three children at home in Guelph with his wife Joy when Justin Cooper approached him about the Executive Director position. This was in the spring of 2018 and within a few weeks he was hired.

Peter is the only GSC ED (besides Bob VanderVennen) not to have a first name that began with “H”. He was also the youngest hire for the position, as well as the only ED in GSC history not to have a background in higher education administration. Moreover, he is the first ED to have some formal theological training (M.Div. from McMaster Divinity School 2002, which included courses from 7 different seminaries). He has a previous Master’s degree in sociology (surveillance technologies) from Queen’s University (1995) that builds on his B.A. in sociology from Calvin University (although three years of that degree were earned at Redeemer University). Peter’s vocational background is in campus ministry – first at Brock University for 8 years and then as a bi-national leader for campus ministry in his denomination, the Christian Reformed Church. So Peter brings a pastoral and missional heart along with experience in the pluralistic and secular context of public higher education in the West.

Peter’s very first act as ED was to advertise for a Program Administrator, which led to the hiring of Anna Sklar, who was re-titled the GSC Communications Coordinator in 2020. She is a writer by gifting and published numerous resources on Christian faith and

family life. She began her tenure with significant initiative, re-vamping our website, establishing our social media, and in many ways, getting our administrative work in order. Her addition to the staff team was a long-time goal of the board, and was facilitated by a significant donation from Wilma Bouma. Anna's work was immediately recognized by all to make a significant difference, and has freed the new ED to focus on matters of vision, strategy, and scholar recruitment and deployment.



www.scshub.net

As Schuurman took up his ED role, another shift was happening in GS-US. A mission that traditionally included both equipping *and* sending began to settle more centrally on *equipping* scholars for service. The focus shifted to not only American scholars but christian scholars of any nationality in any country outside North America. This new approach corresponded with the new web portal and its international network, the Society of Christian Scholars.

The SCS is dubbed as “a global community *of, by and for* missional Christian scholars.” This web portal was launched in March 2019 as an innovative idea that arose out of the US office, realizing how important electronic networks have become in our globalizing world. They did a survey of Christian scholars around the world and asked what they needed to truly flourish in their vocation so that God’s kingdom would be expanded, and they named 14 things now called “benefits” that are available through the web portal and its network (see next pg graphic).

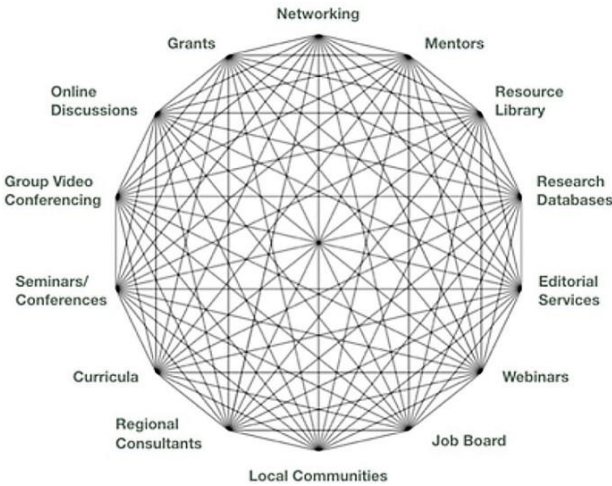
The SCS was first described to us as an additional “on ramp” into the world of Global Scholars but quickly became something that

needed to be independent of the GS-US office and have its origins and leadership in an international network of Christian scholars. To some degree, it is now the main highway and central focus of Global Scholars, summarized as a fresh focus on equipping scholars rather than sending.

It is worth noting that there is an important missiological context to the US shift in mission. The old colonial model of missions often summarized as “from the West to the rest” had fallen into disrepute through postmodern shifts in Western universities. At the same time, Western churches fell into declension, with the Majority World becoming the “New Christendom” (as Philip Jenkins dubbed it). So mission discourse shifted from “the West to the rest” to “from anywhere to everywhere,” suggesting a sending model from the West may be waning.

Nevertheless, the West retains much of the global resources in Christian higher education, and there is a justice issue in terms of distribution of academic, administrative, intellectual, and financial resources. This suggests a continued imperative for the West in the role of equipping scholars for service in academies worldwide with this goal: empowering national leaders.

In July 2020 GS rolled out is a new strategic plan entitled “Lasting Change.” Here they state their quantitative goal of effectively equipping 800 Christian professors in 60 countries by June 2023 through the SCS.



There are 14 benefits of membership in the Society of Christian Scholars

First Impressions:

Making Connections on Canadian Universities

By Ross Jansen-van Vuuren, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Queen's University in Chemistry:

I appreciate the work of Global Scholars Canada as it resonates with what is important to me. Firstly, understanding that God's truth covers everything, regardless of the discipline. Secondly, encouraging students and faculty to depend on Christ and pursue Him in all dimensions of their work, since through Christ and for Christ, *all things* were created, He is before *all things*, and in Him *all things* hold together (Col 1:16-17, ESV). Thirdly, being willing to live in another country or at least partner with researchers in other contexts, and therefore develop an appreciation of the challenges faced by our counterparts who lack the resources and access to Christ's lifegiving gospel that we (in the West) often take for granted.

