

SouthwesternNews

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SUMMER 2009 | VOLUME 67 NO. 4

PREACH THE WORD

Reach the World

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CALENDAR

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JULY »

3

Independence Day Observed
Classes dismissed
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6-17

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AUGUST »

7-8

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13-14

Faculty Workshop
Riley Center

18-20

New Student Orientation
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20

Fall Semester Begins
Fort Worth Convocation

21-22

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Counseling: Levels 1 & 2
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24

Fall classes begin in Houston
and U.S. extensions
Houston Convocation

SEPTEMBER »

4

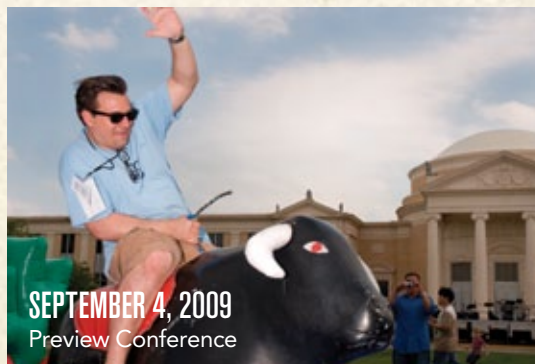
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7

Labor Day Observed
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25-26

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Southwesterner,

In the current issue of the *Southwestern News*, which you hold in your hand, the focus is on Southwestern Seminary's most critically important assignment, namely, preaching. How very fortunate Southwestern Seminary is to have the great tradition of preaching professors like Klinard, Brown, and Northcutt. I am personally

convinced that the institution still has the top three preaching professors available anywhere in the world today: Dr. David Allen, Dr. Steven Smith, and Dr. Calvin Pearson. Each is featured in this issue. Each, in addition to teaching preaching, is an accomplished practitioner of this art, and all encourage Southwestern students to become great teachers and preachers of the Bible message.

As usual, a coterie of additionally interesting articles focus on the preaching ministry of alumni and current students and on news items about the impact of the school around the world.

In a day when preaching is often depreciated and people wonder about the future, I am reminded of what William Cowper said of the pulpit,

*The pulpit
Must stand acknowledged while the world
shall stand,
The most important and effectual guard,
Support, and ornament of Virtue's cause.
There stands the messenger of truth: there
stands
The legate of the skies!— His theme divine,
His office sacred, his credentials clear.
By him the violated law speaks out
Its thunders; and by him, in strains as sweet
as angels use, the Gospel whispers peace.*

Cowper, *The Task*, Bk. II

Cowper was exactly right about preaching in so far as its style is concerned. Though varied indeed, its task of being a herald of the salvific plan of God will not vanish from the earth until Jesus comes. Furthermore, until then it will remain one of the most important things that any preacher anointed of God can ever do.

My prayer to God is that many of our pastors will begin again to call out the called and to give these men their initial opportunities in the public sharing of the Word of God. To this major task, Southwestern remains committed. Thank you precious reader for all you do to make it possible.

Until He Comes,


Paige Patterson



For HAS

S SPOKEN

THE *Theology* OF TEXT-DRIVEN *Preaching*

by DAVID L. ALLEN

John Stott insightfully commented that the essential secret of preaching is not “mastering certain techniques, but being mastered by certain convictions.”¹

The key theological principle underlying text-driven preaching is the fact that God has spoken. Hebrews 1:1 states clearly: “God, having spoken in times past to the fathers by the prophets in many portions and in many ways, has in these last days spoken to us in His Son.” God revealed Himself and truths about Himself to the Old Testament prophets. God’s speech through the prophets was verbal as they declared, “Thus says the Lord.”

Old Testament revelation was predominantly verbal and auditory rather than visual. Revelation in the Old Testament included the media God used to express His word to Israel. Such media included verbal discourse, dreams and visions, signs, symbols, etc. Furthermore, the choice of vocabulary by Old Testament writers to express this revelation is both varied and precise. Of interest is that with respect to the prophets, the revelatory word of the Lord always accompanied a vision or dream. Often the word of the Lord would come to the prophet without any accompanying vision or dream, but never did any vision or dream occur without any accompanying verbal word from the Lord. Habakkuk 2:2 reminds us that when visions are given, God sometimes instructs that they are to be converted into written text. Similarly, Revelation 1:11

states that John is told to “write what you see in a book.” Interestingly, Jeremiah reports no visions accompanying his reception of the word of the Lord. The word of the Lord came to him with all the immediacy of an objective experience that he describes in terms of dialogue between himself and God. The Old Testament prophets speak of God’s actions as His “word.” God was known to Israel in the Old Testament in and by His speaking. Throughout the Old Testament, God’s revelation is identified with speaking and hearing; with written text and the reading of written texts. The Old Testament priority is on verbal revelation.

The “supremacy of the word” is the essential distinguishing feature of the Old Testament prophet. The prophet always declares *the* word, never *a* word of the Lord. The coming of the word of revelation, not the reception of the Spirit of revelation, made a man a prophet of the Lord. The most significant of all the modes of divine communication used by God to disclose Himself to humanity in the Old Testament was that of verbal discourse. Hence, the term “word” in the sense of divine revelation is the most common term for revelation in the Old Testament, and the phrase “word of the Lord” occurs 394 times. The word of the Lord was a medium of revelation throughout Old Testament history including the time of the patriarchs, (Gen 12:1-4, 15:1-7, 17:1-22, Deut 1:8), the Mosaic period, the united and divided kingdom (2 Sam 7:4; 23:2; 1 Kgs 18:44-ff.; 22:19; 22:5-13, 19; 2 Kgs 1:3, and 3:22ff.), and in the subsequent exilic and post-exilic period

¹John Stott, *Between Two Worlds* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982), 92.

(Jer 37:16ff).

With the incarnation of Jesus, God has revealed Himself personally. Jesus as the Son, the second member of the Trinity, is also the “Word”: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...” (John 1:1, 14). Jesus brings the word of God in personal form. Jesus made use of the spoken word exclusively according to the Gospel accounts, and this may be invested with theological significance.

Following the crucifixion, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus, the New Testament was written. Like the Old Testament, although written by men divinely inspired, God is the ultimate author of all Scripture: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16). The phrase “all scripture” in Greek connotes every individual part of Scripture is the word of God. We call this “verbal plenary” inspiration: All of the words of Scripture are inspired by God. Thus, the very words of Scripture are the words of God.

To observe how the New Testament authors quote the Old Testament is instructive. Often “God” and “Scripture” are used interchangeably as subjects with the verb “to speak.” In Matthew 19:4-5, God is said to be the author of Scripture although He is not directly the speaker. In Romans 9:17, we read “Scripture says” even though God Himself is the direct speaker of what is quoted. This illustrates the principle of revelational continuity expressed by the author of Hebrews in Heb 1:1, where Old Testament revelation and

final revelation in Christ are both “spoken” by God.

In continuity with this biblical focus, the author of Hebrews gives primacy to the mode of hearing the Word. Notice carefully the citation formulae for Old Testament quotations used in Hebrews 1:5-13. The author makes use of the verb “to speak.” Notice also who is doing the speaking in Hebrews 1:5-13. “God” is the subject of all the verbs of speaking that introduce the Old Testa-

... although written by men divinely inspired, God is the ultimate author of all Scripture ...

ment quotations. Look at Hebrews 3:7-11, where an extended quotation of a section of Psalm 95 occurs. The author of Hebrews introduces this quotation with a verb of speaking. Notice further that the subject of this verb of speaking is not the Psalmist but rather the Holy Spirit: “as the Holy Spirit says ...” (3:7). Now consider the Old Testament quotations in Hebrews 2:12-13 of Psalm 22:22 and Isaiah 8:17, 18. Notice here again the verb used to introduce these quotations is a verb of speech and, amazingly, the author of these Old Testament verses is, according to the author of Hebrews, Jesus Himself!

The author of Hebrews makes His case to his

Great
preaching is
expository
preaching
practically
applied.

readers by means of persuasive appeal to Israel's written Old Testament, in which both he and his readers hear the voice of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Here is exegesis in the service of preaching. The author does theology by reading and preaching Scripture! Notice how all citation formulae in Hebrews employ some form of the verb "speak." Never is *gegraptai* (Gk., "it is written") used in Hebrews. Many of the Old Testament citation formulae use the present tense form *legei* (Gk., "he says") and only twice is the Old Testament author's name cited. More frequently we read "God says," or "the Holy Spirit says ..."

The author is stressing two things: 1) the ongoing relevance of Scripture to the current situation; 2) the fact that God continues to speak through Scripture in the sense that Scripture is His direct speech. All Scripture quotations in Hebrews involve direct address! Scripture is an authoritative Word of God in the present. Scripture narrative is never quoted in Hebrews. Rather, it is retold in paraphrase. The focus in Hebrews is what God is saying *now* to us through the Word written *then*. Not once does the author say: "God has given me a word of knowledge to give to you," as is common in Charismatic circles today. The author may have been an apostle; certainly he was a leader in the apostolic church. Yet he addresses them through Scripture, not extra-biblical revelation.

Where does God speak today? There is a Charismatic answer to that question and a correct answer to it. The Charismatic thirst for new revelation today imposes a low view of Scripture's sufficiency on one's theology of preaching.

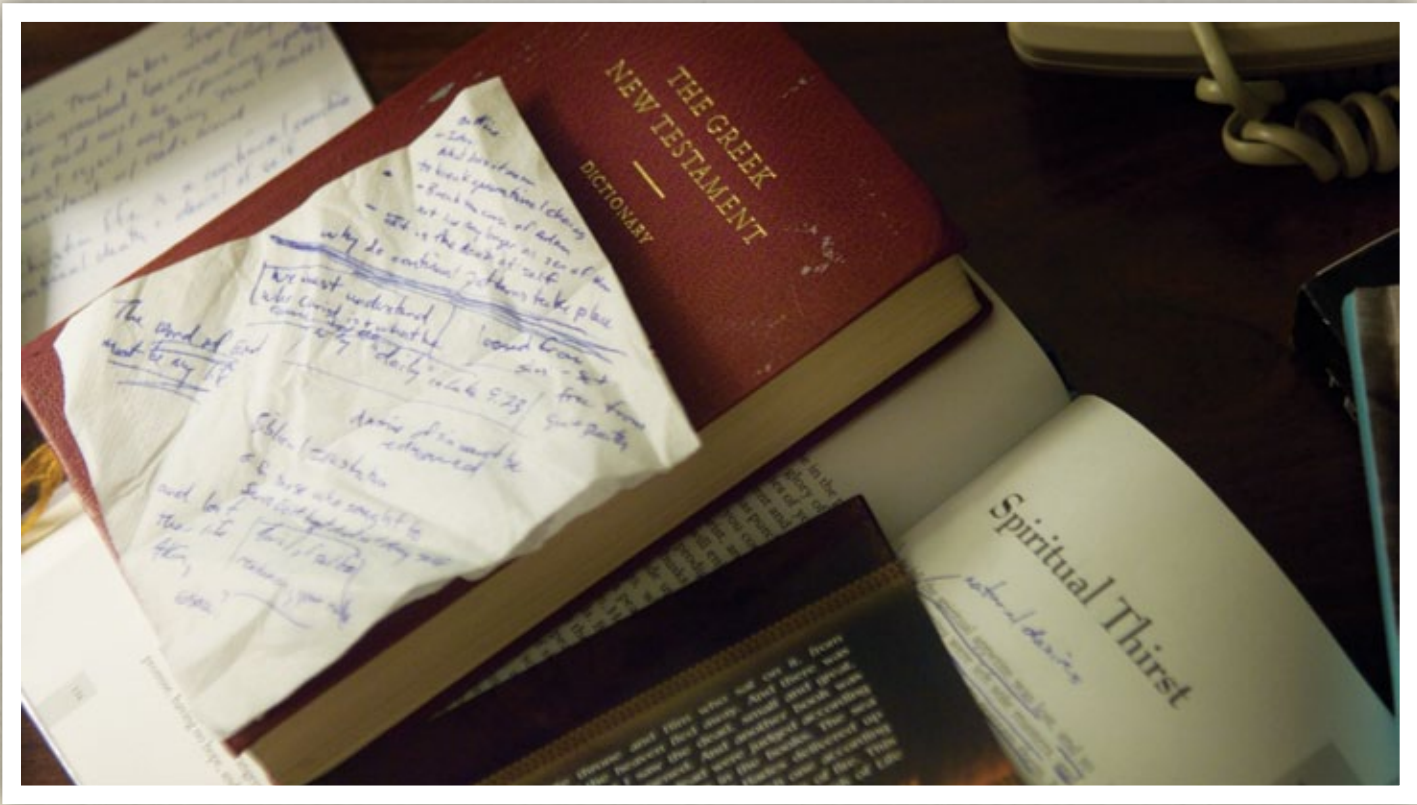
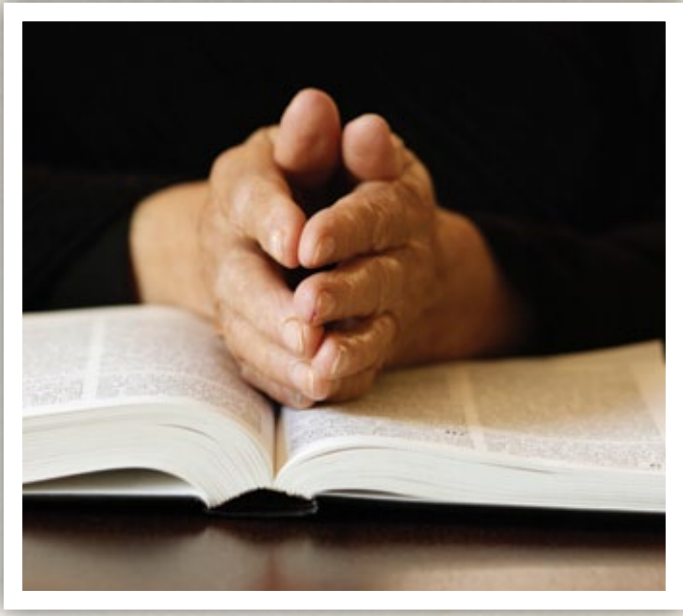
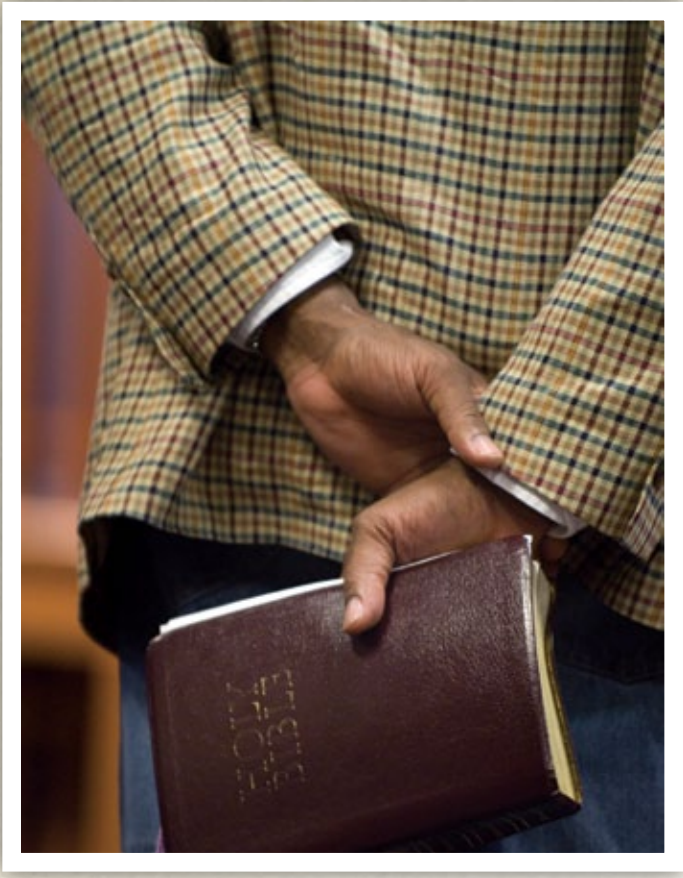
Hebrews as a first-century sermon speaks as much about what preaching should not be as it

does about what preaching should be. Preaching is not a long, hot, dusty drive through three-point gulch; it is not ethical imperative ungrounded in theology; it is not pop-psychological pabulum; it is not moralistic principlizing; it is not narrative divorced from propositional truth; and it is not pragmatic life coaching.

Great preaching is expository preaching practically applied. The problem with much of contemporary preaching is its aversion to exposition. Everything is application focused. Application cannot be authoritative unless it is based on exposition of the Word. The author of Hebrews knew this only too well. We who preach should learn from this great expositor how to bring exegesis to bear on a text of Scripture and then apply its meaning to the church.

In Paul's final charge to Timothy he said: "Preach the Word!" (2 Tim 4:2). Three principles critical for homiletics emerge from this understanding of biblical authority: 1) Scripture is the very word of God; 2) Scripture is inerrant and thus totally trustworthy; 3) Scripture is sufficient for the faith and life of the church and for every Christian. The biblical and theological foundation for text-driven preaching is the fact God has spoken in Christ and in Scripture, and the nature of this revelation itself demands a text-driven approach to preaching. The authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency of Scripture serve as the theologi-

cal grounds for text-driven preaching. **SN**
David Allen is dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of *Hebrews* in the *New American Commentary Series* (Nashville: Broadman/Holman, forthcoming Spring 2010) and *The Authorship of Hebrews: The Case for Luke* (Nashville: Broadman/Holman, forthcoming Fall 2010).



Preacher Hatchery

by Keith Collier



President Paige Patterson on his travels meets many people who ask him what he does for a living. His response: "I preside over a preacher hatchery. The churches send us the eggs and we sit on them until they hatch."

His metaphor is not far from the truth. Southwestern provides an ideal environment for ministers to incubate and develop their preaching ability and then pushes them out of the nest to preach the Word.

Southwestern accomplishes this task through formative instruction by skilled professors and opportunities for students to preach in revivals, pulpit supply, and local pastorates. At every turn, Southwestern seeks to produce an ardent army of text-driven preachers to serve in churches across North America and to the ends of the earth.

