

THE WORD

December 2024
Issue 16

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE MESSIAH UNIVERSITY ENGLISH PROGRAM

In this issue...

Devotion:
My Soul Waits
in Silence

By Adam Carter ('25)

Pg.2

A Glimpse at
Oxford University
Study Abroad

By Adam Carter ('25)

Pg.3

Exciting New
English Course:
Small Press
Publishing and Editing

By Adam Carter ('25)

Pg. 4



Books as
Christmas Gifts

Pg. 11

and more...

MY SOUL WAITS IN SILENCE:

A DEVOTION ON PSALM 62

- 
- “Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
2 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
3 How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down—
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
4 Surely they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
but in their hearts they curse.[b]
5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
6 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
7 My salvation and my honor depend on
God[c];
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
8 Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.
9 Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.
If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.
10 Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.
11 One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
‘Power belongs to you, God,
12 and with you, Lord, is unfailing love’;
and, ‘You reward everyone
according to what they have done.’”
- Psalm 62
- 

Throughout the Hebrew Bible God’s people exist in a continuous cycle of revelation, reconciliation, and rebellion. No matter how powerfully God reveals himself or the leaps and bounds he takes to deliver his people, in the end they always seem to forget and rebel. While it’s easy to read these stories and shake our heads in embarrassment at the seeming idiocy of these ancient people, as I have reflected on these stories, I have come to realize they are pretty reflective of my own spiritual journey. Like the ancient Israelites, I am prone to forgetfulness, turning to other sources for comfort, control, and security even though I know in my heart that God is the ultimate source of peace, strength, and hope.

In these seasons of forgetfulness, I have found Psalm 62 to be a great source of wisdom and comfort. I find my forgetfulness and rebellion often come from my inability to handle times of silence, but the Psalmist’s emphasis on the soul waiting in silence has been quite powerful for me. Silence can be unsettling, especially in a world that is constantly bustling with noise, distractions, and the pressure to perform.

In these moments of stillness, I often feel a sense of restlessness, as if something must be done or said to fill the void, or a wave of questioning as I search for the booming voice of God within the noise. Yet, God is not always in the pillar of fire or sea parting. Sometimes God is the calm after the storm like Elijah’s encounter in 1 Kings 19. From this realization I’ve begun to use the opening verse of Psalm 62 as a breath prayer in my times of confusion and rebellion: “For God alone my soul waits in silence.”

This prayer has become a rhythm for my heart, a simple yet profound invitation to slow down and surrender my need for answers or immediate solutions. When I feel overwhelmed, when I’m tempted to fill the silence with my own thoughts or anxieties, I whisper this verse and allow it to center me. In those moments, I’m reminded that it’s okay not to have everything figured out. It’s okay to wait. It’s okay for God to seem silent. And somehow, as I’ve found rest in this silence I’ve seen the Lord work most powerfully.

By Adam Carter (‘25)

A GLIMPSE AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY



Ever wondered what it's like to study at Oxford University? Here's what your week might look like if you choose to take part in Messiah's Oxford study abroad program.

Monday

- 9:00 AM: Wake up and head to the iconic Radcliffe Camera for a morning to study and write.
- 12:30 PM: Break for lunch at a nearby café.
- 2:00 PM: Gym session to recharge and stay active.
- 6:30 PM: Prepare dinner with housemates (favorites include stuffed peppers and curry).
- 8:00 PM: Explore Oxford's city center or relax with friends at home.

Tuesday

- 9:00 AM: Another productive morning at the Radcliffe Camera or another Oxford library.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch with friends at your house kitchen.
- 2:00 PM: Explore the city or visit a museum.
- 6:30 PM: Attend a formal college dinner for a traditional Oxford experience.

Wednesday

- 9:00 AM: Morning study session to focus on upcoming essays.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch break with classmates.
- 2:00 PM: Plan for upcoming weekend trips or explore the shops and markets in Oxford.
- 6:30 PM: Go out to a local pub.

Thursday

- 9:00 AM: Final preparations for tutorials.
- 10:00 AM: Primary tutorial. Discuss your essay with your tutor, receiving feedback and engaging in exciting discussion.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch with friends at a café.
- 2:00 PM: Secondary tutorial. Read your essay aloud to your tutor, pausing for critiques, questions, and conversation.
- 6:30 PM: Dinner and relax after a full day of academic engagement.

Friday

- 9:00 AM: Study session at the library, review tutorial feedback & prepare for the next assignments.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch with friends.
- 2:00 PM: Take a walk along the River Thames.
- 6:30 PM: Dinner at home or out at a local restaurant.
- 8:00 PM: Consider joining a student society or attending an event at the college.





MESSIAH'S EXCITING NEW ENGLISH COURSE:

Small Press Publishing and Editing

This semester Messiah University's English Program introduced a brand new course for students: Small Press Publishing and Editing. Guided by Professor Ryan Rickrode, students engage in the hands-on process of editing and publishing by creating and curating their very own literary journals. This unique opportunity allows students to apply editing skills while gaining valuable experience in content selection, design, and the production of a tangible publication.