I first heard of Global Scholars about 8 years ago when a friend of mine went over to work as a postdoctoral research fellow in Saudi Arabia, and mentioned that Global Scholars was supporting him – more in a pastoral sense than financially. A few years later when I spoke to the same friend and asked him about Global Scholars, he said that he and his family had a “very warm, personal bond” with their assigned partner, who was “regularly in touch” with them; the pastoral support emboldened and motivated him to stand alongside other Christians in their local community by being active in their local “church” gatherings, which included giving sermons and leading discipleship groups. I recall noting how this friend grew significantly in Christian maturity and responsibility during that period in his life. He is now based in the U.K. with his family.

Several years later, while working as a postdoctoral research fellow at Queen's University here in Ontario, I came across Global Scholars again – this time, through meeting Peter Schuurman on one of his visits to Queen's University. Together with Steve Kooy (Geneva House) and Professor David Lyon, also at Queen's, we organized a one-day symposium at Queen's University around the theme “Engaging the University.” A mix of faculty and students from Queen's (70 in total) attended the gathering to explore the integration of faith and work in

several disciplines and what it means to live as a Christian in the academy. I am deeply thankful to Global Scholars Canada for supporting this initiative, and to Peter for co-organizing and chairing the symposium. Throughout the collaboration (in putting the symposium together), I was exposed to the mission and ideals of Global Scholars Canada, and clearly saw Peter's passion to be involved.

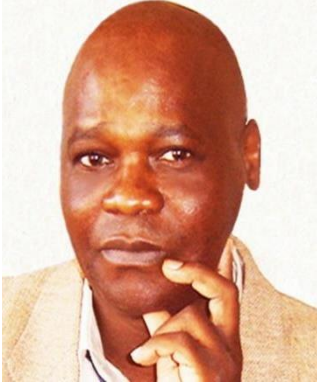
The idea of encouraging faculty and students to think more deeply about their daily work and purpose in the university in the light of Christ's calling on our lives is what Global Scholars is all about. Increased involvement with Global Scholars Canada in the form of tracking with some of the current Global Scholars and more regular interaction with Peter was an encouragement to me personally, and provided a more balanced view of my academic calling. Most noticeably, I felt convicted about idolizing my career and this encouraged me to adopt a more global outlook. e.g. taking an interest in the research in other countries and the challenges faced by researchers in some of these countries. I subsequently volunteered to become an editor for the recently launched journal *Scientific African*, and am looking into other ways to partner with my counterparts in other countries.



Queen's University Symposium, Fall 2019

Jean Bieri 2019

Jean is currently looking at his options for teaching employment on campuses around the world. COVID has certainly slowed down the process. Presently Jean is an Associate Professor at Laval University – Ecole de Theologie Evangelique du Quebec (ETEQ).



Jean earned a PhD in Theology – Biblical Studies from the University of Geneva, a Post-Graduate Degree in Biblical Studies from the Catholic Institute of Paris (ICP) in 2004, an MDiv in Theology with a Concentration on Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1990.

Jean conducted Post-Doctorate work in Condensed Matter Theoretical Physics at the University of Southern California and University of Urbana, earned a PhD in Condensed Matter Physics from the University of Paris-Sud in 1985 (working with Prof. A. Fert, Physics Nobel Prize, 2007), and both Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the University of Toulouse

For the past two decades Jean has either taught classes or given lectures in Canada, Armenia, Geneva, France, U.S.A, South Africa, and India. He has a passion for ministering to students of different countries and cultures. With the upcoming completion of his second PhD, this one from the University of Geneva in Old Testament

(Daniel 7), Jean will hold doctorates in both Theology and Physics. He is looking forward to his next season of transnational campus ministry, and for now is quite happy to continue teaching in Montreal.



With students in Armenia

David Koyzis 2019

David Koyzis is a political scientist with a PhD in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame, where he wrote a dissertation comparing the political thought of Herman Dooyeweerd and Yves R. Simon. David taught political science at Redeemer University for thirty years, mentoring hundreds of young



people who have gone on to contribute to public life in Canada and elsewhere. In recent years he has broadened his academic ministry through contacts in Brazil, Pakistan, Ukraine, Indonesia, Germany, Finland, and elsewhere. He is a leading thinker globally in the area of faith and politics, particularly as understood from a Christian philosophical perspective.

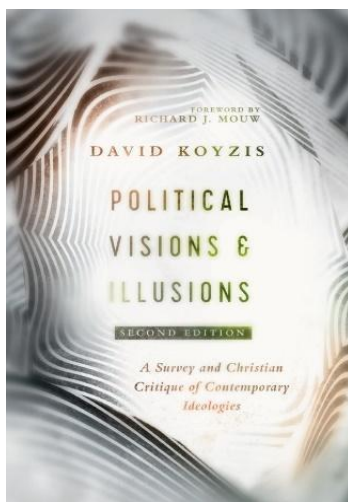
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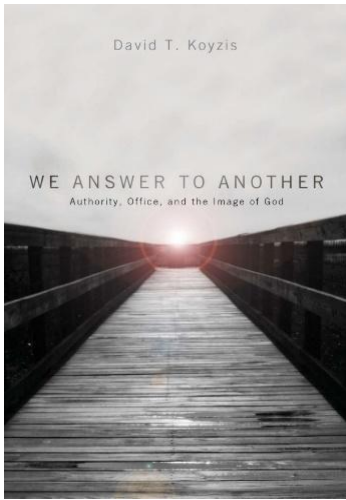
David is the author of two books:

The award-winning *Political Visions and Illusions*, published in 2003 and, in a revised second edition in 2019 with a foreword by Richard Mouw. Rev. Timothy Keller tweeted the following in 2020: “Definitely the best book I’ve read on the current state of political thinking happening among evangelicals in 2020.”

