

good idea!

A resource for evangelism & congregational development

Equipping Associates to Serve the Church

*The Institute of Evangelism
Expands its Ministry*



By Nicole Poitras

Christian Schwarz says that “effective leaders multiply, guide, empower and equip disciples to realize their full potential in Christ and work together to accomplish God’s vision.” Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, exemplified these principles. A significant part of his ministry was devoted to mentoring and equipping his closest followers for ministry, and then supporting them in their work. The church at Antioch followed Jesus’ example when its leaders sent out their most gifted members, Paul and Barnabas, to preach the gospel to other communities (Acts 13). Today, leaders of healthy, growing congregations continue to take seriously the ministry of growing disciples and mobilizing them for ministry “for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12).

The vision of the Institute of Evangelism is that every church in Canada should be an evangelizing community—that is, a community where people without faith are attracted, welcomed, and helped to find faith in Christ. Since it was founded in the early 1990s, the Institute’s primary focus has therefore been to equip church leaders and to provide resources for congregational evangelism.

One of those resources, often overlooked, is the giftedness of local congregations and their clergy. There are many people who are gifted and experienced in different aspects of evangelism—how to assess the needs of a community, how to welcome new people, how to make worship accessible for unchurched visitors, how to preach when listeners have no Christian background, how to teach the faith to newcomers, how to start a new church, and so on. If their gifts were known and available more widely, their expertise could serve many more churches.

Thanks to a generous (*continued on page 2*)

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Equipping Associates

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John Bowen – *Editor*

johnbowen@nas.net

Elin Goulden – *Assistant Editor*

PRODUCTION:

Julia Soong
Digory Publishing
jsoong@telus.net

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Wycliffe College
Institute of Evangelism
5 Hoskin Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada, M5S 1H7

www.wycliffecollege.ca

For changed of address, please contact Christina Holmes at (416) 946-3542 or at wycliffe.development@utoronto.ca

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donation from the Bridgeway Foundation of Cambridge, Ontario, an organization dedicated to the support of innovative Christian ministries, the Institute is launching a program known as the Institute Associates to identify, equip and mobilize church leaders across Canada who have expertise in specific areas of evangelism and congregational development, so that they may be available as a resource for other churches. This project marks an exciting new phase in the life of the Institute and the realization of its vision.

With the funding in place, the Institute’s first step was to hire a project co-ordinator to assist with the start-up and implementation of the project. I was delighted to accept the position in January, 2005.

During the past four years, I have worked with John Bowen on several mission trips and have taken numerous courses offered by the Institute, and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this new initiative.

In February of this year, we contacted the bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and various leaders from a sampling of other denominations—United, Free Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist—to ask for the names of clergy in their region with a proven track record in evangelism or church development. From the initial list, five leaders from across the country

emerged as excellent candidates for the first group of Associates. They will be introduced to you in the pages that follow.

The Institute held its first conference for Associates in May of this year, and will officially launch the Associates Program at a conference to be held at Wycliffe College December 1 – 3, 2005. The theme will be congregational renewal and development, and will feature Kevin Martin as the keynote speaker. Kevin is a very fine leader and teacher of congregational development in the Episcopal Church USA, and we are bringing him back by popular demand. During the conference, the Associates will also be offering workshops in their areas of expertise: Leadership, Teaching Christian Basics, Welcoming and Integrating Newcomers, Youth Ministry, and Congregational Development.

I hope you will share our excitement at this new phase in the Institute’s life. Our hope and prayer is that it will multiply the ministry of the Institute, help us serve the church better, and equip our congregations to become communities where many people become disciples of Jesus.

The Rev. Nicole Poitras is a priest in the Diocese of Algoma and Project Manager for the Institute of Evangelism’s Associates Program.

Information on how to book one of the Associates or to register for the conference is found on page 8.



Teaching “Christian Basics”

Tim Chesterton

Tim Chesterton was born in England, and at the age of thirteen made a simple commitment of his life to Christ with the help of his father. He moved to Canada at the age of seventeen. He became a member of the Church Army in 1978, and in that capacity served in parishes in rural Ontario, in Saskatchewan, and in the Diocese of the Arctic. Tim was ordained in the Northwest Territories in 1990, and has since served in the Peace River country of northern Alberta, and in the city of Edmonton, where he is currently rector of St. Margaret’s church.

Tim is married to Marci, and they have four children, two of whom still live at home with them. Tim’s favourite leisure activity is having coffee with Marci. However, a close second is his passion for folk music; he is a guitarist, and enjoys not only listening to folk music but also creating his own arrangements of traditional folk songs. Other leisure activities include walking, bird watching, and archery.

