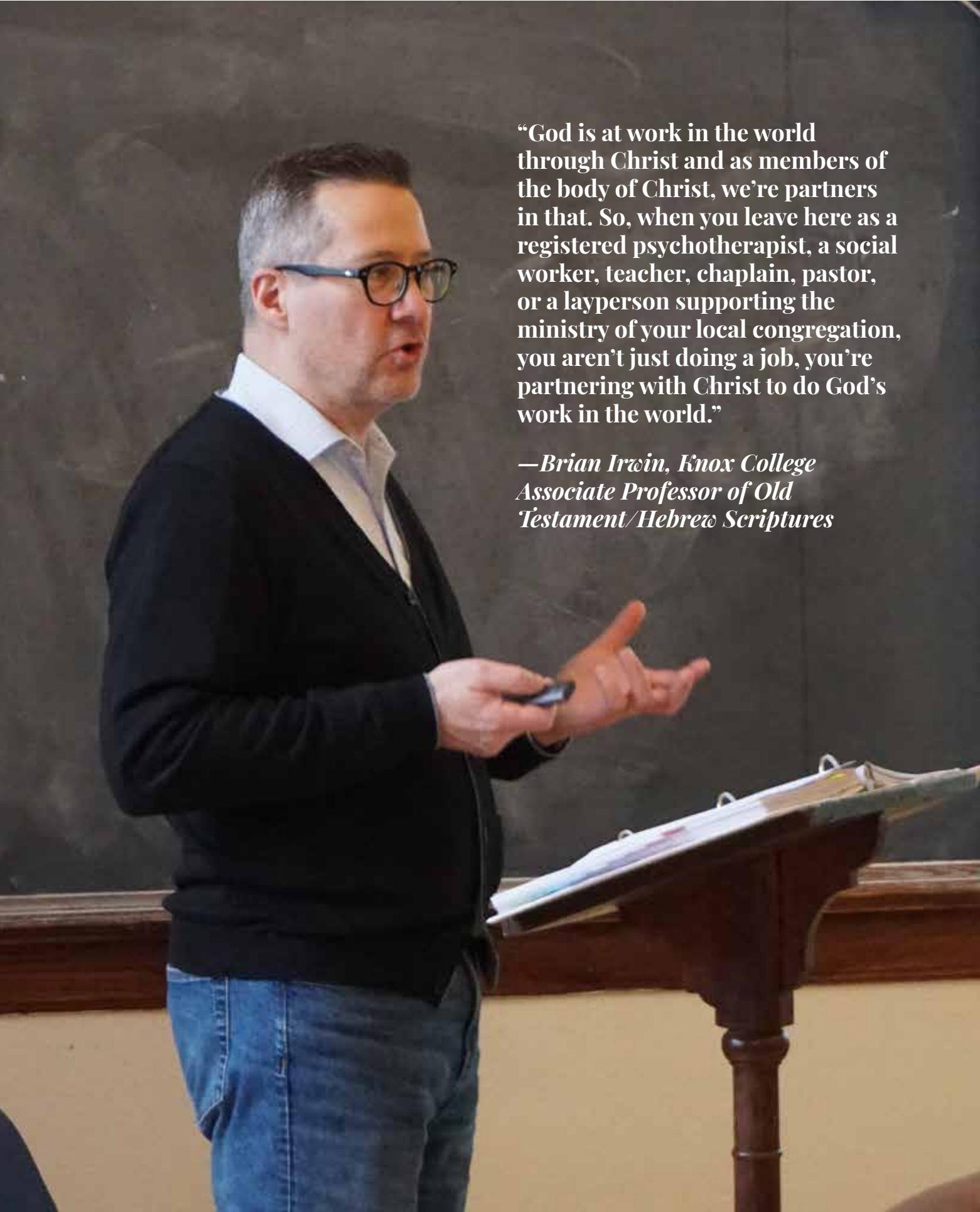


KNOX COLLEGE, CANADA | SPRING 2024

VOCATIONS

Unsettling Worship
SARAH TRAVIS' NEW BOOK

ALSO: CALLING AND EQUIPPING LEADERS;
& MOMENTS OF ILLUMINATION

A man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a black cardigan over a light-colored collared shirt and blue jeans, stands at a wooden podium. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The background is a dark chalkboard.

“God is at work in the world through Christ and as members of the body of Christ, we’re partners in that. So, when you leave here as a registered psychotherapist, a social worker, teacher, chaplain, pastor, or a layperson supporting the ministry of your local congregation, you aren’t just doing a job, you’re partnering with Christ to do God’s work in the world.”

—*Brian Irwin, Knox College
Associate Professor of Old
Testament/Hebrew Scriptures*

VOCATIONS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2024

Vocations is published three times per year for graduates, former residents, and other friends of Knox College. We welcome your news and suggestions.

Please send comments, changes of address, or requests for mailing list removal to us at knox.college@utoronto.ca, 416-978-8738, or:

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Knox College is a theological college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, federated with the University of Toronto, and a founding member of the Toronto School of Theology. Knox holds its accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Editor: Sach Prashad

Special thanks to Helen Cheung, Wan-Kit Keng, and Mi-Weon Yang for translating the Principal's Message.

Page 2 photo by Sach Prashad



ON THE COVER: Sarah Travis. Photo by Sach Prashad. See story on pages 6-7.

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KNOX COLLEGE



Calling and equipping leaders

THE REV. KONNIE VISSERS is a Knox College alumna and recently began a new position as the college's Theological Field Education (TFE) Coordinator. *Vocations* interviewed Konnie to learn more about her role in equipping leaders for full-time ministry.

