

NYDS

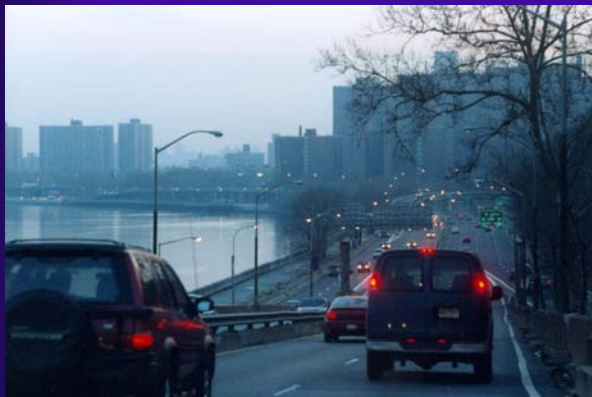
New York Divinity School

being developed by New York Evangelical Seminary Fund NYES



C o n t e n t s

- ◆ New York – Critical World Center for Leadership
- ◆ Large Evangelical Community
- ◆ Tremendous Leadership Needs
- ◆ 5-D *NYDS* Vision
- ◆ Four Steps of Creation
- ◆ Five *NYDS* Distinguishing Marks
- ◆ Program Packages
- ◆ Professional Criteria
- ◆ The Next Steps
- ◆ Endorsements



New York City is the communication hub of the world via:

- ✓ News media – four of five major networks
- ✓ United Nations
- ✓ Investments
- ✓ Arts and Drama
- ✓ Marketing and Publishing
- ✓ Ethnic people in touch with their motherlands
- ✓ Corporate headquarters
- ✓ Tourists
- ✓ Influential news papers
magazine headquarters



*Former Mayor Giuliani pointed out often,
“New York City is the Capital of the World.”*



Did you know that New York City is also the Education Capital of the United States?

- The City includes dozens of universities and colleges
- More university students study in the City than in any other American city.
- The City has more higher education students than Boston and Philadelphia combined.

But there is only one accredited evangelical seminary between Philadelphia and Boston.

This is not enough ministry education opportunity.

• *“Evangelical” is the Greek word for “Good News” or Gospel. An “Evangelical” Seminary is committed to the unique standard of the Bible and its Good News as the authority for behavior and belief.*



New York City has a very **“religious”** side



- The headquarters of the National Council of Churches.
- The national offices of several major denominations.
- The location of Billy Graham’s largest North American audience: 250,000 gathered to hear him in Central Park, September 1991.
- More gospel music production than in any other city.
- **More Bible institutes (unaccredited) than in any other city.**
- Several thousands of churches, representing almost every ethnic background and denomination.
- Home to more than 4 million people of *evangelical* persuasion.

However, the New York “religious picture” includes a shocking contradiction:

- ◆ On the one hand, the City and metropolitan area have thousands of *evangelical* churches – churches that teach the ultimate authority of the Bible for standards of justice and love, as well as Jesus’ deity, His death for our salvation, His literal resurrection, and His power.
- ◆ On the other hand, there are only four accredited seminaries based in the City, and none of them is evangelical. One is *Jewish* and three are *liberal* – not affirming the final authority of the Bible in faith and life.
- ◆ Until now... no accredited evangelical seminary has been based in New York for more than thirty-five, years – since Biblical Seminary was redefined into NYTS in 1969.

The City needs an accredited evangelical seminary!



The evangelical community in New York is large

- ◆ Evangelicals are those who affirm the deity of Jesus, His death for us, His bodily resurrection, the Trinity, and the authority of Scripture.
- ◆ Of the 21 million people in metropolitan New York, about 20% -- more than 4 million – affirm *this historic Christian perspective*.

These four-million people deserve
well-trained ministers!

That is why a group of evangelical leaders in the City took the first steps toward a *contextualized, accredited, evangelical seminary in New York*.

The evangelical community in the New York metro area is as ethnically diverse as the global evangelical community



Easily half of the African-American population in the official New York metropolitan area is evangelical (more than 1.8 million out of more than 3.5 million).