What Tim Offers

One of the crucial needs for a congregation wishing to grow in the area of evangelism is to offer a course where the “basics” of the Christian faith are taught in a way that is accessible, winsome and challenging. For many churches, *Alpha* has filled this niche; for others, Harold Percy’s *Christianity 101* series has been very helpful. Yet there is evidence that churches which offer their own home-grown courses of this kind see very similar levels of response to those offering the better known programs.

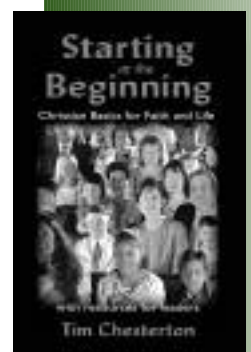
Tim Chesterton has been teaching *Christian Basics* courses since 1997. Currently, St. Margaret’s runs three Christian Basics courses a year, two on weeknights and one on a Friday night and Saturday; the courses are

four sessions long, and are designed for inquirers, for new Christians, for new church members, for long-time members who need a refresher course in the basics, and for baptismal candidates or parents bringing children for baptism.

St. Margaret’s also runs a six-session follow-up course, *Growing and Living as a Christian*, designed to help people who have accepted the invitation to become followers of Jesus and who want help on the next step in their journey.

The material from these two courses has recently been published as *Starting at the Beginning* (Anglican Book Centre, 2004). Bishop Victoria Matthews says, “I especially recommend this book for seekers and those wondering what becoming more serious about the Christian faith would mean.” Harold Percy adds, “The time has long since come for the church to reclaim its primary ministry of making disciples—intentional followers of Jesus who are learning to live to the glory of God. For congregational leaders who want to help people grow into spiritual maturity, this book will be a helpful tool.”

Tim is excited to make the material in *Starting at the Beginning* available to a wider audience through the Institute of Evangelism, so that more congregations can begin to create and teach their own *Christian Basics* program. He is able to offer two slightly different weekend workshops. The first workshop simply presents the *Christian Basics* course within that time frame. This leaves participants to work out how they might create a similar course for their own context. Some prefer this approach. The second presents the *Christian Basics* workshop but also gives guidance about how to run Christian Basics courses in a parish setting. Tim’s parish experience has been in small congregations in the ‘Family’ and ‘Pastoral’ size categories, but the principles are applicable to all sizes of congregations.



Growing Youth Ministries

George M. Porter



George Porter was born in Wisconsin (USA). Following his conversion at the age of 16, he became involved in a mentoring relationship with a local pastor and began leading other teens into relationship with Christ. Ministry with adolescents has never stopped being a significant part of his vocation. This ministry has involved him working in various denominational settings (the United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, Evangelical Free Church, Baptist Church, United Church of Canada, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Pentecostal and charismatic fellowships). His education in Canada, the USA and England includes biblical studies, historical theology, church history, English, religious studies, education, Anglican studies, counseling and (for his doctorate at Oxford) behavioural sciences.

George was ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1988 in the Diocese of Brandon, and in addition to serving as parish priest, he has been a youth pastor, Coordinator for Youth Ministries and Missions in Brandon and Youth Director for Western Massachusetts. Currently he is the Youth Action Director for the Diocese of Fredericton, and Anglican Chaplain to the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University.

George is married to Nancy, and they have two grown children and a step-grandson. George enjoys reading, writing, motorcycles, snowboarding, camping, fishing, hunting and traveling.

What George Offers

Youth ministry is seeing a renewed emphasis in Canada after having fallen off for several generations. The vast majority of young people are no longer involved in parish life after early adolescent years, and where they are

present they often say that they feel like aliens in the church. This disconnect needs to be overcome, but many people say they don't know how.

George's training and involvement in youth ministry in various contexts over many years has put him in a place where he also works with youth leaders to equip them for reconnection ministries. He leads explorations in engaging postmodern youth cultures, exploring adolescent development and spiritual formation, relationship-building and equipping adolescents for ministry. Realising that congregations come in a variety of liturgical traditions, cultural/demographic contexts, and different places with respect to youth ministry, he is flexible in his content and style.

George believes that every parish is called to some form of youth ministry. His goals are: (1) to help congregations explore their unique vocation in regard to youth, and (2) to see young people become fully functional disciples of Jesus engaged in ministry both inside and outside their home congregations.

He offers a one-day seminar entitled *Growing YAMs* (Younger Adolescent Ministries), aimed at helping congregations learn to minister effectively to youth in middle and junior high school.

George also offers a range of seminars for both paid and volunteer youth workers on such topics as: *Starting an Effective Youth Ministry*; *Adolescent Spiritual Formation*; *Running Short-term Missions with Youth*; and *How to Plan and Run a Youth Conference*. Other youth-related topics can be negotiated with George to suit the particular needs of your ministry.