What endeavors have you undertaken since your graduation from Knox College?

Since graduating from Knox with a Master of Theology (ThM) degree in 2021, I have been working on my PhD at Emmanuel College. I'm currently researching how congregations might utilize gardening as a spiritual practice to bolster children's psychological and spiritual flourishing amidst climate change and eco-anxiety. Additionally, in 2022, I started the Children's Garden Collective in Hamilton (Ont.), which seeks "to nurture the growth and development of kids" through urban gardening.

My research and coursework for my ThM undoubtedly helped prepare me for this next phase of life. Both the pastoral psychology courses and my studies in practical theology at Knox have helped me dive into this praxis – marrying practical work with theological insights in the service of the local church and community. In 2023, we opened our second site for the Children's Garden at Knox Church, Waterdown (Ont.), and I created a summer camp curriculum around the topic of caring for creation, which we then implemented with 30 local kids. I am so grateful for the in-depth theological engagement I experienced

at Knox and the constant reminder that the purpose of theological study ought to be in the service of the church in the world.

What's your current role at Knox?

I began in 2023 as the Theological Field Education (TFE) Coordinator and a Sessional Instructor at Knox College. In other words, I teach critical issues pertinent to ministry in 2024 to students who are doing their field education placement. For example, we have a panel of ministers who speak on ministry in a post-COVID world; a day when we discuss climate change and the church; and discussion around topics like trauma-informed pastoral care, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and other relevant topics that come up in ministry today.

I served in three different congregations as a PCC minister before going back to school for my ThM. The time was helpful and formative, and it also helped me recognize that what I learned in seminary did not include many of the challenges that churches are facing presently. I hope to bridge some of these gaps with the TFE course at Knox.

Above: The Rev. Konnie Vissers. Photo provided by Konnie Vissers.

What are you enjoying the most about your new teaching role?

I absolutely love teaching, and I love pastoral formation; I'm passionate about pastoral formation in an ever-changing world. Though the pandemic has exacerbated congregational decline in mainline churches, I think that Jesus is still present in the work of our churches and our denomination, and I care about helping to form ministers who are well-equipped to enter churches today. As part of my position, I am able to remain engaged with ministers who are active in full-time ministry, as well as teach students who are actively engaged in local congregations. The back-and-forth nature of field education requires that as I am teaching, I am also learning. As new topics arise in congregations, I continually get to research and delve into that material alongside students who are preparing for ministry. It means keeping one foot in the church and one foot in the academy.

As part of TFE, students bring real-time ministry questions. One of the unique things about my job is that we get to discuss events and challenges every week in integration groups, sometimes before there is even material published on the issue. For instance, a student brought a question about MAID to class. The Presbyterian Church in Canada does not yet have a decided policy/stance on MAID. However, we were able to have a robust discussion about the topic in the context of ministry, and consider many of the ways we might be sensitive to this discussion in churches, particularly as we wait for a decision on the policy of the PCC. It is a matter of attending to issues, rather than resolving them, which is important to this work.

How did your courses and professors at Knox prepare you?

Doing my ThM at Knox offered me access to a broad spectrum of theological viewpoints through the Toronto School of Theology, which helped broaden my perspectives for research and ministry. The professors at Knox continually challenged me in my theology – like iron sharpening iron – and they encouraged me in my research to explore topics I care about. While Knox is part of a rigorous academic network, it also remains a seminary, engaged in theological formation for the ministry, which effectively prepared me for the work in which I am presently engaged.

How have you seen God at work in this role?

The other part of my work is coordinating placements for the students in which to do their field educa-

tion work. It has been amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work in how students are placed.

For example, for one particular student, I was having a hard time finding a site supervisor who I thought had enough experience and a congregation in that geographical region that would be a good fit for the student. I knew one person who has vast experience and is good at leading students, but I was not sure about the congregational fit for the student.

I called my ministry colleague to ask them about taking on a student, but they were on vacation. On their answering machine was a message to contact another minister in the area in case anything was needed. The other minister and I had worked together on a project years ago, and I had forgotten they were in the area. Though they hadn't supervised TFE before, the congregation and minister seemed to be a perfect fit for the student. I contacted them instead, and it has been an amazing fit for the student, minister, and congregation.

This was just one way that the Spirit and prayerfulness entered in to the process of discernment for student placements.

What advice would you give to students graduating from Knox College?

You might hear a lot of dismal things about the church job market today, but it is exactly to such a time as this that you are being called. With roughly half of the PCC ministry positions vacant at present, there are jobs to be had, even though some of them are configured differently than the traditional model of the 1950s.

Some may be two-point charges, others ecumenical shared agreements, or you may even do bi-vocational ministry, where you serve part-time in a congregation and part-time in the corporate world.

Yet, undoubtedly, this is a time where trying new things and ministerial creativity will be encouraged. Many Presbyteries are increasingly open to alternative forms of ministry, and the denomination even has grant programs available for churches and ministers who have unique and creative ideas (like Cyclical PCC, New Beginnings, and the Evangelism and Mission network). I don't think there has ever been a time in the post-Reformation church that has encouraged such diverse forms of ministry as vital to the church's life. ■

“I think that Jesus is still present in the work of our churches and our denomination, and I care about helping to form ministers who are well-equipped to enter churches today.”

