Communiqué

Dr. Christian Adjémian -1947-2011

The Farel Seminary community mourns the loss of its former Dean, Dr. Christian Adjémian. Dr. Adjémian took up his work at Farel in the summer of 2009, only to be diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gherig's Disease) early that fall. Despite being increasingly slowed by the disease, he participated regularly in Church functions and could communicate with his family members until his passing. In fact, he was priviledged to see the wedding ceremony of his daughter in his hospital room just hours before his death.



Christian was born in Gardanne, France in December 1947, coming to New York with his family when he was six. His educational pathway eventually led him o Seattle, where he completed a PhD in linguistics at the University of Washington. With this degree he settled with his family in Ottawa, Ontario where he had been hired by the University of Ottawa. During a sabbatical from this position in 1983, Christian came to Christ. Over the next number of years he undertook ministerial studies at the Ottawa Theological Hall, culminating in a call to be pastor of a Reformed Presbyterian Church in Perth, Ontario in 1988. After 11 years in Perth, he accepted a call to a sister congregation in Cambridge, Ma. He was serving in Cambridge when he was invited to come serve as Dean of Farel in the summer of 2009. His hope was to serve Farel for a 10 year period before his retirement, but the Lord had other plans.

With our brothers and sisters in Christ in the various congregations he served, we remember Christian as a humble and dedicated man, one ready to serve his Lord. His background in the study of languages gave him great interest in the study of the Bible. When Farel sought a new dean in 2009, Dr. Adjémian was seen as a perfect fit: fluently bilingual, academically qualified, and pastorally sensitive. The whole Farel community was happy to see him arrive and begin his work. Yet, we are now two years further in our history and see that this joyful, humble man has finished his time with us. We rejoice that he was faithful and joyful to the end. We also know that he would remind us to keep our eyes focussed on our Redeemer.

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From the Administrator's Desk

would mean more work and a small one, less. I cannot speak of other organizations, but this does not seem to be the case with Farel. We are a modest-sized institution, but there always seem to be projects on the go.

Most of the academic work last year fell on the shoulders of our interim dean, the Rev. Jean Zoellner (pictured below with his wife Daryl). Rev.



Zoellner is pastor of the Église réformée St-Jean de Montréal and chaplain in the Royal Canadian He has also been a longtime lecturer at Farel in Missiology and Systematic Theology.

We were priviledged this year to have our accreditation agreement with the Institut de formation théologique de Montreal renewed for another term. This agreement allows our students to graduate with accredited degrees and gives them access to student loans from the government of Quebec through the IFTM. We have wanted this type of agreement for many years and are happy that it has already been in place for more than three years.

Another blessing is the beautiful building

One might think that a large organization in which we have worked for the last three years. We were formerly in the Erskine and American Church on Sherbrooke Street, which was bought and transformed by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts into a recently-opened concert hall and additional pavilion. The Museum allowed us to move into another one of their properties on Bishop Street, just steps away from our former locale for the past several years. Our building has room enough for 12 students, offices, common room, classroom and library. It has been a hub for our activity, but also that of several other organisations which share our vision. It is wonderful to know that we can stay here until next Spring.

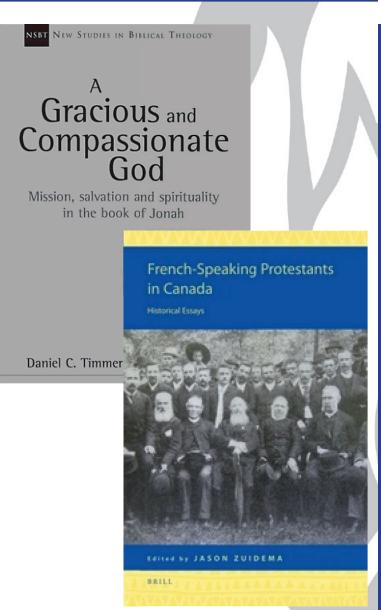
> Besides these continuing encouragements, we witnessed a big change this January when Dr. Jason Zuidema began his work as Dean of the Seminary. Dr. Zuidema is new as Dean, but has already been involved with teaching and projects at the Seminary for over a decade. It will be good to work together with him to accomplish the numerous projects which we need to complete in the coming years. Besides teaching Church History, Dr. Zuidema will administer the academic program of the Seminary and be responsible for student recruitment and fund-raising. He has already been present in a number of churches this past year and hopes to continue making the work of Farel known in the coming one.

In all, the Lord faithfully provided for us this year. We will continue to seek the Lord's blessings on our endeavours in the coming year!

> Jean-Guy deBlois Administrator **Farel Seminary**

Graduation of Mr. Winston Bosch

Farel is proud to announce the graduation of Mr. Winston Bosch on November 15, 2011. Winston came to Farel after having completed a master's degree international development and adult education (U. of Guelph) and having served for a number of years as a coordinator of relief and development in Mali, West Africa in conjunction with CRWRC. He now resides in Repentigny, Qc. where he has taken a call as pastor from the Église réformée St-Paul de Repentigny. Congratulations, Winston!





