

# March 2010 Research Reporter



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## Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation Grant Awarded to APU



Grant Award

We are pleased to announce the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation has awarded a grant to Azusa Pacific University. The grant will fund a campus Koch Fellows Program.

Seven Koch fellows (sophomores and juniors) will be selected by the university in a competitive process. Fellows will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, free books for a new course on liberty, and special access to campus lecturers.

The program will include a three-part annual lecture series, open to both the campus and local community. The lecture series will enable us to bring outstanding speakers to campus and to spotlight our own faculty. Events will include a

Constitution Day lecture, a President's Day lecture, and a Koch "Arts of Freedom" Lecture.

All three events will include: (1) a public lecture, (2) a private colloquium discussion with the speaker and selected students, and (3) a semi-formal dinner for the speaker and Koch Fellows.

The Koch program will fund a new *Foundations of Liberty Seminar*, focusing on religious freedom, political liberty, and economic liberty. The program will also support one of APU's most popular faculty development programs—the Faculty Seminar in the Liberal Arts.

This spring, we will develop the new course, select the seven 2010-2011 Koch Fellows, and schedule the three lectures for next year. The program will be directed by Christopher Flannery, Daniel Palm, and David Weeks.

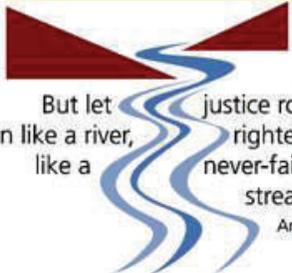
The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (Arlington, VA) supports educational programs at nearly 90 colleges and universities that strive to expand the understanding of how free societies enable individuals and institutions to survive and prosper.

### About the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation

The foundation primarily supports research and education programs that analyze the impact of free societies, in particular how they advance the well-being of mankind. The foundation is a non-profit organization exempt from federal income tax as an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) organization.—David Weeks

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation was established in 1980 by Charles G. Koch. The mission of the Foundation is to advance social progress and well-being through the development, application, and dissemination of the Science of Liberty™.



But let on like a river, like a justice roll righteousness never-failing stream!

Amos 5:24

## “The Bible Unites Us.”

**Meilin Chen, D. Min.**, Executive Associate General Secretary and Director, Overseas Relations Department, of the China Christian Council/the National Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee, has written in 2008 an outstanding doctoral dissertation approved by **Paul Gray, Ed.D.**, Committee Chair, **Kevin Mannoia, Ph.D.**, **Ralph Carlson, Ph.D.**, and **Russell Duke, Ph.D.**, Acting Dean of the Haggard Graduate School of Theology. “The China Bible Ministry Exhibition and Its Impact on Sino-American Relations” describes the decision making behind and the organization of “The Bible Ministry of the Protestant Church in China: A Lamp to My Feet, A Light to My Path,” a Chinese exhibit displayed to crowds of thousands in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and finally New York during May and June of 2006.

The dissertation chronicles the inception of the idea for this project at a reception in August 2004 for over forty international Christian leaders who had attended and deeply appreciated the Bible Exhibition held at the Hong Kong Convention Center. These Christian leaders, among whom was **Michael Whyte, Ph.D.**, encouraged the China Christian Council/the National Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee to take the Bible Exhibition to the United States, always bearing in mind Bishop K. H. Ting’s words: “The Bible unites us.”

This dream was gradually actualized as more and more American Christian leaders supported it: Billy, Ruth, and Franklin Graham; Jimmy Carter; Luis Palau; Robert H. Schuller (who hosted it in his Crystal Cathedral); Rick Warren; Richard Mouw; Paul Szeto; **Jon R. Wallace**, and many others. Chen’s dissertation documents in detail both the structuring of the exhibit in three different cities and the contents of its six galleries.

Chen’s conclusion summarizes the goals of this challenging endeavor: Americans were educated about the historical and current status of Bibles in China, now much more freely available than during the terrifying Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and “people in the United States [were motivated] to develop a relationship with China and its Church.” Among Chen’s many Appendices to her dissertation are numerous lists of American Christian Delegations Who Visited China after the China Bible Ministry Exhibition in the U.S. (June 2006-June 2008) (Appendix J). These lists and Chen’s dissertation ensure that the Bible Exhibition does indeed go on!—  
Carole J. Lambert



“people in the United States [were motivated] to develop a relationship with China and its Church.”



## “The Wesleyan Impulse in Teaching” by Don Thorsen, Ph.D.



**Don Thorsen, Ph.D.,** Professor of Theology in the Department of Theology and Ethics of the C.P. Haggard Graduate School of Theology, offers insight into what factors influence his passion for teaching in his article “The Wesleyan Impulse in Teaching” (*The Asbury Journal*, 63.2 [Fall 2008]: 49-58). While admitting that there are a variety of sources which have been a part of his teaching, Thorsen points to the Wesleyan impulse as being the dominant influence on his teaching because of “its theoretical and practical ability to cope with the complexities of life, especially in an increasingly postmodern world.”

Four themes from Wesley’s writings and ministry “reveal the heart” of Thorsen’s teaching: Wesleyan quadrilateral, experimental religion, Catholic Spirit, and social holiness. The Wesleyan quadrilateral focuses on the primary authority of scripture, united with authority of tradition, reason, and experience. When teaching theology, the quadrilateral is a useful tool because it “acknowledges the complexity with which Christians formulate their beliefs, values, and practices,” and a complementary, rather than a contradictory, relationship exists among these four areas. Wesley described Christianity as “the true, the scriptural, experimental religion,” and Thorsen explains how he seeks to be creative in his



own teaching in order to enhance student learning. He uses experimental methods in pedagogy, service learning, collaborative learning techniques, as well as technological innovation. According to Wesley, his sermon on the “Catholic Spirit” referred to being receptive and supportive of other Christians who may believe, value, and practice differently than the Wesleyan tradition. The presentation of teaching theology in a manner that includes the “breath of Christianity” is done so students can determine for themselves what they believe, value, and practice. For Wesley, there is “no holiness but social holiness.” Spiritual accountability is important, and small group dynamics provide a way for Christians to grow in their faith. Social holiness also implies how Christians can apply their faith to a hurting world by loving one’s neighbor as oneself and caring for others who may be in need. Thorsen seeks to raise his students’ consciences about what role they can play to care for others. While there are several other themes that could be included, the four themes in Wesleyan impulse in educa-

tion presented here have developed a “holistic, dynamic, and relevant approach to teaching.”—Abbylin Sellers



**“Four themes from Wesley’s writings and ministry ‘reveal the heart’ of Thorsen’s teaching: Wesleyan quadrilateral, experimental religion, Catholic Spirit, and social holiness.”**

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