‘Unsettling Worship’

By Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis

In May 2021, children’s bodies were discovered at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, BC. This discovery was a shock for many. Perhaps we did not know – or simply did not want to see – the harm that had been done.

I am Canadian. My family has been here for generations, and I am a product of the history of this nation, for better or for worse. In my primary education, I learned about benign “pioneers” who settled the land that we now know as Canada. I learned some things about Indigenous peoples, but very little that was true or complimentary. I did not learn about the history of colonization in this country, or the ways that settlers have benefited from the land and resources of Indigenous peoples, resulting in deep disparities and great suffering for Indigenous communities.



It wasn't until I was eighteen and attended the 1994 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) that I first began to encounter the weight of pain and oppression experienced by Indigenous cultures. That year, the Presbyterian Church offered a confession that sought to be a faithful response to God and to the testimony of Indigenous voices. The statement confessed the PCC's complicity and participation in the racist policies of the Government of Canada, noting that the church had thought it knew better than Indigenous groups what was needed for abundant life. It is a confession of arrogance, misrepresentations of Jesus, and actions that separated families by forcing Indigenous children to attend residential schools. The confession ends with a plea for forgiveness from Indigenous peoples – forgiveness that has not been forthcoming.

I was confronted for the first time with my own identity as a settler – someone who came later to the land. I hadn't known about any of this wrongdoing by the church. I was horrified by what I discovered.

Many years later, when the children's bodies were discovered in 2021, I recalled what I had learned in 1994 – including the reality that this harm was done with the full endorsement of the church.

As a preacher and worship leader, I knew that our public worship must address these tragedies and sins. It is not easy to find words to confess the harm. It is not easy to name our complicity. And it is not easy to find hope in such a desperate situation.

Recognizing that other worship leaders would struggle similarly, I applied for and received a grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship to study the ways that worship can contribute to reconciliation among churches and Indigenous peoples.

The resulting book is entitled *Unsettling Worship: Reforming Liturgy for Right Relations with Indigenous Communities*. It seeks to “decolonize” worship, that is, to examine Reformed worship for colonial ideologies that claim the superiority of one group over another. The book analyzes each aspect of a typical Reformed worship service that flows from Gathering, to the Word, to a response to the Word, to Sending.

In worship, we are prepared for the work of conciliation. As we confess our sins before God and each other, we are made free to form new relationships within and beyond the worship space. Worship prepares

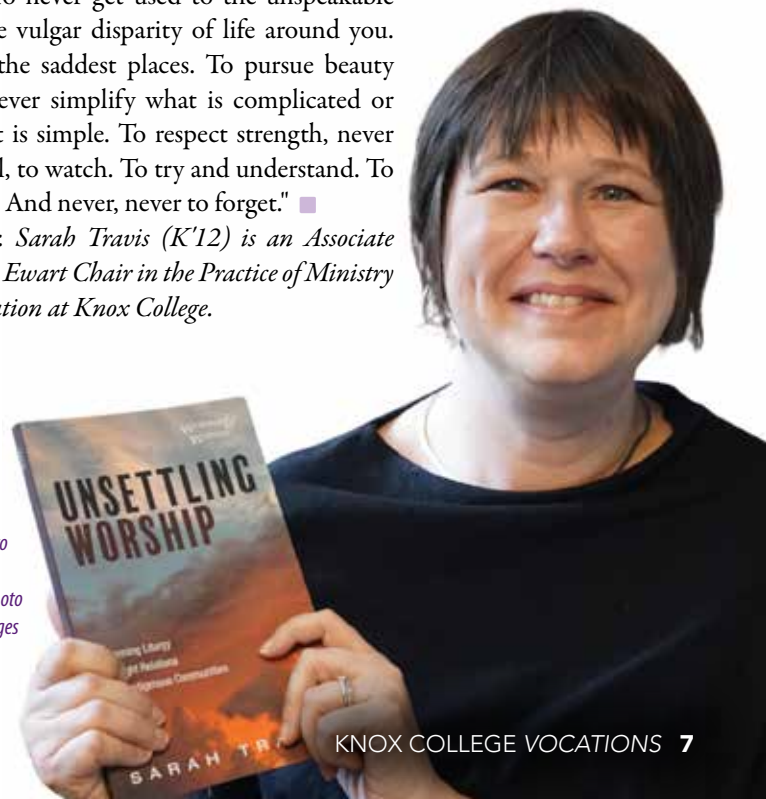
us to respond faithfully to the harm and suffering to which the church has contributed. Worship does not end with the benediction, but continues in our daily lives, and impacts the ways we encounter those who are different from us.

This book is designed to unsettle the reader. It makes audacious claims about God's grace and our potential to enact an ethic of friendship and conciliation. None of this is comfortable work; it involves deep introspection and a willingness to engage the realities of Indigenous communities.

My friend and colleague, Lori Ransom, is a settler-Algonquin who works for the United Church of Canada. In her evaluation of the book, she calls it an “act of repentance.” Writing this volume was indeed an act of repentance, on my own behalf and on behalf of a church I love and of which I am simultaneously ashamed. It is a small offering, intended to address in concrete ways the need for repentance and transformation in this country and within this church.

My hope is that we will remember our Indigenous neighbours, and work toward right relations with them. The book ends with a benediction using the words of author Arundhati Roy in *The Cost of Living*. In the name of the Creator, Son, and Spirit, go into the world: “To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget.” ■

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis (K'12) is an Associate Professor and the Ewart Chair in the Practice of Ministry and Faith Formation at Knox College.