1,800,000



At least one out of three Hispanic-Americans (1,200,000 out of 3.5 million) is evangelical, partly because of a revival in South America – and in New York.

1,200,000

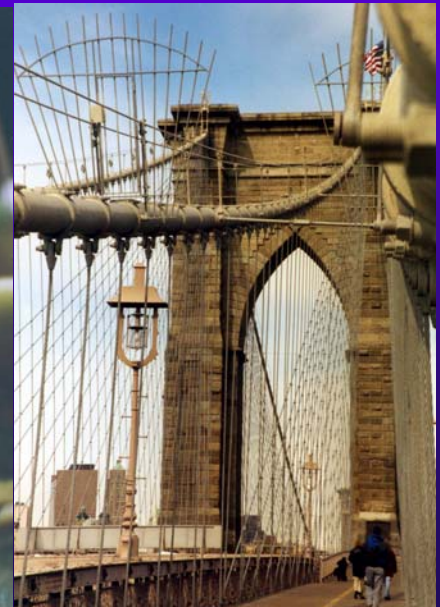


The evangelical community in the New York metro area is as ethnically diverse as the global evangelical community (continued)

- ◆ *More than one fifth of Asian-Americans is evangelical especially among Koreans (more than 200,000 out of more than one million Asian-Americans).* 200,000
- ◆ *Finally, probably only one tenth of the European-Americans is evangelical (about 1.3 million out of 13 million).* 1,300,000

The New York Evangelical Community

African-American Evangelicals	1,800,000
Hispanic-American Evangelicals	1,200,000
Asian-American Evangelicals	200,000
European-American Evangelicals	<u>1,300,000</u>
TOTAL	4,500,000



4,300,000 Evangelicals in the New York metropolitan area

*Now you know why a group of evangelical leaders
in the City took the first steps toward a*

- ◆ contextualized
- ◆ accredited
- ◆ evangelical
- ◆ seminary



in New York



Despite the impressive number of evangelicals in the area, a recent survey of **NYC evangelical pastors** showed that

- ◆ Only **20%** have any accredited seminary training, and
- ◆ Only **6%** have earned a masters-level ministry degree.

These *tragic* facts also are confirmed by the personal observations of evangelical leaders in the City.

The vast majority of evangelical pastors have no accredited professional training.

The Question of the Day is...

In this educational vacuum, where do evangelical pastors go for biblical and professional training?

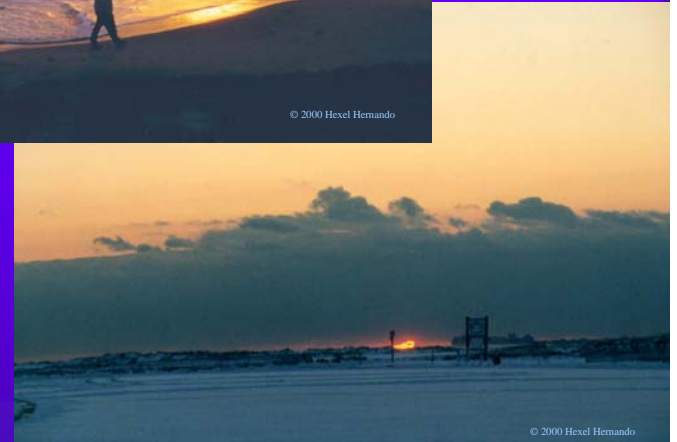
- ◆ The few who attend the *liberal* seminaries find it difficult to maintain their evangelical faith while their theology professors and ministry teachers seek to undermine it.
- ◆ [After three years of *liberal* training, many potential ministers become too distracted from effective Gospel ministry.]
- ◆ Others attend evangelical seminaries hundreds of miles outside the City, a choice which is difficult and very expensive.
- ◆ For a variety of reasons, many ministers who go to other cities for professional training do not return to the New York area.
- ◆ Many attend un-accredited Bible institutes where the training is sincere but not sufficient or professional.

With all of these “educational” options:

- *no accredited training*
- *liberal training*
- *training in another city*
- *un-professional training...*



...What is the result?



