



WINTER 2020

## WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

### 2019 FRIENDS OF THE SEMINARY DAY HELD

On Saturday morning, Oct. 5, the annual Friends of the Seminary Day was held. This event highlights the way gifts to WLS help support the worldwide mission of WELS. Through worship and presentations, participants see how they are a vital part of the kingdom work that takes place at the seminary.

Guests were both long-time attendees as well as new friends. Michelle Neuman, a member at St. Peter, Fond du Lac, shared, "I had seen the seminary on the WELS Connection, but had never been here. So I thought I should come see it in person. It's beautiful."

The family of Robert Beaver, a junior, also attended for the first time to learn more about the seminary. His sister Rachel, mom Lisa, and Grandma Sherry were all grateful for the morning. "We are so glad we came. Hearing about the experiences of the seminary students was so interesting," they said.

In addition to presentations, an offering was collected of \$1,685, which is combined with other gifts throughout the year. These donations allow the Friends of the Seminary to provide wish list items to the students and staff. This year's gift will provide an ADA drinking fountain with bottle-filling station in the dorm commons, upholstered chairs for the main entrance, coat racks, and a paper trimmer.



### 2021 TOUR TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN

Professor Geiger invites you to join Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Wisconsin Lutheran College, and Asia Lutheran Seminary on a study tour of Israel and Jordan, January 2-15, 2021. More information is available on the website: [wls.wels.net/students/travelstudy-tours/](http://wls.wels.net/students/travelstudy-tours/). The deadline to register is April 2, 2020.



### DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL TO SHARE

If you want some ready-made devotion videos to offer to congregation members, feel free to share our chapel posts ([wls.wels.net/wls-chapel/](http://wls.wels.net/wls-chapel/)) or Professor Geiger's material on YouTube (His Word 360).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 6-17: Winterim

January 20: Second semester begins

January 28-29: Governing Board meeting

February 4-6: Mission and Ministry

February 28: Blood Drive

March 5-8: Midterm Break

April 9-19: Easter Break

May 15: No School

May 21: Call Day Service and Graduation Concert

May 22: Graduation Service



# PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE UPDATE

*In December, Qiang (pronounced “Chee-ung”) Wang was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity Degree through the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in partnership with WELS Joint Missions. Here’s his story.*

Qiang, his wife, Susan, and their son, Ricky, immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, in 2013. At that time, they were Buddhists. Almost immediately after they arrived, Chinese Christians in Vancouver sought to reach them with the gospel. First, Qiang rejected their efforts. Later he decided that if he was going to debate with them and disprove their religion, he should understand what they believed. He bought a Bible and began reading it. By God’s grace, through the power of the Word and the working of the Holy Spirit, Qiang believed. On Thanksgiving Day in 2014, Qiang and Susan were baptized in a local Chinese church. Though he continued to read the Bible on his own, there was much he didn’t understand.

At this same time, Geoff Cortright, pastor at Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, was teaching a Bible study in the building where Qiang lived. One day Susan noticed them in the lobby and asked if Geoff could answer some questions. Qiang had been reading the Bible and was stuck in the book of Isaiah. When he learned Geoff was a pastor, he shared his story and his questions about the text’s meaning. He and his family soon began worshipping at Saviour of the Nations and were confirmed in September 2015.

The same day as his confirmation, Qiang asked Geoff if he could learn Greek. Pastor Cortright called Professor Sorum, who invited Qiang to attend the Asian Ministry Conference just a few weeks later. Shortly after, Qiang officially began his PSI studies. Geoff became his PSI supervising pastor, with assistance from another WLS graduate who is a lay member in Vancouver, as well as visiting instructors from the PSI team. In 2018, as he began courses in the final level of his Bachelor of Divinity Degree program, he was called to be a vicar at Saviour of the Nations, where he was able to apply what he was learning.



While Qiang will participate in commencement ceremonies this spring with our WLS students, he officially graduated in December and was assigned by the Conference of Presidents to be a missionary to the Chinese population of Coquitlam, BC, Canada, a growing suburb of Vancouver. WELS-Canada, Saviour of the Nations, and WELS Joint Missions are supporting this outreach effort. Why Coquitlam? City planners estimate that the population will grow by 60,000 by 2026. Half of that growth, they expect, will be Chinese nationals relocating to the Vancouver area. A field ripe for the harvest. Ordained and commissioned on January 18, 2020, Qiang is eager about the opportunities that lie ahead. “My happiest thing,” Qiang comments, “is to share the gospel with others.” May God bless him as he does just that!

*Do you have your own “Qiang” in your congregation? Encourage him to consider a path toward pastoral ministry! Contact the PSI team for more information.*



## UPCOMING CHANGES FOR GROW IN GRACE

Since the first day of Grow in Grace in 2010, Professor Rich Gurgel has filled the role of director. Under God’s grace, he led Grow in Grace in its core mission of connecting pastors to gospel-focused resources for growth in all their callings and to gospel-filled encouragers to support that growth.

In October, Professor Gurgel accepted the call to serve as president of MLC. He fully steps into that new role in July 2020. He has completed almost 22 years of teaching at WLS and 10 years of service as the director of continuing education.

Stepping in as Grow in Grace’s new director will be Professor Tom Kock. Professor Kock has been working closely with Grow in Grace since 2015 as a member of the faculty’s Continuing Education Committee. In that role, Professor Kock has regularly been a part of Grow in Grace team meetings, as well as playing a vital part in Grow in Grace’s annual planning retreats. In the midst of that involvement with Grow in Grace, Professor Kock has already contributed fresh ideas and insights concerning WLS’s continuing education efforts. In addition, Professor Kock’s master’s degree from the University of Indiana is in the area of adult education. All of this has prepared him well to take over the leadership of Grow in Grace.

We look forward to Professor Kock leading the team beginning this fall. We pray for God’s blessings on his work as Grow in Grace continues to partner with pastors for growth in all their callings.