The course instructor Professor Ryan Rickrode explains, "In this class, students are learning about editing and publishing by editing and publishing three amazing chapbooks featuring work by fellow Messiah students and alumni." The course emphasizes practical learning, where students work collaboratively to shape the chapbooks, manage deadlines, and communicate with authors throughout the editing process.

Beyond the technical aspects of editing, the course also helps students develop essential professional skills. "In addition to honing their editing abilities and increasing their knowledge of the publishing industry, through their publishing projects students are developing transferable skills like presenting a vision, working as a team, communicating feedback, managing deadlines, designing publications, and raising funds," says Professor Rickrode.

These skills will be valuable in any future career, particularly for those pursuing roles in publishing, writing, or creative industries. For students like Emily Groff, the course has been an especially rewarding experience. She shares, "This class is the most beneficial class that I've taken. It has taught me how to edit a piece and communicate with an author through this vulnerable process. This class has prepared me the most for a future career of editing and publishing because it takes you through the hands-on process of editing work and publishing our own chapbook." Emily's reflection highlights how the course offers a comprehensive and realistic approach to the editing and publishing process.

"THIS CLASS IS THE MOST BENEFICIAL CLASS THAT I'VE TAKEN"

- EMILY GROFF



By the end of the semester, students will have produced a fully edited and designed chapbook, which will serve as both a portfolio piece and a tangible representation of their work. This hands on experience gives students an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the publishing world while equipping them with the practical skills and confidence to pursue careers in editing, publishing, or related fields.

By Adam Carter ('25)

STUDENT MADE LITERARY JOURNALS

from Small Press Publishing and Editing

Life & Death

To a Christian, life and death are not black and white concepts, as our earthly lives are characterized by both joy as well as pain and suffering, and death is a doorway to eternity with our Creator. This collection of prose and poetry compiled by the editors of Spirit & Truth Press seeks to illuminate the beauty in struggling, the bittersweetness in life, and ultimately, the joy of the Christian homecoming.

Editors:

Jolie Lloyd, Corban Licitra, Sarah Marshall, & Adeline Baker

Chords

by Adahlee Schroeder

What is that song?

It echoes through the halls; an anthem of a kingdom
The days commence like a chord repeated
Hustling and bustling; a wailing clatter
Blundering through pain and joy and living
Low and tense; livings slow, days crawl
Dreading the carrion carved feast
Peace breaks and War breaks out
Keys change; the guests arrive
Fear and Panic set the table for Theft, Death, and Destruction
They raise knives and bring a
Sharp stabbing staccato to
Strip skin, starve hope, steal strength
Slay hearts, and end all –
Fallen halls, hushed hymns, bound and beaten
But beyond burden; a song of home
Arise beloved anthem; booming out bright and bold



YELLOW

A Literary Magazine

Fall 2024

AJ Jerome
Erin Goudie
Isaac Jo
Joseph Fan
Kira Blanchard
Reagan Steele
Reed Milliken

Yellow: A Literary Magazine

At Scribbling Pencil Press, we seek to explore questions and ideas of universal significance through the lens of unique individuals, bringing new light to the familiar and educating new audiences about the unfamiliar. Our literary magazine, Yellow, transforms something as simple as a primary color into a source of deep reflection and expanded perspectives.

Editors:

Natalie Clark, Macey Wright, Emmy Varner, & Evelyn Janssen

Yellow Polka Dot Skirt

By Erin Goudie

"I thrifted it in Poland"

I'd get to say if I bought it,
bringing it home, flying o'er the ocean.

I toss it between my palms-it's light,
which must be a good sign.

Besides, Szafa Gra Beata Balcerzak is a second-hand thrift shop...
how expensive could it really be?

Serving and teaching in Warsaw, I knew a literal handful of words, one: zloty, the Polish currency.

Handwritten in chalk above the cash register:

"70 zloty/kilo," a pay-by-weight situation.

I perform mental math gymnastics, converting zloty to dollar, kilo to lb, estimating the weight, the worth of the article in my hands, only for the total to tally to-I just really like its yellowness.



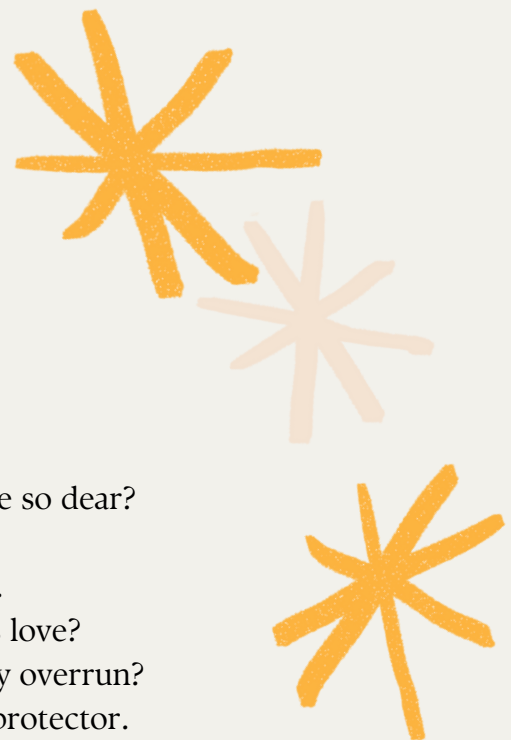


Affinity

Affinity seeks to form connections between people through short-form memoir writing and story-telling poetry. We hope to illuminate the treasure found in unique lived experiences through the sharing of personal stories.

