

Overflow

The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins

A Word from the Director by Paul Louis Metzger

This autumn, New Wine, New Wineskins focused attention on lifestyle evangelism and what it looks like in our present context. In addition to considering person-to-person evangelism, we also addressed holistic gospel lifestyle witness in our neighborhoods, city hall, and the public square. Kevin Palau's thoughtful and timely keynote address at New Wine's fifth annual benefit dinner illustrated well New Wine's theology of engagement and what it entails for effective and meaningful gospel witness in contemporary culture.

I wish to thank all of you who came to the event and/or who contributed prayerfully and financially to New Wine through the benefit dinner. Your partnership helps us advance our cata-

lytic theology of engagement, which makes known, motivates, and mobilizes missional movements to serve Jesus Christ prophetically and compassionately today.

Please be in prayer for our spring conference, to be held April 9 - 10, 2010, which will focus on entrepreneurship and how it is vitally important to creating and sustaining missional movements. Special attention will be given to how entrepreneurship can assist in developing and advancing Christian community development, especially among the poor. New Wine is extending the lifestyle evangelism theme's import for gospel witness by saturating and stabilizing communities with entrepreneurial stewardship.

May God grant you a special Christmas and New Year, as you celebrate the advent of our Lord. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9) Merry Christmas.



Dr. Paul Louis Metzger is Professor of Christian Theology and Theology of Culture at Multnomah Biblical Seminary and Director of New Wine, New Wineskins.

A Strange New World of Inter-Dependence by Kelsi Johns

How far down the rabbit hole do you want to go? It seems most of us would rather have someone go down the rabbit hole for us, experience it, and then come out to tell us all about it. I have been thinking about this as it pertains to our theology and practice as Christ followers. It's so easy to profess such a radical belief. But to actually marry it with my actions, I wonder if I really want to go that far down the rabbit hole. It's dark, it's unknown, and it takes

more than curiosity to push through into the darkness.

This is why the recent New Wine, New Wineskins conference on Lifestyle Evangelism was so restorative for me. I've been realizing how much healing I have to do from the church, myself, and from the ways I often see both the church and myself as more of a problem than a solution to living sacrificially and redemptively. I find I apologize more for my faith and distance myself from the church, than stand

in proud solidarity with it—and that is embarrassing. But to see leaders in the faith desiring to foster unity and holistic engagement, rather than a fragmented, consumer oriented disengagement is powerful.

I heard a lot of challenging statements and truths at the conference, such as Caleb Rosado's statement that the wholeness of God organizes the oneness of humanity, and Tony Kriz's admonishment for us to develop

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upcoming events

April 9 - 10, 2010

Dr. John M. Perkins will be joining us to examine the development of entrepreneurial leadership within the church, particularly as it pertains to community development.

For more event information, please visit new-wineskins.org

new wine online

Did you miss New Wine's *Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods* conference? Check out audio from the conference here.

Browse the podcast section of New Wine's website for a growing archive of audio from New Wine events.





prayer requests

At the fifth annual New Wine benefit dinner, we asked the New Wine community to lend their support in the form of prayer. Join the New Wine leaders this month as we pray for...

the upcoming winter intern retreat, January 15 - 17. Pray that we would find a location that will adequately house our group of 20+. Also pray that the retreat will be a good time of building community amongst new and returning interns.

a time of rest and rejuvenation for the interns and staff over Christmas break.

development of strategic partnerships for the spring conference on entrepreneurial leadership.

How to Build a Gospel Bridge by Rachel O'Brien

How do you build a bridge with the gospel? If there were just one answer, I suppose ministry – and the Christian life in general – would be greatly simplified. Because there is not one easy answer, we often stumble about trying to articulate our faith in tangible ways.

The New Wine, New Wineskins conference, Lifestyle Evangelism in the 21st Century: Building Bridges to Neighbors and Neighborhoods, sought to build on Dr. Joe Aldrich's book, *Lifestyle Evangelism*. This focus is fitting as our world embarks on some foreign territory. For one, as Facebook and MySpace replace actual friendships

and our country struggles to stay financially afloat, we as a church face new challenges to be missional. The question remains: how do you build a bridge with the gospel?

What struck me at the conference was the great concern to see the gospel go forward in new and better ways. We live with a relational God, and thus our evangelism needs to be relational. Dr. Aldrich knew this back in the late twentieth century and yet we often lose sight of that most fundamental truth today. The power of true relationship in Christ is one which distinguishes Christianity from all other faiths. Aldrich understood how the gospel

is based on relationship. True relationship, which can speak to the beauty of a relational God, only comes about when we are willing to build bridges over even the greatest chasms – barriers of culture, race, gender, and background. As a church we are better at building bridges with those who are different from us when we first see the beautiful diversity within the body. We are a better witness when we build bridges amongst ourselves so that others will know us by our love for one another.

One of the first steps to building gospel bridges with non-believers is to build them with believers so that

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Wilberforce & Calculated Risk by Ashley Bell

"If to be feeling alive to the sufferings of my fellow-creatures is to be a fanatic, I am one of the most incurable fanatics ever permitted to be at large."

