

Marinello Mededelingblad

Spring 2022

**For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.**

A time for war: Ukraine

This letter is written with a heavy heart. A newsletter with thanks to those who have supported us financially and requests for prayer should have gone out much earlier, but the situation of recent months has weighed heavily, occupying our thoughts and prayer. In October 2021, less than six months ago, Tom had the privilege to teach a class on Sin and Salvation at Zaporozhye Bible Seminary (ZBS) in Ukraine. That seminary has taught a good number of local church leaders and future leaders of evangelical churches in Ukraine since 1994. It was a special joy to be there as Tom met with three alumni of Tyndale Theological Seminary, the place where Tom has taught and mentored here in the Netherlands for more than twenty years. All the alumni, two men and one woman, were active in the local church with the two men as the primary leaders of their churches.



One of these two men also was the academic dean of ZBS. The academic dean and his family had to abandon their home and now are refugees in another country. Thankfully, attempts are underway to have him serve in a local church in this safe country while we all wait on the developments in Ukraine. Please pray for Vova and his family.

The third and fourth alumnus of Tyndale, N and O, worked in the local headquarters of a worldwide relief agency. N and her mother as well as her sister and young nephew fled from the southern part of Ukraine and are in the relative safety of western Ukraine for now. We have had no direct word from O. We know that a month ago, O and her husband continued to lead the youth work at their local church, irrespective of circumstances. Please pray God's hand of strength and protection for both N and O and their families as they remain in Ukraine.



A time for war: Myanmar



Some readers may know that yet another war has been ongoing since a February 2021 coup, a civil war in Myanmar (formerly Burma). A good number of Tyndale alumni come from Myanmar and presently are ministering there. One man in particular, Mang, returned home a few years ago to start a Christian school for children in addition to his ministry in the local assembly. Mang also teaches at Southeast Asia Bible College (SEABC) in Yangon, a school at which Tom had the privilege to teach some years ago. Please pray God's hand of strength and protection for Mang, his wife Mary, and their family as well as the work of SEABC.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)



Prayer Points

Please pray . . .

God's hand of strength and grace for Tyndale's alumni in Ukraine and Myanmar.

for Tyndale's Board as they select a new president for the seminary.

for the local assembly where we are in fellowship. Recently, almost all the younger couples and their children left the assembly *en masse*. . .

for Tom and Patti as they finalize plans for a trip to the US this summer to report on our work.



A time to plant: Tyndale

Even with all the background noise of wars as well as the rocketing cost of living because of poor governmental decisions and the war in Ukraine, the work at Tyndale continues. This past academic year saw a larger intake of students than average since the year before many were prevented from starting by governmental travel restrictions and embassy closings where student visas are processed.



Tom has had the joy to see these men and women learn and apply lessons from the history of the Church since its beginning at Pentecost in Acts 2, the theology and worship of the early Church leaders, and a study of the doctrine of the Church. In addition, Tom has been supervising two students as they write their master's thesis; one on lessons from two ancient African churches for today, and another on the dangers of syncretism in a number of the Brazilian churches. These two students will be defending their theses in May, Lord willing. Please pray for Robert and Mari.

A time to seek; a time to lose: Tyndale



Since we last wrote, a good bit of coming and going has happened at Tyndale. Faculty have returned to the US after a number of years of service as have a number of senior administrators. This has caused the seeking and selection of new faculty members, a new academic dean, and a new vice president of academic affairs, though he will stay on as a faculty member.

Presently, Tyndale's Board also is interviewing candidates to assume the presidency of the school. While the coming and going of workers at a missionary school like Tyndale is not unusual, the volume of turnover has been striking this past year. So, please join us in prayer as the work here continues. Pray especially for wisdom for the Board members as they select a new president, and as they accept or reject the recommendations of the faculty for new co-laborers.

He has made everything beautiful in its time: Praise and Thanksgiving

We are amazed at the Lord's provision each time we sit to eat a meal, enjoy the clean sheets we crawl into each night, or have the privilege of electricity and a daily shower, and we are thankful—especially as we read of the deprivation and horrors of war here in Europe.

We also thank the Lord for the faithfulness of His people to remember us in prayer and for providing for our financial needs. We could neither remain here nor do our work day by day without both. *Many thanks!*



Tom & Patti



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