

Southwestern News

A PUBLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SUMMER 2013 | VOL. 71 NO. 4



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HEART OF
TEXAS

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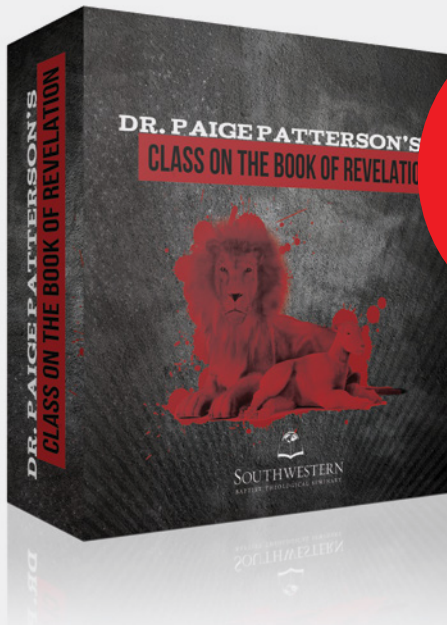
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JUNE 22, 1963

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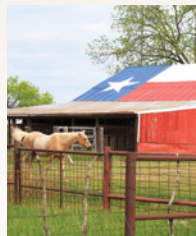
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Down a country road near the town of West, even barn rooftops represent the pride Texans feel for the Lone Star State. (SWBTS Photo/Jason Davis)



CALENDAR

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JULY

3-21

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SOUTHWESTERN
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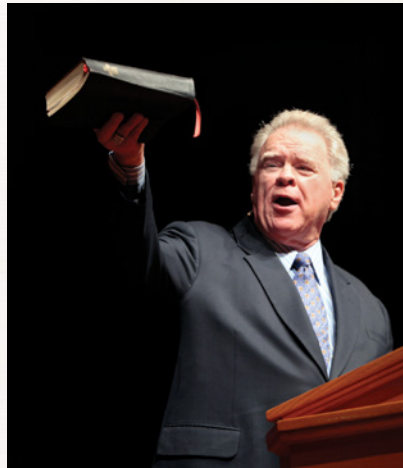
a letter from THE PRESIDENT

This issue of *Southwestern News* chronicles the work of 10 great pastors who are graduates and current students of Southwestern Seminary here in the state of Texas. You have made an impact on the kingdom through your support, especially your prayers for these men. These men are stellar prophets to be sure, but they are actually characteristic of many others. We wish we could profile all of our wonderful alumni across the Lone Star State, but alas, space will not allow. So as you read their stories, know that this commitment to the task of building great churches is repeated many times and in multiple locations.

You will find five things to be true of these men: First, each of them is a great preacher. People love to hear them, and they walk away knowing that they have heard a word from God. Each is an expositor who carefully explains what the Bible means, precept upon precept.

Second, every one of these men believes the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. They proclaim this Book as having the answers to every problem that the modern world presents. Faithfully, Sunday by Sunday, they explain the text to their people.

Third, each of these men is an unselfish pastor. Far from being an exalted preacher removed from access to the people, each man knows his congregation well, walks among them, and is available to them.



Fourth, every one of these pastors is deeply committed to the worldwide missionary enterprise. Their churches have been led to be sacrificial churches, working on the edge of darkness, carrying the light as they go. These men have been deeply involved personally in direct missions, and each leads his people to do the same thing.

Finally, every one of these pastors is deeply involved in the ministry of calling out the called. There is hardly ever a time when Southwestern Seminary is without young men coming from their churches

to prepare for the gospel ministry.

As you read the stories of these men, rejoice with them in what God has done. Although we at Southwestern would like to take credit for it, I know better. The raising up of these pastors is what God has done through committed hearts. Nevertheless, the seminary did provide inspiration and training for them at a critical time in their lives, as they would all testify. We thank God for them now, and we encourage you to rejoice with us also.

Until He Comes,

Paige Patterson

UNLOCK THE PAST TO UNLOCK THE FUTURE

STORY BY Keith Collier
PHOTOS BY Matt Miller & Alyssa Martin





HOW DOES A MAN with no pastoral ministry experience lead a nearly 175-year-old megachurch forward to

reach the world for Christ? For the past nine years at Houston's First Baptist Church (HFBC), Gregg Matte has answered that question by following two guiding principles.

"First, love the people and teach the Word," Matte says. "That's been my theme from the beginning. That will take care of a lot of problems."

"Second, to unlock the future you have to unlock the past in an older historic church. You have to say, 'Remember when we did *this* to reach people for Christ? Well, we're going to reach people for Christ, but we're going to do *this*. See how these are similar?'"

Matte had big shoes to fill when HFBC called him to be their pastor in 2004. In 2000, longtime pastor John Bisagno retired after 30 years of ministry in the church, and HFBC spent more than four years seeking God's direction for their next pastor.

The last time Matte had been on a church staff was as a summer youth intern. He had never even attended a deacons meeting before coming to HFBC. However, Matte was no stranger to leading a large, thriving ministry.

Matte, who became a Christian as a junior in high school, attended Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in marketing. In 1989, during his sophomore year in college, Matte invited some friends over to his apartment for a small group Bible study. The Bible study grew rapidly and eventually became Breakaway Ministries, which set the standard for a growing trend of midweek Bible studies on college campuses across the United States.