**The work of the Gospel
in the Church and in the City
is severely handicapped!**

The need in New York is the worst in America!
Other major cities have much better training opportunities for their ministers and lay leaders.

Consider Chicago, a city about one quarter the size of New York City:

- There are two accredited evangelical graduate ministry programs inside Chicago – Moody Graduate School and North Park Seminary.
- And there are three accredited evangelical seminary programs in the Chicago suburbs – Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Wheaton Graduate School.
- *Proportionally, New York metro area should have twenty accredited evangelical seminaries, but we have only one small evangelical seminary in the suburbs – and now **NYDS** in the City.*

Another reason why a group of evangelical leaders in the City took the first steps toward a *contextualized, accredited, evangelical seminary in New York.*

These are some of the reasons why fifty ministry leaders prayed and worked together to develop the...

NYDS vision

The **NYDS** vision has five dimensions.

Each dimension is crucial to fulfilling the present needs of Gospel ministry in New York and to shaping both the present and future educational ministry of **NYDS**.

NYDS Vision

1. *“contextualized”* -- **NYDS** is Church-based and tied to vibrant, local, multi-ethnic ministry leadership in New York.

NYDS is focused on training pastors and lay leaders in the context of their ministry, to understand that context, to walk with God in that context, to apply wisely what they learn to that context, and to minister effectively for the people in that context.

NYDS is also interconnected in New York with highly-qualified, experienced, Godly faculty, staff and board members who live and work in the area.

NYDS Vision

2. *“accredited”* – **NYDS** will be acknowledged as worthy of academic accreditation by the New York State Board of Regents, and by the Association of Theological Schools, using their professional criteria.

NYDS Vision

3. “*evangelical*” -- **NYDS** unabashedly affirms local Churches and the historic Christian faith and practice, including:

- salvation by grace through faith
- the authority of the Bible
- the active responsibilities of Godly love and justice in society
- faithful marriage of one woman and one man
- strategic care assistance for the poor
- the Trinity
- the deity of Jesus Christ and His bodily resurrection
- the individual’s growth in righteousness and spiritual formation
in a vibrant Church

NYDS Vision

4. “*seminary*” -- **NYDS** is giving birth to a graduate-level school of ministry education and training, a veritable “seed-bed”* for Godly ministry and spiritual awakening.



* “*Seminary*” literally means “seed-bed”— a protected, nurturing environment for seedlings to develop strong roots and the essential vigorous structures for healthy life and future growth.

NYDS Vision

5. “*in New York*” -- **NYDS** is engaged in the life of the Churches and of the City

- Encouraging all levels of Christian higher education in the New York metropolitan area;
- Alert to specific needs of the area; its Churches, its citizens, its ministries, and its communities; and
- Utilizing extraordinary opportunities and resources of this most strategic and influential City in the world.



That is why a group of evangelical leaders in the City took the first steps toward a

- *contextualized*
 - *accredited*
 - *evangelical*
 - *seminary*
 - *in New York*
-



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What actual steps are ministry leaders taking toward a *contextualized, accredited, evangelical seminary in New York?*

There are five steps...

1.

Recognizing the need.

2.

Praying together for God's guidance, wisdom, and strength.

3.

Gathering the needed resources and achieving accreditation for New York Divinity School.

4.

Developing a full seminary program while maintaining strong relationships with affiliating churches, ministries and seminaries.



What progress has been made in the NYDS journey?



Step One. Recognizing the need.

Evangelical leaders have recognized the need since 1969 when New York's Biblical Seminary dismissed its faculty, sold its building and library, and was taken over by non-evangelical leaders.

For the last thirty years these leaders have

- ❑ Prayed for an accredited evangelical seminary.
- ❑ Organized unaccredited Bible institutes.