Next Steps in Parish Development

Connie Den Bok



Connie was born and grew up in Southern Ontario. One parent was Roman Catholic and the other Christian Reformed, and the family settled into the United Church of Canada as a bridge. It was in the United Church that Connie experienced a spiritual awakening as a teenager. This diversity of background allows Connie to work comfortably and knowledgeably in a broad spectrum of denominations and theological milieus.

A graduate of Emmanuel College within the Toronto School of Theology, Connie also holds a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, with a specialty in Church Growth.

Connie was ordained by the Toronto Conference of the United Church in 1980 and has served United Churches in rural Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, London (Ontario), and Toronto.

She has also planted churches for two other denominations in London and in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Connie has successfully led church “reboots,” one rural and two suburban, taking congregations which had stalled at a membership of about fifty to 150, 180, and 220.

Since 1999, she has been team minister at Alderwood United Church in Etobicoke, Ontario. Aware that the successes of a previous decade may have little relevance in the communities we face today, Connie is in the early stages of working with this congregation to shift from a building-centred ministry to missional thinking, a process that will probably take a decade.

Connie continues to pursue a wide variety of Church Development-related interests. She is a trainer and experienced coach for Natural Church Development, a conference presenter for Alpha Canada, an experienced coach of church planters (particularly during

the planning stage and critical first years), a church consultant, conference speaker, and a lecturer in Church Planting at Wycliffe College.

She lives with her husband Doug, the pastor of an ethnically diverse Methodist Church in Bramalea, and two teenagers, in Brampton, Ontario where they are restoring and renovating their century home.

What Connie Offers

Many churches would say they are “doing OK” but confess that they are not growing in either depth or numbers, and do not know how to move forward. Connie brings a broad and sympathetic knowledge of “how churches really work” and a large repertoire of alternatives to the status quo in the form of her *Next Steps* presentations:

Next Steps for Congregations

For the leadership teams of parishes that have plateaued or are aware of the need to explore other avenues of ministry. Connie is an experienced diagnostician and practitioner who will facilitate discovery of helpful strategies for the individual parish or congregation.

Next Steps for Denominational Leaders

For denominational leaders who would like to broaden the repertoire and improve the morale of their clergy, Connie offers interactive workshops, seminars, and plenary sessions on trends in Canadian Christianity, Natural Church Development, Spiritual Gifts Discovery, and other topics as requested.

Next Steps for New Parishes

Connie will meet with individual church planters or area clusters of church planters for mission strategy and problem solving.

Greeting, Welcoming and Integrating Newcomers



Ed Dallow

Ed was born and grew up in St. George, Ontario, where he was a member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1958 as a Soldier Apprentice, and has since served with the Royal Canadian Engineers, The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, and the Logistics Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. He has also served in Command and Staff positions with various Regiments and Combat Groups in Canada, Northwest Europe, and the Middle East. After a rewarding 30 year career, Ed retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 1988 with the rank of Major.

In 1990, Ed graduated from Montreal Diocesan Theological College and was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Ontario. He is presently Rector of the Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Cataraqui, and Archdeacon of Kingston.

Apart from his parish and diocesan responsibilities, Ed is also padre to the Ontario Provincial Police Auxiliary and for the Kingston Brigade of the St. John Ambulance. On June 6, 2005, he was invested by the Lt. Governor of Ontario as a Serving Member of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Ed has been married for forty-one years to Lynn, a native of Holland. They have two married sons and three grandchildren.

What Ed Offers

Many people in our society would say they are “exploring their spirituality.” Some of them at one time or another will check out the church, to see if we have anything to offer them in their explorations. What will their experience of our church be like? Will it be welcoming? Will their encounter with Christians be such that they want to repeat it the next week—and the next—or will

it be such that they never want to come again?

Often parishes will identify themselves as welcoming, nurturing communities, when in reality there are numerous barriers that make it difficult for newcomers to enter into the life of our congregations.

Ed Dallow has adopted and adapted principles from Andrew Weeks’ book *Welcome!* (The Alban Institute, 1992) to create a highly effective program of welcoming and integrating newcomers at Christ Church—so effective that a couple of years ago they erected a new building to accommodate the enlarged congregation. He has also developed a very helpful workshop in response to those who have asked about the practices which have been so fruitful in Cataraqui.

Ed’s presentations are therefore designed to provide ideas, tools and techniques to help congregations with skills of *Greeting, Welcoming and Integrating Newcomers* into the Body of Christ. Our goal should be that someone visiting us for the first time will discover something exciting and God-inspired in our worship services and in our community, and be drawn to return and learn more.