"It just took off," Matte says. "We met in 13 or 14 different locations and went from 12 to 500 and then 500 to 1,000 and on and on until finally, when I left, there were about 5,000 coming."

During his 15-year ministry at Breakaway, Matte graduated from Texas A&M and began commuting from College Station to attend seminary at Southwestern's Houston campus.

"My time at Southwestern was great," Matte says. "It was grueling. It took me seven years going through the extension program, so I look at it more like a master's in tenacity than anything else."

Matte says he enjoyed the arsenal of ministry resources he acquired as well as the sharpening he received from professors and students.

"The thing that Southwestern really blessed me with was the tools and the ability to study," Matte says. "That's what was really helpful to me. I knew where to turn when I didn't know the answers on things. It gave me the ability not to fear study but to go further into the study. I still have my seminary folders in my back office."

After completing his degree at Southwestern in 1999, Matte continued to lead Breakaway and preach around the country. During HFBC's interim period following Bisagno's retirement, the church asked Matte to preach on occasion. At the time, the church said that if a person preached during the interim, they would not be considered for the pastorate. So, it came as a surprise to Matte when he received a call from the search committee asking him to meet with them to discuss the possibility of becoming the pastor.

"We met at Cotton Patch Cafe over chicken fried steak, and I wore jeans and a polo shirt and thought, 'I'm just going to be myself.' When we sat down, we just clicked. It was really a sense of calling.

"There's about 50 reasons why I'm the wrong person for this job," Matte says, "and 49 of them are the reasons I'm the right person for this job—to bring change, to bring a new thought, to bring a new paradigm. It's just a real sense of calling, God bringing my family and me here. I was born and raised in Houston, so it was coming home."

As pastor of HFBC, Matte has had the privilege to develop a friendship with Bisagno, who remains a member of the church and nominated Matte to serve as president of the 2013 SBC Pastors' Conference.

"Brother John and I have the best relationship in the world," Matte says. "He is my greatest friend in the ministry. I can turn to him for advice if I need to about a certain situation to get the history on it. He and I are great buddies. He's going to speak at the Pastors' Conference. He preaches in our church for me



when I'm out. We could not be better friends. It has been an awesome transition.

"I've read his book on pastoral ministry, and I feel like it was a document written for me when I first got here."

Over the past nine years, HFBC has continued to grow and expand its ministry in Houston and around the world. In addition to paying off a capital campaign to renovate their worship center, Matte points to the stories of life change as indicators of the Lord's blessing.

"We've seen people saved," Matte says. "We've seen people grow spiritually. We've seen a growth in our ethnicities. We've seen a growth in young families. That will help you do anything as a pastor when people see that lives are changed."

The church recently embarked on what Matte calls a "generosity initiative" known as Mission 1:8. Matte challenged his congregation to give generously above and beyond their tithes toward missions at home and abroad. They set a goal of \$15 million over their projected two-year operating budget of \$45 million. Members overwhelmingly responded, giving and pledging \$11 million above the goal. For the next two years,

"WE'VE SEEN PEOPLE SAVED. WE'VE SEEN PEOPLE GROW SPIRITUALLY. WE'VE SEEN A GROWTH IN OUR ETHNICITIES. WE'VE SEEN A GROWTH IN YOUNG FAMILIES. THAT WILL HELP YOU DO ANYTHING AS A PASTOR WHEN PEOPLE SEE THAT LIVES ARE CHANGED."

more than 50 percent of the budget will go toward missions, which includes supporting multisite campuses in Houston, partnerships with

church plants in major North American cities, the adoption of an unreached people group in East Asia, and more.

Even with the great successes the church has experienced, Matte remains committed to those guiding principles and seeks to lead the congregation with a pastoral heart.

"It's been amazing," Matte says. "I've learned so much. I've grown so much. I feel like it's made a man out of me. The people are kind and loving. We talk about in our family that we can't out-love the people here, as much as we try.

"I just love the people and teach the Word. I try to walk the halls slow and let them know me. I sit in different places in the crowd every week. I want to be able to connect with them."

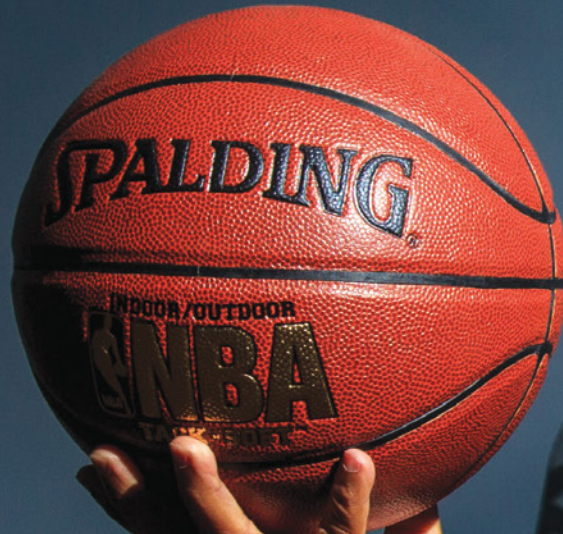
By tapping into the historic past of Houston's First Baptist Church, Matte sees great days ahead in reaching Houston and the world with the Gospel. **S**

[GET TO KNOW]

GREGG MATTE

- Pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church
- Master of Arts in Christian Education (1999)
- Married to Kelly; Children: Greyson and Valerie
- President of 2013 SBC Pastors' Conference
- Founded Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M University
- Set goal to visit all 30 MLB ballparks by the time his son graduates high school (16 visited so far)





GOD'S GRACE FOR EVERY RACE

Story by **BENJAMIN HAWKINS**

Photos by **MATT MILLER & JASON DAVIS**



As a college student at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, Tony Mathews loved nothing better than to hold a basketball in his hands.

