

SouthwesternNews

A PUBLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SUMMER 2011 | VOLUME 69 NO. 4

REVIVE
THIS NATION
2011 SPRING REVIVAL P



REVIVE THIS NATION

ADVANCED EXPOSITORY PREACHING WORKSHOP | 2011

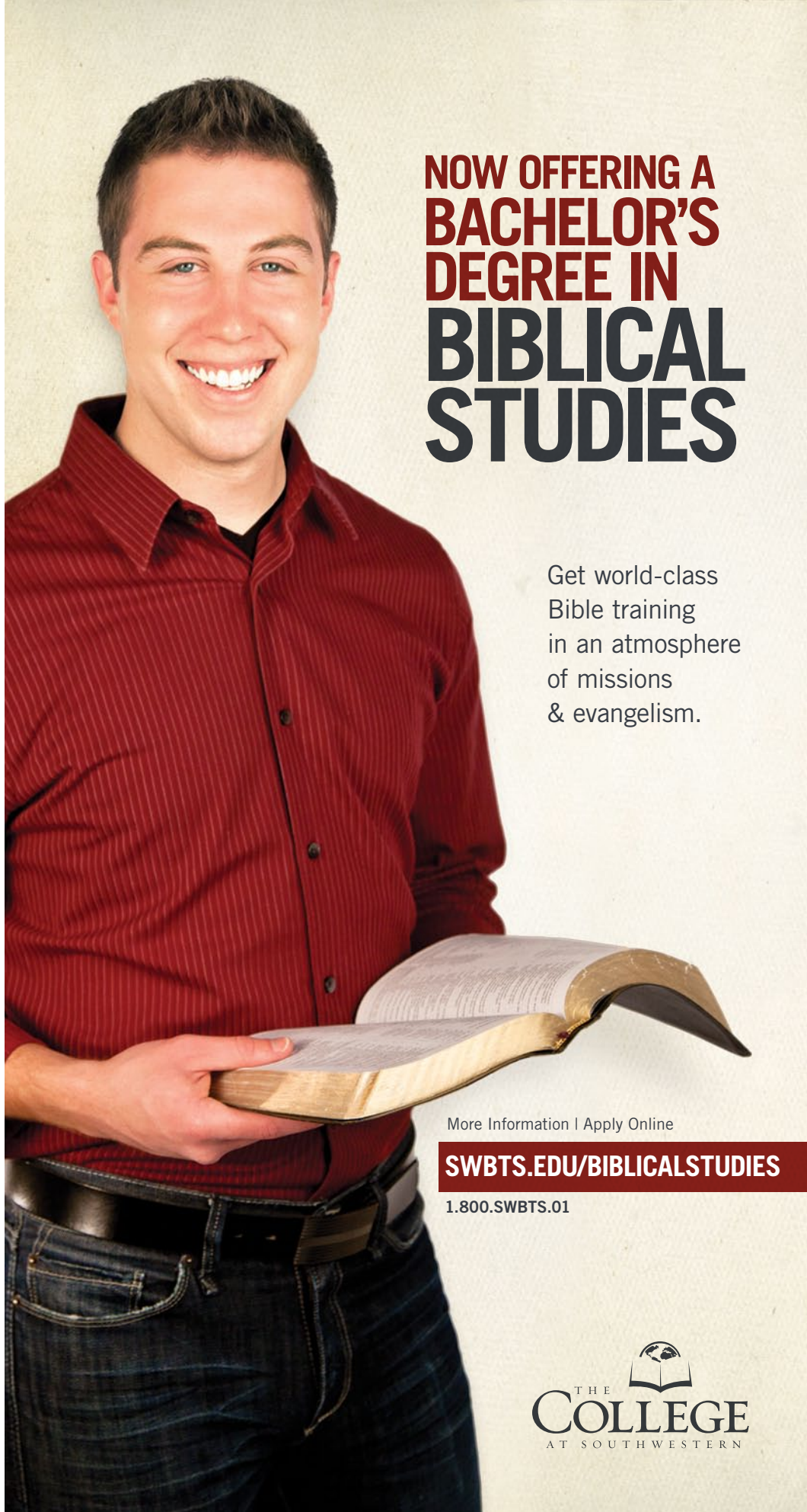
FOUNDATION OR FAIRY TALE?
Interpreting Genesis 1-11

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ON THE COVER
The empty pulpit, donated by the 1913 graduating class and used by gifted revival preacher and Southwestern president L.R. Scarborough, represents the need for more laborers in the harvest.



CALENDAR

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JULY »

4

Independence Day
Classes Dismissed/Offices Closed

4-25

Oxford Study Abroad Program
www.swbts.edu/oxford

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Chiang Mai, Thailand trip
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AUGUST »

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Labor Day
Classes Dismissed/Offices Closed

8-9

Roy Fish Evangelism Lectures

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Biblical Manhood & Womanhood
Conference
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SouthwesternNews

SUMMER 2011
Volume 69, Number 4

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SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

a letter from THE PRESIDENT

Everyone seems to believe that the era of revival evangelism, like the day of door-to-door sharing of Christ, is over. As the pages of this issue of *Southwestern News* will show, revival evangelism and personal witnessing is over only to those whose theology or lethargy, or both, condition them to believe that the Holy Spirit of God somehow, in our postmodern era, has been stripped of His ability to bless the preaching and witnessing of those who accept the assignment of God. Faithful friends of Southwestern made generous gift endowments that enable us every year to send preachers all over the United States of America to churches that want to have a revival meeting. These churches can experience a revival meeting without cost to them. The students can preach five sermons, a multitude of the lost get to hear the Gospel, and many come to Christ. These precious partners of the seminary have provided one of the finest single ways of continued educational development that would be imaginable.

The pages that follow document what happened to student, faculty, and even trustee preachers who took the challenge and gave four to five days of their time to witness and preach and encourage the saints in more than 100 communities all over the United States. In almost every one of these, the crowds attending the services did not diminish but rather increased steadily all week long.

The school year has come to an end with May graduation. Students and faculty have learned together as they have discussed the things of God, but in addition to that, we have watched the refutation of the ideas that you cannot have a revival and that you cannot witness door-to-door. This year alone we have seen nearly 200 people near to the seminary campus come to Christ through the witnessing of our Southwestern family. Why should it be thought that having a week of services would be impossible when the book of Hebrews says that as a practice we should “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together but even do it all the more

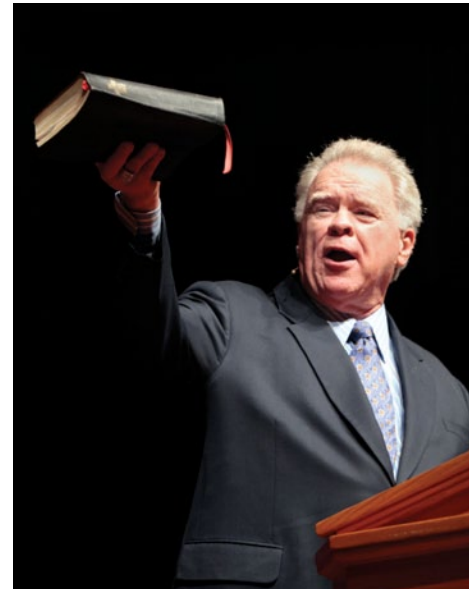
often as we see the day of Christ approaching” (Heb.10:25)? Is the main reason that we have been unsuccessful in a regular witnessing effort simply because we do not take seriously the commandment of our Lord to do so? This is especially true in light of the promise of God that “my word will not return unto me void” (Is. 55:11). The results of the leadership given to our programs by Thomas White, vice president for student services and communications; Keith Eitel, dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions; and by professors David Mills, Steve Lee, Matt Queen, Mike Morris, Tony Maalouf, and Dan Sanchez in our missions and evangelism division reap benefits far beyond even the people who come to Christ. A spirit of revival exists on the campus. The singing in chapel this semester has been unsurpassed. The care that is exhibited by one student for the other is amazing. When people ask why the blessing of the Lord seems to be felt in this way, I have no doubt that the explanation lies in the faithfulness of students and faculty to share their faith.

So as you read this issue of the *Southwestern News*, I pray that it will be a blessing and an encouragement to your soul as much as this year has been to my own. God’s blessings upon you.

Until He Comes,

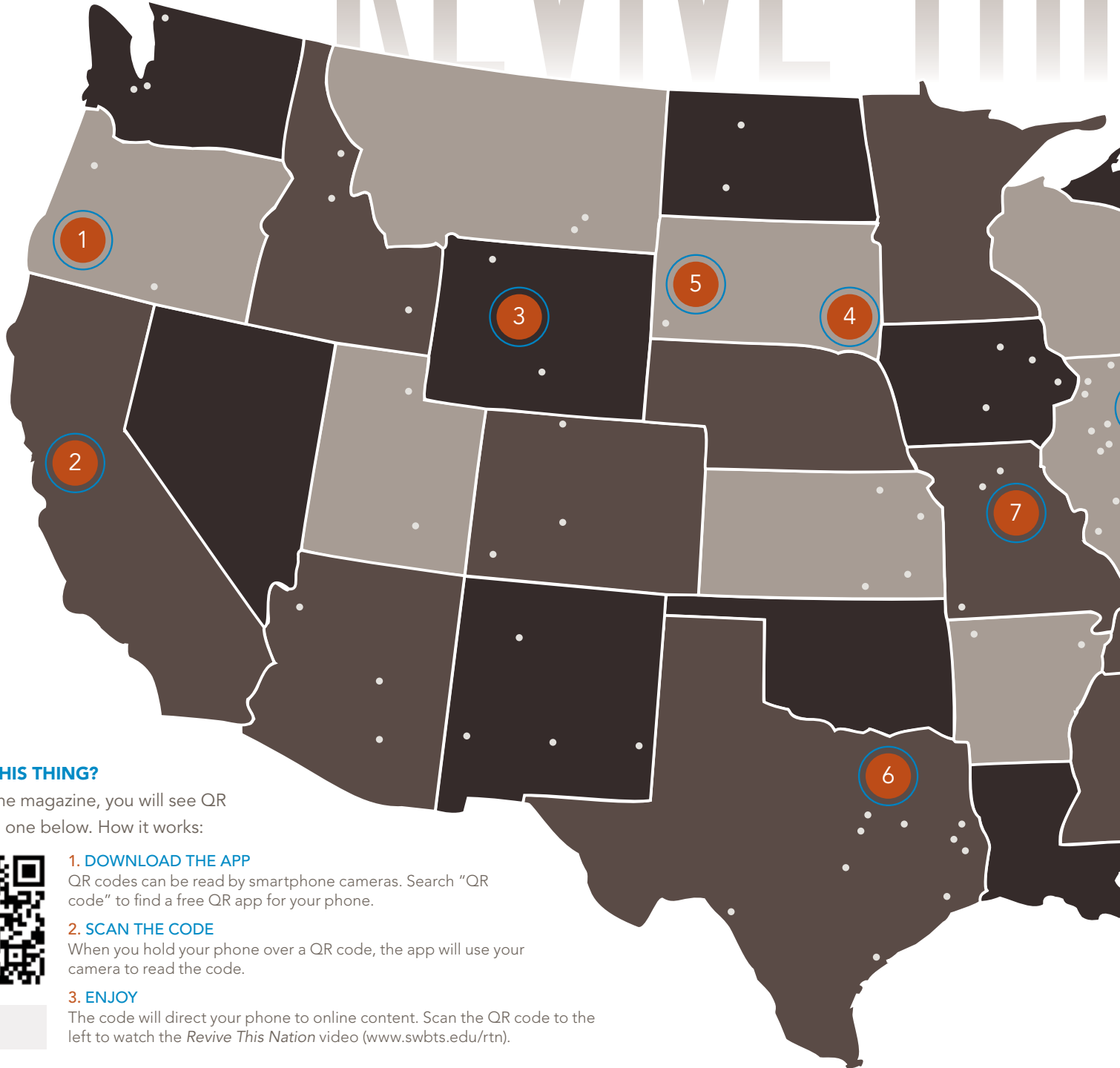


Paige Patterson





REVIVE THI



WHAT IS THIS THING?

Throughout the magazine, you will see QR codes like the one below. How it works:



1. DOWNLOAD THE APP

QR codes can be read by smartphone cameras. Search "QR code" to find a free QR app for your phone.

2. SCAN THE CODE

When you hold your phone over a QR code, the app will use your camera to read the code.

3. ENJOY

The code will direct your phone to online content. Scan the QR code to the left to watch the *Revive This Nation* video (www.swbts.edu/rtn).

MARCH 13-16, 2011 • HEAR THE STORIES FROM REVIVE THIS NATION

1. ROGUE RIVER, OR

READ MORE ON PAGES 10-13

2. LIVERMORE, CA

READ MORE ON PAGES 14-15

3. RIVERTON, WY

READ MORE ON PAGES 16-19

4. SIOUX FALLS, SD

READ MORE ON PAGES 20-23

5. NEW UNDERWOOD, SD

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6. DENISON, TX

READ MORE ON PAGES 28-29

7. MEXICO, MO

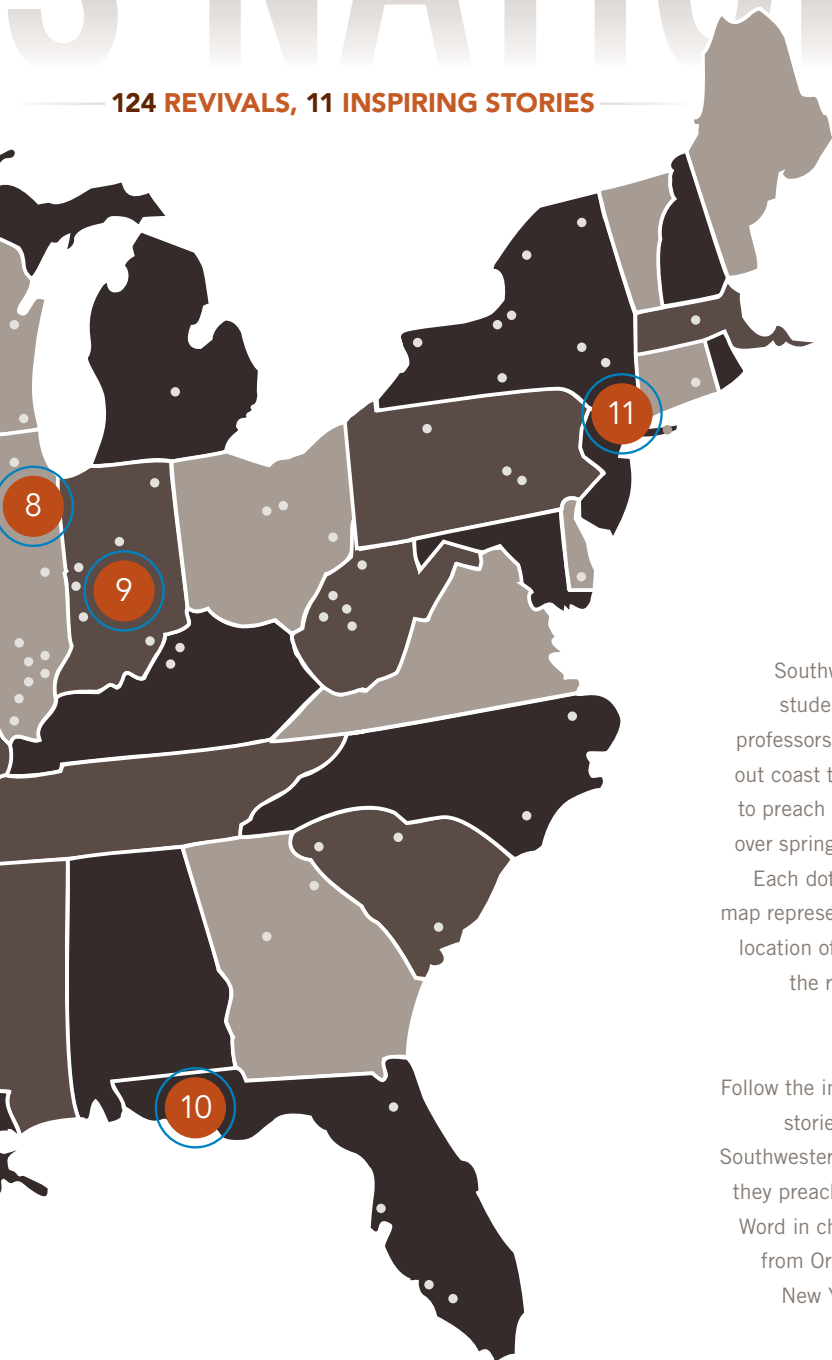
READ MORE ON PAGES 30-31

8. BRAIDWOOD, IL

READ MORE ON PAGES 32-35

S NATION

124 REVIVALS, 11 INSPIRING STORIES



124

Southwestern students and professors spread out coast to coast to preach revivals over spring break. Each dot on the map represents the location of one of the revivals.

11

Follow the inspiring stories of 11 Southwesterners as they preached the Word in churches from Oregon to New York. ↵

9. MARTINSVILLE, IN
READ MORE ON PAGES 36-39

10. MARY ESTHER, FL
READ MORE ON PAGES 40-43

11. ASTORIA, NY
READ MORE ON PAGES 44-47

What they said on TWITTER

#rtn11



ryaneardobbs Ryan Dobbs

Anyone else want to see the momentum of #rtn11 continue on? Anyone else want revival in America? Seriously considering a prayer meeting...