Preaching Lab

Two classes serve as the foundation to prepare students for the preaching ministry. Introduction to Expository Preaching is a core class for all Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students and focuses on text-driven preaching with an emphasis on exegesis using the original languages. Students preparing for a ministry that includes preaching or teaching also take Advanced Expository Preaching, a class that provides opportunities for students to further hone their skills and preach additional biblical genres.

Elective courses, such as Theology of Preaching, Evangelistic Preaching, and Voice and Speech Improvement, provide more in-depth study and practice of certain preaching issues. M.Div. students who complete three elective courses in addition to the introduction and advanced classes can earn a concentration in preaching.

In each class, professors emphasize a proper doctrine of revelation and theology of preaching, which forms the basis for any preaching ministry. Students are also trained on how to prepare and deliver creative text-driven sermons. Through interactive classroom discussion, students discuss passages of Scripture and aid one another in developing sermons. Students then deliver sermons in the preaching lab and receive feedback from peers as well as the professor.

"We want a student to learn from his peers," says preaching professor Steven Smith. "You don't get this any other time in your life, to have 20 other students pitch in and say, 'Work on this.'"



Students receive immediate feedback on their sermons from the professor through the means of digital technology. As the student preaches to the class, the professor sits in a sound booth connected to the preaching lab. A video technician records the sermon to a DVD for the student to review and critique himself later.

While the student is preaching, the professor speaks into a microphone, adding a voice-over track on the DVD that offers advice or instruction. When the sermon is complete, the professor records a brief synopsis of his

thoughts about the sermon, including what the student did well and what needs improvement. After the student has had a chance to watch the DVD, he meets with his professor one-on-one outside of class to discuss the sermon and answer questions.

A frequently heard statement in Southwestern's preaching classes is "The breadth of your creativity is born out of the depth of your exegesis." This statement summarizes the need to understand the text fully and then communicate it effectively to one's audience.

A common fear is that text-driven, Christ-centered preaching is boring.

"By definition, that's oxymoronic," says Smith, "because if preaching is driven by the text, the text is exciting, and I bring the boredom to it. There are a lot of preachers out there who are right but bore you out of your skull, or they're right but they're imitating a famous preacher.

We want a man who is being creative, interesting, and compelling, but still being driven by the text."

Southwestern professors define creativity as "getting so deep in the text that you mine it out for all its riches because the text is creative." Their goal is to produce students who can ultimately work out what God has worked in them.

Preaching serves as the convergence of all of the various disciplines a student learns at Southwestern. His systematic theology, his New Testament and Old Testament, his hermeneutics, and his languages—they are all worked out in the sermon, providing a type of oral exam for the M.Div. program.

All ministry settings—whether preaching, discipling, counseling, or evangelizing—are a ministry of the Word. Southwestern prepares students to exposit the text properly regardless of the context.

Taking Preaching to the Next Level

For those looking to maximize their preaching prowess without having to move to Fort Worth, Southwestern offers the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) with a concentration in expository preaching. This degree exists to enhance the practice of ministry for those who are currently engaged in positions of ministerial leadership.

The expository preaching concentration focuses on applying preaching and exegetical skills to proclaim-

ing the various genres of Scripture. Top-tier preaching professors serve as mentors to equip pastor-scholars to handle these texts of Scripture with confidence, accuracy, and boldness.

The D.Min. program emphasizes the importance of a relational, or cohort, system of education. Students are assigned to a cohort based upon their area of ministry and geographical proximity to encourage interaction and mutual accountability throughout the program cycle. Southwestern uses the Internet to connect professors and students and facilitate ongoing interaction between them.

Through collegial support, technology, educational mentoring, and ministry application, Southwestern's D.Min. prepares men to be scholarly in the Scriptures, sound in the proclamation of God's Word, and skillful in ministry.

Preaching Opportunities

Southwestern provides students with a host of preaching opportunities throughout the semester. In addition to the annual Spring Evangelism Practicum, which sends students across the country to preach revivals in churches outside of the Bible Belt, Southwestern offers trained student preachers to churches for pulpit supply, interim pastorates, and revival meetings.

At the end of April this year, students and faculty traveled west from Fort Worth and volunteered to preach in 18 churches in the Cross Timbers Baptist Association. These churches, which had experienced no baptisms in the previous year, invited Southwesterners to do door-to-door evangelism on Saturday and to preach in their pulpits on Sunday morning.

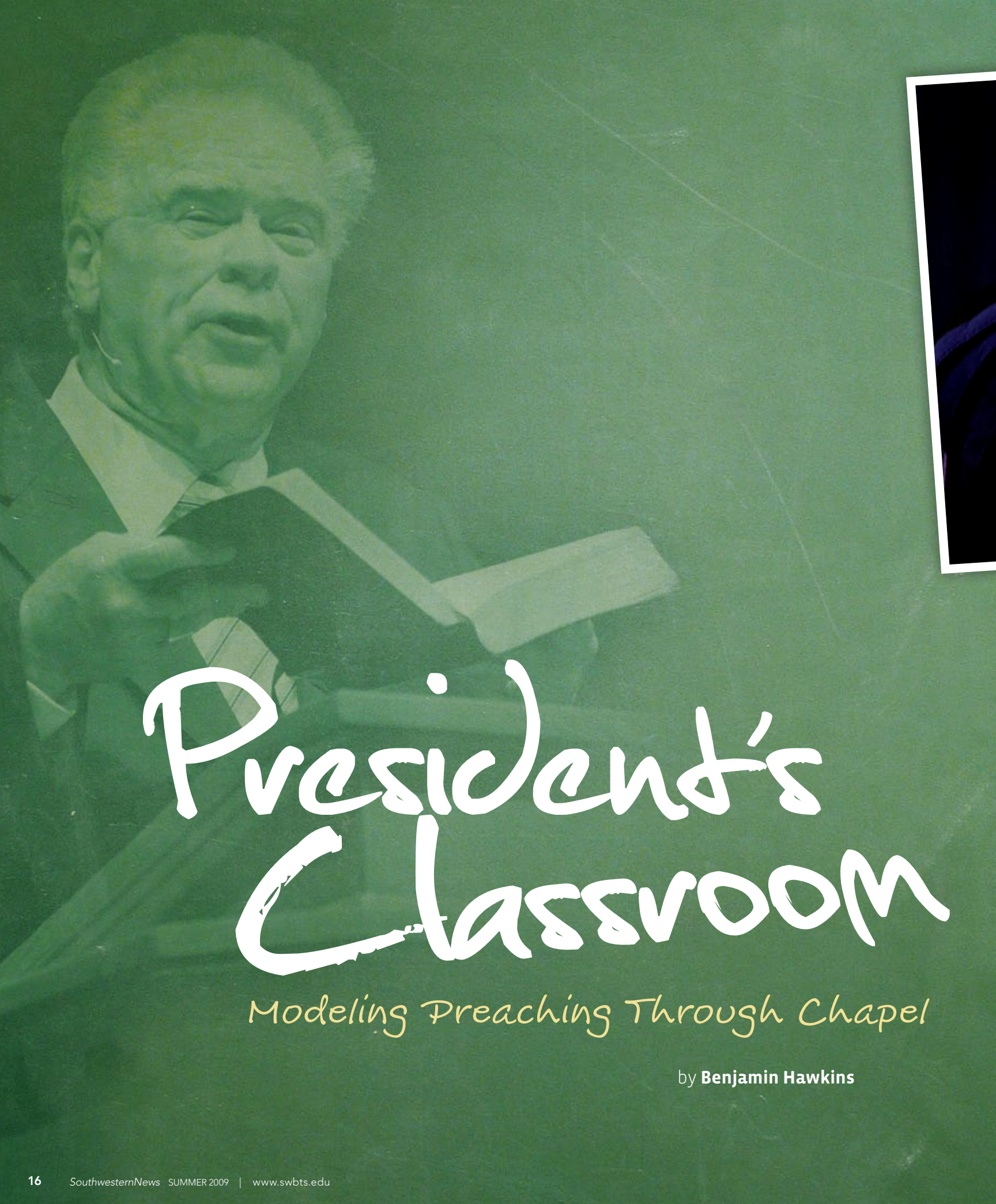
In 2008, Southwestern revived a program that gave students the opportunity to preach to their peers in chapel. The seminary's preaching professors select a student from one of their preaching classes based on the excellence of his sermon preparation and delivery in class.

According to David Allen, dean of the School of Theology, the Student Preaching Day recognizes capable preaching students by letting them speak before their peers, and it also "fosters genuine expository preaching."

Training students to deliver expository sermons is "what we are about here at Southwestern," he said. **SN**



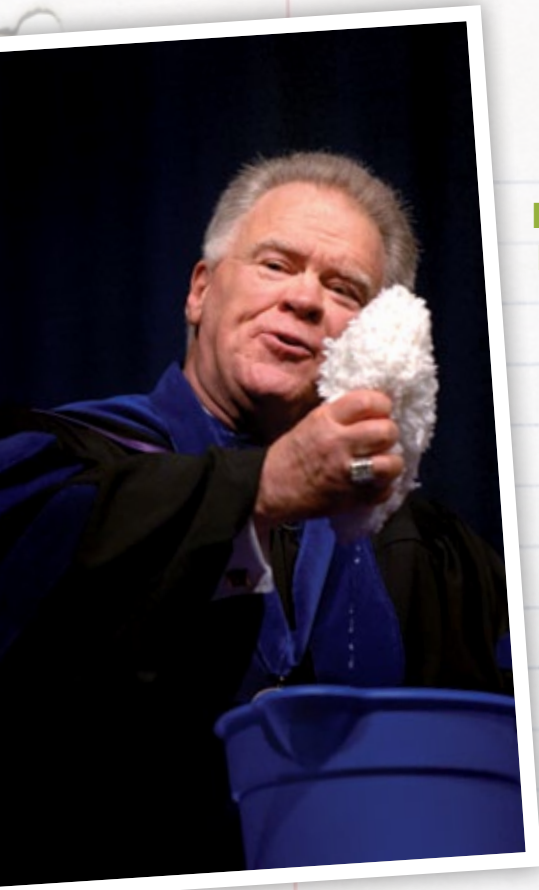
(TOP LEFT) President Patterson prays with Kevin Dickey, who preached his first sermon during the Cross Timbers Baptist Association weekend. (MIDDLE LEFT) Dean of Theology David Allen teaches a D.Min. cohort class. (BOTTOM LEFT) During the Spring Evangelism Practicum students like John Wohlgemuth develop both preaching and pastoral skills. (TOP RIGHT) Jason Attaway preaches in chapel during Student Preaching Day.



President's Classroom

Modeling Preaching Through Chapel

by **Benjamin Hawkins**



IN A SPRING 2006 CHAPEL SERVICE, PRESIDENT PAIGE PATTERSON PRESENTED THE “PERFECT EXPOSITORY SERMON.” It was just one ex-

ample of Patterson’s attempts to teach a new generation of preachers how the Word of God should be proclaimed.

The perfect sermon, Patterson said, is a dry sponge.

Lifting a large, dry sponge before his audience, Patterson said that, just as this sponge was hard at its core and soft on the surface, even so a perfect sermon is organized and built around firm truths. At the same time, it is tender toward its audience.

Patterson continued his illustration by scribbling on a blank writing tablet with a black marker. The tablet, he explained, is the typical church crowd, and the markings are the hurts, fears, and concerns that listeners harbor in their hearts. He tried to clean the board with his dry sponge—“the perfect expository sermon”—but without success.

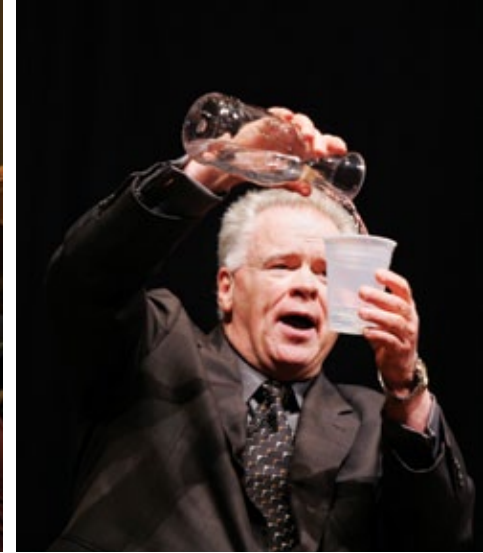
Patterson’s audience then watched him as he walked across the stage and as he dipped the dry sponge in a bucket of water. Lifting the sponge out of the bucket, he said, “When your sermon literally is full of the Spirit of the living God, like that sponge is full of the liquid in the bucket, then and only then are you ready to walk into the pulpit.” Walking back to the tablet, he wiped it with the wet sponge, and the marks

disappeared: “Look what happens when the Spirit of the living God is present.”

Patterson presented this illustration during the first of a sermon series on the Holy Spirit. Each spring, he develops a series of messages intended not only to address issues important to church life but also to instruct students in the preaching of Scripture. Last October, Southwestern Seminary’s board of trustees recognized this when they honored Patterson with a resolution of appreciation. They noted, among other things, that he “has revived the chapel hour as the central heartbeat and meeting time for the seminary family as the ‘President’s Classroom,’ where he has led in modeling the components of the local church worship service chiefly through the regular exposition of the Word of God.”

“A seminary that finds its sole purpose in the academic world has, in my estimation, failed to catch the broader vision,” Patterson says. “The vision of a theological seminary ought to be a community of men and women deeply committed to study but then coming together on a regular basis to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and to worship our God. Not only does the experience of worshipping together put the emphasis of the seminary where it ought to be, namely, on the Triune God, but also as such builds the *esprit de corps* of the institution and establishes a particular attitude on campus that can only generate spiritual growth.”





Patterson also hopes chapel services will teach students “how to lead an effective moment of worship, which emphasizes both evangelism and the clear explanation of the Bible, mixed with congregational prayer and worship in song.”

In his “classroom,” Patterson has preached expositional sermons based on numerous biblical passages, including passages from Matthew, 1 Peter, and Revelation, as well as Leviticus, Daniel, and the Song of Solomon. The themes covered in each sermon have been equally numerous: the priesthood of believers, the Holy Spirit, and the last days. During his most recent sermon series, Patterson addressed issues that Christians, and especially preachers, cannot avoid. “You will have to respond to these in your ministry,” he insisted. In this 12-part series, he presented expositional sermons on truth, culture, gender, marriage, sex, the church, preaching, denominations, altar calls, Scripture, worship, and sacrifice.

Through the seminary’s chapel services, Patterson also offers advice about other aspects of worship in the local church: For example, the preacher should come to the pulpit without notes and with only the Bible in hand. Also, the reading of Scripture should play a fundamental part in the worship service, which is one reason why Patterson endorses public Bible reading in the seminary’s chapel services.

Patterson also demonstrates the importance of sacrificial giving and corporate prayer during chapel. In 2003, he took the first of many boot offerings at Southwestern in order to help a sick

child and his family: Students and faculty wearing cowboy boots took them off, using them as offering plates. As the spring 2009 semester came to an end, Patterson called outgoing missionaries to gather around the platform in Truett auditorium. He pled for them in prayer, recognizing the sacrifices that God might call them to make as they proclaim His Word across the world.

As seminary trustees recognized, Patterson especially encourages students to be pastor-scholars who preach the Word faithfully. During one message from his spring 2009 sermon series, he said, “I have a confession to make to you this morning, although it will not come as a surprise to most of you who know me: I am an adrenaline junkie.” Since his youth, Patterson has experienced the adrenaline rush of bull riding, scuba diving among great white sharks and barracuda, and trekking through head-high grass on African safaris.

“Can I tell you the honest truth of the matter: There is no adrenaline rush in this world like proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus and pleading with men to come to God,” he said. “When I stand right here to preach in the seminary today, there are many of you who are hurting and sorrowing and wondering what is going to happen next, and some of you are lost and outside of Christ. And I carry the responsibility this morning. ...

“It is a heavy responsibility. It is an adventure. There is nothing in the world like preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus.” **SN**

*"It is a heavy responsibility. It is an adventure.
There is nothing in the world like preaching the
unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus."*



POLISH YOUR
PREACHING
In Only Three Days

by Keith Collier

Pastors often lament that outside of reading popular books on the subject, their methods for honing their preaching skills are left wanting. Southwestern's Expository Preaching Workshops provide pastors with training in the exposition of Scripture as well as the opportunity to dialogue with the authors of those preaching books.

For the past five years, Southwestern has annually hosted the two-day Expository Preaching Workshop in the spring and the one-day Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop in the fall.

Southwestern preaching professor Steven Smith notes the reason for calling it a workshop rather than a confer-

and preaching professors from across the nation have been invited to speak at the workshops, including Jerry Vines, Sidney Greidanus, Jim Shaddix, and David Platt.

In at least one session of each workshop, a speaker preaches a sermon and then walks participants through the preparation and delivery process of the sermon. This all-access pass to sermon-making is a highlight for most participants.

The Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop features an intensive study for pastors who know the basics of expository preaching and wish to go deeper, utilizing the original languages. Presenters include Southwestern preaching faculty as well as professors from the School of Theology.



ence, saying, "We use the word 'workshop' because, building on our theology, we want to tinker with skills."

"The purpose is to provide hands-on, practical workshop training for pastors to enable them to develop their skills continually in the area of preaching," says David Allen, dean of Southwestern's School of Theology and director of the Southwestern Center for Expository Preaching. "It also serves as a time of fellowship and encouragement for pastors."

The two-day spring workshop covers a variety of preaching-related topics, including sermon preparation, preaching genres of Scripture and difficult passages, use of media and illustrations, evangelistic preaching, and improving creativity.

In addition to Southwestern's preaching faculty, pastors

"In the fall workshop, we focus on a specific book of the Bible with the goal of learning how to preach a series of expositional sermons from that book," says Allen. Past conferences have focused on such books as Amos, James, and the parables of Luke."

While the primary audience includes pastors and seminary students, Allen notes that all church staff and laymen who teach the Bible in any capacity will benefit from the workshops. He considers the workshops one example, among many, of how Southwestern serves local churches.

"If the seminary can provide practical help to the pastors in the area of their preaching, this will touch every member of the local churches," Allen says.