Attending college on a basketball scholarship, he played for Angelo State against Dennis Rodman, and he played against Chris Mullin and Sidney Green at the amateur, Olympic-style Empire State Games in New York.

Although Mathews had been introduced to the church as a 12-year-old boy in Buffalo, N.Y., God used his passion for basketball to draw him to faith in Christ. In his college dorm room, he read *Power for Living*, which shared the testimonies of famous athletes like Tom Landry and Julius Erving. After reading the book, he followed the guidance of a “sinner’s prayer” written at the end of the book and prayed that Christ would be his Savior and Lord.

After coming to faith in Christ, Mathews returned to New York, was counseled by a Baptist pastor, and publicly confessed his faith in baptism. A year later, he surrendered to the ministry and served at St. Paul Baptist Church in San Angelo.

After he finished playing college basketball in 1984, Mathews worked at the Ethicon Corporation in San Angelo, and he started a midnight Bible study that grew over a year-and-a-half from five co-workers to more than 100 people from different ethnicities and cultures. During this time, Mathews met his wife, Angela. In 2013, they celebrate their 25th anniversary, and they have three children, Michael, Ryann Nicole, and Moriah.

In 1987, Mathews took his first pastorate at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Brownwood, Texas. While serving as a pastor in Brownwood, he completed his bachelor's degree at Angelo State University and enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern Seminary, driving more than two hours one way to attend classes on campus.

"I absolutely loved it," says Mathews, who is currently serving in his sixth year as a trustee for Southwestern. "I loved learning. I tried to drain every ounce of knowledge from every professor I had. The level of scholarship that I was exposed to at Southwestern and the training for practical ministry was second to none."

"And then as a pastor, as well, I was able to take what I learned and use it in my ministry context," adds Mathews, who also pursued his Master of Arts in Christian Leadership at Criswell College while he studied at Southwestern. In 1992, he moved from Brownwood to become pastor of Victory Baptist Church, leading the church to re-establish itself as North Garland Baptist Fellowship two years later. For 21 years, he has led this church, meanwhile earning a Doctor of Ministry from Southwestern Seminary in 2000.

At Southwestern, Mathews completed a doctoral project titled "Equipping Staff and Lay Leaders to Intentionally Grow, Nurture, and Lead a Multicultural Congregation"—a subject that lies at the heart of his ministry. According to the church's website, Mathews and the congregation at North Garland believe that "every race can experience God's grace." Mathews has, in fact, addressed this issue at numerous workshops, and in 2003 he published a book titled *There's More Than One Color in the Pew: A Handbook for Multicultural, Multiracial Churches*.

"I love seeing different people from different races and cultures come together and serve the Lord for the kingdom," Mathews says, admitting that North Garland currently has a majority of African-American members, although people



"I love seeing different people from different races and cultures come together and serve the Lord for the kingdom. ... I believe that this is the heartbeat of God—to spread the Gospel to all nations, to everyone who is on the planet."

from every ethnicity and culture are openly welcomed into the congregation. "I believe that this is the heartbeat of God—to spread the Gospel to all nations, to everyone who is on the planet."

Recently, Mathews' passion for multi-ethnic ministry has reached beyond the bounds of Texas and has taken him across the world to share the Gospel and encourage missionaries who have given their lives to

reach the nations. Missions have been at the heart of North Garland Baptist Church for decades, and members have traveled throughout the United States and around the world with the Gospel. They have worked alongside the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) to plant churches throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. They have worked with various outreach ministries in the metroplex and have proclaimed the message of Christ in El Paso, Texas. And they have traveled throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa with the Gospel.

But recently Mathews began to participate personally in the church's mission projects, and the experience has ignited his heart with a fervor that, he hopes, will spread to his church members. Because of his personal involvement in missions, members of his church have expressed interest in taking the Gospel to other nations.

"The Lord has given the senior pastor a lot of influence, to influence others in the congregation to be open to supporting and also praying about going to the ends of the earth," Mathews says, summarizing some counsel that he gave to pastors during a session he led at the SBTC Sent Conference in April. "It is great to hear a report from a missions team. It is greater, as a pastor, to give a report when you come back from one."

After returning from mission trips last year, Mathews was able to share with his congregation how he met missionary couples in Africa and heard their stories of sacrifice for the sake



of the Gospel. He also ministered to their children and had the privilege of preaching to this group of missionaries. He told his congregation how he worked among the poverty-stricken in South Asia, who “were so poor, and yet so open to the Gospel.” At a nearby seminary, he also trained 100 students who would take the Gospel throughout South Asia. Through these trips, Mathews was reminded that God is everywhere, and He is at work.

“God is at work doing something, waiting for people to come to Him across the globe,” Mathews says. “He is at work in the lives of these people.”

