

*Lord, Grant My Yearning Heart's Desire*  
Tune: Barrett  
Seminary Hymn

Lord, grant my yearning heart's desire  
That I be filled with fervent zeal,  
To save poor sinners from the fire,  
To snatch them from the verge of hell,  
And turn them to a pard'ning God,  
To cleanse their souls in Jesus' blood.

I would the precious time redeem,  
And longer live for this alone,  
To spend, and to be spent, for them  
Who have not yet my Saviour known;  
Fully on these my mission prove,  
And only breathe, to breathe Thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,  
Into Thy blessed hands receive;  
And let me live to preach Thy Word,  
And only to Thy glory live;  
My ev'ry sacred moment spend  
To publish forth the sinners' Friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart  
With Thine own boundless love divine!  
So shall I all my strength exert,  
And love them with a zeal like Thine;  
And lead them to Thine open side,  
The sheep for whom their Shepherd died.  
—Charles Wesley

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(Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald Int., 2002), 569.

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

A few months ago I turned 60. That is one of those epochs of life that cause pause, reflection, and evaluation. It is sobering to admit that the yardstick of life is measuring the last few inches. This is not pessimism; it's just a fact of life. That pause, reflection, and evaluation have generated significant lifestyle changes and aspirations. I've joined a gym and exercise at least four times a week. I've never done that in my life! I don't recall ever being more physically fit than now. And there are still several things on my to-do-before-it's-too-late list that most likely will never happen. A moose hunt is on the top of that list followed by elk, caribou, and bear in no particular order.

But the most sobering of all the reflections concerns the ministry. Knowing that before long I will stand before the Lord to give account is overwhelming. What have I done for the Lord and His kingdom is a question never far from my thoughts. It is hard to believe that I have been at GRS for ten years. I came into this position with great expectations of what the Lord would do in establishing and using this little seminary for His glory and for the advancement of His kingdom, particularly through the Free Presbyterian Church of North America. He had given promises and assurances that convinced me that I could do nothing else but serve Him here. I am still convinced of His leading and praise Him for His faithfulness and tokens of blessings. Yet, there are still some promises to be fulfilled, and the yardstick measuring my ministry is approaching the end. We remain small, and I wonder why. I do not interpret bigness as evidence of divine blessing but neither do I interpret smallness as evidence of blessing. I sympathize with the Psalmist who implored, "It is time for thee, LORD, to work" (Psalm 119:126).

My burden in the ministry since the beginning of my career has been for the next generation, and for the last ten years that burden has increased with its focus being specifically the future of the FPCNA. I sincerely believe that there is a vital and unique place for the FPCNA in the work and for the advance of Christ's kingdom. But that work and that advance require laborers. And that brings me again to the urgent need that I seem to address in every issue of *Inside GRS*. We must see the Lord **(Continued on page 3)**

## Graduation invitation

You are invited to the 2010 graduation service of Geneva Reformed Seminary, the theological seminary of the Free Presbyterian Church of North America.

June 4, 2010, at 7:00 pm

Faith Free Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Rev. David Mook, Clerk of the Free Presbyterian Church of North America, will deliver the commencement address.

# FACULTY PROFILE

Inside GRS

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May 2010



## Dr. Michael Barrett, BA, MA, PhD, President, Professor of Ancient Languages and Biblical Interpretation

Dr. Michael Barrett has been the president of Geneva Reformed Seminary since the fall of 2000. He is also associate minister of Faith Free Presbyterian Church. Dr. Barrett has had an active role in the ministry of the Free Presbyterian Church since its inception in North America. Before joining GRS, Dr. Barrett was professor of Ancient Languages and Old Testament Theology and Interpretation at Bob Jones University for 28 years.

Dr. Barrett came to Christ as a child. Early in his years at Bob Jones University he was called into the ministry. He earned his doctorate in Old Testament Text with a special focus on Semitic Languages. The title of his doctoral dissertation is “A Methodology for Investigating the Translation Philosophies and Techniques of the Septuagint.” Dr. Barrett is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and has published numerous articles in both professional and popular journals. His other published works include *Beginning at Moses: A Guide to Finding Christ in the Old Testament*; *Complete in Him: A Guide to Understanding and Enjoying the Gospel*; *God’s Unfailing Purpose: The Message of Daniel*; *The Beauty of Holiness: A Guide to Biblical Worship*; *Love Divine and Unfailing: The Gospel According to Hosea*; and *The Hebrew Handbook*. He and his wife, Sandra, have two married sons, Chad and Charles, and five grandchildren.