He also notes the positive feedback the seminary has received from participants about how the workshops are a significant contribution to their preaching ministries.

“Many tell us they now know how to do exposition, and others tell us they now know how to do it better than before,” says Allen.

Allen acknowledges that he, too, has profited from the workshops.

“I have benefited from interaction with preachers out there on the front lines in the local churches. Observing their own commitment and desire to better their preaching skills is such an encouragement to me,” Allen says.

Year after year, alumni and students return to grow in their preaching abilities.

challenged anew, and learn something different each time.”

In addition to the worksheets, bibliographies, and dialogue at the workshops, Ellis says hearing the experiences of the keynote speakers feeds his desire to grow as a preacher.

“What I appreciate most about these conferences is the availability of the conference speakers between sessions,” says Ellis.

“It helps participants to realize that these men are going through or have been through all of the things that we as young ministers are going through. These individuals can identify with the chaotic nature of the ministry and offer encouragement to keep striving, even when facing great difficulties and obstacles.”



“It has created its own culture of men returning every year trying to improve their skills,” says Smith, adding, “It forces us to have variety every year in what we’re doing—to balance between theology and practice.”

Clint Ellis, a 2006 M.Div. graduate and pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Fayette, Ala., has attended every workshop since its inception. He first heard about the workshops as a student but has traveled back each year to attend because he has seen the impact it has on his ministry.

“The Expository Preaching Workshops give me an opportunity to sit and learn under those men who have excelled at preaching for years,” says Ellis.

“It challenges me to be faithful, as well as to go above and beyond to try to become the best expositor that I can possibly be. I keep coming back because each year I am refreshed,

As to whether or not he will return next year, Ellis says, “Both the Expository Preaching Workshop and the Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop will continue to be an essential part of my professional and pastoral development for as long as I am able to attend.”

This year’s fall workshop will be held Friday, Oct. 2, and is titled “Poetry in Action: Proclaiming the Psalms.” The 2010 spring workshop will be held March 8-9.

As an added resource to preachers, audio for past fall and spring workshops can be downloaded in mp3 format for free at www.swbts.edu/mediaresources. Additionally, a two-disc CD set containing all five years of the spring Expository Preaching Workshops as well as two spring sermon series by Dr. Patterson can be obtained for free by contacting the seminary (see ad on the next page). **SN**



PREACHING BOOKS BY WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:

JERRY VINES
Pastor Emeritus
First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Fla.
*Power in the Pulpit:
How to Prepare and Deliver
Expository Sermons*
Moody Press (1999)
(co-written with Jim Shaddix)

JIM SHADDIX
Pastor
Riverside Baptist Church
Denver, Colo.
*The Passion-Driven Sermon:
Changing the Way Pastors
Preach and Congregations Listen*
Broadman & Holman (2003)

SIDNEY GREIDANUS
Emeritus Professor of Preaching
Calvin Theological Seminary
Grand Rapids, Mich.
*Preaching Christ from the Old
Testament: A Contemporary
Hermeneutical Method*
Eerdmans Publishing Company
(July 1999)

*The Modern Preacher and the
Ancient Text: Interpreting and
Preaching Biblical Literature*
Eerdmans Publishing Company
(December 1988)

R. ALAN STREETT
Professor of Evangelism
and Pastoral Ministries
Criswell College
*The Effective Invitation:
A Practical Guide for the Pastor*
Kregel Publications (November 1995)

STEVEN SMITH
Assistant Professor of Preaching
Associate Dean for the
Professional Doctoral Program
Southwestern Seminary
*Dying to Preach:
Embracing the Cross in the Pulpit*
Kregel Publications (forthcoming
October 2009)



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David Allen

THE PREACHER'S STUDY

BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS



David Allen is professor of preaching, director of the Southwestern Center for Expository Preaching, dean of the School of Theology, and occupies the George W. Truett Chair of Ministry.

It is clear from the first visit to David Allen's office that he believes study is an important aspect of life and ministry. Shelves piled with books fill a small library attached to his office, and other shelves, just as full, line the walls of his office. Several of them, standing along the wall to the left of his desk, are devoted to another of his passions: preaching.

"One of my greatest passions is teaching students how to do exegesis in order to prepare a true expository sermon," says Allen, who serves as dean of the School of Theology and professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary. Allen drives his students toward the same ideal that the apostle Paul did his young colleague, Timothy: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

Allen enjoys teaching students how to dissect a passage of Scripture, discovering the primary and subordinate points that the author makes. He then teaches them how to communicate this meaning to a modern audience while remaining faithful to Scripture. According to Allen, it is important that a sermon be guided by the structure of Scripture because it is God's Word.

Allen came to Christ as a 9-year-old boy and began to sense God calling him to the ministry seven years later. "As I studied the Scriptures, I had an insatiable desire to know the Word of God," he recalls. "I discovered I loved studying the Bible." Allen's call to preach was further confirmed by the Holy Spirit in his prayer life, by the encouragement of others, and by the opening of opportunities to speak for youth groups and at youth revivals.

After high school, Allen earned his bachelor's degree from Criswell College and his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Seminary. He then pursued his Ph.D. in Humanities from the University of Texas at Arlington, while also serving as pastor at the Audelia Road Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. After completing his Ph.D., he supplemented his ministry po-

sition by serving as an adjunct professor of New Testament and homiletics at Criswell College.

Allen believes effective preachers must be pastor-scholars.

"I had the privilege of growing up under a pastor-scholar: Jerry Vines. I saw first-hand what it looked like in the pulpit when a pastor devoted himself to the study of Scripture and theology and sought to wed the two together in his preaching.

"Today more than ever, we need pastor-scholars in the pulpits of our land. I have used my own study of theology in the pulpit in many ways. It always provides me with an additional arsenal to bear on a text of Scripture and provides a framework in which to locate it for the people."

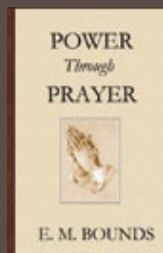
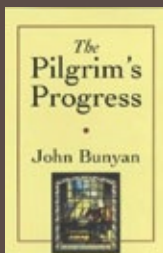
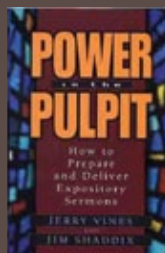
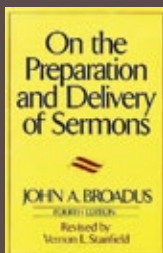
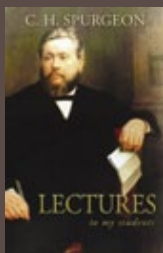
As dean of the School of Theology, Allen has been part of designing a curriculum that trains men to be effective pastor-scholars in theological disciplines such as systematic theology, church history, philosophy, ethics, biblical studies, Greek, Hebrew, and the disciplines of practical theology such as pastoral ministry and preaching.

"Pastors do not have to know everything about each of these disciplines, but they should be effectively equipped with basic knowledge in each one, and they should possess the tools necessary for a lifetime of learning and research in these areas as well.

"Our goal is to teach men to be 'pastor-scholars' by providing them the skills and the tools necessary to 'do' theology for a lifetime. In the fragmented world in which we live, a holistic understanding of the big picture of theology and preaching will help the pastor to speak to his people week by week and help them to learn to be theologians who think theologically as well as about every area of life. The result: the bringing of every thought into captivity to Jesus Christ."

Allen's call is certain: "I believe God has called me to be a part of the training of the next generation of expository preachers," he says. "There is such a need for genuine biblical preaching in the churches." **SM**

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY DR. ALLEN



Lectures to My Students - Charles H. Spurgeon

On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons - John Broadus

Power in the Pulpit - Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix

The Pilgrim's Progress - John Bunyan

Power Through Prayer - E.M. Bounds

Steven Smith

THE PREACHER'S SPIRIT

BY KEITH COLLIER



Steven Smith is assistant professor of preaching, associate dean for the Professional Doctoral Program, and occupies the James T. Draper, Jr., Chair of Pastoral Ministry.

"I don't remember much about it. I just remember begging God that I wouldn't blow it," Steven Smith says jokingly about his first sermon in a church.

Although he had preached a message in chapel at his junior high, this 18-year-old was now standing in front of a crowd of teenagers at a revival meeting in what would become a defining moment in his call to preach. He realized the seriousness of the task, and the weight forced him to a place of spiritual desperation.

Smith, a fifth-generation minister who felt called to preach at the age of 15, has come a long way in his preaching since that time, but he has never lost that spirit of humble desperation in proclaiming the Word.

In college, Smith preached in revivals, pulpit supply, and area-wide crusades with his father, Bailey Smith. He then spent eight years in the pastorate before coming to teach preaching at Southwestern in 2004.

Smith hopes to ingrain the same sense of genuine humility in his students. Realizing that some students trust too much in their abilities, Smith challenges them to understand the weight of Scripture so they will not treat it lightly.

"The greatest liability to our pulpit is the giftedness of its preachers," says Smith.

Rather than rely on style and presentation, he encourages students to be driven by the text and guided by the Holy Spirit. He believes the starting place for preaching is a humble spirit birthed out of a correct theology of preaching.

"This is not about you," Smith tells students. "The pulpit is never a place to showcase rhetorical device. If there's anything in you that is drawing attention to yourself, in so much that it is, it's drawing attention away from the text. If you draw attention away from the text, then you draw attention away from Christ."

Using 2 Corinthians 4:1-8, Smith teaches students that Paul's template for ministry was suffering on behalf of others.

"Paul saw preaching as the act of dying," says Smith.

Paraphrasing Paul's sentiments, Smith says the preacher must communicate to his people "I'm going to die to my

right for you to think I'm smart. I'm going to die to my right for you to think I'm a good communicator. And in this death, you're going to live spiritually.

"The more a preacher dies to himself in the pulpit, the more the people live," Smith says.

Smith has written a book on the subject entitled *Dying to Preach: Embracing the Cross in the Pulpit*, which will be released this fall. In it, he argues that the message of the Gospel is the chief metaphor for its proclamation.

"Christ died so that we might live," Smith says. "We go into the pulpit, and we die so that people might live. There can be no cross from the pulpit unless there's a cross in the pulpit."

Smith also warns students against false humility, which he says is really a form of pride. In an attempt to appear humble, some preachers hold back when the passage screams.

"If the text is screaming, and we're quiet because we want to be authentic, we're pretentious. We're no longer authentic."

Smith concludes that being an effective preacher starts with the right spirit. This foundation sets the preacher on a course to a long-term ministry characterized by a commitment to the Word of God and submission to the Holy Spirit.

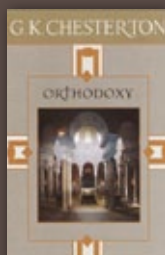
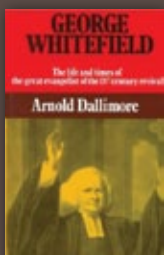
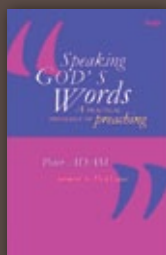
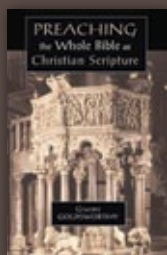
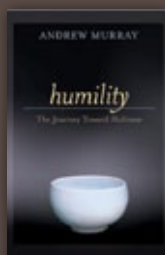
"The guy who is going to be impressive is the guy who is a great preacher in 2020, not necessarily in 2009," Smith says. Truly great preaching is distinguished by consistency and longevity throughout one's lifetime.

"In order for him to see that, he's going to have to start with humility and faithfulness to the text. Skills are important, obviously, but a student can learn the skills in terms of rhetoric and communication."

Because of a robust M.Div. program, Smith says current Southwestern students have a strong biblical theology and can handle the text very well. People outside of the seminary often ask him what kind of "preacher-boys" he has in his classes.

"If they could hear what I hear in the classroom," Smith says, "they would be very encouraged about the future of our convention." **SM**

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY DR. SMITH



Humility - Andrew Murray
Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture - Graeme Goldsworthy
Speaking God's Words - Peter Adam
George Whitefield - Arnold Dallimore
Orthodoxy - G.K. Chesterton

Calvin Pearson

THE PREACHER'S STYLE

BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS



Calvin Pearson is associate professor of preaching and occupies the E. Hermond Westmoreland Chair of Preaching.

According to Southwestern Seminary professor Calvin Pearson, preachers are much like actors.

“An actor communicates the meaning of a text to his audience,” said Pearson, who serves as the associate professor of preaching and sits in the E. Hermon Westmoreland Chair of Preaching at Southwestern. “He trains his body and his voice to accurately interpret a play.

“Well, what are we (preachers) doing? We are not presenting a play. We are presenting God’s Word, and we are using the same tools: our bodies, our voices.”

This comparison comes naturally for Pearson. At age 15, he surrendered to God’s call to the ministry. During high school, he enrolled in speech and debate classes in order to prepare for this call to preach. The high school drama teacher taught Pearson’s speech class and convinced him to perform in school plays. As a result, he developed a passion for acting and pursued a bachelor’s degree in theater at Houston Baptist University. During this period, he also performed with the AD Players in Houston, an acting company on a mission to present morally uplifting productions.

This interest in theater never overcame Pearson’s desire to preach. After college, he pursued theological degrees at Southwestern Seminary, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Gordon-Conwell Seminary, and he served in several pastorates for nearly 20 years. He noted, however, that his earlier training as an actor proved beneficial because it improved his skills necessary for communicating God’s Word.

According to Pearson, great preachers throughout history have recognized the benefit of such training. For example, the great revival preacher George Whitefield was well known as an actor, and Charles Spurgeon encouraged preachers to study acting to improve their craft.

Pearson also sees value in the art of rhetoric, that is, the art of persuasion, and he has studied it at the University of Texas at Arlington. Some Christians discourage the use of rhetoric in preaching because they see in the apostle Paul a preacher who presents “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2, NKJV) without refinement of speech. According to Pearson, however, Paul used

rhetoric all the time, and instead of opposing refined presentations of the Gospel, he warned people not to put their trust in presentation style but rather in the content of the Gospel.

“We must always remember it is God working through His Word that brings about change,” Pearson added. “We are his tools, and we must strive to be as sharp as possible.”

At Southwestern, Pearson teaches an advanced elective course in voice and speech improvement to seminary students. He also passes along the skills he has gained from the study of acting and rhetoric through introductory preaching courses.

“My goal in the introduction to preaching class,” he said, “is that each student would experience preaching,” and not merely learn rules and concepts of preaching.

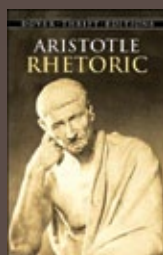
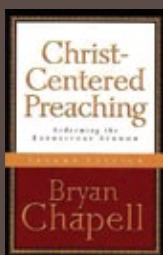
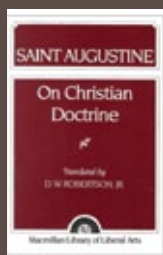
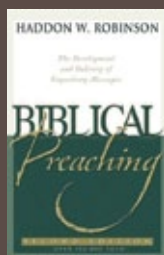
When Pearson attended the seminary in the 1970s, he was never required to preach during introductory preaching classes. When he began teaching at the seminary in 2002, he insisted that all of his students gain preaching experience during class. Today all preaching professors at Southwestern require this from their students.

“I love to see students understand that their job is to announce what God has already said,” Pearson added. The preacher’s duty is not to say what he thinks about God and the Bible but to declare what God has already said in Scripture.

In the fall 2008 Expository Preaching Workshop, Pearson noted that it is the truth of Scripture that separates the preacher from the post-modern rhetorician. The post-modern speaker has rhetoric, but never arrives at truth. As a result, they place their emphasis on rhetoric, and their arguments never end. The preacher, however, should never forget that he finds absolute truth in God’s Word. Rhetoric and style should only serve to declare this truth.

“Now, what I want to do this morning is to give you some ideas of argumentation theory so you can use all of those things ... to help people see what God’s Word is saying, all the while standing next to the cross of Christ,” Pearson told his audience. “I want to use everything I can think of to communicate God’s Word.” **SN**

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY DR. PEARSON



Biblical Preaching - Haddon Robinson

On Christian Doctrine - Saint Augustine

The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text - Sidney Greidanus

Christ-Centered Preaching - Bryan Chapell

Rhetoric - Aristotle

Mac Brunson

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLER



According to D. McCall “Mac” Brunson, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., the 30 or 40 minutes that a preacher spends in the pulpit each Sunday has an eternal impact.

“C.H. Spurgeon says that, in every message, heaven and hell hang in the balance for someone,” Brunson says. “Every time we walk into the study, open God’s Word, or climb into the pulpit, we must keep this fact in mind.”

At the age of 12, Brunson came to know Christ during a Gideon Camp retreat, after a camp counselor personalized John 3:16 to help him understand what Christ had done for him: “For God so loved Mac Brunson that He gave His only begotten Son.” Brunson submitted to God’s call on his life during the Thanksgiving weekend of his freshman year of college.

Brunson completed his associate’s degree at North Greenville College and his bachelor’s at Furman University. He then attended Southwestern Seminary, earning his Master of Divinity degree in 1985 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1991.

“Whenever my parents or I heard someone from Southwestern, I knew there was a difference,” Brunson says. “Jesse Northcutt had recovered expository preaching and was teaching it there at that time. I wanted to be able to preach like that.”

Southwestern’s Doctor of Ministry degree, Brunson says, “added a dimension to my life, my ministry, and my personal study

that is hard to describe. I would encourage every pastor to continue his education in the D.Min. program, if for no other reason than his own personal growth. The blessings will splash over to his congregation.”

In 1999, Brunson accepted a call to serve as pastor at the First Baptist Church of Dallas, which is renowned for the preaching of George W. Truett and W.A. Criswell. At the time, he thought he bore the responsibility of protecting “what that pulpit stood for: the Word of God and strong exposition.” Seven years later, the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville called Brunson to succeed Jerry Vines as their pastor.

Brunson was a featured speaker during Southwestern’s Expository Preaching Workshop in 2006. Seminary president Paige Patterson has called him a model of “pulpit prowess,” noting his “scintillating proclamation of the text of Holy Scripture.”