“I got a chance in South Asia to hold a little girl who was found. Her mother was a prostitute, and she was found in a corn field covered with ants. I got a chance to hold that little girl. The pastor at that church that I preached at adopted her, and I got to pick her up and hold her.”

“It was things like that that just broke my heart,” he adds. Because he participated in the work of God throughout the world, Mathews’ heart broke for the lost and needy, and he gained a renewed passion for reaching them. Because of this, he loves nothing better than to encourage missionaries and their children in Africa, to share the Gospel with the poverty-stricken in South Asia, and to hold in his arms a little girl whose life has been transformed by a local pastor. He loves nothing better than to lead his congregation in sharing God’s grace with every nation and every race. ③



[GET TO KNOW]

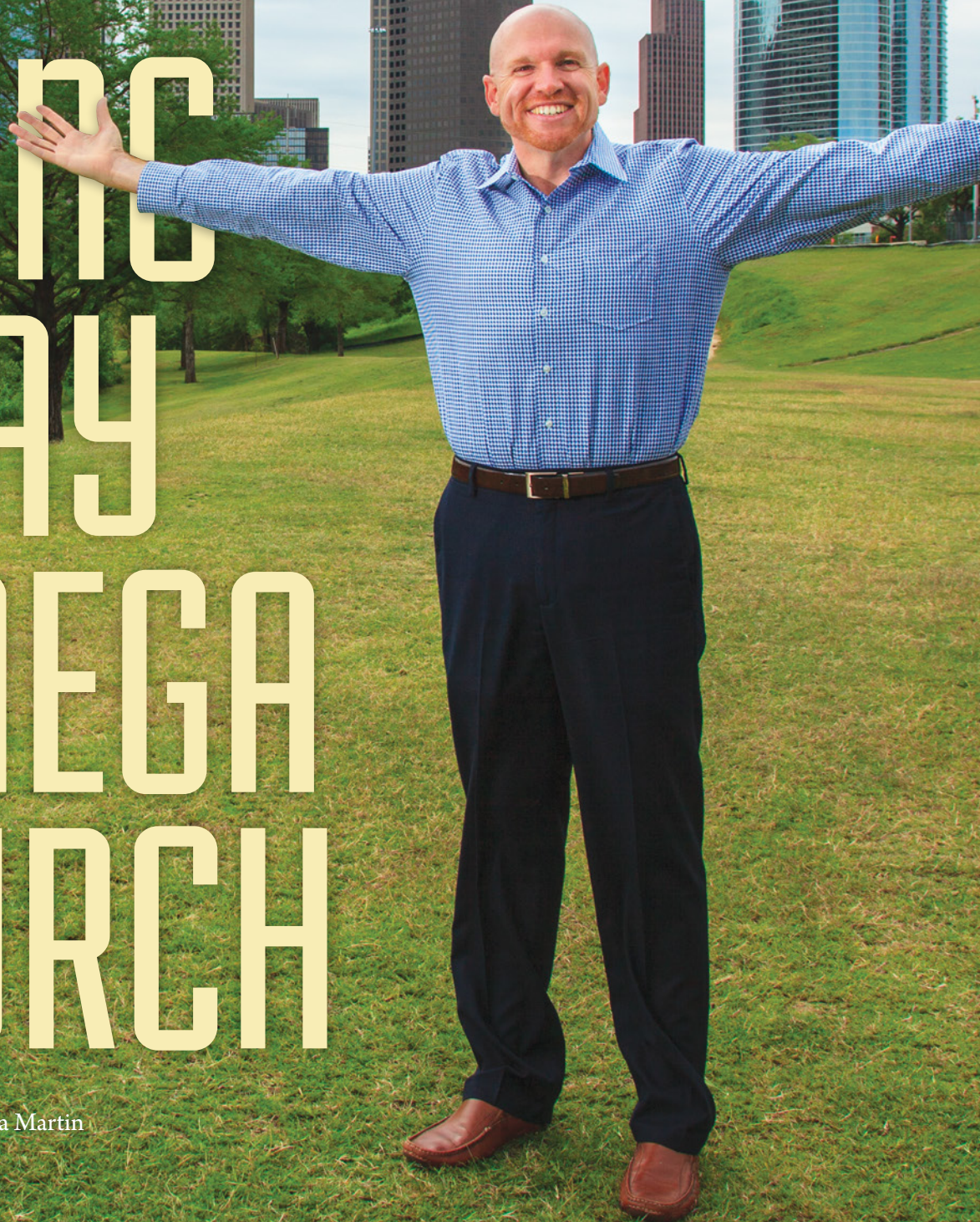
TONY MATHEWS

- Pastor of North Garland Baptist Fellowship in Garland, Texas
- M.Div. (1996); D.Min. (2000)
- Married to Angela; Children: Michael, Ryann Nicole, and Moriah
- Trustee at Southwestern Seminary
- Author of *There’s More Than One Color in the Pew: A Handbook for Multicultural, Multiracial Churches*



HOUSTON, TEXAS

GIVING AWAY A MEGA CHURCH



Story by Keith Collier

Photos by Matt Miller & Alyssa Martin



In

A DAY OF MEGACHURCHES, Nathan Lino is not interested in building one but in giving one away. Lino

planted Northeast Houston Baptist Church (NEHBC) in 2002, and God has given his church a vision to plant the equivalent of a megachurch over the next 20 years.

