



2018 Leadership Study Program

Asian Intercultural Congregational Support

Streams of Living Water: Old Testament Spirituality

Columbia Theological Seminary, 701 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30031

August 13-17, 2018

The goal of this course is to help participants rediscover how and why the Old Testament can function as a vital resource for Christian spiritual formation. Each of the sessions takes up a key topic in Old Testament theology and reflects on its implications for the contextual concerns of the church today. The five lectures include:

1. The Character of God

This session challenges the common caricature of the “God of the Old Testament” as uniformly vengeful and vindictive in light of the paradigmatic expression of God’s gracious and merciful character in Exodus 34:6, 7.

2. The Compassion of the Law

While many Christians dismiss Old Testament law as being an outdated and unnecessary foil to the New Testament concept of grace, at the heart of these ancient statutes and commandments is an ethic of compassion that can cultivate how the church goes about building the beloved community.

3. The Love of Stranger

This session examines one of the most unique aspects of Old Testament theology – its repeated emphasis on Israel’s responsibility to protect and provide for the non-Israelite stranger – in light of present day situations surrounding refugees.

4. The Candor of the Psalms

The Psalms, as Calvin once noted, reflect the full anatomy of the soul and thus invite ancient Israel, and Christians today, to pray with honesty and vulnerability in the midst of grief, loss, and injustice.

5. The Gift of the Sabbath

By creating a “sanctuary in time,” the Sabbath principle in the OT invites us to resist the cultural idolatries of production and performance and develop practices that nurture a healthier, more balanced rhythm of life and ministry.

Lecturer: Reverend Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio



Ryan Bonfiglio serves as a Lecturer in Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and the John H. Stembler Scholar in Residence at the First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. At CTS, he teaches courses

on Biblical Hebrew, the Psalms, Joshua and Judges, OT theology, texts of terror, and the Bible and poverty. He also has taught a number of workshops and courses through the Center for Lifelong Learning. At First Presbyterian, in addition to regularly teaching and leading worship, Ryan develops resources, courses, and curricula that advance church-based theological education. His research interests include OT theology, biblical metaphors, Israelite religion, and ancient Near Eastern iconography. He is the author of *Reading Images, Seeing Texts: Towards a Visual Hermeneutic for Biblical Studies* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) and the Study Companion for John Collins’ *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Fortress Press). He is also the co-editor of *Iconographic Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) and a contributing editor to the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law*.

Ryan earned his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Emory University and M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. Prior to that he earned his BA from Princeton University in Chemistry. Ryan is married to Jamie Butcher, an ordained PC(USA) pastor in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Ryan and Jamie have a 4 year old son, Leo. Ryan is an avid athlete and former Division I college wrestling coach.



The Bible and Immigration—A Contemporary Discussion

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The five lectures are as follows:

1. Joshua 9:1-27 – Israel and the Gibeonites.

The Israelites, believers in God’s law which carefully lays out how foreigners in their midst are to be treated, are confronted with a new situation. The Gibeonites deceive the Israelites in order to escape certain death. They become, in today’s language, “illegal immigrants.” The Israelites solve the problem by making the Gibeonites become their servants doing lowly work which they do not wish to do. Or, as we would say today, doing work that is “dirty, difficult, and dangerous.” [Guest workers and immigration].

2. The Book of Ruth – A love story with an international twist.

Ruth, a Moabite and thus a foreigner, immigrates to Israel with her mother-in-law Naomi who is an Israelite. Naomi, realizing the precarious position of immigrants, arranges for Ruth to marry a wealthy relative Boaz. The couple have a son named Obed, thus securing Ruth’s position in her new homeland. Family is important whenever the issue of immigration arises, especially in this instance whereby Ruth becomes an ancestor of both King David and of Jesus. [International marriage and immigration].

3. Matthew 2:13-23 – Jesus becomes a refugee, not once, but twice.

Following the deception of Herod by the Wise Men, Herod seeks to kill all the male children in Bethlehem under two years of age. Joseph and Mary take their son Jesus and flee as refugees to Egypt where they remain until the death of Herod. Upon returning to Israel and learning that Herod’s son Archelaus has ascended the throne, they do not return to Bethlehem but settle in Nazareth instead. Thus Jesus becomes, in today’s language, a refugee who is externally displaced to a foreign country, and a refugee who is internally displaced within his own country. [Refugees and immigration].

4. Acts 2:1-21 – Jerusalem a city of immigrants and travelers

The Pentecost experience recorded in Acts 2 is marked as the birth of the Christian church. What is remarkable is that this first group of Christians is made up not only of natives of Jerusalem and Israel, but of foreign residents in Jerusalem from some fifteen different countries and territories. Some are undoubtedly immigrants who lived in the city for business. Others are travelers just passing through, and still others are pilgrims who are in the city for the Jewish Festival of Weeks also known as Pentecost. There can be no doubt, however, that racial and ethnic diversity was a distinguishing characteristic of the Christian church, one that contributed

to its rapid growth. [Racial and ethnic diversity and immigration].

