

The Morning Star

Wycliffe College Student Newsletter



Put priority on Jesus, by caring for those living in poverty

By Will Postma

“You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

These are the words of Jesus, recorded in three of the Gospels: Matthew (26:11); Mark (14:7); and John (12:8). Expensive perfume had just been poured on his feet and head. A bigger discussion developed among others in the house at the time. *What a waste. The perfume could have been sold for more than a year’s wages. The money could have been better used for the poor.*

Fast forward to 2019. The number of poor people worldwide, expressed as those who are food-insecure or unable to put two meals per day on the table, has increased to well over 800 million. One in nine people go to sleep hungry. Sleep and hunger don’t go together well. More than 850,000 people visit food banks in Canada each month - this in a country where the average income per capita is \$52,000 per year.

In the work of The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, we know too well the suffering in Yemen, in South Sudan, in a few square kilometres around Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh where 900,000 Rohingya are barely subsisting and so fearful of what the next day may bring.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING AT WYCLIFFE?

- Jan 9 – Wednesday Event: What does it mean to be “evangelical” in our respective traditions? With Fr. Geoffrey Ready – page four
- Jan 20-27 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—page three
- Jan 24-Feb 7 – Christians Against Poverty Course: capcanada.org – page three
- Jan 25 – “What Does it Mean to be Human? Ghosts and Machines” at Convocation Hall – page three
- Feb 1 – At Home – page three

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The suffering is immense, frightening, unfathomable and preventable in this world God created with so much abundance.

Many of us are tempted to look away. *Is there a game to watch?*

Jesus did not look away. He healed. He broke gender barriers. He did not stereotype. He fed the multitudes. "Blessed are the poor in spirit," Jesus said ... using the Greek word for poor, *ptóchos*, as he did in John 12:8 when he told Judas Iscariot to stop dipping into the tax revenue and donation jar and get a handle on his own priorities.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

Jesus is right, the poor are always with us: materially, socially and spiritually. To add in some reactive human agency, they are marginalized, excluded, impoverished, conflicted, experiencing lack of fair access to health care, education, and opportunity.

People in Tanzania or Bangladesh where I have lived, have not historically talked about poverty. Today there is growing inequality in these countries, and people are beginning to value accumulation rather than an appreciation of enough.

When Jesus reminded the disciples that you will always have the poor among you, the disciples and all those listening would have known what the book of Deuteronomy said, from which Jesus drew his words:

***"Jesus did not look away.
He healed."***

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be ... For the poor you will always have with you in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)

Open your hand, open your hand wide. Put priority on the presence of Jesus, be inspired by how Jesus showed compassion, without judgement. Draw inspiration from how Jesus cared for the hurting and hungry.

In the din of noise in that room in Bethany, as perfume was being poured, as he was brought ever closer to his death - and resurrection - Jesus reminded his learned disciples that pausing and investing time in Him can be *a beautiful thing*.

About the author: Will Postma is Adjunct Faculty at Wycliffe College. He is also Executive Director at the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the humanitarian and development arm of the Anglican Church of Canada. wycliffecollege.ca/users/will-postma

This article is also featured on the Wycliffe Blog





News & Announcements

Happy new year and welcome back!

From the Registrar

Do you expect to graduate this May? Be sure to sign up for a photo sitting for January 30 or 31. Your robe and hood will be provided for you at the session. These photos will be used for the graduating class composite which will be hung in the ambulatory, so be sure that you are included! You also have the option of purchasing copies for yourself. Please choose a time slot on the signup sheet which will be posted at the front desk the week before the photo shoot. Cannot make either day? Please contact Jeffrey Hocking (jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca) to make alternative arrangements.

Christians Against Poverty Course

Christians Against Poverty Course will run three weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan 24–Feb 7 @ West Lecture Room. Sign up at the front desk or email Sonya at sonya.lawley@mail.utoronto.ca. Learn more: www.capcanada.org.

Wycliffe Events

“What Does it Mean to be Human? Ghosts and Machines.” – Jan 25

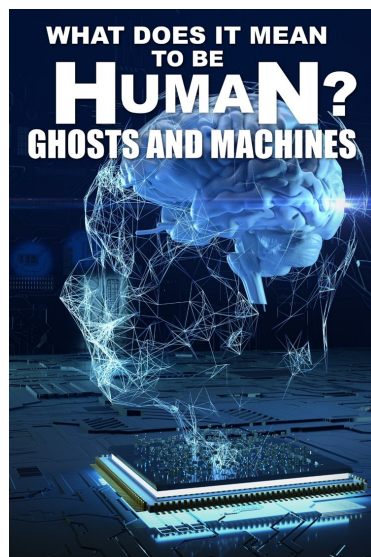
The human soul has been described as “the ghost in the machine” [of the human body]. But not everyone agrees that the soul exists. Next month, three international experts will come together to discuss this and other related questions from their distinct perspectives on the issue of what it means to be human.

Get Tickets: <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/religionandsociety>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 23

There will be a service on Wednesday January 23 at St. Augustine’s Seminary. <https://www.staugustines.on.ca>

At Home – Feb 1 Annual At Home at Wycliffe: More details to come!



More News & Announcements

This Wednesday

Wednesday Event at 3:00 p.m. in Reading Room: Fr. Geoffrey will be speaking on *What does it mean to be “evangelical” in our respective traditions?*

This will be followed by the Eucharist at 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel. Our homilist this week is Prof. Paul Scott Wilson from Emmanuel College.

And don't forget to sign up for the 6:00 p.m. community dinner at the front desk before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday!

New Publication

The next volume, edited by Mari Leesment, in the Wycliffe Studies in Gospel, Church, and Culture series, *Behold, I Am Coming Soon: Meditations on the Apocalypse*, writings from Wycliffe professors on the New Testament book of Revelation is now available! You may purchase the book at wipfandstock.com/ behold-i-am-coming-soon.html.

STAY CONNECTED!



THE WORD @ WYCLIFFE

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Chapel Service Schedule

	Service	Sacristan	Officiant / Homilist	Readers, Servers, etc.	Greeters
Morning Prayer Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.	MP	B. Poole	E. Radner	B. Jenkins; H. Mudge	H. Mudge
	Taize	M. Garner	A. Brownlee	J. Henderson	J. Henderson
Wine Before Breakfast Tue, 7:22 a.m.	MP	L. Hurst	P. Robinson	J. Ternes	J. Ternes
	Evensong	M. Garner	E. Teel	J. Ternes; J. Mangina	J. Ternes
Taize Evening Prayer Mon, 5:30 a.m.	MP	S. Lawley	+SGWA	J. Henderson; R. Henderson	S. Lawley J. Henderson
	Eucharist	B. Poole	Guest Homilist; C. Love; L. Hurst	H. Mudge	H. Mudge
Sung Evensong Tue, 5:30 p.m.	MP	S. Lawley	T. Power		S. Lawley
	P&P	Z. Bartkus	R. Bartlett	S. Lawley	S. Lawley
Community Eucharist Wed, 4:45 p.m.	MP	L. Hurst	A. Brownlee	M. Taylor	
	Inform. EP	Z. Bartkus	Student Officiant		