Below: Sarah Travis. Photo taken by Sach Prashad. Facing page: Based on photo by Rocio from Getty Images Signature.

Moments of illumination

FINDING PERSONAL GROWTH FOR BOTH CLIENT AND THERAPIST

Leonidas Tampacopoulos is a Master of Pastoral Studies student at Knox College and a full-time educator in alternative education / special education for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. *Vocations* sat down with Leonidas to learn more about his career path.

What is involved in your current practicum?

My placement is with St. Michael's Homes, which offers transitional housing, mostly to men who have addiction issues. Of those with addiction issues, 80% have some type of trauma – either historical trauma, or trauma due to their addiction issues. My job is to offer one-on-one psychotherapy via video-conferencing. The work is helping people who are struggling and putting to use what I've learned in the classroom.

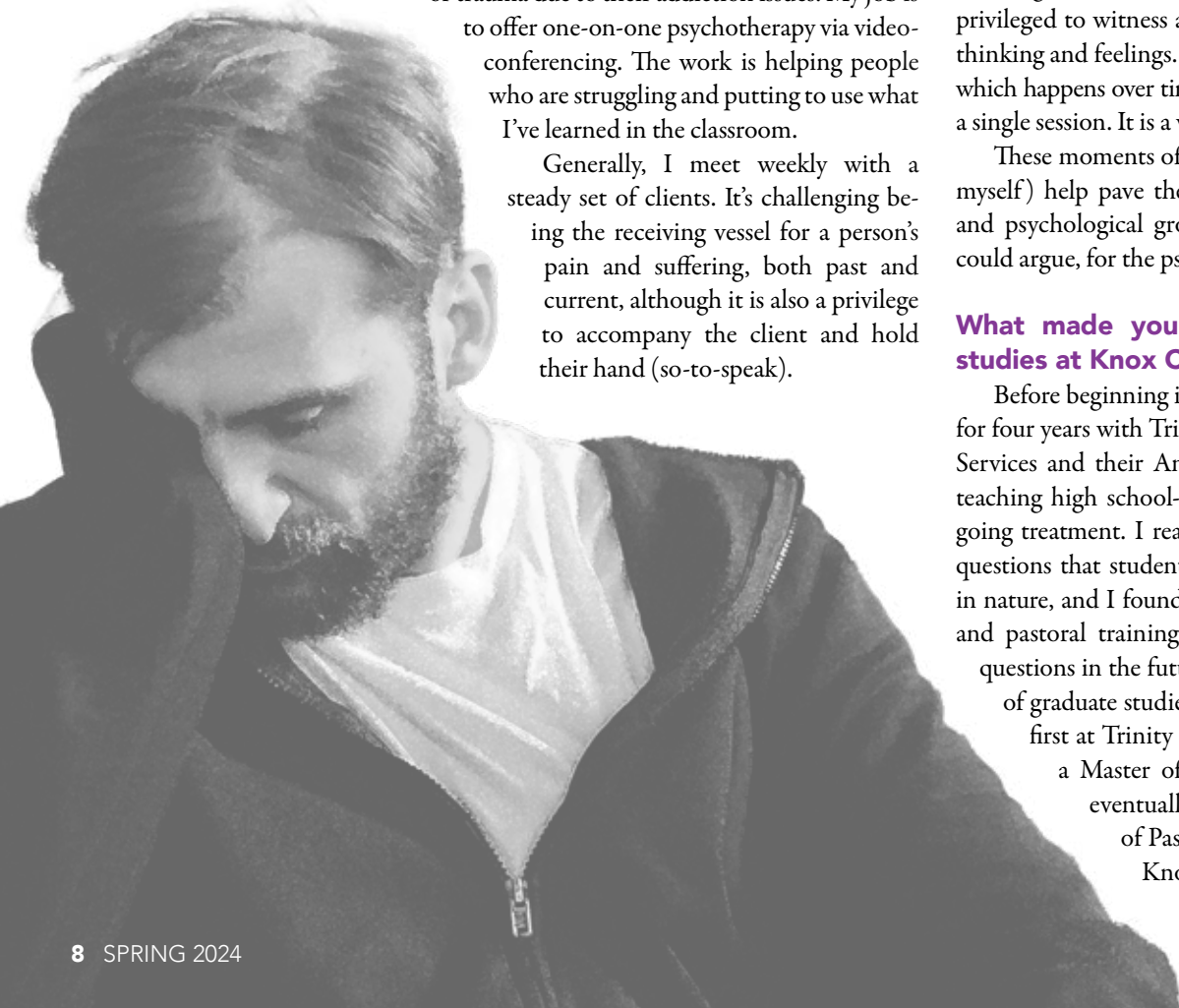
Generally, I meet weekly with a steady set of clients. It's challenging being the receiving vessel for a person's pain and suffering, both past and current, although it is also a privilege to accompany the client and hold their hand (so-to-speak).

It's also been an eye-opening experience. Many clients share common struggles, but each person is also unique, with their own past and charting their own life paths towards their future. It is awe-inspiring to accompany the clients on this journey – and quite fulfilling to see when we've made progress. I have been privileged to witness a paradigm shift in some clients' thinking and feelings. Sometimes this is a long process which happens over time, and other times it happens in a single session. It is a wonderful experience to witness.

These moments of illumination for the client (and myself) help pave the way towards meaning-making and psychological growth for the client – and, one could argue, for the psychospiritual therapist as well.

What made you decide to pursue your studies at Knox College?