More than one hundred (100) unaccredited Bible institutes operate in the City, but they cannot meet the *standing need* for a *contextualized, accredited, evangelical seminary.*

*Step Two. Praying together for
God's guidance,
wisdom and strength.*

**A group of fifty ministry leaders
gathered monthly for fervent prayer
and planning.**

**They agreed before the Lord that the future
New York Divinity School
should have five distinctives.**

The Five *NYDS* Distinctives



- All the distinctives are based upon Biblical teaching – especially in Paul’s letters to his most famous student, Timothy.
- All the distinctives were carefully written by a group of fifty evangelical ministry leaders in New York City.

The Five *NYDS* Distinctives

for the seminary New York City needs:

1. **Devoted to Biblical standards of justice, love, accountability, holiness and righteousness.**
2. **Committed to historic Christian doctrine and mission guided by the Bible.**
3. **Excellent in personal and professional practice.**
4. **Church-based in accountability and support.**
5. **Engaged in mentored ministry.**

Step Three. Gathering the needed resources and achieving accreditation for this timely program.

The work on this fourth step is well advanced.

NYES has been successfully building its strength in seven criteria of accreditation:

- A. Vibrant relationships with churches and ministries.
- B. Excellent New York faculty and staff.
- C. Superb curricula for each degree.
- D. Quality classroom, library and office facilities.
- E. A well supplied library resources for each degree.
- F. A network of churches that identify with the new seminary as founding congregations.
- G. A donor base to support excellent academic programs and endowment.

However, preparations for the final two criteria are in process.

Here is where *NYES* especially needs your assistance:

F. A network of churches that identify with the new seminary as *Founding Congregations*.

G. A donor base to support excellent academic programs.





Growth and movement toward accreditation will depend on the **strengthening** of these two remaining dimensions.

Then, with its accreditation in hand, NYDS will be ready for...



Step Four.
Developing a full seminary program
while nurturing a strong relationship with

- ***Founding Congregations,***
- ***area ministries and***
- ***other seminaries.***

***... and further challenges ahead,
serving the Lord Jesus Christ until He returns.***

*The Plan for an Accredited Evangelical
Seminary of New York:
New York Divinity School*

NYDS plans to offer the following programs:

- A. Pastor training programs including M.Div. degree program with various concentrations**
- B. Lay ministry and leadership training programs - three degree-tracks:**
 - MA (Masters of Arts in Faith and Practice)**
 - MA (Masters of Arts in Theological Studies),**
- C. Specialty programs for New York students and short-term transfer students from other seminaries, such as**
 - Immersion Mission Preparation (IMP);**
 - Holistic Urban Ministry (HUM);**
 - Ministry to Youth and Children (MYC)**



NYDS needs you as an active partner.



Students endorse this program and plan:

“In New York you will find liberal seminaries that will try to tear down your faith. You can go there and you can get an education, but how valuable will that education be when it *tears down the foundation* that is being built up in you through Christ Jesus?