JaredMarc Jared Witt

I hope the proclamation of the Gospel in AZ will have as much an impact on those who heard as the church here had on me. #rtn11

jwmanсур Jonathan Mansur

Awesome last night! Overwhelmed by the love of the church and the love and evidence of the Father moving by His Word and His Spirit. #rtn11

crainey1984 Chris Rainey

What a way to end revival services with people broken before the Lord in prayer and repentance. It's the start of something big here! #rtn11

JEliff Josh Elliff

Great closing night to #rtn11! God was glorified, the revival is just starting here. Praise God for His church and Word!

vankomatsu Van Michael Komatsu

Just talked to a very hard-hearted agnostic from Rockwall, TX for an hour and a half. Please pray for his salvation! #rtn11

JezWinters Jeremy Winters

Visiting possible church planting sites around Springfield, IL with several dedicated pastors. #rtn11. Pray 4 laborers 2 be sent 2 fields

jason_kees Jason Kees

Please be praying for the 100+ preachers going out across the nation. Our best efforts will fail with a lack of prayer. #rtn11

sPeytonHill Peyton Hill

The last 2 years I spent this day packing in order to go preach outside of the Bible-Belt for a week. I'm praying for our @SWBTS men. #rtn11

ronjourlocke Ronjour Locke

is privileged to join with like-minded @SWBTS brothers once again in preaching Christ crucified, risen and coming again #rtn11

vankomatsu Van Michael Komatsu

"Preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire" Martyn Lloyd-Jones. SWBTS men, be set on fire as you preach #rtn11 this week!

pastorkiker Tommy Kiker

Proud to be one of 124 Southwesterners going across the US to preach the Gospel! May God Revive This Nation!! #rtn11

bartbarber Bart Barber

I'm praying especially for Trustee Chair Geoff Kolander, a God-honoring Christian attorney who is going with #rtn11 to proclaim the Gospel.

1GospelPreacher Gregory Howell

We all have 5 sermons, and we are seeking the movement of the hand of God Let us set the world on fire for the Gospel of Jesus Christ #rtn11

nick_jones633 Nick Jones

May I never again take for granted the miraculous work of God in my life. #rtn11

50

YEARS AND COUNTING:

Origins of Spring Revivals

Story by KEITH COLLIER



Students ready for 1973 Spring Revival



As 40 Southwestern students gathered at Gambrell Street Baptist Church one spring day in 1959, none of them could have imagined what the Lord was beginning. They listened to fellow student Gordon Walker share a vision for conducting revival meetings in pioneer states, and then the gathering turned into a prayer meeting.

One of the organizers of the meeting was Roy Fish, a seminary student at the time. That first year, all of them traveled to Ohio to preach weeklong revivals. Fish served as a local church pastor at the time and could not go, but he remembers students piling into cars and carpooling to their revival assignments. In the years following, this student-initiated program would expand across the United States as professors came alongside to help organize the efforts.

In those early years, students sacrificed greatly in order to participate in what they then called Pioneer Penetration. Long before the school observed a weeklong spring break, these men paid their own way and set aside a week of classes to have the opportunity to preach the Word and reach North America.

When Fish returned to Southwestern to teach evangelism in 1965, he took over the program from evangelism professor Kenneth Chafin and led it for almost 20 years. During Fish's time overseeing the program, he says the program reached an all-time high in 1973 with 672 professions of faith recorded that year. Over the past half century, students have seen thousands of people make professions of faith as a result of the spring revivals.

"Evangelism always thrives in the context of revival," Fish says.

Flash forward to spring 2011. More than 120 men gathered in a Southwestern Seminary classroom. They listened to retired evangelism professor and chair of prayer emeritus Dan Crawford, who led the program after Fish for 23 years, tell about the history of the program, and as before, the gathering turned into a prayer meeting.

"Prayer has been the thread that has run through this program for more than 50 years," Crawford told students. So, as in years before, this year's group started on their knees.

Each year, students have the opportunity during the spring semester to take a practicum class that prepares them to preach a revival meeting. They learn skills related to leading a revival as they prepare and practice their sermons with classmates. They also devote themselves to prayer.


Although the program had no funding in its initial stages, godly laymen have come alongside the seminary over the years to provide money for travel expenses.

"When I came, I knew we needed money," Fish says. Soon thereafter, two godly laymen, C.J. Humphrey, president of the Panhandle Baptist Foundation, and Homer Jackson of Dallas, contributed a combined \$30,000 toward paying travel expenses for the program. Today, the program is supported by faithful friends of the seminary, including an endowment from John and Pat Carlson as well as a planned gift from Clif and JoAn Hale.

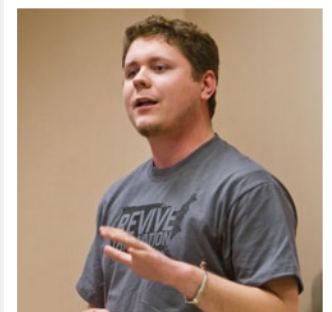
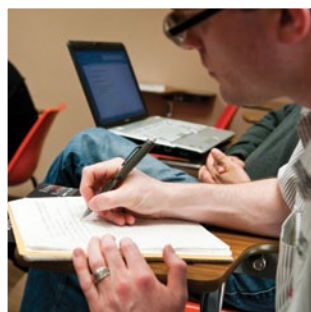
These generous gifts remove the financial burden for students and the churches they serve. The churches only have to accept the responsibility to house and feed the students during the revival. Many churches also take up love offerings to give to students for their faithfulness to preach the Gospel.

These students not only preach revival meetings and share the Gospel through personal evangelism, but they also minister to members in the church and to pastors.

"I was in Ohio as a pastor for three years," Fish says, "and I know how lonely those men can feel outside of the mainstream of Southern Baptist life. They need a shot in the arm, and that's what these meetings are to them."

The program, now named *Revive This Nation*, expanded this year to include not only pioneer states but also those in what has traditionally been known as the Bible Belt. The following pages give a glimpse of God's movement in the United States as students preach the Word and reach the world. 

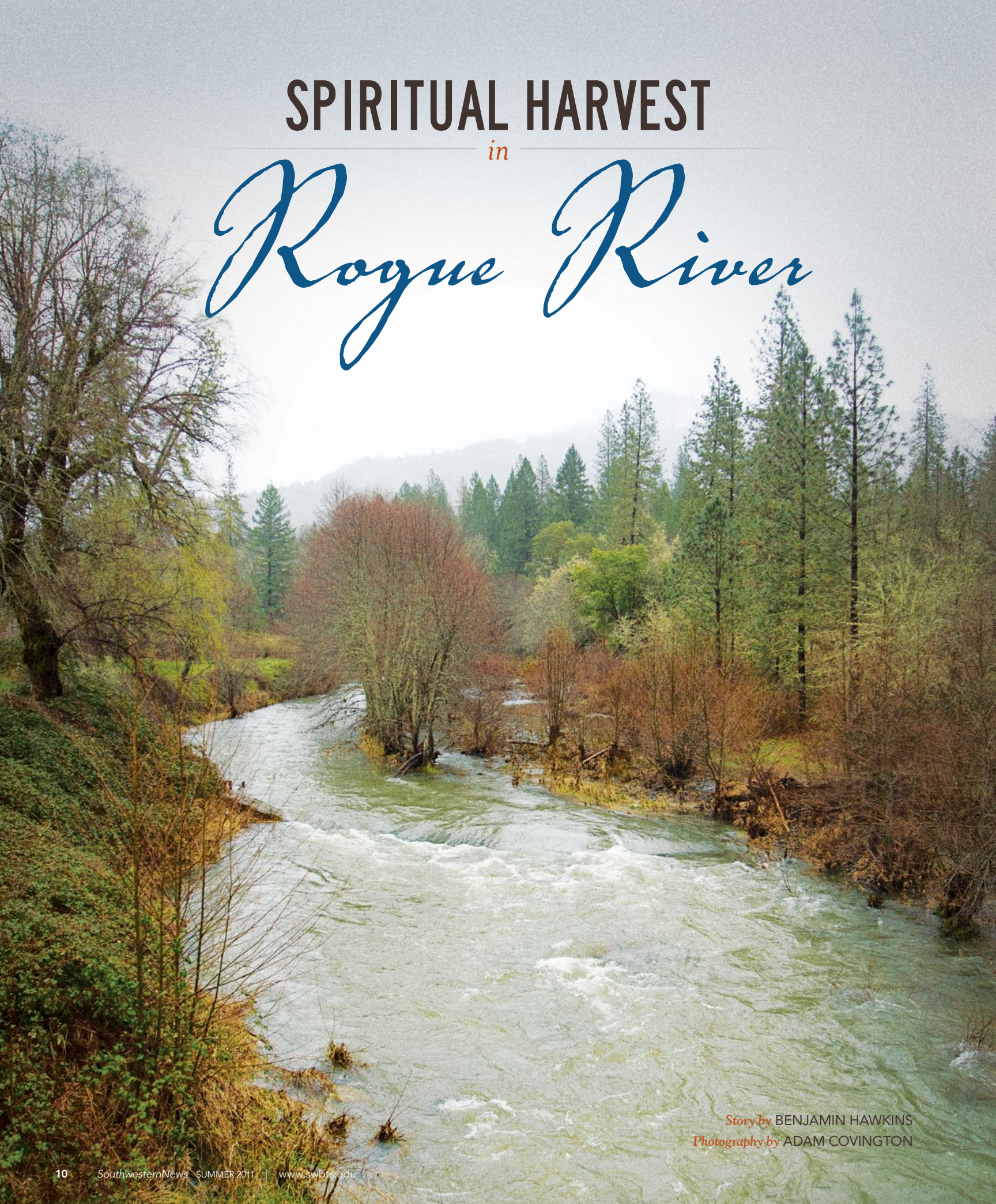
STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE 2011 SPRING REVIVAL



SPIRITUAL HARVEST

in

Rogue River



Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS
Photography by ADAM COVINGTON



Nestled in a river valley at the juncture between three mountain ranges, the southern Oregon town of Rogue River is known for its Palmerton Arboretum, where 90 species of trees, shrubs, and plants from around the world grow on five acres of rich soil.

During *Revive This Nation*, Southwestern Seminary student Rusty Thomas traveled to Rogue River and discovered that this town of 2,000 people is also a fertile land for the proclamation of the Gospel. During the week, he scattered the seed of God’s Word and watched as it produced fruit in keeping with faith and repentance.

“There is a movement in Rogue River, Oregon,” Thomas says. At Grace Baptist Church, where he preached, several people professed faith in Christ in the weeks before the revival.

“The church did a remarkable job praying and being ready for revival,” Thomas says. “The

pastor said they were experiencing revival even before we got there.” This revival continued as Thomas preached and shared the Gospel throughout Rogue River. During revival services, 11 people professed faith in Christ, and the church brimmed with men, women, and children each night.

People even flocked to the revival after a massive storm—the worst in nearly 10 years, people said—blew through Rogue River, knocking trees onto cars, damaging houses, and cutting off electricity throughout the town. The revival continued without interruption, however, since Grace Baptist was one of the only places in town that still had power.

It was not Thomas’ first time to see God move at Grace Baptist Church since he preached there during Southwestern’s 2010 revival program. Even before he returned to Oregon in 2011—this time with his whole family—he shared his excitement, which flows from his own testimony



WHERE: **Rogue River, OR**
Grace Baptist Church





and ministerial call. At the age of 15, he came to Christ during a revival, and he surrendered to the ministry two years later. Since that time, he spent eight years in youth ministry, another eight years behind the pulpit, and he now serves as a full-time evangelist. This spring, he preached six other revivals alongside *Revive This Nation*.

"I've got a burning in my bones to preach what God has laid on my heart," Thomas says. "This is just an awesome opportunity to go up into an area where only 2 percent of the population goes to church anywhere."

In his sermons, Thomas urged the members of Grace Baptist Church to heed biblical passages that call Christians to spiritual warfare: "We're all in a battle of our lives," he says, "the battle for our lives, whether we're

"If we want our lives to be different, if we want to have the promise of forgiveness, heaven, and eternal life, then we must surrender and say, 'I am guilty.'"

RUSTY THOMAS

going to follow God or Satan, the ways of the world or the ways of the Lord."

Throughout the revival, God's Word bore fruit, leading several people to

choose God rather than the world. One young man, a preacher's kid who had previously forsaken his father's faith, trusted Christ and confessed Him as Lord. A preacher's kid himself, Thomas confessed that pastors' children often see the hardships and strain of ministry and church life, and as a result, they sometimes abandon the church. Understanding this reality, Thomas expressed his thanks to God that this man came to Christ and returned to the church: "It was just awesome to see this transformation."

One woman, whose husband was a believer, also professed faith in Christ, Thomas recalls. Saved on the second day of the revival, she never missed a service.

"When she got home, she and her husband stayed up until midnight just

reading the Bible and talking," Thomas, who has continued to stay in touch with this family, says.

Another young man, a felon who had so far evaded arrest, also professed faith in Christ. Immediately, his faith and repentance produced fruit. Desiring to make amends for his past sins, he went to the police station, escorted by Thomas and the pastor at Grace Baptist Church, and confessed his crimes.


"He was ready and willing to repent and to turn around and say, 'I am not running anymore,'" Thomas says. The church's pastor promised that his congregation would pray for and support him. As the police placed him in handcuffs and led him away, Thomas says, this new Christian "had a peace because he knew God was with him."

"I was praising the Lord because he found a peace that passes all understanding," Thomas says, adding that this



man's confession depicts the nature of the Gospel. "If we want our lives to be different, if we want to have the promise of forgiveness, heaven, and eternal life, then we must surrender and say, 'I am guilty.'"

Although he will minister at a church in Missouri after graduation, while also continuing to preach revivals, Thomas confessed that the prospect of serving permanently in the spiritually fertile territory around Rogue River is alluring.

"I want to be where lost people are, and there are lost people there," Thomas says. "God is doing a work in that place, in that city, and even in that state. We need more pastors there. We need more churches there. It is not a place to go and make money in ministry, but if you want to see people come to know Jesus, this is one of the places you want to be." 



OREN POR LA INTERVENCIÓN DE DIOS

(Pray for the intervention of God)



Story by KEITH COLLIER
Photography by GENESIS PHOTO

Located in California's oldest wine region, the city of Livermore boasts scores of fertile vineyards and a burgeoning Hispanic population. It comes as no surprise, then, that William Trigueros recognized scriptural parallels as he sought to plant seeds and reap a harvest at Granada Baptist Church.

Trigueros grew up in Honduras and came to faith in Christ as a teenager. He attended seminary in Guatemala before returning to Honduras to serve as a preaching and New Testament professor. In 2005, he moved to Indianapolis to serve as pastor of a Southern Baptist Hispanic church and then to Fort Worth to attend Southwestern in 2009.

Trigueros, however, had never preached a revival and recognized the weight of the task before him. He remembered seminary president Paige Patterson advising students to "pray for the intervention of God."

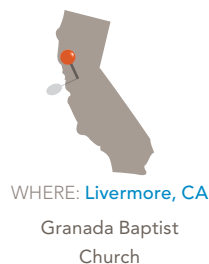
"With that statement," Trigueros says, "I came

to this conclusion: 'God, I cannot convince anyone. I'm going to California as your vessel; use me according to your will.' And God moved the hearts of the people."

Trigueros witnessed the Lord's activity immediately. On Sunday morning, he noticed a woman weeping uncontrollably during the first song of the worship service, as if she were carrying a heavy burden. He preached on Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus, and when he invited people to respond, this woman was the first to make a decision to follow Christ.

Also during the first service, Trigueros noticed a man named Julio, who seemed glued to the sermon and nodded in affirmation the entire message. At first, Trigueros assumed Julio was a Christian who was simply agreeing with the Gospel presentation, but when he gave the invitation, Julio raised his hand to indicate that he wanted to receive Christ.

"Later, the pastor told me that God worked





that day because Julio's wife had been praying for him for about 15 years without him knowing," Trigueros says.

"He did not allow his wife to read the Bible or go to church. She went to church without her husband's consent. He used to say that he would never set foot in a church, but now he is a new creature in Christ."

The Lord continued to transform lives throughout the week as Trigueros, the pastor, and church members shared the Gospel in apartment complexes, storefronts, and neighborhoods. On Monday, as he went door to door, he experienced God's providence when he met Guillermo and his wife Regina.

When Regina answered the door and greeted Trigueros, he noticed Guillermo sitting at the kitchen table, reading Psalm 150 in his Catholic Bible.

"Do you know the Roman Road?" Trigueros asked. Guillermo said, 'No,' so Trigueros asked him to read several verses from Romans. After discussing the passages, both Guillermo and Regina placed their faith in Christ.


Similarly, throughout the week, God

continued to draw people to Himself through Trigueros' preaching and faithful personal evangelism. The harvest was plentiful as six people made professions of faith during the revival services and four prayed to receive Christ as a result of personal evangelism.

"The week of *Revive This Nation* produced a revival in my heart, a love for the lost, and the conviction of my calling to preach the Word of God," Trigueros says.

Trigueros attributes the entire week as the intervention of God.

"We prayed for God to use this time of preaching, and now looking back at the hard work of this past week, I am convinced that I am only His instrument, and God brought those who were to be saved," Trigueros says.

"There were many people who closed the door, some answered negatively with strong words, some said they were not interested, and others said they were Catholic. But God allowed us to plant the seed and to see 10 people give their lives over to Him as well as others who rededicated their lives. May God be glorified through all of this work." 

"The week of *Revive This Nation* produced a revival in my heart, a love for the lost, and the conviction of my calling to preach the Word of God".

WILLIAM TRIGUEROS



PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES

Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS
Photography by ADAM TARLETON





In 2006, 24-year-old Justin Burkleo faced 63 years in prison. Charged with a fifth DUI, his reckless lifestyle had caught up with him.

But, awaiting his conviction in a courthouse holding cell, Burkleo began to consider the consequences of his sin, and the Holy Spirit began to break his bonds.

"The first thing I thought about was my family," Burkleo says. In 63 years, he thought, they might not even be alive. Would he ever spend time with his parents outside the walls of a prison? And what about the simple pleasures in life, the ones he so often took for granted—like enjoying a sunrise and the company of friends? He had professed faith in Christ at the age of 7. But how, he asked, had he fallen so far?

"I was at the end of my rope, failing miserably at life because I was living apart from Christ," Burkleo says. "I knew I was a sinner. For 17 years, I blasphemed my God and slandered His

name. I did things that no child of God should ever do."

Under the weight of this conviction, Burkleo confessed his sin, asked for God's mercy, and placed his fears about life imprisonment in God's hands. "Jesus," he prayed, "if I am going to be here 63 years in prison, I need you to do every day with me."