In 2014 it was translated into Portuguese and published as *Visões e Ilusões Políticas* in Brazil, where it has been widely read and appreciated and is now in its second edition.

A Spanish publication is now translating it for distribution in Spanish-speaking countries, which includes much of Central and South America.





In 2014 David published a second book, *We Answer to Another: Authority, Office, and the Image of God*. He is also working on a revision of the Genevan Psalter, a novel, and a manuscript of commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism. Needless to say, he is a prolific writer and global thinker whose social media offerings and other published commentaries are followed by literally thousands of people around the world.

In 2020 he recorded a series of online video lectures on “Christianity and Political Ideologies,” which were subtitled in Portuguese and made available to prospective students at the Jonathan Edwards Seminar in Brazil. Currently, he has been invited to do something similar in Ukraine.

The invitations for David to write, speak and visit around the world keep coming, and we hope and pray that the skies will open up soon so David can offer his academic gifts in person again. David models a new paradigm in our work, where we fulfill our mission to empower local Christian leaders around the world from our personal computers in Canada, with supplementary short-term trips across borders. Our faith leads us to prize embodiment and presence, and see our electronic connections as a means to facilitate deeper and more personal encounters that build up the global family of Jesus Christ and his kingdom.



Left: Teaching political philosophy at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, October 2019

David also has many online publications and interviews, accessible through the GSC website or David's blog:

Notes from a Byzantine Calvinist

John & Anne Span 2020

John & Anne serve with Global Scholars Canada in South Africa. They have many years of international travel, education, and mission behind them already. In Guinea (2000-2011) John mentored upcoming pastors and helped to set up an association of Christian schools. In Egypt (2012-2015) John was the vice-principal of the Alexandria School of Theology. He also managed the Cairo branch, developed and taught the curriculum for the Theological English Course, and taught the Egyptian teachers how to teach adults. Anne taught ESL to all ages throughout their years abroad, as well as trained ESL teachers.



John earned a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from University of Guelph in 1980, a Masters in Christian Studies from Regent College, Vancouver in 1985, and a Master's of Theology (2016) and a Ph.D. in Theology/Apologetics (2019) from The John Calvin Faculty, Aix en Provence, France.

Anne is trained as an ESL teacher, and also as a trauma counsellor.

The Spans have embarked on their newest adventure at Mukhanyo Theological College in South Africa, leaving right in the middle of a global pandemic. John serves as a Senior Lecturer in Theology and Anne teaches ESL. Both contribute to a theological writing center.

John currently teaches Defending the Faith, Outreach to Muslims, Evangelism and Apologetics, Systematic Theology, and Theological English at Mukhanyo Theological College.

Anne's roles at Mukhanyo are teaching English as a second language, and serving as the Writing Centre Coordinator. Currently, they can only obtain 90-day visas, which makes for difficult travel logistics, extra costs, and further risks during a global pandemic. Please pray for their safety, their finances, and their strategic contribution to the African church and its mission.

JOHN'S WORK IN MUSLIM RELATIONS & MISSIOLOGY

John's research into critically understanding ministry to Muslims is vital for the church today. If we are to love our Muslim neighbours, we need to engage them and their sacred Scriptures in a way that not only builds bridges but also takes our fundamental differences seriously.

Dr. Span has written specifically on the subject of what faithful engagement with Islam looks like, and how the Quran might be used – or not – in bearing witness to Muslims. John's research is incredibly important, potentially perilous, and especially relevant to the religiously divided continent of Africa. This is another example of how our scholars' work impacts not just a classroom, but also departments, schools of thought, the church's mission, and cultural change.

Read John's articles online at [Academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu), [Biblical Missiology](#), and [The Network](#).

SPECIAL MOMENTS AT MUKHANYO

As 'L' was walking on a somewhat desolate road en route to the school, just around sunset, he was accosted by thieves who stole his cell phone and beat him up. We had a chance to sit down with his wife, who was perplexed that even he as a pastor was going through bouts of rage at this incident. From Anne's training as a trauma counsellor, she was able to show her that this is a normal part of the grieving cycle. It was as if there was relief that 'L' was allowed to be a bit less than super-spiritual after this violation of his person and possessions.

Stories like this can be multiplied many times over, and perhaps we ministered more in listening than in speaking.

Not that there were no chances to speak, as Anne taught ESL English to some eager learners. Among them was 'J' whose level was about grade 4. Here was someone weak in English, yet strong in faith; an orphan, but someone who knew the love of God



the Father; recovering from a brutal beating due to being framed for a crime, yet wanting to go back and minister to the very group that had inflicted this pain. Eagerly 'J' related, "Dr. John, yesterday at church, I taught the first half of the book of Jude to the adult Sunday School class. I used the same technique we learned in class to read the Bible very carefully, and to let it explain itself." We can be sure that 'J' is reaching out to his community today.

