

ACCESS UNION



December 2015

A Ministry of Remembering and Presence

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoner, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me...in prison and you visited me."
Matthew 25:35-36

The mission of Union University of California began with the experience of suffering and of being received and welcomed by strangers. For some of our faculty and staff, our beginning included the experience of prison, and then release and deportation. We remember the suffering of the boat people; and of needing to leave family, position, possession and homeland behind. UUC's values and commitments were formed in that suffering. And we will remain committed to suffering people and the oppressed church for as long as we exist.

When Vietnamese refugees came to the United States, World Relief was one of the agencies that offered welcome and help. I learned recently that World Relief's work in the United States began with the Vietnamese immigration in 1975. Today my wife volunteers with World Relief Seattle, and the director of World Relief Seattle is exploring with UUC how our courses might be beneficial to both World Relief staff and refugees. Their work of welcoming the stranger continues in a world where more people are displaced and uprooted from their homelands than ever before. At UUC, we remember being strangers and being those who suffered. We want our students to remember the words of our Lord that "*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*" And we seek to faithfully remember in prayer our current students who are suffering oppression and poverty at this moment.

In countries where the church is persecuted and oppressed, Christians must be cautious about strangers who might betray them. But at the same time the church remains called to welcome the stranger who is in need. This requires wisdom that the western church does not have. So we must hold up Christ's teaching to welcome the stranger, and leave it to our brothers and sisters living under oppression to figure out how to implement this teaching in their context.

But we who are not living under oppression must find ways to live these teachings ourselves. That is one reason I began going to prisons in Washington State. I have become a sponsor of the Black Prisoners' Caucus and am becoming a sponsor of the Concerned Lifers Organization (men sentenced to life in prison). In both groups I have found many who are Christians, and who are encouraged by the presence of Christians who remember and care for them. I almost always leave prison feeling spiritually uplifted, as though I had somehow been in the presence of Christ himself (as he said in Matthew 25).

Last week I was on a crowded street in Seattle. A man was there, holding up a sign, asking for money. I watched him for a while. Everyone was ignoring him, passing by as though he was invisible. I went up and talked to him. He was a convicted felon, a former heroin addict and drug dealer, who had served 3 years in prison. He said he was trying to follow the ways of the Lord, but it was hard and he was discouraged. He said our

(continued on page 2)

| | |
|---|---|
| A Ministry of Remembering and Presence | 1 |
| Emotional Intelligence and Leadership | 2 |
| Accreditation: A Personal Reflection | 3 |
| Course Offerings | 4 |
| Pray for our Students! | 4 |
| UUC Celebrates 30 Years of God's Faithfulness | 4 |

conversation gave him hope. In a small way I welcomed a stranger, recognized his dignity as a human being, and discovered a person trying against great odds to be a follower of Jesus. We exchanged email addresses. I don't know where the relationship will go from here. I am praying for guidance about that. And I pray for him every night.

In order to share the "whole gospel" of Jesus Christ, we must not only tell the gospel, but also live the life Jesus taught us to live. In this way our words will explain why we live as we live; and our lives will be the proof that our words about Jesus are true.

Please join me in praying for those who suffer, those who are sick, those who are strangers, and those who are in prison. Also pray for the church, that whether oppressed or free we may be obedient to the life Jesus calls us to live.



Dale Sewall - UUC President

Emotional Intelligence and Leadership

A dialogue with Dr. Christine Wood, UUC professor of "Emotional Intelligence in Leadership" this fall.

UUC: *Christine, what is Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and why would UUC offer such a course for pastors?*

CW: I think of emotional intelligence as an umbrella term for Biblical ethics, how we treat ourselves and how we treat others. It's a way to fulfill the second greatest commandment and the Golden Rule. Every one of the "one another" directives of the New Testament finds shade under this umbrella term. Simply stated, emotional intelligence is the ability to identify and manage your own emotions and the emotions of others. It is generally said to include 4 skills:

1. Emotional awareness, including the ability to identify your own emotions and those of others;
2. The ability to harness emotions and apply them to tasks like thinking and problems solving;
3. The ability to manage emotions, including the ability to regulate your own emotions, and the ability to cheer up or calm down another person;
4. The ability to motivate and self-regulate oneself to accomplish tasks or goals.

UUC: *Why is EQ an important part of self-awareness for Christian leaders?*

CW: Leadership practitioners understand that the key to understanding others is to first be self-aware. In EQ, sometimes called *Resonant Leadership*, our effectiveness depends upon building an emotional climate with others so that they want to be with us and engage in the work of building God's Kingdom. Self-awareness of one's personal vision for one's life is crucial for being able to have joy in work and find it meaningful. So you could say that self-awareness begins there. But it extends also to understanding what emotions we are experiencing so that we can manage them to mobilize energy in individuals, teams and other groups.

UUC: *Is this really practical for our students?*

CW: Let me share with you a quote from one of my students this Fall.

God sent "Emotional Intelligence in Leadership" at just the right time. This class has really helped highlight the need for Emotional Intelligence in leaders and more importantly, gives insight in how to teach, model and train teams to be Emotionally Intelligent. I was not surprised that I also had developed some emotionally unhealthy habits that I needed to quickly change if I was going to model self-awareness and social awareness. Through the wonderful resources of this class and the masterful insight and care of my professor, I feel as if my ministry has been set up to provide community, mindfulness, hope and compassion like never before. This class is only 10 weeks long, but has added decades of insight to my development as a leader. What a catalyst!"