In addition to his academic pursuits and writing, Dr. Barrett enjoys the outdoors. He indulges in at least two hobbies: hunting and thinking about hunting. He has a

passion for hunting deer, but on the bookcase in his office sits a photo of a 300-pound wild razorback boar that he harvested in Georgia. Once bitten by the golf bug, he has since left the links behind. He used to be pretty good on the banjo and was quite good on the trombone, having toured Europe with a group when he was in high school and played in a trombone choir in college.

He has some peculiar fashion behaviors. He will wear a new pair of tennis shoes in the house for years before he wears them outside. He wears only dress shoes with laces on Sundays and believes that it is unholy to preach in any color shirt except white. While he is a master exegete who believes that it is important to interpret Scripture in context, he is prone to take verses out of context to argue for his particular Sabbath dress attire.

A man of some particular predilections, Dr. Barrett relishes the sizzle of venison in a cast-iron skillet. He prefers his apple pie “right out of the ice box” (not warm) and argues that oyster dressing suits a turkey best. On short notice, he is ready to go to Stax Omega Diner (Greenville) for liver and onions or to Hudson’s Smokehouse (Lexington) for Southern-style pork barbecue. Dairy Queen serves his favorite malts and blizzards, and he knows the precise locations of DQs throughout several states.

One of Dr. Barrett’s own college professors said of him, “Mike was truly an excellent student. Some students are very smart, and some are very diligent. Mike was both!” A colleague said: “His ability in languages is unique among the ministers in the FPC denomination in Ulster and America. His coming to be president of our seminary in 2000 gave the seminary immediate name recognition among scholars in the field of Old Testament studies.” Dr. Barrett is very gifted in ancient languages, having learned and taught Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Ugaritic, and Moabite.

The colleague who knows him best said that “during the many lectures and sermons that I heard him deliver, I never once felt as though his life or character in the home contradicted his words behind the lectern or pulpit.” One of his former students (now a pastor) remarked that Dr. Barrett “mirrors the character and disposition of the Lord,” and “his ministry to me strongly influences how I now shepherd my home and my ministry.”

The primary purpose of GRS is to prepare men to be preachers. The seminary places a strong emphasis on biblical languages, exegesis, and hermeneutics. God has blessed GRS by placing at the helm a man of Dr. Barrett’s scholarship and character whose commitment it is to prepare those who will proclaim God’s Word that “the Lord Jesus Christ will be ‘evidently set forth’ (Galatians 3:1).”<sup>1</sup>

—Paul Peters is a deacon at Covenant Free Presbyterian Church in Lexington, South Carolina.

<sup>1</sup>Michael P. V. Barrett, *Beginning at Moses: A Guide to Finding Christ in the Old Testament* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald International, 1999), 16.

(Continued from page 1) call the next generation of men—men who will have a passion to preach Christ and carry on the work with a sustained burden. It continues to be my prayer, and I ask you to join in praying, that God will raise up at least one man from each of our congregations to carry on the work. That would go a long way in allowing me to see one of my expectations before I reach the end of the yardstick.

—Michael P. V. Barrett, President

### The President's Itinerary

- Apr 15-May 3* Hebron FPC, Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, and various other churches
- May 10-14* FPCNA Ministers' Week of Prayer, Greenville, SC
- May 31-June 1* Meeting of Young Conservatives, Minneapolis, MN
- June 4* GRS graduation, Greenville, SC
- June 27* Falls Berean Bible Church, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- June 28-30* Ohio Bible Fellowship Pastors' Conference, Peniel Bible Camp, Fredericktown, OH
- July 14* King James Study Bible editorial meeting, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI
- July 26-30* FP International Congress, Toronto, Canada
- August 1, 8* Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Belleville, MI
- Sept 18-22* Calvary Baptist Church, Windsor Locks, CT
- Oct 4-8* FPCNA Ministers' Week of Prayer, Barrie, Canada
- Oct 16-17* Bible Community Church, Milton, DE
- Oct 18-19* Annual ARTS meeting, Greenville, SC
- Nov 14* Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Belleville, MI

### Matters for Prayer

All the graduates, that the Lord would direct them to a place of ministry, enflame their passion for the ministry, and keep them faithful to their calling

#### The next generation of faculty

Rev. Reggie Kimbro and Rev. Richard Winston as they continue to work toward their doctorate degrees and Dr. Charles Barrett as he continues some post-doctoral studies in Systematic Theology