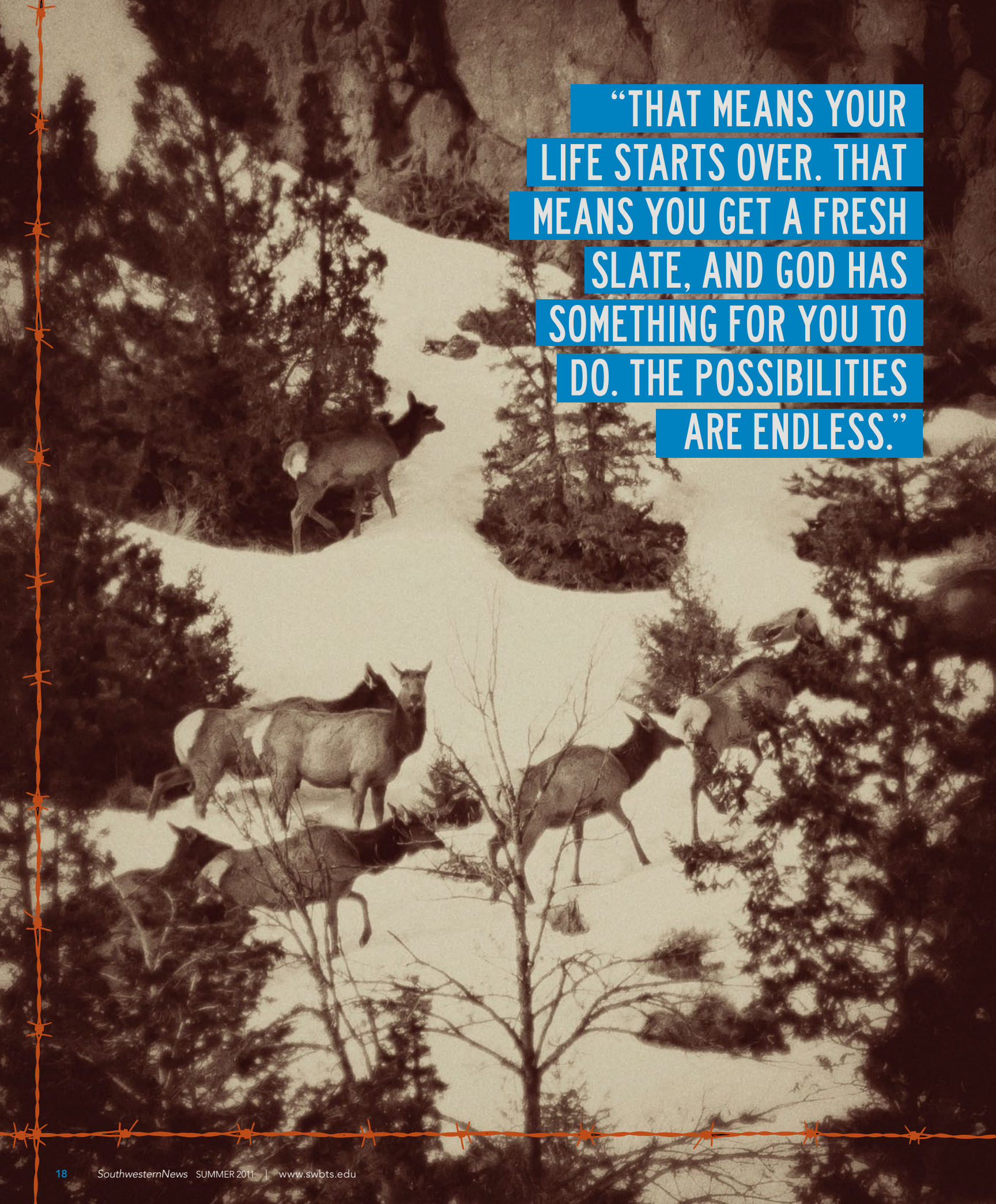
After surrendering to Christ, Burkleo says, "I felt instant release from all the sin and bondage. I understood what bondage was that day because I really felt free." As he would come to discover, Christ freed him to preach the Gospel.

In the end, the judge sentenced Burkleo to three years in a Louisiana prison, but he was released on parole after 17 months. Praying for God's guidance, Burkleo moved to San Angelo, Texas, learned a new trade, joined a church, and met his wife, Kelsey, while serving in a Vacation Bible School program. The two were married in April 2010, and they moved to



WHERE: Riverton, WY
Hillcrest Baptist Church





**“THAT MEANS YOUR
LIFE STARTS OVER. THAT
MEANS YOU GET A FRESH
SLATE, AND GOD HAS
SOMETHING FOR YOU TO
DO. THE POSSIBILITIES
ARE ENDLESS.”**

Fort Worth that fall so that Burkleo could pursue his bachelor's degree in the College at Southwestern.

"The reason I came to Southwestern was because I wanted to learn how to preach the Word of God the way it was intended to be preached," Burkleo says. It is no wonder, then, that he desired to preach during *Revive This Nation* as soon as he heard about it. Burkleo and his wife traveled to Hillcrest Baptist Church in Riverton, Wy.

A city of little more than 9,000 people, Riverton lies on the Southwest edge of Wind River Country, 5 million acres of land that embrace towering peaks,

to ministry. This especially excited Burkleo, who serves as a youth minister at Garden Acres Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas.

Burkleo also taught Scripture at Riverton's Set Free Church, where he used God's Word and his own testimony to proclaim liberty to the captives. Sponsored by Southern Baptists in Wyoming, Set Free Church reaches the homeless, alcoholics, and ex-convicts, helping them escape the cycles of sin that have destroyed their lives and the lives of their family members.

Many of the men to whom Burkleo ministered came from the Shoshone,

Church, Burkleo showed William and others the story of Josiah, a godly Judean king who broke the cycle of sin passed down by his forefathers. Like Josiah, the men in Set Free Church inherited patterns of sin from their families.

"They are so worried about the cycles they are in, and they don't believe that one person can break a cycle: 'Well,' they think, 'my dad did it, my brother did it, my cousin did it, so I am destined to do it, too.'" As they considered Josiah's story, however, they began to understand the power of God to break these cycles and the



parched badlands, and a vast expanse of open sky and free ranges. Riverton is home to four casinos, and many of its citizens are imprisoned to gambling, alcohol, and other sinful habits.

During the revival at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Burkleo urged members to follow Christ wholeheartedly and to enter their community to share the Gospel. One high school student, an ex-Mormon who drives 45 minutes each Sunday to attend the church, responded by surrendering his life


Arapaho, and Crow reservations in Wind River Country. One of these men, William, saw his father, brother, and two cousins die of alcoholism within a matter of years.

"He is about to go back home and is on fire to share Christ with his nation," Burkleo says, "but he is scared. ... He is trying to figure out how much of his culture to hold onto and how much to let go of, because there is so much that does not correlate with Gospel living."

During the Bible study at Set Free

changes that one person can make. Burkleo reassured them of God's power to transform a life.

"That means your life starts over," he says. "That means you get a fresh slate, and God has something for you to do. The possibilities are endless."

Burkleo's testimony proves his point. During spring break, after all, he preached the Gospel in a town nearly 1,500 miles from Louisiana, where, apart from God's grace, he would now face 58 more years in prison. 



**TRUSTEE, LAWYER
ANSWERS CALL**

TO PREACH THE WORD

Story by **KEITH COLLIER**
Photography by **ADAM COVINGTON**



Geoff Kolander struggled to concentrate on his task of moderating Southwestern’s fall trustee meeting. He simply could not shake what he had just seen off his mind.

“I felt the Holy Spirit move within me after I watched the video presentation for the spring revival practicum. I felt a call to preach in it,” Kolander says.

“I walked up to Dr. Patterson after the meeting and asked if lawyers were allowed to participate. Of course, he laughed and said I would be welcome to participate. Thirty minutes later, Dr. Patterson solidified my participation by asking me to come forward during chapel and tell the audience the question I had asked him. At that point there was no turning back.”

Kolander also said he would pay for his entire trip and not take from the endowment, which he said was for students participating in the program.

Kolander, an attorney by profession, signed up to preach during *Revive This Nation* and

a few months later received his assignment to lead the revival at Cross Pointe Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. He began to prepare his sermons and received assistance from Southwestern vice president and professor Thomas White.

“He read each one of my sermons and gave me the practical preaching insight I needed,” Kolander says.

Kolander serves as executive vice president and general counsel for Citizens, Inc. in Austin, Texas, so speaking in front of people comes naturally. He also has teaching experience in the church, having taught Sunday school and even having preached a few times while in law school. Although he had never preached a revival, God gave him confidence for the task.

“I was drawn to the opportunity to study, prepare, and share the Word of God,” Kolander says. “As a lawyer, I am an advocate for others. I take on the issues and concerns of my client. The preparation I undertake in the practice



WHERE: **Sioux Falls, SD**

Cross Pointe
Baptist Church





of law is similar to the preparation required for preaching.

"However, my passion for advocacy in the law is a distant second to the passion I feel for declaring the truth of the Word of God. When I preach the Gospel message, I share a truth that is undeniable. We have a Gospel that is confirmed by prophecy, the testimony of Jesus' disciples, and a risen Savior. Further, that Gospel message lives within me through my personal testimony as a born again believer in Jesus Christ. That is truth I can advocate."

When he arrived, Kolander received a warm welcome by the members of Cross Pointe and pastor Vince Smith. He describes the church as "Christ-centered with a loving pastor."

"Pastor Smith gave me an excellent glimpse of his pastoral duties each

"Southwestern's commitment to reaching North America then and now is truly inspirational. I believe the heartland of the United States is a fertile field, full of opportunity for the Gospel. We need some of our best and brightest to respond to the call."

VINCE SMITH

day," Kolander says. "We spent a large block of our day together. I enjoyed the fellowship, but I particularly enjoyed

witnessing him pastor his flock.

"He did not outsource his pastoral duties to staff or his deacons because he believed pastoral duties were secondary to his calling as an evangelist." Kolander says this balance of pastor-preacher helped shape his views of theological education and his role as a seminary trustee.

Smith, a graduate of Southwestern, says Kolander's authenticity and genuine love for people made an impact in the church and in the community.

"Geoff's exegesis of God's Word was flawless and his ability to apply the Word to where people lived was gifted," Smith says. "The best aspect in the area of evangelism was the genuine curiosity he had to hear a person's story before he shared the Gospel with him."

During the week, Kolander witnessed

a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit, as four people made professions of faith and more than 25 renewed their commitment to living the Gospel. He witnessed the transformation of one teenage girl, whose countenance changed throughout the week as she finally confessed Christ as Lord. Kolander even had the opportunity to preach on Sunday afternoon to an African refugee church that meets at Cross Pointe.

"The intangible impact of the revival week is as important as the tangible results," Smith says. "Geoff encouraged us and showed us our work is valuable to the kingdom of God. He was here as our long winter was drawing to a close, and the encouragement came just when we needed it.

"The most positive change is the renewed focus on evangelism and the Gospel. Geoff's personal sacrifice to come share God's Word and the Gospel with us challenged every one of us to give more and do more for the Gospel. Cross Pointe has participated each of the last four years and the experience always results in new believers and a renewed commitment to evangelism."

The experience opened Kolander's eyes to the vast need for Bible-centered, Gospel-oriented churches in frontier regions like South Dakota.

"I genuinely think there is tremendous opportunity for kingdom growth in Sioux Falls, particularly for Southern Baptists," Kolander says. "If I were a young pastor or recent graduate of Southwestern, I would seriously consider moving to a place like Sioux Falls. The opportunity to reach a large swath of people for Christ makes it an excellent place to build and establish a Bible-centered Southern Baptist church."

Smith witnessed this truth when he participated in the spring break

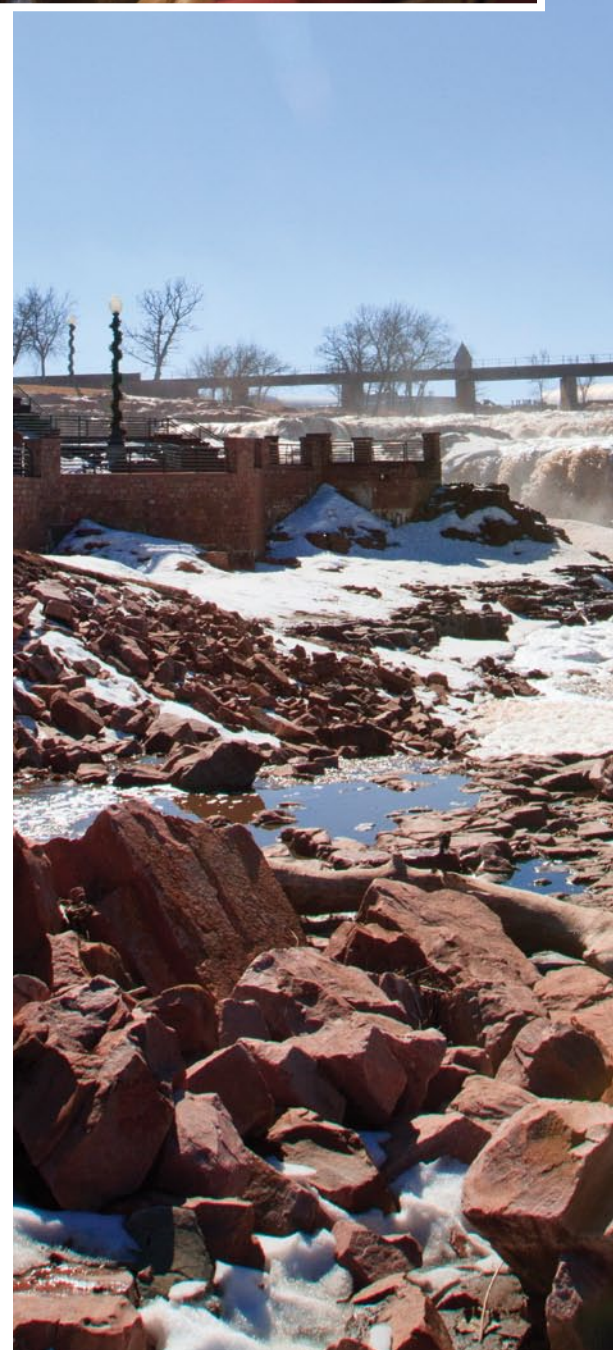


practicum as a student at Southwestern in spring 1998. He credits his experience as the reason he moved to Sioux Falls.

"I saw that the work in these vast, lost areas is lonely, hard, and often only remembered by God himself," Smith says. "Southwestern's commitment to reaching North America then and now is truly inspirational. I believe the heartland of the United States is a fertile field, full of opportunity for the Gospel. We need some of our best and brightest to respond to the call."

Kolander is grateful for the opportunity to preach the revival in Sioux Falls. Through it, he learned more about ministry, the power of the Gospel, and unreached fields ripe for harvest. He recognizes the trip's impact will carry on for years to come.

"I have served as a trustee for close to seven years now. I have spent two years as vice chairman and one year as chairman at Southwestern. As my wife can attest, I have spent countless hours on trustee-related business. Nevertheless, this experience far outweighed any experience I have had as a trustee in its importance and utility for completing my remaining years of service to Southwestern." 



BLIND, BUT NOW I

See

Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS
Photography by ADAM COVINGTON



CHRIST STILL GIVES SIGHT TO THE BLIND.

Preaching during *Revive This Nation*, Southwestern Seminary student Reagan Lynch brought light to Christ's healing of a blind man in Scripture. Lynch himself was born with low vision and lost his sight completely at age 23. During the revival, however, he found that Christ continues to improve his spiritual vision.

Scripture mentions blindness 54 times, Lynch explained in a sermon at Prairie Baptist Church in New Underwood, S.D. Only once does Scripture depict a man "born blind."

On this one occasion, recounted in John 9, Christ's disciples raise the pressing question: Why was this man born blind? In response, Jesus insists that he was blind in order "that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3). Like this blind beggar, Lynch said, all people have a God-honoring purpose for their lives.

"No matter what is going on in our lives,

we have a purpose," Lynch said. "Your life has a purpose. The way we find that purpose ... is by repenting and believing in Christ."

Lynch finds confidence in God's purpose for his own life. Although he was saved at age 7, he pursued his own purposes in life for many years.

"I did everything I wanted to do," Lynch says. "I didn't want anything to do with church during college. I ran from it all."

Earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Sola State University in Alpine, Texas, Lynch worked for the government on two federal advisory committees and as a fundraiser for the Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C.

"I had all the experiences I wanted to have related to political science, trying to get into government work, or teaching," Lynch says. "And none of that was for me. I was called to be in the ministry, but I didn't realize that until a year ago."



WHERE: **New Underwood, SD**

Prairie Baptist Church





Recognizing God's call on his life, Lynch and his wife, Alicia, moved to Fort Worth, where he began classes at Southwestern Seminary in the fall of 2010. He came to the seminary with the desire to train in youth ministry, but again God redirected his path toward church planting. His eyes were opened to this calling when he read the report of the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

"I didn't realize that we had over 250 million lost people in the United States and Canada," he says. "That is very convicting."

This enlightenment also prompted him to join *Revive This Nation* as soon as he found it advertised on Southwestern Seminary's website. The classes preparing students for this preaching venture, he says, did "a tremendous job" by helping students

"No matter what is going on in our lives, we have a purpose. Your life has a purpose. The way we find that purpose ... is by repenting and believing in Christ."

REAGAN LYNCH

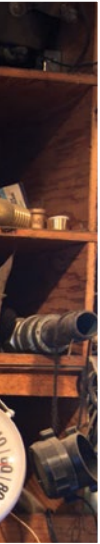
prepare their sermons and by stirring their passion for the Gospel: "When we were done with the class, we were like, 'Let's go save the world.'"

In New Underwood, a community of nearly 700 people located an hour from

Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills of South Dakota, Lynch not only preached the Word of God at Prairie Baptist Church, but he also opened doors into the community. Invited to speak at the local high school, Lynch shared how he deals with his blindness, encouraging students to pursue excellence in their lives. This event also gave him a platform for sharing the Gospel.

According to Pastor Jim Harbert of Prairie Baptist Church, Lynch helped the church to serve and connect with the people of New Underwood. He says Lynch's testimony at the high school gained students' attention. One student with a hearing impairment asked Lynch how he could maintain a social life despite his impairment.

