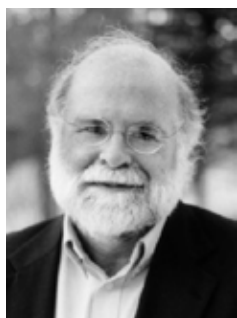


November 15 & 22

What Makes Christian Literature Christian?

Daniel Taylor, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Emeritus
Bethel University, St. Paul

INTRODUCTION



Christians create lots of literature—fiction, poems, plays, and the like. What makes such writing Christian? More specifically, what qualities make such literature effective as literature—including to a wider secular audience—

as well as faithful? It's much more than talking about God. These two talks explore these and related questions and offers advice to both writers and to readers seeking quality writing.

SPEAKER BIO

Daniel Taylor taught literature and writing at Bethel University. He is the author of sixteen books, the most recent being *Believing Again: Stories of Leaving and Returning to Faith*, and *The Prodigal of Leningrad*, a novel set during the siege of Leningrad in World War II. He has also worked on a number of Bible translations. Website: www.WordTaylor.com

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SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES FALL 2026



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SCHEDULE

Sundays || 10:10–10:50 AM || Fellowship Hall

September 20, 27, & October 4

The Revolutionary Reformation

Chris Gehrz, Ph.D.
Professor of History
Bethel University, St. Paul

INTRODUCTION



Five hundred years after Martin Luther sparked the Reformation, Protestantism accounts for millions of Christians around the world, including a plurality of the U.S. population.

But as mainstream as Protestantism is today, we sometimes forget how revolutionary the Reformation was in its time. We'll consider how Reformation ideas like salvation by grace alone, the authority of Scripture alone, and a married clergy challenged assumptions in the 16th century—and should continue to challenge us today.

SPEAKER BIO

Chris Gehrz (Ph.D., Yale) teaches European, military/diplomatic, and church history at Bethel. He is the author or editor of seven books, including a spiritual biography of Charles Lindbergh, and blogs regularly on Substack about Christianity, history, and education.

October 11

Trauma and Healing in DR Congo

Ken McMillan, M.D.

INTRODUCTION



As a missionary kid in 1964, I learned one day that missionaries, including doctors, were not immune to death in the DR Congo. Scores of us, including Covenant's Dr. Paul Carlson, were imprisoned for three months by communist-led

Simba rebels in the jungle town of Stanleyville. We were rescued on November 24, but lost 30 missionaries, including Dr. Carlson and my father, to rebel guns and machetes. God was and is in the details.

SPEAKER BIO

Born to missionary parents in DR Congo, Ken survived the Simba massacres and returned there as a missionary surgeon. In DR Congo he met Ginny Stone; they married, and had two children. Under Crossworld, they served Congolese church-run health centers until forced out by civil war in 1996. They settled in Minnesota, where Ken served as a safety-net doctor to homeless Native Americans.

October 25, November 1 & 8

Becoming More Aware of God: A Study in the Book of Ruth

Ed Glenny, Th.D., Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Greek
University of Northwestern, St. Paul

INTRODUCTION



Goethe, considered to be the most influential writer in the German language, praised the Book of Ruth as “the loveliest complete work on a small scale,” noteworthy especially for its ethical treasures and pastoral scenes. In

our study, we will focus on the literary quality of this short book, the models of ethics and loyalty, and the mysterious working of God behind and through the actions and lives of the characters to accomplish his eternal purposes in their lives and in the world.

SPEAKER BIO

Dr. Glenny has a Ph.D. in Greek from the University of Minnesota and a Th.D. in New Testament from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has published several books, primarily on the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint), and is currently writing a commentary on Septuagint Ruth.