“Preaching is the paramount responsibility of the pastor,” Brunson says. “No matter what else he does during the course of a week, he must preach. ... The best of your time, energy, and creativity should be given to the pulpit ministry.”

From the pulpit, “you can do more ... to minister to the widest range of needs, while calling the lost to Jesus, than you can possibly do in a week’s worth of administration, visitation, or counseling,” he adds.

Indeed, Brunson says, a moment behind the pulpit can make “the difference between heaven and hell for all of eternity.” **SM**

Jim Shaddix

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLER

One of Jim Shaddix's greatest sources of joy growing up in West Texas was quarterbacking a football team, but all of that changed the first time he preached.

"The first time I ever stepped into a pulpit to preach," Shaddix says, "God gave me a joy and a fulfillment and a passion that I had never experienced before. And he used that to confirm this calling on my life."

Shaddix, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, Colo., felt the call to preach during his third year of college. Raised by Christian parents who taught him about the inerrancy of Scripture, Shaddix determined early on in his ministry to preach as close to the Bible as he possibly could. This commitment found fertile soil at Southwestern.

"The roots of my commitment to exposition actually started my first semester at Southwestern Seminary as a master's student," says Shaddix. He learned how to use multiple sources and study of the original languages to understand what a text was saying and "reduce the subjectivity and human element of me as an interpreter." His preaching classes, combined with the passion of professors like Roy Fish, fueled his desire to preach the Gospel faithfully.

During his time at Southwestern, Shaddix planted Arlington Park Baptist Church, which flourished under his unwavering commitment to evangelism and expository preaching. After completing his M.Div., Shaddix later returned to Southwestern to get his Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.).

"That's probably the most practical en-

deavor I've been a part of," says Shaddix. "The D.Min. program was a rich time, and God used that in a profound way in my life."

Along with developing stronger exegetical skills, Shaddix feels the peer-learning environment of the D.Min. program was invaluable to his future ministry.

Upon completing his D.Min., Shaddix pursued a Ph.D. at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he served as a preaching professor. Tasked with re-creating the seminary's D.Min. program, he drew from his positive experience at Southwestern to aid him in this assignment.

"God used a very good experience in the D.Min. program at Southwestern to give me a heart and a passion for that degree and for theological education in general," says Shaddix.

During that time he also co-authored the book *Power in the Pulpit* with Jerry Vines and authored *The Passion-Driven Sermon*.

In 2005, Shaddix accepted the invitation to serve as pastor of Riverside Baptist, a vibrant church in the heart of the Rockies. He believes his two primary responsibilities as a pastor-shepherd are to feed and to protect his sheep.

"You do both of those things spiritually through the preaching and teaching of God's Word," says Shaddix.

Shaddix continues to invest in teachers and preachers of the Word. Along with training the Bible teachers at Riverside, he mentors local bi-vocational and ethnic pastors and teaches adjunctively at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary's extension center in Denver. **SM**



Steve Gaines

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM COVINGTON



On the morning of May 17, 2009, Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., opened his Bible to Ephesians 3:14-21.

“The apostle Paul was a prayer warrior,” Gaines said. “He was many things. He was a scholar. ... He was a great preacher. ... He was also a wonderful missionary and an evangelist. ... But I believe the greatest part of his life, and really the secret of Paul’s life, was this: He walked with God in prayer.”

Gaines paused, and a hush filled the room. Of course, this could only be expected since he was alone. Looking up, he did not see a spacious auditorium, but only walls, shelves, and, to his right, a glowing exit sign suspended above a print of da Vinci’s *The Last Supper*.

Ever since 2005, when Gaines succeeded Adrian Rogers as Bellevue’s pastor, he has often entered a small room to preach. He testifies that this Sunday-morning practice helps him “solidify” the message in his heart and mind. “It is simply to make you a better communicator,” he says, “so that, when you get up there, you are looking at the people to whom you are talking.”

Gaines was born in Corinth, Miss., and he came to Christ as a 7-year-old at the First Baptist Church of Dyersburg, Tenn. He surrendered to the ministry as a college student.

In 1980, Gaines married his wife, Donna, and they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where

he began his Master of Divinity degree. During his final year, he was selected to preach for Southwestern’s Senior Preaching Week. After graduating with his master’s in 1984, he entered Southwestern’s Ph.D. program and graduated with a major in preaching in 1991.

“My professors loved the Lord, the Bible, God’s people, and lost people,” Gaines says. “They instilled a passion in me to thoroughly study God’s Word before ever stepping into a pulpit to proclaim His truth.”

According to Gaines, a preacher’s success depends greatly on his private practice, not only in sermon preparation, but also in prayer.

“Make prayer the priority of your life and preaching the priority of your ministry,” he says. In the third chapter of Mark’s Gospel, he explains, Jesus called his disciples to be with Him. Only then did he send them out to preach and cast out demons.

“You better not try to preach until you’ve been with Jesus,” Gaines says. With a smile, he adds, “You *sure* better not try to cast out a demon until you’ve been with Jesus. ...

“Prayer is like breathing. You have to learn to breathe. You have to learn to talk *with* God before you talk *for* God.

As it was for the apostle Paul, the secret to any preacher’s life is prayer. If he is faithful in prayer, Gaines says, his other tasks “will fall in line.” **SN**

Hayes Wicker

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLER

Florida. The Sunshine State. A land flowing with oranges and everglades.

Jutting from the Southeast coast of the nation, this peninsula conjures up images of Disney World and family fun, and more than 80 million tourists a year seek peace and pleasure along its 825 miles of beaches. When Hayes Wicker moved to the state in 1992 to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Naples, people advised him to adapt his preaching style to this new environment.

“Some told me that I would have to ‘water down’ the message or ‘speak to felt needs’ to get a hearing among the pagans in this pleasure-driven place,” Wicker says. “Just the opposite has happened.”

A native of Phoenix, Ariz., Wicker accepted the grace of God during a youth revival at Ingleside Baptist Church in 1965. At that point, he also realized that God was calling him to the ministry.

In 1975, Wicker received his Master of Divinity from the seminary, and he completed his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1979. When he entered the Doctor of Ministry program, it was a relatively new program, and he was one of the youngest men in his seminars.

This doctoral program, Wicker says, “forced me to discipline myself and improve the quality of my ministry as a very young pastor, providing skills and insight which have served me well over the years in ministry. ... I developed life-long, mentoring

relationships with professors, some of the greatest Christians on the planet. My prayer project provided a model and a foundation for all churches that I have pastored.”

Wicker has served as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas, and in other churches in Ariz., Okla., and Texas.

Wicker recalls that, when he took his first pastorate at the age of 20, he “struggled with unworthiness and the fear of taking what was called a ‘problem church.’” He was encouraged, however, when he read Acts 20:27-28.

“I was to ‘shepherd the church of God’ and ‘not to shrink from declaring the whole purpose of God,’” he says. “I have sought to preach through books of the Bible over the years, word for word, and not delete the difficult passages.”

So when Wicker moved to Naples, he was determined to preach the Word faithfully and completely. Since he began this ministry, the church’s membership has more than quadrupled, increasing from 1,613 to 7,675.

“I believe in building a church through preaching the inerrant Word weekly,” Wicker says, “... ruthlessly relying on the power of the text.” He also says that every pastor “must re-ignite his passion weekly and re-commit himself to the study of God’s Word.

“The tools (of one’s study) are not clunkily carried into the pulpit but help reveal the richness of the truth. ... I am called to build and bless, not bore the people.” **SN**



John Meador

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR & ADAM COVINGTON



Having lost a major part of his hearing due to a childhood illness, John Meador felt his impairment excluded him from a preaching ministry, but Meador says God used it “to create a unique dependence upon Him and His grace to help me daily.”

Although his hearing loss is considered “profound” and he uses lip-reading to understand conversations, Meador says, “There is nothing quite like the sense of humility that comes from knowing God’s grace is alone responsible for any effectiveness in my ministry.”

Meador, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, earned a Master of Divinity at Southwestern, where he was greatly impacted by an advanced preaching class that presented the model of expository preaching. His preaching classes, along with Greek studies, served as a formative chapter in his life that shaped much of the ministry he has today.

“If I do not have a text, I have very little of importance to say—and absolutely nothing to say that will transform a life, as only God’s Word can do,” says Meador.

Meador attributes much of the biblical illiteracy and spiritual immaturity in churches today to a lack of focus on the Word. He believes the cure is found in reading and preaching the texts of the Bible. To this end, he spends more than half of his time during the week thinking, praying, studying, and preparing for preaching.

Illustrating the text and presenting a mental picture of the truth found within Scripture has become another passion for

Meador. Whether he is wearing authentic military armor to talk about the armor of God, having a graphic illustrator create characters to represent sins in the book of James, or carving a cross with an axe to demonstrate the reality of the crucifixion, Meador says he enjoys seeing his congregation experience “a new intensity when the text is emphasized and the illustration makes it clear to the mind’s eye.”

Meador develops his illustrations along with a creative team of about seven church members. He presents his preaching schedule for the upcoming months and the team brainstorms ideas about how to best illustrate a text or series.

While creative illustrations are helpful, Meador says life transformation is the highest goal in preaching.

Recently, as he was preaching through 1 Thessalonians 4 concerning sexual immorality, a young couple was struck by the truth in the text. They were not married but were living together. They immediately repented and separated so they could seek God. Eventually, they married.

“It was a great story that began when a text was taught and they heard the voice of the Spirit speaking to them,” Meador says.

Meador and his church have been greatly involved in the preaching ministry of Southwestern. In addition to preaching in chapel and at the Expository Preaching Workshop, he led the church to donate a gift of \$500 the past two years to the students selected to preach on Student Preaching Day. **SN**

Ed Litton

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLER

Many preachers have been inspired by Paul's command in 2 Timothy 4 to "preach the Word." According to Ed Litton, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile in Saraland, Ala., many also forget that Paul's command did not end here. In fact, Paul urges Timothy to "be ready in season and out of season," to "be watchful in all things," and to "endure afflictions" (NKJV). The passage testifies that a preacher's call is not fulfilled in the pulpit alone.

This reality came home to Litton in August 2007, when he and his congregation grieved over the death of Tammy Litton, his wife of 25 years. Both seminary president Paige Patterson and Litton's former pastor, Jimmy Draper, took note of Litton's pastoral heart at his wife's funeral. After the funeral, Litton entered a car to leave the cemetery but noticed many members from his congregation standing by the graveside. He got back out of the car, walked to this gathering, and comforted his flock.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Litton was chosen to serve as president for the 2009 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Louisville, Ky. Last year, Draper told Baptist Press that Litton was suited for this position because "being a pastor is not something he does; it's something he is."

The theme for the 2009 pastor's conference relates to another of Litton's ministry passions: evangelism. Southern Baptists have recovered their status as "people of the Book,"

he said. "Now we need to return to being obedient to that Book, because Jesus came to 'seek and to save that which was lost.'"

At the First Baptist Church of North Mobile, Litton developed a unique tool for reaching out to unbelievers who have no interest in church but who love hunting. He created "One80 Outdoors," a hunting television show that reaches nearly 25 million homes and that has resulted in 1,000 professions of faith.

"The genesis of (the show) goes back to my days at Southwestern," Litton said. As a Master of Divinity student in the early 1980s, he read the book, *What Has Gone Wrong with the Harvest?*, which he described as "a great evaluation of American Christian television."

Litton also learned much when he served under Jimmy Draper, who was pastor at the First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, while he was in seminary. "We had some great exposure to some great preaching," he said. "But I have always believed in the power of a pulpit to lead a church."

"I don't think you can overestimate the impact of preaching," he added. "The thing I love about preaching is that the power is in the Word." This truth has brought him greater confidence as a preacher.

"It is not confidence in my experience," he said. "It is confidence in the Word of God." And this confidence is not unfounded. **SN**





Growth
ROOTED IN
Scripture

TEXT-DRIVEN CHURCH PLANTING

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR



What part does text-driven preaching play in the mission of Northeast Houston Baptist Church (NEHBC)? // “It’s everything,” says Nathan Lino, pastor of the church and a Southwestern D.Min. student in expository preaching. // Lino’s church represents one among a growing number of churches that are demonstrating the power of expository preaching in reaching the unchurched across the country. // “We live in a culture where every authority is merely viewed by people as just another opinion being spoken into their lives,” says Lino. “When it’s just opinions being spoken, opinions change.” // Text-driven preaching, on the other hand, offers the unchurched more than just opinions, Lino says.

“I think they start to realize that when someone’s standing up and explaining what God’s Word says, His Word never changes. He’s an unchanging God, and therefore His Word is unchanging. What God loves in Genesis is what He loves in Mark. What God hates in Exodus is still what he hates in Acts.

“There’s a consistency, and as they come and they hear and they see the consistency through different cultures and centuries ... I think they begin to sense that He’s a consistent God and He’s trustworthy. And they start putting their trust in Him. He becomes the only Being that they know in their entire life who is not just an opinion.”

Lino has witnessed the effectiveness of text-driven preaching his entire life. Originally from South Africa, Lino’s family moved to the United States when he was 11. His father, a pastor, modeled expository preaching.

When Lino attended Texas A&M University, he became a member of Central Baptist Church in College Station, where Chris Osborne, a graduate of Southwestern and current Ph.D. student, still serves as pastor.

“My dad is a text-driven preacher,” says Lino, “but Central was where I really saw the whole concept of preaching through books of the Bible. That’s when I really saw it modeled.”

Lino carried this concept into his first pastorate. During his senior year of college, he served as pastor of Union Baptist Church in Normangee, Texas. It was there that he experienced the power of text-driven preaching firsthand, as the church quickly grew from 20 to more than 120 in attendance.

“Really all we did was expository preaching,” says Lino. “It’s all we offered, and so I learned how effective it was there.”

Lino also learned the importance of the relationship between theology and pastoral ministry.

“I really believe that life change takes place at the intersection of pastoral ministry and expository preaching. I feel like pastoral ministry creates the relationship with the people that allows the hard truths of Scripture to be accepted and processed and digested into their lives.

“It’s one of the greatest lessons I learned there. When I loved on the people and had relationships with them and they knew that I truly cared about them, then when we would deal with hard things in Scripture, they knew that I loved them and wanted what was best for them. They were willing to listen.”

After college, Lino attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where Paige



Patterson served as president. He was inspired by the preachers in chapel who illustrated what text-driven preaching looks like.

Lino returned to Houston in 2002 to plant NEHBC. From day one, text-driven preaching has been foundational to their ministry, and today 70 percent of the church members are formerly unchurched. Lino also decided to strengthen his preaching ministry through enrolling in the D.Min. program at Southwestern Seminary with a concentration in expository preaching.

For a church that has more than 1,000 in regular attendance on Sundays, NEHBC has gone against all the trends, using door-to-door evangelism, expositional preaching, and prayer—what Lino refers to as “three core values.”

“That’s what we’re about, and that’s what we do. What Scripture says dictates how we do all three. Bible teaching, though it’s one of our three core values, is the one that is preeminent out of our core value system.

“I’m a big proponent of preaching through books of the Bible, but I don’t think you have to. I do think when you open Scripture, you’ve got to be walking through a passage, and not backing into the text from some kind of topic or idea.”

Maintaining the balance between expositional preaching and a strong pastoral ministry has guided Lino’s church through difficult times. When a minister in the church was dismissed because of moral failure a year ago, Lino recognized God’s sovereignty in connecting his preaching and pastoral care during the aftermath.

He was preaching through 1 Peter, and each week, the passage he was to preach lined up perfectly with the needs of the congregation, and he was able to deal with the tough issues of the church through his preaching. He realizes, though, that it would have been ineffective if the people did not trust that he genuinely cared for them.

Lino is fleshing out this balance through his D.Min. studies at Southwestern. His thesis addresses the issue of the problem of evil and suffering in the world as it relates to the sovereignty of God. He is focusing primarily on natural disasters and how to guide people spiritually through these immensely difficult times. Because Houston has been devastated by hurricanes, Lino sees this project aligning perfectly with his context of ministry.

Lino also believes that text-driven preaching produces a passion for missions in the congregation. Because



Christ is central to everything that happens in Scripture, expositional preaching points people to Christ, whose greatest passion is to glorify the Father through reaching the world for Him.

“As you preach expositionally, every week you are putting into the people the understanding that we have a mandate and a duty and an obligation to reach the world for Christ,” Lino says.

“Expository preaching lays the foundation and inspires them to believe it and to go and do it.”

This statement is proven by NEHBC’s commitment to missions, both in North America and internationally. Lino, who also serves as a trustee for the International Mission Board (IMB), has led his church to work with IMB teams in street evangelism and helping lay the groundwork for new churches in Mexico, Brazil, and Estonia. This year, they have 11 mission trips planned to locations around the world.



Being a church-planting church ranks high among Lino’s priorities. Over the past couple of years, NEHBC has helped plant churches in New Hampshire, Las Vegas, and Texas.

