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MAGDALEN COLLEGE



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THE VISION

Vision



ROGER J. MAGNUSON

THE CONDITION OF THE CURRENT SEMINARY AND THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We are told in Scripture that the ascended Christ gave gifts to His church in part to equip “saints for the work of the ministry.” If there is no higher calling than to be God’s minister, then it follows that there is no preparation more important than making sure that those called to minister have all the equipment they need for excellence in that calling.

The conventional form this preparation takes today is education in seminaries or Bible schools where students are given instruction in largely academic subjects in a classroom setting, with very little spiritual discipleship, with

very few demands of practical service, and with very haphazard efforts, if any, to integrate them into the body of a local church.

The results of such rabbinical or scholastic preparation are predictable: “ministers” who have never been trained to minister; “Bible teachers” who know facts about the Bible but have little knowledge of how to use it as a two-edged sword; “shepherds” who have never themselves been held accountable for their spiritual walk; “professionals” who know the forms of service but who have never been called upon to demonstrate the power of the Gospel in the life of a local church; “students” whose narrow gauge academic preparation has isolated them from the larger world of dealing with lost souls and the wisdom required to do so.

Many report that such preparations “detrained” them for the ministry, since its effect was to diminish their enthusiasm for the great commission, inhibit their creativity, and transform their desire for competence into pursuit of a credential.

That will inevitably be the result of a ministry training program that diverges from Christ’s three year school of divinity and chooses the rabbinical school methods instead. Christ’s twelve ministerial students went through exhaustive training in practical ministry of every conceivable kind, learned that theology could not and should not be separated from a very personal “therefore” of moral and spiritual application, submitted to the most personal discipleship by following Christ, and saw the power of preaching firsthand using illustrations taken from the entire universe of human experience. And they did it together, working in a local “church.”

Roger J. Magnuson
Chancellor

“ . . . there is no preparation more important than making sure that those called to minister have all the equipment they need for excellence in that calling.”

MAGDALEN College



Magdalen is a derivative of Magdala, the name of a village in Galilee where Jesus began to teach his disciples how to minister.

It is known only for one thing today: the place of a remarkable spiritual transformation worked in the life of a woman named Mary, whose past appears to have presented a tangle of moral and spiritual problems until she met

THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE EVOKES ITS MISSION AND ITS METHODS.

Christ. What happened in Magdala is what we want to happen at the college: a training environment for Christian disciples specializing in spiritual transformations whose only explanation is the power of God.

Magdalen is also the name of two prominent English colleges famed for educational excellence: Magdalen (a part of Oxford University—as pictured on the facing page) and Magdalene (a part of Cambridge University). The instructional method at this Magdalen is patterned after the classical form of education available at the Oxbridge colleges.

Magdalen College admits both men and women to its degree programs. The substance

and methods of the training provided will be substantially similar for both sexes.

While the biblical convictions of the college would not allow it to admit women students whose desire is to be ministers of the Gospel, elders, or pastors, we do believe the role of women in God's redemptive program is equally important to that of men even though more often expressed in influence rather than position.

The course of instruction offered will seek to equip women to be effective servants of the Jesus Christ in a wide range of roles, including not least as wives and mothers who take seriously the inculcating of truth and godly character in their own children.

“Magdalen is a derivative of Magdala, the name of a village in Galilee where Jesus began to teach his disciples how to minister.”

STATEMENT OF MISSION

Mission

A MISSION

This program is primarily designed for, aimed at, and attended by those who sincerely hold, and seek to learn more perfectly the Christian faith. Its programs are primarily intended to prepare its students to become ministers of the faith, to enter into some other vocation closely related to their faith and ministry, or to conduct their lives in consonance with their faith.



A MOTIVATION

To Equip: We seek to equip each student for the work of the ministry by providing training in each area of potential Christian service;

To Evaluate: We seek to ensure that each student is mature in understanding, and not a child tossed about by every contemporary "wind", by rigorous instruction in the fundamentals of the faith; and

To Exemplify: We seek to motivate each student to focus on the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ by a consistent and disciplined personal devotional life.

A METHOD

To Train: by providing apprenticeship in every area of practical Christian service;

To Teach: by giving the student a rigorous three year, Oxford-style classical education in ministry; and

To Tutor: by regular and personal accountability for the maintenance of spiritual disciplines.

"We seek to equip each student for the work of the ministry by providing training in each area of potential Christian service."

