



UNIFICATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UTS Alumni Association Mid-Year Report

Robin Graham
June 14, 2013

Robin Graham (UTS'80) is president of the UTS Alumni Association and this month completes 3 years of service in this position.

I am off on an adventure at the end of this month, so I wanted to get this report out before I go.

As some of you may know I am kick-starting the Play Football Make Peace initiative (for the Americans among you that means soccer). Below is a link to bring you a little more news.

Play Football Make Peace (Estonia) www.utsalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Dear-Friends-of-Estonia.pdf

This month I will also be starting a wide funding campaign to run a workshop for football coaches and players in Amman, Jordan and then a workshop in Ramallah, West Bank. I hope to restart the PFMP program in Israel by the end of the year with activities planned for Winter 2013 and Spring 2014. This is grassroots work. No funding from UM organizations.

I am putting together this MID-YEAR report to share with you my "State of the Association."

As always, if you like what I have accomplished for UTS Alumni Association and would like to see me continue to deliver more, then please consider giving your support.

In February, I had an article in the Cornerstone where I wrote about some goals for 2013:

1. Continue to publish the Cornerstone weekly

YES. I do that.

I browsed through the archives this morning month by month. You can too, just click on the month on the right hand side of the page or [here Archives](#)

There is a wealth of interesting stuff.

2. Increase the number of active alumni (measured by the number of alumni for whom there is an active email account) from 860 to 1000.

EASIER said than done. I am adding the latest alumni (graduates of Class of 2013) to the database which will increase the 860 by 10-15.

BUT each month some "active" email accounts disappear, or (very) occasionally folks unsubscribe.

DATA-MINING – unlike the US Government, I have limited time and resources. It is painstaking and takes research, research, research. Some of you know, because I have eventually found you after many years of being "missing".

TIME. I would like to devote more resources, and make this goal happen, but that takes your support. Help me achieve this goal over the next 6 months.

3. Increase the number of "Friends of UTS alumni" who are actively connected to the alumni community from 20 (current) to 50

ACTUALLY this is relatively easy to accomplish.

UTS AA would like the Cornerstone to reach your professional, business and academic friends to broaden the scope and influence of the UTS Alumni Association itself.

4. Hold the Alumni Weekend Reunion for 2013

DONE, DONE and DOING. Alumni Days were held at Barrytown, NY May 18th and Bonsall, UK on May 25th

http://www.utsalumni.org/news/uts-alumni-weekend-on-may-18th-with-some-reflections-on-the-event-7389/?preview=true&preview_id=7389&preview_nonce=34f9a7f151

<http://www.utsalumni.org/news/uts-alumni-gather-in-the-uk-by-david-fraser-harris-uts89-7459/>

There will be a WEST COAST UTS Alumni Day on Saturday, June 29th in Berkeley, CA

<http://www.utsalumni.org/wp-admin/post.php?post=7543&action=edit>

5. Promote the 30th anniversary year for the Class of 1983

I DID. Contacted 1983 Class President, School Body President, and the whole 1983 class list for those with email addresses. I gave the 1983 Class several invitations and announcements by email since November of 2012. Folks must have been busy. Five or six RSVPd; most were overseas or already had a previous work commitment. June Saunders (UTS'83) was present at the Barrytown Alumni Day to represent the class. Thank you June.

The UTS Board will reconsider annual Class Reunions for individual classes. Maybe a general reunion only 1x every 3 years. What do you think?

6. Create an online forum for the UTS Alumni Doctors' Circle (the circle was launched in 2012).

NOT YET. Looking for an assistant from the group. Dr. Selover is rather busy with other things. Is there a doctor in the house? There are approximately 75 alumni holding doctorates e.g M.D. , Ph.D., D. Min., etc

7. Hold two "UTS Alumni and Pentecost 2013" meetings.

RETURNING RESURRECTION is generating more interest. This subject was brought up (as a relevant discourse for alumni) at the Barrytown Alumni Day. Many alumni are aging and passing on/ascending and the question has been raised as to whether one's work on earth is complete i.e. will there be a need to return and work with people on earth to finish whatever may be left unaccomplished, and if so with whom? The issue of "how to prepare for a return" will, no doubt, continue to percolate at future meetings. The next is the WEST COAST Alumni Day, Saturday June 29th in Berkeley, CA.

a) East Coast, the weekend of March 22-24, New York

b) West Coast, the weekend of April 5-6, Bay Area

NEVER HAPPENED, MORPHED. The Pentecost meetings morphed into the Alumni Days, East and West Coast

8. Promote activity on the UTS Alumni Facebook site.

INCREASING. The UTS Alumni Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UTSalumni/> now has 471 members and the conversations and number of posts are growing.

9. Connect alumni to UTS marketing efforts.

CORNERSTONE continues to be the main vehicle. Alumni regularly write articles or are mentioned drawing attention to their graduating class year at UTS, reinforcing the value of the education received and the friendships made.

10. Create a team of mentors (alumni).

NOT YET. Still a wonderful idea (this idea started about eight years ago when Bob Spitz (UTS' 86) and I had breakfast together in Ontario, CA). Many alumni have expressed that this would be a great way for them to "give back" to their communities, their church, etc.

This takes time and follow through. More than the current funding can pay for. Help me make it happen.

The Unification Theological Seminary Alumni Association (UTS AA) was founded in December, 1990. It is a non-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under New York State and Federal law.

Our costs continue to grow albeit slowly; though the UTS AA still runs on a surprisingly tight budget. Never more than \$300 per month for regular administrative expenses. That support is provided by only a handful of people.

A generous donor has this year helped the UTS AA to open an office at 4 West 43rd St. Modest, one room. This alumnus covers the monthly cost and is waiting to see if it helps the UTS AA activity and outreach.

THE ASK.

Help me to continue the work for the UTS Alumni Association. I have agreed to extend my work as president for a further year till June of 2014. I would be more confident if UTS Alumni resources i.e. funding, could afford a real part-time administrator. It does not take much from alumni. Maybe \$5 or \$10 per month if you can manage it. If you are one of the 800 active readers of Cornerstone and find it valuable and hope to see the association make good on the 10 action items above, then please consider making a monthly commitment, or a one-time gift. If 20% of the 800 could respond with \$5 per month then that would mean:

$160 \times \$5 = \800 per month.

That would more than double the current income. It would allow me to improve/ enhance the outreach and follow through to serve you the UTS Alumni even more effectively.

We accept all types of financial gifts, even gold bullion.

For those of you who are already giving , a big thanks.

Robin Graham

MAKE A DONATION- Thanks
www.utsalumni.org/donate/