There are a multitude of other stories, including someone who lost a father in a farm attack, another who is HIV positive, another teacher who was once a drunk lying in a gutter, and so forth. Each of their stories has a "But God....." aspect to it. Sure, their grandeur is not as evident as a majestic elephant, or the power of a rhino, or the strength and stealth of a lion, but the beauty of the fragrance of Jesus in his people is a wonder to behold.

U.S. or Dual Citizen Scholars

There have been a few scholars through the years that have either a U.S. citizenship or a dual Canadian/U.S. citizenship and have worked closely with Global Scholars Canada. We wanted to take a moment and highlight their names.

Dual Citizens highlighted on the GSC website:

Jeremy Young – Colombia - Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Justice Akpan – Iraq

U.S. Citizens:

Danny McCain – Nigeria, Global Scholars Founder

Layne Turner – The Gambia, teaches alongside Manhee Yoon in the Christian Religious Studies program

Robert and Adrienne Lillo – Nigeria, partnered with the Wiebes in publishing and teaching

Globalization, Nationalism, and a Canadian Identity

Discussions of language, strategy, and purpose happen within a specific context, and in the case of GSC that includes national and international contexts. Some say the boundaries between those two contexts is blurring. Modernity and its forces of social change have increased flow of people, goods, services, technologies, and information around the world, making it more “one place.” The result is what has been called globalization, which Roland Robertson defines in this way:

Globalization as a concept refers to both the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole... its main empirical focus is in line with the increasing acceleration in both concrete global interdependence and consciousness of the global whole in the twentieth century.

At the same time, however, we have the tenacious violence of ISIS, the Hindu nationalist movement, the political mobilization for Brexit, and Trump’s “America first” campaign and his self-declarations of being “absolutely” nationalist. In the West, however, behind both left and right ideologies—including the culturally dominant *identity politics*—looms the long-standing culture of individualism, the cult of personal autonomy.

Globalization may offer more opportunities for global missions as it opens up more pathways in imagination, electronic media, and international flows for global traffic, while nationalism and individualism may impede such witness as they close borders and potentially hearts to our multi-coloured christian family. But globalization also comes with its liabilities—for the environment, for the poor, and for regulation of economic and digital activities—and not everyone rides smoothly on its crisscrossing flows.

Canadians have a distinct ethos that they bring to the global table. Some believe we are more cosmopolitan than some of the more

outspoken nationalists in the countries implicated above. John Ralston Saul has said our pride in our multi-cultural policy and identity seems to open us to less nationalistic sensibilities. On the other hand, others would say that to be Canadian lacks any substantial character, and it is more popularly a *negative identity*, specifically in being “not American.” This would be a form of nationalism that could be reactionary and counter-productive, not only in relations with any American partner, but potentially in other global relationships. One Canadian sociologist, Sam Reimer, however, says that evangelicals in both countries are able to see their faith as offering more bridges than walls between them.

God calls us to be rooted cosmopolitans – literally, “world citizens” nurtured in local places with a sense of responsibility and care for other regions and the planet as a whole.

The Canadian flag is often a welcome symbol at crossings and boundaries. We may be specially positioned to make extra efforts in building bridges and establishing exchanges of students, professors, ideas, and faith. This is the context in which we dream of what the Lord may call us to do in the decade or so to come.

GSC SCHOLARS

Wendy & Adrian Helleman
Canada to Gambia

Glen Taylor
Canada to Gambia

Manhee Yoon
The Gambia

Anonymous Asia

Stephen Ney
Sierra Leone

Marlene & Rudy Wiebe
Canada to Nigeria

Jeremy Young
Colombia

Andrew Barron
Canada to Ethiopia

David Koyzis
Canada to Brazil

Dia Diafwila
Canada to Congo & Cameroon

John & Anne Span
South Africa

Ian Ritchie
Seeking Options

Jean Bieri
Seeking Options

Justice Akpan
Seeking Options

Do you know anyone who may want to serve as a Global Scholar?
Let us know!

25 Years and Beyond: Intentional Partnerships

We are 25 years old now, a quarter of a century. We have had six Executive Directors and close to twenty scholars that have taught thousands of students worldwide. We now have three part-time staff rather than two and we have expanded our funding support beyond one major donor to multiple major donors. We even have a student intern now – Estela Kasaba – originally a refugee from The Congo.



Estela Kasaba, who took the initiative and asked her professor at Redeemer University, Dr. Peter Schuurman, if GSC had an internship program. We didn't, but now we do! Thanks to Estela for helping us see the possibilities.

We co-hosted a conference at Queen's University in 2019 and hope to co-host another in the fall of 2021. As of 2019, we now have our own board manual and academic staff manual that fits our own legal and institutional culture. Our media presence has expanded exponentially and our visibility in Canada has been given a significant boost.

With GS-US we have a shared name, a linked brand reputation, and a similar missiology. We have borrowed from their academic staff manual and use some of their strategic language of “missional Christian academics” who are “equipped” to have a “redemptive influence” in their universities and nations. But GSC is coming into its own as an organization. Our relationship with GS-US is shifting, from being a quasi-branch office to a quasi-autonomous office. By God's grace, more things will crystalize in our visions and goals and we can continue more robust and intentional partnerships with the US office, the SCS, and numerous Canadian ministries, too.

Why Serve With GSC?

