

Who We Are

CPS is the graduate school of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, equipping future leaders above and beyond bible school or undergrad training. Our graduates excel as ministry professionals or as leaders in the 'marketplace'. As a member of the ACTS Seminaries consortium, and a partner with Trinity Western University, our seminary works co-operatively with five other seminaries to offer our students excellent, graduate-level theological education that will serve the PAOC well, world-wide. Indeed, many of our graduates pastor PAOC churches; others are on the mission field; and many are involved in extensive bible translation work. Still more graduates of CPS are respected leaders in the business world; or family counselors or chaplains in the prison system.

CPS upholds and develops the Pentecostal message and vision both in the multi-denominational setting of ACTS—and in the world, post-grad.



this issue...

Tithing, A First Response to Grace **P.1**

Where Are They Now? **P.2**

CPS Course Info. **P.3**

Tithing, cont'd **P.4**

Tithing, A First Response to Grace *Dr. Jim Lucas, CPS President*

In a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Evangelicals, the majority of Evangelical leaders did not believe that tithing was required of Christians. To see the CNN coverage of the topic, go to <http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/bestoftv/2011/04/11/exp.nr.tithing.debate.cnn#/video/bestoftv/2011/04/11/exp.nr.tithing.debate.cnn>

I am not sure what the survey team meant by "required of Christians." Required for what? Required for salvation? Required for membership in a local church? Required for healthy, mature Biblical spirituality? If asked, I would answer the above questions: no, no, and yes – absolutely! Surely we know that nothing but faith in Christ is required for salvation. Some churches may require tithing for membership, as does Mars Hill Church in Seattle.¹ But I find it hard to conceive of healthy, mature, Christian faith without a commitment to generous and sacrificial giving, at least a tithe.

The argument that tithing was merely part of the Mosaic Law that was superseded by Christ fails to do justice to the Biblical evidence. Tithing predated the law by at least 500 years. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek (Gen. 14). Jacob promised to tithe after his encounter with the Lord at Bethel (Gen. 28). In fact tithing seems to be, at its core, a response to God's blessing or loving kindness. Abraham responded to Melchizedek's blessing with a tithe of his spoils of war after his victory over the kings of Sodom. Jacob responded with a promise to tithe after an angelic blessing and promise at Bethel. While the Law put "in stone" moral

requirements for the People of God, it did not mean that they were not part of the worship life of faithful people prior to the Law. The Decalogue clearly articulated moral conduct that should have been observed by every person who worshipped and feared the Lord. Idol worship, murder, and false witness were not simply wrong because the Law said so, they were always wrong for people who served a holy God. In other words, the fact that tithing is in the Law does not mean it did not exist as a moral principal before the Law. Both Abraham and Jacob demonstrated that tithing was first and foremost a heartfelt response to God's blessing.

Furthermore, instead of treating the requirements of the moral law as obsolete, Jesus - in the Sermon on the Mount, ramped up their requirements: don't murder becomes don't hate; don't commit adultery becomes don't lust; an eye for an eye becomes turn the other cheek; etc. Regarding our possessions, while the Law claimed that the tithe was holy and belonged to the Lord, (Lev. 27:26-30) one could make a strong argument that in New Testament terms everything we have is holy and belongs to the Lord, and that we are called to be stewards of it on his behalf. We would of course agree that the Law is not required for salvation, but we would be remiss to think that many of the Law's requirements are not essential for healthy, mature Christian living. The argument that tithing was merely a legal requirement of the Law and that it has no relevance for today, is therefore simply spurious. Jesus commended the Pharisees for tithing (Matt. 23:23)² and had much to say about generosity and



pastors
missionaries

counsellors
chaplains

professors
bible translators

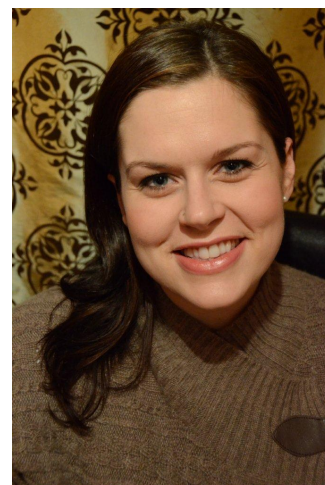
church
planters

ministry
leaders



Soul Care

*Laura Hooper,
MA MFT, RCC*



I have always had a curiosity for why people behave in the ways they do, and how each person's connection to God varies upon their personal experience.

It is not a secret that most counsellors and care-givers are driven to follow a career in this field due to personal experience, and I am no different. My life has been dramatically changed by God and by great people who have invested in me and modeled the skill of integrating their faith and counselling skills. Thus began my journey of learning and growing in the art of integrating psychology and theology at Summit Pacific College.

