The Transforming Word
How does Bible reading change our lives?
How do our lives change how we read the Bible?

IS 501
27 August 2011
9:00 am - 3:45 pm

Gordon-Conwell
Theological Seminary
The endless cycle of idea and action,
Endless invention, endless experiment,
Brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness;
Knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
Knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word.
All our knowledge brings us nearer to death,
But nearness to death no nearer to God.
Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?
The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries
Brings us farther from God and nearer to the Dust.

T. S. Eliot, Choruses from “The Rock”
Throughout the history of the Church, the Bible has been central to its spiritual vitality. Traditionally, reading, listening to, and meditating on the Bible has been the main means of scriptural formation. Today we live in a frenetic age in which the pace of life and the ubiquity of digital technology have provided new and innovative approaches to biblical engagement. Each day, thousands of Americans read the Bible on their cell phones, get email devotional readings, and even some access the Word through tweets! In light of these new societal and technological factors, how does the Bible meaningfully change our lives? Conversely, how does our “wired” way of life influence our reading, understanding and response to the Bible?

The Fall 2011 Integrative Seminar will address key questions related to this theme:

- What are Bible reading practices of contemporary Christians in an electronic age?

- How can reading the Bible most effectively change our lives?

- How does our mode of Bible engagement influence the reception of the Scripture and the process of faith formation?
8:30  Registration and Coffee

9:00  Worship in Song
   Dr. Tim Laniak, Welcome
   Greetings from President Hollinger

Chapel Speaker:

   Mart Green

   This Book is Alive!

10:00  Announcements and Break

10:15  Introduction of Day—Dr. Steve Klipowicz and Dr. Cindy Wheatley

10:30  The Word in the Wired Age—Bobby Gruenewald

11:15  Field Research Results

11:40  Small Group Discussions

Noon  Pig Pick’n Cookout

1:15   The Word, the Ear, and the Eye in Christian History—Dr. Don Fairbairn

2:00  Small Group Discussion

2:45  Break

3:00  Transformed or Transforming: The Digital Dilemma  Dr. Cindy
   Wheatley and Dr. Steve Klipowicz

3:30  Final Group Discussions
Bobby Gruenewald: Pastor, Innovation Leader for LifeChurch.tv

Bobby Gruenewald serves as a member of the Directional Leadership Team at LifeChurch.tv, which is based in Edmond, Okla. and recognized as one of the largest churches in the United States. LifeChurch.tv has shaped a missional approach to technology, seen in initiatives like Church Online and the Bible App by YouVersion. Gruenewald is one of the leading voices in the church on innovation and the use of technology to reach people for Christ, and frequently writes and speaks on these topics.

Mart Green, Entrepreneur

Mart Green began his retail career in the home of his parents as a youth. With $600 his family started Hobby Lobby in their living room, now a chain of over 500 hobby, arts and crafts stores. At 19, Mart established Mardel, a chain of Christian and educational supply stores. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, Mardel has 35 stores in seven states. Mart is Founder and CEO of EthnoGraphic Media (EGM), a non-profit Scripture engagement company charged with “creating media to excite young people about living the Bible.” June 2002, visionary Green founded Every Tribe Entertainment, a feature film production company. Their movie End of the Spear released to theaters in January 2006 and won the “Grand Prize Award” at the Heartland Film Festival. January 2008 Mart became Board Chair of the Board of Trustees at Oral Roberts University (ORU). Mart has been married to his wife, Diana, for 29 years. They are the parents of 4 grown children (Brent, Tyler, Scott, and Amy) and the proud grandparents of David Asher (son of Tyler and his wife, Kristin).

Dr. Don Fairbairn, Cooley Professor of Early Christianity

Don Fairbairn and his wife Jennifer have two children, Trey (9) and Ella (8). As a family, the Fairbairns are committed to the value of reading, hearing, speaking, and singing the Word of God. Even though Trey and Ella are voracious readers on their own, they still love having their parents read the Bible (and lots of other great books as well) to them out loud. They also love singing songs that contain the words of Scripture. Don is the Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity at Gordon-Conwell, and he has also taught in many European countries. He holds an A.B. in English literature from Princeton University, an M.Div. from Denver Seminary, and a Ph.D. in patristics from the University of Cambridge.

Dr. Cindy D. Wheatley, Associate Dean of Hybrid Learning

Cindy is the Associate Dean for Hybrid Learning at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She is leading the team that will launch the online Master of Arts in Religion program in January 2012. Before joining Gordon-Conwell, she was the Vice President for Research and Consulting at Embanet-Compass Knowledge Group, where she worked with colleges and universities to help them assess, develop, and launch new online degree programs. Cindy earned her Ph.D. in British Literature from Florida State University in 1993 and has taught at the University of Tennessee, Florida State University, the University of Alabama, and Rollins College. Cindy lives in Orlando, Florida with her husband Kent and their four children.
The Fall 2011 Integrative Seminar is a generative conversation regarding the relationship between the Bible and Technology in our contemporary world. The following questions provide a framework for today's discussion:

- **What can your church do to promote the reading and reflection on the Word of God both individually and corporately? How is this task challenged by the possibility that a church may have oral, literate, and secondary oral learners?**

- **How does the use of digital technology shape the use of Scripture in the contemporary church? What benefits do you see? What concerns do you have?**

- **How can technology with its focus on speed and acquisition of information coexist with discernment with its focus on slowing down, reflecting, questioning, and listening? In a sense, what does sound byte theology do to our capacity to imagine God’s expansive story?**

Use the space on this page and the next to make notes and reflect upon what you are hearing throughout the day:
Based upon each group member’s personal preparation, the events from today’s seminar and your group’s interaction on the key themes of the day, develop three one-paragraph summary statements for the following questions:

- What can your church do to promote the reading and reflection on the Word of God both individually and corporately? How is this task challenged by the possibility that a church may have oral, literate, and secondary oral learners?

- How does the use of digital technology shape the use of Scripture in the contemporary church? What benefits do you see? What concerns do you have?

- How can technology with its focus on speed and acquisition of information coexist with discernment with its focus on slowing down, reflecting, questioning, and listening? In a sense, what does sound byte theology do to our capacity to imagine God’s expansive story?

Group Members:

1. Name: _____________________________________________ ID: __________________________
2. Name: _____________________________________________ ID: __________________________
3. Name: _____________________________________________ ID: __________________________
4. Name: _____________________________________________ ID: __________________________
5. Name: _____________________________________________ ID: __________________________