

Latest News

Update from the Principal



The Best of Both Worlds

The vision of Martyn Lloyd-Jones for London Seminary was set out in his inaugural address in October 1977. His desire was for a Protestant Evangelical college, specifically to serve Free Evangelical churches. The distinctive element of his vision was for a college which trains preachers. The Doctor saw that many colleges had become academic institutions, and the central goal of training for ministry had been lost. Ministry is a spiritual exercise, and there needs to be a greater focus on training men who are called to ministry, gifted and filled with the Spirit.

There has always been a tension between rigorous training which tends to an academic approach, and the ministry of gifted preachers who may seek little or no training. The vision for the Seminary was to strike a balance between these two extremes.

Similar tensions endure today. There is a strong emphasis now on church-based training,

supplemented by online courses. Such courses may provide inadequate content to prepare students for pastoral ministry, and there is very limited opportunity for interaction with lecturers and fellow students. Students may only see the ministry model of their local church, with its particular strengths and weaknesses. On the other hand, some go off to college for an academic training. They might then have a very limited experience of church life and ministry, and risk losing their focus on growing as godly pastors who will serve their people well.

The vision of the Seminary is to provide the best of both worlds. A rigorous training by lecturers with pastoral experience, in a rich learning community, and in fellowship with the ministry of the local church. Most of our students are now part-time, combining their studies with ministry opportunities in a local church. Those who live outside the UK, or at a distance, can join lectures remotely and still enjoy the interaction of the classroom. Our students are from diverse church and cultural backgrounds, and this enriches the learning experience. We share a common goal: to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ, and to be equipped for Gospel ministry.

Please join us in prayer that the Lord would raise up a new generation of pastors and preachers who will serve the cause of Christ's Kingdom, and be well trained and equipped for their ministry.

Our Newsletter includes testimonies of two students now coming to the end of their Seminary studies whose focus is very clearly on ministry. Manuel Morelli has already started the work of planting a church in Ravenna, Italy. Jay Marriner is seeking to serve the cause of the Gospel in London. Please do join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 25 June at 2.30pm as we hear testimonies from all students who are completing the course; our preacher will be John Stevens, National Director of FIEC.

Bill James

Principal



Jay Marriner

Before coming to London Seminary in 2020, God graciously used our family to plant Brixton Local Church (BLoC). It was a fresh expression of a Christian community that consisted of mostly black entrepreneurial millennials from across London, many of whom worked in fashion, TV, radio, business, and other creative industries. BLoC then merged with Stockwell Baptist Church, and the church was revitalised by the two congregations coming together.

All of this was great experience, and I learned so much. However, because I did not have a seminary education and lacked a robust theological foundation through study I was weak in certain ministry areas. Therefore I decided to attend London Seminary because I knew that it provided robust training for pastors and preachers.

I have found training at the London Seminary stretching and stimulating and I am sure it will help to fill the gaps where I was weak in ministry. The course offers a well-crafted and rounded learning experience, depth within its subjects, and healthy and at times hearty classroom debates. I have found this extremely helpful and beneficial, and am confident that I will be better equipped for pastoral and preaching ministry at the end of the full-time course. It's been an enjoyable experience.

When I finish London Seminary I hope to develop a Co-Vocational church planting model because we need new and sustainable ways to plant churches and minister in cities. The astronomical expense of living in cities like London means that many Christian workers can't

afford to live here. I am convinced that we cannot solve this problem by using the same financial or ministry pattern. Co-vocational work is a strategic and important way forward in order to reach our urban, estate, unreached, or gentrified communities. Cities like London are strategic mission fields that urgently need Gospel workers, and new models of church planting, mission, and gospel entrepreneurship. I pray that the Lord would use me in this ministry.



Visit Days

We have a number of opportunities this term for prospective students to come to the seminary to sit in on a lecture, meet our students over lunch, and talk to our principal.

Dates

2nd June 2022 – Church History

If you would like to book in on one of our visit days please email registrar@londonseminary.org



Manuel Morelli

I am an Italian full-time student at London Seminary, now finishing studies here. I'm really grateful to the Lord for the privilege of studying at London Seminary, and thank Him for His goodness and faithfulness.

Why did I choose London Seminary? The COVID pandemic prompted me to consider the Lord's work in my life, and direction for the future. After a long time of prayer and meditation in the Bible, the Lord confirmed to me and my wife that I should prepare for pastoral ministry.

Studying at Seminary during the pandemic was both a joy and a great challenge. I needed to improve my English, raise money, move to London, and manage my theological studies including Greek and Hebrew. All of this was "the hammer of the Lord" forging me and pushing me towards a higher level to be prepared for His glorious calling.

Sadly we could remain in the UK only 3 months because of lockdowns that forced us to come back to Italy. I continued to study via Zoom, and was sorry to not be able to submit myself to a close discipleship relationship with my tutor (and Principal) Bill James or enjoy the fellowship with the other students. But the Lord is sovereign and I cannot and don't want to complain.

Positively, during the last year of study I could start with our church planting project in Ravenna, with Bible study meetings in houses. The Lord is good, and quite a few young people are joining us, both believers and non-believers. Praise the Lord!

Please pray for us in Ravenna: Chiesa Evangelica Battista "Solo Cristo".

Soli Deo Gloria!



Pastors' Academy

The Pastors' Academy at London Seminary exists to bring advanced theological study and pastoral care to ministry life.

Upcoming Study Days

Doctrine Study Day on the Incarnation

Kent: 15 June 2022 [Book here](#)

Hamburg: 5 July 2022 [Book here](#)

Biblical Studies Study Day on Redemptive History

Chelmsford: 12 May 2022 [Book here](#)

Cheltenham: 21 June 2022 [Book here](#)

Guildford: 28 June 2022 [Book here](#)

Bradford on Avon: 21 September 2022 [Book here](#)

Greek Study Days on Ephesians 6

At London Seminary: 24 May 2022 [Book here](#)

If you would like to sign up to the Pastors' Academy newsletter to receive updates on future study days, ThM courses, and free resources please email pastorsacademy@londonseminary.org



ThM Course

We offer a ThM degree from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, USA.

You specialise in Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, or Historical Theology (specifically Reformation and Post-Reformation Theology). The course is taught over 10 intensive module weeks spread out over 3–6 years.

You can apply to PRTS for a bursary that covers 60% of all the tuition fees

If you would like to inquire further about the course please email pastorsacademy@londonseminary.org



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