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IMPORTANT NEWS RELEASE

The Board of Directors and the faculty of CHAKAM School of the Bible is pleased to announce that Bakke Graduate University (www.bgu.edu) of Seattle, Washington, has recently awarded a substantial “Theology of Work” grant to CHAKAM, a Bible College in Prince Albert.

Grants, awarded to seminaries, colleges and bible schools, both in the United States and internationally, are to create and offer accredited (formal) theology of work educational programs to future pastors that will enable them to effectively steward the callings and vocations of their congregants who are working in the marketplace and other non-church centered environments, to create and offer continuing education (non-formal) programs in the theology of work for practicing pastors, and to use classes to engage and empower selected church leaders who work in the business world as well.

For the 2010/2011 academic year CHAKAM has been asked to deliver its own “Theology of Work” curriculum to students in its campuses in Prince Albert, Regina, Lima-Surco (Peru) and Barranca (Peru).

Within its explanation of the Theology of Work grant application process, Bakke Graduate University clearly spells out the meaning of TOW :

“A Biblical Theology of Work includes at least two critical God-given mandates of mankind :

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- *Creation Mandate of Genesis 1-2 to subdue or rule the earth with God*
- *Redemption Mandate of Matthew 28 to reconcile people and the earth to God*

Current pastor education is usually focussed on teaching and modeling the Redemption Mandate, which includes such things as the Theology of God, an understanding of the role of the church, a working knowledge of the Scriptures, and insights into a pastor's own spiritual formation. Woven into this program, pastors are taught skills such as preaching, counselling, organizational and leadership development to help them build up the church they are called to serve. Fundamentally, future pastors are taught to know their own gifts and callings, and then they are taught the skills to be a good steward of their calling. Through the TOW program, BGU does not in any way want to minimize the importance of the Redemptive Mandate. It is what we have been called to do.

However, the Creation Mandate, which teaches that we work for God's glory through our various callings both outside as well as inside normal church ministry programs, is not often discussed, taught or understood by our pastors and congregations. We believe that there is a great need for pastors to learn how to steward the callings of their congregants who are in the workplace by providing increased ministry guidance for them during the other six days of the week. Often congregants are led to believe that the work done outside the church is something they have to do for financial income and has little significance in God's purpose and plan for them on earth. As a result, they often have little joy in their work, give less than their best effort to their work, and sometimes even separate themselves from God while in the workplace.

The study of Theology of Work is not new, but it is infrequently taught in seminaries and other pastoral training places. As a result, pastors rarely teach or discuss Theology of Work principles within the church.

The grant program was created to help institutions that are preparing

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pastors and church leaders to understand the purpose and importance of the Creation Mandate, and to help them prepare and resource new and practicing pastors with Biblical, theological and practical tools for the workplace that can be taught by them to the people they pastor”

In the early Fall of 2010, CHAKAM is planning to offer a full TOW course in their campuses in Prince Albert and Regina and in late October/November in its campuses in Peru.

For more information about this news release, please call 306-922-0100.

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President and CEO
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