The concept of sending Christian professors to developing countries is a stewardly way of responding to the great need for higher education in these contexts. Many more students can be reached than by bringing students to North America. - Dr. Justin Cooper, GSC Board Chair 2017-20210

Peter Schuurman: Looking back on your decision in the late 1980s to look for a position outside of North America and thinking about those decades in different countries: what would you say to a 20-something Christian grad student who wanted a tenure track position at a North American university? Why consider transnational opportunities where the pay may be meagre, the language can be an issue, and your academic career may not advance in the way you imagine it should? What can we promise a young PhD if they get involved with us? How would you articulate the life you have led?

Wendy Helleman: Climbing the career ladder in academia is very hard these days in North America - you have to be a superstar, or in a field lacking in adequate numbers finishing their degrees. Some people like that kind of a fight, and some can do it; but it is not a level playing field in almost any area of specialization that I know of. That may change, but such change can take time.

On the other hand, there are so many countries where there is a crying need for qualified faculty. That is the other part of this picture. It may pose its challenges to go, and there are indeed challenges of adjustment to another culture, language, and raising finances. But in the university world there are so many factors that make it easier to make transitions than in other types of work, industry or business opportunities. And there is significant spiritual hunger in so many countries, that we as Christians can make a real contribution, to open the eyes of our students to totally different possibilities to serve their country and communities.

We have found the benefits far outweigh the challenges. Teaching in one's own culture can be downright lacking in adventure... the cross-cultural element in teaching adds an exciting dimension. It takes courage and determination, but most important is a sense of calling, that God was opening an opportunity and we could not say 'No'.

Do You Know Our Next Scholar?

We are dedicated to nurturing a global imagination for Christian vocation in the academy. If you know of any Canadian – young or old, male or female, sociologist or physicist – with the gifts and inclination to serve in underserved institutions of higher education across national borders, please direct them to us. Short-term, long-term, or on-line – we are ready to help them cultivate a missional imagination for their academic vocation.

The need has few limits, and the vision is wide, but the candidates are few. Those that sign on, as you can see from this history, leave a legacy of sacrifice and service that remains a testimony to God's grace – not just in giving yourself away, but in receiving from God and your host people an enrichment and blessing beyond what you could have imagined. Cross-cultural mission is always a give-and-take.

We believe this missiology of gift exchange is strategic and vital in our globalized world. Join us in our mission of being Christian scholars without borders for the sake of empowering national leadership around the world!

10 BENEFITS OF BECOMING A GSC SCHOLAR

1. Cross-cultural navigation assistance
2. Connection, accountability and mentorship in vocation
3. Pastoral and prayer support
4. Free membership in *Society of Christian Scholars*
5. Special Events when home in Canada (e.g. dinners and retreats)
6. Platform for your publications
7. Help with securing teaching positions
8. Grant for first year of service
9. Support for initiatives in-country (e.g. scholarships, curriculum)
10. Procure online donations to supplement your salary & help with travel expenses, health benefits, and pension plan

Behind the Scenes

BOARD MEMBERS RETIRING IN 2021



Dr. Justin Cooper, Chair from 2017 - 2021

A political science professor in international relations by trade, Dr. Justin Cooper is the former president of Redeemer University (1994-2010) and has been called an institution builder and “apostle for Christian higher education.” He was the part-time Executive Director of the Association of Reformed Colleges and Universities, served on the board of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, and Association for Biblical Higher Education (among many other boards). At the same time he joined GSC’s board in 2010 he became the executive director of Christian Higher Education in Canada.

He became chair of the GSC board in 2017 and immediately began the development of a board manual, laying out policies and procedures for the operation and development of the board. A working copy of this was completed in 2020. Justin was instrumental in hiring both Hubert Krygsman and Peter Schuurman as successive EDs and was a constant encouragement through the development of the strategic plan in 2019. Justin groomed Peter for success in his role, and Peter gained significant insight through his dedicated mentorship. Peter wrote a short biography of Justin and his life as a visionary in Christian higher education that is posted on Peter’s blog.

Although retiring from the board chair position in 2021, Justin will remain in an ex-officio seat for another year and “continue to contribute from his vast store of board and executive experience.



Dr. Carla Nelson

GSC Board Member from 2012 to 2021

Dr. Nelson came to the board through Harro Van Brummelen. Carla says, “He stopped by my office at Tyndale when he was out to Toronto for meetings. He described the work of the scholars with beautiful reverence and enthusiasm. He left a brochure and said he would ask the GSC Chair, John Franklin, to follow-up with me about the possibility of joining the Board. John and I had a wonderful first visit and I sensed the privilege it would be to work alongside Harro and John in GSC’s important mission.”

She was a professor of education at the time, with extensive teaching experience in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario schools. Her research interest is in teacher formation, specifically the beginning teacher’s development of a professional identity. In addition, she has coordinated and delivered professional development programs for teachers in Kenya, Rwanda, India and Bolivia. In 1999, she was named the “YWCA Woman of Distinction” in education for the city of Edmonton, Alberta, and, in 2014, was named one of Canada’s 100 Fantastic Christian Women Leaders by the Bridgeway Foundation.