“Because we are a church plant,” Lino says, “we learned firsthand why 70 percent of church plants close their doors. You’ve got to have critical mass on day one. The day you open your doors, you’ve got to be able to offer a comprehensive church ministry. You’ve got to be able to minister to adults, teenagers, children, and preschoolers. You don’t have to have an elaborate setup, but you have to be able to do comprehensive ministry.”

As part of their vision, NEHBC plans to send out 200-250 church members every other year to help start churches in a new, expanding area of Houston that is projected to have 1 million people move in over the next three years. Currently, Lino is leading his church to be spiritually, financially, and structurally positioned to launch the first church in three years.

“God is dovetailing all of this together, both the city’s plans and timelines and His plans for NEHBC and our timeline to be ready to be able to do these kinds of things and have the resources,” Lino says.

As the church discussed the idea of seeding 10 church plants with 200+ members each, someone mentioned that the total number would be equivalent to a megachurch, since megachurches

are categorized as churches having 2,000 or more in regular attendance.

“We never sat down and said, ‘Let’s plant a megachurch,’” Lino says. “We just suddenly realized we were going to.”

Lino insists that these church plants will not be multisite campuses for NEHBC, but each church will be “totally autonomous.”

“We’ll do everything to help,” Lino says. “We’re not going to let them die, but we’re not going to intrude.”

Interestingly, Lino himself never planned to be a church planter. A South African native with a father from Malawi and a mother from Zimbabwe, Lino grew up in an international home. His dad planted churches in South Africa before moving the family to Houston to serve as a pastor when Lino was 11. When Lino sensed a call to ministry in seventh grade, he felt certain it was a call to missions. However, after his freshman year at Texas A&M University, he realized he was called to be a pastor. Today, he considers himself a “missionary trapped in a pastor’s body.”

“As much as I would love to be a missionary,” Lino says, “I’m a mobilizer. That’s God’s call on my life.”

“I want our church to be a healthy church. I want to read the New Testament and feel affirmation instead of conviction when it comes to our church. I’m more interested in health than size.”

Even after recognizing his call to pastoral ministry, Lino assumed he would serve in an existing church.

“I never felt called to church planting,” Lino said. “In every scenario I imagined in my mind, I was going to a 100-year-old church, and I just thought I was cut out to go and lead an established church.”

As he finished his master’s studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., a church in Houston contacted him about serving as pastor of a church they felt led to plant in the area. Lino resisted initially, but after a time of prayer and fasting, he realized God was calling him to plant the church, so he and his wife Nicole moved to Houston to start NEHBC.

From the beginning, Lino set out simply to follow the Great Commission, which he boiled down to three parts: evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer.

“We would just say, ‘We exist to do evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer,’ and that’s all we did,” Lino says. “That was our deciding factor in everything—if we were going to start a



ministry or decide what to do with the church calendar—it was all about evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer. If it’s not about one of those three things, we were just not going to do it.

“That was pretty defining for us because it was setting the course for the future of our church, for what was to come for the vision. If we’d not been doing that, we would never have embraced the vision that God gave us. He was preparing us and tilling the soil.”

As the church grew, Lino and others sensed that God was not calling them to be a megachurch. Instead, God gave Lino the vision to be a lean, healthy church.

“Two of the top 10 biggest evangelical churches in America are within 10 minutes of us,” Lino says. “We love those churches and their ministries, but that was defining for us, realizing that we’re not called to be a megachurch.

“I want our church to be a healthy church. I want to read the New Testament and feel affirmation instead of conviction when it comes to our church. I’m more interested in health than size.”

NEHBC’s motto is “Love our City. Love the World.” For Lino, this local and global mindset captures the core principles in the Great Commission. Locally, their two primary focuses are Farrington Mission and church planting.

The church started Farrington Mission several years ago to minister to individuals and families in Houston’s impoverished Fifth Ward district. The mission offers a food pantry, clothes closet, evangelistic basketball ministry, and a crisis pregnancy center.

“We’ve been talking for years about a crisis pregnancy center because Planned Parenthood has such a large footprint in our city,” Lino says. “In fact, they’ve opened the largest Planned Parenthood clinic in the western hemisphere here, and they have a very aggressive strategy in our city. So, we wanted to have a crisis pregnancy center to combat that.”

“You can do evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer anywhere, anytime that’s completely reproducible and costs zero dollars. How can we do ministry for free? That’s what I want to do.”

Farrington Mission has a fully operational medical pregnancy clinic, which meets state standards and is staffed by a rotation of doctors and nurses.

“It’s a fully pro-life, Gospel-sharing pregnancy medical clinic,” Lino says, adding that the center is equipped with 4-D ultrasound and offers ongoing support through classes on life skills and parenting.

Farrington Mission will also be the hub of NEHBC’s partnership with Southwestern Seminary during the Crossover evangelism program in the days leading up to the SBC annual meeting in Houston in June. Southwestern students will train NEHBC members in evangelism, and then teams will share the Gospel door-to-door and through block parties in the area.

In addition to their church planting vision in Houston, NEHBC also supports church planting efforts in North America and around the world. Currently, NEHBC sends out 13 short-term mission teams around the world annually. Lino hopes to raise that number in the years to come.

“We make a promise to anyone in our church that if you surrender to missions, we will come and see you every year and help you,” Lino says.