Before beginning in my studies at U of T, I worked for four years with Trillium Adolescent Mental Health Services and their Anxiety and Depression program, teaching high school-aged students who were undergoing treatment. I realized quite quickly that the top questions that students were asking me were spiritual in nature, and I found that I wanted more theological and pastoral training to engage with these spiritual questions in the future. Thus began my long journey of graduate studies at the University of Toronto – first at Trinity College, where I graduated with a Master of Theological Studies, and then eventually at Knox College for the Master of Pastoral Studies program. I came to Knox College for the MPS program



because I view both teaching and pastoral care as callings rather than just jobs. Neither is a job that you do “just because,” and they’re both helping professions.

How have your studies at Knox prepared you for this work?

In our therapy sessions, most clients have brought up spiritually-connected questions. Most have an awareness of a faith background or will generally identify with a certain type of faith. Some identify with a particular denomination, but most don’t. The MPS program prepares us to work with people of any or no faith. Our class on Interfaith Leadership was especially good preparation for this context. For some of my clients, I found it helpful to directly review some of that course material – specifically the information on interfaith sensitivity and finding commonalities among faiths. Sometimes you get clients of mixed faith backgrounds, and finding similarities among those various faiths helps to minister to those clients.

What are your goals after graduating from Knox College?

When I graduate, I plan to transition out of teaching into a role related to psychospiritual therapy. When I entered the MPS program, I had intended to work in a community setting. But now, that dream has shifted: This practicum has shown me how much I like building relationships with clients one-on-one over time. I like getting to know people in-depth and accompanying them on their journey. The beauty of the MPS program is that there are many settings where this degree is valuable. The practicum has left an impact on me as I enjoy establishing individual connections with clients. I appreciate the

depth of understanding involved, as it allows me to truly get to know the client and support them throughout their journey. I’m not biased in terms of what setting I would be in after graduation. I do plan to transition out of teaching into something related to psychospiritual therapy. I didn’t envision myself doing one-on-one work with clients, but I find myself really enjoying it because I like getting to know people. The beauty of the MPS program is that there’s really a lot of opportunities in terms of where you can apply this degree beyond graduation.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering studying at Knox?

Studying as an adult has been life-changing. When you return to classes as an older adult, you have become more fully yourself, the kind of the person you had wished you were as an undergraduate student. I am 51 years old, and I firmly believe in conveying to others that it is never too late to pursue your aspirations. I’ve also been really happy with how Knox has accommodated my part-time student status. It hasn’t been easy,

but if anyone’s thinking of studying at Knox, I would say: trust your life experience, and trust the college in terms of what they’re going to teach you and the experience you’re going to have. It can be hard to take that first step – but I found the college supportive on every level, from the registrar to my practicum supervisor. ■

“I have been privileged to witness a paradigm shift in some clients’ thinking and feelings. Sometimes this is a long process which happens over time, and other times it happens in a single session.”



At left: Leonidas Tampacopoulos.
Photo provided by Leonidas Tampacopoulos.
Facing page: Based on a photo by Cottonbro Studio from Pexels.

Estate gift to Caven Library helps to preserve the past, enrich the present, and plan for the future

Susan and Paul White, residents of Ancaster, Ontario, had been steadfast supporters of Knox College for many years. Following his retirement, Paul completed Knox's Lay Education program. Even after Paul's passing in 2009, Susan remained dedicated, continuing to make annual donations to the college.

Then in 2018, Susan contacted the staff at Knox College to ask about a planned gift to Knox. She wished to make a provision in her will honouring her late husband, and she was interested in learning more about Caven Library and the different ways she could give to Knox.

When Susan passed away in 2021, she left a generous legacy donation to Knox College's Caven Library which was received by Knox in late 2023. Staff are very grateful for the Whites' generosity, which will allow the library to invest in some important projects. Some of the funds will be endowed to sustain long-term endeavours; others will be put to work immediately. Plans include the purchase of a new circulation desk and restoring the original oak study tables.

The Whites' bequest will also allow the library to invest in specialized storage to preserve books and archival materials. In our historic building, storing, and preserving these often-irreplaceable materials requires great care, and comes at a cost.

"We can learn so much about Knox's and the Church's past from our archives, and that information contributes to our decisions about the present and future," explains Anne McGillivray, Technical Services Coordinator for Caven Library. "We need good storage and preservation resources so that these documents will be available for many years to come."



Caven Library Staff: Laura Alary, Anne McGillivray, and Joan Pries.

Part of the bequest will also allow the McKay Educational Resource Centre to expand its footprint within Caven Library. "Funding from the Ewart Endowment allows us to keep acquiring new resources focused on the practice of ministry, as well as works by people who are deeply engaged with current social and spiritual issues," explains Laura Alary, coordinator of the centre. "But we are running out of space." The bequest will allow for the retrofitting of original built-in shelving to accommodate the growing collection. "Making space for new resources contributes to expanding the minds, hearts, and spiritual imaginations of those who use it," says Alary, "especially our students and alumni. Through them, this gift will serve the whole church."

Some of the funds will also go toward a digital project. For the first time in Knox's history, we will be able to provide e-resources to alumni at a subsidized cost. Electronic resources offer the flexibility of remote access anywhere in the world, extending the educational support Knox can offer and fostering a lifelong connec-

tion between alumni and the college. If there is a positive response to this pilot project, the library will continue to subsidize these resources annually.

Caven Library plans to implement these various projects over the next several years. We are immensely grateful to the late Paul and Susan White, who have abundantly blessed Knox College through this planned gift.

