

In Touch

with the Faculty of Theology



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



As I read through the draft of this issue of *In Touch*, it struck me that the Faculty of Theology not only is about the business of achieving academic excellence in the education it offers but also, the Faculty reaches out into the community and the wider world.

Whether it is supporting and sharing community with Mayuen Mou or celebrating with the beginning of the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma or sponsoring along with the Ridd Institute an Interfaith Roundtable on Immigration, the Faculty is living out its mission to be in the world.

On a Saturday in October 27, I took part in the Creation and Peril Workshop sponsored by the Green Faith Alliance. The Faculty of Theology through the work of Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones was a voice in the planning of the workshop. On the way home, I had one of those ah-ha moments. On that Saturday morning in Convocation Hall, the Church gathered. Progressive Christians, conservative Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, people of every faith and people of no faith gathered not to convert one another, not to argue fine points of epistemology but to save the planet. Important work to say the least. It is good that Faculty of Theology is engaged in that mission.

As this newsletter is rolled out at the beginning of Advent, I wish each and every one of you a most blessed season.

Terry Hidichuk, (Acting) Dean

Registration



Avoid long lines and register now! [Bursary application](#)

Deadline is **December 3, 2012.**

To qualify for a bursary you MUST be registered by December 3.

Check out our timetable for [Degree](#) or [Certificate in Theology](#) courses.

All [forms](#) are available on our website. New [FEE Schedule](#)

REMINDER: Fee statements are not mailed out, it is the responsibility of the student to view [WebAdvisor](#) for all fees that are outstanding as well as applicable due dates. Fees not paid by due dates will be subject to applicable late fees.



Certificate in Theology course and new instructor in Winter 2013 Term

The Faculty of Theology is pleased to make available the following new course for Certificate students: "Forgiveness: The Name of Hope in a Wounded World" taught by Wilma Derkson. The class will meet Saturdays, 10am-1pm, from January 12 to March 2.



The Certificate in Theology is a non-degree program for people pursuing theological engagement and spiritual development in their own lives and communities of faith. A completed Certificate is made up of 10 courses and a practicum. For more information follow the link to the current [Timetable](#)
You can also contact the Director of Studies, Chris Wells at ch.wells@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-786-9857 for more information.

Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Event



On the evening of October 22, the Faculty of Theology hosted an event at the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC) to welcome the first cohort of students in the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma. This Diploma has been five years in the making as its Indigenous Development Team dreamed, planned, revised and (at last) implemented its first curriculum.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still—the steadfast champion of this Diploma—hosted the event and opened with a prayer and introductions. Over thirty people were in attendance, including five Diploma students, faculty, staff, community members and elders.

The event began with the Rev. Elder Norman Meade and his three adorable grandchildren providing a teaching on the Medicine Wheel. The students helped us to recognize some of the themes with which they were wrestling in their classes, including the legacy of colonization and its distortion of the balance inherent in the Medicine Wheel.

The event concluded with a blessing from Elder Ruth Christie and a fabulous meal and social time. We thank all those who participated and who worked so hard to make this a memorable evening for our students--particularly our very own Tanis Kolisnyk, Aboriginal Student Liaison Officer at the ASSC. Thanks also to the ASSC for letting us host the event, and to the Vice-President Indigenous, Jennifer Rattray and her office, for the financial support.

Jane Barter Moulaison.

Appreciation Letter to the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Theology



Stephen Mayuen Mou

When I arrived in Winnipeg on Dec. 28, 2011, I couldn't tell if I would survive the cold or not. I never experienced or heard of such cold in my life in Africa before. The South Sudanese community welcomed me and took me to the house of Rev. Reuben Garang. Unfortunately, the bad news arrived that Reuben's father-in-law died. This news worried me a lot; I thought the cold weather killed him. People gathered together in the sitting room for prayers, and they asked me to pray for the family and relatives of the deceased. But before I prayed, I

asked, "Can someone tell me what killed the man?" A family member narrated to me that the man had been sick and eventually he died. I relaxed and said, "I thought he died from cold weather!" Everybody burst out in laughter and then we prayed for the family.

The second hard time I had was that I had no idea how to warm up the food in microwave. The first time I tried to warm my food was on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, the evening in which my food and plate got burnt inside the microwave. Nobody was there to help me but when I saw my plate melting and the soup running out of the plate down into the microwave. I thought that's how it warms the food, so I was ready to eat a well warmed meal. However, I ended up losing my plate and food altogether. When I opened the microwave and found that my plate was no more, I cleaned the microwave and turn to my room and slept with hunger. The fact that I slept with hunger was not my first worry, it was the condition of the microwave.