Whether it’s a church plant in Houston, North America, or around the world, Lino says NEHBC remains focused on evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer.

“I knew whatever we did had to be reproducible anywhere in the world,” Lino says. “That was really important to me. If God calls anyone in our church to any form of pastoring—in America, in a frontier state, the Pacific Northwest, New England, Libya, or Zimbabwe—they ought to be able to say, ‘I know how to do this. I’m just going to copy NEHBC. What we do at NEHBC, I’m going to do there.’

“You can do evangelism, Bible teaching, and prayer anywhere, anytime that’s completely reproducible and costs zero dollars. How can we do ministry for free? That’s what I want to do.”

Thus, for Lino, a focus on the health of NEHBC impacts the health of churches they plant at home and the mission work they do around the world.

As Lino notes, “The light that shines the furthest shines the brightest at home.” **§**

SOUTHWESTERN DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN EXPOSITORY PREACHING

Lino is presently in the final stages of his D.Min. in Expository Preaching, which he highly recommends to other pastors. He credits the program with impacting and influencing his ministry in a variety of ways.

“I cannot overstate the way that it motivated me to be very good at my preaching and to figure out how to maximize whatever talent God has given me,” Lino says.

For Lino, the D.Min. program pushed him toward excellence in preaching, and he says his professors’ “relentless insistence that I get better just had a huge impact on me. I don’t know that I’m a great preacher now, but I’m way better than I was before they got hold of me.”

“It’s a no-brainer if you have a chance to do it. It’s had a profound impact on me. I’m really glad I’m doing it.”



For more information on Southwestern’s D.Min. program, scan the QR code or visit SWBTS.EDU/DMIN.

[GET TO KNOW]

NATHAN LINO

- Pastor of Northeast Houston Baptist Church in Humble, Texas
- Pursuing D.Min. in Expository Preaching
- Married to Nicole; Children: Colton, Campbell, Cassidy, and Chloe
- Trustee for International Mission Board
- Currently serving as 1st Vice President of SBC
- Loves Houston, loves the world

RADIANT CHURCH



A CITY ON A HILL
IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER
PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER

IF YOU HAD TO USE ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE DANNY FORSHEE, pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, it would be “passionate.” Always full of energy, Forshee is a spirited preacher, soul-winner, and pastor, and he is leading Great Hills Baptist to be fervent about the Gospel as well.

“The vision is for us to really be passionate for sharing our faith and reaching the nations,” Forshee says, “and if you’re not deep in the Scripture and you don’t passionately worship God, that’s not going to happen.”

Forshee arrived in Austin nearly three years ago and immediately recognized the mission field to which he had been called.

“Austin is a melting pot,” Forshee says. “Fifty-one percent of the people who live in Austin are single. Ninety-two percent are unchurched.

“I told the church when I came two-and-a-half years ago, ‘I’m not the Apostle Paul, but I think I’ve landed in Athens.’

“A lot of Austin sees the church as irrelevant. To reach them, we have to love them.”

Forshee’s passion for evangelism was kindled in college. Although he had walked an aisle at age 6 and sensed a desire to preach in high school, Forshee admits, “I actually got saved after I started preaching.”

While a ministerial student at the University of Mobile in Mobile, Ala., a friend challenged him to give his testimony, and Forshee realized he had never truly repented and placed his faith in Christ. He promptly cried out to God to save him and began to grow in his faith. Later, through a summer missions stint in the Pacific Northwest, he felt the Lord calling him to be an evangelist.

This call was only fueled by his time at



Southwestern as a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. student. His pastor encouraged him to attend Southwestern and to take evangelism professor Roy Fish for every class he offered. Forshee followed this advice and, like so many others, experienced the profound impact of Fish’s evangelistic zeal. He also traveled with the seminary’s Spring Revival Practicum (now called Revive This Nation) to preach revivals over spring break and helped coordinate the program as a grading assistant.

Referencing his studies at Southwestern, Forshee says, “I cannot tell you the enormous leap in not only scholarship but also spiritual maturity during those years.”

Empowered by his time at Southwestern, Forshee’s ministry as an evangelist has taken many forms over the years.

“I’ve been an itinerant evangelist. I’ve been a professor of

evangelism. And now I’m a pastoral evangelist,” Forshee says.

In addition to traveling and preaching, Forshee has served as pastor of churches in Virginia, Arkansas, and Texas as well as serving as an evangelism professor at both Southeastern and Southwestern Baptist seminaries. Yet through it all, he has constantly felt the tug toward pastoral ministry.

“I know pastoral ministry is hard,” Forshee says. “But I know for sure that this is what God’s called me to do. The Word of God and the call of God will keep you sane and grounded.”

God’s Word and call have sustained him through difficult transitions at Great Hills, as he has sought to lead the church in becoming healthy. Forshee credits his wife Ashley as well for her godliness and constant encouragement and support.

“A healthy church is a unified and reproducing church where we are making disciples who make disciples,” Forshee says. “If we’re healthy and we’re deep in the Scriptures, in the nutrients of God’s Word, there’s a fellowship of joy, excitement, and peace among the body.”

In order to establish health, Forshee committed to sharing the Gospel, preaching God’s Word, and loving his congregation.

“I come with the simple message that it’s not about us, it’s about Jesus and us taking the Gospel to the nations,” Forshee says.

