

New Geneva

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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New Geneva's First Virtual Graduation

When we initiated New Geneva's online studies program, little did we know what value it would have in a time of global pandemic. Because of the new skills we've learned and the new technology we've become familiar with, our students have been able to pursue their degrees without interruption despite the lockdowns and restrictions we've all been faced with.

Offering online instruction is one thing, but what about an online commencement ceremony? We had two students wishing to graduate this year, and since both finished their programs mid-year, we decided to invite them and their families to participate in our first ever *virtual* graduation ceremony on Saturday, January 30.

Robert Brown and Leland McCartney both received their Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree that morning from their homes in Maryland and California. The ceremony contained all the traditional elements of our annual events, with Dr. John Leaf offering the Prayer of Invocation, Dr. Chris Faria reading Scripture, Dr. House giving the Commencement Address from 2 Timothy 2:15, Dr. Aquila giving the Charge to the Graduates, and Dr. Fritz Harms offering the Benediction.

Bob and Leland are both dedicated fathers and active leaders in their church, and we trust the Lord to use their seminary training to open doors of even greater ministry opportunities for them both. You may want to check out Bob's excellent movie reviews featured regularly in *World* magazine.

Everything We Need We Find In Jesus

We have all things in Christ. Christ is all things to a Christian. If we are sick, Jesus is a physician. If we thirst, Jesus is a fountain. If our sins trouble us, Jesus is our righteousness. If we stand in need of help, Jesus is mighty to save. If we fear death, Jesus is life. If we are in darkness, Jesus is light. If we are weak, Jesus is strength. If we are in poverty, Jesus is plenty. If we desire heaven, Jesus is the way. The soul cannot say, 'This I would have, and that I would have.' But having Jesus, he has all he needs—eminently, perfectly, eternally. ~Thomas Brooks

Your Gifts Are Appreciated

Thank you for your regular support to help us provide the highest quality Christ-centered education for our students. Because of the generosity of individuals like you, you are making a difference in the lives of students as they prepare to serve in vocational ministry and church leadership here and around the world. Contact us for more information at 719-573-5395.

Special Fund to Paint and Repair Building Exterior

It has been about twelve years since the exterior of the seminary's building was painted; it is time for a fresh coat of paint and some other repairs. The seminary Board has approved raising funds to cover the cost of this project, which is estimated to be around \$15,000. We are asking our faithful supporters for a special one-time gift to cover the cost of this important project. To support this project, send your one-time gift to New Geneva and indicate it is for the "Paint Project."

Dr. Aquila's Teaching Mission to Our Egypt Extension

Dr. Dominic Aquila will be teaching at New Geneva's extension in Egypt, April 12-23. He will be joined by three other instructors who be teaching other courses for the sixty students enrolled. We will be using the conference center run by the Presbyterian Church of Egypt. Pray for fruitful teaching, safety and good health.

Introducing Dr. Fritz Harms

Through the years New Geneva has benefitted from the training and expertise of local pastors, elders, chaplains, and other qualified Christian leaders who have served the seminary as visiting and adjunct professors. The latest addition to our teaching staff is Dr. Fritz Harms, who is the pastor of Covenant Reformed Church (URC) in Colorado Springs. Dr. Harms holds the M.Div. from Westminster Seminary in California and the Th.M and Ph.D. from the Theological University of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. He has pastored churches in South Dakota and Vermont and has taught courses overseas in Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, and India. We welcome Dr. Harms, who will be teaching in our Systematic Theology department.

Waiting For Our Glorious Redemption In Christ

When the banner of glory shall be displayed over you, you shall be as the angels of God, you shall never have a sinful thought more; no pain or grief, no aching head or unbelieving heart. You shall see Christ's face, and lie forever in his arms; you shall be as Joseph (Gen. 41:14). They brought him hastily out of the dungeon, and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. Long for that time, when you shall put off your prison garments, and change your raiment, and put on the embroidered garment of glory. Oh long for it! Yet be content to wait for this full and glorious redemption, when you shall be more happy than you can desire, when you shall have 'that which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor can it enter into man's heart to conceive.' ~Thomas Watson



Trusting God through a Great Transition

The following contains excerpts from Dr. House's interview with Steve Wuori, a missionary pastor and Christian educator in Ecuador who is currently enrolled in New Geneva's online Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program. The complete interview is available on video at <https://vimeo.com/534500320>.

MH: Steve, tell us a little bit about your background.

SW: I grew up in a non-Christian home, and in my teens and twenties I was in a pretty desperate situation, in bondage to sin—mainly alcohol. I tried to give it up on several occasions of my own power, but failed every time. In Alcoholics Anonymous they call them “white-knuckle drunks,” where they’re just trying to clench their fists and get through every day. They don’t have any freedom—they want to drink, but they just resist every day with their own will power, and there’s really no peace in the soul. That’s where I was at.

MH: So how did all that change for you?

SW: One morning, I said, “Why don’t I go to a church and see if they have any answers.” So I walked to a nearby church one Sunday morning, listened to the preaching, and filled out the visitor card. The pastor called me and said, “Do you mind if I come visit you?” I thought, “Now what in the world does this guy want?”

The pastor came to my house and spent two hours with me. Later he came back and brought the younger pastor, who asked me, “When you die, do you think you’re going to go to heaven?” I said, “No, I know I’m not going to go to heaven. I’ve lived a terrible life, and I know that God won’t forgive me, and that I will be punished for my sin.” So he said, “What would you say if I could show you from the Bible that you can have forgiveness.” I said, “Well that’s what I’ve been waiting to hear. Show me, please.” So he opened up to Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 8 and 9, and read that to me. I confessed my sin, the Lord gave me faith. One year later, to the day, I left my job in the financial services sector and moved down to Pensacola, Florida, to attend an independent Baptist seminary. One month after graduating, I moved to Ecuador to serve the Lord on the mission field.

