



2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award

Benjamin Dodzweit

Awarded at 2010 Conference on Ministry
Tuesday, June 15 – 3:30 p.m.

The *Distinguished Alumni Award* was established in 2009 to annually recognize a graduate of Northeastern Seminary who exemplifies faithful service in ministry. Recipients demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics: innovative approaches to ministry, engagement of their cultural context, perseverance in the face of challenges, excellence in Biblical preaching and worship, equipping others to serve, and transformation of self and others through spiritual formation. Nominations are made by faculty, staff, trustees, and graduates of NES.

We are pleased to make the presentation at this particular conference as you in this audience value the same qualities recognized through this award. At this time I would like to call this year's Northeastern Seminary Distinguished Alumnus, Benjamin Dodzweit, to the front to be recognized.

Benjamin graduated from Northeastern Seminary in 2001. He is married to Sarah and they have three grown children, James, Autumn, and Amber; and seven grandchildren. Ben is one of 290 graduates of Northeastern Seminary serving locally and around the world. Through his ministry and character, Benjamin represents the Seminary's ethos of being deeply rooted and faithfully responsive, serving in the mission of God globally, well beyond the geographic region of Northeastern Seminary. He literally extends the influence of the gospel to the "ends of the earth."

Before attending Northeastern Seminary, Ben served as a missionary for approximately two decades throughout numerous countries in Africa including Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo. His ministry included evangelism, teaching, and consulting with national church leaders. He worked with an association of African nationals who had responsibility for overseeing hundreds of churches and he served as an interpreter for evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, the founder of Christ for the Nations.

When Ben and his wife Sarah came back to the states in the early 1990s, he began teaching at Elim Bible Institute. He taught missions and culture classes for nearly twenty years, leading various seminars, and preparing people to serve in missions work overseas. He is known for his understanding of missionary principles and life practices, with a wonderful sense of humor in very tense and difficult circumstances. It was during this time he attended Northeastern Seminary, graduating with an M.A. in 2001.

This year, Ben began serving as the United States representative for Helimission, a Swiss-based agency that supports numerous mission organizations around the globe by flying missionaries and supplies by helicopter into hard-to-reach areas. Helimission supports, supplies, and provides medical evacuation for pioneer missions evangelists, linguists, church planters, medical clinics, and emergency disaster relief around the world. Ben serves from the Lima, New York office on the Elim Bible Institute campus. In the past year, besides his work in Africa, he has visited missionaries in Madagascar, taught at a missionary retreat in Bali, and served in rescue work in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, carrying in his arms orphans being evacuated.

Ben also serves as the missions director of East and Central Africa for Elim Fellowship; he represents Elim Fellowship in the Pentecostal Evangelism Fellowship of Africa.

Regarding Ben's life and ministry, a friend and colleague for over thirty years writes, "Ben has, over the years, continually cultivated a heart for the advancement of the Kingdom of God by following the Lord Jesus Christ, developing a deep passion for individuals and peoples of the world. He loves to encourage and support others on their journey in living for and following the Lord. He makes himself open and available to listen to, talk with, and pray for and with others. I am amazed at his capacity for engaging in friendships with a wide range of people in everyday life. His love for all people is contagious!"

In light of Ben's love for God, his passion for people, and his commitment to service, we are pleased to present Benjamin Dodzweit with the Northeastern Seminary 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award.