Have you considered including Knox College in your will? Would you like to share your story with us? For more information on Planned Giving and joining Knox's Legacy Circle, please contact us at knox.advancement@utoronto.ca or 416.978.8738.



Ministry Forum Update

By the time this article is published, I will be in the midst of my second term at Knox College. Looking back since I started on August 1, 2023, I'm both amazed about what we were able to accomplish in such a short time and bursting with weighty enthusiasm about what's coming next. If you haven't yet subscribed to our mostly weekly community e-mail, I'd encourage you to do so today by visiting our website: www.ministryforum.ca. While visiting our website, look around at our past posts, events calendar, and get a better sense of our mission and vision. We are passionate about empowering ministry leaders to thrive in their ministry contexts and helping them to recognize that they are not alone as they share the Good News of Jesus.

It was important to quickly develop a voice for the Centre for Lifelong Learning – the Ministry Forum is such a voice, but it is also a space to listen and continue to receive feedback from our growing community.

In this next season of our work, we will be continuing to connect with ministry leaders across Canada so that we can learn from them and clearly hear their articulated needs for content, resources, and support. Gleaning from the best practices of other practitioners in the lifelong learning space, we have realized two important things: creating meaningful content and building a receptive and engaged community takes time. It is time well spent. Like a well-planned capital campaign, the 'quiet' campaign portion is where you generate most of the donations. If we were to use this example to illustrate the path of Ministry Forum, the difference is that Ministry Fo-

rum will not be quiet – we will continue to be responsive to requests and invitations to convene meaningful conversations and amplify opportunities and resources that we believe might be helpful to ministry leaders today.

Last fall, we hosted conversations about recent publications by two of our faculty members, Dr. Brian Irwin and Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis. These conversations were at the request of alumni and ministry leaders like yourselves.

We also hosted our first annual Easy Bake Christmas Eve Community Conversation. Registrants to this virtual conversation shared their favourite, simple, either solo act or highly congregational participatory service with the community. We've saved them and shared them and hope to build upon these resources each year. We are imagining another one for this Lent and Easter – check out our Events Calendar on our website for registration details.

In the background, we are developing deeper ways to empower ministry leaders and look forward to sharing them widely as we progress in our work of listening and being responsive. We anticipate a formal launch of the Centre for Lifelong Learning this fall. In the meantime, if I can be helpful or you'd like to invite me to your ministry context, please reach out. We love meeting alumni and visiting where they serve.

I can be reached via john.borthwick@utoronto.ca or call me at 416.978.2786. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ministryforum.



Rev. John Borthwick
Director of The Centre for
Lifelong Learning



To subscribe to the Ministry Forum, visit ministryforum.ca

Welcome to our new Communications Coordinator



Sach Prashad

Knox College is pleased to announce the appointment of Sach Prashad as Communications Coordinator at Knox College, effective October 30, 2023.

Sach has a Master of Digital Media degree and a BA in Media Production with a Minor in English, both from Toronto Metropolitan University. His education plus his many years of work experience in video production, project leadership, social media channel growth and his strong writing skills will be of great benefit to Knox College. Sach

will work in the Alumni and Relations department, providing support to Knox on all marketing and communications projects. Welcome Sach!

Knox College thanks Stephanie Hanna

Knox College extends its gratitude to Stephanie Hanna for her dedicated years of service to Knox College. Over the past seven years, she has been an integral part of our institution, managing communications with unparalleled skill and commitment.

Her contributions in areas such as Vocations and direct mail have been truly invaluable. Her creativity, attention to detail, and passion for her work has consistently shone through, making a significant impact on our community.

As she embarks on new endeavours, we send our sincerest gratitude and warmest wishes for continued success. Thank you for everything you've done for Knox College, Stephanie.



Stephanie Hanna



**ALUMNI
REUNION**

MAY 29–JUNE 2, 2024

For the first time in its history, Knox College is joining the University of Toronto for Alumni Reunion! Join us for the biggest alumni event of the year. Events will include free lectures, special showcase of Knox College's collection at Fisher Library, Alumni Fest and more!

knox.utoronto.ca/alumnireunion

Knox College announces new Alumni Achievement Award

This year at Knox College's 180th Convocation, we are proud to announce the inaugural Alumni Achievement Award.

This prestigious award celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni, showcasing their leadership, innovation, and dedication.

This award recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to their fields, embodying the values of Knox College and its mission and vision. Don't miss this historic moment as we honour our graduates and inspire the next generation of leaders.

We invite you to submit your nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award by visiting knox.utoronto.ca/alumniaward. The nomination deadline is April 12, 2024.



The poster features the Knox College logo and name at the top left. The background is a purple-tinted image of a long, arched hallway. The text 'ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD' is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the nomination deadline is stated: 'Nomination Deadline: April 12th, 2024'. At the bottom, a URL is provided: 'For more information, please visit knox.utoronto.ca/alumniaward'.



KNOX COLLEGE
Celebrating 180 Years



In 2024, Knox College will mark its 180th anniversary, offering a unique chance to commemorate its history, embrace its present, and shape its future.

To celebrate this significant milestone, a series of events and initiatives have been scheduled for **May 25, 2024**.

The day will commence with a book launch at 11:00 am in Classroom 4, showcasing Dr. Brian Irwin's latest book, *After Dispensationalism: Reading the Bible for the End of the World*. Everyone is welcome to attend.