"We live in a pretty Gospel-hardened community," Harbert says, adding that Lynch "did his part in preaching the




Word.” According to Harbert, Lynch had a good sense of humor and “a good way of establishing rapport with the people.”

“I’m glad that Southwestern does the revival program,” Harbert says. “It gives us an opportunity to go out there and talk to people” and to “make a positive impact on the community.”

Preaching for a week in New Underwood also made an impact on Lynch.

“I think that every person who has an inkling to be the pastor needs to spend one week with a pastor of a rural church in a state outside the Bible Belt,” he says. “Not everybody is going to work in the Bible Belt. Not everybody is going to work in a large church.”

In his sermon at Prairie Baptist Church, Lynch said he knew a man who was surgically healed of blindness. When this man first received his vision, “everything he had ever imagined in his mind was totally different when he saw it in this new light.”

In the same way, life looks different after surrendering to Christ, Lynch said—a reality he experienced by following God’s call to the ministry. Through *Revive This Nation*, he also gained a fresh vision of church life and ministry. 

“I THINK THAT EVERY PERSON WHO HAS AN INKLING TO BE A PASTOR NEEDS TO SPEND ONE WEEK WITH A PASTOR OF A RURAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OUTSIDE THE BIBLE BELT. NOT EVERYBODY IS GOING TO WORK IN THE BIBLE BELT. NOT EVERYBODY IS GOING TO WORK IN A LARGE CHURCH.”



REVIVALS AREN'T DEAD:

Connecting church and community through Christ

Story by KEITH COLLIER
Photography by NIC HERVEY



Named after the Katy Railroad vice president in 1872, Denison, Texas, served as a link in the chain of depot towns connecting Missouri, Texas, and Kansas. As the city grew, additional rail lines connected Denison to surrounding states as well as other North Texas communities, aiding commercial and consumer transportation.

Matt Duran traveled to Denison during *Revive This Nation* to help Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church's Denison campus reconnect the once-thriving church with their neighbors. During "Connection Week," themed activities, worship services, and door-to-door evangelism not only encouraged church members to reach out to the community but also challenged individuals to connect with God and with one another.

"Because the church is a replant," Duran says, "the pastor really wanted to introduce the church back into the community."

Duran learned the power of connecting with people during two deployments to Iraq with the Army National Guard, once as a chaplain's assistant and again as part of combat patrols.

"God used my eight-year military career, especially those two deployments, so I could begin to learn who I am in Him and so I could begin to discover His will," Duran says.

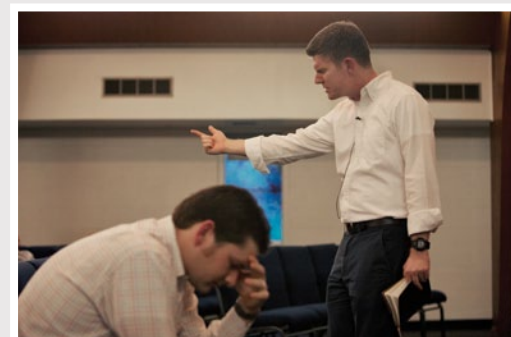
"It really showed me the problems that people have and how many of those people are generally not going to stumble into church on a Sunday morning. It taught me that you have to take the Gospel to the people. I had to expand my horizon of people who I thought deserved the Gospel or people who I thought looked like they could become Christians."

Duran, pastor Jeremy Woods, and church members took their passion for the Gospel and compassion for people into the neighborhoods,



WHERE: **Denison, TX**
Cottonwood Creek
Baptist Church





inviting residents to the week's events and services as well as explaining the plan of salvation. As a result, they were able to lead a man to the Lord and have begun discipleship efforts with him and his wife.

"I learned from the pastor that talking through Scripture with people is the best evangelistic tool," Duran says. "God also reaffirmed to me that pastoring is more than preaching; it's a full-contact sport. You've got to take it from the study to the streets."

People also responded to the Gospel during revival services. Duran says the people were diligent in coming each night, including a man who suffered a mini-stroke earlier in the week. The hospital released the man on Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m., and he arrived at the church by 6:25 p.m.

"Matt has a strong understanding of God's Word and preached specifically from the text," Woods says. "Also, Matt loves people, and that is a crucial asset when it comes to ministry. Several of our members stated they really enjoyed supporting a seminary student and future pastor who is truly called to preach God's Word."

"There is no doubt this is the best


"God also reaffirmed to me that pastoring is more than preaching; it's a full-contact sport. You've got to take it from the study to the streets."

MATT DURAN

and most vital thing that could have happened, getting a front row seat of watching God work as Matt sharpened his skills in proclaiming the Word of God."

Reflecting on the week, Duran says it shaped his view of revivals.

"When people say revivals are dead, I think what they mean is that the old school way is dead," Duran says. "Maybe their real hatred is just against the word 'revival.'"

"Well, 'revivals' may not work anymore, but preaching the Gospel works. If a revival is preaching the Gospel, then it absolutely works. For us to say that revivals don't work anymore is to say that the Gospel has lost its power." 

THE TALE OF TWO MEXICOS:

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL

Story By REBECCA CARTER

Photography By MATTHEW MILLER



Soon after his conversion in 2009, Les Cox saw his life in South Carolina stretching out before him toward a predictable and respectable conclusion.

However, when Cox sensed a call to ministry during a winter mission trip to Mexico, he knew his path would drastically change once he returned to the States.

"I saw my life go either in the left lane with my dad's business, or in the right lane with [God], but having no clue where that's going to take me," Cox says. He obediently replied, "Whatever you want, Lord. I'm listening."

In 2010, God's calling led Cox from the mission field in Mexico to Fort Worth to pursue a bachelor's degree in the College at Southwestern. This spring, he participated in *Revive This Nation*, which sent him to Mexico,

Mo., where God further affirmed his ministry calling.

Cox followed God's leading in sermon delivery, knocking on doors in the neighborhood, and sharing his faith at the local mall. Despite balancing the pressures of schoolwork as well as sermon preparation to wrap up his first full year of college, he resolved in his heart to give it his all, even though he had only preached four sermons in his entire life before stepping behind Littleby Baptist Church's pulpit.

David Rice, Littleby Baptist's pastor, currently battles advanced stage prostate cancer and has exceeded his doctors' predicted life expectancy. Still, he devotes the time God gives him to traveling on mission trips to India and the Philippines, caring for his wife, and serving his congregation. Rice prayed specifically for



WHERE: [Mexico, MO](#)
Littleby Baptist Church





“I’VE BEEN CALLED TO PREACH, AND I’M HOPING TO SHARE THE GOSPEL. I FEEL LIKE IF YOU HAVE A HEART FOR THE LORD, AND IF HE’S CALLED YOU TO DO SOMETHING, THAT’S ALL YOU REALLY NEED.”

a young preacher they could care for and support but found God used Cox to encourage their own hearts as well.

“Les was just an old preacher boy, common as an old boot, you know? But he loved the Lord Jesus, and he let Him use him. It was exactly what we were needing,” Rice says. “Les had come to our church ready for revival.”

Cox received a taste of full-time ministry, preaching several times in front of the same group of people and spending time with Rice’s congregation. The experience solidified his call to ministry.

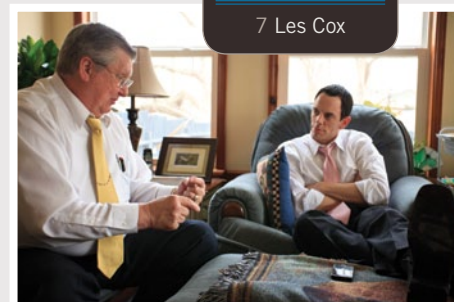
“I preached four sermons to these people, and they were still loving me and still telling me every night that God was talking to them in different ways,” Cox says. “One lady came up to me after I preached from Matthew on worries and said, ‘You must have been reading my diary.’ It’s constant encouragement to me that God was speaking through me and using me.”

Cox received further encouragement about his ministry future when the church recognized his calling, licensed him to preach, and sent him home with a love offering.

“With the man of God that [Rice] is, I’m honored he would license me,” Cox says. “He was a great example of a man who loved God, loved his wife, and loved his church.”

Cox will start his sophomore year in the fall, pursuing his B.A. in Humanities with a concentration in missions. He remains in contact with Rice for prayer support and encouragement in this time of preparation. Though unclear on the location and the details, Cox is sure God can lead him, like a shepherd, exactly where He intends him to go.

“He’s reminding me to take one day at a time when I’m here at school. In order to get there, I have to focus here,” Cox says. “I’ve been called to preach, and I’m hoping to share the Gospel. I feel like if you have a heart for the Lord and if He’s called you to do something, that’s all you really need.” ^{SN}



“I saw my life go either in the left lane with my dad’s business, or in the right lane with [God], but having no clue where that’s going to take me,” Cox says. He obediently replied, “Whatever you want, Lord. I’m listening.”

LES COX

SERVING SMALL CHURCHES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD





Story by REBECCA CARTER
Photography by MATTHEW MILLER

Joshua Elliff joyfully serves Fielder Road Baptist Church, a suburban mega church in Arlington, Texas. As pastor to 20-year-olds, Elliff leads and teaches 300 college students and young professionals each week.

An unlikely pairing with Elliff, then, is Main Street Baptist Church in Braidwood, Ill., a former mining town on the outskirts of Chicago featuring abandoned mine shafts, antique stores, a Route 66 festival, and other small-town points of interest.

This cultural contrast did not keep God from moving during *Revive This Nation*, impacting both Elliff and church alike. Elliff left his time with Pastor George Hendricks, his wife, Jerry, and Main Street Baptist encouraged by their faithful service and sure of the Word of God.

“Just because I’m in a church with 3,000 and they’re in a church with 100 doesn’t mean our impact eternally is any different,” Elliff says. “By the end of the week I had come to really love

those people, and I saw how God had done things through His Word.”

For Elliff, ministry runs in the family: Bill Elliff, his father, serves as pastor of Summit Church in Little Rock, Ark.; Steven Smith, his cousin, serves as dean of the College at Southwestern, and Tom Elliff, one of his uncles, recently took the helm as president of the International Mission Board.

Joshua Elliff himself felt God’s call at age 12 and recently stepped out of the workforce as a media manager last year. He participated in *Revive This Nation* because he wants preaching and evangelism at the forefront of his seminary studies in Fort Worth.

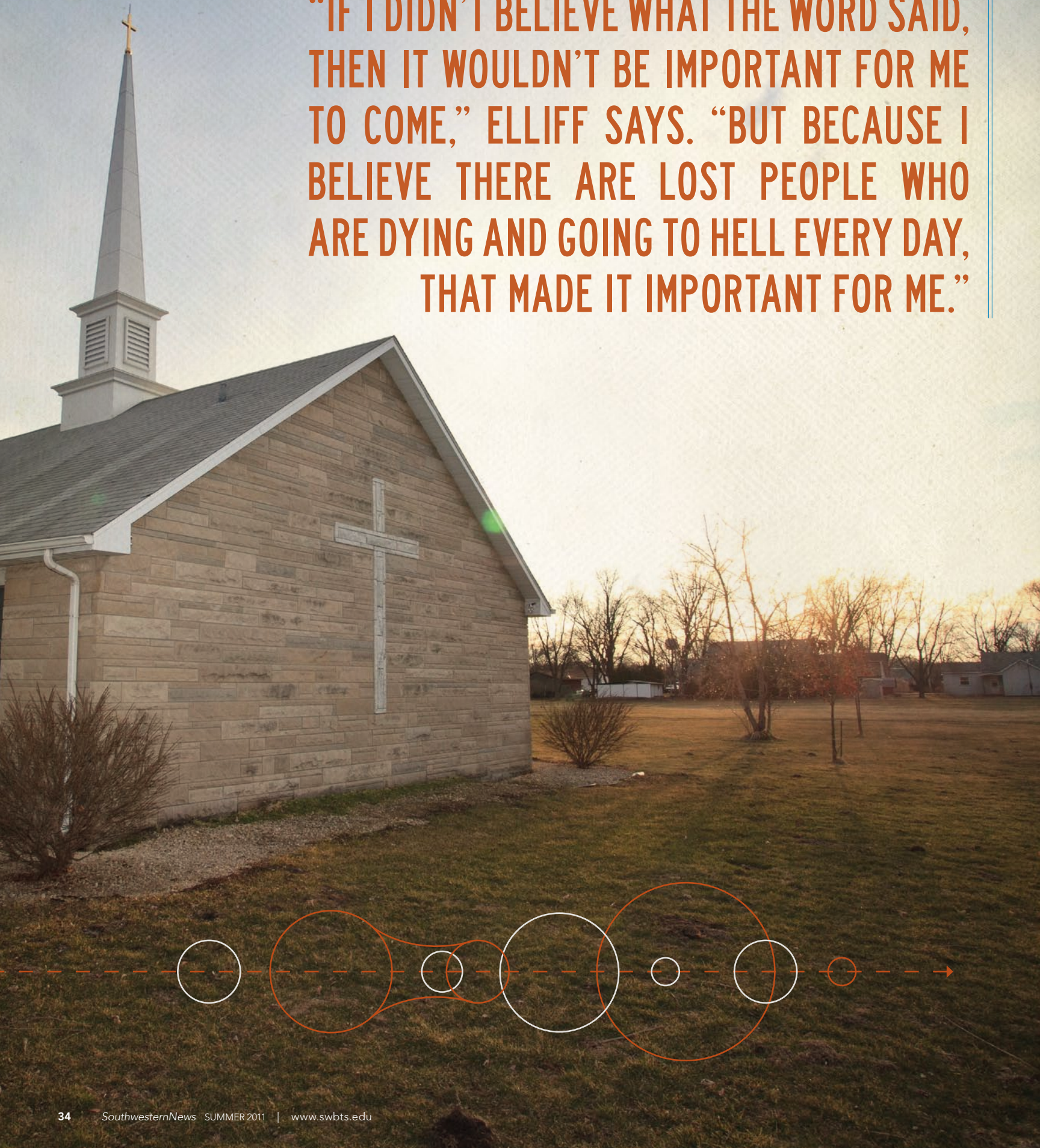
However, the call to ministry is a call to prepare, as Southwestern students well know. Elliff enrolled in the revival practicum, and along with his classmates, began each Monday afternoon class on his face before God, praying



WHERE: **Braidwood, IL**
Main Street Baptist
Church



“IF I DIDN’T BELIEVE WHAT THE WORD SAID, THEN IT WOULDN’T BE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO COME,” ELLIFF SAYS. “BUT BECAUSE I BELIEVE THERE ARE LOST PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING AND GOING TO HELL EVERY DAY, THAT MADE IT IMPORTANT FOR ME.”



for His guidance and the Holy Spirit's movement in people's hearts.

Almost as soon as he hit the streets in March, he saw these prayers and God's faithfulness pay off in Braidwood. Elliff first met Ian and Zach, two teenagers. Zach, a Christian, kept inviting Ian to church, but Ian never came. However, Elliff stopped them in the middle of the street to tell them about Jesus, which significantly impacted Ian.

Ian thought it was a weird coincidence

day, and he trusts God with the results. He recorded their names into his iPhone and remembers them in prayer, knowing what is at stake.

"If I didn't believe what the Word said, then it wouldn't be important for me to come," Elliff says. "But because I believe there are lost people who are dying and going to hell every day, that made it important for me."

Along with preaching the Gospel along Main Street itself, Elliff also shared

he preached one night that she felt discouraged. She questioned her usefulness in ministry in light of her health concerns.

Elliff had a question of his own, unvoiced: What could he, as a 25-year-old, say that would encourage such a veteran saint?

"It was just a moment where I had no wisdom, but I prayed, and brought her to Scripture," Elliff says. "The Holy Spirit was able to speak, and



that someone from Texas would start talking to them. It wasn't coincidence he came, Elliff explained. It was obedience. Intrigued, the two listened intently as Elliff shared the Gospel that he traveled 900 miles to give them.

Another man, Casey, welcomed Elliff into his house. Christian rock music provided a surreal backdrop to their conversation as the man confided in Elliff about his wife Jackie and her hatred of God. Ever since her father died, she refused to attend church with Casey, and the stress wore on him. He felt isolated and asked Elliff to pray for her and for their young son, Jack.

Elliff shared with nine people that


it from Scripture inside the church doors. His text-driven sermons from Ephesians, Colossians, Romans, and Psalms contained the encouragement and conviction this church needed, and Elliff knew he must depend upon the Word's power to cause change.

He felt unprepared at times, especially in the cases of older Christians, like Hendricks's wife Jerry, who have spent so much time in ministry. Jerry helped plant Main Street Baptist with her husband almost 50 years ago and for a long while served as the church pianist.

Now in her 80s, Jerry is in failing health, and she shared with Elliff after

the Scripture was able to speak." He shared Philippians 4:6-7 with Jerry and prayed for her as they sat in the pew together that evening after service.

That situation, a synecdoche for his time in Braidwood, showed him how preachers must embrace the gravity of their callings and trust the power of God's Word.

"If you're praying and you are seeking God, the weight of the Word of God is going to do the work," says Elliff. "God trusts you to the full capacity with what you're called to. No matter where you are, if that is where God called you, then that's the impact that you need to make." 

HIRED

CHURCH SEEKS REVIVAL, FINDS PASTOR



Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS
Photography by MATTHEW MILLER



Matt Higgins (center) and Greg Howell (right) pray for a man during door-to-door visits.

In spring 2010, Southwestern Seminary student Matt Higgins received the unexpected offer of a ministry position in Martinsville, Ind.—an offer more surprising, perhaps, because the town at that time suffered from economic regression. With a population of only 12,000, Martinsville still holds three busy homeless shelters, a large food pantry, and an organization that provides meals to the needy on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

The offer definitely came as a surprise to Higgins, who was not seeking a ministry assignment in Martinsville. Looking forward to his graduation with the Master of Divinity degree in May 2010, he had applied at churches on the east coast, with the hopes of living closer to his home state of Virginia. Nevertheless, lay leaders from Calvary Heights Baptist Church of Martinsville asked Higgins to submit his application for the church's open pastoral position.