After graduating from Summit Pacific's Counselling Foundations program, my ministry began in student development at Columbia Bible College, and I learned quite quickly that if I wanted to sustain my ministry of 'soul care' I would need to further my education. This led me to the Marriage and Family program at ACTS Seminary. Grounded in both solid research and sound theology, this eye-opening experience not only gave me an empowering education but also the tools to steer away from negative family patterns, break free of past struggles and create new deep connections with others and God.

Although in the Christian tradition there have been difficulties and varying opinions of the integration of psychology and theology, there is recognition in the field of counselling and family therapy that religion and spirituality are once again seen as potential valuable resources for healing, growth and positive change. McMinn and Phillips (2001) state that "if we are to most effectively minister to souls, this new era should not be characterized by psychologists and theologians huddling in their respective professional circles." Effective counselling requires thoughtful interdisciplinary dialogue of weaving together truths from various perspectives. The professors at ACTS model and teach this skill.

I currently work at Summit Pacific College as Assistant Director of Omega Global, (a one year discipleship program), teach part time in the Counselling program, and work as a therapist part-time at Cares Counselling Center in Abbotsford. I have been empowered to now model and teach this skill of integration and look forward to the continual journey of helping others grow in deeper connection with themselves, others and God.

Recommended Upcoming Courses:

TWU Campus
Feb. 27-March 2, 2011:

“Growing Healthy and Missional Churches”

PTH 630 A

Instructor: Dr. Jim Lucas

acts.twu.ca

Register now for these CME courses,
offered **March 12-14**
at BCYD PAOC

Conference on the Ministry:

“Avoiding Moral Failure in Church Leadership”

Dr. Jim Caruso

(contact jcaruso@bc.paoc.org)

OR

“The Pastor and Spiritual Formation”

Dr. Jim Lucas

(contact jim.lucas@twu.ca)



“Impact of 20th Century Pentecostalism”

with instructor Van Johnson

Feb. 8-10, 2012 8:30am-4:30pm

at Mill Woods Assembly, Edmonton

www.journeycentre.ca



Looking further ahead,

mark this Summer Course on your calendar:

TWU Campus

August 13-17, 2012

“Global Pentecostal Charismatic Christianity”

Instructors: Alan Anderson & Michael Wilkinson

**Check out our
website:**

canadianpentecostalseminary.ca

And the ACTS site:

acts.twu.ca

Questions regarding which
ACTS courses

would benefit YOU ?

Contact **Liisa Polkki:**

Liisa.Polkki@twu.ca





Dr. Jim Lucas

Dr. Lucas is both the president of Canadian Pentecostal Seminary and the lead pastor of Christian Life Community Church in Abbotsford, B.C.

Tithing, A First Response to Grace *continued from p. 1*

how his followers should handle money. In fact sixteen of the thirty-eight parables dealt with money and possessions. In the Gospels an amazing one out of every ten verses deals directly with the subject of money. There are 500 verses on prayer in the Bible, less than 500 on faith but more than 2000 verses about money and possessions. Obviously, there is something about money and possessions that tend to capture our hearts and fealty. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The tithing stories of Abraham and Jacob indicate that their hearts' immediate responses to God's blessing was to tithe. How much more should we, who have every blessing in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3), give at least our tithe.

We might discuss why the tithe should be given to the believer's home church and we could consider the idea of offerings and sacrifices, which date back to Cain and Abel, but this is beyond the scope of this short article. Nevertheless, because of the rampant

materialism of our age, this is a very important topic for further research, discussion, and sermonizing. Pastors are often reluctant to broach the topic in sermons for fear of being accused of avarice or to avoid the accusation that churches are only after peoples' money. But the emphasis that Jesus placed on how we should handle wealth makes it very likely that it is one of the most important issues to grapple with as we pursue mature and healthy spiritual formation.

-
1. See "Confessions of a Reformation Rev." Pastor Mark Driscoll is one of a growing number of evangelical pastors who ask for a church member giving pledge every year.
(p. 181)
 2. I believe this is the only occasion in which Jesus commends the Pharisees.

CPS CONNECTOR Issue 08 January 2012

Why support CPS?

- CPS helps articulate and develop the Pentecostal message in a multi-denominational partnership setting.
- Students may complete degrees without stepping out of ministry.
- Regular classes, modular one week and weekend classes, summer courses, distance education and online studies offer convenience and flexibility to prepare for ministry.
- Professional Development seminars are available for pastors at all stages of ministry.
- Students have opportunity to study with some of the brightest and most articulate scholars on the globe today.
- Your investment helps expand the Kingdom of God.

How can I help?

- **General support:**
Mail a cheque to CPS today to cover ongoing operational costs needed to provide a level of education second to none. All gifts are tax deductible as per CRA regulations.
- **Church support:**
Influence your church to donate regularly.
- **Bursaries and scholarships:**
Provide a bursary to help a CPS student with costs.
- **Students:**
Recommend CPS to up and coming ministry leaders.
- **Pray:** Commit to praying regularly for CPS.