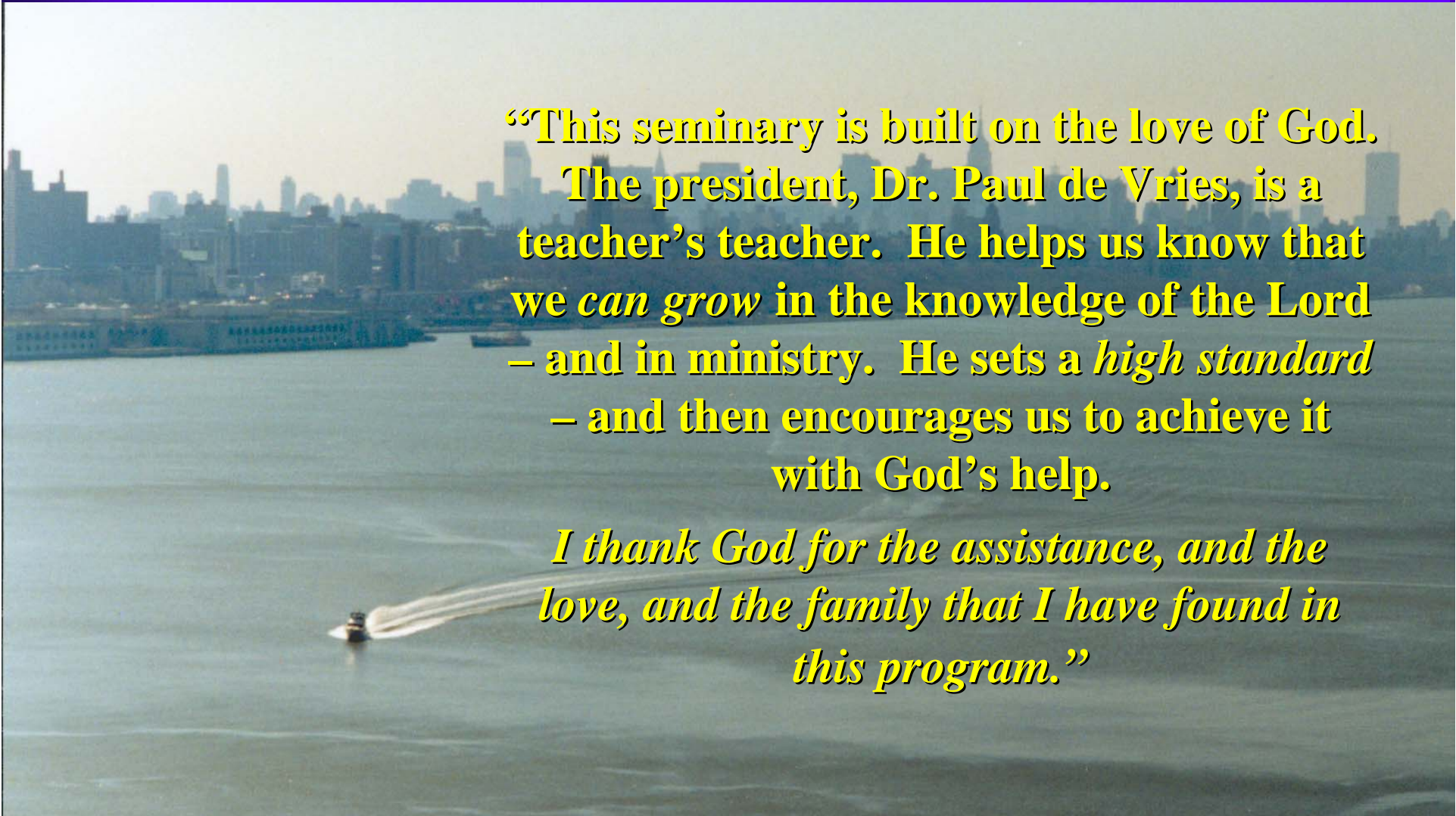
Because of the ministry of this program we do not need to move to another city for evangelical training. Here we can *learn* – and as we learn we can *apply* in our ministries out there in the real world that we know. What we learn on Saturday we apply on Saturday and on Sunday.

And this seminary is alive in Jesus! I’m telling you from a student’s perspective and from a pastor’s perspective, this is the seminary to contend with any seminary in the northeast.”

Rev. Ramon Muniz

Pastor of Christ Community Church in New Jersey

Students endorse the NYES Program and Plan



**“This seminary is built on the love of God.
The president, Dr. Paul de Vries, is a
teacher’s teacher. He helps us know that
we *can grow* in the knowledge of the Lord
– and in ministry. He sets a *high standard*
– and then encourages us to achieve it
with God’s help.**