Carla was a constant voice of encouragement and helpful questions on the board and brought with her a significant connection to the Tyndale community and its facilities. This became the location for board meetings and some fundraising dinners. Carla was instrumental in the Strategic Planning taskforce of 2019 and served as a board interviewer for a number of new GSC scholar candidates. Carla moved back to Edmonton in 2020, where she serves as Canadian Baptist Ministries’ Senior Associate – Africa Liaison & Educational Specialist. GSC thanks Carla for her work in strengthening the board by making it more diverse in terms of gender, denomination and especially ethnic and racial background.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

MARY LEIGH MORBEY 2017
HARRY FERNHOUT 2019



Dr. Harry Fernhout - Chair

Harry immigrated with his family to Thunder Bay from Holland, and studied in both Canada and USA (Dordt University), ending his studies with a PhD in Education at the University of Toronto. He was the president of the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto for 16 years. The ICS doctoral program was the first of its kind to be assessed (and recommended for degree-granting) by the Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB).

Harry was also the President of The King's University in Edmonton from 2005-2013. His most distinguished leadership stint, however, was as the Executive Director of Global Scholars Canada from 2014-2017.

Dr. Mary Leigh Morbey - Vice-Chair

Mary Leigh hails originally from Virginia and returns there regularly to experiment in ecology and viticulture on her family's estate. Her journey in the world of faith and academia is a colourful one, as it includes studying the History of Art at the Free University of Amsterdam (1972-76) and obtaining a PhD from Ohio State University in computing and the visual arts (1992).

She researches, teaches, and publishes widely on the theory, history, practice, and education of Web participatory and Social Media technologies and technological mediations in visual culture, focusing on the Global South. Professor of Culture and Technology and the Associate Co-Chair of the York University Institute of Research on Digital Learning, she currently leads an international research project, Ugandan Heritage Sites, between the Uganda National Museum (Kampala) and the York Institute for Research on Digital Learning. She has been a Guest Researcher in Russia and at the Louvre.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

DEBORAH BOWEN 2020
RUTH HAYHOE 2021



Dr. Deborah Bowen

Deborah studied at Oxford University and gained her Ph.D. at University of Ottawa. She came to Canada from England in 1977 to work with university students through Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Deborah has taught at the secondary and post-secondary levels, and was on the faculty of Redeemer University from 1996 – 2017. She retired from full-time teaching in 2017, but continues to teach part-time.

Deborah was delighted to learn about Global Scholars Canada, since she shares their goals and vision of encouraging students to think Christianly about their academic disciplines. She was the plenary speaker for our Queen's conference in 2019. Sharing her SSERC-sponsored research on poetry, ecology, and Christian faith.

Dr. Ruth Hayhoe – Secretary

Ruth studied in Canada, England and China, and has been a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto since 1986. Her professional engagements in Asia have spanned more than 50 years, and include teaching at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels, and a position at the Canadian Embassy. She holds the title of President Emerita from the Education University of Hong Kong. Ruth served as Trustee and Secretary for the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia from 2001 to 2010, and a member of the Senate of Tyndale University from 2015 to 2020. She is honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board of Global Scholars Canada and hopes her international experience and Christian commitment will enable her to give useful support to its important mission. She has a gift for networking, and has already brought scholars and new board members to our fold.



Dr. Steve Sider

Steve grew up in northeastern India, studied in Canada, and is currently an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University. He teaches courses in global education, school leadership, and special education. Steve travels regularly to Haiti, Ghana, and Egypt where he is involved in school leadership and special education training and research. He is the co-founder of the Educator and Leadership Institute which has supported teacher training for more than 2,000 teachers globally.

Steve is delighted to join Global Scholars Canada since its purposes align with his lived experience. He sees the opportunity to engage with scholars globally through GSC as an exciting opportunity to further extend his commitment to integrating faith and learning.

Dr. Magnus Mfoafo M'Carthy

Magnus studied in Ghana and USA, and moved to Canada in 2001 to work at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He is currently an associate professor in the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. Magnus conducts research in Africa that explores inclusive education, and discrimination, marginalizing, and oppression in those diagnosed with mental health issues both in Canada and Africa. We are delighted to have him join our governing board.