After the book launch, there will be an Alumni & New Grad lunch at 12:00 pm in the Rotunda. To confirm your attendance, kindly register at knox.utoronto.ca/2024convocation.

At 2:00 pm, Knox College's 180th Convocation will take place in the Chapel, featuring Dr. Kirsteen Kim from Fuller Theological Seminary as the guest speaker. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

Find more information at knox.utoronto.ca/2024convocation.

CLASS NOTES

2020s



Anita Evans (K'20) was ordained and inducted at St. Andrews, Beechwood (Ont.) on December 3, 2023.

Grace Eun Oae Koh (K'21) was ordained and inducted at Westside, Mississauga (Ont.) on January 14, 2024.



Jim MacDonald (K'23) was ordained and inducted at St. Andrew's, Markham (Ont.) on September 20, 2023.

2010s



Cherie Inksetter (K'12) was inducted at Morningside High Park, Toronto (Ont.) on September 24, 2023

Tobey Boyer (K'13) was inducted at Glenview Church, Toronto (Ont.) on November 16, 2023.



Barry Carr (K'13) was inducted at St. Andrew's, Kingston (Ont.) on November 19, 2023.



Ian Marnoch (K'16) was inducted at Knox, Bobcaygeon (Ont.) on October 1st, 2023.

Diane Boyd (K'17) passed away on December 21, 2023.



Jay Hao Chieh Liang (K'19) was ordained and inducted at Toronto Formosan, Toronto (Ont.) on November 19, 2023.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (MANDARIN):

使人和睦的人有福了，他們被稱為神的孩子

當我撰寫這院長感言之時，距離我們慶祝救主降生這大日子已經差不多有三個星期了；還記得這和平之君誕生時，衆天軍天使齊頌讚說：「在至高之處，榮耀歸予神；在地上平安歸予祂所喜悅的人。」基督耶穌已降臨，昭示世人何為和平，教導我們如何在此世上和諧地彼此相處。

縱然如此，展望今年二零二四年，和平的勢頭似乎並不順暢。俄羅斯入侵烏克蘭的攻防戰已持續兩年；在中東，以色列跟哈瑪斯的爭鬥亦方興未艾；於紅海地區，英美聯軍合力出動戰機，打擊胡塞武裝部隊，以報復他們襲擊途經紅海的商船；至於位於非洲的蘇丹，流血衝突更沒有緩解跡象。這些情況若繼續下去，成千上萬的災民將流離顛沛，甚至被殺戮；其中令人痛心的是這些災民，很多是婦女及男女幼童。

與此同時，我們人類也不斷破壞自身大自然的生存空間。我們不斷排放溫室氣體，導致氣候暖化；在人工智能急速發展下，有人發出警告說，人工智能早晚會威脅到人類自身的生存；還有，若環顧全球列國時，民主憲政也日漸被侵蝕。


怪不得有人這樣評價說：「人類這物種是令人扼腕嘆息的族類。」

這情況卻不一定要這樣發展下去喔！我們是那和平之君的弟妹，是那正義的上主、和平的神、仁愛之造物主的子女啊，我們是祂所喜悅的！在很多方面，我們有能力改善這狀況；若回到上主的話語，我們是可以尋求與人和平共處的。在聖經中，我們往往讀到以下的訓誨：希伯來書十二章十四節：「你們要追求與眾人和睦。」；在帖前五章十二節：「弟兄們，我們請求你們：要敬重那些在你們中間勞苦做工、在主裡帶領你們、勸誡你們的人。」；在羅馬書十二章十八節：「若是能行，總要盡力與眾人和睦。」若要列舉類似的教導還有很多呢！

這些舉措，是否執行，純粹在乎我們是否踏出追求和平的這一步；我們周遭、即我們的家庭、朋友同事之間，以致那些跟我們一起敬拜、學習、教導及圍繞我們生活圈子的人，在他們當中，也存在有良善的人的。讓我們在力所能及的範圍下，創造一個健康、具鼓勵性和充滿愛的空間，跟所有人一起，肩並肩，生活工作。

在二零二四年，讓我們每一個人都仔細思考何謂和平，讓我們剛剛正正的活出有和平樣式的生活；周遭儘管滿是仇恨，神的子民也要滿有勇氣地活出和平。

“使人和睦的人有福了！因為他們必稱為神的孩子。”
(馬太福音五章九節)

 Also available online at knox.utoronto.ca/mandarin.
Translation by Wan-Kit Keng and Helen Cheung.

2000s

Tae Wook Kwon (K'05) was inducted at Surrey (B.C.) Korean Presbyterian Church on October 1, 2023.

1980s

Robert N. Faris (K'83) retired on October 31, 2023.

John-Peter Smit (K'86) retired on December 31, 2023.

Tori Smit (E'82) retired on December 31, 2023.

1970s



Evelyn Carpenter (K'70) passed away August 24, 2023.

Margaret MacLeod (E'73, K'00) passed away on February 3, 2024.



Judee Archer Green (K'77) passed away on October 6, 2023.

1960s



David W. Stewart (K'68) passed away on January 1, 2024.

1950s

Bob Anderson (K'53, K'92) passed away on October 7, 2023.



