Report on Professional Development Grant
Alister Chapman
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This is a report on the grant that I was awarded for research in the summer of 2007. It is so late because, by agreement with the Interim Academic Dean, I postponed the grant until summer 2008. During the summer of 2007 we welcomed a new baby in our family, making the extended stay in England that was part of my proposal rather difficult. I did some work on the project that summer, but the bulk of the work was done in summer 2008.

The Project
The core of my research project was to move towards turning my PhD on John Stott into a book. In the summer of 2007, I therefore went over all of the chapters, made a plan for revision, and outlined a host of short research tasks for my time in England in summer 2008. My plan was to spend some of my time in England working on these revisions as well as tackling some major new research on Stott’s views on hell, as outlined in my grant application. I booked flights to England for May 2008 with this intent.

In April 2008, however, I heard the rather disconcerting news that someone else was in the process of writing a new book on Stott. After consulting with my academic advisors, I therefore decided to revise my plans for my book, ditching the extra chapter that I hoped to write (I will touch on the questions in an epilogue) and focusing my work on the existing chapters with a view to completing the book in 2009 (the original plan had been to complete it in 2010-11). I therefore flew to England in May 2008 with a very specific list of revisions to work on during my six weeks there.

The Work
My research time was very successful. I found what I was looking for in libraries in Cambridge and London, and conducted several interviews (including a wonderful conversation with a handful of geriatrics who had lived in Stott’s parish since his time as the minister there in the 1950’s). I was therefore ready on my return to Santa Barbara in early July to begin the process of making final revisions to my chapters.

My writing in July and August went extremely well, and by the end of the summer I had half of the book in near-final form.

The Evidence
God-willing, the primary evidence will be the book. I am now four chapters into this six-chapter work, and about to send off a proposal to a publisher later this week. I also decided to apply for Phi Kappa Phi lectureship this year as a way of sharing some of the fruits of my research with the campus community here.

A Non-starter
There was one other part of my proposal back in 2006 on which I have had much less success. I wanted to explore the possibility of internationalizing my Perspectives on World History course by teaming up with colleagues at colleges overseas. The idea was to create assignments that would require our students to correspond with students in other
countries as a way of giving them some experience of cross-cultural communication as part of this course. I corresponded with Joel Carpenter, former Provost at Calvin College and now Director of the Nagel Institute for World Christianity, and he suggested some names of possible people to contact. None of these leads bore fruit, however. The idea is one that still interests me, but I will need to find a more effective way forward.

Conclusion
The grant has been very helpful to me in this research project, and I am very grateful to the Professional Development Committee for their support of my work. I was especially thankful for the extra $1000 that paid for most of my airfare to England; I was also able to use a good chunk of the grant to pay for expenses (lodging, food, travel etc.) while in England.

I would be happy to answer any additional questions that the committee might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Alister Chapman, PhD
Assistant Professor of History