“Our vision is to be a radiant church that shines upward in worship, inward in discipleship, and outward in evangelism and missions.”



As members have embraced this vision, Forshee says, God has blessed and the church has grown.

For example, Great Hill's members are involved in reaching individuals and families in Austin's many apartment complexes. Among those members are Fred and Melissa Campbell.

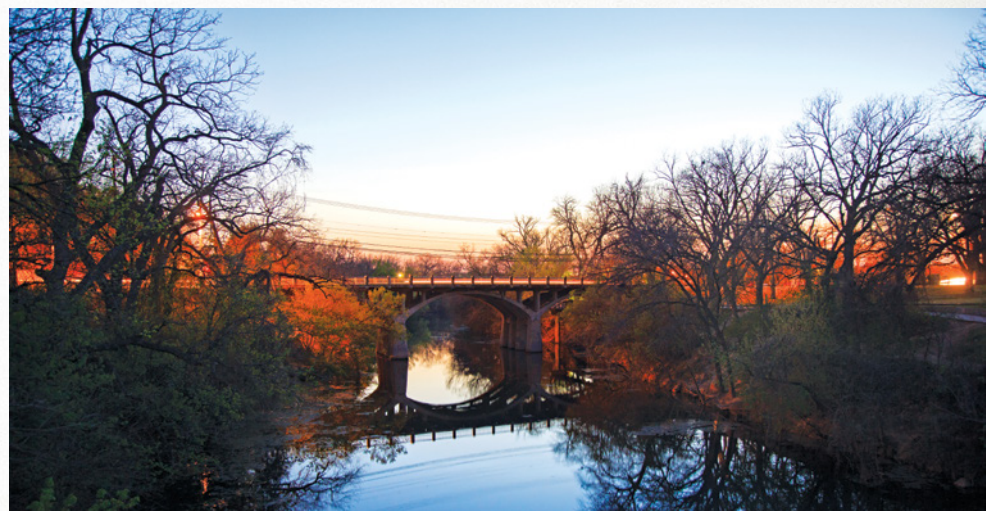
The Campbells sold their business, which designed instrumentation for aircraft, crane, and gas pipeline companies, and now spend all of their time sharing the Gospel door-to-door and discipling new believers who are in turn discipling others. Their motto, echoing the Scottish Reformer John Knox, is "Give us Austin or we die."

"This is what they do, literally full time," Forshee says. "This is their passion—making disciples, sharing the Gospel, and knocking on doors."

Additionally, the Lord has drawn people in the community to the church in unexpected ways. For example, a few months ago, a 32-year-old software engineer from Delhi named Natasha showed up at the church one day and asked to speak with someone.

She told Forshee, "I felt drawn to this place. There was something here." As he shared the Gospel with this young Hindu woman, she said, "I am ready to convert to Christ." Since that time, they have baptized her and begun the discipleship process.

While the church continues to reach people with the Gospel in Austin, Great Hills has also partnered with a church planter in Toronto through the North American Mission



Board's "Send North America" initiative and adopted an Unengaged Unreached People Group in South Asia through the International Mission Board's "Embrace" challenge.

When asked how they are engaging all of these mission fields, Forshee responds, "We are trying to get healthy as a church, but I couldn't wait until we got healthy. If I waited until Great Hills got healthy, we would never go because

we've got so many things we're working through.

"We're a historic Christian church that's finding our way, and we're really starting to have a vision. If we waited until we got healthy, it would be years, and these people would be dying and going to hell. So, we had to do this now and in the process trust God that He would expedite our healthiness, which is happening."

Thus, Forshee is leading this radiant church to be a "city on a hill" in the Texas Hill Country and beyond as they hold forth the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **S**

[GET TO KNOW]

DANNY FORSHEE

- Pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas
- M.Div. (1990); Ph.D. in Evangelism (1995)
- Married to Ashley; Children: Hannah, Bryant, and Leighton
- President of the Danny Forshee Evangelistic Association
- Former evangelism professor at Southwestern and Southeastern Baptist seminaries
- Enjoys working out, playing golf, and reading biographies



BOOT CAMP

LEADING A CHURCH TO PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL FITNESS

Story by **Benjamin Hawkins**
Photos by **Matt Miller**





AP

EXERCISE DELAYS MENTAL DECAY.

In a blog post published last year, John Mark Caton tells his readers that exercise prevents mental decline more effectively than puzzles, crosswords, and other “mentally and socially stimulating activities.”

“Exercise is a better mental workout,” Caton writes, citing a study from the “Journal of Neurology” that, in his words, calls exercise the “best thing we can do to protect our brains as we age.” But more important than physical exercise, Caton says, is the spiritual training in godliness that “has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come” (1 Tim. 4:8).

At Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church, where Caton serves as senior pastor, members find resources both for spiritual and intellectual growth and for physical exercise. Not only can they play softball, basketball, or hockey with the church, but they can also join Caton as he leads a weekly fitness Boot Camp.

For Caton, this emphasis on physical fitness comes naturally. He describes the whole Caton family as “athletic and active.” His four children—Jace, Jordan, Jensyn and Jarrett—play a range of sports, from lacrosse to baseball, football, basketball, soccer, and competitive cheer. And the family, especially Caton and his sons, love to hunt.