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Faith

We believe that there is only one true God, existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-eternal from all eternity, each with distinct personalities but of one essence.

We believe the Bible to be verbally inspired by God in its original writings, that it is truth without mixture of error, and is the sole rule of faith and practice.

We believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who entered into the world through the

virgin birth, living among us without sin as perfect man and perfect God.

We believe that Adam was directly created in innocence and in the image of God and was not evolved from preexisting forms of life. By voluntary transgression, he fell; and thus the whole race is now sinful by nature and practice and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal separation from God.

We believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary as a vicarious substitute for all sinners and that He was buried and rose again bodily and ascended to the right hand of the Father from whence He will personally return.

We believe that men are justified by grace through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ without any mixture of works.

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners, regenerates, sanctifies, and indwells the believer and fills him for effective service.

We believe in the priesthood of the believer and that God has made provision for each believer to be victorious by being led of the Spirit and not walking after the flesh.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost—the just unto the resurrection of life eternal and the lost unto the resurrection of eternal damnation.

We believe that Satan is a person and that hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment for him, his host, and all unbelievers.

We believe that Christians are commanded by Scripture to abstain from all forms of compromise with unbelief.

We believe that the Bible sets forth principles of Godly living and that we must learn and follow these principles to both avoid and refute the false teachings and false concepts of our day.

We believe that Christians are commanded to follow Scriptural methods of discerning, exhorting, warning, and reproving those who violate or reject the principles of Scripture.



CHURCH *Straitgate*

Because we believe it is a key responsibility of the local church to equip saints for the work of the ministry, the specialized training we offer cannot be done at distance. Magdalen College is entirely under the jurisdiction of a local church. Prospective students need to be familiar with, and comfortable with, the special ministry of Straitgate Church and its goals and standards.

Since its inception, in which a handful of workers were led of the Lord to come together to provide a Sunday School for thirty-four inner-city children who had been excluded from another church and placed on a "waiting list", the Straitgate Church has been given a unique mission characterized by a place, a people, a purpose, and a principle.

The place is the inner city of Minneapolis. In its early days, Straitgate was a pilgrim church, meeting in university rooms, children's missions, community centers, and private homes. Despite some daunting obstacles, including a conviction not to borrow money, never to ask for money, and not even have a collection, the Lord provided a grand church building in the heart of our area of ministry. The locale and facilities are ideal for our ministry.

The people we minister to are the multitudes of people groups in a bustling major city. Our special focus are those we know to be especially on God's heart: the poor, the

stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Our neighborhood is especially well-suited to this focus. It is the poorest neighborhood in the state, it is increasingly flooded with immigrants from all over the world, it has many children from single parent homes, and it is full of women who have been abandoned and left with children. We cannot think of a more "elite" ministry and count it a special honor to have this God-given opportunity.

The purpose of everything the church does is to make the mission of the Lord our mission. He came to "seek and to save" the lost. It is a saying worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If that is the main business of Christ's kingdom, that is the business we want to be in. Our purpose is not to attract the disaffected in the increasingly popular game of church "musical chairs", to build a "mega-church" with a conglomerate of competing social and spiritual purposes, or to provide a safe cocoon for risk-averse families with good standards. We seek to be soul-winners and we invite people to join us who share that purpose.

The purpose comes from a principle: except the Lord build the house, the laborers labor in vain. To that end, we decided that the church would build on a Biblical foundation, with no concern about current conventions or "pragmatism." Our methods are uncomplicated: the Word of

God and prayer. We have no youth groups, no rummage sales, and little of the administrative apparatus of modern church structure. We seek to preach the Word of God full strength. We pray together, including at some all-night prayer vigils, and we seek in everything we do to reach the lost souls of the city.

This purpose can only be achieved by a common commitment to the highest standards of personal separation and a high level of commitment to the work of the church. Those who are unwilling to defer in matters of questionable activities to accommodate the highest common denominator will not be happy here. Those who view the church as a resource only and view its meetings as optional will find the program difficult. Preparation for the work of ministry requires intensive exposure to those for whom, and with whom, that ministry is done.

While the student at Magdalen is making no long-term commitment to a specific local church, the entire ministry training program here is premised on three years of active ministry in this, a particular local church. Prospective students need to make sure that the Straitgate Church is a place where they can enthusiastically prepare for God's calling on their life.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Message



ROBERT C. NEWHOUSE

THE TWO-FOLD PURPOSE OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE.

