

PRESIDENT SWEETING'S SUMMER UPDATE for RTS Orlando Alumni

Dear RTS-Orlando Alumni,

It is my joy to serve as president of RTS, and I can hardly believe that I've just finished my fourth year here. I consider each of you to be a part of our community, even though you may have graduated some time ago. That's why I've made it my custom to send you an annual update of news and happenings here at RTS Orlando.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013-2014

Enrollment increased again this past year, particularly in the M.Div program. We also continue to have more applicants for our counseling program than we can accept—this year nearly 50 people applied for 20 slots! We're investigating ways to grow our counseling program to keep up with the demand—it's a wonderful problem to have.

Mentoring is now a required part of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) curriculum, and we encourage participation among all our students. I think you'll understand the value of having an older, wiser believer to counsel and encourage you during your time at seminary. I've benefited from wise mentors in my life, and I try to do the same for the group of students I mentor. Here's a picture of my group this past year. They hail from 4 continents and all want to be pastors or chaplains. You would be amazed to meet the current crop of students the Lord has sent us.



Our new tradition of **The President's Forum** is going strong. Our guests this

past year have included Randy Pope, Justin Holcomb, Jim Belcher, and Tim Tennent. All of our forums are available for viewing on our website, along with

this year's Spurgeon Lecture by Al Mohler. Other notable guests this semester included Luder Whitlock, Ross Douthat, Steve Lawson, Kevin VanHooser, and Phil Ryken.

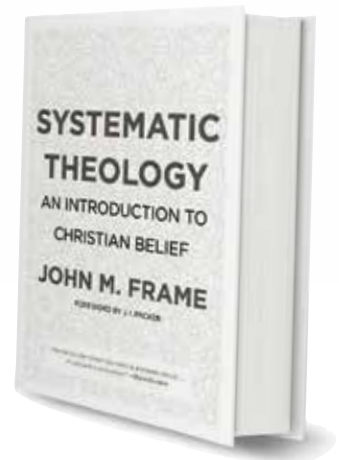


We rejoiced with **John Frame** upon the publication of his *Systematic Theology*. Dr. Frame was one of four winners of the *World Magazine Book of the Year* awards. Hear him discuss his life's work at a recent President's Forum at rts.edu/Orlando/tpf

We have enhanced our Distance M.Div. Degree Program for students who desire strong ministry preparation but can't relocate to attend seminary.

The program pairs online courses with intensive on-campus modules. Do you know someone who might benefit from this program? If so, please send them our way!

We've made **improvements to our campus**. Our refreshed campus bookstore, operated in partnership with BrightLight Books (Scott Huber '97), offers both new and



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REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ORLANDO

YES! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

Enclosed is my gift for: the **General Fund** **Student Scholarships**

Other _____

I would like to make this **ONE TIME** gift of \$ _____ by: Check (enclosed) or Credit Card

I would also like to make a **RECURRING** gift of \$ _____ every: Month Quarter

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

MY CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT NUMBER:

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EXPIRES _____ / _____ SECURITY CODE: _____

SIGNATURE _____



used books to RTS students and the surrounding community. Because of a generous gift, we added a gorgeous boardwalk over the water along the lake which sports three gazebos!

WILL YOU HELP US?

In a day when many seminaries are cutting back on required courses or increasing their tuition costs, we remain committed to serving the church by providing the high-quality training today's leaders need. In order to continue doing so, we need a constant infusion of three things: **students, financial partners, and prayer.**

Did you know that you are our #1 recruiting tool? More students hear about RTS from their pastors or friends than all other sources combined. In fact, if each RTS graduate sent a student our way every 3 years, I could eliminate our marketing and recruiting efforts altogether! As you come across people in your life and ministry who would benefit from the training that RTS offers, please recommend us to them. Let us know if we can send you (or a friend) a brochure with up-to-date information on our degree programs.



Second, you know more than anyone how difficult it can be to pay for seminary. This time of year, I'm reminded of the fear I felt when I began working on my graduate degree in theological education. My palms were sweaty as we unloaded our belongings, and I wondered if we'd really made the right choice. The Lord provided for us though, just as He provides for our students each year. For 87% of our students, scholarships pave the way for them to prepare for ministry here at RTS. If you haven't done so already, will you join the group of faithful friends who stand behind our students by supporting the scholarship fund and become a financial partner?

Finally, you know that **God's work goes forward by prayer.** Jesus said, "without me, you can do nothing." So, will you pray for God's blessing and provision for RTS Orlando?

- Let us pray for you, too. Send your request to us on the detachable form.
- Please use the enclosed card to write a note of encouragement to a current student. Let them know you're praying for them. Return it in the reply envelope, and we will put it a student mailbox for you.

May God richly bless you in your life and ministry in the coming year!

Yours in His Service,

Don Sweeting, Ph.D., *President*
James Woodrow Hassel Professor of Church History

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REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



ALUMNI PRAYER REQUEST