New Books by Farel Profs

Former dean and now visiting professor of biblical studies at Farel, Dr. Daniel Timmer, recently released a book with InterVarsity Press on the theology of the Book of Jonah. Entitled A Gracious and Compassionate God: Mission, salvation and spirituality in the book of Johah, this book appears as volume 26 in the New Studies in Biblical Theology series edited by D.A. Carson. Timmer's book helps us understand the 'surprises' of the Book of Jonah. These surprises, he argues, are no less true for readers of our day than they were for the book's original audience. Readers of Timmer's book have noted its usefulness both for the seminary classroom and the pulpit. Many have said that it will become one of the standard works preachers will want to read when preparing for a sermon on Jonah or the Prophets of the Old Testament.

Jason Zuidema, dean in January 2012, has also put out a new book on French-speaking Protestants in Quebec. Although French-speaking Canadians have largely been Roman Catholic, there has been a small, but significant Protestant minority among them for much of their history. Several important studies on these Protestants have appeared in French or in short articles in English, but there is no broader survey in English. Based on significant archival study, a fresh reading of printed texts and the work of a generation of historians, this collection of essays edited by Zuidema brings together the work of leading scholars in the field to bring reasoned perspective on various narratives of the history of this often forgotten religious minority. The book is available from Brill Academic Publishers at www. brill.nl.

Farel and Chaplaincy: A New Marriage?

by J.G. Zoellner

"You have to love spending time with people, just being where they are." That's what one of Farel's founding fathers, David Craig, once said to me back in 1990. Was he talking about being an evangelist? Partially. A pastor? Well, that too! He was actually talking about becoming a military chaplain in the Canadian Army. While being pastor David Craig in civilian life, he was also Major David Craig, Army chaplain. I too chose to serve as a Canadian Army chaplain, a ministry I've been exercising, part-time, for over 20 years, while pastoring a Montreal church and teaching at Farel. Yet Farel's link with the chaplaincy goes beyond David Craig and myself. Today, one of Farel's recent graduates, David Rozeboom (2009) is a civilian chaplain with the Montreal based Seafarers' Centre, while current second-year student David Castonguay is preparing to pursue the full-time military chaplaincy in the Canadian Forces. I believe Farel is a good place to prepare for chaplain ministries, for at least two reasons: (1) our understanding of the gospel; and (2) our ability to offer close, one on one training.

First, Farel's understanding of the gospel is particularly helpful in preparing men for military chaplaincy. The gospel is, first and foremost, about what God does for us and in us, rather than what we do for God. It's about Jesus taking the initiative to come to us in our sin, provide himself as our substitute to satisfy his judgement, in order that we might be declared forgiven and adopted as his, forever. The gospel is all grace...unmerited favour flowing from the Holy Spirit!

What does the gospel have to do with preparing and sustaining pastors in military chaplaincy? By definition, military life is one of performance and merit. Faster, stronger, further. Never pass a fault. He who dares, wins! At its heart, the military is asked to take human life in the name of the state. Jesus' gospel, on the other hand, lays out who we truly are: sinners in desperate need of God's mercy and forgiveness; not upright men and women of spotless integrity. And only the gospel really shows that the ultimate power for change in this world is not the force of the sword, but the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. So in a military world of incredible pressure to perform and in situations where one can make an idol of armed power, the gospel both gives hope of forgiveness in our failure and brokenness, and warns us away from the pride of idolatry. Chaplains have immense ministry in these two key areas of military life; without the gospel one simply cannot minister in Christ's name.

Second, Farel's small size encourages a seminary experience in which students and professors see a good deal of one another, spend time together, and function more like brothers in the Lord than as professor and student.

What does this have to do with preparing for chaplaincy, be it civilian or military? At it's heart, chaplaincy requires good "people skills." In the chaplaincy, one calls this a "ministry of presence," which usually means "hanging out" with people, often in their most painful and vulnerable moments. More than this, a chaplain has to learn to "read between the lines," to see and feel intuitively what's going on in peoples' lives, below the surface and behind the mask. When you train at Farel, you learn these "people skills," almost by osmosis. Why? There's no place to hide! There are no big classes; you have to interact with others, and most classes appen around a table like a graduate seminar. Or, as you come into the building, you must pass by the open office door of administrator Jean-Guy deBlois, who always invites you in and asks "So, how are you doing today?" Students living in this environment learn to relate to others, feel for others, read others. And they begin to take initiative to "hang out" with others, which often becomes second nature to them.

"You have to love spending time with people, just being where they are." Perhaps, in the near future, Farel will add to its curriculum a new course on chaplaincy. It may even become a "place of choice" for young men preparing for civilian or military chaplaincy. Farel and chaplaincy: seems like a new marriage with a bright future!

- Rev. J.G. Zoellner is pastor of L'Église réformée St-Jean (Montréal), lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Farel, and Deputy Chaplain for the Quebec Area of the Canadian Forces. He is a member of the Order of Military Merit of Canada.