In the workshop we examine such things as:

- *evangelism and stewardship as they relate to our culture*
- *the ‘real-life’ situations of the churches represented at the workshop*
- *the pros and cons of ‘marketing techniques’*
- *responding to those who come wanting ‘Rites of Passage’*
- *providing opportunities for ‘seekers’ to become involved in the life of the congregation.*

A key part of these workshops is looking at case studies provided by those attending, with a view to discovering workable solutions.

Leadership and Evangelism



Judy Paulsen

Judy Paulsen lived her early childhood years in northwest India, where her parents served for fifteen years as Anglican missionaries. After her family returned to Canada, her father became the priest of a parish in the west of Ottawa. It was there at the age of fifteen that Judy made a personal commitment to live as a follower of Christ. (And she's thankful that His commitment was steadier than hers.) The following year she was part of an evangelistic mission team to England. Throughout her twenties and thirties she served in most areas of parish life in Anglican parishes in Toronto, Montreal, and Timmins.

Judy's formal education includes a Master of Applied Science from McGill University and a Master of Divinity from Wycliffe College. She was ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1998, and has served in three parishes in the Diocese of Toronto. Her curacy included a strong focus on youth ministry and contemporary worship music. She then served for two years as Director of Pastoral Care at Trinity, Streetsville. She is now the pastor of Christ Memorial Church in Oshawa.

Judy is married to Pat, and they have three children in their late teens and early twenties. Her favorite activity is traveling anywhere with Pat. They dream about driving the Pan American highway from Chile to Alaska.

Judy's primary interests in ministry include leadership and the development of parishes as naturally evangelizing communities.

What Judy Offers

For churches to thrive in a post-Christian culture, at least two things are needed. They need clear leadership to help them switch from maintenance mode to understand and focus their calling to mission. Good pastoral leadership can make the difference. Secondly, many congregations are still nervous about evangelism, but need to recapture a healthy understanding of evangelism if they are to shape their communal life to minister to the needs of the spiritually hungry.

Judy offers three presentations to address these twin issues of leadership and evangelism. They can be combined in different ways to suit the requirements of the hosting group. Each presentation is self-contained, and can form a half-day workshop. Or the three can be run consecutively to create a one-day workshop. In either format, the goal is to encourage and strengthen clergy and other leaders in their leadership role, and to offer an understanding of leadership and evangelism which is stretching but which has integrity.

The workshop's narrative style examines such issues as: the transformative nature of the Gospel, the key tasks of effective leadership, the unique challenges and possibilities for ministry in today's culture, and strategies for building or rebuilding compelling and passionate communities of faith.

*You are warmly invited to a conference of
The Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism*

New Wineskins for Old Wine **Practical Help for Renewing Our Congregations**

December 1-3, 2005

Keynote speaker: Canon Kevin Martin

Who is Kevin Martin?

For nine years, Kevin Martin served under Bishop Claude Payne in the Diocese of Texas, giving leadership in congregational renewal and church planting. He is now on staff at Christ Church, Plano TX, which is home base for his Vital Church Ministries.

What's so special about this conference?

The Institute Associates will lead workshops in their areas of expertise, so that participants can get a sense of what they have to offer.

We encourage congregational teams to attend, comprising lay leaders and clergy who can share what they have learned with their communities on their return.

One session will be a panel discussion of case studies of problems in congregational life. You are invited to submit the story of a situation from your own current experience of church life for consideration. Prizes will be given for those case studies selected for discussion. For details, see registration form.

When? Supper on Thursday December 1 till after lunch on Saturday December 3.

Where? Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. Home billets will be provided locally for those who need them.

How much does it cost? \$200 for each delegate requiring billeting, \$175 for those finding their own accommodation.

Where can I get more information? You can go directly to the Conference page of the College website: www.wycliffecollege.ca/conference. You can also contact Nicole Poitras at **416-946-3534** or by email at institute.conference@utoronto.ca.

How can I register?

A registration form can be found as an insert in copies of the current *good idea!* It can also be found on the Wycliffe College website, at www.wycliffecollege.ca/conference. Extra copies can be ordered by phone from the Institute at **416-946-3534**.



Booking an Institute Associate

Institute Associates are suitable speakers for such events as:

- Area conferences
- Diocesan conferences
- Clergy conferences
- Deanery days

For more details of how to book one of the Associates for your event, including honoraria and other costs:

Go to the Associates page of the College website: www.wycliffecollege.ca/associates.

You can also email Nicole at institute.evangelism@utoronto.ca, or:
Phone her at **416-946-3534**.