CURRENT OFFICE STAFF

HARLEY DEKKER 2014
ANNA SKLAR 2018



Harley Dekker – GSC Finance Administrator

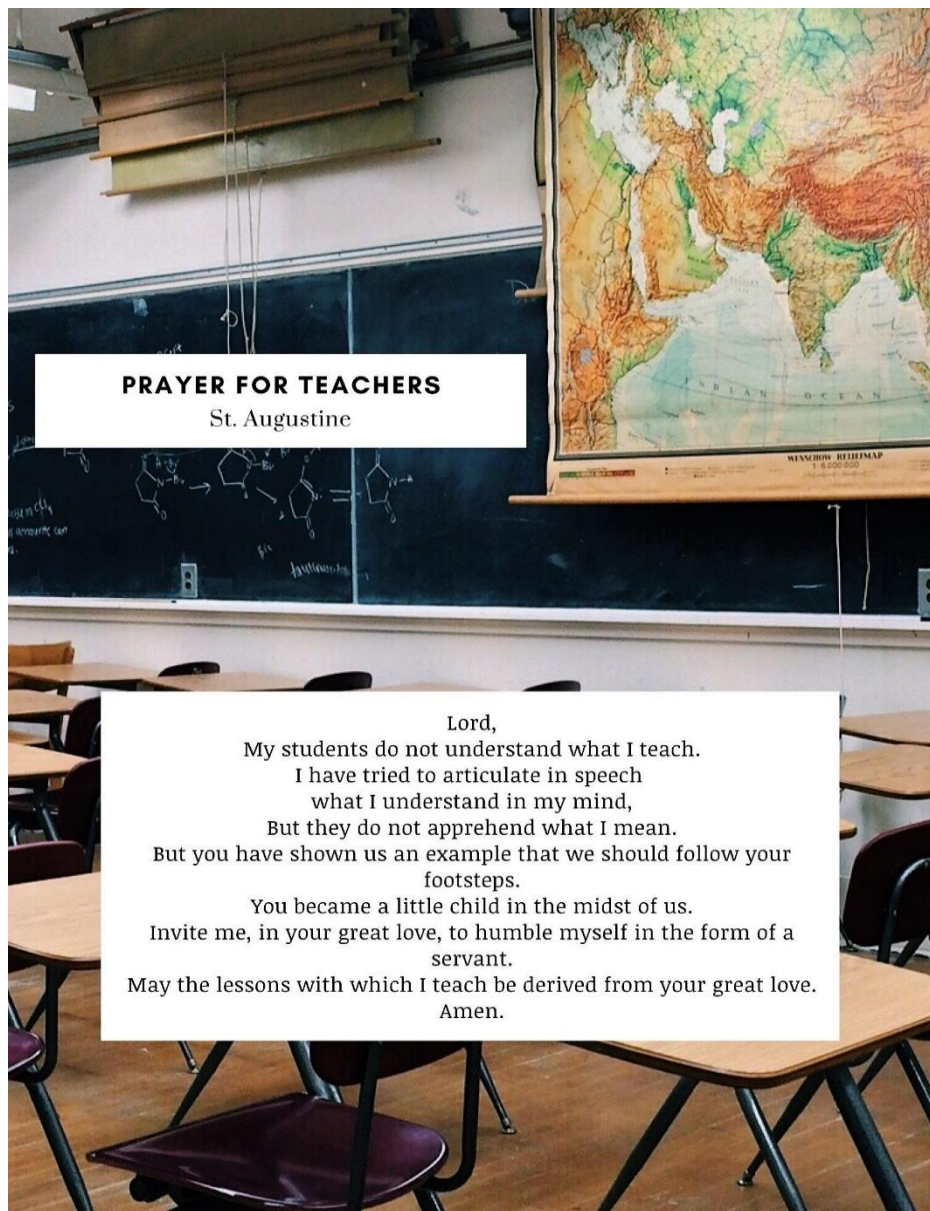
Harley left home in Hamilton to attend University of Toronto for an accounting degree. There he met his wife Heather, with whom he has raised two daughters, and so he never left Toronto. After a career in real estate financing, he became a stay-at-home dad. He was looking for part-time work, and GSC was a perfect fit, along with his part-time work with our partner institution, the Institute for Christian Studies.

Harley manages all GSC finances, giving monthly reports to scholars on their accounts. He also developed the process for funding the Gambian scholarships. He always has a pastoral word for the scholars and offers a fount of wisdom that we deeply appreciate. He is utterly reliable, completely professional, and consistently gracious.

Anna Sklar – GSC Communications Coordinator

Anna immigrated to Canada from England with her parents when she was two years old. She remembers growing up her family had many friends from around the world, and this fueled Anna's passion for mission and global issues. Anna was a stay-at-home mom for two strapping young men, and served alongside her minister husband in youth and young adult ministry, as well as international mission work. She earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts with a minor in International Studies just before she turned 40, and admits she feels at home on campus.

When GSC was hiring its first Administrative Assistant in 2018, Anna happened upon the job posting and has felt a strong calling to serve in the vision and mission of GSC ever since. She has expanded GSC's visibility, increased its capacity, organized its operations, and brought a prayerful heart to our meetings. In three short years she has already left an indelible mark on our vision and mission.



PRAYER FOR TEACHERS

St. Augustine

Lord,
My students do not understand what I teach.
I have tried to articulate in speech
what I understand in my mind,
But they do not apprehend what I mean.
But you have shown us an example that we should follow your
footsteps.
You became a little child in the midst of us.
Invite me, in your great love, to humble myself in the form of a
servant.
May the lessons with which I teach be derived from your great love.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