Editors:

Emily Groff, Emma Bane, Lauren Mock, & Chasely Ward



Treasure

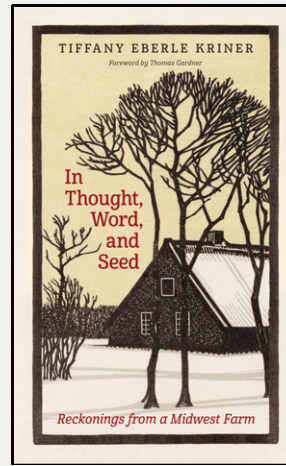
By Shirah Mark

She may be noticed but is she really seen?
She has muzzled her mouth of this great fear.
Has it always been a lie that she would one day hold someone so dear?
Her love would be great as the downpour of April rain.
They'd be like a skillful song, a lively dance none could tame.
But her heart betrays her, is she really deserving of another's love?
Is she afraid to give someone her heart, which could be easily overrun?
Scared that she'd have to settle, to not have a Godly man, a protector.
Is she truly like Esther when the king hands over his scepter?
To have her desires granted like sweet honeyed nectar.
She will not despair, for God is her director

POETS AND WRITERS SERIES: TIFFANY EBERLE KRINER

On October 31, Messiah University welcomed back Dr. Tiffany Eberle Kriner (English Alumni, '98) as part of the 24-25 Poets and Writers Series. Students, faculty, and community members gathered for a reading and discussion of her latest book *In Thought, Word, and Seed: Reckonings from a Midwest Farm*.

Dr. Kriner, professor at Wheaton College in Illinois, shared insights from her book, which explores the intersections of Christian faith, creation care, and human responsibility. Blending poetic prose, literary analysis, and scriptural reflection, *In Thought, Word, and Seed* sits at a fascinating intersection between memoir, literary analysis, and personal essay. During the event, Dr. Kriner read passages from her book that illuminated the unique and complex structure of the book. Her vibrant storytelling and thoughtful reflections both challenged and captivated the audience.

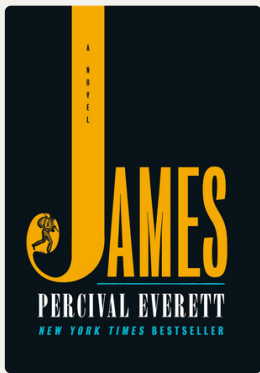


If you missed Dr. Kriner's reading, don't fret! This spring, Messiah University's Poets and Writers Series returns, welcoming Messiah English alumni Jordan Windholz and Dallas Saylor on March 18. Windholz, a professor of English at Shippensburg University, will be reading from his recently released poetry collection *The Sisters*, and Saylor will be reading from his forthcoming poetry debut.

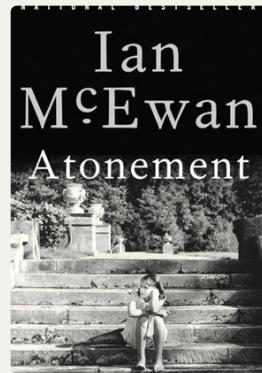


CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

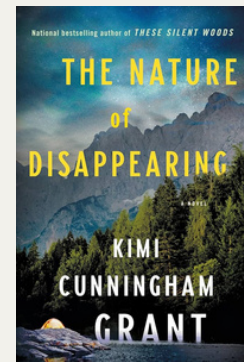
For the Classics Lovers



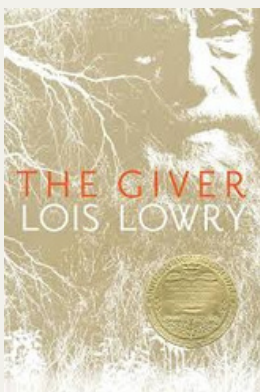
For Romantics



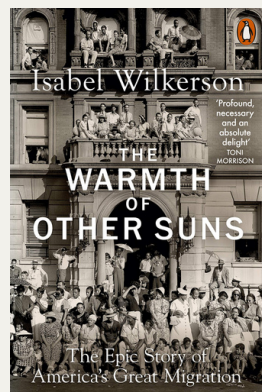
For Adventurers



For Poetry Fans



For History Buffs



For YA Enthusiasts