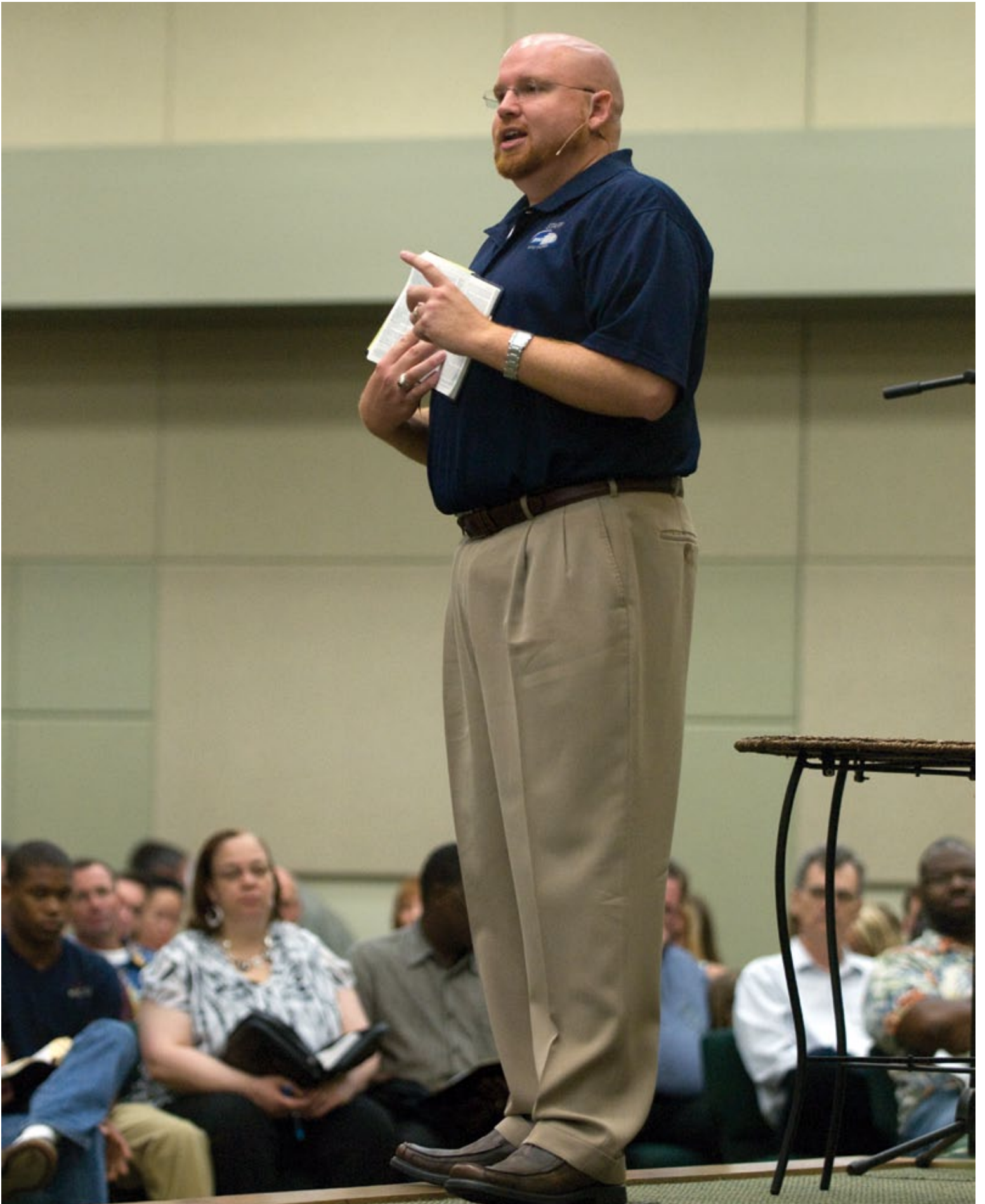
“Christ’s strategy for reaching the world is churches planting churches,” says Lino. “We’re passionate about it, whether it’s starting a church from scratch or a church revitalization project.”

“Anytime we find people who believe what we do about the primacy of preaching in the life of a local church, we want to partner with them and plant as many churches as possible that are driven by good, text-driven preaching.”

Lino advises church planters to focus on three things to help ensure long-term success.

“I think the big three things are: You’ve got to have the foundation to be able to prepare a good sermon and understand Scripture and teach it; you’ve got to be a soul winner; and you’ve got to be able to deal with people and have a strong pastoral ministry.”

Nathan Lino models text-driven ministry in every aspect of his church. Through preaching, pastoral ministry, and missions, he has not only planted a vibrant church that is effective in reaching the unchurched, but he is also leading NEHBC to reproduce itself through church planting efforts around the world. **SM**



ADAM HUGHES:

Text-Driven MENTORSHIP

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR

ADAM HUGHES, a Southwestern Ph.D. student in preaching, owes a great deal to J.R. DeBusk for his early discipleship and call to ministry.

Although Hughes became a Christian at the age of 12, he was not truly discipled until the age of 16, when he began attending the church where DeBusk was pastor.

Less than a year later, Hughes told his pastor that God was leading him to do something, but he was unsure what it was. DeBusk began praying with Hughes, leading him through Scriptures related to ministry. Through this, Hughes recognized God's call on his life to preach.

"He became my father in the ministry," says Hughes, adding that DeBusk, a two-time graduate of Southwestern, "began to meet with me and mentor me on Sunday afternoons before church and gave me an opportunity to preach in the pulpit.

Hughes served as a full-time pastor for three years before coming to Southwestern. Providentially, by that time, Hughes had ended up marrying DeBusk's youngest daughter, making DeBusk both his father-in-law and his father in the ministry.

Once at Southwestern, God further developed Hughes' approach to preaching. Building on what he saw in DeBusk, Hughes began to embrace Dr. Steven Smith's short definition of expository preaching: "Everything about the text determines everything about your sermon."

In addition to introductory and advanced preaching classes, Hughes continued to hone his preaching skills through elective courses. Upon completion of his Master of Divinity,

he felt the Lord leading him to pursue doctoral studies, which his father-in-law attributes to his steady growth as a preacher.

"Since Adam has been in Ph.D. studies, I have seen him progress rapidly as a maturing man of God," says DeBusk. "The peer relationships with his professors have given him a confidence to stretch in ministry and in preaching."


On March 1, 2009, Hughes became pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, a new church plant that was seeking a pastor who was committed to expository preaching.

Hughes has already seen the power of text-driven preaching in his congregation. A man who recently started attending the church told Hughes he loved coming to the church because of Hughes' passion and exuberance in the pulpit.

Hughes sees his passion and exuberance as an outgrowth of the philosophy of preaching he is developing at Southwestern.

"When you're preaching the Word, you know every week eternity hangs in the balance, and you're simply communicating what the God of the universe has already said. If you believe that, there's no way you can approach the pulpit without some authenticity and zeal."

A little more than a decade after those Sunday afternoon discipleship sessions, DeBusk realizes their relationship has come full circle.

"I began mentoring him as he took his first baby steps of ministry," says DeBusk. "As a Ph.D. student, he has become my sound-board, especially in the area of expository preaching." 

PAT FINDLEY:

Text-Driven STUDENT MINISTRY

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR

From Xbox and Wii to the latest movies, music, and ministry methods, youth ministers often feel obligated to follow the trends of their students. For Southwestern Seminary student **PAT FINDLEY**, however, no trend is more important than the clear exposition of the Word of God.

“Shame on me if I think there is something more trendy than communicating God’s Word in the way that He has revealed it,” says Findley, who serves as student minister at Tate Springs Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas. Although the verse-by-verse exposition of Scripture is more often associated with the pulpit than the youth room, Findley has preached through the Sermon on the Mount, Romans, and other passages of Scripture with his students.

“Since coming to Southwestern, I have been challenged with this idea that sermons don’t have to stand alone,” Findley says. By preaching through portions of the Bible, he is able to help his students understand the progression of God’s revelation in Scripture, as well as teaching them how to determine Scripture’s implications for theology and life.

A native of Springfield, Mo., Findley entered the Advanced Master of Divinity program at Southwestern after graduating from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., with his Bachelor of Arts in Ministry. Currently, Findley and his wife, Becca, are expecting the birth of their first baby—a little girl—in June. With plans to graduate this December, he is considering the Ph.D. program at Southwestern, with an emphasis in preaching. Whatever God might

have for his future after that, Findley says he is certain that God has called him to preach.

Findley has enrolled in Southwestern’s advanced courses on the theology of preaching and the practice of evangelistic and expository preaching. In 2006, he also preached in Centralia, Ill., during Southwestern’s Spring Evangelism Practicum. During the practicum, Southwestern sends students all over the nation to rural churches that cannot afford to hold revival meetings. After returning, he received the Todd Brooks Riza Memorial Award, which is given to practicum participants each year who demonstrate a unique compassion for the lost and a passion for God’s Word.

Because of his passion for preaching, Findley uses every opportunity to improve his craft. As often as possible, he attends preaching workshops at Southwestern. He also listens to the sermons of men like Paige Patterson, Jerry Vines, and Johnny Hunt, and he reads at least one sermon a week from preachers such as Charles Spurgeon and G. Campbell Morgan. Furthermore, he critiques one of his own sermons each month. Despite this training, Findley continues to be amazed that God works through mere men who preach the message of the cross in the power of Holy Spirit.

“There is a sense in which you are excited to preach,” he explained, “and a sense in which you say, ‘No one is qualified to do this.’” **SM**

JUSTIN WOODS:

Text-Driven CHAPLAINCY

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR

JUSTIN WOODS is a missionary on one of the most secure places in the country—a military base. Woods, an M.Div. and recent Th.M. graduate at Southwestern, serves as a reservist chaplain on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where he gives one weekend each month and two weeks each summer to preaching the Word and sharing the Gospel.

Woods' primary responsibilities include visiting officers and airmen, checking up on families of deployed airmen, and preaching the Sunday morning chapel service. He is also in the process of creating multiple services at different times around the base to accommodate those who work during the scheduled chapel time.

After serving as a chaplain in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets in college, Woods knew military chaplaincy was part of his call to ministry. Realizing he needed theological training to prepare for chaplaincy, Woods enrolled in Southwestern Seminary, which he credits with teaching him about expositional preaching.

"When I came here," Woods says, "I was taught about the necessity of the superiority of the text and how that should infiltrate everything I do."

Key to his development as a preacher at Southwestern was the process of exegeting the text and effectively communicating the meaning, which he does regularly in the base's chapel services.

"I believe that whenever I open the Bible to teach, that I am not teaching my own ideas. I am teaching the inspired texts of God. I hide myself behind that in order to share the life-changing power of Christ."

One of three chaplains serving 3,300 personnel on the base, Woods spends much of his ministry visiting with airmen while they work on C5 airplanes.

"It's a ministry of the Word," says Woods. "It's just applied in different situations. I'm applying it as I walk around and visit people in their daily jobs. The way I go visit is wrought out of my convictions from the Scriptures."


Woods also carries this ministry of the Word over into his counseling sessions, where he shares Scripture with individuals who find themselves in a variety of military and civilian life circumstances. He has the opportunity to address psychological trauma from combat situations, marital problems, theological questions, and general emotional concerns.

"I'm constantly dealing with people who have no biblical frame of reference," says Woods.

With every person, he explains what Scripture says and applies its meaning to their situation.

"I believe that the answer to people's problems is a relationship with Jesus Christ," says Woods.

Having graduated with his Th.M. from Southwestern in May, Woods is looking for opportunities to serve in a local church in addition to his reserve chaplaincy.

Southwestern has a rich legacy of training military chaplains to take the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ to life-threatening battlefields around the world. To learn more about this heritage, visit www.swbts.edu/chaplaincy. 



QUINCY JONES:

Text-Driven REVIVAL

STORY BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BLAIR

QUINCY JONES, a student in the College at Southwestern, would agree that he has come a long way since his drug-riddled adolescence in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

A native of Silver Spring, Md., Jones grew up attending church under the care of a mother deeply committed to the Gospel and to the church. He made an apparent profession of faith at age 9, but neither his good upbringing nor this profession kept him from hypocrisy, drugs, and trouble with the law.

At the age of 21, Jones attended a church service. It had been years since he set foot inside the church, but this time, his life would change. He listened as the preacher read from 2 Corinthians 5:17, where Paul wrote, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (NKJV). Jones repented of his sins and accepted the mercy of God.

After his conversion, Jones and two of his friends formed the hip-hop group, Christcentric. They produced songs—for example, “Mighty Fortress” and “Sufficiency of Scripture”—that were filled with theological content and allusions to both church history and Scripture.

Today Jones lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife, Rhonda, and their five children. He is completing his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities with a concentration in the history of ideas, and he hopes to pursue graduate and possibly doctoral studies at Southwestern.


This spring, Jones proclaimed God’s Word in churches outside the Bible Belt during Southwestern’s Spring Evangelism Practicum. With a heart for preaching, he volunteered for two rounds of the practicum.

At Faith Fellowship Baptist Church in Lansing, Mich., Jones preached during several revival services and shared the Gospel in the community and on the campus of Michigan State University.

At Come As You Are Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., Jones preached during a youth revival and performed some Christ-centered hip-hop during a church-wide talent show.

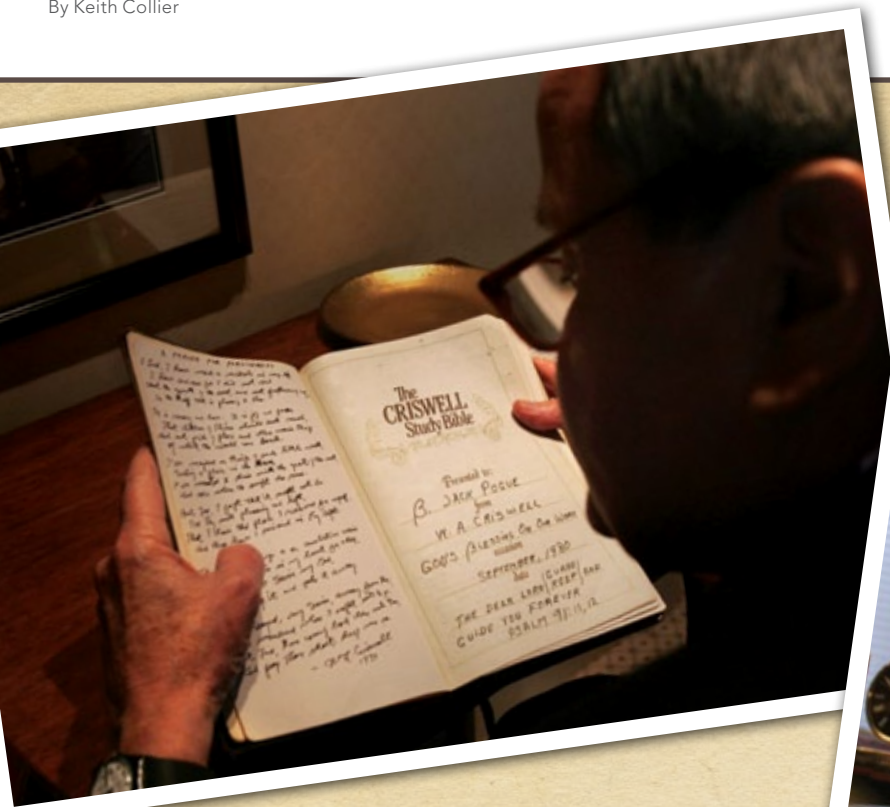
After performing at the talent show, Jones spoke of the return of Christ as it is explained in 2 Peter 3, the passage upon which his hip-hop rhyme was based. As a result, Jones says, four or five people raised their hands to confess their need for a Savior, and one of them talked with Jones afterward, giving his life to Christ.

“Regardless of the size of the church, those who gather to worship Christ are the people of God,” Jones said while reflecting on the practicum. “The biggest thing that God’s people need is His Word preached to them faithfully.” He was also reminded to depend on the Spirit’s empowering, “just trusting the Lord to take my offering of my study and my preparation, and to give me clarity of thought in the midst of preaching.”

To view a video interview of Jones, visit www.swbts.edu/QJonesvideo. 

MINISTRY PARTNER PROFILE

By Keith Collier



Investing in *Eternity*

Extending the
Preaching Legacy of
W.A. CRISWELL

From their first handshake, Jack Pogue knew that he and W.A. Criswell, the late pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, would become good friends. Not only did they become close friends, but Criswell's ministry also profoundly impacted Pogue's relationship with God and understanding of the Scriptures—an impact for which Pogue is eternally grateful.

For this reason, Pogue, a commercial real estate broker in Dallas, does everything he can to continue the legacy of the late Dr. Criswell, who died in 2002. Pogue currently serves on the board of trustees for the Criswell College as well as the board of directors for the W.A. Criswell Foundation, a non-profit charitable corporation established to provide for the long-term financial needs of the Criswell College. Through the foundation, he has created the Web site www.WACriswell.org, which provides free audio and video sermons from Dr. Criswell's 70 years of ministry. They are continuing to add messages to the site, hoping to reach 4,300 sermons online within the next year.

Pogue also wants to continue Dr. Criswell's legacy of expository preaching in the seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention. One way he is doing this is through establishing the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I think it's a way to expand Dr. Criswell's ministry," says Pogue.

"My hope and goal is that they will train preachers to preach expository sermons like Dr. Criswell did. I want to be a part of training young men to preach that way. I think it's the best way to understand the Scriptures and to win people to Christ."

Once an endowed chair becomes fully funded and inaugurated, it supplies the salary of one of the professors who teach expository preaching at the institution.

Pogue remembers the first time he ever heard Dr. Criswell preach. It was a Sunday night in November 1970. He had been searching for a church whose preacher practiced strong biblical preaching, and a friend invited him to hear Dr. Criswell preach at First Baptist in Dallas.

In Dr. Criswell's introductory remarks that night, he shared with the congregation that he had made a commitment early in his

ministry to remain true to preaching only the Bible. He then raised his Bible and exclaimed, "I will always preach from this book."

Pogue sat under Dr. Criswell's ministry for more than 30 years and watched him remain faithful to that commitment to the end.

"When he walked up to that pulpit, he was prepared, more so than anyone I've ever known," says Pogue. Dr. Criswell was known for studying the Bible four hours each day.

"He was an expository preacher," Pogue says, "and he preached with deep, deep passion. Dr. Criswell cried many times as he was preaching."

Pogue would like to see the next generation of preachers at Southwestern model this same zeal and commitment for studying God's Word.

"It wasn't a job to Dr. Criswell to get up and preach; it was his life," says Pogue.

