



EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



From My Window

The Apostle Paul wrote from prison to a faithful, caring local church with these words: "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God" (Phil. 1:3 NLT). I echo Paul's joy when I think upon Dr. and Mrs. Windsor. I remember the first time I talked and prayed with Dr. Mike about establishing a seminary in Virginia Beach. We were team teaching in Arad, Romania, in 1993, and it was in the middle of one of their worst winters. I shared with him that God was forming a seminary "at the beach," and I asked him if he would consider moving from Wisconsin to help us. Without hesitation, he was ready to come! I love Dr. Mike and Virginia's missionary heart, and I have been blessed to serve with them. I pray God will continue to use them for his glory at VBTS!



Since the inception of Virginia Beach Theological Seminary in 1995, Dr. Michael Windsor has served as the Professor of Church History and Head Librarian. Before VBTS held its first class—and even though he already earned a doctorate—Dr. Windsor went to the University of Wisconsin to get his Master in Library Information Studies (MLIS) to be appropriately credentialed to oversee the library. Under his leadership, the collection has grown from 13,000 volumes (an initial gift from a Bible college) to nearly 50,000 volumes and full technical support. Dr. Windsor modestly credits the generosity of God's people for the library's development, but he has tirelessly supervised the library's growth.

Much has happened in 25 years, and Dr. and Mrs. Windsor have been a model Christian couple. He is not only a significant pillar at VBTS, but he has also served Colonial Baptist Church as a deacon and long-time Sunday School teacher. In the midst of challenges and joys they have demonstrated faithfulness to the Lord and the ministry. Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Windsor, for your examples of grace and faith!



You Are Objects of Prayer

Dr. Michael Windsor, Professor of Church History

Had plans not been altered by COVID-19, Dr. Michael Windsor was to be the Commencement speaker on May 3rd. As a founding faculty member, he was a fitting speaker as VBTS celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Below is a brief message Dr. Windsor prepared for this year's graduates in lieu of the cancellation of the 2020 VBTS Commencement ceremony. We trust that it will encourage you as you read his thoughts.

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Matthew recorded Jesus' interaction with the crowds in this way:

When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt. 9:36–38 NKJV)

Discipleship has two components. First, a disciple must seek to emulate his teacher. Second, a disciple must obey his teacher's instructions. The first proposition is demonstrated in the numerous calls by Jesus Christ to various disciples to follow him. The Gospel of Matthew is replete with illustrations of Jesus calling individuals to follow him (4:18–20; 8:22; 9:9; 16:24; 19:21). The Gospel is also filled with Jesus teaching these disciples about prayer (6:5–13; 7:7–11) as well as modeling this discipline before them (11:25–26; 14:23; 26:36–44).

In addition to following the example of his Lord, a disciple must heed the Lord's commands. One such command is the command to pray (Matt. 9:38). Jesus saw the condition of the multitude. They were exhausted, both physically and spiritually ("weary" or faint). The multitude was spiritually confused ("scattered") and in need of someone to shepherd their souls.

In response to the condition of the multitude, Jesus was "moved with compassion." This expression (*splaknizomai*) implies the deep, internal wrenching of a person, and is used several times in the Gospels to describe Jesus' heart for people. As a consequence of the spiritual peril of the multitude, Jesus exhorted his disciples to pray ("pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest" ESV). The content of their prayer is that workers will be sent into the harvest field.

I would like to remind our 2020 graduates that you have been supported by prayer along the way. People were praying for you before you became students at VBTS. Once you became students, others such as family, faculty, board members, and fellow students were praying for you. As graduates of VBTS, then, you are both the object of prayer and the answer of prayer. You came to seminary because people prayed. You made it through seminary because people prayed. And soon many of you will become the answer to a local congregation's prayers when you become their shepherd.

Congratulations on your graduation—a job well done! By God's grace, you have taken a major step in your life. But I caution you to be mindful that the work of the Lord is a ministry of prayer. You will need prayer support as you serve God. You will also need to be models of prayer. So trace Jesus' example and beg him as did the Twelve: "Lord, teach us to pray!"