Higgins had come to Martinsville as a part of Southwestern Seminary's revival program, now called *Revive This Nation*. He had participated in the program once before, and—at the last

minute—he felt God was leading him to do so again in 2010. What he thought would only be a revival became what he called the best job interview ever—a weeklong opportunity to meet the congregation, preach for them, and pray with them.

Two months after Higgins graduated from Southwestern, Calvary Heights called him to serve as their pastor. By the end of October he, his wife, Dana, and his daughter, Gwen, had settled in Martinsville. In the town's newspaper, he praised his new congregation for their "passion for revival and (their) passion for the community." Since he arrived at Calvary Heights, Higgins has displayed the same passion.

"There is a lot of need in the community," Higgins says. "We think this is a part of our mission—plugging back into the community and serving the community—because there are a lot of people who are economically in need, people who need food to feed their families every day, people who need clothes to put on their backs."

While there may be a shortage of jobs in Martinsville, Higgins adds, religion is in high supply.



WHERE: [Martinsville, IN](#)
Calvary Heights Baptist Church





Religious communities in the area include Catholics, Pentecostals, the Disciples of Christ, and other Christian denominations, as well as cult groups such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

"Everybody is spiritually active in something," Higgins says, "but not necessarily in things that are beneficial to them."

This situation contributes to Higgins' desire to see revival in his church and in the community. This spring, Higgins invited another Southwestern student to lead a revival at Calvary Heights through *Revive This Nation*. Having experienced the program both as a student preacher and as a pastor, he testifies that it benefits everyone involved: It helps the seminary fulfill its role in training students to preach and fulfill the Great Commission, but it also gives churches the opportunity to hear from young preachers "who are energized and on fire for the Lord."

"The Lord moved, and the Lord worked

"Everybody is
spiritually active
in something but
not necessarily
in things that
are beneficial to
them."

MATT HIGGINS

(during the revival)," Higgins says. "He helped us remember that we need to be personally in touch with God and spiritually revived but that also, as a church, we need to recommit ourselves to the Great Commission and to going out and seeking revival in our community as well."

This year, Master of Divinity student

Greg Howell led the church's revival, using the Great Commission and passages from Nehemiah and elsewhere in Scripture to show the congregation the biblical pattern for revival and to urge them to share the Gospel. Howell knew he wanted to be a part of *Revive This Nation* from the moment he heard about it during a preview week at the seminary.

"This is why I came to seminary," Howell says, "so that I can be trained on how to prepare a text-driven sermon, how to stand behind the pulpit and proclaim the Word of God to the people, how to tell them the Gospel and let God convict them. I can't imagine not wanting to do this."

Throughout the week, Howell not only preached, but he, Higgins, and members of the church also shared the Gospel door to door. Repeatedly, they reminded people that neither religion nor church membership could save but only a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pastor Higgins showed confidence in this effort


“THIS IS WHY I CAME TO SEMINARY,” HOWELL SAYS, “SO THAT I CAN BE TRAINED ON HOW TO PREPARE A TEXT-DRIVEN SERMON, HOW TO STAND BEHIND THE PULPIT AND PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE, HOW TO TELL THEM THE GOSPEL AND LET GOD CONVICT THEM. I CAN’T IMAGINE NOT WANTING TO DO THIS.”

to share the Gospel with the community.

“This is still an effective way to do evangelism,” Higgins says. “I would encourage churches to do this because it is not a dead art.”

According to Howell, the members of Calvary Heights Baptist Church showed a deep desire for revival.

“Here is a church,” Howell says, “that loves God, and they want to grow closer to him.” The church had prepared for revival through prayer, and they had previously trained in evangelism. “It was good to see a body of believers who were interested in learning, growing, and being close to God. I felt rejuvenated because sometimes you don’t see this.”

During his last evening to preach at the revival, Howell, in a sermon from Psalm 117, reminded the members of Calvary Heights Baptist Church to praise the Lord for His work: “Praise the LORD, all nations! Glorify Him, all peoples! For great is His faithful love to us; the LORD’s faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah!” 

DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO REACH PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL: (top) Greg Howell prepares to preach. (middle) Higgins and Howell go door to door during the daytime hours to do evangelism. (bottom) Matt Higgins loads a shopping cart with goodies for the revival ice cream social.





OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

in the

‘SUNSHINE STATE’

Story by KEITH COLLIER
Photography by MATTHEW MILLER



With a population of 4,200, the small city of Mary Esther

sits along the northwest Florida coastline within an hour of spring break beach hotspots like Pensacola, Fort Walton, Destin, and Panama City. While thousands of young people flocked to the region for a week of partying, Vern Charette traveled to First Baptist Church in Mary Esther for revival.

“There was a great contrast between what was going on at the beach and what was taking place in that church,” Charette says.

Charette embraced the opportunity to shine the light of the Gospel and see lives transformed during the week. He preached discipleship-oriented and evangelistic messages, and people physically responded to his sermons as they flooded the altar in repentance and recommitment to the Lord.

Charette certainly understands what it feels like to have his life transformed by the Gospel.

At age 18, he found himself a high school dropout headed down a path of destruction. A lifestyle of partying and drinking consumed his life, mimicking that of his alcoholic father and those he grew up around on the rough side of Tulsa, Okla. He lived in darkness.

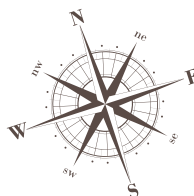
Things changed though when a co-worker, an older black man who also served as a bi-vocational pastor, befriended Charette and shared Christ with the troubled teenager.

“I distinctly remember the day that he shared the Gospel with me,” Charette recalls. He eventually accepted the preacher’s invitation to church. At the end of the service, the pastor approached him, got face to face, and asked him if he wanted to be saved.

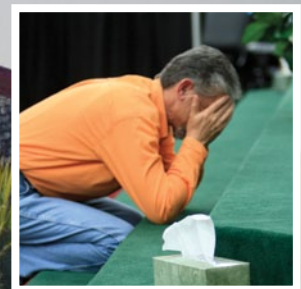
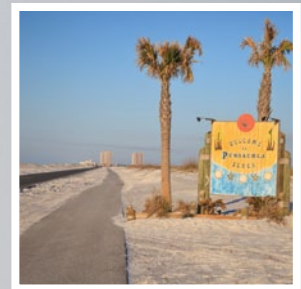
“It was at that moment that God broke me. Tears began to run down my cheek. I saw myself the way God saw me. I took about two steps and got down on my face at that little,



WHERE: **Mary Esther, FL**
First Baptist Church



“IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT GOD BROKE ME. TEARS BEGAN TO RUN DOWN MY CHEEK. I SAW MYSELF THE WAY GOD SAW ME. I TOOK ABOUT TWO STEPS AND GOT DOWN ON MY FACE AT THAT LITTLE, OLD-FASHIONED ALTAR, AND I GAVE MY LIFE TO CHRIST.”



old-fashioned altar, and I gave my life to Christ.”

Charette’s life changed immediately. He abandoned his lifestyle of alcohol, drugs, and brawling. Believers walked alongside him, and he plugged into a local Baptist church.

Within six months of his salvation, Charette felt called to preach. The Lord immediately opened doors for him to share his testimony and preach

“Among all the peoples I minister to, there’s always been a focus on Native American ministry,” Charette, who is one-quarter Chippewa, says. He has ministered on reservations and in Native American Baptist churches as well as serving as camp pastor for summer church camps.

After he arrived at Southwestern, Charette became convinced that expository preaching was the best

by the truth of Scripture.

“It was a good revival,” Charette says. “The church responded in a tremendous way. The people were hungry for it, and they were taking it in.

“Church members grabbed me by the hand and said they were overwhelmed with the presence of God in the services and the encouragement they were receiving through the revival.”

One church member, a young man



at youth camps, events, and churches.

Charette earned his GED and attended Oklahoma Baptist University, graduating cum laude. Soon after, he earned a Master of Divinity at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. During this time, he continued to serve as an evangelist, conducting revival meetings throughout the United States.

In 2006, Charette came to Southwestern, where he earned a Th.M. and is presently working on a Ph.D. in Preaching. He serves as an instructor of preaching, continuing to preach revivals across the country and to work on his Ph.D. dissertation.


method of preaching. His preaching, despite more than a decade of experience, shifted away from a topical approach.

“If I claim that this is the inspired, infallible, eternal Word of God, then my preaching method should flow from that.” Charette says. This passion prompted him to organize a free text-driven preaching conference each year for bi-vocational and Native American pastors in Oklahoma.

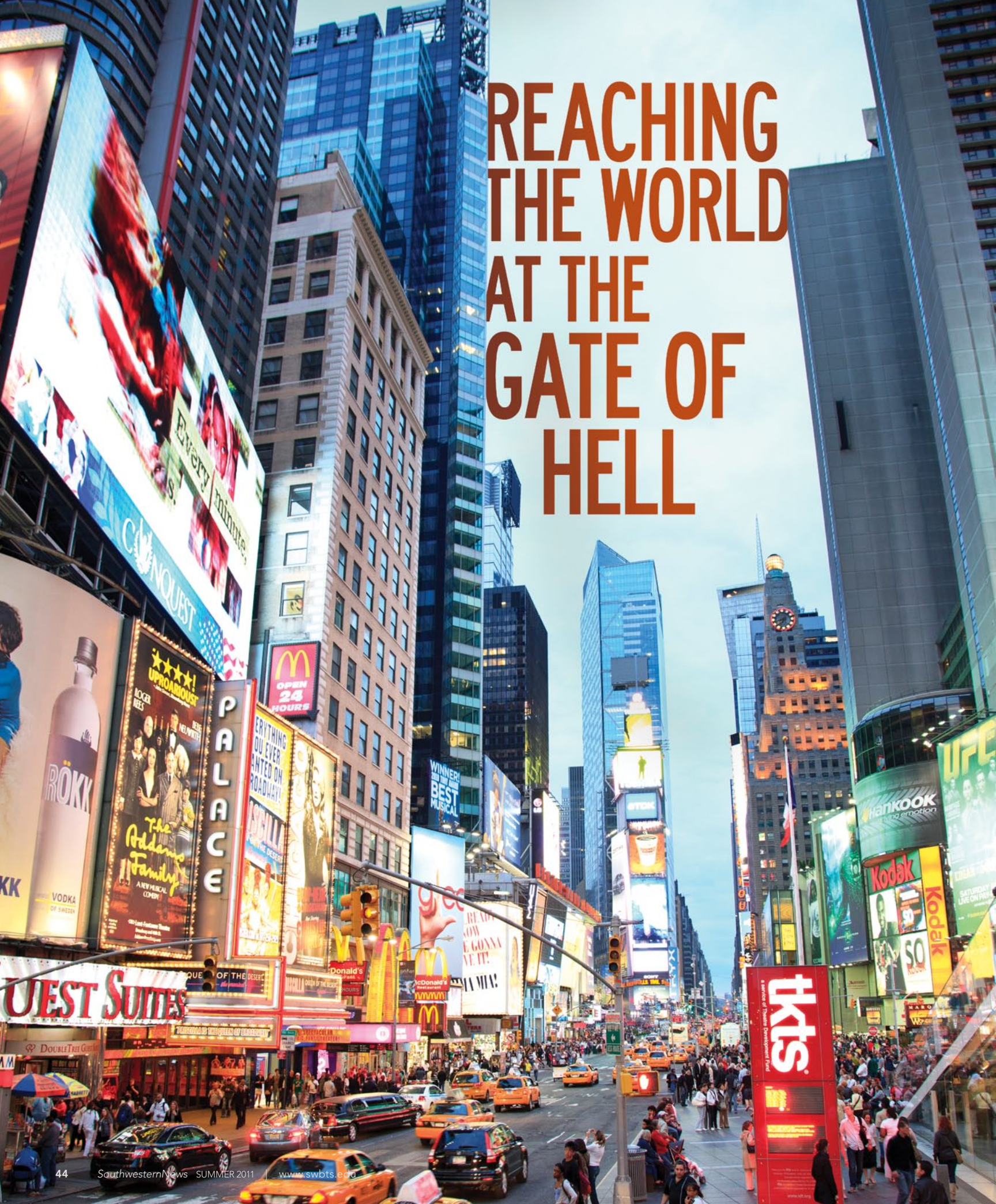
Charette experienced the power of text-driven preaching once again while at First Baptist in Mary Esther. In addition to two professions of faith during the week, he saw hearts stirred

servicing in the Air Force, had recently been informed that he would be deployed overseas at any moment. Still, he and his newly married wife attended every service.

“He’s getting ready to go to an unnamed place, and yet they’re showing up every single night for revival,” Charette says. Their commitment fueled his excitement over the impact of the week.

As a week of raucous self-absorption for many spring breakers drew to a close, the radical self-denial of those at the revival was only beginning. Charette rejoices in these changed lives for the glory of God. 

REACHING THE WORLD AT THE GATE OF HELL





Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Photography by MATTHEW MILLER & BEN PEACOCK

Southwestern Seminary student Jair Santos proclaimed the Word of God only a few miles from Hell’s Gate.

During *Revive This Nation*, he preached, taught, and shared the Gospel at the First Baptist Church of Portuguese Language in Astoria, N.Y., situated near Hell Gate Bridge—a metropolitan landmark that connects Queens to Manhattan.

Located in Queens, Astoria is known for its diversity. The area has drawn immigrants from Greece, Italy, Ireland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Algeria, and Lebanon, as well as other nations.

“The neighborhood of the church was really cross-cultural,” Santos says. Significantly, many people have also migrated to Astoria from Santos’ home country of Brazil.

Born and raised in northeastern Brazil, Santos earned a degree in journalism at the Federal University of Bahia, and he served for three years as editor for the Baptist State

Convention of Bahia’s newspaper, *O Batista Baiano*. In 2008, he surrendered to God’s call to the pastorate, and after applying to a few seminaries in the United States, he decided to attend Southwestern because of its faithfulness to sound doctrine, evangelism, and the preaching of the Word. So Santos and his wife, Leticia, moved from the city of Salvador to Fort Worth, where he began his Master of Divinity degree in the fall of 2010.

Santos looked forward to working with fellow Brazilians during *Revive This Nation*: “It was a good time,” he says, “for learning about the Brazilian church in the U.S.A.” As he prepared for his trip, Santos thought it would be easier to launch evangelistic conversations and reach Brazilians in New York, far from their home country and outside of their comfort zones and normal routines. Easy or not, Santos and his wife traveled to Astoria with a deep desire to declare the good news of Jesus Christ.



WHERE: [Astoria, NY](#)

First Baptist Church of Portuguese Language





“Since I arrived at Southwestern, I have been feeling more courage,” Santos says. “My heart is burning to share the Gospel.”

“I praise the Lord for the seminary’s emphasis on the local church, evangelism, and missions,” he adds. This emphasis upon evangelism and missions convinced him to participate in *Revive This Nation*, not only to show others the way from the gate of hell to the mercy of Christ but also to see a change in his own life. He wanted to learn how to share the Gospel better and more frequently on a day-to-day basis. As he witnessed to people in airports, on airplanes, and in the streets of Astoria, his confidence in declaring God’s mercy in Christ grew.

“It gave me confidence and more boldness to take the first step,”

“I praise the Lord for the seminary’s emphases on the local church, evangelism, and missions.”

JAIR SANTOS

Santos says, “to break the barrier, to start a conversation and share the Gospel, to find ways to start sharing the plan of salvation.”

As Santos preached in New York’s FBC of Portuguese Language, he urged the congregation to deny themselves for Christ’s sake and to repent of their sins. Preaching on Luke 15:1-7, Santos also called church members to reach the lost sheep of Astoria by witnessing to their neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members who do not know Christ.

As he prepared his sermons, Santos recognized the intense labor that it takes to lead a revival. Although he learned much about sermon preparation and delivery in the process, he also recognized how much he needed to depend on God to make his endeavors successful. With God’s blessing, the Sunday morning service bore fruit, with seven people committing themselves to follow Christ wholeheartedly and to share the Gospel faithfully.


Since he returned to Fort Worth, Santos himself has committed himself to share the Gospel daily in some way and to pray daily for those with whom he shares.



HELL GATE BRIDGE (LEFT) CONNECTS QUEENS AND MANHATTAN.

“If I am not intentionally focused on or thinking about sharing the Gospel with someone, I will miss the opportunity,” Santos says. Recognizing the importance of intentionality in evangelism, he now keeps Gospel tracts in his car and looks for settings that foster evangelism—for example, airports and airplanes.

“I have to put space in my schedule for intentional evangelism,” he adds. Since he came back from the revival, he has participated in Southwestern Seminary’s continuing effort to reach every household within a mile radius of the campus with the Gospel.

“How will people hear or believe,” Santos asks, referring to the Apostle Paul’s question in Romans 10:14, “if the message isn’t preached?” Every Christian, he says, should “live out the Gospel” by calling sinners to flee Hell’s Gate and accept salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. 



HOW ARE THEY TO **HEAR** WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING? AND HOW ARE THEY TO PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE **SENT**?

