

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

*A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"*

~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 35 No. 3

July 2022

Terry Carter, Editor

## Exciting Changes at Summit

Those who support us here at Summit on a regular basis have already heard most of the news in this article. However, not all who read the Gospel Unashamed get the support letters and thus they may not be aware of all that is happening here. This article is primarily for those who have not yet heard of the exciting changes at Summit.

The world around us is changing rapidly. That statement was true even before the Covid pandemic hit more than two years ago. However, the pandemic has significantly accelerated some of those changes that were already happening. As a result of the world around us changing, we have all had to adapt to the new reality in which we find ourselves. Summit Theological Seminary is no exception. Because of these changes we must adapt to function effectively in today's world.

In 1984, George Faull saw the need for distance learning to allow men in the ministry to get their degree without leaving their churches and moving off to a seminary. Quickly Summit Theological Seminary was a leader in this field and others followed.

In 2012, we saw the need for a residence undergraduate program and started the School of Preaching. We have always adjusted to meet the growing need of "Teaching God's Word to God's world".

The present trend in education finds many students, both current and potential, asking for online course options. In the midst of these changing student expectations and education methods, Summit is taking steps in faith to meet this need in training preachers of the Gospel.

The potential for what can be accomplished through this model of education is unlimited. Students from virtually anywhere can attend classes from wherever they can access the internet, whether with a computer or phone.

An additional benefit is seen in the ability to use instructors who cannot drive to Peru, IN to teach. There are some wonderfully talented and Biblically solid instructors that we would love to use at Summit through this new online option.

The trend towards online classes affects Summit in other ways as well. Our need for a dormitory has changed. Our dorm building has been a wonderful facility. The rooms were better than any college dorm I have ever seen.

However, over the years, with no more than ten students occupying rooms, we have not needed the 60-student capacity which the building provides. Furthermore, the maintenance has been consistently costly and challenging.

As a result of all that I have said here, Summit is planning on making the following changes:

1. Starting this fall semester, we intend to make all of our classes available online. There will be challenges to this, but it is clear that this is the trend going forward. In the past, Summit has always led the way in changing models of education, and we need to continue doing this in the future. This does not mean that we will not be having any in person classes this fall. Our evening classes will be in person and perhaps some of the daytime classes as well. We do have a couple of classes that will be online only because the professor does not live locally to Summit.
2. Summit has accepted an offer on the dorm building at full asking price. Please pray that things go well with inspection and that there be no issues that keep us from closing quickly. Selling the dorm helps us in a number of ways:
  - a. It will eliminate the cost of operating that building (nearly \$65,000 in 2021, not including loan repayment).
  - b. Equity gained from sale of the dormitory will provide sufficient resources to fund our transition into online classes and the online store as well as funding additional improvements in other STS programs.

The lack of a dorm building will not hinder our ability to continue training

preachers for the Lord's Kingdom. In fact, it can make things better. There is no need for students to move to Peru, IN to attend residence classes. There are no dorm fees to pay. There is no need to travel back and forth between their home and Summit. Students can live at their current home and attend classes on their computer or phone while continuing to work at their current job or serve in their present ministry.

We are excited about the potential of these changes. They will give us the ability to reach students who could not have been reached under our current operating model. They will also allow us to utilize some very effective instructors that we could not use otherwise. We believe the future of Summit is bright indeed.

Since we first announced these changes in May, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. That response included a couple of sizable gifts that have really been a help in moving forward with our plans. I am very pleased to announce that Summit is now debt free. With the gifts we have received in May we were able to pay off the dorm building. These gifts have also provided the resources that we need to get setup for online classes this fall.

We have also been able to recruit online students that could not be resident students and would probably not have been independent study students. Some of these students live hundreds of miles from Summit; others are closer.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received and continue to receive from the Lord's people. We encourage you to continue to partner with us in our mission to "Teach God's Word to God's World".