In my nearly 18 years with the Book Network I have been blessed with so many things. I have had wonderful colleagues, exciting international travel experiences and fulfilling work. When I began in June of 2004 I had no idea of what would become of my professional life. I had closed my book business and was faced with an uncertain future. When you only have a one-item skill set (I know the difference between a good book and a bad book) you feel that your job options are pretty limited. However, providentially, Kurt Berends came along to offer an option that took my skill(s) and found an opening in the newly conceived Theological Book Network. He was looking for someone that could help acquire books for the organization but also sort them for suitability and fit for our global partners. I jumped at this opportunity to begin my work at TBN.

Despite various challenges TBN has faced over the years, God blessed our work and we found partners that believed that sending high-quality academic theological books to the Developing world was worth investing in. Their support made it possible for us to serve the church in ways that no other group was doing or had conceived of doing. We had a group of donors—both in terms of financial support and books—that made our work possible over the years. For this support, we have immense gratitude. The Lord has been good to TBN and to me.

In my 18 years I estimate that I have handled about 2,500,000 books. My hands and back are still in good repair—another thing to be grateful for! There have been times when the hard work of sorting and packaging has been difficult but yet not without a good measure of fun and joy. I have met some of the most interesting people in many of the contexts that our work provides. I have attended dozens of conferences where I have met folks that are taken by our work and have provided wonderful books for us. I have traveled to 10 countries and have seen how the books that we have sent have made a difference for our Network partners.

There is much more that I could say but please know that I am deeply appreciative of the time that I have had at TBN. Many thanks to each of you that I have worked with, met in academic contexts and have fellowshipped with internationally. Sola Deo Gloria.

- Wayne Bornholdt
In April and May of this year, the Network will be relocating to a new property in Grand Rapids, about 3 miles from its current location. The move provides us with a unique opportunity to optimize our facilities and operations. The new location is less than half the current size, which is a strategic decision. New international partnerships are enabling us to move more inventory more quickly throughout the Majority World. As a result, we will be more efficient in “turning over” inventory, moving it from receipt to shipment faster than before. This allows us to realize savings on rent and utilities and instead invest in resources for our partner schools!

The relocation is a big endeavor, and we ask for your prayerful support as we make this big change.

According to the U.S. State Department, Christians make up approximately 10% of the Egyptian population, with Muslims the remaining 90%. In an effort to serve the church’s life in this often-contentious area, TBN has partnered with the Overseas Council Australia and the Alexandria School of Theology to support the newly established Centre for Christian – Muslim Understanding and Partnership in Alexandria, Egypt.

Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer H. Anis, commenting on TBN’s role in procuring high-quality theological resources, observes, “[these] books will help the students to better understand the faith and practice of our Muslim neighbors. This will help in building bridges and working for peace. We hope that the Centre may help in alleviating the misconceptions and open doors for friendly Dialogue.”

Book donation questions? Contact us at info@tbn.global

www.theologicalbooknetwork.org
Greetings to you in Christ, wherever you are in the world. The board of the Theological Book Network has met regularly over Zoom and we have some highlights of our recent meetings to share with you.

We celebrate the good work that our Executive Director, Justin Holford, and his small but powerful staff does in support of TBN’s mission. As we provide printed books to libraries in the Majority World, we are aware of the great needs out there and are eager to collaborate where possible, funds permitting.

Speaking of funds, thank you to all who donated to TBN during the 2021 calendar year. We are blessed by your generosity, whether you are working with a large foundation or sharing from your own personal funds. Please continue to support TBN as you are led by the Spirit, as your board does.

Finally, the TBN board has grown. Two new members have accepted board membership: Elizabeth Sendek and Peter Osborn. Sendek is the recently retired president of the Biblical Seminary of Colombia; Osborn is an education leader at C2AE, and until recently was Cornerstone University’s Executive Vice President. Welcome, Elizabeth and Peter!

Peace,

Roger Loyd
Chair, Theological Book Network Board

WELCOMING SCOTT WATSON

We are pleased to introduce Mr. Scott Watson to the Network’s team. Scott works closely with Wayne to support the work of book acquisitions and collection development. In April, following Wayne’s retirement, we have the privilege of Scott stepping into the role of Director of Acquisitions.

“For the past few years, it’s been my privilege to work in and around theological books and education. Prior to the Network, I managed the Eerdmans Bookstore and then worked for Cornerstone University’s Miller Library as the Access Services Manager. I’m very excited to bring my experience to this role and help serve TBN’s global mission.”

- Scott Watson
2022 will be a year of many firsts for TBN, which we hope will lay a firm foundation for this ministry in the years ahead. We will launch a Majority World-first eBook platform, designed from the ground up for our global partner schools. It will be the first year without our cherished colleague Wayne Bornholdt. Our staff will relocate more books than ever before, over 250,000 books in all to a new facility here in Grand Rapids.

Each of these “firsts” creates new challenges as well as opportunities for growth missionally and organizationally. We at the Network are firm believers that where great challenges exist, there are equally great opportunities for God’s glory to shine.

The eBook platform richly complements our work with print resources by providing a low-cost and scalable capacity to rapidly deliver resources to tens of thousands of students globally. The relocation of TBN facilities will free up financial resources to reinvest in our mission. Wayne’s retirement challenges our team to internalize his experience, knowledge, and wisdom in order to maximize its impact of our work.

This winter, we ask for your prayers and help financially as we face these new challenges. Please pray for strength, patience, and wisdom as our team navigates this new year and the changes ahead. Please pray for our partner schools globally, who are striving to form hearts and minds in service to God despite significant challenges induced by the pandemic and its aftershocks. Lastly, please prayerfully consider an additional financial gift to support the move to our new facilities.

With thanks for your partnership,