{ROMANS 10:14-15}

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FIRST LAST CHURCH CITY ST

David	Carpenter	Batson Baptist Church	Oark	AR
Jerry	Vincent	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Paragould	AR
Ben	Peacock	New Life Baptist Church	Phoenix	AZ
Jared	Witt	Clarkdale Baptist Church	Clarkdale	AZ
Sean	Sellers	Dolan Springs Baptist Church	Dolan Springs	AZ
William	Trigueros	Granada Baptist Church	Livermore	CA
Keith	Collier	Mountain View Baptist Church	Dolores	CO
Lewis	Lankford	Cross Roads Church	Poncha Springs	CO
Scott	Colter	Mountain View Baptist Church	Walden	CO
Adam	Robinson	Cornerstone International Church	Norwich	CT
Charles	Williams	Laurel Baptist Church	Laurel	DE
Madison	Grace	First Baptist Church	Immokalee	FL
Mark	Hommel	Morningstar Baptist Church	Fort Myers	FL
Shannon	Cunningham	First Baptist Church	Pinellas Park	FL
Vern	Charette	First Baptist Church	Mary Esther	FL
Wesley	Bates	Grace Baptist Church	Gainesville	FL
Major	Dalton	Teamon Baptist Church	Griffin	GA
Thomas	White	First Baptist Church	Hartwell	GA
Daniel	Weyand	God's Family Baptist Church	Grand Mound	IA
Darrell	Robertson	True Bible Baptist Church	Des Moines	IA
Matthew	Skiles	Fairview Baptist Church	Anamosa	IA
W. Luke	Garrett	First Baptist Church	Dunkerton	IA
Bryce	Ulrich	Clearwater Baptist Church (FBCC)	Clearwater	ID
Jason	Galloway	Elk City Baptist Church	Elk City	ID
Ryan	Dobbs	Blackfoot Southern Baptist Church	Blackfoot	ID
Brooks	Beike	Camp Ground Baptist Church	Mount Vernon	IL
Charles	Patrick	Dayton Avenue Baptist Church	Peoria	IL
Chris	Rainey	Grace Baptist Church	Palmyra	IL
Craig	Mahoney	Big Creek Baptist Church	Anna	IL
Eric	Futrell	New Horizons Baptist Church	Pawnee	IL
Evan	Lenow	First Baptist Church	Herrin	IL
Jason	Lee	Salem First Baptist Church	Salem	IL
Jeremy	Winters	Tallula Baptist Church	Tallula	IL
Jonathan	Mansur	Lakeland Baptist Church	Carbondale	IL
Joshua	Forrest	Maranatha Baptist Church	Rock Falls	IL
Joshua	Elliff	Main Street Baptist Church	Braidwood	IL
Justin	Wooley	Mullen Baptist Church	Montrose	IL
David	Gambo	Sycamore Baptist Church	Sycamore	IL
Nicholas	Jones	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	Belleville	IL
Robert	Lansing	First Southern Baptist Church	Norris City	IL
Sastry	Meesala	Blooming Grove Baptist Church	McLeansboro	IL
Tommy	Kiker	First Baptist Church	Machesney Park	IL
Andy	Johnson	First Baptist Church	Mulberry Grove	IL
Chad	Rowell	Eternal Life Baptist Church	Mooreville	IN
Jeonghyuk	Oh	Hymera Southern Baptist Church	Hymera	IN
Gregory	Howell	Calvary Heights Baptist Church	Martinsville	IN
Jason	Kees	Sugar Creek Baptist Church	W. Terre Haute	IN
Adam	Southerland	Prairie Park Baptist Church	Terre Haute	IN
Ronjour	Locke	Come as You Are Community Church	Fort Wayne	IN
Steven	Ball	Walnut Ridge Baptist Church	Jeffersonville	IN
D. Allen	Davidson	Linn Valley Community Church	Linn Valley	KS
Jon	Egan	Trinity Baptist Church	Arkansas City	KS
Patrick	Willis	First Baptist Church	Mound Valley	KS
Zachs	Gaiya	Crossroads Baptist Church	Riley	KS
Augusto	Lama	Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Amanecer	Crestwood	KY
Hector	Mendez	Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana	Carrollton	KY
Matt	Queen	Friendship Baptist Church	Brimfield	MA
Pierre	St Louis	Faith Fellowship Baptist Church	Lansing	MI
Joshua	Moore	Sturgeon Baptist Church	Sturgeon	MO
Lester	Cox	Littleby Baptist Church	Mexico	MO

Waylan	Owens	First Baptist Church	Huntsville	MO
Yakubu	Bakfwash	First Southern Baptist Church	Golden	MO
Dean	Nichols	Clark's Fork Baptist Church	Bridger	MT
Randy	Welborn	Bethel Baptist Church	Billings	MT
Michael	Crisp	Poston Baptist Church	Wallace	NC
Neal	Batman	Cool Springs Baptist Church	Eure	NC
Kody	Alvarez	North Hill Baptist Church	Minot	ND
Ryan	Mulvaney	Hazen Christian Fellowship	Hazen	ND
David	Kever	Glenwood Baptist Church	Glenwood	NM
Elliott	Higgins	Indian Nations Baptist Church	Albuquerque	NM
Ricky	Cotto	Iglesia Bautista Bethel	Lovington	NM
William	Stevens	Eternity Baptist Church	Alamogordo	NM
Benjamin	Watson	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	New Windsor	NY
Buck	Zion	Newark Baptist Fellowship Church	Newark	NY
Derek	Mitchell	Stamford Baptist Church	Stamford	NY
Jair	Santos	FBC of Portuguese Language in NY	Astoria	NY
Jason	Smith	Southport Baptist Church	Elmira	NY
Jason	Treadaway	Lake Placid Baptist Church	Lake Placid	NY
Jonathan	Gilliland	Indian River Baptist Church	Philadelphia	NY
Kevin	Glenn	Clyde Baptist Church	Clyde	NY
Don	Mitchell	Victory Chapel Baptist Church	Patchogue	NY
Paul	Golata	New Life Baptist Church	Niagara Falls	NY
Curtis	Beadle	Green Valley SBC	Mount Vernon	OH
Joel	Freeman	Quaker City Baptist Church	Quaker City	OH
Shawn	Nichols	Glory Baptist Church	Marengo	OH
Brandon	Allison	Knox Butte Baptist Church	Albany	OR
Roger	Elkins	Trinity Baptist Church	Lakeview	OR
Rusty	Thomas	Grace Baptist Church	Rogue River	OR
David	Penley	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Elizabethtown	PA
Isaac	Mbeng	Covenant Community Church	Harrisburg	PA
Roger	Sappington	Elk Baptist Church	Kersey	PA
Carl	Bradford	Corinth Baptist Church	Seneca	SC
James	Williams	Bethel Baptist Church	York	SC
Jon	Wood	Clarendon Baptist Church	Alcolu	SC
Geoff	Kolander	Cross Pointe Baptist Church	Sioux Falls	SD
Justin	Wofford	Cascade Road Baptist Church	Hot Springs	SD
Reagan	Lynch	Prairie Baptist Church	New Underwood	SD
Charles	Eaves	Eastside Baptist Church	Rusk	TX
Dennis	Colunga	Spicewood Baptist Church	Spicewood	TX
Felix	Bamirin	Friendship Baptist Church	Cleburne	TX
Ken	Tran	Alana Lane Baptist Church	Spring	TX
Kyle	Walker	Gateway Baptist Church	Whitehouse	TX
Matthew	Duran	Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church	Denison	TX
Michael	Postell	Emmanuel Baptist Church	White Oak	TX
Mike	Morris	First Baptist Church	Edgewood	TX
Van	Komatsu	Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church	Allen	TX
Wade	Traylor	First Baptist Church	Seadrift	TX
James	Egloff	First Baptist Community Church	Torrey	UT
Joshua	Anderson	First Baptist Church	Brigham City	UT
Joshua	Eubanks	Filipino Intl. Christian Fellowship	Tacomoma	WA
Thai	Nguyen	McKenzie Road Baptist Church	Olympia	WA
Thomas	Sutton	Faith Baptist Church	Ferndale	WA
Greg	Robinson	Graceway Fellowship	Green Bay	WI
Nathan	Houston	Parkside Baptist Church	Kenosha	WI
Bryant	Matheu	New Life Southern Baptist Church	Cowen	WV
Jeremy	Haynes	Jackson Avenue Baptist Church	Point Pleasant	WV
Anthony	Svajda	First Southern Baptist Church	Sutton	WV
Lance	Rogers	Cameron Baptist Church	Cameron	WV
Travis	Trawick	Lighthouse Baptist Church	Hurricane	WV
Adam	Tarleton	Yellowstone Baptist Church	Cody	WY
Bryan	Bogue	Wamsutter Baptist Church	Wamsutter	WY
Justin	Burkleo	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Riverton	WY

Trustees approve new student housing, add faculty

Southwestern's board of trustees approved plans, April 6, for new student housing at the institution, with construction of the first phase to be completed by July 2012. Trustees also added new faculty, approved an increase in benefits for career employees, authorized degree modifications, elected new officers, and adopted a resolution on marriage.

STUDENT HOUSING

Positioned along Seminary Drive, where the main entrance to the campus sits, the seminary will construct 12 buildings in two phases. The first phase, which includes six buildings, will go up in a field adjacent to current student housing. The second phase will replace the oldest section of current student housing, built in 1958.

"Students are a priority for us," said Hance Dilbeck, a Southwestern graduate and newly elected chairman of the board of trustees. "The purpose of the seminary is to train students, and housing helps us to meet a very important need. I'm grateful for the administration's leadership in putting together a great plan that is going to be both pleasing to the students and fiscally responsible.

"I, myself, lived in seminary housing here with my wife and firstborn child. I know how important it is in building community within the student body, establishing relationships with lifelong peers, and we're excited to get this project underway as quickly as possible and to see our students and their families enjoying the housing."

Once completed, the 12 buildings will hold 216 two-bedroom units and 36 three-bedroom units, for a total of 252 units. This doubles the current total of three-bedroom housing options on campus and better provides for families with children. Plans also include a commons area to the west with a playground, pavilion, and picnic area.



Scan the QR code above or visit www.swbts.edu/student-housing to watch video. (right) This computer rendering shows an aerial image of student housing.

FACULTY APPROVALS

Trustees elected nine new faculty members and approved 11 faculty promotions, effective Aug. 1.

- Charles Carpenter was elected associate professor of English in the College at Southwestern.
- Frank Catanzaro was elected associate professor of adult education in the Terry School of Church and Family Ministries.
- Travis Dickinson was elected assistant professor of philosophy and Christian apologetics in the College at Southwestern.
- James Johns was elected professor of biblical studies in the Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston.
- Thomas Kiker was elected assistant professor of pastoral ministry in the School of Theology.
- Evan Lenow was elected assistant professor of ethics in the School of Theology.
- Patricia Nason was elected professor of foundations of education in the Terry School of Church and Family Ministries.
- Stephen Presley was elected assistant professor of biblical interpretation in the Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston.
- John Wilsey was elected assistant professor of history and Christian apologetics in the Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston.

OTHER ITEMS

- Trustees approved increases in career employee benefits, including increasing retirement contributions, offering to match annuity, and granting a salary increase.
- Trustees authorized a change in the Doctor of Ministry degree, shortening it from a four-year program to a three-year program. The new program will consist of two yearlong seminars of 12 hours each plus a one-year dissertation. Additionally, the cost of the program has been reduced.
- Trustees elected three new officers: Hance Dilbeck (Oklahoma) as chairman, Jimmy Jackson (Alabama) as vice chairman and Harlan Lee (Arizona) as secretary.
- Trustees adopted a resolution on marriage, which underscores the position presented by the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. "That was done a little over 10 years ago," said John Brunson (At-Large), "so it seemed appropriate to us in the political climate in which we find ourselves that we make an expression that this resolution contains."



Kiesling experiences clean slate twice over

“Seven years ago today, this very day, I was in court facing 15 years in prison,” Brandon Kiesling said. “And I stood before a judge who had every right to send me away without blinking an eye.”

Kiesling, a Master of Divinity student at Southwestern Seminary, shared his experience of grace, which God used to bring him to faith seven years ago, with friends of the seminary on April 5.

Kiesling used and sold drugs in high school, but since they did not affect his job performance or schoolwork, he dismissed their severity. However, his life soon tore apart when he encountered methamphetamines, and his first arrest came in 2003, his junior year. Another arrest came in November. With the bond set at \$100,000, he sat in jail in disbelief, and he soon stood before a judge, expecting no mercy.

Kiesling saw a veiled example of what he could receive if he placed his faith in Christ through the judge’s behavior toward him on that spring day in 2004. The judge granted him a suspended imposition of sentence, allowing him a clean record if he cleaned up: “I was shown grace when I deserved judgment,” said Kiesling.

When Kiesling put his trust in Christ the following Sunday, he experienced true forgiveness from God without having to clean up his life first.

“I realized God had a plan for my life, and mine wasn’t working, so I got on board with His plan,” said Kiesling.

Kiesling received his call to ministry the following year. After earning his B.A. in Biblical Studies, he and his wife, Alicia, traveled from their home in Missouri to Fort Worth so Kiesling could attend seminary.

God has placed a fire in Kiesling for sharing his faith, granting him the opportunity to lead six people to Christ during the past year.

Catherine was one whom Kiesling and evangelism professor Matt Queen met when they shared door to door around the seminary. She started out the conversation shouting from the other side of her door as the two men stood on her porch but the conversation ended in her enthusiastically accepting Christ.

“I got the opportunity to see God’s Word transform a person right before my very eyes,” said Kiesling.

The Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern enlisted Kiesling to serve as an evangelism team leader. In

this role, he shares his faith on a weekly basis and mobilizes fellow students to join him.

During the fall and spring semesters, Southwestern Seminary students and faculty saw more than 270 people receive Christ through evangelism initiatives.

“The Gospel is changing lives,” Kiesling says, “not only around this country but on this very hill where we stand today.”



Kiesling conducts a spiritual interest survey to lead into an evangelistic conversation.

Southwestern breaks new ground with archaeology Ph.D.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will launch a new Ph.D. in Archaeology and Biblical Studies this fall, becoming the only Southern Baptist seminary or academic institution to grant master’s and doctoral degrees in archaeology. Additionally, the seminary will be only one of two evangelical institutions where a student can earn a Ph.D. in Archaeology.

“The uniqueness of our program is that students get training in two separate but overlapping disciplines: archaeology and biblical studies,” said Steven Ortiz, professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds as well as director of the Tandy Institute for Archaeology at Southwestern. Ortiz, along with new professor Thomas Davis, will oversee the program.

“It is an intensive program because students have to master two fields of study; but upon completion, our graduates will be positioned to make an impact in biblical archaeology. Other programs are really Bible-based with one or two courses that have some archaeological content. Basically, our students can interpret the biblical texts and also the archaeological record.”

Southwestern created a Master of Arts in archaeology and biblical studies in 2007. The first group of graduates graduated in May.

Ortiz joined Southwestern’s faculty in 2006. He and Sam Wolff of the Israel Antiquities Authority oversee the Tel Gezer Excavation and Publication Project, a consortium field project investigating the ancient

biblical city of Gezer. Southwestern Old Testament professor Eric Mitchell also conducts the Gezer Regional Survey alongside the project.

Davis, elected to faculty at Southwestern by trustees in 2010, has been director of Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute since 2003. Prior to that, he served as assistant vice president and archaeological investigator for R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates from 1991 to 2003. He has participated in research excavations in locations such as Cyprus, Egypt, and Jordan. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

Visit www.tandyinstitute.org for more information about Southwestern’s Tandy Institute for Archaeology.

By Keith Collier

Draper lectures on heart of ministry

Jimmy Draper challenged students and faculty to consider the call, scope, and challenges of ministry, March 3-4. Southwestern combined its annual Huber L. Drumwright Lectures on New Testament and Jesse and Fannie Northcutt Lectures on Preaching and Pastoral Ministries this year and invited Draper, president emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to deliver the series.

“Without the assurance of the call of God on your life, you will not make it in ministry,” Draper said. “The ministry is a terrible vocation, but it is a wonderful calling.”

In his second lecture, Draper spoke of the scope of ministry, drawing on New

Testament terms that describe the role of a pastor. At the core of all descriptions, he said, the role of servant fuels everything else.

In his final lecture, Draper discussed the challenges of ministry. A pastor’s relationship with the Lord, he said, lies in the crosshairs of the enemy. He also spoke of the need for pastors to use their God-given influence to impact the kingdom.

Draper commented on the impact of Drumwright and Northcutt on his own life as a student at Southwestern. Draper earned his Bachelor of Divinity, later converted into a Master of Divinity, in 1961. Draper later served on the seminary’s board of trustees.



Jimmy Draper speaks about the call to ministry.

Geisler advocates pre-evangelism in postmodern world

Christian apologist and professor Norman Geisler says believers must proclaim the changeless truth of Scripture even amid changing times. Geisler, distinguished professor of apologetics at Veritas Evangelical Seminary in Murrieta, Calif., delivered his message to an overflow crowd at Southwestern’s “Sola Scriptura or Sola Cultura?” conference, April 14.

Geisler, who has authored and co-authored more than 70 books and hundreds of articles during his 50 years as a professor, stated

that Christians now live in a postmodern world saturated by relativism, pluralism, and naturalism, void of a theistic worldview.

In discussing the need for what he calls “pre-evangelism,” Geisler said, “There cannot be a Son of God—which we proclaim—or a Word of God—on which we base it—or miraculous acts of God or salvation from God if God doesn’t exist.

“Our message doesn’t make sense other than in the context of a theistic God, the God of Genesis 1:1, a God who is beyond the world, who created the world. Apart from a theistic God, we have no message.”

Geisler noted that cultures around the world with a theistic worldview have historically been more open to the Gospel, and yet missionaries to regions that hold a non-theistic worldview must learn to pre-evangelize.

“In order to do pre-evangelism in a postmodern world, you have to be able to relate to relativism, pluralism, and naturalism,” Geisler said.

Geisler offered advice on addressing these three worldviews, which are antithetical to Christianity. He provided responses to skeptics who claim relative

truth, espouse multiple paths to God, and reject miraculous events.

Along with Geisler, faculty from Southwestern gave lectures on carrying out the Great Commission amid shifting worldviews. Geisler praised Southwestern president Paige Patterson for his courage to battle for the cause of fidelity to the Scriptures.

“I honestly believe that when the history of the 20th-century church is written,” Geisler said, “he will go down as the Martin Luther of evangelicalism who brought us back to the fundamental of the faith called the inerrancy of the Scripture. I don’t know anyone with more courage, more character, and more conviction—the three vanishing Cs in our society—than Dr. Patterson.”

Patterson delivered an exposition on Daniel 1-2, noting the examples of Daniel and his three friends as men of God who impacted a culture hostile to the Gospel. Other faculty lecturers included Terry Wilder, Keith Eitel, and Malcolm Yarnell, who addressed issues related to missions, contextualization, the Southern Baptist Convention’s Great Commission Resurgence, and other global theological voices.



Christian apologist, professor, and author Norman Geisler speaks on pre-evangelism in a postmodern world.

Reaching the homeless near seminary hill

"God always provides." For J.J., a vagrant wandering the streets of Fort Worth only a few miles from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, this message seemed ridiculous.