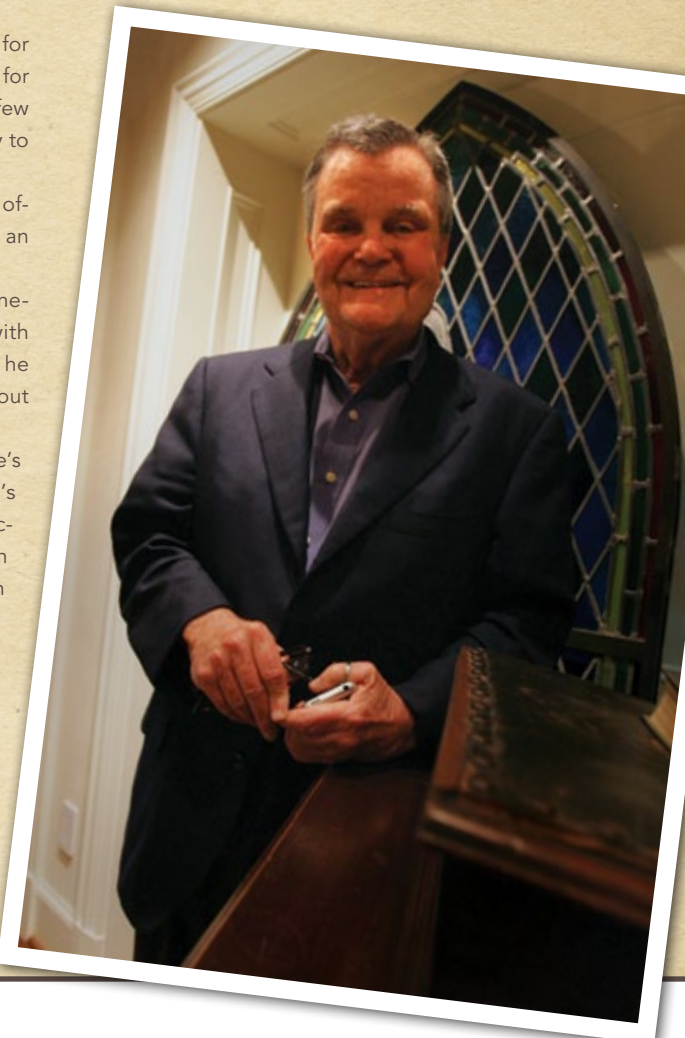
Even in his 90s, Dr. Criswell's passion for preaching remained strong. Pogue cared for Dr. Criswell in his home during the final few years of his life and had the opportunity to experience this firsthand.

Pogue recalls that Dr. Criswell would often preach aloud in his sleep, including an invitation for sinners to come to Christ.

"What a great thing it is to see someone so committed and so saturated with the Gospel that even during his sleep, he would preach and would be worrying about lost people."

Southwestern Seminary shares Pogue's commitment to honoring Dr. Criswell's legacy of expository preaching and recognizes his immeasurable contribution to the Kingdom of God. Southwestern is grateful for ministry partners like Jack Pogue who invest in eternity through generous gifts to the seminary.

"My hope and goal is that they will train preachers to preach expository sermons like Dr. Criswell did. I want to be a part of training young men to preach that way. I think it's the best way to understand the Scriptures and to win people to Christ."





David Moon accepts the B.H. Carroll Award during the Founder's Day celebration.

B.H. Carroll Award Recipient Honored at Founder's Day Luncheon

Southwestern Seminary annually bestows its highest honor, the B.H. Carroll Award, around Founder's Day, March 14. This award is given to individuals or couples who have made significant contributions to continue the vision of the seminary's founder, B.H. Carroll. The 2009 recipient, David Moon, was honored at a special luncheon on Thursday, March 12.

Moon is the founder of the Sam Moon Group, a Korean company that owns 10 branch enterprises including Sam Moon Trading, Inc., a Texas-based retail store that has become one of the state's premiere shopping destinations. As part of this group, Moon also implemented the Sam Moon Scholarship Foundation. This scholarship provides funding to help Koreans and Korean-Americans pursuing higher education to become the next generation of servant leaders in both the mainstream and Korean communities.

Seminary president Paige Patterson went to Korea for the first time at age 16, and he

said, "I've had the world on my heart since then." Partially due to Moon's generosity, Patterson has had the privilege to help bring Korea to Southwestern.

Moon sets aside 50 percent of the \$1 million endowed specifically for Baptist ministerial students. Over the last nine years, the Korean and Korean-American student population at Southwestern Seminary has nearly tripled. More than 120 Southwestern students have benefited from this generous foundation, including Dongsun Cho, who is now an assistant professor of historical theology.

Moon said receiving the B.H. Carroll Award filled him "with joy and appreciation" but acknowledged that he was not the "sole recipient. I give the honor back to God."

Moon currently serves as a deacon and sings in the choir at the New Song Church of Dallas. He and his wife, In Sun Kim, immigrated to the United States in 1971. They have three grown children: Samuel, Susie, and Daniel.

Women's Ministry: Multiple Generations, One Vision

In 1990, a small group of women were invited to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the first Women's Leadership Consultation (WLC). This event quickly developed into an established conference, rotating annually among the Southern Baptist seminaries.

The 2009 WLC reconvened on the campus of Southwestern Seminary Feb. 5-7, where the conference began 19 years earlier. The theme for 2009 was "Count It All Joy: Living, Serving, Leading in Difficult Times" from James 1:2-4.

"We began to see women who were faithful followers wanting to know how to deal with the trials that come our way in the manner that God wants," said Terri Stovall, dean of women's programs at Southwestern.

Featured speakers included Iris Blue, Jenny Broughton, and Florence Littauer. Though these women come from diverse backgrounds, each of their testimonies revolves around finding delight in God in the midst of adversity.

Southwestern offered several continuing education workshops and courses as optional supplements to the conference. Women could take Ministry in the Home, Introduction to Women's Ministry, or Biblical Counseling for Women for academic credit or attend a pre-conference workshop by Littauer on public speaking.

Southwestern's first lady Dorothy Patterson said each woman was "stretched, encouraged and equipped for future service to Christ."



Ladies read Scripture during a WLC session.

The College at Southwestern Celebrates First BA in Music Graduate

Music and the church have always been a part of Katie Schild's life. Growing up in a Christian home where her mother played the piano, Schild began learning music as a child around the same time she became a Christian.

As she got older, Schild discovered a love for playing classical guitar. After spending a short time in TCU's music undergraduate program, she transferred to the College at Southwestern. When the Bachelor of Arts in Music (BAM) program was launched at Southwestern, she had enough credits to be considered a junior in the program with a concentration in music performance. On May 8, she became the first graduate in the program.

Schild cherishes the community of musicians and believers she has been a part of at Southwestern. She also appreciates the music professors' emphasis on using one's talents for God's glory.

"They do a good job of balancing excellence with a proper perspective," Schild said. "In the music world, there's a huge opportunity for pride to get in the way, but they do a good job of refocusing that attention."

The BAM contains the core curriculum in the College at Southwestern and replaces languages, physical education, and fine arts classes with a 44-hour concentration in either worship, performance, or composition.

Despite Storms, 2009 Gala Brings Peace and Diversity

Southwestern Seminary performed its sixth annual Gala Concert of Sacred Music at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, Feb. 10.

Following the event, Stephen Johnson, dean of the School of Church Music, noted the peace within the hall differed greatly from the storms that raged across North Texas during the performance. Reflecting a statement that President Paige Patterson made in his welcoming comments at the event, Johnson added, "In the current economic climate of uncertainty, we were all reminded, and hopefully some heard for the first time, that there is an unwavering certainty in Jesus."

During the Gala, Southwestern Seminary's 200-voice Master Chorale and the 90-piece Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra presented both ancient and modern compositions. David Thye, professor of church music and Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting at Southwestern, conducted the performance. Guest performers included internationally known vocalists Huw Priday and Elizabeth Woollett. Also, seminary student Young Kyoung Kwon took part in a dueling-pianos rendition of Mozart's *Concerto in E-flat Major*. Kwon was invited to play during Gala as the winner of the 2008 James C. McKinney Outstanding Performer Award.



SBC President Johnny Hunt

SBC President Preaches on Campus

Johnny Hunt, current president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., preached in the seminary's chapel service on Thursday, Jan. 29. Using Psalm 119:81-88, he pointed students to the Bible as their primary source to stand firm during rough times.

Hunt encouraged students to place their hope and trust in the truth of God's Word, searching Scripture for God's solutions instead of looking for a comparable situation.

"If the world is getting darker and the church is getting lesser in its influence in the nation, we don't need to back down. ... We are living in desperate times, but I'm not sure we've gotten desperate yet," Hunt said.

Hunt noted the value of the Scripture was especially appropriate at Southwestern, acknowledging Paige Patterson, seminary president, as the man "who has helped us more as Southern Baptists to have a deep appreciation and to know the integrity and the authority and the infallibility of the Scriptures, the Word of God."

Images from Southwestern's sixth annual Gala Concert of Sacred Music at Bass Hall in downtown Fort Worth, Feb. 10. Guest tenor Huw Priday and guest soprano Elizabeth Woollett (left), Dr. David Thye conducts the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Master Chorale (center), and a balcony view (right).



Students Witness the Power of the Gospel

Southwestern students experienced the power of the Gospel during mission trips to Monclova, Mexico, and East Asia over winter break. Throughout the week, Southwesterners in Mexico saw more than 100 people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

As one group was sharing the Gospel door to door, they encountered a woman named Olga outside washing her dishes. "When we explained to her that our mission consisted of bringing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, she told us an amazing story," said Nelson Fonseca, a student in the College at Southwestern.

In a dream Olga had the previous night, her neighbor, who considers himself a sorcerer, accused her of throwing salt into his backyard and threatened to curse her with an illness if she did not confess. Olga declared in her dream, "Jesus is more powerful! Jesus is more powerful!" After hearing the Gospel, Olga prayed to receive Christ as her Lord and Savior, and Fonseca encouraged her with the truth that Jesus was indeed more powerful than demonic influences.

Another team traveled to East Asia, and they saw 28 people make professions for Christ.



Southwesterners engaged young and old during the mission trips to Monclova, Mexico, and East Asia over winter break.

Mark Carlton*, a student in the College at Southwestern, encountered an East Asian student on the second day of the trip. He soon found out that this student had been reading the Bible for one of his classes. Although this Bible-reading assignment was intended only to teach students about western culture, this young man suspected the Bible was true.

"After we had extended the invitation for him to pray to receive Christ, and he did, he was very thankful, because he had no idea how to create that relationship. He had read those things (in Scripture) and had a desire for it," Mark said. "The ground was fertile. And God just led us right to this man."

**Name has been changed for security purposes.*

Personal Evangelism Yields 27 New Believers

Personal evangelism produced divine results last fall at Southwestern. Faculty, staff, and students reported 27 professions of faith during the "50 Days/50 Ways" evangelism emphasis, which comprised the second half of the yearlong "100 Days of Evangelism" initiative in honor of the seminary's centennial anniversary.

Harvey Solganick, professor of humanities in the College at Southwestern, participated in evangelism efforts with his church and used the Christmas season as an opportunity to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah to Jewish family members. His efforts were rewarded when his brother agreed to attend a Messianic congregation with him.

"My brother had terminal cancer and had only a year to live, so I asked him to dedicate his life and accept Yeshua as Lord," said Solganick. "I had been witnessing to him

several times during our evangelism effort days, and finally he agreed."

Solganick's brother died less than one week later. "This evangelistic moment was valuable to me personally as I know I will see my brother again in his glorified body as a brother in Christ," he said.

"Every conversation we run into and every person that God draws across our path is truly a divine appointment. We can be so much more effective if we speak for Jesus when we see the opportunity."

Of those reporting, many witnessed 50 or more times during the campaign. Min Su Lee, an M.Div. student from Korea, lives on campus and has no unbelieving friends, so he targeted local shopping centers, parks, and universities. Despite language difficulties, Lee used tracts and evangelism surveys to engage people with the Gospel.

Mike Bishop, an M.Div. student, had the opportunity to lead seven people to Christ while training other students in evangelism. Bishop often makes himself available to take Southwestern students into the community to model personal evangelism.

"I make (evangelism) intentional everywhere I go," said Bishop. "Every conversation we run into and every person that God draws across our path is truly a divine appointment. We can be so much more effective if we speak for Jesus when we see the opportunity."



Barry Bishop, an M.Div. student, talks with a man on the street in Monclova, Mexico.

Southwestern Seminary Trustees Approve Budget, New Degree Concentration and Faculty

Trustees at Southwestern approved a Christian School Education concentration in the Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE) degree program, elected a faculty member, and promoted another at their spring meeting, April 8.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EDUCATION CONCENTRATION

Trustees approved a 15-hour Christian School Education concentration within the MACE, which provides students with a focus on skills and knowledge related to creating and managing Christian school education. Courses for the concentration include Philosophy of Christian School Education, Christian School Curriculum, Methods and Instructional Strategies, Christian School Administration, and Christian School Legal Issues and Finance.

FACULTY ELECTED AND PROMOTED

Trustees elected Karen Kennemur as assistant professor of children's ministry in the School of Educational Ministries, effective August 1, 2009. Kennemur earned both her Ph.D. in Childhood Education (2008) and MACE (2003) from Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Baylor University in 1983. She served as director of the curriculum center for the School of Educational Ministries from 2003 to 2006 and as a graduate assistant and instructor of children's ministry at Southwestern from 2002 to 2006. Prior to her service at Southwestern, she served as children's minister at two North Texas churches and director of the pre-Kindergarten program at Spring Baptist Church in Spring, Texas.

Trustees also promoted William Colson to distinguished professor of music theory and composition in the School of Church Music, effective immediately. Colson has served at Southwestern since 1971 and holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in composition degrees from the University of Illinois. He also earned a music degree in composition from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He serves on the Commission on Academic Activities and Standards of the Texas Association of Music Schools. He is also on the editorial board of the *Journal of Schenkerian Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal published by the Institute for Schenkerian Studies of the University of North Texas.

Generosity Overflows to Hurting Family

Students and faculty at Southwestern followed the biblical mandate of bearing one another's burdens through an offering collection, Feb. 12. In a generous display of Christian love, participants in the chapel service mourned with fellow student Sunghan Kim and his family over the death of their child Min, who was born prematurely a few weeks prior and suffered from lung complications.

The impromptu collection produced \$3,257.76 to help the family pay for Min's funeral arrangements. As international students, the Kims are unable to afford the expenses incurred from the hospital and funeral arrangements.

President Paige Patterson asked students and faculty to pray for the family during this difficult time and encouraged them to model the same Christian love and generosity in their churches for other families in need.

Southwestern students generously responded to an impromptu offering in chapel, Feb. 12.



President Patterson addresses trustees during their spring meeting.

Southwestern Seminary Announces No Tuition Increases for 2009-10

Administration at Southwestern demonstrated a concern for students during the current economic situation, April 8.

Southwestern's board of trustees approved the administration's proposed 2009-10 annual budget, which included no tuition increases for the upcoming academic year. The move confirms the administration's and trustees' commitment to protect students from the burden of increased tuition in a financially uncertain time.

"Given the sacrifices many students are having to make during this time of economic uncertainty, the board of trustees and the seminary administration felt they needed to do all they could to enable present and future students of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to continue their studies," said Paige Patterson, president of the seminary.

"Ultimately, our desire to see students complete their education and get on the field

as soon as possible motivated the seminary to pursue other financial solutions."

At the end of 2008, trustees recommended reductions in the current budget to protect the institution from future financial crisis. Significant efforts were made by the administration, including temporary suspension of many overseas travel programs and adjustments to campus facilities, with the goal of avoiding tuition increases.

Tuition for Southern Baptist students in the College at Southwestern will remain at \$208 per semester hour. Tuition for Southern Baptist students in the master's programs (excluding the Th.M. program) will remain at \$173 per semester hour. Doctoral programs will also remain at the current tuition rates.

As announced last year, tuition for the Th.M. program will assume a semester charge, regardless of enrolled hours, rather than an hourly course fee, starting fall 2009. By higher

accreditation standards, Th.M. programs are typically considered one-year programs, even though students are allowed up to three years to complete the degree.

Colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country have recently announced tuition increases. In an April 5 article, the *Los Angeles Times* reported "modest tuition boosts" of an average of 4 percent for private colleges and universities nationwide for the 2009-10 school year.

"Ultimately, our desire to see students complete their education and get on the field as soon as possible motivated the seminary to pursue other financial solutions."

Platt Urges Student Ministers to be Desperate for God's Spirit

Students and student ministers should be desperate for the guidance of God's Spirit as they attempt to build their ministries, David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., said during Southwestern Seminary's Youth Ministry Lab (YML), March 6-7.

"I am a part of a religious system that has created a whole host of means and methods for doing church and ministry that, in the end, require little if any help at all from the Holy Spirit of God," Platt said. "We have made a deadly mistake in our day, mistaking the presence of physical bodies for the existence of spiritual life. You can draw a crowd with anything."

Platt drew this application from an exposition of Exodus 33:12-18, a passage where God, at first, tells Moses that he and the Israelites may go up to the Promised Land but without His guiding presence. "Moses sees the depth of the call that God has given him to do, and he sees his own resources, and he sees that he doesn't have what it takes to accomplish this call," Platt said. Christians, he added, are in danger of becoming self-sufficient if they ignore God's call or overestimate their resources.

During breakout sessions, Kevin DeYoung, co-author of *Why We're Not Emergent (By Two Guys Who Should Be)*, told student ministers to challenge their youth to read Scripture and theology. "I think they are starving for it," he said. Also, Sandi Black, LaJuana Ross, and Ivette Derouen—wives to Southwestern's student ministry professors, Wes Black, Richard Ross and Johnny Derouen—led a ministers' wives track during the conference.

According to Wes Black, acting dean for the School of Educational Ministries, YML saw its highest attendance in 41 years. Participants came from across the nation, from states as distant as Washington, Wyoming, Michigan, Maryland and Illinois.

"We have made a deadly mistake in our day, mistaking the presence of physical bodies for the existence of spiritual life. You can draw a crowd with anything."

David Platt challenges YML participants to look to God rather than programs for the success of their ministries. (top)
Professor Richard Ross shares with youth pastors. (below)



It's a New Day

Southwestern Seminary's Riley Center hosted a stewardship conference for seminary students and ministers in the region, April 23. More than 250 students and ministers attended the conference.

The conference was organized through the cooperation of Southwestern's Center for Biblical Stewardship, Crown Financial Ministries, and "It's A New Day," a national stewardship initiative of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) executive committee.

The conference was the first seminary-wide program offered by Southwestern's stewardship center, which is the first center of its kind among Southern Baptist seminaries. The center is authorized by The International Association for Continuing Education and Training to provide continuing education units (CEU's) in stewardship.

Scott Preissler, director for Southwestern's stewardship center, said he hopes this event will encourage better management of God-given resources among seminary students and that it will promote the need for good stewardship in the SBC. He added that, by informing seminary students how to develop stewardship skills, this conference would help them graduate without debt and with the freedom to serve wherever God might lead them.