***I thank God for the assistance, and the
love, and the family that I have found in
this program.”***

**Rev. Lucille Towles
Co-Pastor, Red Hook Gospel Tabernacle in Brooklyn**

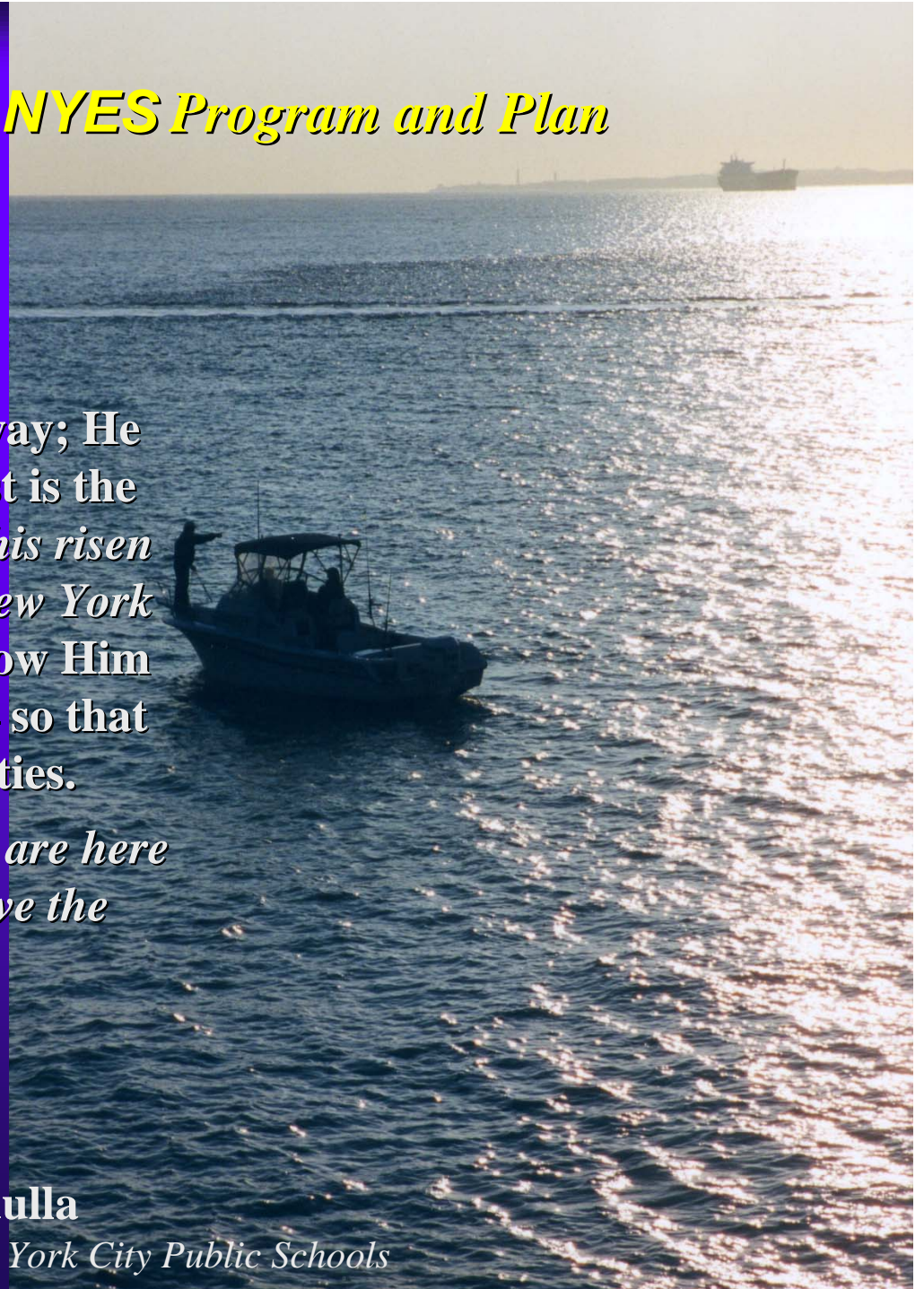
Students endorse the NYES Program and Plan

“We experienced Christ in a real way; He has changed our lives. Jesus Christ is the risen Lord, the risen Savior – and this risen Savior has a seminary program in New York filled with students that want to know Him better and know His Word better – so that we can share it in our communities.

That is what this school is about: we are here to equip ourselves to go out and give the Good News about Jesus.”

Vincent Pedulla

Teacher in New York City Public Schools



Please prayerfully consider
how you can be a part of this timely
ministry-training ministry.



Praying



Raising financial support



Strengthening the networks with
Churches and ministries.



Please

Keep in mind that...



***Building up the Church
and Her leaders pleases the Lord.***