The prophet Daniel proclaimed, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." This verse of Scripture reveals the two-fold purpose of Magdalen College.

The first purpose of Magdalen College is to produce ministers of the Gospel who are wise, and who understand Biblical principles and the ways of God. These ministers will be able to open up God's Word and daily discover practical truths and insights, and apply them to their personal lives so they may have perfect hearts towards God and live in a continuous state of personal revival. Because of their ability to see life from God's perspective, these ministers will "shine as the brightness of the firmament."

The prophet Daniel proclaimed, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn

The second purpose of this college is to produce ministers of the Gospel who will "turn many to righteousness." The Hebrew word for "righteous" means "to conform to the standards of the one who sets the rules." This minister will be effective in speaking to the conscience of a people and persuade many to conform to God's standards. He will develop the skills to communicate Gospel Truth effectively, boldly, and unashamedly to a people who walk in darkness. He will also be trained to encourage and challenge God's people to be responsible for the reputation of Jesus Christ by living holy and separated lives. They will shine as the stars forever and ever.

The prophet Amos foretold of a day in which the Lord would, "send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." (Amos 8:11-12) There is such a famine in

our land today. People are seeking for words of the Lord to direct their lives and are not finding them. Instead they are finding words, not of truth but of sensual deception. We seek to raise up ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who will be uncompromising in their commitment to break this famine and boldly proclaim God's Truth with integrity.

Magdalen College is not for everybody, especially the faint of heart. It is for the mature believer who understands that the ultimate responsibility for the pursuit of his high calling is his alone. A classical education is for those who have the motivation, initiative, and diligence to develop the skills and understanding necessary to fulfill their calling to be effective ministers for the Lord Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Newhouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Robert C. Newhouse
Dean

"We seek to raise up ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who will boldly proclaim God's truth with integrity."

THE OXFORD METHOD OF EDUCATION

Oxford Method

In the Oxford style of classical education, considerable responsibility rests on the shoulders of the individual student to prepare himself for a comprehensive examination,

normally at the end of three years, that will determine whether he has earned a degree, and with what level of honors.

The student finds many helps provided to reach his goal—tutorials with dons who know what level of accomplishment will be necessary to clear the hurdle, lectures from time to time on subjects relevant to his course, a vast library and bibliography of relevant readings—but the ultimate

responsibility for learning is his own. The American routine of mid-terms and finals and a cumulative grade point average based on many discrete courses is unknown. Like the Christian who prepares with all the resources available for the judgment seat of Christ, a singular and final examination that will determine his rewards, so the student here is expected to work with a single-minded focus for the mastery of those intellectual and practical skills required of an effective minister of Jesus Christ.



“The student finds many helps provided to reach his goal . . . but the ultimate responsibility for learning is his own.”

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Bachelor Degree

This three year course leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree, devised with the special needs of ministerial training in mind. The course draws from a great variety of disciplines and seeks to integrate the systematic study of the Bible with all areas of culture, life and learning.

The Bachelor of Arts program seeks to produce ministers who are, by learning, training, and practical experience, fully equipped for a lifetime of Christian service and are eager to pursue the heavenly rewards that God has promised for those faithful servants who seek



“The course draws from a great variety of disciplines and seeks to integrate the systematic study of the Bible with all areas of culture, life and learning.”

to do exploits to glorify the living God. Three years cover the three segments of redemptive history: from Creation to the end of the Old Testament, from the beginning to the end of the New Testament, and from the beginning of the Church, at Pentecost, through modern times. Each of these three segments will require a year of study, including a variety of lessons from other disciplines, culminating with travel abroad to see historical sites.

As an illustration of the kind of material that will be covered at each segment, the following list may be helpful to prospective students:

YEAR I. THE COVENANT

OLD TESTAMENT

- Christianity and Culture I
- Foundations of Law (and the Four Jurisdictions)
- Power of Preaching
- Fundamentals of Hebrew
- Christian Inner-City Mission Practicum (all 3 years)
- Field Studies on location (Israel)

YEAR II. THE CROSS

NEW TESTAMENT

- Christianity and Culture II
- Christian Counseling and Pastoral Care
- Christian Communications (Logic, Personal Evangelism, Music, Christianity and the Arts)
- Fundamentals of Greek
- Field Studies on location (Greece, Asia Minor)

YEAR III. THE CHURCH

CHURCH HISTORY

- Christianity and Culture III
- Christian Ministry (Revival, Christianity and Liberalism, Doctrine of Separation)
- Integration of Biblical, and scientific studies
- Field Studies on location (Europe)
- Economics

MASTERS OF DIVINITY

YEAR IV. THE COMMISSION

- Supervised ministry
- Dissertation

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted into Magdalen College, interested parties must complete the Application for Admission before the application deadline. Applications are reviewed with respect to three factors: (1) academic qualifications, (2) application essay, and (3) commitment to the purposes and mission of the College.

