

### Prosperity Gospel Added to Mdiv Program

As part of the MDIV program's continued restructuring, Regent has announced that it will now be including a prosperity gospel component to the pastoral degree. Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, and Benny Hinn have been appointed as visiting lecturers and as ministry mentors. Students will also have the option of having supervised ministry placements at their churches.

"Serving at a church in the Downtown Eastside or Lakewood Church...Downtown Eastside or Lakewood Church," one MDiv student hummed and hawed, "Jesus speaks out most against wealth than any other vice so Lakewood would be the more missional option, wouldn't it?"

We reached out to one of the new instructors. "I'm looking forward to teaching the MDiv students my moves," Hinn said, removing his blazer and getting ready to strike (in the power of the Holy Spirit).

The MDiv Committee pointed out that by incorporating prosperity gospel teachings into pastoral education, MDiv graduates may actually one day be able to afford a modest apartment in Vancouver, "Ministry certainly doesn't pay otherwise," one of the Committee members guffawed.

Alumni and Donor Relations were also pleased with the news, "Having Regent graduates who subscribe to the prosperity gospel will definitely help us when it comes to fundraising. Mark 12:41-44 is a lovely story but you can't endow a chair with two copper coins."

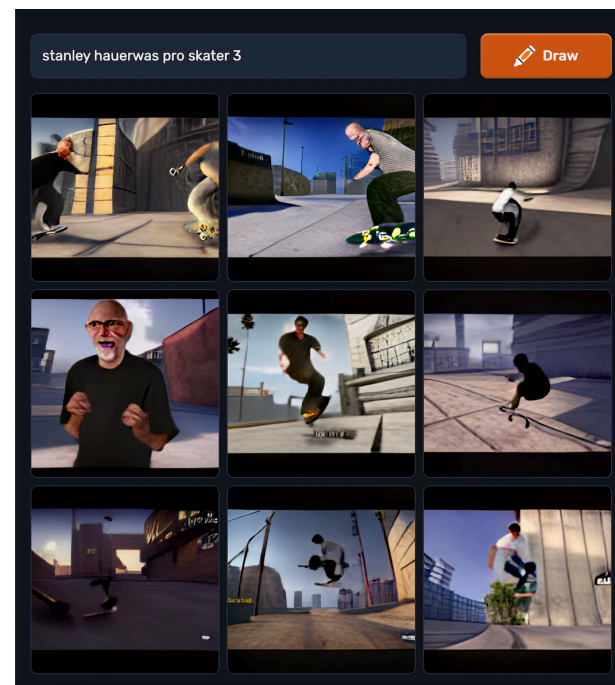
### Overheard at Regent

"Now that's something you can say on soup day, AND on the dance floor."

### Dad Joke of the Week

My thesaurus really sucks.

It also sucks.



We used an AI art generator to produce the above images and I refuse to elaborate further.

## Community and the Body of Christ

Leanne Witten

Regent College is known for its community life. It is fostered everywhere-in classes, chapel services, community groups, in unexpected conversations in the atrium, or even in time spent working alongside one another in the library, frantically trying to finish assignments on time. The community life at Regent is something that I've benefitted greatly from over my past two years of study here.

Community was also a big focus at the Christian university where I did my undergraduate studies, and has continued to be heavily emphasized in my church and life at Regent afterwards. Community and fellowship with other believers can be a gift, but there are times when I've felt a serious disconnect between the idea of community presented by the church and my own experience, or that of others in my circles.

The Bible contains many references to the body of Christ, the church, to which all Christians belong. 1 Corinthians 12 states that the church is one body with many members, all of whom have unique gifts and callings, and all of whom have a place within the church (vs. 19). As members of one body, believers are to care for one another, and to share in one another's lives, whether we are experiencing suffering or rejoicing. (vs. 25-26) There is a particular bond between members of the church that is deeper than just friendship. Within the church, we worship together not simply for the sake of meeting with people who have similar beliefs and values to us, and not only as a place to encourage one another in our individual walks with God (Tish Harrison Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, 120). We form the body of Christ as a Christ-centred community, not as individuals, but as a whole (Ibid, 121).

Church community can be a wonderful thing, and often it is, but it can also come with hurt or painful experiences. For me as a young adult, I've seen both sides. Church has been a place where I have sometimes felt a strong sense of community. At other times, I've experienced the abuse of power from those in leadership positions when comments were carelessly thrown in the direction of (me and) particular individuals in the church, rather than offered as godly wisdom and sound instruction.

Continued on Page 3...

### In This Issue -

Community and the Body of Christ, Leanne Witten - Page 1

Humans of Regent: Brian Pate - Page 2

The Stranger In The Photo

Mo Hickman - Page 3

The Bunyan - Page 4

+ More....

### ETC. Submission Guidelines

ETC. welcomes submissions from all members of the Regent community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

ETC. publishes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and visual artwork.

ETC. welcomes submissions on any topic, but preference will be given to pieces that are directly relevant to the Regent community.

Written submissions may not exceed 1000 words in length.

Visual artwork will only be printed in black and white.

All submissions are subject to minor edits. If substantial edits are needed, the submission may be returned.