"I am excited to see pastors being challenged to be good stewards of God's resources," said Jonathan Gray, the executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas



More than 250 participants attended the "It's a New Day" conference on stewardship.

"I am excited to see pastors being challenged to be good stewards of God's resources."

Convention Foundation, who attended the stewardship conference.

According to Bob Rodgers, the SBC's vice-president for the Cooperative Program and stewardship and a conference speaker, "the average American is in bondage to debt." The average American, for example, spends \$1.26 for every dollar earned.

The stewardship programs organized by Southwestern Seminary and the SBC help liberate people from the bondage of debt so that they may freely serve God.

"We could only put a Band-aid on the Cooperative Program unless there is a coherent stewardship campaign at the same time," Rodgers said.

Gifts from Neches River Baptist Association Approaches \$500,000

Students from Southwestern Seminary have benefited from nearly \$500,000 in donations given by the Neches River Baptist Association in East Texas over the past 15 years.

"The churches of the Neches River Baptist Association, which serve in such a wonderful, shepherdly manner, led by the director of missions, Dr. Bill Jones, have faithfully dispensed across the years an incredible amount of scholarship money left to the association for the purpose of preparing students for the ministry," Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, said.

On Dec. 6, 1993, the late Tom and Madge Bean Dauphin established this fund by providing an initial gift to the Baptist Foundation

of Texas in order to help students attending Southwestern Seminary, East Texas Baptist University and Howard Payne University. The Dauphin Scholarship is now approaching its one-million-dollar mark in total donations. The scholarship is available to students from churches in the Neches River Baptist Association. Thus far, it has covered the cost of tuition, books, and fees.

"Not only am I grateful for the incredible foresight of the Dauphin Family who cared enough about the future to do this," Patterson said, "but also I am eternally grateful for the way in which Dr. Bill Jones and the churches of the association actively find students and send them, among other places, to Southwestern

Seminary, and then they continue to support and encourage them in every way."

Jones, associate director of missions for the association, said, "Our association is truly blessed to award these scholarships, and we encourage our pastors to speak often about how God calls someone to ministry."

This semester, the Dauphin fund has provided full scholarships to 14 students working toward their bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees: Jason Attaway, Jerry Luke Henderson, Wade Traylor, John Goss, Sr., Jeremy Franks, Mikey Osborne, Jared Burt, Paul Knight, Sabin Boruga, Rebecca Clark, Skylar Clark, Mitchell Kleckly, Donald Norred, and Charlie Robinson.

From Angus to Aristotle: 50-Year-Old Cattleman Goes Back to School

Before the sun begins to peek over the horizon of his 800-acre farm, 50-year-old cattleman Tim Stobaugh climbs into his pickup truck and begins his hour-and-a-half drive south to attend classes at the College at Southwestern. For a man who for 20 years rarely left rural Cooke County, located along the Texas-Oklahoma border, this early morning sacrifice reflects a commitment to the Lord's call on his life.

The majority of Stobaugh's life has focused on cows. "I was born on a dairy farm," he says. "When I was 25 years old, I decided to put in my own dairy operation."

After 20 years of milking cows and farming, Stobaugh sold his dairy business and made the transition to beef rancher. Currently, he farms 400 acres of land and pastures about 90 mother cows.

Despite his success, one thing nagged at Stobaugh. "All my life I've always accepted a challenge, but school was not one of them," he says.

"I was never what I considered a good student in my early years. But the older I got, the more I thought about what I might have missed by not going (to college)."

One day the education minister at Stobaugh's church invited him to ride to Fort Worth to pick up some books at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's bookstore. Stobaugh's curiosity prompted him to ask for a campus tour while they were there.

Initially interested in simply taking a few Old Testament classes, Stobaugh decided to pursue a Certificate in Biblical Studies at Southwestern.

After one semester, Stobaugh was hooked. "I only went to get some Old Testament," he says, "but once I completed that first semester, there was no doubt about it that I was going to come back the next semester and do it again.

"I was actually older than most of the professors that I was studying under. They were just as considerate and compassionate to me as they were any of the others."

Eventually, Stobaugh enrolled in the undergraduate program and began to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, which includes classes in the history, life, and thought of Western civilization and culture alongside a biblical worldview. Seven semesters later,

he continues to make up for lost time and soak up what he's learning.

"What has helped me the most is what I learned in the Old Testament surveys and focus classes because they give me an ability now to open up the Old Testament anywhere at anytime, and I know where I'm at," says Stobaugh. "They have brought the Old Testament alive that was actually dead to me before. Now it's just as alive as I am."

Stobaugh claims his classes have strengthened his ability to critically analyze worldviews and truth claims, which gives him more boldness to engage people in conversation and transition into a Gospel presentation.

"That's just all I think about much anymore ... just another witnessing opportunity. That's what God has called us to do.

"I think God used Southwestern as a tool to change my heart so that I can look at others differently than I did before."

This heart change is preparing Stobaugh for future ministry. "Wherever God leads me, I want to be ready," he says. "If it's another country, I want to have my passport ready."

For now, Stobaugh's time outside the classroom still consists of pulling calves, breeding cows, plowing fields, and building fences. "I'm not too old to learn, although I thought I might be," says Stobaugh.

"I've never read so much in my life. I've never studied so much in my life. But, I've never gained so much out of something either."



"I think God used Southwestern as a tool to change my heart so that I can look at others differently than I did before."

View an online video exclusive about Tim Stobaugh at www.swbts.edu/stobaugh.





Johnathan Cooper received his Diploma in Theology during the 2009 spring commencement.

Southwestern Ministers During Seminary Stride

Students and faculty at Southwestern Seminary used the school's 27th annual Seminary Stride to minister to a faculty member, April 25.

More than 150 participants from both the campus and the wider community gathered at Southwestern's Recreation and Aerobics Center (RAC) during the Seminary Stride, a 5K run that weaves around the seminary's campus.

This year, the event was expanded to include an ALS Walk in honor of Robert Mathis, professor of administration in the School of Educational Ministries. Better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) affects nearly 30,000 Americans, and approximately 5,600 people are diagnosed with it every year.

Over the past two years, students, staff, and faculty have participated in an ALS Walk in Dallas in honor of Mathis. This year, organizers decided to walk at the seminary in order to draw more participants. This year, the group raised more than \$1,000 for the ALS foundation.

"And yet, the amount of participants and money contributed can never demonstrate in full the amount of love and support the seminary family has for Dr. Mathis," Anthony Moore, director of the RAC, said. "He is truly a testimony of the impact someone can have when they hope in Christ beyond present circumstances."

Southwestern's Graduation Highlights Peculiarity of Seminary Degrees

President Paige Patterson challenged graduates to recognize the peculiarity of their graduation during Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's 217th commencement, May 8.

"What is peculiar about your graduation is that it necessarily falls into one of two categories," said Patterson. "Either you have chosen, in a way, what is only pitiable, and your graduation is sound and fury with no meaning at all; or else, you of all men and women on the face of the globe are most to be envied. There is no in between."

Patterson preached from 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul tells the Corinthian church that unless Christ had truly risen from the dead, then their faith and preaching was in vain.

"The truth of the matter is that you made your decision to come to seminary, hinging on that salient truth," Patterson said.

"You have made a bad decision. ... But not if the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, where the body of Christ was laid, is empty."

Compared to those who obtain secular degrees and great wealth, seminary graduates had chosen the most enviable of all professions because of the resurrection of Christ, Patterson said.

The seminary conferred degrees on 215 students, including 13 undergraduate, 182 master's level, and 20 doctoral degrees.

Barry Bishop, a Master of Divinity graduate, feels his studies have equipped him for a lifetime of ministry.

"I think the professors did a great job of showing how you have to be steeped in the Bible in everything you do," said Bishop.

"This is the beginning of a lifetime of scholarship, studying and learning the Bible, and taking it to others."

Bishop, pastor of a small, rural church in his hometown of Gatesville, Texas, received the LifeWay Pastoral Leadership Award during the final chapel service of the semester. He was chosen by seminary faculty based on his heart for the Gospel and ministry in the local church.

Katie Schild became the first graduate in the Bachelor of Arts in Music (BAM) degree in the College at Southwestern, a program that started in 2007.

Schild cherishes the community of musicians and believers she has been a part of at Southwestern. She also appreciates the music professors' emphasis on using one's talents for God's glory.

The BAM contains the core curriculum in the College at Southwestern and replaces languages, physical education, and fine arts classes with a 44-hour concentration in either worship, performance, or composition.

Participants in the Robert Mathis ALS Walk pose in front of Southwestern's Recreation - Aerobics Center.



Professor's Testimony Hits Home with Student

Keith Eitel, dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, regularly uses stories from his life during his lectures. However, he didn't know how close to home his testimony would hit for one particular student.

Lecturing about rapid culture changes, Eitel mentioned the differences in schools since he was a student. He even had a Latin

teacher, Miss Spencer, who knelt down on the first day of school and dedicated the class to the Lord.

"I laughed at her like all the kids did on the outside, but I was convicted by what she did inside," Eitel said. "About a year and a half later when I became a Christian, I went back and thanked her for her bold witness."

Susanna Burnham, a Master of Divinity student, could hardly believe her ears. "Miss Spencer" had gone on to get married and became Martha Burnham – Susanna's mother.

Her mother's commitment to Christ had a profound influence on a man who has dedicated his life to missions and training others to do the same.

Seminary Holds Spring Lecture Series

Academic lectures at Southwestern Seminary called students to turn their minds to current debates in Old Testament theology and in Evangelicalism.

Evangelicalism should recover its confessional heritage, Richard Turnbull, Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, said during Southwestern's Day-Higginbotham Lectures, Feb. 5-6.

"Evangelicalism has failed in the matter of discipleship," Turnbull said during his second lecture. "We have omitted to teach our history and our doctrine. And the outcome is a scandal: Less Bible knowledge,

less Bible reading, less providential dependency upon God."

The Old Testament should be read as Christian Scripture, Kenneth Mathews, professor of divinity in Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, said during Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Drumwright Lectures, March 5-6.

"The Gospel which we preach has its Bethlehem in the Old Testament Scriptures," he said during his first lecture. "That which is of first importance, that which is our core message, finds its justification and rationale in the Old Testament Scriptures."

Brahms' Requiem Puts Scripture to Music

Hundreds of students, faculty members, and guests gathered in the Truett Auditorium to hear a rendition of Brahms' *Requiem* performed by members of the Southwestern Seminary Master Chorale and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, March 12. This piece, according to professor of music history R. Allen Lott, "ranks with Handel's *Messiah*" as a marvelous setting of a unique compilation of purely scriptural texts." Originally composed to be played in funeral services, the piece recalls man's mortality with sorrow, but it ends with a triumphant look at Christ's victory over the grave.

The Bible to Every Tribe and Tongue

More than 2,200 language groups have no access to Scripture in their native tongues. But seminary student Perry Oakes is laboring to change this statistic.

Working for Wycliffe Bible Translators in the 1990s, Perry and his wife, Beth, invested six years into developing a Bible translation for the Teribe people group of Panama.

Last fall, Perry and Beth saw the fruit of their labor. Along with their children, they traversed the rivers and muddy trails of Panama

to celebrate with the Teribe and to help deliver the first published Teribe Bibles. It was their first visit to the area in 10 years.

Today, the Oakeses work with Wycliffe's administrative office in Dallas. Currently in the dissertation phase of his Ph.D. at Southwestern, Perry intends to work with Wycliffe as an exegetical consultant when he is finished. In this capacity, he will oversee and approve translations developed for people groups in the Americas.

Photojournalists Use Craft to Tell Christ's Story

More than 200 photojournalists were challenged to use their gift of visual storytelling to proclaim the Gospel at the 17th annual Southwestern Photojournalism Conference, Feb. 27-29.

"By documenting the human condition as we see it in our world today, we can better display the world's need for a Savior in Jesus Christ," said Matt Miller, director of photography and videography at Southwestern.

Experts in the growing field of new media, including the combination of photo and audio, shared strategies for developing one's craft in an ever-changing, technology-driven world.

Bob Carey, president of the National Press Photographers Association, spoke on the state of the industry, addressing news agency cutbacks during difficult financial times.

Carey concluded his time with a Gospel presentation.

Radical Reformation Day Recognized

President Paige Patterson proclaimed Jan. 21 Radical Reformation Day at Southwestern. Patterson referenced the birth of the Anabaptist movement on Jan. 21, 1525, as he closed his chapel sermon on how Christians should relate to culture.

"Today is a very significant day," Patterson said, adding, "... a day that from this day forward in the life of Southwestern Seminary is going to be celebrated."

On Jan. 21, 1525, Conrad Grebel performed the first Anabaptist baptism on George Blaurock in the Swiss home of Felix Manz. Blaurock subsequently baptized the rest of the men in the house.

"It was that day the Free Church took flight," Patterson said, noting that these men knew the implication of their pledge. Within five years, all of the men were martyred.

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By Rebecca Carter

Gary Ledbetter

Starting out in a Royal Ambassador (RA) children's class, Gary Ledbetter made a profession of faith at age 10. After more than 30 years of ministry experience and with ministry that spans states, industries, and countries, this distinguished alumnus has come full circle. Along with being communications director and editor of the Southern Baptist TEXAN with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC), Ledbetter serves Inglewood Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, by teaching the current crop of RAs.

Ledbetter, who received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Southwestern in 1981, is honored to be chosen as the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

"My gratitude for the education I received from Southwestern has only grown since I graduated," said Ledbetter. "I am indescribably humbled and honored to be recognized by my seminary in this way.

"My sincere expectation is that Southwestern will continue to excel in its equipping ministry to pastors, missionaries, and," in referring to himself, "the occasional newspaper editor. In this day, I'm very happy to be called a Southwesterner."

During an address to fellow editors at the 2009 Association of State Baptist Papers fellowship in February, Ledbetter expressed his passion for using print media to support and encourage churches and agencies, as well as to hold them accountable.

Jim Richards, the executive director for the SBTC, calls Ledbetter a close friend.

"I count on him for wise counsel to navigate the waters of ministry," Richards said.

"He is unquestionably one of the premier newsmen in Southern Baptist life. The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention rejoices in Southwestern Seminary's choice of Gary Ledbetter for this prestigious award."

Prior to his position with the SBTC, Ledbetter was editor of the *Indiana Baptist* from 1989 to 1995.

Ledbetter spent 25 years in student ministry, serving in numerous churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Indiana. While in Indiana, he became the state convention's director of communications and student ministry. This started a history of committee leadership



Gary Ledbetter serves as communications director and editor of the Southern Baptist TEXAN for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

that followed with trustee and chairman positions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Order of Business and the Christian Life Commission (now the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission).

Ledbetter recognizes the impact that Southern Baptists as a whole and specific professors played in his preparation for a lifetime of ministry.

"Southern Baptist churches that contributed through the Cooperative Program so that I could attend a world class seminary did the Lord's work in my life," Ledbetter said.

"I also thank God for the precious contributions that men such as Russ Bush, James Eaves, Curtis Vaughan, Larry Walker, and Tom Nettles made to my ministry. These

men and others fortified my trust in God's Word and my love for His church. They conveyed an excitement about the things God was teaching them, as well as what he was teaching through them."

Ledbetter earned a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree and served as vice president for student development at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1995 until 2001.

Ledbetter and his wife, Tammi, have three grown children: Douglas, a CPA; Philip, a history teacher; and Maggie, a student at Union University.

Southwestern Seminary selects as "distinguished alumni" men and women who have excelled in ministry and who support the mission of the seminary.

Southwestern Seminary Honors Leading NT Scholar

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary opened a display in its A. Webb Roberts Library in honor of world-renowned New Testament scholar E. Earle Ellis, research professor of theology emeritus at the seminary.

"With Dr. Ellis' rich theological legacy in mind, Dr. and Mrs. Patterson thought it expedient to remember him in this manner—by displaying his portrait at the entranceway to Roberts Library's second-floor commentary collection," said Berry Driver, Jr., dean of libraries at Southwestern Seminary. Driver called Ellis an "accomplished New Testament exegete and biblical theologian." He added that Ellis' more than 50 years of teaching experience, 23 of them at Southwestern, have "left their mark on many pastor-theologians and biblical scholars who studied with him."

The library display holds a dozen of Ellis' 157 published books and articles, alongside three well-worn critical editions of the Greek New Testament that he has used over the years. This collection of books, taken from Ellis' personal library, also contains a photocopy of the cover and copyright page of

his forthcoming book, *The Sovereignty of God in Salvation: Biblical Essays*. Ellis said the book, which is due to be released in 2009, discusses the sovereignty of God not only in the salvation of individuals but also His sovereignty over the writing and transmission of the Hebrew and Greek texts of Scripture.

"Dr. Ellis represents classical biblical scholarship in its truest form," said Paul Wolfe, associate professor of New Testament at the seminary. "His work is permeated with a commitment to thoroughgoing historical interpretation on the basis of Christian confession. He has very little tolerance for interpretive fads which jettison history or Christian confession."

The impact of Ellis' scholarship is portrayed by the two festschrifts that have been written in his honor. The first, published in 1987, is titled *Tradition and Interpretation in the New Testament: Essays in Honor of E. Earle Ellis for his 60th Birthday*. A more recent festschrift, titled *History and Exegesis: New Testament essays in honor of Dr. E. Earle Ellis for his 80th Birthday*, was edited

by Sang-Won "Aaron" Son, one of Ellis' former Ph.D. students and now professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary. High-profile New Testament scholars from across the world, including F.F. Bruce, I.H. Marshall, Seyoon Kim, N.T. Wright, Richard Bauckham, and Gordon Fee, also contributed to these volumes.

"His work is permeated with a commitment to thoroughgoing historical interpretation on the basis of Christian confession. He has very little tolerance for interpretive fads which jettison history or Christian confession."

Currently, Ellis is laboring on his anticipated commentary on 1 Corinthians, which will be published in the *New International Critical Commentary* series.

Dembski Challenges Evolution on Darwin's Birthday

On the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, William Dembski, research professor of philosophy at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, challenged Darwin's famed theory of evolution in the seminary's chapel service, Feb. 12.

