



The Huguenot Fellowship

The Faculté Jean Calvin is supported by friends in France and other countries, especially in Holland, Switzerland and the United States. From the founding of the Faculté in 1974 Dr. Edmund P. Clowney, President of Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and a great friend of the Faculté, set up an association in North America to support this new venture. A good many American presbyterians hold this project dear, particularly those of Huguenot stock, whose Reformed forbears had to flee persecution in France during the « desert » period of the 18th century to take refuge in Prussia, England, South Africa and ... America. The Faculté recently changed its name to underline its continuing theological orientation.

As American Christians well know, Jean Calvin was French and protestantism had its roots in France. Like many others, Calvin had to take refuge in Geneva, where he preached and wrote extensively; his theology, firmly based on the Word of God, was to spread throughout the world. The French are proud of their language, the official language of 29 countries, but also used widely elsewhere. Their rich culture is also a source of pride, yet they are aware that the rationalism of Descartes is being challenged by all kinds of religious movements. This new interest in spiritual matters could mean that there is an opening for the gospel.

The members of the Huguenot Fellowship are happy to have the honor of supporting of the Faculté de Théologie. As President of this association, and former Professor of Apologetics at Aix, I have continued to teach there over the last twenty years. The present Dean of Westminster Seminary, Peter Lillback, vice-president of the fellowship, is particularly enthusiastic about the work in France. The Board is made up of fifteen members and meets officially twice a year. Our website huguenotfellowship.org gives more information about our activities.



Over the last ten years our major project has been the endowment of the James Boice Chair of Practical Theology. One of the founder members of the Huguenot Fellowship, with Dr. Ed Clowney, was James Boice, pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia for thirty years. His predecessor, Donald G. Barnhouse, made a number of trips to France, and helped purchase the property in which the Faculté is housed, at 33 avenue Jules Ferry. The motivation behind the project was that the chair of Practical Theology, a key position, would remain faithful to its mission of training ministers to work in the kingdom of God in a changing context.

We recently spent a memorable evening with two representatives from Aix, Kim Tran, the Administrative Director, and Donald Cobb, the Professor of New Testament. About a hundred people came to hear the latest news from Aix and take part in the highlight of the evening, an event we called *Chairs for the Chair*. This was a sale by auction of a range of chairs of all shapes and sizes, folding chairs, decorated chairs, something for everyone, the proceeds going to the Boice Foundation! Kim delighted us all with his speech and his singing, and Donald gave us a fine presentation of the latest from the Faculté. We were glad to have with us Gerald and Eleanor Boyer, who taught music and directed the Faculté choir for many years.

The Huguenot Fellowship wants those who work at the Faculté Jean Calvin to know that they are not alone in their mission. Even though the Atlantic ocean separates us, we are one in spirit with them, knowing that we are all « surrounded by a large crowd of witnesses » (Hebrews 12 :1).



William Edgar

Philadelphia, USA

A plus for the students at the FJC

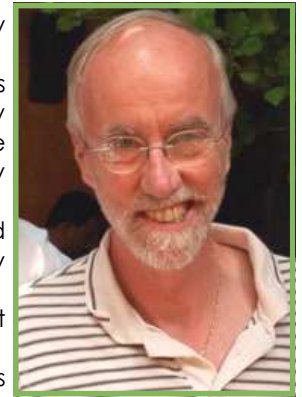
For the last two years I have been serving as student chaplain at the FJC. So what exactly does this involve and how do I help the students?

Alms is an old English word for a gift and an almoner, or in modern parlance, a chaplain, is someone who gives of themselves in order to help those in need. I seek to handle problems by giving spiritual advice in a biblical sense, encouragement, and moral support. I try to be available for the students and listen to them. Helping them solve their problems is one of my concerns.

When the Faculté asked me to take on this ministry, because that is what it is, I accepted gladly. My heart is open for young people and their difficulties (I have raised three of my own) and the students at the Faculté have the same problems as other young adults today.

I look at them as being players for the church's future. So I'm pleased to be able to invest with them, share my experiences with them and I know I learn from them too.

My heart's desire is that the grace of the Lord will uphold me and grant me wisdom in this ministry.



Hugh Wessel

Pastor of the Reformed Evangelical Church and Mission to the World



Taking up the words of the apostle Paul, I can say to all the female students at the Faculté Jean Calvin: You are my joy and my crown!

My personal interest for theology and my deep conviction that I should work in his service go back as far as I can

remember.

Last year I was asked to work with the young women at the Faculté de Théologie to be alongside them as they work out their Christian life and think about their future ministries.

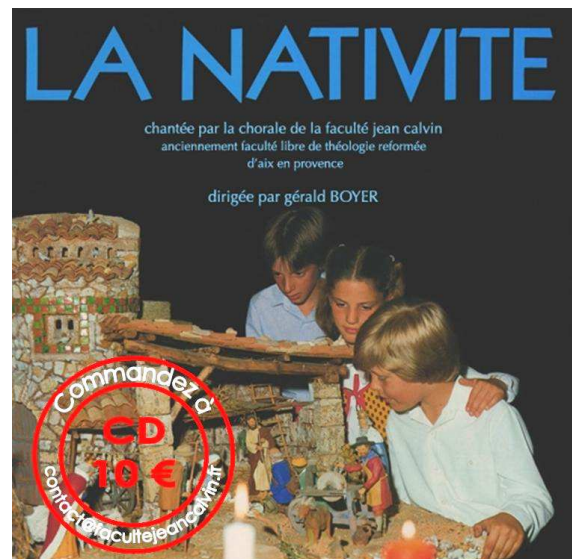
The students know they can see me whenever they like, and I am available to meet each student to talk and pray with them. Praying regularly for each one of them is an important ministry.

Marseille is the city where my heart lies, but I am more than glad to come back to Aix, a lovely town.

Nelly Vos

Mission to the World Missionary

An idea for Christmas...



If you wish to support the seminary, contact us at :

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