All submissions are to be sent to: [etcetera@regent-college.edu](mailto:etcetera@regent-college.edu)

# Humans of Regent: Brian Pate



*Humans of Regent is a new joint effort from EtCetera and the RCSA to highlight the stories and experiences of Regent's community members.*

"I moved here from Greenville, South Carolina with my wife, Alicia, my seven year old son Christian, and seven year old daughter Clara. I've been in the work world for twenty-seven years as a land surveyor; I owned a land surveying and mapping company in Greenville. We were active in the Village Church, our Anglican Church, and were part of the original church plant team in 2013 and have been active in the lay ministry area."

"I had a strong calling in February of 2020, a month before Covid hit, which ran through that year, and by the grace of God, the calling was really clear in October of 2020. This left Alicia and I in a strange place and so we ended up selling our business, answering the call and giving the new owners a year-long transition period which ended this February. We've gone through parish discernment, and part of the Anglican ordination path is an M.Div., and Regent College is one of the approved programs. As we sought out the programs, we liked the fact that Regent was more geographically consistent with students from around the world, so we wanted to come here to

study with the global church rather than just in our bubble, in the Bible Belt South East."

"I've enjoyed the peace of sitting in the library, reading and studying. I can feel a holiness down there when I'm sitting there. You know, the flip side is studying for long hours can be a little bit isolating during the day. I've been in the work world for all these years, interacting during the day with people, so long stretches of time of reading can feel a little bit isolating, even though I'm there with my peers who are all doing the same thing. But it has been a joy though, and I can certainly feel the presence of the Lord down there as I'm reading and studying."

"In the past three months, I've been encouraged by interacting with so many of my classmates from around the world and just seeing the presence of God in their face and experiencing the presence of God in conversation. I've been encouraged by His mediating presence in our community here."

# Community and the Body of Christ

*Leanne Witten*

*Continued from Page 1 -*

There was a point in time, a few years ago, when I found it easier not to go to church than to go to my church and hear devaluing words from people in positions of authority, or feel the sting of disparaging comments made in my direction. During this season, my Christian friends and the community became a safe space when the church didn't feel like one. At a time when I found it difficult to be in church, the community of Christian friends that surrounded me extended the love of Christ to me by hearing my story, helping me sort through complicated situations, and simply being friends when I was feeling distant from the church.

The fact of the matter is, much as we know that the church ought to be a place of community between brothers and sisters in Christ, we live in a world that has been broken by the effects of sin, alongside people who are human and prone to make mistakes, much as we are. Difficult experiences in the church (and many of us have them) are going to happen in a fallen world. We face strained relationships, the abuse of power, and many things that cause disunity. But we are still the body of Christ. As Christians, we are called to extend love and forgiveness towards one another, even those who have hurt us or with whom we disagree.

During the first part of my Regent degree, I had the opportunity to live in a community house for two years. Living in community during a global pandemic is a fantastic time to develop relationships with your housemates, all of whom are in your bubble. It is also a stretching time because you must learn to live with your housemates, all of whom are in your bubble (and vice versa). It means many conversations about house rules, managing conflicts between housemates, and getting used to one another's quirks. Your housemates get to see the real version of you, both when you are productively working on an assignment and when you are sprawled on the couch on a Sunday afternoon, mouth slightly open, quite possibly drooling.

Life in a community house is often far from glamorous. It means learning to share space, cleanspace, comfort crying children (in my case), and going through times of celebration, joy over new relationships, disappointment over failures, discouragement, worries, or grief. It was also definitely an adjustment for my inner introvert to live in a house with eight other people and a toddler who occasionally found her way into my room to investigate the contents of my bedside drawer, but living with a good community of people, particularly during the pandemic when there were heavy restrictions on social interactions, was definitely worth any challenges posed by living with others.

Living in community, I grew to love the communal rhythms of shared meals and prayer times, unplanned movie nights and spontaneous conversations, and the general ups and downs of life. We shared fun, laughter, tears, problems, existential crises, and I formed deeper friendships with my housemates than I likely ever would

have had I not been sharing space with them. It ended up being an incredibly rich season for me in terms of relationships, and one of the places that I experienced really amazing community.

For myself, I've experienced both the warmth of true Christian fellowship and the sting of feeling rejected by a community I was once a part of. But regardless of what our positive or negative experiences may be, community is important, and community with other members of the body of believers is essential for spiritual health because we are members of His body. We can't live the Christian life in independence and isolation. We are designed for community, and whether we are in the church or outside of it, we are called to live in community with one another.

## The Stranger In The Photo

*Mo Hickman*

What do you see

when you look at the picture of you and me?

The one where we're so happy,

the one we captioned as "together forever"

and never took another

together.

We said it would never end

but I can't even pretend that it hasn't.

It's been years.

Years of silence.

Years of moving, growing, changing.

Years of liking your instagram photos

hoping that just maybe you'd say hello again.

But no.

You go your way.

I go mine.

Two paths once so intertwined are now miles apart.

And I feel every inch of that distance

every time I look at the stranger in the photo

and I wonder

if you see a stranger too.