MH: What was it that prompted you to make such a big change and get involved in cross-cultural ministry in Ecuador?

SW: During my third year in seminary, I noticed my fellow students having specific plans for ministry, so I thought, “Maybe God has a plan for me as well.” I really didn’t have a great desire to minister in the United States, because there are a lot of churches, and the gospel is well known here, so I began to pray about what God would have for me. I had studied Spanish for four years in high school, and I wondered if God was preparing me to serve him in a Spanish-speaking country. A friend of mine, Carlos, had been born in Ecuador. On three different occasions he had invited me to come and visit his country. The first two times I refused, saying that I had no interest in visiting to Ecuador. But the third time, in my third year in seminary, as I was praying for God’s direction, Carlos again approached me to visit his country. This time I was ready. I went to Ecuador with Carlos, and we traveled the country. I returned to Ecuador the following summer, after I graduated, and I’ve been here ever since. After a year in Ecuador, I married Carlos’ cousin, and we moved to the Amazon jungle to minister to the indigenous Kichwa people there.

MH: Tell us what it was like raising a family in that context.

SW: When we first went into the jungle, we went to a community where there was intermittent electricity, no internet, no restaurants in the town, and no running water. During the dry months of the year we would bathe in the river. The Kichwas were not very accepting of outsiders. People actually threatened our lives and

said they were going to come at night and burn our house and stone us. Still, knowing that God had called me, I was able to get through all the difficulties. Despite the opposition, the Lord allowed us to open up an elementary school there, and that gave us better inroads into the community.

For the past two years we’ve been in Quito, a city of three million, and I’ve been working at an international Christian school as well as serving at a United Reformed Church plant. My kids have been able to make friends with other American children as well as those from England and South Africa.

MH: I know you’re planning to move back to the United States. What prompted that change in plans?

SW: It really came down to family concerns. My mother has come to Ecuador to visit every year. But my dad, who is seventy-four, is not in good health and recently had a health scare. So I see the move as an opportunity to help care for my parents and be with them in the last years of their lives. Also, my kids have never spent any length of time with my dad, and he still hasn’t even met my youngest. The Lord has provided an opportunity for me to be the headmaster of a Christian school in New Hampshire, just two hours from my parents’ home in Massachusetts.

MH: Tell us how your relationship with New Geneva Seminary got started, and a little of your experience studying at New Geneva in the Doctor of Ministry program.

SW: When I was in seminary, there was a doctor of theology there who described himself as a “reformed dispensationalist.” Through him I was introduced to the five points of Calvinism. The school also had an incredible library where I would go and read great Reformed books. As I read the writings of men like Calvin, Luther, and Edwards, I realized that this is what the Bible teaches. But I wanted to further my education at

a Reformed Seminary, so I started looking at the various options. When I saw that New Geneva’s D.Min. degree was available online, I jumped at the opportunity.

MH: So how do you think this D.Min. course will benefit you in your work as a Christian school administrator?

SW: Working as the Administrative Director in the international Christian school where I currently serve, I have already been seeing benefits from the courses that I’ve taken. New Geneva’s Leadership class taught me how to relate better with the dozens of people who report to me. I’ve learned how to be a better shepherd to those I serve in their individual careers and in serving the Lord at the school. The Counseling course I took relates directly to the number of situations where people come to the director with problems, needing advice and counseling. The Worship course I took more recently has helped with the public worship class we have here at the seminary in Quito.

In my future job, my goal is not only to serve at the school as its headmaster, but I would like to continue to use the gifts that God has given me for preaching and teaching. As I graduate from New Geneva, I’m praying that God will give me an opportunity to serve in a Reformed church when I return to the states.

MH: Share a few prayer requests for our readers so they can support you as you go through the upcoming transition.

SW 1. Please pray for my dad’s health going forward.

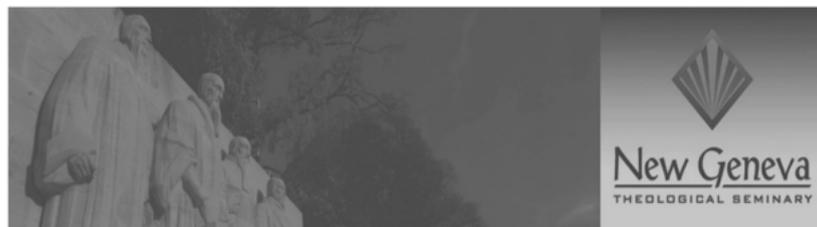
2. The biggest obstacle we face in this move relates to my wife’s visa, because there is a two-year waiting period. If I can show that the separation would cause an extreme hardship on my family, she may be able to get a visa in about six months.

3. Pray that my family will find a good Reformed church where we can become solid members and where I will have the opportunity to serve.



Steve Wuori with wife Veronica and children Grace, Owen, Will, and Calvin

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Please use my gift to support New Geneva as it continues to teach the truth of God's Word to train the future generation of ministry leaders here and throughout the world.

- Please use my gift of \$ _____ to sustain and encourage New Geneva in its teaching ministry.
- Please use my special gift of \$ _____ for New Geneva's plan to enhance student scholarships and programs.
- I am committing to pray regularly for New Geneva.