As Phillip Koo and a small group of homeless people huddled behind a self-service car wash to study Paul's epistle to the Romans, J.J. protested: "If God is so real, why doesn't he just bring us some piece of food, shelter, and jobs." He continued his protest, intermixed with cursing, until the small group completed their study.

Afterward, Koo tried to ignore J.J., but he felt compelled to say something: "God always provides. Always." Immediately, two church vans pulled into the parking lot of the car wash, and volunteers began to distribute water, food, and blankets to the homeless community that congregated in the area. J.J. was dumbstruck.

Koo first stumbled upon this homeless community soon after he moved to Fort Worth to begin classes at Southwestern Seminary in 2007. Once, after he pulled into the car wash, five or six homeless men approached him, asking if they could wash his car.

Over the next few years, this accidental meeting became a thriving ministry called "Reach the Homeless." Nearly 20 people live in the tent city behind the car wash where "Reach the Homeless" began. Nearly 40 other homeless men and women camp behind a dry cleaner on the same road, only a mile or two away.

Partnering with other seminary students and local churches, Koo shares food, water, clothes, and the Gospel with these homeless communities living on the seminary's doorstep. "Reach the Homeless" has also adopted a rundown house, trying to reach the destitute family living inside, for example, by repairing shoddy electrical wiring and meeting other basic needs.

When they began the ministry, Koo and his wife, Joanna, wanted to follow Christ's example by reaching the humble and lowly—"the orphans, the widows, homeless, poor, impoverished, destitute." They took seriously the appeal in James 1:27: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (NKJV).

Koo is confident that God will work as participants of "Reach the Homeless" display

the love of Christ by caring for the physical needs of the homeless, by praying for them, and by sharing the Gospel with them. He testified that God has brought some to faith.

Rarely, however, does Koo see dramatic professions of faith. Often homeless people will respond like J.J. did. When Koo and the volunteers with "Reach the Homeless" gave J.J. food and a blanket, he was shocked and sad to have been so hateful to the group. He also spoke with Koo and asked him if he wanted to look at his tattoos. Five tattoos on his arm represented his five children.

"I have these five boys," J.J. told Koo, "and I want you to pray for these five boys."

"A lot of times," Koo said, "when we minister to these guys, I don't really get a response. It makes them think. It makes them ponder about their lives." But by continuing to pray and share the Gospel, food, and supplies with the homeless of Fort Worth, Koo hopes their eyes will be opened to God's promise to meet all their needs in Christ Jesus.

Phillip Koo gives the homeless food, Bibles, and the Gospel.



New book examines great women behind every Moses

When expectant mothers look through the Bible for possible female baby names, they often gravitate toward ones like Hannah, Sarah, and Rachel. Names like Jochebed, Puah, Shiphrah, and Zipporah—all women instrumental in the life of Moses—often go unnoticed, as do these women’s impact on Moses’ life.

In her new book *Touched by Greatness: Women in the Life of Moses*, however, Dorothy Patterson does not overlook these and other women in Moses’ life but instead offers them as shining examples of biblical womanhood. Patterson, whose husband Paige Patterson serves as president of Southwestern Seminary, explains in the book’s preface that the women of the Bible have always intrigued her.

“When my husband was asked to be a consultant for the movie *Moses, Prince of*

Egypt, I was again drawn to the women who lived in the shadow of the great lawgiver, who was marked by human weakness and yet empowered by divine calling and guidance,” Patterson says.

“Through these resulting historical vignettes, my prayer is that women will be encouraged and edified, as well as challenged and motivated, to offer themselves as vessels to be used by the Lord, whether for a task as lowly as watching a basket float in the river or one as lofty as leading a host of women in praise of the one true God.”

Each chapter of the book examines a woman or group of women in Moses’ life, offering insight into their lives and how they influenced his life. At the conclusion of each chapter is a prayer followed by resources for further study, including facts, exegetical notes, teaching outlines, inductive questions,

a “Dorothy’s Dictum” truth or principle, and a statement about how the woman fits in God’s overall plan of redemption in the Bible. The additional resources make this a perfect book for individual and small-group book studies.

Patterson, who serves as professor of theology in women’s studies at Southwestern, is author of numerous books, including *A Handbook for Parents in Ministry*, *A Handbook for Ministers’ Wives*, and *BeAttitudes for Women: Wisdom from Heaven for Life on Earth*. She also served as general editor for *The Woman’s Study Bible* (1995) and co-edited the newly released, two-volume *Women’s Evangelical Commentary: Old Testament* and *Women’s Evangelical Commentary: New Testament*, which will be followed by the *Women’s Evangelical Study Bible* already in process.

Master Chorale premieres works in New York City

Southwestern’s Master Chorale premiered the compositions of two seminary professors during a performance at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City’s Lincoln Center, May 8.

The Master Chorale was accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble, under the direction of David Thye, professor of church music.

“The performance establishes the Southwestern Seminary Master Chorale as one of the elite choral ensembles in the nation,” Thye said. Avery Fisher Hall “is the residence of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and only showcases the world’s most renowned musical organizations.”

“What a tremendous honor for our school and chorus!” Thye said. “I pray, ultimately, that Jesus is glorified and highly lifted up as we, His followers, rise to a level of excellence that demonstrates our passion for an awesome God who gave His utmost for us.”

The Master Chorale premiered the works of William Mac Davis, professor of music theory and composition, and Stephen Johnson, dean of the School of Church Music. The performance also featured a rendition of Mozart’s *Requiem*.

Johnson’s composition, *Peace Ascends*, was inspired by the story of a student from another seminary who, while ministering

in Haiti, died in the country’s massive 2010 earthquake. Buried under rubble, he breathed his last while singing, “God’s peace to us we pray.”

“Christianity is arguably the only religion that does not promote an escape from pain that we have in this life,” Johnson said. “Instead, we are told that, as believers in Jesus, we will encounter trials and tribulations. So, for the Christian, the question is, how do we respond to tragedy?” Johnson’s composition calls suffering Christians to “cry out to God for mercy and for peace” and to love one another.

Additionally, Johnson expressed his own excitement about this “once-in-a-lifetime moment for students in the School of Church Music.”

“We have,” he said, “an entire concert in New York that will be a proclamation of Christ within the context of musical excellence.”

According to Davis, his composition, *Excursion*, was motivated by the excitement of this journey to New York City. Johnson testified that *Excursion* brims with “youthful energy” and “rhythmic vitality.”

Before embarking on their excursion to New York City, the Master Chorale also performed their Avery Fish Hall repertoire during the Spring Concert at Southwestern Seminary’s Truett Auditorium, April 15.



View a photo gallery of the trip to New York City at www.swbts.edu/lincolncenter.

Baptist statesman preaches at Jewish synagogue

Southern Baptist statesman Paige Patterson preached at a Jewish synagogue in Fort Worth, Texas, one day before Yom Hashoah, when Jews around the world commemorated those who suffered and died during the Holocaust.

"We are your partners at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary," Patterson said to those assembled at the Ahavat Ammi Messianic Jewish Synagogue, April 30.

In an interview with Rabbi Tzahi Shapira of the Ahavat Ammi synagogue, Patterson described the common Baptist attitude toward Messianic Judaism, expressing sympathy for the painful memory of the Jewish Holocaust.

"Most Baptist people recognize a large indebtedness to the Jewish people, and they feel close to them by nature," Patterson said. "Baptist evangelicals have a history dipped in blood," he added, referring to the suffering and martyrdom of early Baptists for their beliefs and for the cause of religious liberty. Partly for this reason, Baptists "have

a great sympathy for Jews" who suffered to a far greater degree in the Holocaust, under Stalin, and throughout history.

Southwestern Seminary, Patterson told Shapira, is devoted to teaching the Hebrew language and studying the Hebrew Bible, a commitment exemplified by the seminary's acquisition of Dead Sea Scroll fragments that will be put on display for the public in the summer of 2012. The seminary also has a deep concern for taking the Gospel, as the apostle Paul writes in Romans 1, "to the Jew first."

"We keep Jewish evangelism," Patterson said, "within the heart and eyes of our young people."

Introducing Patterson to those assembled for worship at the synagogue, Shapira marveled that Patterson had shared the Gospel with men and women throughout the world.

"You are the only living person I know who has shared the Good News with both Menachem Begin and Yasser Arafat," Rabbi

Shapira said. "I feel so blessed for you to be here today. ... This is a hero of the faith."

"Look and cleave to this which God is doing," he added, "bringing Jews and Gentiles together for His kingdom."

Shapira invited Patterson to carry the synagogue's *Torah* scroll in a processional. They obtained the scroll with the help of Gary Zimmerman, another special guest at the synagogue who also donated a framed portion of a Hebrew scroll containing the 10 Commandments to Southwestern Seminary in 2010. Patterson carried the synagogue's scroll while wearing a *tallit* (a Jewish prayer shawl) presented to him as a gift from the synagogue by Shapira.

In an exposition of Ezekiel 37, Patterson looked forward to the day when God would reunite the twelve tribes of Israel under Jesus, their Messiah. Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians, he added, owe much to the Jewish people and to their forefather, Abraham.

"My life changed in Abraham," Patterson said. "If it had not been for God's promise to Abraham that 'in you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed'—that promise fulfilled through his Son *Yeshua* (Jesus)—then I would not be one of God's people today. So I owe everything to Abraham and his people."

God's promises to Abraham and to the Jewish people still hold true, Patterson said. Although many ancient people groups, like the Moabites and the Hittites, have long disappeared, "God's people, the Jewish people, remain because God is not done with them and His promises are good."

During previous synagogue services, the Ahavat Ammi synagogue has also welcomed guest preacher Rudy González, dean of Southwestern Seminary's William R. Marshall Center for Theological Studies in San Antonio, Texas.

Patterson's message and interview may be accessed on the Ahavat Ammi website at www.ahavatammi.org.

Patterson carries a Torah scroll in procession at Ahavat Ammi Messianic Jewish Synagogue.



Carroll and Scarborough awards honor ministry partners

Southwestern honored two couples for their commitment to the Gospel and generous partnership in ministry, March 3. The seminary awarded Bob and Phoebe Lambeth with the B.H. Carroll Award and Stanley and Joan Togikawa with the L.R. Scarborough Award.

Bob and Phoebe Lambeth have a passion for the written Word of God. The Lockman Foundation, where Bob has served as president since 1979, helped produce the New American Standard Bible as well as its exhaustive concordance in 1981. The Lockman foundation provides each Southwestern Seminary and College at Southwestern graduate with a free copy of this beautiful work.

"We're both honored and humbled," Bob Lambeth said upon receiving the award. "From our point of view, to see all the activity, ministry, and outreach and lives that are touched, it's a wonderful blessing to see Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary develop the way it has and to continue in this ministry, and we hope that we can be a small part of that."

Born into a Buddhist home, Stanley Togikawa attended a school run by missionaries as a child. However, in college the Holy

Spirit took hold of Togikawa's heart, and he accepted Christ. Togikawa's call to ministry came shortly after, and he earned a Master of Religious Education from Southwestern in 1959. Returning to his home state of Hawaii, he served the local church as a minister of education and then at the Baptist Academy in Honolulu.

With Hilda Shiraki, a like-minded fellow church member of Olivet Baptist Church, Togikawa helped start the Shiraki Memorial

Foundation, which provides scholarship funds for Hawaii students at Southwestern Seminary.

"We give any student from Hawaii and some from other countries tuition and a book allowance," Togikawa said. "Up until last month, when I wrote the check, it was over \$1.5 million. This will continue because the foundation was established for this very purpose, to help reach people and have more preachers and workers around the world."



Bob and Phoebe Lambeth



Stanley and Joan Togikawa

Ezell addresses NAMB questions from faculty

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, met with faculty to update them on changes at NAMB and answer their questions, March 31. Ezell, who earned his Master of Divinity at Southwestern, spoke in chapel earlier in the day as part of the seminary's North American Church Planting Week.

"I realize that when it comes to entities, we're in last place," Ezell told the faculty. "We lost a lot of credibility, but things are really looking up, and we're very excited, with a vision in our sites."

Ezell shared about NAMB's transitions in personnel and focus, noting a more streamlined operating budget, which freed up \$14 million. Nine million of that has been redirected into their "Send North America" campaign for church planting. He admitted past mistakes and cast an optimistic vision for the future.

President Paige Patterson asked Ezell to give a portrait of the kinds of church planters Southwestern can produce to help make this task attainable. Ezell replied that they need passionate young men, who are soul-winners ready to get their hands dirty.

When asked about NAMB's strategy for equipping churches for evangelism, Ezell said they will continue the GPS strategy, with a primary focus on pastors.

Ezell answered questions regarding relationships with state conventions and local associations: "The best way to do this is for churches to plant churches. NAMB does not plant churches. We want to see ourselves as a network of networks."

"What we've found is that NAMB has had a challenging relationship with the states. I've found that the states sometimes have also had a bad relationship with some of

the associations. What we want to do is set it up where we can work with anybody in any place as long as everybody at the table understands that there is no 'law of the lid' because you have some associations who feel held captive.

"We're going to work with those who want to work, but you are not going to make it hard on our church planters."

Ezell also shared his long-term vision for North American church planting as a component of nationwide revival.

"My vision for the Southern Baptist Convention is that we would have a larger percentage of our churches adopting unreached people groups. If we can get our churches to serve locally, plant nationally, and adopt a people group internationally, we will be revitalized like never before."



Student Preaching Day

Todd Gray urged Southwesterners to find their church-growth strategy in the teaching and preaching of the Gospel, which fuels faith, hope, and love. "Then we step back," he said, "watch the Gospel do its thing, and watch our churches grow." Gray was selected to preach in chapel during the seminary's Student Preaching Day, April 21.



Eggstravaganza: Professor lends voice, helps equip families

Evangelism professor Matt Queen exemplified how to present the Gospel to children during Southwestern Seminary's Eggstravaganza, April 16, at Pecan Manor. Queen narrated Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection, making sure he used easy-to-understand terms, used the Wordless Book evangelism tool, and gave Southwestern students opportunity to start Gospel conversations within their families.



Graduates walk at Travis Avenue for last time

Southwestern Seminary celebrated its final graduation service to be held at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, May 6. Beginning this December, the seminary will hold services in the new chapel. Thanking Travis Avenue for hosting the ceremony for 34 years, Patterson presented Pastor Michael Dean a set of Southwestern's *Library of Centennial Classics*.



YML calls ministers, youth to surrender

Christians living in a pluralist society must confess Jesus as the Christ and Son of God, surrendering their lives to Him no matter the cost, pastor Tony Merida said during Southwestern Seminary's 2011 Youth Ministry Lab. "The people that God uses," Merida said, "surrender their lives to him in total abandonment."



EPW provides training, demonstration of expository preaching

Participants in Southwestern's seventh annual Expository Preaching Workshop learned techniques for text-driven preaching and listened to some of Southern Baptists' best expositors, Feb. 28 – March 1. Guest speakers Jerry Vines, Stephen Rummage, and Adam Dooley joined Southwestern preaching faculty to give plenary and breakout sessions during the two-day workshop.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS PROFILE

By Rebecca Carter

Distinguished Alumnus: DAVID ALLEN

David Allen's commentary on Hebrews through the *New American Commentary* series helps pastors understand the Bible, but it also reflects a lifetime of scholarship, preaching, and service on behalf of the local church.

When Allen began this journey as a sophomore student at Criswell College (B.A. 1978), he first postulated that the Gospel writer Luke wrote the epic treatise on the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ in an essay for his English class. At the time, his college professor Paige Patterson encouraged him in his quest, setting him on a lifetime course of scholarship committed to exploring the centuries-old question of the authorship of Hebrews.

A recent review of the commentary, and its companion work, *Lukan Authorship of Hebrews*, noted Allen's pastor-teacher perspective when conveying biblical exegesis and scholarship. This leaning toward expository preaching and edifying the local church through preaching reflects Allen's heart for the local church, worked out initially through his leadership of Audelia Road Baptist Church in Dallas as their senior pastor (1982-1998) while he taught New Testament and Homiletics at his alma mater (Criswell College, 1985-1998).

Allen later occupied the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching as professor of preaching and director of the Jerry Vines Institute of Biblical Preaching (1998-2004) and served MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church as senior pastor (2000-2005). He earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Seminary in 1981 and earned his doctorate from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1987, majoring in linguistics and minoring in philosophy.

Allen started his life of ministry as a youth minister and associate pastor at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, in the 1970s and also served as a G.A. camp pastor for the Dallas Baptist Association and for the DBA's preteen camp.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Allen participated in cross-cultural evangelism during mission



David Allen

trips to Mexico and Peru, served as a co-host of a weekly radio program for radio station KCBI, and took some of his first steps into denominational work as evangelism committee chairman for the Dallas Baptist Association and as president of the DBA's pastor's conference.

For the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Allen served on the committee on order of business (1999-2003), and for the Southern Baptist Convention itself, he served on the resolutions committee in 1989. This began his part in the Conservative Resurgence, including service on the board of trustees at Southwestern Seminary (1992-2004). He served as vice chairman of the board from 2001 to 2003 and chairman from 2003 to 2004.

Allen joined Southwestern's faculty as professor of preaching and dean of the School of Theology in 2004. He serves the next generation of preachers, scholars, and missionaries by helping them discern and rightly divide the inerrant, infallible Word of God. He co-edited *Text-Driven Preaching* by B&H Academic in 2010.

Allen and Patterson often exchange quips and jokes from the Southwestern chapel stage, showing their good-natured friendship. Allen named both Patterson and Jerry Vines, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., as two of his mentors.

Allen married his bride, Sherri, in 1978. They have four children, Jeremy, Jared, Melody, and Kali, and two grandchildren, Judah and Lydia.

Distinguished Alumnus: ROBERT JEFFRESS

"I will pour my life—everything I have—into building this church for the glory of God," Robert Jeffress said as he assumed the pastorate at First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, in 2007.

Four years later, Jeffress continues his leadership of the 13,000-member congregation he first joined through profession of faith and baptism as a child. Along with equipping his congregation through his ministry in the pulpit, he is also helping raise it to new heights.