The third scenario was that all trees looked dead and I hardly believed that green leaves would really appear during the so-called summer, even though Dr. Jane and many others kept telling me how green Winnipeg would look in the summer.

Fourth, I struggled with how to wash clothes in residence's washing machines. One day I put all my clothes into the machine, followed the instructions and the machine locked in my clothes and then started to roll my clothes. After a short while, I remembered that I mixed colored with white and delicate clothes, so I decided to pull the door of machine in an attempt to open it but I was like asking a penguin to fly. The machine was just roaring and rolling my clothes and I got confused about what the clothes would look like.

Fifth, another day, I wanted to buy a pen, so I went down to Portage Place and picked up a package of pens, removed one pen and returned to the counter to pay. Unfortunately, as I was heading to the counter a white man said, "Stop, stop, stop, stop there! What do you want?" I replied, "I want to pay for a pen." The guy couldn't understand my accent so he repeated the question, "What do you want here?" I said "I need to pay this pen." I pointed to the pen I picked from the package. Still he didn't get what I told him, so he gave me his pen and asked, "Do you need a pen?" I said, "No sir, I need to pay for this pen." I pointed him again with the pen. Now he understood and said, "So where did you get this pen?" "I got it from there," I told him. He said "take me there I can see." I led him and picked up the package from which I removed the pen, "From here," I said. The man said, "Oh my God, we don't sell one pen from here, we sell the whole package." "What shall I do now?" I asked myself, and the man sympathized with me, and said, "Come, I will show you where to buy one pen," he led me there and I bought the one I wanted.

Dear Dr. Jane, Dr. Terry Hidichuk, Dr. James Christie, Chris Wells, Dr. Dean Peachy and the President of the University of Winnipeg:

It is with great pleasure and honor to write this piece of appreciation letter to the University of Winnipeg, not only to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Faculty of Theology, but to give credit to where it belongs. It was not an easy task for me to get to Winnipeg without hard work and the commitment of people behind the success. There are many people in the Faculty of Theology who have contributed so much towards my studies and my life in Canada that I must express my gratitude to each of them individually.

I would like to thank Dr. Jane Barter Moulaison for the time, energy and money she spent talking with me on phone and emails while I was still in Africa waiting for entry visa. I was so excited and maintain this excitement to this day about her commitment for my sake. I'm convinced confidently that I will be able to contribute to the community of South Sudan and possibly the African continent at large and it was because of her unwavering commitment that got me here.

Dr. Jane Barter Moulaison spent lots of time, energy and money to get me to Canada even when it was next to impossible to get a visa in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Thank you so much for giving up your tight schedules in 2011 for my sake Dr. Jane. What you did to me is worth more than just appreciation. My heart pumps all the

times willing to give you an important award but since I have nothing to give you as an award, God will keep that heart in you for the purpose of his Word. And as I will go back to Africa in December this year as a messenger and voice of the University of Winnipeg in Africa, your name will remain in my history. I cannot afford to miss out mentioning Dr. Terry Hidichuk, the Acting Dean of Theology for spending lots of time to raise funds for me to live in a comfortable life in McFeetors students' resident hall and eat at the University of Winnipeg's cafeteria as much as I want. It was a task that the Diocese of Aweil would not afford to pay such overwhelming amount of money used for rent, food and my transportation allowance per month. Despite all this help, he remains a simple listener to my needs, a kind and honest leader that I will miss for the rest of my life in South Sudan.

I want to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude towards my experienced instructors who became my parents, teachers, friends, and neighbors throughout the year of my studies in Winnipeg. I'm in a situation in life where I fell short of words that speak deep to the hearts of people, I would those words to express my gratitude towards my teachers; however the contribution that I will give to South Sudan will say it all. I want this University to know in their history that they have contributed so much for South Sudan's development through me.

It is appropriate for me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Chris Wells who played a vital role in my academic writing. My poor English can now be read with less grammatical errors than when I came. It was because of his support that I was able to write an acceptable thesis proposal in the University of Winnipeg involved a lot of hard work even without the poor English background that I came with, but Chris Wells offered himself to give me advice and suggestions of major importance toward my thesis proposal. I had no idea which topic to write, but his advice and suggestions led me to the conclusion that I have made. Thank you very much, Chris Wells, for the love, care, and affection you poured out to me. You will recall in your records that I can write a little better English now than when I came because of your help.