1940s



Joyce Pollock (E'48) passed away on September 24, 2023.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Have you published a book? Gotten married? Been called to a congregation? Had a baby? Send your news to us at knox.communications@utoronto.ca.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (KOREAN):

화평케 하는 자는 하나님의 자녀라 일컬음을 받느니라

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제가 이 칼럼을 쓰고 있는 지금, 천사들이 “지극히 높은 곳에서는 하나님께 영광이요 땅에서는 기뻐하시는 자들 중에 평화로다”라고 노래하는 평화의 왕의 탄생을 축하한 지 3주도 채 되지 않았습니다. 예수님은 다시 오셔서 모든 민족에게 평화를 주시고 어머니인 지구의 시민으로서 조화롭게 살아가는 것이 무엇을 의미하는지 다시 한 번 보여 주셨습니다.

그럼에도 불구하고 2024년 평화 전망은 좋지 않습니다. 러시아-우크라이나 전쟁은 2년 가까이 계속되고 있습니다. 중동에서는 이스라엘과 하마스가 전쟁 중이며, 연합군은 최근 홍해 공격에 대한 보복으로 후티 반군에 대규모 폭탄 공격을 가했습니다. 수단과 같은 곳에서는 유혈 사태가 줄어들지 않는 것 같습니다. 2024년에는 이러한 분쟁으로 수만 명이 사망할 것이며, 취약하고 무력한 사람들, 특히 여성과 어린이를 포함하여 수십만 명의 난민이 국경을 넘어 이주하게 될 것입니다.

그 사이 인류는 계속해서 자연을 파괴하고 있습니다. 우리는 기후에 악영향을 미치는 가스로 대기를 채우고 있습니다. 어떤 사람들은 놀라운 속도로 발전하는 인공지능이 머지않아 인간의 본성을 훼손할 것이라고 믿습니다. 또한 많은 국가에서 민주주의가 압박을 받고 있습니다.

“호모 사피엔스는 정말 불쌍한 존재입니다.” 최근 누군가가 쓴 글입니다.

그러나 반드시 그렇지는 않습니다. 우리는 평화의 왕의 형제자매요 정의와 평화와 사랑의 하나님의 자녀입니다. 우리는 그분이 기뻐하시는 사람들입니다. 우리는 다양한 방법으로 변화를 만들 수 있습니다. 우리는 모든 사람과 평화롭게 살라는 성경의 부르심을 진지하게 받아들이는 것부터 시작할 수 있습니다. 성경에 이런 후렴구들이 있습니다: “모든 사람으로 더불어 화평하게 지내기를 힘쓰라”(히 12:14); “너희끼리 화목하라”(살전 5:12). 그리고 “할 수 있거든 너희로서는 모든 사람으로 더불어 화목하라”(롬 12:18) 등입니다.

그것은 우리에게 달려 있기 때문에 우리는 환경과 함께 그리고 같이 예배하고, 공부하고, 가르치는 사람들, 일상 생활에서 만나는 사람들과 평화를 위해 노력할 수 있습니다. 우리 주변에는 좋은 사람들이 있다는 것을 늘 기억합시다. 우리가 일하고 생활하는 공간을 공유하는 사람들을 위해 따뜻하고 건강하며 사랑이 넘치는 환경을 조성함으로써 우리가 할 수 있는 변화를 만들어 갑시다.

2024년에는 우리 모두가 평화에 대해 깊이 생각하고, 평화에 따른 진정한 삶을 살고, 증오가 가득한 곳에서도 용감하게 평화를 이끄는 사람이 되기를 바랍니다.

“화평케 하는 자는 복이 있나니 저희가 하나님의 자녀라 일컬음을 받을 것임이요”(마 5:9).

 Also available online at knox.utoronto.ca/korean.
Translation by Mi-Weon Yang.



Ernest van Eck
Principal of
Knox College

Peacemakers are called the children of God

“We are brothers and sisters of the Prince of Peace and children of the God of justice, peace, and love.”

As I write this column, it has been less than three weeks since we celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace, with angels singing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” Jesus has come again, offering peace to all peoples and showing us once more what it means to live in harmony as citizens of Mother Earth.

Despite this, the prospects of peace in 2024 do not look good. The Russia-Ukraine war has been ongoing for close to two years. In the Middle East, Israel and Hamas are at war, and combined forces recently launched massive bomb strikes on the Houthis in retaliation for the Red Sea attacks. The bloodshed in places like Sudan seems to be unabated. Tens of thousands will die in these conflicts in 2024, and hundreds of thousands of refugees will move across borders, including many vulnerable and helpless people, especially women and children.

Meanwhile, humankind continues to destroy nature. We fill the atmosphere with gases that affect the climate. Some believe that Artificial Intelligence, developing at an incredible pace, will soon undermine human nature. Additionally, in many countries, democracy is under pressure.

“Homo sapiens are a sorry lot,” someone wrote recently.

But this does not have to be. We are brothers and sisters of the Prince of Peace and children of the God of justice, peace, and love. We are the ones He favours. We can make a difference – in many ways. We can start by taking seriously Scripture’s call to live at peace with everybody. This is a refrain in Scripture: “Make every effort to live in peace with all men” (Heb. 12:14); “Be at peace among yourselves,” (1 Thess. 5:12); and “If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18), to name but a few.

Because it depends on us, we can work toward peace with our environment, with family, friends, our colleagues at work, with those with whom we worship, study, teach, and with those we meet as we live our daily lives. Let us always remember that there are good people around us. Let us make a difference where we can by creating a welcoming, healthy, and loving environment for those who share the space in which we work and live.

In 2024, may we all be known as people who think deeply about peace, live authentic lives shaped by peace, and lead courageously even where hate fills the air.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matt. 5:9).”

Find the Mandarin and Korean translations of the Principal's Message on pages 14-15.

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