March MEETING

Presentation Title:
“The Role of Faith Based Colleges in the World of Higher Education”

Speakers:
Drs. Dick Osborn and Richard Winn, Vice Presidents
Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Date/Time: March 5, Sabbath, 10:00 a.m. (1 p.m. discussion time)

Place: Tierrasanta SDA Church
11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92124
Church phone: 858-576-9990

DIRECTIONS:
From Orange County:
I-5 south to I-805 south to Hwy 52 east to Santo Rd south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd left (east) to 11260. (SDA church is nicely nestled between a Lutheran and a Catholic church on a hill to the left of the boulevard.)

From Riverside/San Bernardino:
I-15 south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd/ Hwy 52 exit. Turn left (east) and proceed two miles to church on left.

From San Diego/South Bay:
I-5 or I-805 north to I-8 east to I-15 north to Clairemont Mesa Blvd then right (east) two miles to church on left.

From East County:
Hwy 52 west to Santo Road, then south to Clairemont Mesa Blvd, then left (east) one mile to the church.

About the Topic

Did you attend college and/or university at a secular institution or an institution linked to a religious organization? How do you rate that educational experience years or decades later? Do you cherish your education or do you wish (sometimes at least) that you had attended a school of the other type than you did—secular or faith based? Drs. Osborn and Winn will reflect on their own backgrounds in faith based higher education in light of their current work of accreditation with the 161 senior colleges/universities accredited by WASC. Many of those institutions are faith based including non-denominational Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and some that might not be considered faith based but have a strong philosophical orientation. The United States is one of the few countries in the world with such a wide variety of faith based institutions.

Questions to Ponder

Within the broader context of American higher education, what role do these institutions play in the United States? How effective are they in transmitting faith? Which models for faith transmission have been used on these campuses? Many have broadened their mission beyond their own denomination with a strong body of research pointing to warning signs that secularization is inevitable if this happens. Are these implications seen in all institutions or is it possible to remain faith based while broadening your mission? What happens when faith conflicts with the broader findings of particular disciplines such as science? How can a faith based institution walk in both the world of Athens and Jerusalem? Is the phrase “Christian university” an oxymoron as some critics suggest? Is the role of faith based institutions one of indoctrination or exploration? Accreditation standards call for institutional autonomy, academic freedom, faculty governance, and general education content generally accepted by the scholarly community. How do faith institutions carry out these standards while remaining faithful to their mission? How does WASC allow for different missions while still retaining a commitment to its Standards? Currently three Seventh-day Adventist institutions are accredited by WASC – La Sierra University, Loma Linda University, and Pacific Union College – with a fourth self-supporting institution, Weimar Institute, beginning the process of seeking accreditation. What role do they play within the broader region of WASC? Are they contributing anything unique to the broader world of higher education?

About the Presenters

Richard (Dick) Osborn, WASC Vice President, joined WASC in July 2009 after serving eight years as President of Pacific Union College in Napa Valley, California. In addition to working with 41 senior colleges/universities in WASC, he works in helping manage several functions including the substantive change process and information technology. Dick has enjoyed the experience of growing up in international locations as the child of missionary parents, including Lebanon and Uruguay. He has served at every level within Adventist education, including as teacher, principal, and superintendent at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. As a regional and national education vice president for the Columbia Union and North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists,
he served as board member/consultant for fifteen college/university boards conducting many training sessions and presenting strategic planning and other seminars. He also has served in various capacities on several hospital boards. Dick’s leadership capacity in several state and national associations includes recent service as Chair of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities and past service as President of the Council for American Private Education, Co-Chair, Executives in Church-Related Higher Education, and a member of the Secretariat, National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities. Dick has an undergraduate degree from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, and an MA and a PhD in History from the University of Maryland, specializing in colonial Virginia history.

Richard Winn, Vice President, was appointed to WASC in 2003. Following work as a pastor, secondary school teacher, and textbook author, he worked more than 15 years as a faculty member at several colleges including Pacific Union College and he served as Assistant Dean for Curriculum at Western University’s College of Medicine. He recently concluded his third term as a member of the Board of Examiners for the National Baldrige Quality Award. He is also a public member of the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. In addition to supporting a portfolio of institutions, Richard oversees the eligibility process, as well as WASC relations with the U.S. Department of Education and with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Richard graduated from Pacific Union College and Andrews University and holds an EdD in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne. Richard’s dissertation examined universities that employed the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria to achieve their reaffirmation of accreditation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20-22 – 13th Annual SDAF Retreat

The B-List: Early Christian Writings That Didn't Make the Cut (into the Bible)—and What They Tell Us about the Early Church

Dr. John R. Jones, LSU School of Religion

Are you aware that there are documents, including some that have come to light rather recently, that have titles such as The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Peter, The Gospel of Mary, The Acts of Paul and many others that were not included in the New Testament? Why were they written and why are they not part of the Bible? What do these other “gospels” teach us about Jesus, his relationship with Mary, the early Christian church and its appeal to women. What is “Q” and what do we know about it? Dr. Jones will lead us in a fascinating journey as he answers these and many other questions. See the attached Information and Registration Form for more information about this years retreat.

SDAF NEWS

In case you were wondering …more than 100 people attended the January 8, 2011 SDAF meeting when Drs. Brian Bull and Fritz Guy presented a unique perspective on Genesis 1 by educating attendees on what the first audience of the ancient text really heard. More questions were submitted during the 1 p.m. discussion session than could be handled before the meeting had to be concluded to allow travel time for those wishing to attend Dr. Graham Maxwell’s memorial service at the Loma Linda University Church. As always, CD and audiocassette recordings of the meeting are available.

2011 is a Bargain Membership Year: In view of the recent Board of Directors vote to extend the membership year by six months—this is the ideal year to join SDAF. When you pay the current dues, your membership will be valid until December 31, 2011—that’s a bargain! Use the membership application below or download one from the SDAF link on the www.tsdachurch.org website and mail it with your payment. Media (Cd & audiocassette) subscriptions may be ordered on the same form. Do it now, you won’t regret it!

SDAF needs your support:
Since membership dues support only a portion of membership benefits, we rely on financial contributions to help us continue scheduling the quality programs you have come to expect from SDAF. Our media program is self-sustaining only because of the dedication of our officers and volunteers who provide their time and services as a gift to the organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift now—we need your support!

San Diego Adventist Forum
Membership / Subscription Application
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2010-1 membership (single $30/couple $40) $____________
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SDAF, PO Box 3148, La Mesa, CA 91944-3148

Are you aware that there are documents, including some that have come to light rather recently, that have titles such as The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Peter, The Gospel of Mary, The Acts of Paul and many others that were not included in the New Testament? Why were they written and why are they not part of the Bible? What do these other “gospels” teach us about Jesus, his relationship with Mary, the early Christian church and its appeal to women. What is “Q” and what do we know about it? Dr. Jones will lead us in a fascinating journey as he answers these and many other questions. See the attached Information and Registration Form for more information about this year's retreat.