It is extra important to mention Dr. James Christie's contribution towards my understanding of the Peace and Justice course "Dialogue or Disaster" which was a heart touching lesson I have learned. The message of that course has entered deep into my soul beyond description. And I will take back to South Sudan a phrase "that we may know each other" and apply the content of the course towards curbing the horrible relationship between Christians, Muslims and traditional believers.

I believe in Dr. Dean Peachey, who is not part of Theology department but he became a role model to me during the Peace and Justice Course I took with him "Post-conflict, Truth, Memories and Reconciliation." He would talk to me diligently every time he sees me struggling with Canadian English. He was a caring and loving instructor. Thank you very much Dr. Dean Peachey for your help.

My special gratitude goes to my dear sister and mother, Sandy Peterson, who sends emails to me every time she receives my transport allowance. She has been so friendly, kind and caring. It shows that she been paying special attention towards my needs. Thank you very much, Sandy, for you kindness, love and care. Your emails make me feel valued by the University of Winnipeg through you. Your kindness and love will make me go extra mile in my pastoral and rural development works in the South Sudan.

And finally, David M. Atem told me excellent news about the President of the University of Winnipeg. His contribution, I heard it did not only help to bring peace to South Sudan but his contribution included helping South Sudan secede from the North to become a new nation. The International Criminal Court also indicted the President of Sudan, thus giving the South Sudanese a chance to vote to become an independent nation. I enjoyed the letter he wrote about me when I came last year.

According to his report, I came to receive the benefit of both theological education and conflict resolution studies. I can tell him that I went beyond studies. The community of Aweil in Manitoba with its partner

communities, St. Matthew's Emmanuel Mission and Canadian friends have conducted a fund raising event on the June 16, 2012 for my organization, Community Care Organization (CCO) www.communitycaressd.org

I was able to provide relief assistance to vulnerable returnees when I return to Aweil from June 26 –Sept 6, 2012. Without the University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Theology under your able leader, I wouldn't have come to know and raise funds to assist my suffering brothers and sisters in South Sudan. It is a great privilege and I am deeply grateful to have such a huge gift from the University of Winnipeg for me to study for free. Thanks to all Canadian friends and South Sudanese for being so kind and friendly.

I just want to conclude that I am so proud of each and every one who helped me in days of my struggle in Canada. May God bless all those who stood with me during the times of my needs while in Canada.

Rev. Stephen Mayuen Mou
stephenmou@yahoo.com

“Is God the Difference - Religion and Politics in Canada and the USA”



" Emmanuel Principal Mark Toulouse in front of Stella Mission and the plaque commemorating J.S. Woodsworth, in the course of the Winnipeg social gospel history tour he was given by Bill Blaikie."

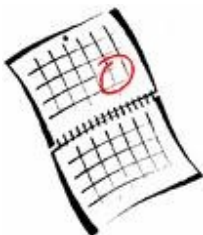
There was a good turnout on October 25th to hear a lecture by Dr. Mark Toulouse, Principal of Emmanuel College, Toronto School of Theology. Dr. Toulouse was brought to the University of Winnipeg by the Knowles-Woodsworth Centre. His lecture was entitled “ Is God the Difference –

Religion and Politics in Canada and the USA”, and was a particularly timely analysis of the interaction between faith and politics, and faith and voting patterns, in the USA. Much of what he had to say was reflected in the actual results of exit polls conducted on the day of the Nov. 7th US election, in terms of who voted for who and why.

Before coming to Canada Dr. Toulouse was Professor of American Religious History at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. He is the author of *God in Public – Four Ways American Christianity and Public Life Relate*. While in Winnipeg, Dr. Toulouse also spoke on Friday the 26th to members of the Winnipeg Theological Co-Operative about the Muslim Studies Program at Emmanuel, at a lunch hosted by Dr. Terry Hidichuk, acting Dean of Theology.

Bill Blaikie

Coming Events



The Faculty of Theology, in partnership with the United Church of Canada, has launched a new research hub called Organic Parish. The focus of Organic Parish is transforming church spaces into community places. A conference will be held in June 2012, featuring Diana Butler Bass. If you are a minister, lay leader, or writer on theology, religion, and spirituality, please join the conversation at OrganicParish.com.

Farewell for Stephen Mayuen Mou

Stephen Mayuen Mou will be returning to South Sudan on December 20, 2012. Dean Terry Hidichuk and the Faculty of Theology would like to invite you to come and say "Good Bye" .

**Thursday December 13, 2012
from 4:00 - 6:00
Faculty of Theology Office 1B01**

Everyone Welcome!

*Wishing you and your families
all the best
during this Holiday Season.
From the Faculty and Staff
of the Faculty of Theology*

