

Empty church pews: symptom of a lack of focus on the Biblical gospel

COVER STORY

The real Anglican crisis: Famine



Artizo

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RESET: ADDRESSING THE REAL ANGLICAN CRISIS

The reality is that the Anglican church of Canada has lost on average 18,000 members per year for the past 25 years. Intake at theological seminaries are at an all time low, although biblically orthodox seminaries are growing. Artizo came about partly because of the apparent biblical ignorance of Anglican clergy here in Canada, which has led to a famine of the word of God in many congregations. Simply put, Anglicans need to be taught how to share the gospel, which is the only way God renews and grows His Church.

History demonstrates that under God the church rises or falls with the preaching of the Gospel. Congregations thrive when ministers are equipped to preach the Scriptures and give leadership which models the love, integrity, humility, wisdom and courage of Jesus Christ. There is currently no process in place which actively and deliberately identifies and encourages gifted people into full-time ministry.

The communication of God's word is vital in two ways:

1) It is through the word of God we come to repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ. In Acts we see that disciples of Jesus multiply when the word of God spreads (Acts 6:7).

2) It is through God's word we are equipped to train as believers so we grow into maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The Artizo Institute seeks to equip gifted potential leaders who will serve Christ and his church in gospel ministry so that by God's grace, we will see people come into faith in Jesus Christ and grow in maturity and be able to actively share Christ with others. Regent College and Wycliffe equip students with an excellent academic grounding in theology, but it is not possible to learn ministry unless you are doing ministry.

Artizo is a ministry apprenticeship where interns are immersed in concrete ministry situations under the leadership of experienced ministers. Interns train for ministry, critique and encourage one another through the lens of Scripture, drawing on the resources given to them in seminary. Artizo maximizes a solid theological education by incorporating it into a clearly defined model and practice of biblical ministry.

– Sean Love
Interim Director of Training

It's not about 'doing church'

Artizo clarified ministry for me: it's not about 'doing church' as an activity, but the proclamation of God's word. Artizo taught me that it is easy to call oneself a Christian minister, but harder to be a minister who preaches Jesus Christ. After Artizo, I know of no other way to make (re-make as far as the Anglican Church of Canada is concerned) Christian ministry about, by, and for Jesus Christ except through making Him known through the Bible, rightly interpreted.

I read an intriguing article in 'First Things' by Philip Turner (who currently serves as Vice President of the Anglican Communion Institute).

He uses a phrase, the 'working theology' of the church, and says: "To find the working theology of a church one must review the resolutions passed at official gatherings and listen to what clergy say Sunday by Sunday from the pulpit. One must listen to the conversations that occur at clergy gatherings — and hear the advice clergy give troubled parishioners. The working theology of a church is, in short, best determined by becoming what social anthropologists call a 'participant observer.'"

I point to all of this only to say that it is working theology, among other things, that Artizo helps us as young ministers to get better at. Our job will be, after all, as working theologians. When I think of the hours we spent listening to Dick Lucas (and his preaching workshop) and critiquing each others' sermons, it was all to the end that we might be better Sunday-by-Sunday theologians. We have been taught to know and articulate the gospel.



"I don't know if I would be in ministry had it not been for Artizo and I certainly wouldn't be as clear about what ministry is."

– James Broadhead
a recent graduate of Artizo

MEET THE INTERNS:



Ben Vanderheide



Jim Salladin



Brett McLean



Kira Rankin



Doug Beattie



Dan Bonham



Ed Neudorf

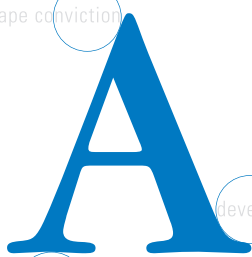


Jesh Wilton



Ger Jones

shape conviction



Develop character

practice competencies

ARTIZO GOALS

To train

- able
- faithful
- innovative
- confident

gospel ministers who will

- know and understand the Bible
- proclaim/warn/teach the gospel clearly
- lead effectively
- train others
- apply the gospel to all ministry contexts (including committee meetings!)

PURE NUMBERS

Alumni

- 19 as of 2005
- 12 Artizo alumni are engaged in full-time ministry
- 7 Artizo alumni are ordained ministers leading congregations
- 4 Artizo alumni are in the ordination process in the Anglican Communion
- Artizo alumni serve in northern BC and the Lower Mainland, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Texas, and New Mexico

Interns

- There are currently 10 interns training in three locations: Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver
- The majority of interns spend 12 hours a week in Artizo related activities, attend Regent College full- or part-time, and will be interns for 2 years
- Their average age is 32
- The financial contributions to Artizo directly affect the number of interns Artizo can accept

DEFINITIONS

Gospel ministry is not primarily about:

- maintaining institutional structures
- numerical church growth
- managing a large organization
- liturgical reform
- keeping people busy
- running programs
- ordination

Gospel ministry is:

the act of serving people by clearly communicating the good news ('gospel') of God's saving work as it is articulated in the Bible: teaching, warning and proclaiming Jesus Christ in a variety of settings, so that people may come to faith in Jesus Christ and that those who belong to him may themselves be built up, strengthened and equipped for the work of ministry.

Artizo /aárt'idT'zo/ def.: "to equip" from Ephesians 4:12 "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."

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