



NEW DEAN FOR ENGLISH SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

After of much prayer and searching, Dr. Fletcher Tink has been appointed to head the English School of Theology beginning January 2014.



Dr. Tink earned a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Intercultural Studies, specializing in Urban Anthropological Studies, Urban Ministries and Leadership Development; Master of Arts in Missiology from Fuller Theological Seminary; Master of Liberal Arts from Harvard University; Master of Theology from Luther Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary; and Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Psychology from Eastern Nazarene College .

Dr. Tink served as adjunct professor of Urban and Compassionate Ministries at Nazarene Theological Seminary for six years, and is the former Executive Director of the Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries, a training institution for those seeking or serving in the urban environment.

Dr. Tink has served in urban community development for the Peace Corps in Brasilia, Brazil and as a church planter in pioneer areas of Bolivia. He has taught formal accredited courses in 28 nations for such institutions as Azusa Pacific University, Fuller Seminary, Eastern Nazarene College, Indiana Wesleyan University, Messiah College, European Naz-

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VIETNAMESE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The Vietnamese School of Theology held a Christmas concert on December 26, 2013 at First Presbyterian Church in Garden Grove, California.

This is an annual event organized with the purposes of singing and listening to Christmas

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New Dean for English School of Theology (continued)

arene Bible College, Alliance Theological Seminary (in Manila), Washington Bible College (DC), and Eastern Mennonite University and MidAmerican Nazarene University and SENDAS (in Costa Rica). He teaches in three languages and has ministered in, or travelled through, 95 countries.

Dr. Tink has pastored in Washington, DC. Minneapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, and La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He has served as a consultant to World Vision, Pew Foundation, Urban Ventures, and to various denominational boards and committees. He has written extensively on urban and compassionate ministry issues in *Christianity Today*, *Missiology*, *Holiness Today*, *Ministry* and numerous other magazines and journals.

UUC is very excited to have Dr. Tink join our leadership team. With his many years in cross-cultural ministry and academia, Dr. Tink will definitely not only help the English programs but will be helpful in other language programs as well.

Dr. Tink, welcome aboard!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Jesus wept."

John 11:35

"Always rejoice."

1 Thessalonians 5:16

"Unceasingly pray."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

As a boy I learned somewhere that the shortest verse in the Bible is "Jesus wept." It was the verse the lazy boys always wanted to choose when asked to memorize a verse of scripture. I was not one of those lazy boys, and I loved to memorize long passages of the Bible. But still there is something to be said for brevity. What is short is often memorable.

And there is something theologically profound about the shortest verse being "Jesus wept." What a powerful message—that the One through whom all things are created and in whom all things hold together, the one who is the Word of God made flesh and the light of the world, the one who is the way and the truth and the

life, would weep for the world and for us. No wonder the conclusion, near the end of the scriptures, is that "God is love."

In its context, Jesus' weeping is about the death of his friend Lazarus and the sorrow of Lazarus' family and friends. Jesus is touched by death's reality, and perhaps also offended by death's intrusion into the world God created to be a gift of life. And he is touched by human sorrow, around him and within him. So he weeps. The fact that he weeps before he raises Lazarus from the dead tells us that Jesus' mission on earth is more about compassion than power. He could have raised Lazarus without any weeping. Instead he enters into our human condition and loves us. The Savior is full of graciousness, kindness and empathy. His weeping shows us that his love is personal. That is why I follow him.

There is one other mention in the New Testament of Jesus weeping. It is when Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Luke 19:41). Seeing the city, he weeps. He weeps because the city will not receive him. It "does not recognize the time of its visitation" and so it is doomed

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Message from the President (continued)

to misery and sorrow. The compassion of Jesus is not just for individuals, but for cities and nations and peoples and the whole world. That also is why I follow him. A few years ago I discovered that “Jesus wept” is not the only shortest verse in the Bible. There are two others just as short and, in fact, shorter in the original Greek language (“Jesus wept” is actually 3 words in Greek).

“Rejoice always” the apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians. In this section of his letter Paul is exhorting the Thessalonian church about how to live as followers of Jesus. “Rejoice always” he says. In every circumstance, never stop rejoicing. I believe that this scripture is possible only because “Jesus wept.” We can rejoice in any circumstance because we know Jesus wept for us and for the world. We know he is always with us. And that he who wept for Lazarus also had the power to raise him from the dead. And that he who wept over Jerusalem indicated that the day would eventually come when Jerusalem (and all the world) would be able to say from the heart, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

It is only because Jesus wept that we can rejoice in every circumstance, and despite every suffering.

The third 2 word verse in the Bible is “Unceasingly pray.” The English translation often uses three words: “Pray without ceasing.” But in Greek it is two words.

Again I see a connection to the other “shortest verses.” Because Jesus wept we can always rejoice, comforted and reassured by his constant love and power. But we must also enter into the work of compassion with him. The world suffers. People suffer. The world is not right. People do not know the gospel. The power of Jesus is not the only power in the world. And some power brings suffering, injustice and sorrow. So we enter into the work with Jesus. And much of the work is to pray, in fact to pray “unceasingly.” We pray for a better world. We pray for the kingdom to come on earth. We pray for God’s will to be done here as it is done in heaven. We pray that the knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth, as the waters cover the sea. With all our prayers, we say the “Amen,” the “Yes” to the work of Jesus in the world.

As we enter a new year as followers of Jesus, I invite you to let the Bible’s shortest verses be your guide this month. Jesus wept. Always rejoice. Pray ceaselessly.

Rev. Dr. Dale Sewall
President

Vietnamese School of Theology Christmas Concert (continued)



carols, bringing God's people together from different denominations and cultures, and also presenting Union University of California to the Vietnamese community.

Like the previous concerts held by UUC, we had the participation from Vietnamese and Indonesian singers. This year we also had a special participation from the Romanian choir of Bethel Baptist Church and the Vietnamese-American String Orchestra.

Approximately 600 people attended the event.

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UUC DAY OF PRAYER

UUC's
Board of Directors
invites UUC students,
faculty and friends
to join them
in prayer for UUC on
the **first Monday**
of the month.



www.uuc.edu

THANKSGIVINGS

- We are thankful for Dr. Fletcher Tink, the new UUC Dean of English School of Theology.
- We are thankful that UUC's application for accreditation from DETC has been submitted.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Dr. Dale Sewall's mission trip to Cambodia, January 10-25, 2014.
- Pray for Dr. Tink's new role at UUC and his recovery from injuries caused by a recent motorcycle accident in Nepal.
- Pray for the continued work on the accreditation process by UUC staff members.
- Pray for God to prepare the hearts and minds of students for study during the new module which begins on January 6, 2014.

SUPPORT UUC

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