

Week of April 12

As we celebrate Good Friday and Easter, let us give thanks for our Lord Jesus Christ. Through his great sacrifice and victory on the Cross and his resurrection from the dead, he is making all things new and enabling us to be his ambassadors, also through Christian university education.

As we approach our fiscal year-end on April 30, we give thanks for the many people who are part of our supporting constituency. There are over two thousand members, businesses, churches and alumni who generously support the mission of Redeemer University College. Pray that we may continue to stand together in promoting Christ-centred university education.

Week of April 19

This week on April 21-23 Jessie and I will be at the University of Prince Edward Island to attend the meetings of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). I will represent Redeemer and Jessie serves as the national president of the spouses group. Please pray that the Lord will grant safety in travelling and provide for fruitful meetings.

It's hard to believe, but examinations are over on April 23, and our students leave campus to return to their families and find summer employment. Please pray that the Lord will keep them safe and give them a good summer as they serve, work and earn income for next year's studies or begin a new stage of their lives as graduates seeking employment or pursuing further study.

Week of April 26/May 1

As we look to our summer session at Redeemer, we are preparing to mount continuing education courses and host many events and conferences. Please pray for all the staff who are involved in campus services that they may show forth the love of Christ to our guests.

During the semester, our chaplain, Dr Syd Hielema, has been leading us in prayer support for our strategic planning process, and he is now working on the plans for our annual day of prayer to seek the Lord's guidance as we discern our main areas of emphasis for the coming year. Please pray for him and for our campus community as we gather in the coming week.

Visit us online at www.redeemer.ca
(Quick Links, Prayer Letter) or send
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PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LETTER

March / April 2009
No. 4

We are thankful to the Lord for your continued prayer support for the mission of Redeemer University College and the specific needs we outline in this Prayer Letter. We have been blessed this semester with two excellent conferences in January: the Crossroads Conference and a Social Justice Conference, as well as wonderful performances of *Fiddler on the Roof* in February. Our other good news is a Redeemer first—getting into the *Maclean's* student satisfaction issue in February AND being ranked first of 31 universities in the category of student satisfaction with the quality of education!

We are also thankful for a record level of applications at this point in time and also a very good response in the area of donations, in spite of the difficult economic times.

As we look forward to commemorating the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, we are reminded that through Jesus we can approach the throne of God with confidence (Hebrews 4:14-16), because He has opened the way to the Father through His great sacrifice. As you celebrate Good Friday and Easter, may you be strengthened in your faith.

Justin D. Cooper

Week of February 23

The Board of Governors meets on February 27 and 28 to continue a strategic planning process to shape the university's future plans for the next ten years and to consider the budget for 2009-10. Please pray for a spirit of wisdom and unity and for decisions that contribute to the furtherance of Redeemer's mission.

Redeemer's Concert Choir will be performing, in conjunction with the choir from Brock University, in a special concert on February 28. Pray that the Lord will use this opportunity for students to be a witness to their fellow choristers and for a blessing on the concert.

Week of March 1

We are still searching for two administrative leadership positions: an Associate Vice President, Marketing and a Director of Continuing Education. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the right person for each position, a godly person who loves Jesus Christ and is fully committed to the vision and basis of the university, recognizing Christ's Lordship over all of life.

On Tuesday, March 3, Dr Thomas Long, a professor at Emory University, will speak at our annual Ministers' Conference on the joys and challenges of preaching. We have invited many pastors and leaders to be part of this day. Please pray that many will come to this event and that the Lord will strengthen Dr Long and use him to inspire and bless everyone who attends.

On Friday, March 6, the Student Senate is sponsoring the annual winter banquet to which students, faculty and staff are invited. Pray that this will be an enjoyable evening of Christian fellowship which will be upbuilding for everyone who attends and will bring honour to the Lord.

Week of March 8

This spring we are working to complete our \$3.3 million *Growing with Integrity* Student Support campaign, as we seek donations to match a generous challenge gift of \$500,000 that has been given by several of our supporters.

We give thanks for over \$300,000 in donations that have already come in and pray that the Lord will move hearts so we can go over the \$1 million mark by April 30 with a special matching campaign and continue to make a Redeemer education accessible for students.

The university's academic governing body, the Senate, meets on March 10 to review academic programs and policies and to make recommendations about the reappointment of faculty. Please pray that the Lord will grant the Holy Spirit's wisdom to the members of our Senate as they deliberate, so that the decisions they make will strengthen Redeemer's mission.

Week of March 15

This week a number of prospective students will be here for several Campus Visit Days to give them a first hand experience of university life and education. Join us in praying for safety in travel and for an understanding of the importance of Christian higher education as they make their decision about where to study next year.

This week students are voting for new leaders for next year's Student Senate. We have been blessed with responsible and committed student leaders at Redeemer in many different areas. Pray that the Lord will guide students as they go through this election as they select new Student Senate leaders.

Week of March 22

On March 27 and 28 I will be attending the semi-annual meeting of the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE), a group of ten Christ-centred institutions that have Reformed Christian roots. Please pray for travelling mercies and for a fruitful time of dialogue and fellowship.

Our annual scholarship event will take place on March 27, during which applicants for the Academic Achievement and Leadership Scholarships come to campus. Pray for these gifted young people that this experience will help them to mature and will lead them to choose a Christian university education.

Week of March 29/April 1

Using a \$500,000 grant we have received, over the next three years, we will be working to expand and diversifying our continuing education program, so that we can become a centre of learning for adults as well as high school graduates. Join us in praying that the Lord will bless and guide these efforts to increase Redeemer's reach in Christian higher education.

As students experience the pressures of the final weeks of this winter semester there are many stresses and strains which come to the surface, and they are much in need of our prayers. As students need special support to see them through, pray as well for our Student Life staff, chaplain and counsellors that the Lord will enable them to minister to the needs of our students.

Week of April 5

On April 6 Redeemer's Sinfonia, our symphony ensemble under the direction of Dr Paul Thorlakson, will be presenting its Spring Masterworks Concert. Join us in praying that the Lord will bless not only this evening of music making, but also the development of our music program at Redeemer University College.

This year's Closing Convocation chapel takes place on April 8 with Professor Allan Brown, Assistant Professor of Physical Education, as our speaker. We are also saying farewell to Dr John Boersema, who has retired from full-time faculty service. Pray that the Lord will bless this final chapel of the academic year as faculty, staff and students gather to give thanks for all that has been accomplished under the Lord's guidance during this year.

The last day of classes this semester is April 9. During and after these final days of classes, with many papers and projects to be completed and marked, please pray for our faculty and students that the Lord will grant them the strength and endurance they need to complete the work and exams required for their courses of study in a way that is honouring to him.

Redeemer's Concert Choir will perform Fauré's Requiem on Friday, April 10, under the direction of Dr Christiaan Teeuwssen. Join us in giving thanks for our choir members and the witness they provide and pray that this will be an inspiring evening of praise for all who attend.