Welcome

Horizons is the latest initiative of the PhD and ThD programs at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary to share information and promote networking of doctoral students, professors and other people interested in the doctoral programs. We hope that this monthly
newsletter will become a channel of communication between the PhD and ThD programs, current doctoral students, doctoral alumni, and those interested in supporting these programs in any way.

New PhD in Biblical and ANE Archaeology

Dissertation on Final Generation Theology

Life Changing Trip to SBL

Recent Graduations and Advancements

New Program Director

Dr. Tom Shepherd was recently appointed to be the new director of the PhD in Religion and ThD programs at the Seminary. The previous director, Dr. Rudi Maier, accepted a call to serve as the new director of ADRA.

Dr. Shepherd holds a PhD in New Testament from Andrews University (1991) and a Doctorate in Public Health from Loma Linda University (1976). He has been teaching as Professor of New Testament Interpretation at the Seminary for four years. Previously, he served as Professor of Religion and Ethics at Union College in Lincoln, NE (1994-2007), Professor of Theology at Centro Universitario Adventista, Brazil (1992-1994), and Health Director for ADRA in Malawi (1979-1985).
Scholarships for Attendance at Professional Meetings

A total of $26,000 has been donated for PhD and ThD students in the Seminary to attend professional meetings in the 2012-2013 school year. Funds came from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the School of Graduate Studies at Andrews University, the Seminary Dean's Office and an anonymous donor.

Twenty-six doctoral students will attend this year's professional meetings in San Francisco in November and 15 of these will present papers or posters.

New PhD in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology

Dr. Randall Younker, Program Director

The new PhD in Archaeology came into existence beginning in the Fall term of 2010. We currently have 9 students in this program. Six transferred from the PhD in Religion with an archaeology emphasis: Christie Chadwick, Owen Chestnut, Phil Drey, Jeff Hudon, Kris Udd and Ron Wakeman, and three began their studies in the new program—Stephanie Elkins, Abe Rivas, and Sabal Zaben.

Archaeology is considered by some to be the "third biblical language"—after Hebrew and
Greek (we know Aramaic is important too!). Archaeology is the only source of new information about the Bible that comes from the time of the Bible. It provides us with a cultural and historical context for the biblical story and can sometimes provide answers that arise when people read the biblical text.

Andrews University has become famous for its archeological research and we have had many inquiries from interested individuals. We offer the only PhD in Biblical Archaeology in a Christian context. We have a good reputation, a long history of field work and publication, a good artifact collection, labs, a great faculty, and great interest among students, so it made sense to start a PhD.

Archaeology can often help answer questions that the Biblical text poses or clarify misunderstandings—especially questions on culture or history. Archaeology thereby helps us understand the Bible better and makes us more competent ministers of the Word.

When students apply to the PhD program in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology they may select one of two areas of emphasis: Biblical Archaeology or Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology. Each emphasis has areas of specialized study as listed below:

**Biblical Archaeology**
- Biblical History and Archaeology
- ANE Archaeology
- ANE Languages
- Fieldwork, Method and Theory

**Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology**
- Anthropology of Ancient Peoples
- Ethnography and Ethnoarchaeology
- ANE Languages
Seminary Outstanding Dissertation Award 2011

At this year’s summer commencement, Christon Arthur, the Dean of Graduate Studies, awarded two doctoral graduates with awards for outstanding dissertations in 2010-2011. One of those recipients was Paul Evans, who graduated in 2010 with a PhD in Religion in Adventist Studies. Horizons interviewed him regarding his dissertation:

Please describe your study and its conclusions.

My dissertation is an attempt to trace possible historical antecedents to the final-generation theology of M. L. Andreasen. I concluded that the strongest ties are to E. J. Waggoner, when it comes to the concept of a perfected people vindicating God at the end of time. However, when I looked at the idea of perfect overcoming of sin as a necessity for those preparing for translation (disregarding its role in vindicating God), there is widespread support among Adventist writers, including E. G. White. There is some support in both E. G. White and other writers for the concept of end-time saints having a role in vindicating God, but it is often implicit, not explicit.