Spiritual Fitness

The Admissions Committee looks for applicants who share a commitment to the mission of Magdalen College. An applicant's commitment to the goals of the College is revealed in personal reference recommendations, application responses, personal character qualities, and by the motivation for ministry. Applicants to Magdalen College must agree with the statement of Faith listed in the prospectus and purpose to follow the Code of Conduct of Magdalen College. Once accepted, students will be expected to comply with personal standards of behavior set forth in the Straitgate Covenant and will also sign the Straitgate Covenant and participate in its vision.

Academic Qualifications

Magdalen College, assesses the academic qualifications of each applicant by examining a transcript of their academic record, test scores, work history, writing sample, and personal reference recommendations.

As an alternative to this requirement, an applicant may take three College Level

Examination Program (CLEP) examinations, and must score at or above the minimum levels established by the College. Applicants who wish to make arrangements to take the CLEP examination at a location near them may write to: CLEP, P.O. Box 6600, Princeton, NJ 08541, or call (609) 951-1026.

Magdalen College strongly encourages students to take the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT or the ACT) as an indicator of one's academic aptitude. Information about the SAT may be obtained from The College Board at (800) 496-4775 or www.collegeboard.org and the ACT at (319) 337-1270, (847) 634-1074.

Principles of Life Seminar

Because of the College's unique mission and its statement of faith, attendance of all the sessions of the Seminar in Basic Youth Conflicts sponsored by the Institute in Basic Life Principles is a prerequisite for admission. This seminar focuses on how to apply seven Biblical principles of life to resolve basic conflicts and discover purpose in life. Information about this seminar can be obtained from the Institute in Basic Life Principles, Box One, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3001, or by calling (630) 323-9800.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Magdalen College does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions or educational policies on the basis of race, color, gender, or national and ethnic origin.

However, admission into Magdalen College is limited to individuals with convictions, goals, and objectives consistent with the statement of faith and the mission of Magdalen College.

The College reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant or to dismiss any student at its own discretion when any such applicant or student manifests character or conduct which is adverse to the College's statement of mission, purpose, and objectives.

Tuition and Expenses

The tuition for one year is \$2000 and is payable in full at the beginning of each year, or with permission, an installment payment plan may arranged with the College.

Tuition does not include the following:

- Required textbooks and optional study materials.
- Travel expenses for the annual Spring Trip or examinations.
- Lodging and food expenses.

At this time the College does not provide any students with financial aid and does not participate in loan programs.

Graduation Requirements

To receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Magdalen College, a student must pass the final examination at the end of three years. There are no credit hours given for the required courses, yet students meet with their tutors weekly to evaluate progress in accomplishing assignments. Candidates

for graduation must not be subject to any disciplinary action by the College.

Performance Evaluation

At Magdalen College we do not refer to "courses," "grades," or evaluations. Students are involved in one course with a variety of parts. Examples of subject areas needed to be learned are listed in this prospectus on page 17. The only "grades" given are a Bachelor of Arts degree, first class honors, second class honors, pass degree, or fail.

Student Services

Tutorial assistance: Students will receive additional tutorial assistance in their studies by contacting the professor for the particular subject in which they need assistance. Faculty are available during specific hours each week, and phone numbers for each faculty member are provided to all enrolled students. Students may contact their professors at any time via e-mail.

Students can call the College administrative offices at (612) 870-9303 for more information.

Library Access

Students are required to purchase textbooks for their classes. Supplementary resource books will be available for use from the library at Straitgate Church.

Code of Conduct and Moral Character

Students at Magdalen College are expected to reflect Godly character in their speech, dress, and actions. Modest and professional dress is expected at every college event, and disruptive language or behavior will not be permitted. At all times, Magdalen College students are expected to be honest, courteous, diligent, and humble. All students are expected not to use tobacco, drink alcohol, use non-prescription drugs (other than over-the-counter medications), or view pornographic material. Students will be expected to adhere to the standards outlined in the Straitgate Church Covenant and verify their convictions by signing the Covenant. Misrepresentations on an application for admission, lying, profanity, immoral behavior, plagiarism, and cheating on examinations are clear violations of the Standards of Conduct.