5. Ephesians 2:11-22 – Christians are no longer strangers and aliens

In Christ Jews and Gentiles are united. These two religious and ethnic groups are brought together to form “one new humanity” which puts aside ethnic hostility and brings peace to those “far off and near” so that within the community of believers there are “no longer strangers and aliens.” Paul even uses the word “citizens” to describe the inclusiveness of those who were previously excluded and “the other.” Is this language of immigration only theological or is it also ethical? [Citizenship and immigration].



Lecturer: Dr. Daniel Adams
Dr. Carol Adams (Chou Fang-Lan)

Dr. Daniel Adams is a native of Washington State but he has spent most of his academic life as a professor of theology in Asia, first at Taiwan Theological College in Taipei and then at Hanil University and Theological Seminary in Jeonbuk, Korea where he retired as Professor of Theology Emeritus. The author of twenty books on theology and 250 articles in theological journals, he has lectured in churches and theological schools throughout Asia and held visiting professorships at schools in Korea, Myanmar, and the United States. He is the author of two books on biblical interpretation, *Biblical Hermeneutics: An Introduction* and *Biblical Hermeneutics: Practical Application*. He is also the author of *Doing Theology in Postmodern Times*, *Always Being Reformed: Systematic Theology*, and *Korean Theology in Historical Perspective*. Dr. Adams holds a B.A. from Seattle Pacific University, an M.Div. from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from the Aquinas Institute of Theology. After moving to Taiwan he received an M.A. in Chinese studies from Soochow University in Taipei. He is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Dr. Carol Chou Adams (Chou Fang-Lan) is a native of Miaoli, Taiwan. She studied at Tainan Theological College and taught kindergarten education at the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu. She then received a B.A. from Elmhurst College, an M.Div. from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, an M.A. from Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary), and the Th.D. from the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology where she did studies in Hong Kong at the Lutheran Theological Seminary and conjunctive studies in the United States at Emory University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, and Columbia Theological Seminary. A prolific author, her major essays have been published as *Christian Education in the Bamboo Grove*. She has served as a professor of Christian education at Taiwan Theological College in Taipei and at Hanil University and Theological Seminary in Jeonbuk, Korea, where she retired as Professor of Christian Education Emerita. In 1996 her alma mater, Elmhurst College, honored her with a Doctor of Humane Letters for

her contributions to global Christian education and theology. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, she is now a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Together the Adams have team-taught courses and workshops on biblical interpretation in churches and theological schools throughout Asia and the United States. Their unique backgrounds enable them to bring insights from theology and Christian education to the interpretation of the biblical texts. They were among the founders of the Asia Pacific Graduate School of Theological Studies at Hanil University, an international program of graduate theological education for church leaders from Asia and Africa. They are both life members of the Royal Asiatic Society. In retirement they teach Asian studies in the continuing education department of the University of North Florida. They are both avid travelers having visited over 130 countries where they always seek to visit archaeological sites, traditional markets, and centers of religious devotion.

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August	13 (Mon)	14(Tue)	15(Wed)	16 (Thur)	17(Fri)
8:30	Glory to God				
9:00	The Bible and Immigration—A Contemporary Discussion				
12:00	Lunch				
1:00	Free time		(1:00-5:00 Atlanta city tour)		
6:00	Dinner				
7:00	Streams of Living Water: Old Testament Spirituality				

2018 08 Leadership Study Program Registration Form

Name	Gender M F		Position in church:	
Church name				
Mailing address				
Email address	Cell phone		Home phone	
Registration Fee	Before June 30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$400	Before July 31 <input type="checkbox"/> \$450	After July 31 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500	
Include meals & Lodging	without lodging <input type="checkbox"/> \$100	without lodging, only evening classes <input type="checkbox"/> \$50		
Lodging 2 share a room	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 18			
Roommate	<input type="checkbox"/> arrange roommate for me <input type="checkbox"/> my roommate is:			
Scholarship available	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to apply \$	Please email application form to mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org		
<input type="checkbox"/> I need translation	<input type="checkbox"/> I can help interpreting What Language?			
Flight info (Please take flights to ATL)	Arrival flight	Airline	Flight#	Arr. : Date: 8 / <input type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12
	Departure flight	Airline	Flight#	Dep. : Date: 8 / <input type="checkbox"/> 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19

Lectures are in English. Burmese, Chinese, Mizo, Taiwanese and other language **interpretation provided upon request.**

Lodging: Columbia Theological Seminary, 701 S Columbia Dr. Decatur GA 30030 Someone will pick you up from airport

Registration end on Aug 8 **Please email registration form to: mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org** make the check payable to **CTS**, send with registration form to "3436 Bahia Blanca W #N, Laguna Woods, CA 92637" **Contact:** 1-424-303-9825 Mei-hui Lai