

WESTERN REFORMED SEMINARY



Celebrating 25 Years of God's Blessing!

“Every denomination needs a newspaper and a seminary!” said J. Gresham Machen, the early leader who started our separatist Presbyterian church. This is true today for the Bible Presbyterian Church. Western Reformed Seminary (WRS) has been operating for twenty-five years now. Its mission is to provide spiritually grounded, knowledgeable, capable, and dedicated ministers, missionaries, and other workers for our Bible Presbyterian Church and for other conservative Reformed and Presbyterian churches here and around the world.

In 1982 the Northwest Presbytery approved the plan for the seminary, and in 1983 the seminary was incorporated and the first classes were held. In 1985 WRS became an approved agency of the whole Bible Presbyterian Synod, and today it is the only approved seminary of our denomination. During the past twenty-five years WRS has graduated thirty-seven students; in addition many more have taken courses at the seminary. Many graduates now serve as ministers, missionaries, and Christian workers in our BP churches. They have been trained not only in the general Christian and Reformed doctrines, but in our Bible Presbyterian distinctives as well.

God has given the seminary many blessings. Volunteers have transformed the spacious facilities in the Tacoma Bible Presbyterian Church to a comfortable and pleasant place to work and study. The Ladies' Auxiliary provides many special helps and encouragements. The seminary is now recognized by important agencies: the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries, the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors, and the Association of Christian Schools International, in addition to the appropriate government agencies.

The seminary's motto, “in Spirit and in truth,” comes from John 4:24; we must have both true doctrine, and a burning passion for God and his church. WRS seeks to foster both.

Save Friday, April 11, for our annual
SPAGHETTI IN THE SPRING Banquet!

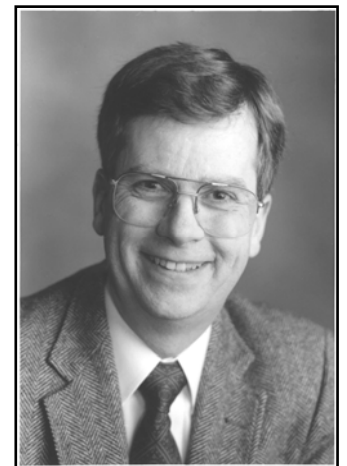
A Lesson from an Easter Sunday

Last year my wife and I attended two services in London on Easter Sunday. The first was the morning worship service at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle, where Dr. Peter Masters preaches. He gave a tremendous gospel message, faithful to the Bible. Nearly a thousand enthusiastic Christians filled the pews; they followed along in their Bibles, sang joyfully, and rejoiced in the message of Jesus' resurrection.

That same afternoon we went to Westminster Abbey to observe the service there. The Church of England is the official state church, and Westminster Abbey is the national church, where all British monarchs are crowned. Yet only a few people were there, mostly curious tourists. That vast building was nearly empty. The service took place behind a screen, barely visible to most of the people. Hardly anyone sang the hymns or showed any devotion, in spite of the rich processions, elaborate gowns, ceremonies, incense, and pomp.

The preacher of the day, the Rev. Robert Reiss, Canon in Residence, declared that some in his church believed in the physical resurrection of Jesus, and others did not. It did not matter much, he said, which view was right, because “practice is more important than belief.” This lifeless sermon seemed a pathetic center to a lifeless service. What a tragedy, that the church of so many faithful Protestant and Puritan martyrs, that still uses a liturgy largely taken from the Bible, now has fallen into such unbelief and spiritual deadness!

The contrast of these two churches impressed on me the great importance of Western Reformed Seminary, training our church leaders for the years to come. Your prayers and support are essential, and we praise God for you. Help us build faithful, vibrant churches to the glory of God!



John A. Battle
WRS President