What led you to this study?

I was surprised when I heard in one of my classes at the Seminary that this idea can be traced back to M. L. Andreasen—that a final generation overcomes sin, which vindicates God in the great controversy. I had thought this was an idea found in E. G. White and the Bible. I decided I’d like to either confirm what I had heard, or debunk it—one or the other!

Did you find anything that surprised you?

Yes, I was surprised by a number of things. For one, it seemed that Adventists of earlier years talked much more freely about the need for complete overcoming of sin than we do today. I knew it would be different, but was surprised by the extent of this. I was also surprised that the concept of a last-generation vindication of God was present in writers as diverse as E. J. Waggoner and Uriah Smith. On the other hand, I was somewhat surprised that although Ellen White makes clear that complete overcoming of sin is a
necessary preparation for translation, and even though she indicates that God is depending on human witnesses in his controversy with Satan, I could not find any place where she brought these two ideas together, as Andreasen did.

**What impact do you hope that your research will have on the church?**

As researchers, we try to be objective and avoid pastoral concerns, but I have wanted for a long time to have a role in bringing Adventists together theologically. I don't know if my work will further that dream, but that is what I hope.

It seems clear to me that Andreasen came to be seen as a sort of pariah figure after his objections to *Questions on Doctrine*. His views came to be looked upon with suspicion by many. Others have made him their champion. I don't see where Adventists ever really had an adult discussion of his last-generation views. There doesn't seem to have been much awareness of the implications of his positions until the *Questions on Doctrine* crisis. After that, it looks like we have wanted to discard anything connected with him.

**Why did you spend such a large amount of time and money to accomplish this task? Is a PhD really worth the trouble?**

If it were only for me, it might still have been worth it. But the value of serious research and study to the life of the church, and society at large, is greater than is often realized. A doctoral student devotes an embarrassing amount of time and effort to a topic (normally, church workers cannot hope to make these kinds of in-depth studies during their productive years). The results benefit the church as a whole. The Adventist Church, particularly, has everything to gain from honest scholarship and research, I believe.

**How can interested readers find out more about your study and its upcoming publication?**

The dissertation is available online [here](#). I am in the process of reducing and simplifying it to a book that will be a little more easily digested by interested readers of a less scholarly bent. If anyone would like to be placed on a notification list, they can contact me at evanspm@andrews.edu.

*Dr. Evans is currently a full-time instructor in the School of Theology at Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea, where he lives with his wife, Sung, also an Andrews University graduate.*
A Life-Changing Trip to SBL

*Amanda McGuire-Moushon (PhD in Religion: Old Testament Studies)*

As a sophomore at Union College, I took a NT Greek Exegesis class with Dr. Tom Shepherd. He encouraged our class to go to the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) that year, and two of us ended up carpooling with him and another professor down to Nashville.

At SBL my eyes were opened to the vast and thriving world of biblical scholarship. As a result of that trip, and my many subsequent excursions to SBL, I have been able to enrich my educational experience. Meeting and conversing with some of the top scholars in my field has encouraged me to continue on in my academic studies.

I have completed my course work for the PhD in Religion at Andrews University in Old Testament and am now preparing for comprehensive exams. I am looking forward to attending SBL again this year in San Francisco!

### Recent Graduations and Advancements to Candidacy

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Consider Sponsorship

The PhD and ThD students at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary have boldly accepted God's call to invest several years preparing to serve the church as scholars. The majority rely on scholarships and part-time work to cover both tuition and living expenses.

Consider the privilege of supporting this spiritual and academic journey!

Contact the PhD and ThD program office today: (269) 471-6002 or trs@andrews.edu.
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<th><strong>Director</strong></th>
<th><strong>Office</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Tom Shepherd</td>
<td>Mabel Bowen</td>
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