

For the Life of the World

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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**Being Church among the Differently Abled:
People First, Baptized First**

By Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus

Kenya Study Abroad Mission Trip

Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill

What Is Mercy?

By Deaconess Cynthia E. Lumley, Ph.D.

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FEATURES

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By Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus

Without a doubt, charity will always be necessary (Jesus says in Matthew 26:11, “The poor you will always have with you...”). But charity is an activity, not a relationship. It is a result, not a cause. We will always need places like Bethesda whose activities on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities are absolutely necessary. But we mustn’t define the relationship we have with people in the church and as church based upon their intelligence level (or any other ability or disability they may have).

7 **Kenya Study Abroad Mission Trip**

By Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill

CTS is committed to preparing future pastors and deaconesses who are both knowledgeable and passionate about international mission work. Study-abroad trips are an essential component in integrating practical experience with the history, theology and theory of mission taught in the classrooms.

9 **What Is Mercy?**

By Deaconess Cynthia E. Lumley, Ph.D.

The Office of Deaconess has been established by the church in love to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist the faithful in their God-given vocations. But the deaconess does not wait for the people to step into the church; rather she goes out from the door of the church to extend Christ’s hands of mercy to those in need. For example, she may be involved in providing meals, visiting the sick, the lonely and the suffering, assisting the poor to find the resources they need, organizing a “Care and Compassion Committee,” teaching women and children or simply being present and offering a listening ear.

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Dean Wenthe: An Appreciation

By Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.

One thing that has always characterized Dr. Dean Wenthe is his engaging, encouraging personality. From the time I was a student at this seminary, agonizing over sermon preparation, to discussing “future possibilities” with him following his election to the presidency of CTS in the spring of 1996, to serving with him in seminary administration, he has consistently held forth a gracious, Christ-centered vision for this institution and encouraged his colleagues in the same.



President Wenthe’s accomplishments in office are too lengthy to list at this point. However, it is worth noting that having assumed the presidency in challenging circumstances, he has provided the seminary with outstanding leadership:

- Guiding the seminary as it received, for the first time in its history, ten-year accreditation from both the Association of Theological Schools and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the highest level of accreditation achievable.
- His commitment to mission has led CTS to be known the world over for its international work, particularly through his support of the “Russian Program.”
- His compassion found concrete expression in the establishment of the Deaconess Program in 2003.
- Finally, no retrospective of his service would be complete if it failed to mention that it was under Dr. Wenthe’s leadership that, after more than 30 years, the seminary has successfully begun expansion of its library facilities, creating a structure that can only be described as world class.



Recently, while doing some research in the CTS archives, I found a document delivered by Dr. Wenthe in 1979. During this time he was pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Atlantic, Iowa. He had been invited to return to campus to speak to the fourth-year class, to whom he said:

And yet, on this latter point, I can forthrightly say that for all their frailties you will find your flock a joy to serve. I was simply not prepared for that closeness which is forged between Pastor and people as they seek to live a real life in the midst of a phony world.



Our primary calling as theologians is to interpret reality for ourselves and for our people.

Frankly, IT'S GREAT!!! and if these tasks do not plant the seeds of joy and happiness in our service, then we have ourselves drifted from that which is real.

In our day, we behold the tragic paradox of secular man seeking something more solid than the phony, penultimate, pleasure trips, of either the gross or more refined variety, that are constantly held before us as the only route worth traveling...and, in their seeking, find no one to speak to them of that which is solid and real.

For nearly 40 years of service to this seminary, 15 of which were spent as president, we can only say “thank you” to Dr. Dean Wenthe for his collegiality and the way in which he has embodied this CTS mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. 🏠



The saints whom you serve will at times overwhelm you with their support and love. The sinners whom you serve will at times send you scampering to the throne of grace for more patience and wisdom than your flesh can muster.

On May 21, 2011, Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. was elected to lead the seminary as its 16th President. Currently serving as Acting President, he will be installed as President during Opening Service for the 166th academic year on September 11, 2011.