UUC: *For our readers, what can someone do to become more self-aware in this area?*

This is a huge topic and an urgent need in today's church. So many of the problems we face in church come from a failure in knowing how to treat others. You can begin to become more self-aware and develop EQ by starting to read about it. Unfortunately, the church is way behind in learning about it. UUC is endeavoring to change that. The first Christian book on it was published just this year. Go to YouTube and punch in the leading theorists: Daniel Goleman and Richard Boyatzis and, if you are like the students in this class, you will discover a large reservoir of highly useful information. But then the hard work comes: You have to learn

by doing. The course texts for this class are practical books and as UUC students integrate the information in these books into their lives all kinds of surprising and marvelous things happen.

Dr. Wood holds a DMin in Transformational Leadership from Bakke Graduate Univ. and a MA in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific Univ. She is the Executive Director of EPIC Leadership Center and President of Life Design, an adult education program of character development from a spiritual perspective.



Accreditation: A Personal Reflection

UCC spent the last two years sharpening our systems and upgrading our curriculum to meet accreditation standards. The last step in this process is an on-site visit by a team of evaluators from the accrediting association. COO Bill Ditewig shares his thoughts after the site visit on October 22nd.

The week started for me in Palm Springs, as the accreditation association we are working with (Distance Education Accrediting Commission) was sponsoring a workshop. I attended Sunday evening and all day Monday. Most of the issues were for larger schools, but there was some valuable information I could translate for use in our school. Out of about 150+ in attendance, there were administrators from four other evangelical seminaries. It was good to chat with them and learn from their experience. They were very supportive, and one of them is a commissioner who will decide our outcome in January.



Curriculum Display



Chairman of Examining Committee

I drove home Monday night and went into full "final preparation" meetings and work all day Tuesday. Our president, curriculum developer and IT director had flown in from the Seattle area; our Board Chair from Pittsburgh and our Vietnamese Dean from Vietnam. On Wednesday morning we met for prayer and we went through an over-all orientation to the site visit, and then scattered to meet in different configurations throughout the day. We met again at 5:00pm for final updates and briefing and prayer.



UUC's President



UUC's Team

On Thursday we gathered at 8:30am for prayer, and four faculty and two more board members joined us. The evaluators arrived at 9am, coming from Washington D.C., Cincinnati, Denver, San Jose, Irvine and Westminster. The day began with introductions and a brief overview of the school by our President, Dale Sewall. He did a great job sharing the DNA of the school and the sacrifices our staff, faculty, and students have made over the last 30 years to bring our school to this point. The chair of the evaluation team said in the 50+ site visits he had done, he was blown away by the support of faculty, board and staff and by the passion which undergirds the school.

After that it was all business until 4:00pm. Evaluators met individually and

(continued on page 4)

UNION UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA

14200 GOLDENWEST STREET
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683

(714) 677-2076
www.uuc.edu
info@uuc.edu

UUC Celebrates 30 Years of God's Faithfulness

June 24-26, 2016

Mark Your Calendars! Plan now to join us next June as we celebrate 30 years of preparing women and men for leadership in God's Kingdom. Graduation will be on Saturday, June 25th, and the whole weekend will be filled with special events for students, alumni, and UUC partners - capped by a special service of Thanksgiving and Praise. You won't want to miss this special anniversary celebration.



www.uuc.edu

also in small groups with all those present. Records were reviewed, files examined, financial reports inspected. At the end of the day, we all met together and were thanked by the chair. Each evaluator has two weeks to write their report and send to the chair, and then the chair has two weeks to write a final report and send to DEAC. Once the folk at the DEAC office have reviewed the report, they will send it to us and we will have 30 days to respond to any issues they have raised. All of that will then go to a commission of 10 people, chosen from the currently accredited schools, who will vote on our application for accreditation at their January meeting.

We all went to dinner, grateful but exhausted. On Friday, since several of our board members were in town, we had a full board meeting from 9am - 4pm. Then dinner with our president and board chair, and needless to say, by the time I got home Friday night, I was fully spent! Thanks again for your prayers and partnership! I'll keep you posted on the results, but on behalf of the board, staff, faculty, and students, a hearty Thank You!

Update: Just before going to print, we received the 64 page report from the chair of the Evaluation Team. The report was overwhelmingly positive about UUC, noting its long history, its creative and comprehensive curriculum and its strong position which predicts future success. Praise God for this positive report!

Pray for our Students!

Paul's prayer for the Philippian Christians is a model we can use in praying for both our current students and our graduates. Would you spend some time in the days ahead lifting our UUC family in prayer?

Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Course Offerings - Spring 2016 - Module 1 (January 4 – March 13)

English School of Theology

- BBL503 Biblical Hermeneutics
- EVG501 Evangelism in Context
- MIN504 Church Renewal

Vietnamese School of Theology

- CHH-502: History of Christianity II
- MIN-511: Church Planting
- MIN-513: Spiritual Mentoring
- SFM-501: Spiritual Life Practices: Developing A Life of Devotion

Partner With Our Students

Union University of California is able to provide scholarships to our students only through the love and generosity of individuals like you. The total cost of tuition for an M.Div. student is just over \$12,000 and for an MA student is \$6,000. We welcome all levels of support, whether it is a one time gift, a monthly donation, or a full tuition scholarship for one of our students in need. Your sacrificial gift will help strengthen the Church and bring light to a dark world. You can contribute directly online at www.uuc.edu (Support UUC) or by sending a check or money order to:

UNION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
14200 GOLDENWEST STREET
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683