Funds for all the ongoing operations of the seminary, including library resources, equipment, salaries, and student aid (the more the seminary can raise to support itself the less it will have to depend on presbytery aid, freeing up funds for other denominational projects and needs)

For at least one student to come under care of presbytery from each of our churches

For the influence of the seminary to increase in the larger work for Christ's Kingdom

# GRADUATE INTERVIEW

## From the Inside Out: An interview with GRS graduate Michael Jaatinen



**Inside: Tell us something about yourself—where did you grow up, when were you saved, etc.**

MJ: I grew up in Saint John New Brunswick, Canada. My family was not a Christian family, so during my early years I felt no desire for the things of God. When I was a teenager I came in contact with a Christian family. They were extremely patient with me and faithfully witnessed to me of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. Through their witness, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at the age of sixteen. My wife, Karen, became a Christian in 1993 when a friend at university witnessed to her and she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Our church home was Toronto Free Presbyterian Church.

**Inside: When did you graduate from GRS?**

MJ: I graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree.

**Inside: How did you come to be a student at GRS?**

MJ: I became a student at GRS when the Lord called my wife and me into full-time ministry. I began my seminary training in Toronto and studied for two years, and then the presbytery sent me to GRS to complete my training.

**Inside: What is the most important thing you learned in the seminary?**

MJ: I learned the importance of being accurate in my understanding and use of the Scriptures in ministry and to have a heart to feed the flock of God and to reach the lost for Christ.

**Inside: What was your favorite class?**

MJ: I don't have just one favorite class. I enjoyed all of Dr. Michael Barrett's Bible classes because he made the Scriptures come alive for me and gave me a greater understanding of God's Word.

**Inside: Where did you do your internship?**

MJ: At my home church in Toronto.

**Inside: What was the most valuable lesson you learned during your internship?**

MJ: The most valuable lesson for me was to practically apply what I learned in seminary and not overwhelm people by just giving doctrinal or biblical "information."

**Inside: What did you do following your internship?  
How was that a profitable time?**

MJ: After my internship I remained in Toronto and worked at Whitefield Christian Schools (a ministry of the Toronto church). It was very profitable because it allowed me to work with young people and minister to their spiritual needs in a variety of ways. Also, I was able to help develop the high school Bible program.

**Inside: What are you doing now?**

MJ: My wife, Karen, and I are pioneering a Free Presbyterian church in London, Canada.

**Inside: Tell us about your call to serve the Lord in London.**

MJ: Two families petitioned the Toronto FPC to begin a work in London in 2005. At that time there was no one available to go and minister to them, yet they persevered and started holding Wednesday night prayer meetings and had a *Let the Bible Speak* radio broadcast every Lord's Day. While meetings were going on in London, the Lord began to work in my heart and burden me for this ministry. During a Sunday service in October 2006 a visiting minister spoke in Toronto on Isaiah 6. When he

reached verse 8 in his message, I knew the Lord was speaking to me: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." The Lord later confirmed our call to London from 1 Peter 5:2 and Psalm 37:3. Our first service in London was on November 5, 2006.

**Inside: What has been most challenging in the work?**

MJ: I would have to say dealing with apathy and the lack of interest people have in spiritual things. Few people have a desire to attend a conservative church in London.

**Inside: How do you want people to pray for the work?**

MJ: Pray the Lord will revive the hearts of His people in London, that there would be power in the pulpit and outreach ministries, that families would be added to the church, that we would come to a point to be able to support a building, and that the Lord would visit us with the salvation of sinners.

**Inside: Do you have any other interests/hobbies?**

MJ: Being a true Canadian, I enjoy playing hockey. Karen and I also volunteer at a local pioneer village. I have been able to help in the print shop, Karen helps in the school, and we both do historical interpretation at a Scottish Free Presbyterian church along with other members in our church. This has given us many opportunities to share the gospel.

## Alumni News

### *Class of 2001*

**Ron Barnes** has accepted the call to become minister of Prince George Free Presbyterian Church, Prince George, Canada.

### *Class of 2006*

**Aaron** and **Grace Dunlop** welcomed the birth of a daughter, Bethan Grace, who was born June 4, 2009.  
**Micah McCormick** will receive his PhD from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, in May.

Alumni News: GRS alumni are invited to send in their news (weddings, births, relocations, etc.) for publication. Send news to [genevareformed@freepres.org](mailto:genevareformed@freepres.org) or GRS, 1207 Haywood Rd., Greenville, SC 29615.



SEPARATED UNTO THE GOSPEL

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