

UTS@40: UTS has been building bridges

Hugh Spurgin
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My desire has always been that the theological curriculum of this school should not be dependent only on doctrine and ritual. I have also endeavored for this campus to be a place where students can develop deep faith and authentic spiritual communication with the spirit of God.”
Rev. Sun Myung Moon in UTS Commencement Address, 1985 (Message from Danbury)



Dr. Hugh Spurgin

Let me introduce the 40/40 Campaign, which asks UTS trustees, faculty and staff members, alumnae and alumni, and all UTS stakeholders to give \$40 per month for 40 months, to celebrate the four decades since the inauguration of the first class of UTS on September 20, 1975 and to support the development of our alma mater for the next 40 years. . . . Please join with me in supporting UTS by contributing to the 40/40 Campaign! Some may want to give more, some less. There is also that Paypal option on the campaign page.

In a recent meeting with UTS alumnae and alumni that was held in Maryland, someone asked Robin Graham, the UTS Director of Development, "Why 40?" 40/40 is a commitment to the future of UTS, which will celebrate its 40th birthday on September 20th. This is a pivotal moment in our history when UTS will be celebrating the past, but also looking forward to the future. We are 40 years young and imagining 40 more years of success.

The next 40 years begins with the next 3 years. Indeed, 40 months is just over 3 years. The demonstration of broad financial support from alumni and other stakeholders will provide an impetus for us to tackle the challenges of the future.

As you know, with the undergraduate program suspended for financial reasons, a distance learning program and the four graduate programs are the focus of UTS. Though the last couple of years have been turbulent, stability is being restored. What has been a crisis can be an opportunity for a new beginning and improvements. This has often been the case throughout the history of God's Providence. If there is alignment with the will and the heart of God, then over the next forty years, UTS can and will re-imagine, re-define and re-position itself as a significant institution of higher learning that can help to transform our world into the kingdom of God on earth.

We cannot do this without the support of our alumni and of other stakeholders. The 40/40 Campaign is a significant project, which demonstrates our mutual commitment to UTS. Please join with me in making this 40 month pledge to help to support UTS.

Some people may ask: What is the value of a UTS degree? What have UTS alumni done to serve others and make improvements in society? Can't the money be spent more wisely by supporting other institutions and causes?

Proudly, I can say that our alumnae and alumni are on the front line. Another way of saying that: Wherever there are UTS alumni, it is the front line. Sometimes that means "hold the line" and sometimes it means "advance, and press on" in our missions wherever we are working and interacting with people. That is why our Founder said, "UTS graduates are like the white blood cells; they are the army of our movement, the fighters."

Regardless of their geographical location or their field of human endeavor, UTS alumnae and alumni are fully invested in a variety of missions and careers to create a better world. Though their numbers are small, our alumni are steadfast, located throughout the world, in a thousand far-flung places. Each of them is making a difference every day, having an impact on the lives of others and on affairs worldwide.

Some UTS alumni are highly visible. Others work behind the scenes, yet each is significant, valuable and indispensable to God's Providence. When I think of UTS alumni I am reminded of the poem "Love with Silence" by our Founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon which was published recently in the UTS newsletter.

For the last 15 years, many ministers and elders from minority communities have received a first rate pastoral and theological education at UTS, which has enabled them to improve and expand their urban ministries. UTS has been building bridges. Educating these pastors was an initiative first sponsored by the

Founder with generous financial support. He saw their potential. Urban ministers and their churches are now the public voice and conscience of Christianity in America. They speak boldly and with authority when others are silenced. For more than fifteen years, UTS has made education for pastors in minority communities a priority, empowering them to reach out and to minister to the spiritual and social soul of America. Examples of successful programs of UTS alumni, can be brought back to UTS to teach others who are called to similar ministries how to emulate those successes and build congregations and communities, even in inner cities that other people of faith have left behind. With your support, UTS can continue to have a major impact on the future of churches in America and worldwide.

One of my top priorities is to make a renewed effort to tell the stories of our alumni. One alumna, Cynthia Forker, is currently in Nepal helping in the relief work after the recent earthquake. Others are still working in the Pantanal in South America after having been assigned there in 1996. Many are in the field of education at the middle school, high school and college level. Did you know that over 80 alumni have gone on to earn doctorates?

Paul Saver, a member of the Class of 1992, runs the "Parent Teenager Relationship Saver" program in Queensland, Australia, where he is a high school teacher. These are just a few examples. There are many more unsung heroes among our UTS graduates.

The simple truth is that we do not know much about one another's lives and the impact that our graduates are making in their communities. The UTS alumni are a group of very special people. You will be able to read many more stories about our alumnae and alumni on www.uts.edu in the coming months.

Our immediate goal is to find 200 donors who are willing to commit to the 40/40 Campaign by September 20th. Those donations will help to fund ancillary projects and programs of UTS, like those mentioned below which will help to bridge the distance between UTS and its stakeholders, and to give scholarships to deserving students.

My administration is making a substantial investment in communications and social media to help our alumnae and alumni connect with one another and to support UTS. Initiatives in the areas of Governance, Spiritual Life, Religion & Peace, and Marriage & Culture are developing which increase bonds and engagement among us and through us to a wider circle of family, friends, contacts, experts and professionals.

To be healthy, up-to-date and relevant, UTS needs alumni to be engaged and active in promoting UTS. Our alumni are the eyes, ears and voices of our school. In order to show support for what each of the graduates are doing, my administration is committed to building trust and confidence in UTS, in order to give our alumni every reason to be proud of the legacy and heritage of our alma mater.

40 months is just over 3 years. I think that you will see positive changes during those years that will make you proud to be a UTS supporter. Please join me and help UTS by committing to the 40/40 Campaign -- and in that way to the future well-being of our seminary.