Christianity and Darwinian evolution put forward "radically different worldviews,"

"I think the real challenge for the church now is not the atheistic Darwinists ... but it is now the church itself and Christian higher education embracing this semi-materialistic worldview."

Dembski said. "I think the real challenge for the church now is not the atheistic Darwinists ... but it is now the church itself and Christian higher education embracing this semi-materialistic worldview."

According to Dembski, every worldview involves a creation story, a problem, a solution for that problem, and an expected culmination. For Christians, this involves a world, created by a wise God and marred by the sinfulness of man. As a solution to sin, the Son of God entered the world as Jesus Christ and died for the redemption of man. In the end, Christ will return again and the creation will be renewed. "Evolution comes to us and challenges us right at the point of creation," he said.

This materialistic worldview has been infused even into Christian culture. Despite this fact, Dembski did not hesitate in the

seminary chapel to support intelligent design, while also downgrading Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection to a hypothesis. A theory should both explain what a scientist observes while also gaining support from "independent evidence," he said. "In fact, there is very little evidence for the power of natural selection."

Dembski also made it clear that intelligent design (ID), a research program that flies in the face of Darwinism, is not creationism. "It is engineering," he said. ID is a research project that seeks to discover evidence of design, or engineering, within nature. He pointed out that no human engineer has designed technology that can hold as much information in such a compact way as the DNA found in cells.

To view Dembski's chapel message, access Southwestern Seminary's chapel archives at www.swbts.edu/chapel.



William "Bill" Caldwell

Seminary Grieves at Passing of Retired Professor

Southwestern was grieved by the passing of retired faculty member William "Bill" Caldwell, March 2. He was 75.

Caldwell served in the seminary's School of Educational Ministries for 30 years. He retired from his role as associate dean and distinguished professor of administration in 2006.

"I shall never forget his quick wit, dry humor, and brilliant mastery of the administration of the local church," said Bob Welch, professor of administration and dean emeritus in the School of Educational Ministries.

"I remember Dr. Caldwell's commitment to the local church," said Wes Black, one of Caldwell's former students and colleagues and now acting dean in the School of Educational Ministries. "He often took volunteer leadership responsibilities in his own church rather than speaking engagements out of town because of this commitment."

Caldwell received a B.A. from Howard College (now Samford University) in 1954, after which he went on to earn both his M.A. in Religious Education and his Ph.D. from Southwestern Seminary. Prior to joining Southwestern's faculty in 1976, he served in various roles as a consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, as a professor, and as a minister of education at several churches.

William J. Reynolds, Renowned Professor and Hymnologist, Passes Away

William J. Reynolds, church musician, composer, arranger, editor, hymnologist, and distinguished professor emeritus of church music at Southwestern died March 28. He was 88.

Reynolds was the nephew of I.E. Reynolds, a pioneer in gospel music at Southwestern for 30 years. In 1915, I.E. Reynolds led Southwestern in a systematic training of church musicians by outlining the emphases that continue to this day. William J. Reynolds followed in his uncle's footsteps.

For 25 years Reynolds served with the church music department of the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources). In 1980, he was appointed to the faculty of Southwestern as professor of church music, serving there until his retirement in 1998.

After his retirement, Reynolds donated to the Bowld Music Library at Southwestern Seminary an extensive music collection containing more than 1,500 volumes of hymnody, including hymnals, biographies

of hymn writers, and histories of congregational hymn singing.

Reynolds authored two hymnal handbooks, *Hymns of Our Faith* (1964) and *Companion to Baptist Hymnal* (1976) and a hymnology textbook, *A Survey of Christian Hymnody* (1964). He also contributed to *Handbook to the Baptist Hymnal* (1992) and wrote a history of music at Southwestern Seminary, *The Cross & the Lyre: The Story of the School of Church Music* (1944).



William J. Reynolds

Hope Brought to Those Enslaved in Sex Trade

Celeste McGee knows brokenness. She has seen it in the eyes of countless men and women who are caught up in the sex trade in Bangkok, Thailand.

McGee, a 2006 Southwestern graduate with a master's in marriage and family counseling, spent two years addressing "huge sexual brokenness" as she worked with prostitutes in Bangkok's red light district. With 10,000 prostitutes in a one-mile radius, Thailand boasts more prostitutes than Christians and more brothels than schools.

"We must be willing to go to these hard areas. We must be fishers of men and women."

Upon graduation from seminary, McGee served at "The Well," a non-profit organization that ministers to prostitutes. At "The Well," she disciplined and counseled women who had been prostitutes. Often, she and her team would buy the prostitutes for a night in order to share the Gospel and minister to them.

McGee says this type of ministry can be emotionally and spiritually draining and credits her time at Southwestern for keeping her strong. "If I didn't have the training, I don't think I could have done it," McGee says. "Without His strength, without His leading, without His divine direction, you will fail."

For McGee, the rewards outweigh the challenges. "We must be willing to go to these hard areas," she says. "We must be fishers of men and women."



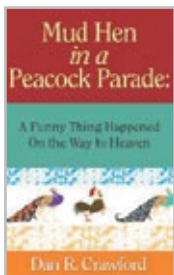
TERRI STOVALL
**WOMEN LEADING WOMEN:
 THE BIBLICAL MODEL FOR THE CHURCH**
 B&H Academic, January 2009



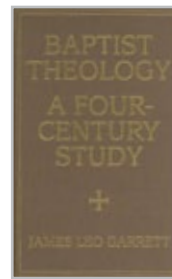
GUILLERMO (WILLIAM) GOFF
MATRIMONIOS TRIUNFANTES Y FAMILIAS FELICES
 Mundo Hispano, March 2009



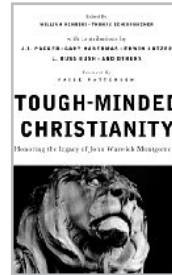
THOMAS WHITE, JOHN MARK YEATS
FRANCHISING MCHURCH
 David C. Cook, February 2009



DAN CRAWFORD
**MUD HEN IN A PEACOCK PARADE: A FUNNY THING
 HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN**
 Hannibal, March 2009



JAMES LEO GARRETT, JR.
BAPTIST THEOLOGY: A FOUR-CENTURY STUDY
 Mercer University Press, January 2009



WILLIAM DEMBSKI (EDITOR) AND
 PAIGE PATTERSON (FOREWORD)
**TOUGH-MINDED CHRISTIANITY:
 LEGACY OF JOHN WARWICK MONTGOMERY**
 B&H Academic, March 2009



STEVEN SMITH, BENJAMIN PHILLIPS,
 CHRIS SHIRLEY
SOUTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY
ISSUE THEME: DISCIPLESHIP
VOLUME 50, NUMBER 2



LEE R. SCARBOROUGH, WALTER T. CONNER,
 ET AL.
SOUTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY
ISSUE THEME: BAPTISTS AND UNITY
VOLUME 51, NUMBER 1

Garrett Honored for Release of Life's Work

James Leo Garrett, Jr.'s contribution to Southern Baptist scholarship is immeasurable. Southwestern honored Garrett during a chapel service, March 11, for his newly released book, *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*.

The book presents the history of Baptist doctrinal beliefs through primary sources, confessions, and teachings of major theologians, as well as an examination of principal theological movements and controversies.

Garrett rejects the notion that Baptists have historically contributed little to theology. "I once had a teacher who told us, 'Baptists really haven't written any theology. It's the Anglicans,

the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, and the Catholics; they do the theology,'" he said.

"I didn't believe that when he said it, and it's taken me 50 years to disprove it. I believe you will find that in the Baptist heritage, we have had many men, some of them without formal training but who themselves with their Bibles have been able to do a tremendous job. All across the centuries, Baptists have had representatives who have done worthy theological work."

Garrett has authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited more than 130 published works, including a thesis, two dissertations, scholarly

articles, and books. This count includes authorship of his two-volume *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*.

Garrett earned two degrees at Southwestern Seminary (B.D., 1948; Th.D., 1954), a Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1949, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1966. He first served on the faculty at Southwestern Seminary from 1949 to 1959. After teaching on two other faculties of theology and religion, he returned to Southwestern in 1979, becoming a distinguished professor in 1991. Since his retirement in 1997, he has held emeritus status.

NAMB & IMB APPOINTMENTS



CLIFFORD (MDIV 1975) & DONNA LIESE
State church-planting director
Fenton, Mich.



TOM (MDIV 1978) & VICKI EDWARDS
Associational missionary
Winfield, Kan.



MICHAEL (MRE 1978) & BEVERLY FLANNERY
Associational missionary
Buffalo, N.Y.



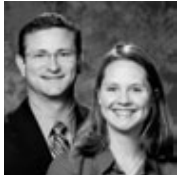
JOE (MARE 1985) & SUEANN FLEGAL
State director of evangelism
Vancouver, Wash.



JAY (MDIV 1990) & HANNAH NOH
Director of missional leadership
& mobilization
Chicago, Ill.



RYAN (MDIV 1999) & GENA HELLER
Church-planting missionary
Aurora, Colo.



CHRISTOPHER (MDIVBL 2002) & BRANDI BASS
Church-planting missionary pastor
Needham, Mass.



**CARLOS (MDIVBL 2003)
& PAOLA (PRADO) RODRIGUEZ**
Church-planting missionary
Portland, Ore.



HOWARD (MDIV 2005) & LAVONNA DANIEL
Associational missionary
Green River, Wyo.



**DAVID (MDIVBL 2005, THM 2007)
& WHITTNEY FERGUSON**
Church-planting missionary pastor
Commerce, Texas



ED (MDIVBL 2006) & BUFFIE BLACKLEDGE
Church-planting missionary pastor
Cincinnati, Ohio



CHRIS (MAMISS 2006) & NICHOLE CLAYMAN
Church-planting missionary
New York, N.Y.



PRESTON (MACE 2008) & TAMARA ATHEY
Church-planting missionary pastor
Wesley Chapel, Fla.



**GREG (MDIVBL 2005)
& KIMBERLEY BYRD**
Theological education
Puebla, Mexico



**DON (MDIV 1981)
& VALERY HUSLEY**
Evangelism/
church planting
Portugal



**KENNY (MDIV 2003)
& LESLEY VINES**
Evangelism/
church planting
Zambia



Additionally, three Southwestern alumni were appointed by the IMB to serve in secure locations around the world. As such, their identities, assignments, and locations have been withheld.

1970

Lester L. Vinson (MDiv 1970) as pastor to Greenvine Baptist Church, Brenham, Texas.

Rick G. Miller (MDiv 1979) as senior pastor to Wakefield Central Baptist Church, Zebulon, N.C.

Steve Taylor (MDiv 1976) as pastor to First Baptist Church, Borger, Texas.

Keith Williams (MDiv 1975) appointed by NAMB as regional associational missionary for Santa Fe, N.M., with wife, **Helen Williams (MRE 1987)**.

1980

Wallace McAbee (MDiv 1986) as senior pastor to Sharpsburg Baptist Church, Sharpsburg, Ga.

1990

Travis Burleson (MDivBL 1997) as pastor to First Baptist Church, Salado, Texas.

Garry Jordan (ExTH 1990) as pastor to Center Grove Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Nathan McBride (ExTH 1990) as minister of music and education to First Baptist Church, Frankston, Texas.

Robert "Stan" Norman (PhD 1997) as provost and executive vice president for campus life to Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.

2000

William R. "Bob" McCartney (DMin 2003) as pastor to First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Greg Scott Byrd (MDivBL 2005) as missionary to Mexico by the IMB.

Gary Godkin (MDivBL 2005) as pastor to South Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

C. Stewart Holloway (PhD 2008) as pastor to First Baptist Church, Pineville, La., with wife, **Rebecca L. Holloway (MAMFC, MACE 2001)**.

Chris Irving (MDiv 2005) as senior pastor to First Baptist Church, Pearsall, Texas.

Births

Anna Kaye, Nov. 28, 2008, to Laura and **Brandon Denning (MDiv 2008)**.

Aubri Ruth, Jan. 2, 2009, to Jennifer and **Wes A. Mills (MDiv 2008)**.

Lelia Rose, Nov. 20, 2008, to **Lana D. (MACE 2002)** and John A. **Bagdasarian**.

Zachary Charles, Dec. 4, 2008, to **Rebecca L. (MAMFC, MACE 2001)** and **C. Stewart Holloway (MDivBL 2001, PhD 2008)**.

Marriages

Jennifer Lynn Hubbard (MACE 2007) to Arvil Marshall.

Memorials

1940

William "Bill" Garrett Burton (ExTH 1944).

Willene Short Fuquay (MRE 1940).

J. C. "Jack" Griffith (ExTH 1943).

Omer E. Hyde (ThM 1946).

Marie Hagen Lewis (MRE 1945).

L. L. Morriss (ExTH 1948).

Alton Patton (ThM 1942).

William J. Reynolds (MSM 1945).

Doris Mae Allred Sharpley (MRE 1946).

John T. Wallace, Jr. (BD 1948).

1950

William F. Baker (DipSM 1952).

Dudley E Bragg (BD 1958).

William G. "Bill" Caldwell (MRE 1956, DRE 1963, EDD 1972, PhD 1994).

Bob Hogg (BD 1952).

Donald "Don" Morie (MRE 1959).

Harold Philmon Reeves (BD 1951, ThM 1960, MRE 1965)

Billy Jane Bonifield Harvey (MRE 1951).

Ruth E. Kittrell (ExCM 1956).

Billy Francis Norton (BD 1952).

Alba Elizabeth Dickerman "Bettye" Oldham (ExRE 1952).

Alla Winston Robertson (BD 1951).

Jimmy Wayne White (BD 1954).

Doylene Currin Wilkes (MRE 1956, MARE 1983).

1960

Kenneth Darryl Braddy, Sr. (BD 1962).

Roy Harrison Harrell (MDiv 1969).

Richard L. Johnson (MRE 1961).

Lawanda G. Ramsey (ARE 1964).

Glenn L. Ridall, Jr. (ExTH 1968).

Charles N. Russell (BD 1961).

Rudy Sanchez (ExRE 1961).

1970

James T. Aven (ExTH 1979).

Cedric Deon Britt (ExTH 1975).

Bill Langford (BCM 1971).

Seth Z. Lunga (MRE 1978).

Jackie Ray Mints (MRE 1970).

Roger W. Reed (MRE 1974).

G. Lacy South (MRE 1973)

1980

Zan Donell Walker (MACM 1983).

2000

Darren Dummer (MACE 2007).

Brian Hamrick (MDiv 2001).

AN EASY SELL: HOW TO TALK A 25-YEAR-OLD INTO GIVING THE REST OF HIS LIFE TO TEXT-DRIVEN PREACHING



Standing in front of a classroom of young men, mostly in their 20s and early 30s, I try to convince them to give their life to text-driven preaching.

Fifty years ago, I could have appealed to their sense of tradition. You know, “Preach like this, and you could sound like this preacher

in our denomination.” The problem is, most of the preachers they podcast did not go to seminary, and some are even pejorative about seminary education, and even more so about denominationalism.

I could appeal to their sense of ambition to go to the nebulous “next level” in ministry, but they have heard so many mega-church pastors who do not preach expository sermons.

I could try to convince them that the expository style of preaching is the best. However, I don’t believe that.

Just to be clear, Southwestern is not committed to the expository style of preaching. This is because expository, text-driven preaching is not a style; rather, it is a theologically driven philosophy of preaching.

So, we do not appeal to ambition, tradition, or style. We appeal to their theology.

A student has to ask himself two questions: Has God exclusively revealed Himself in Christ? and Has Christ exclusively revealed Himself in Scripture? If I can convince a young man that Christ is revealed in Scripture and

that God is revealed in Christ, then logic forces him to admit that every ministry should be driven by the explanation of texts. Only the Holy Spirit-inspired and -illuminated Scriptures can lead us to Christ, and only Christ can lead us to the Father.

Once the student understands this, he can go into any context, anywhere, with any style, in any venue, and lead people to God. Specifically, he can lead them to God through Christ, and to Christ through the Word. This removes the pressure of trying to defend exposition as a style or trying to defend it with some tangentially related proof text. Students are too smart for that anyway.

Dr. W.A. Criswell stands as a veracious model of exposition. Perhaps you think Criswell is not a good model for a modern 20-something since their ministries are 50 years removed. You might wonder, “Do 20-year-olds really want to sound like Criswell?” That question really makes the point for me. Whom exactly did Criswell sound like? Well, nobody really. His preaching stood alone for the fact that it was not built on the imitation of another. While I do not want a student to imitate the preaching style of Criswell, I do want him to imitate Criswell’s text-driven ministry—someone who will not let tradition or the latest trends set the course of his ministry but sets out on his own course, beholden only to Scripture.

In the country pastorate of First Baptist Church of Muskogee, Okla., Wally Amos Criswell decided he had run out of material to preach. So, he decided to commit his life

to the exposition of texts of Scripture systematically through the Bible. What is worthy of imitation is Criswell’s refusal to imitate. To have no models forced upon you by tradition or by trend, but to be your own man in the pulpit, fully given to Christ as revealed in His Word—this is what we want. If we can get a student there, we are extending the legacy of Criswell and his like.

So, it’s an easy sell. It’s clear enough at least. The problem is not really with the sales pitch; it’s the price tag. The cost of faithful exposition is a life-trajectory of challenging, soul-searching, gut-wrenching, and rewarding years in the study—high front-end investment with the greatest yield coming at the end.

At the close of this magazine, allow me to challenge you to commit your life to the explanation of Scripture—to have a text-driven ministry. God may manifest this in preaching, teaching, missions, counseling, or student ministry. Context becomes less important because ministry is not driven by the context. Ministry is driven by the explanation of text and submitted—or adapted—to the context.

Would you join us in that lifelong pursuit? All it demands is everything. Like I said, it’s an easy sell.

Steven Smith is assistant professor of preaching, associate dean for the professional doctoral program, and occupies the James T. Draper, Jr., Chair of Pastoral Ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

SOUTHWESTERN

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WE HAVE GOD'S CALL ON OUR LIVES. DO WE ALSO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT?

- started seminary after 9 years in full-time ministry
- taking 9 hours every semester
- working 40 hours a week
- husband and father of 5 kids
- my oldest is starting Kindergarten this fall

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