Any report of such violation is subject to investigation by the Dean's Office. A decision will be made based upon the findings of the investigation, and appropriate discipline, including but not limited to revocation of "grades," suspension, disqualification, or complete dismissal, may be administered. Any student charged with a violation which could lead to disciplinary action by the College shall be informed of the charge(s) against him or her and will be provided with reasonable

notice—including date, time, and place—of a hearing of the matter by the Dean's Office or by an ethics and standards committee appointed by the Dean. The student will be further advised of his or her right to be present at the hearing and to be heard.

Attendance and Leave of Absence Policy

Students are responsible for their own education. Attendance at lectures, discussions and discipleship sessions are strongly encouraged. Students are expected to be at all church functions, unless providentially hindered and will also be given responsibilities to fulfill.

Withdrawal and Refund Policy

Students may cancel enrollment and receive a full refund of all money paid to the College, except the non-refundable application fee. Commencement of studies occurs in October.

After the eight-day cancellation period, applicable to all students when they commence a year of study, a student may withdraw at any time upon written notice to the Director of Administration. A student is not entitled to a refund after the eight-day cancellation period, but may petition for a partial refund by demonstrating a hardship. Cancellation is effective on the date written notice is postmarked.

For example, if a student mails a notice of withdrawal on Wednesday after the Orientation week, a 100% refund (\$2000) will be sent to the student. If a student mails a notice of withdrawal during the

third week of legal study, no refund will be given except in hardship cases, at the complete discretion of the College.

Students who withdraw shall return all Magdalen College library books, audio and/or video tapes to the College within ten days after the notice of cancellation. Refunds upon dismissal or suspension are the same as for voluntary withdrawal and are subject to the eight-day cancellation period. Refunds upon dismissal or suspension are provided according to the same schedule as for voluntary withdrawals. All refunds will be paid within 30 days of cancellation or withdrawal. If the College cancels or discontinues an educational program, the College will make a full refund of all charges associated with that program.

Student Records

Magdalen College's confidentiality policy complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended. No one shall have access to, nor will the College disclose any information from, student records without written permission from students, excepting authorized personnel within the College, persons complying with a judicial order, and persons in an emergency who are acting to protect the health or safety of students or other persons. Students have a right to review information contained in their records except for those matters which they have waived the right to review and matters that do not relate to their individual academic status.

Instructions to Applicants

Individuals interested in enrolling in Magdalen College must take the following steps:

Read the Prospectus including the Statement of Mission, Statement of Faith and Code of Conduct. Complete the Application for Admission in its entirety and include a passport-size recent photograph. Send the Application to the Administrative Offices at the address given below.

Have at least two qualified individuals complete the Personal Reference Forms and send them directly to College. The Personal Reference Forms should not be sent from the applicant. The applicant should provide his or her reference with a correctly addressed envelope. Applicants should sign each Personal Reference Form prior to giving it to the reference.

Transcripts from undergraduate course work or evidence of satisfactory equivalency examination results must accompany the application. (No certified transcripts need to be sent at this point.) Upon acceptance into the program, the College will require the applicant to have certified transcripts sent from their undergraduate institution.

Submit a writing sample such as a research paper, essay or other analytical work. Writings which have been completed in the past may be used or a new writing prepared for this application. The sample should be typewritten and 2-3 pages in length at minimum.

Applicants are also required to submit an essay on why they would like to enroll at Magdalen

College, what their expectations are and what they believe God is calling them to do after graduation from Magdalen College. (Admittance into Magdalen College will be determined in large part by the level of excellence with which this essay is written.)

Applicants are advised to consider the following dates and deadlines:

The Fall session begins in October (see application for specific dates). The application deadline for individuals wishing to enroll in that class is the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Calendar

- Michaelmas Term: Beginning in October - December, (8 weeks)
- Break from lectures and tutorials. (6 weeks) (Apprenticeship responsibilities, discipleship, and personal study continue)
- Hilary Term: Beginning in January - March, (8 weeks)
- Break from lectures and tutorials. (6 weeks)
- Trinity Term: Beginning in April - June, (8 weeks)

Mail completed application to:
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Visit us online:
web:
www.magdalencollege.edu
email:
info@magdalencollege.edu