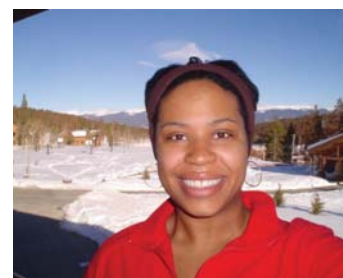
- William Wilberforce
Fanatics are not constrained by fear or the different formulaic methods that sometimes lead to well-thought-out results. Fanatics realize that love is a risk. It is sometimes unpredictable, and in the face of rejection, humiliation, and death, fanatics tend to risk it all. They move beyond calculated risk, laying their logic and reason aside, for the sake of their fellow man.

Logic and reason cannot coincide with risk. I find that when I try to take a logical, reasonable risk, I turn from God's two great-

est commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37). "And the second is like it, "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39). Calculated risk keeps me from living out the love that I have been called to exhibit, fostering my own self interest. I must become a fanatical Christian, living an unselfish, uncalculated, risk-filled life. This can be seen in the lives of women and men like William Wilberforce, who have lived out their faith before us. Here is a man who risked it all to love his neighbor and change his community and the world.

It is my prayer that I would become a fanatic, that we all would become fanatic-

ics. Christ risked it all on the cross, only to be rejected by the same people love led Him to die for. I must be willing to do the same – pour myself out, even unto death, like Wilberforce, like Christ, for the sake of my neighbors, friends, even my enemies, no matter the risk. I must live fanatically for Christ, getting beyond calculated risk.



Ashley Bell is an intern with New Wine and a student at Multnomah Biblical Seminary.

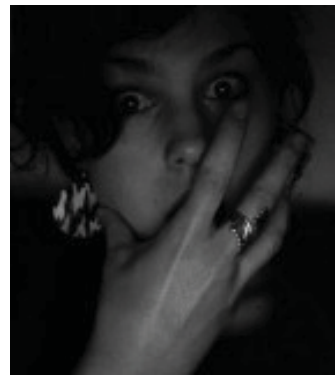


“Inter-dependence” continued from page 1

“otherliness” and expand our aperture so we are more aware. Dan Merchant stated that if we were “more connected to one another, the talking heads would have no power”, and John Morehead observed that numerically the church is strong, but socially we’ve lost credibility.

I’ve been having the realization that in our individualized, instant-gratification culture, the air we breathe and the water we drink is the exact antithesis of this solidarity and mutuality of which they spoke. Truth be told, I live as if I don’t really need anyone. I don’t need my neighbor; they just get in my way when I’m trying to back out of my driveway. I don’t need the people I go to church with, they just make the line longer for communion. I don’t need my roommates; they just leave dishes in the sink. This is devastatingly, how I often feel, and it makes me sick. But as I live this way, the reality is that I’m primarily concerned for myself, not my neighbor. How do I live so that I truly need “the other,” whoever that may be? It takes more

than a conference, a small group, or a roommate night here and there. I’m learning more and more that it’s impossible to open up my life to others if my heart is still jaded and cynical from past wounds. This is what drives me to the One who alone is the reconciling and humbling love we need to begin to foster and desire the costly life of inter-dependence. And this is, I believe, when true love happens among us.



Kelsi Johns is a student at Multnomah Biblical Seminary. She spends much of her time exploring the beautiful city of Portland and writing for New Wine and its affiliated blog, consumingjesus.org. She can be contacted at kjohns@multnomah.edu.

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the world might know that God has sent his Son to save the world. John 17:23 speaks to this matter: “I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” In addition to building bridges to non-believers by building them with believers, in what ways have you been able to build bridges with your neighbors, those you work with, play with, and live with? More importantly how is God continually building bridges to you so that you might know His love better?



Rachel O’Brien is a student in the Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary English Program at Multnomah University. She currently tutors and mentors Hispanic youth in her North Portland community and lives in a garage. She can be contacted at robrien@multnomah.edu.

New Wine Interns

spring 2010

Ashley Bell

Ben Malick

S. Brandon Smith

Braxton Alsop

Brian Wilson

Chris Fauerso

Chris Laird

Gretchen Cain

Jeremy Nakasone

Joe Enlet

Kelsi Johns

Michael Badriaki

Paul Utzman

Rachel O’Brien

Richard Fox

Ronaldo Sison

Wei-Chun (Ethan) Huang

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The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins, directed by Dr. Paul Louis Metzger, is an official program of Multnomah Biblical Seminary at Multnomah University and is dedicated to bearing witness to Christ in contemporary culture.



New Wine interns & their families at the Fall 2009 retreat, after hearing their previously -Marxist brother’s testimony.

Back row, L-R: Richard Fox, Ben Malick, Paul Utzman.

Middle row, L-R: Maylannee Laird, Kelsi Johns, Ronaldo Sison.

Front row, L-R: Paul Metzger & Roman, Chris Laird, Mariko Metzger, Julianne Metzger, Christopher Metzger, Jeremy Nakasone, Braxton Alsop, Rachel O’Brien.