



the attributes of the church: its unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity. This course also covered the various forms of church government.

In many seminaries today, the doctrine of the church is neglected or placed in the area of ministerial studies. One might easily reduce ecclesiology to church administration or church mechanics. The church is impoverished by such an approach. I am thankful that BRTS keeps a theological discipline, such as the doctrine of the church, in its curriculum. After all, the church is the Bride of Jesus Christ, predestined to everlasting life by God the Father, with the Holy Spirit working to apply the things of Christ to His people. The church is thus not just another sociological phenomenon. It is the creation of God.

Study Church History to Remember God's Work

by Mark Vander Hart, ITEM Board Member

"I will build My church," says Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:18. But what is the church? I had the privilege of teaching a course on the Reformed doctrine of the church at the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary in Rīga, Latvia in late May and early June. The class included three seminary (pastoral) students, several Bible school students and church lay leaders and a good number of auditors.

We covered a multitude of questions, such as: What does the New Testament mean by the word ecclesia? What are the word pictures that the Bible uses to describe the church? What are the various modes of the church (visible/invisible, organism/ institute, militant/triumphant)?

The class surveyed the means of grace by which God works His saving and sanctifying grace for His elect. We looked at the marks of the church: preaching of the pure gospel, proper administration of the sacraments and church discipline. We considered



Changing a Fallen Culture, One ITEM Class at a Time

by Daniel Muindi - Director of All Nations College

In a country plagued by cattle rustling, poverty, terminal illnesses, political struggles, domestic violence, illicit relationships, addictions, tribal conflicts and animosity, displacement, political injustices, religious intolerance, war, crime, pain, suffering, death, damaged emotions, extremely finite resources etc, the course on pastoral counseling by

ITEM educators, Linda and Larry McAuley this June was profound and helpful.

It equipped students at Kenya's All Nations College with effective biblical counseling principles, skills, techniques and interventions to address diverse challenges, crises and problems affecting church and communities.

This course was very practical and will have broad-based benefits both now and in the future to transform our society and help make it a better place for all people.

You Better Belize It

*by Will Hesterberg
- Chairman of the Board*

You'll see that slogan everywhere you go in Belize, one of the world's smaller countries by population, with 375,000 people in a land the size of New Hampshire.

Blessed with many natural resources, Belize nevertheless remains quite poor due to political corruption and overdependence on the sugar crop. Tourism serves as the largest industry for Belize.

Roman Catholics comprise 40 percent of the population, Pentecostals' 8.6 percent, Seventh Day Adventists' 5 percent. The Belize Presbyterian Church (BPC) has fewer than 1,000 members in six self-governing churches, six churches without their own leadership and five mission churches, all served by just six pastors.

Due to the poverty and lack of employment in Belize, there is a lack of male leadership in the family and the culture. There is much divorce and absenteeism from the family by fathers. Many couples live together but are not married. Young men have few male role models, little education and little employment, and thus little hope for the future.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the transition of ITEM's Executive Director's role from Will Hesterberg to Tom Smith, who has also joined ITEM's Board of Directors. Will Hesterberg will become ITEM's Board Chairman.
2. Pray for Jonathan Cruz and Taylor Kern, who will be returning from teaching God and Man and the Pentateuch, respectively, in Bolivia in July.
3. Pray for Fritz and Brenda Harms, who will be teaching Church History in Bolivia at the end of July.
4. Pray for John Van Schepen, who will be teaching Living in Grace and The Coming Kingdom and his wife, Willie, who will be teaching the women about the Armor of God in Belize in July.
5. Pray for Bill Boekestein, who will teach Eschatology in Belize in July and August.

With these statistics, why is ITEM looking to serve in Belize, of all places? Perhaps the answers lie in the words "strategy" and "need." Clearly there is great need in Belize for stronger families and stronger churches to impact the culture. Though the BPC is small with few leaders, those leaders have a big vision to impact the Belizean culture. They have a strategy.

They have turned to a consultant to help them with a 5-year plan to strengthen families, churches and their Christian schools.

They are looking to ITEM and Family Life Conferences to train more leaders by training husbands and fathers, not just theologically and ministerially, but also practically and relationally.

Such strong leaders will help raise up a new generation of leaders and will attract to the church other men who are looking for answers and help.

ITEM also looks to work alongside the Belize Project, a group of reformed Christians enabling Belizeans to begin microbusinesses that will bring employment to individuals, thus enabling them to better support their families, their churches and church leaders financially.

This is a holistic approach to transforming Belize. Is this possible? By God's grace and help, you "better Belize it!"

How to Contribute

In the U.S. send contributions to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or at www.ITEM.org through PayPal.

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