

Evangelical-Anabaptism and Secularism in Quebec



One of the numerous sanctuaries slated for demolition or « recycling » in the Montreal area.

In the province of Quebec, Christianity was discredited because its most preeminent institutional expression focused on being the guardian of public morality and stressed rituals at the expense of the nurturing of personal faith. This contributed to turn Quebec's society into a very secularized culture. Therefore, the vast majority of young Quebecers never really had the privilege to gain a solid understanding of what the Good News is about. With your help, we want to play our part in changing this.

Evangelical—Anabaptist theology and its focus on the life and teaching of Jesus is exactly what is needed to foster a renewed interest in the Gospel in Quebec. ETEM is also uniquely positioned as a protestant school affiliated with the University of Montreal, the second largest university in Canada and the largest French-speaking University outside of France. With your support, we will continue to grow stronger and have a more vibrant presence in both the French academic world and in the larger society.

ETEM's ministry is still very much at a pioneering stage. We have **big ideas** but we first need to grow more solid roots, that is, a wider and stronger donor base.

Please, if you feel it is appropriate, mention ETEM to your mission's committee or any other group in your church that may join you in supporting us.

Thank you for your support by praying and donating.

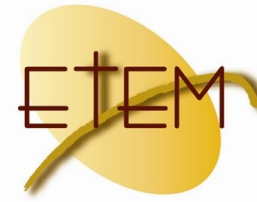
Thank you for your continued support in prayers and through giving.

Giving made easier!

You can make a donation using your credit card through the website www.canadahelps.org.

If you do, just type **ecole de theologie** and you will get to ETEM's account.

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École de Théologie Évangélique de Montréal
An Evangelical-Anabaptist Bible College
serving the Churches of French-Speaking Canada

Newsletter

October 2009

A student's journey: Vincent Lanthier

Vincent Lanthier works as an auto-insurance adjuster. He is also an intern in an evangelical church in a small town located 50 km west of Montreal. "To study at ETEM has been a wonderful experience", says Lanthier.

"Because it's a small school, I am able to interact a lot with the teachers outside of the classroom setting. These exchanges contribute significantly to my learning. It also allows me to see that I am taught by people who are deeply committed to what they do and who are willing to go beyond the call of duty to accommodate a demanding customer such as myself!"

Lanthier also notes that his studies at ETEM have helped him move back into his own culture, after years of being completely emerged in the

evangelical church subculture and its internal debates. He explains that, "Through my courses at ETEM, I was sent back to the real world! This happened gradually, through the teachers constant effort to create a bridge between what we learned and the questions our society is struggling with."

He continues by saying that, "For the first time in my life, I am realizing that the Gospel is not only about receiving the gift of eternal life— the Gospel is much more. It includes playing a part in manifesting the reign of God in the midst of our world. But to achieve that, one needs to understand what is going on in the world. It's only when we have gone down that road a certain distance that we can envision how the reign of God can be made visible by the ministry of the Church."



Vincent Lanthier

A Quiet Merger

4,000 books stored in boxes laying on the floor of our library kept us company during spring. They contained the entire library of *Institut Biblique VIE*,



Stack of boxes containing the 4000 books

our partner school. *Institut Biblique VIE* used to have its main campus in Quebec City, but the school decided to leave “*la Vieille Capitale*”, as Québec City is familiarly called, to move into our building. We seized this opportunity to merge the two libraries.

A Medium for a Message

ETEM joined forces with the Canadian MB conferences to transform *Le Lien*, our denominational magazine, into a publication distributed widely among the French-speaking protestant churches of the Montreal and Quebec City areas.



Up until now, these churches did not have access to a publication targeting the lar-

A lot has happened since the picture of the boxes was taken last May. Money was found to purchase the necessary shelving that volunteers installed. MCC dispatched participants of the *Summerbridge* program to come and help replace bar codes.

Richard Lougheed, a member of the Mennonite Fellowship (an English-speaking Mennonite Church located in Montreal) was hired to help catalogue both *ETEM's* and *Institut Biblique VIE's* collections in the same computerized data bank.

So we are happy to report that we now have something close to a “new” library; by that we mean a collection that has doubled in size and that is managed via a top-notch computer program. Granted, this is a...very quiet and unspectacular side of our ministry; but it is a crucial one. So we are very grateful to God for this big step forward.

ger French-speaking protestant community. A survey was done after the first edition was sent out last June and the majority of the pastors contacted expressed their appreciation. Many said they were quite impressed by the quality of the magazine, both in terms of its presentation and content..

Jean-Baptiste Bieri, editor of *Le Lien* and director of studies at ETEM, says he is thrilled that ETEM's Faculty has this new tool at its disposal. “*Le Lien* is a great way to extend the reach ETEM's ministry. I am looking forward to the day when, thanks to our articles in this magazine, ETEM will become a household name and reference.”

Beyond the Fabric of the Universe



Étïc Wingender
Professor and
director of
communications

How does one share his faith when the surrounding culture breeds in people indifference towards the concept of a “personal God” asking for our allegiance? In such a context, how can we express the Good News so it is evidently good for those who hear us? We probably simply need to observe how people live out their life, meanwhile letting our intuition or sixth sense connect with what is often left unsaid. Patient use of these antennas will enable us to pick up the presence of elements we can interpret as pointing towards God.

One such element is the fairly widespread belief that love and justice are not arbitrary concepts but are rather imbedded in the very fabric of reality. We need to note, though, that the belief in the “existence” of love and justice remains implicit most of the time. Therefore many people are just faintly aware that this is what they are actually vouching for.

When I speak with young people who are not Christians, they often respond very positively when I propose that, at the most basic level, they “believe” in love and justice. When given the chance, they might also communicate

two other things. The first is something like a sense of relief that this belief is made explicit and its content brought to light. Interestingly enough, we may therefore find ourselves contributing something to their lives by helping them to delineate a little more clearly what they actually believe in!

The second element is one they do not communicate explicitly. This is something I find profoundly moving because it highlights the drama of life not yet transformed by a personal encounter with God. It is clear to these young people that their belief in love and justice is of a tenuous nature. Albeit not the words they would use, we can say it's both a longing and an unspoken prayer.

The “good” of the Good News for such people is first to say that this foundational view of love and justice is...right on! But more than that, the news is that love and justice are not inert elements simply tattooed on the fabric of reality. Love and justice are active forces because they are the names describing the content of the character of a person. A person that is not only very real but is the source of reality itself: God.

And the amazing thing is that this God came over on our side, so to speak, in the person of Jesus, and showed us in a very concrete way what love and justice are really about. Now, just alluding to all of this will be more than plenty to get the conversation going!