The new building plan for the downtown campus and a center for children and students will change the skyline of the city as well as create more opportunities for ministry within the 138-year-old congregation. With extensive revitalization projects currently in progress throughout the city, including housing developments downtown, FBC Dallas, headed by Jeffress, has a promising future as a hub of this new activity.

Current ministries, oriented toward the local affluent Dallas career professionals, include executive power lunches, a street-level bistro (St. Paul's Café), job networking services, and a downtown, accredited, college preparatory school called First Baptist Academy.

Jeffress' messages speak to the hearts of his people and address the culture of Dallas in general, with a recent series, "Straight Answers," giving biblical instruction from 1 Corinthians. "The Person God Uses," "Believer Beware!" and "Meat Market Christianity" were themes pulled from the text.

In addition to his preaching, Jeffress has made more than 600 guest appearances on various radio and television programs. He also regularly appears on major mainstream media outlets, such as "Fox and Friends," "The O'Reilly Factor," "Cavuto on Business," ABC's "Good Morning America," CBS's "The Early Show," CNN, and MSNBC. Jeffress has also authored 16 books, most



Robert Jeffress

recently *Clutter-Free Christianity* (2009), mirroring a preaching series of the same title focusing on the essentials of the faith.

Jeffress himself grew up in the area, his mother a local schoolteacher, and from his childhood he sat under the teaching of renowned FBC Dallas pastor W.A. Criswell. When he was 7 years old, Jeffress knelt by his pastor's side and, through prayer, asked Jesus to be his Lord and Savior in Criswell's office.

Jeffress went on to become youth minister at FBC Dallas, serving his home church and Criswell as he pursued his master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and his

doctorate from Southwestern (D.Min. 1983). He served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Eastland, Texas, for seven years, before accepting a call to First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he served until 2007 and produced his TV show, "Pathway to Victory," which still airs today.

His attachment with the church also extends to personal milestones. He married his bride, Amy, and received his ordination within the four walls of FBC Dallas. They have two daughters, Julia and Dorothy, and a son-in-law, Ryan Sadler.

Chaplain counsels fallen firefighter's grieving family, community

The final call for 21-year veteran volunteer fireman Greg Simmons echoed across the North Texas cemetery, stirring wails from friends, family, and fellow firefighters. Fire chaplain and Southwestern Seminary counseling professor John Babler stood a short distance from the grieving family with tears in his eyes.

"If I ever make it through one of these without tears, I know it's time to quit," Babler says.

Babler served as the Texas Line of Duty Death (LODD) Task Force's incident commander for the fallen Eastland firefighter's funeral, a memorial that drew national media attention and unified Eastland County residents as well as firemen from across the state who continued to fight the worst recorded wildfires in Texas history.

The LODD response team aids families and fire departments in preparing funeral arrangements, organizing honor guards, and assisting with the coordination of benefits. With a large number of chaplains on the team, they also provide counseling in the wake of these tragic deaths.

Babler, who served as a fire chief for three years and as a fire chaplain since 1999, has been responding with the LODD team for the past four years and now serves on the organization's board. His role as incident commander required him to organize the team as well as minister to

Simmons' wife, two daughters, and the Eastland Fire Department.

"The two other chaplains focused on the firefighters," Babler says, "but since I've been in a command role, I worked with the chief."

Babler's experience as a firefighter and chaplain, combined with his role as a counselor and seminary professor, made joining the LODD team an easy choice.

"People in crisis are open to spiritual things," Babler says. "When we encounter crisis, whether we want to or not, we typically at some level reflect on life and death."

"One of the things that we try to do in biblical counseling is encourage people not only to counsel the Bible but also to take advantage of informal opportunities."

While many picture professors as academics in an ivory tower, Babler proves there can be a balance between scholarship and compassion, a trait he wants to pass along to his students.

"God has called me and put me in a situation where I take that passion and focus on people and practical application of Scripture," Babler says, "and He challenges me to teach it to students, and hopefully they'll develop some of that as well."

Babler, himself, has learned from his experiences in fire stations. He recognizes firefighters' strong sense of community.

"The fire service is a better church than the church is at times," Babler says.

"As I look at Paul's teaching on the church as a body, I see a group of different folks, gifted in different ways, coming together and able to accomplish together what they can't accomplish by themselves."

"When my ankle hurts, the rest of my body works together to take the weight off my ankle so it can heal. The fire service does a good job of coming together to take the weight off of something that is injured so it can heal. A lot of times in the church, we kick the ankle to see if it's really hurt rather than helping it out and taking the weight off it."

Yet, Babler also recognizes that many firefighters live raucous, worldly lives and need the love of Christ. Because of their tight-knit community, chaplains often have difficulty getting a foot in the door.

"It's hard for a pastor with no fire service background to be a chaplain and be effective," Babler says. "In many respects, fire chaplaincy is waiting for a crisis to occur so you can have an opportunity to minister."

Babler serves as vice president of the Texas Corps of Fire Chaplains, which organizes, trains, and supports chaplains across the state. Southwestern hosted the organization's annual training conference, April 29-30. The conference included basic fire chaplaincy training as well as an advanced biblical counseling session taught by Babler.

View additional photos and the expanded story at <http://bit.ly/imYD73>.



(left) Eastland Fire Engine 6 serves as the caisson in the funeral procession to the cemetery.

(above) Babler salutes fallen firefighter Greg Simmons as the casket is loaded on the caisson.

Alumnus Tom Elliff elected as IMB president

Southwestern Seminary alumnus Thomas (Tom) D. Elliff was unanimously chosen to serve as the president of the International Mission Board by IMB trustees meeting in Dallas, March 16.



Tom Elliff preaches in Southwestern Seminary chapel.

"Tom Elliff is a man of God," Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, said. "He will bring to the task a vision for and an example of what a family should be under God. He will tie our mission enterprise to biblical theology in a way that will please the Lord and substantially brighten the mission future for Southern Baptists. Being Baptist will count, and asserting New Testament Christianity will be placed at the point of the arrow."

Elliff earned his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1971 after completing his bachelor's degree at Ouachita Baptist University in 1966. In 2007, he also completed a doctoral degree at Southern Seminary. In 2008, Elliff received Southwestern Seminary's distinguished alumnus award.

As a student in college and seminary, Elliff served as a pastor at several churches. For 30 years following his graduation from

Southwestern Seminary, he served as a pastor in Oklahoma and Colorado and as a missionary to Zimbabwe. During the late 1990s, Elliff served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and he later served as chairman for the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life. In 2005, he became senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations for the IMB.

Elliff's ties with Southwestern remain today, especially through family members who have attended and invested in the seminary: His grandsons Joel and Carter Cox are enrolled in the College at Southwestern; Joshua Elliff, a Master of Divinity student, is his nephew—the son of Elliff's brother, Bill Elliff, who also attended Southwestern; Steven Smith, dean of the College at Southwestern, and his brother, Doctor of Ministry student Josh Smith, are also Elliff's nephews.

Pattersons address Baptist ecclesiology in South Korea

Southwestern president Paige Patterson taught pastors and seminary students about issues related to church governance and women in ministry during a visit to South Korea, March 12-19. During lectures and Q-and-A sessions, Patterson spoke on various topics related to Baptist history, heritage, and identity.

"In each of these I attempted to state the historic Baptist position and demonstrate that the historic Baptist position is also the position of the New Testament," Patterson said.

Baptists in Korea have been accused of adopting the ecclesiology of the Presbyterian Church, the prominent denomination in Korea. Many in Korea view the term elder as synonymous with the role of deacon, which has caused confusion and conflict in the churches.

Additionally, there appears to be a growing desire to ordain women, according to Jonathan Kim, Patterson's translator on the

trip and professor at Dallas Baptist University. Patterson answered questions regarding the issue during several Q-and-A sessions. A pastor's wife in the audience said her husband gave her responsibility to preach at times, to which Patterson replied that her husband asked her to violate Scripture. However, he explained, the Bible provides a venue for using her teaching gifts to disciple women in the church.

Additionally, Patterson's wife, Dorothy, spoke to pastors' wives, sharing her testimony and how to do woman-to-woman ministry.

"She biblically defined the role of a woman as a helper and what is the true meaning of obeying," said Jeremiah Kim, director of Southwestern's Doctor of Ministry program in Korea.

"What Mrs. Patterson succeeded to convey to the audience was emphasizing not only the correct biblical foundation and understanding of a woman's role but

also the superiority of Scripture even in this pragmatic and postmodern culture."

Paige Patterson also addressed questions from pastors frustrated with the direction of the Korean Baptist Convention. Referencing his own experience during the Conservative Resurgence, he encouraged pastors to stand for biblical truth with grace and love and to pray for courage and discernment.



Southwestern Seminary president Paige Patterson speaks through a translator to pastors during a visit to Daejeon, Korea.

In Their Own Words: Patterson answers questions about the atonement, L. Russ Bush

B&H Publishing recently released *Defending the Faith, Engaging the Culture: Essays Honoring L. Russ Bush*. Southwestern Seminary president Paige Patterson, a personal friend of Bush, contributed an article on the atonement to the book. The following is an edited interview with Patterson about the book.

Q: *What was L. Russ Bush's contribution to the SBC? Why honor him with this book?*

A: Dr. Bush made many contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention by the fact that he taught philosophy of religion not only here at Southwestern but also at Southeastern for many years. However, his pristine contribution at a very critical moment in Southern Baptist life was the book that he co-authored with Tom Nettles, who was also here at Southwestern at the time, titled *Baptists and the Bible*. It put an end to the talk that Southern Baptists, as a rule, did not believe in the inerrancy of God's Word.

Q: *How does your chapter honor L. Russ Bush's work?*

A: Russ Bush believed with all his heart that (penal substitutionary atonement) was the heart of Christianity. So, I thought it would be an appropriate doctrine for me to explicate.

Q: *Why is the atonement necessary?*

A: The question of the necessity of the atonement is bound up in one verse in Romans 3:26, where it says that He is our propitiation so that He might be both the just and the justifier of those who trust in Him.

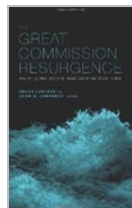
Q: *What is penal substitutionary atonement?*

A: We've all sinned, and so we must all die; that is the penalty of sin. The cross pays that penalty. Jesus died our death, and He gave us His life. God is just in forgiving sins because He has not done so in a cavalier fashion. He has forgiven sin by punishing sin. He's gone ahead and punished it. He's given it its full, just reward, but He accepted that Himself in His Son on the cross.

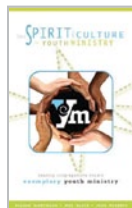
Read the expanded version of the interview at <http://bit.ly/hWUA59>.



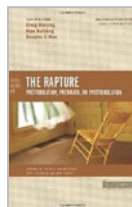
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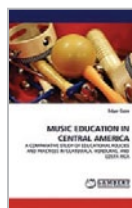
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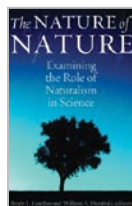
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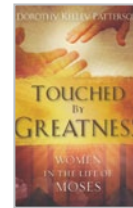
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NUR UMKEHR KANN UNS
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OF MOSES



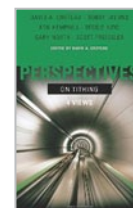
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(co-editor)
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(contributor)
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L. RUSS BUSH



Scott Preissler (contributor)
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FOUR VIEWS



Malcolm B. Yarnell (editor)
SOUTHWESTERN JOURNAL
OF THEOLOGY
ISSUE THEME:
DEAD SEA SCROLLS
VOL. 53, NO. 1



Malcolm Yarnell (editor)
SOUTHWESTERN JOURNAL
OF THEOLOGY
ISSUE THEME:
AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY
VOL. 53, NO. 2

1990

Scott A. Duffer (MM 1993) as music worship pastor to Hondo First Baptist Church in Hondo, Texas.

Toby K. Easley (MDIVBL 1995) as pastor to Grace Baptist Fellowship, in Celina, Texas.

2000

T. Blake Lander (MDIV 2001) as senior pastor to First Baptist Church, in Gilmer, Texas.

Richard W. Singleton (MACE 2005, MAMFC 2005) as executive director of Starry Counseling's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program in Round Rock, Texas.

Retirement

Donald G. Howren (MCM 1980) retired from 30 years of service at First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Texas.

Marriages

Ryan P. Hardin (MACE 2010) to marry Melissa R. Fleischer in June 2011.

Memorials

1930

Mary Sue Sisemore (EXTH 1935)

Ruth L. Kennedy (EXCM 1938)

1940

Roy L. Williams, Jr. (EXRE 1948, EXCM 1948)

Margaret E. Lamberth (MRE 1949, EXCM 1950)

1950

Hazel L. Brannon (DIPRE 1950, GRDPRE 1992)

John C. Raborn (MRE 1950, GSRE 1963)

Allie Flo Voss (EXRE 1952)

Mary Jane Hogg (EXRE 1952)

Kathleen Gardner (Keltner) Manning (MRE 1952, BSM 1953)

Miguel C. Mojica (EXCM 1952, EXRE 1952)

John B. "J.B." Haskins (MRE 1953, BD 1953)

John R. Willman (BD 1953)

J. Malcolm Edwards (MSM 1954)

Weldon E. Vogt (MRE 1954, DRE 1961, EDD 1971)

Max M. Alexander (MSM 1955)

John G. Chapman, Jr. (BD 1956)

Berl David Elliott (BD 1956)

Berl David "Sonny" Elliot (BD 1956, MDIV 1973)

Lester E. Barker (EXTH 1957)

Allen A. Denton (BD 1958, THD, 1966, PHD 1976)

Margaret D. Jobson (EXRE 1958)

S. M. "Pat" Murphy (EXTH 1959)

1960

William E. "Dub" Ward, Jr. (BD 1960)

Calvin A. Cox (DIPTH 1965)

Howard T. Daniel (EXRE 1966)

James J. Mahoney (MRE 1966)

1970

Gail J. Jamison Coker (MRE 1971)

Edmund W. Houze (MDIV 1971)

Thomas C McClain (MDIV 1975)

Cecil G. Whetherholt (DipTH 1978)

1980

Rodger B. Carlson (MRE 1983)

Russell D. "Rusty" Brooks (MM 1989)

1990

John A. Petty (MDIVBL 1994)

2000

Michael D. Lacy (MACE 2005)

Missionary Appointments

Since January 2011, 25 missionaries with ties to Southwestern Seminary have been appointed by the International Mission Board to serve in locations around the world.

REVIVAL: SOMETHING ONLY GOD CAN DO



Do revivals work, or are they a thing of the past?

We have all heard about “evangelists” who manipulate crowds, drawing short-lived emotional responses. We know you can neither book the Holy Spirit nor make demands for God to move. And yes,

churches that do not prepare may hold useless meetings that waste time and money.

However, when we humble ourselves, repent of sin, pray fervently, witness passionately, invite our friends, and intercede for the lost, then God may just hear our prayers and do something in our midst (Joel 1:13-14). Through prayer and preparation perhaps people will be saved. My own testimony reflects this reality; I was saved in a revival service in 1993.

On the first day of class my mind raced, my palms sweat, my heart pulsed, and my neck tightened. This class could not succeed on human effort alone. Without the power of the Holy Spirit accompanying each preacher, failure was certain.

I asked retired professor and longtime leader of the program, Dan Crawford, to begin the first class with prayer. From that point on, every class began on our knees. We repented of sin, confessed national sins, interceded for churches, and pleaded with God to do something so great that only He would receive glory from it.

I was one of the 124 revival preachers, 65 of whom took the class for credit. As the professor, I had seven weeks to prepare them. Some would preach their

first five sermons, and a church had trusted us to send faithful preachers. I read each sermon, offering encouragement and comments, and I lectured on preaching a revival, while recognizing that success or failure depended on God’s grace alone. We printed prayer cards with the names of every preacher and church. The one I used every morning still sits on the prayer bench in my office.

During chapel, the week before services began, Dr. Patterson prayed over the preachers. The altar filled with students and professors, imploring God to revive our nation.

Sunday, March 13, arrived. Helpless, I cried out again to our all-powerful God to move. The reality of these revivals overcame me like an emotional tsunami. I pulled it together and preached a mediocre sermon that morning. Then came the “moment of decision.” A few silent moments felt like hours. Then someone stirred and the altar filled. No manipulation—simply silence while the Spirit moved. That afternoon, I checked on my preacher boys and heard similar stories from all across the nation.

In one week, 125,000 miles traveled, 600 sermons preached, 100 professions of faith during services, 40 more from personal evangelism, 600 rededications and other decisions, 1,400 personal Gospel presentations, and 2,500 tracts distributed. Several young men discerned God calling them to pursue the pastorate. And I am still receiving updates on God’s continued work in many churches.

God has not yet sent a revival so large the history books will record it. But many of these preachers, including me, will never

be the same. Many congregations saw lives changed and filled barren baptisteries with water. Who can put a value on even one soul rescued from an eternal hell?

Next Spring, March 11-14, 2012, we will do it again. No smoke and no magic. Just a classroom full of praying preachers headed to prepared churches from coast to coast. I hope your church will participate. It will encourage your people while providing experience for a young preacher. Perhaps revivals are a thing of the past, but just maybe, we need to get back to the basics of fervent prayer for the lost, passionately preaching the Word, and consistently sharing the Gospel. Perhaps we have made it all too complicated.

Perhaps you want to help. God may want you to sponsor a revival or a number of revivals. Southwestern pays the travel at an average of \$400 for each preacher so that any willing church may host a revival. Generous families have already come alongside this incredible program, but as requests from churches increase, we will need additional funding. I cannot think of a better way to invest in eternity than to pay the travel of a revival preacher and personal evangelist.

Most important, please pray. Pray for our preachers. Pray for our churches. Pray for unbelievers. And pray that God will *Revive This Nation*.

Thomas White is vice president for student services and communications at Southwestern. In 2011, he led the Revive This Nation revival practicum.

Save *the* Date

JOIN US AS WE DEDICATE SOUTHWESTERN'S NEW CHAPEL.

12.01.11



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SEPTEMBER 13, 2011



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Fort Worth, Texas

SPEAKERS
Russell Moore
Randy Stinson
Paige Patterson
and others



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