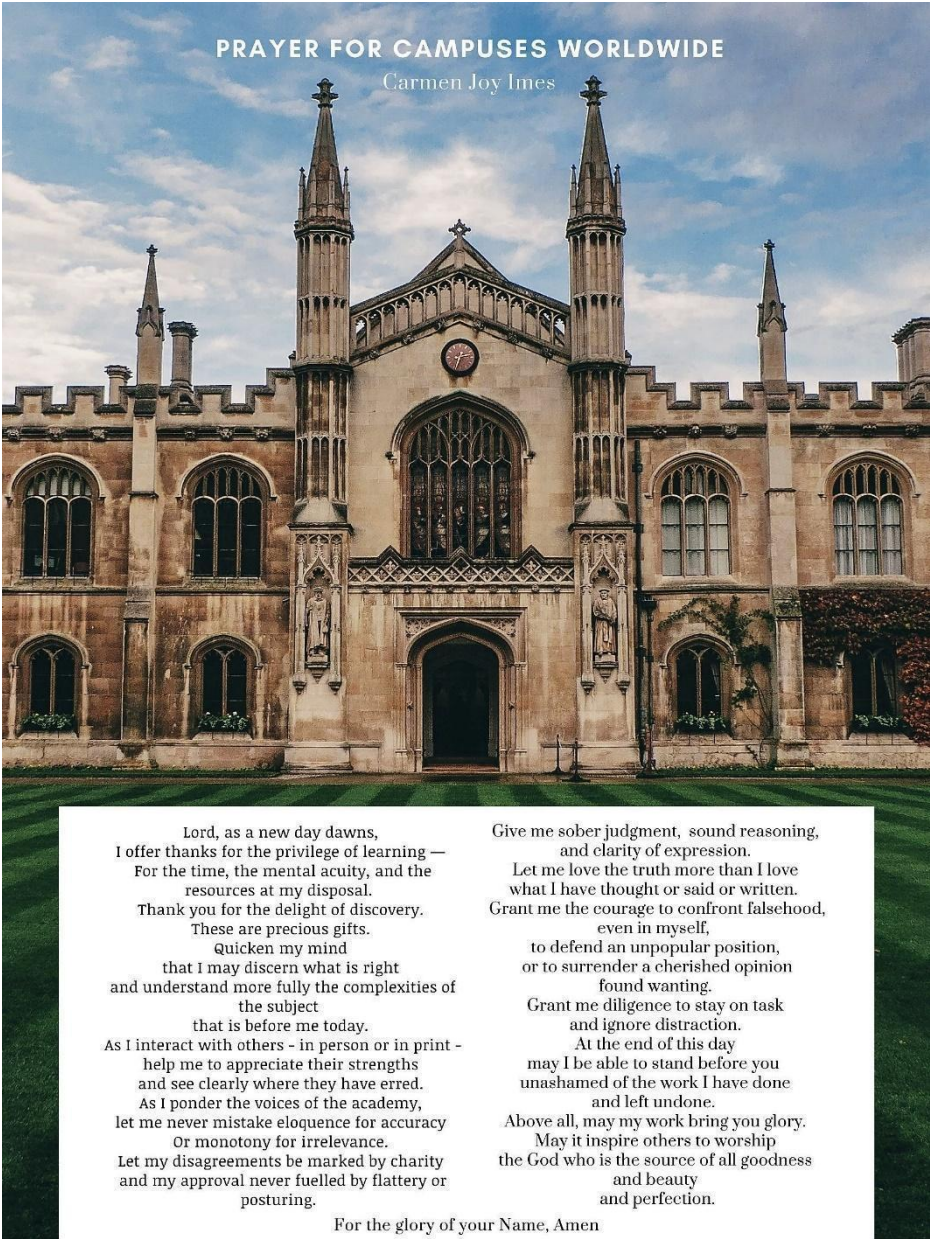
St. Augustine



Beloved Father,

You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, that we might learn how much you love us.
Kindle in us the love of he who was first loved;
For while we were still sojourning far apart,
Christ showed us a profound example of love.
Teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We ask this in Jesus Christ our Lord,
the manifestation of divine love.

Amen.



PRAYER FOR CAMPUSES WORLDWIDE

Carmen Joy Innes

Lord, as a new day dawns,
I offer thanks for the privilege of learning —
For the time, the mental acuity, and the
resources at my disposal.
Thank you for the delight of discovery.
These are precious gifts.
Quicken my mind
that I may discern what is right
and understand more fully the complexities of
the subject
that is before me today.
As I interact with others - in person or in print -
help me to appreciate their strengths
and see clearly where they have erred.
As I ponder the voices of the academy,
let me never mistake eloquence for accuracy
Or monotony for irrelevance.
Let my disagreements be marked by charity
and my approval never fuelled by flattery or
posturing.

Give me sober judgment, sound reasoning,
and clarity of expression.
Let me love the truth more than I love
what I have thought or said or written.
Grant me the courage to confront falsehood,
even in myself,
to defend an unpopular position,
or to surrender a cherished opinion
found wanting.
Grant me diligence to stay on task
and ignore distraction.
At the end of this day
may I be able to stand before you
unashamed of the work I have done
and left undone.
Above all, may my work bring you glory.
May it inspire others to worship
the God who is the source of all goodness
and beauty
and perfection.

For the glory of your Name, Amen

"... and in all things, giving thanks..."

We would like to thank all our faithful donors and supporters for the past 25(+1) years of ministry. Our scholars would not be able to do the work they do without your generosity, and your gifts encourage them when the journey gets rough or lonely. Our GSC office staff are similarly delighted by the graciousness of so many people who believe that what we do is strategic in God's kingdom of justice, mercy and peace for all.

We also want to give thanks to God for the privilege of serving through GSC.

Here is a prayer from Ron Fischer - June 6th, 2020 Virtual Gathering:

Lord God it's so beautiful to see the vastness of Your kingdom, to see all the wonderful lives that You have brought together in this organization, to see the influence around the world. We're so grateful to see Your grace and Your love, we're so grateful that You continue to walk with us and support us. Be with each person and each family... we pray for Your continued surrounding love and grace, and we pray this in Jesus' holy and precious name, Amen.

We'd love to connect more with you...

Visit our website:
globalscholarscanada.ca

Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/globalscholarscanada

Browse Peter's blog – Sensus Divinitatis:
peterschuurman.ca