In fact, as a boy growing up in Spring, Texas, Caton admits that he often cared more about sports and having fun than about growth in godliness. After his father, who was pastor of Spring Baptist Church for 23 years, died, Caton struggled

with his childhood faith. He kept God at arm’s distance, partly because he feared that God might call him into the pulpit ministry or onto the mission field.

For that reason, after graduating from high school, he earned a business degree from Baylor University, dreaming that he would gain success in financial markets and thereby fund Christian projects. Finally, in 1989, he surrendered to give God whatever He wanted.

“There was one answer, ‘I want all of you,’” Caton recalls. So that fall, he loaded everything he owned into a truck and trailer and drove to Dallas, Texas, where he had no job and no home. He knew only that God had called him to ministry and that ministry takes preparation.

While Caton knew that several Christian schools existed in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, he had a personal acquaintance with Paige Patterson, who was serving at that time at Criswell College in Dallas. For that reason, he walked into Patterson’s office and told him about his need to train for ministry. After Caton told Patterson that he had neither job nor home, they left Patterson’s office and chanced upon the athletic director at First Baptist Academy, who was looking for a football coach. Caton “was hired on the spot.”

“That day, I saw God work,” Caton says. “One of the things that probably kept me for all those years from really surrendering to God was me just being a guy and loving sports.”

Nevertheless, God used Caton’s love for sports to open a door for ministry. After earning a master’s degree at Criswell College, Caton pursued a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Meanwhile, he was reacquainted with his wife, Jeana, who was the daughter to his father’s associate pastor, and the two were soon married. He also served in ministry roles at First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, before accepting the pastorate at Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church in 1995.

Cottonwood Creek, which was planted in 1882, had around 100 members when Caton and his wife planted themselves at the church 18 years ago. Today, the church has nearly



5,000 members and has been recognized among the top 200 givers to the Lottie Moon missions offering. They also support two rehabilitated campuses in the metroplex.

“We have two other campuses, but although we’re a multi-campus site, the pastor that I hire is their pastor. They operate as an independent body,” Caton says, adding that this pastor preaches each week to his own congregation. “I strongly believe that they need to learn what it means to have a pastor, not just a campus pastor. He is a true pastor.”

The decision to give these campuses their own pastors reflects Caton’s heart for his own flock at Cottonwood Creek.

“I’d just as soon be with our people than with anybody else,” says Caton, who leads his fitness Boot Camp at Cottonwood Creek primarily so that he can spend time with church members. “If I have a choice between serving on some big committee somewhere or being with our church people, I will choose my church people all the time. I want to be a friend of the church. I want to be a pastor. I believe the most important thing for a shepherd to do is to be present with his people.”

As a pastor, Caton desires to instill within the members of his church a love for one another, a passion for reaching their community, and a love for God’s Word. During the course of his tenure at Cottonwood Creek, he has encouraged his members to do whatever is necessary to minister to every family that comes into their church. Caton also desires to train his congregation in godliness through the expositional preaching of God’s Word and by helping them reflect on and understand the faith through his blog, www.johnmarkcaton.com, and through “Inspirational Thoughts” on radio station 97.5 KLAK.

Especially on his blog, Caton responds to questions that church members often ask, and he has noticed throughout his ministry a change in the questions that he hears.

“The questions that people came to me with 18 years ago when I first started to pastor,” Caton says, “were, ‘How can I fix my marriage? How do I know I’m saved? Why should I be baptized?’”

“The questions people come with now have changed: ‘Why does God allow pain and suffering? Is there a God? With so much evil in the world, what are the arguments for the existence of God?’”

“I think more and more churches need to deal with the issues of apologetics,” Caton says, adding that his training at Southwestern Seminary has helped him to deal with such questions.

On his blog, Caton also urges readers to remain fit. Caton explains that, for every minute a person walks, he can add two minutes to his life. Walking also has the benefits of sharpening one’s mind, controlling blood pressure, burning calories, and treating insomnia. But Caton adds that it is far more important that people improve their spiritual walk by studying God’s Word and serving others. After all, a godly walk holds benefits both for this life and for the life to come. §



[GET TO KNOW]

JOHN MARK CATON

- Pastor of Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church in Allen, Texas
- M.Div. (1992); Ph.D. in Christian Ethics (2001)
- Married to Jeana; Children: Jace, Jordan, Jensyn, and Jarrett
- Trustee at Southwestern Seminary (former Chairman of the Board)
- Leads church members in weekly fitness Boot Camp



A man in a dark suit and blue checkered shirt is speaking at a wooden podium. He is smiling and gesturing with his left hand while holding a book in his right. The background is a blurred indoor setting with large windows showing greenery outside.

ASSIGNED TO REACH THE NATIONS AT THEIR DOORSTEP

Story by BENJAMIN HAWKINS
Photos by MATT MILLER & ADAM TARLETON

JOSH SMITH INSISTS THAT THE VALLEY RANCH COMMUNITY IN IRVING, TEXAS, "IS NOT THE BIBLE BELT." Last year, Irving was named the most diverse city in the United States, followed by Queens, N.Y.

Home to the Dallas Cowboys and to Microsoft, Irving has drawn people from numerous cultures and religions. More than 25 percent of the population is Asian, 25 percent is African-American, and more than 20 percent is Hispanic. After Hurricane Katrina caused a mass exodus from New Orleans, La., in 2005, many people settled into low-income housing complexes in the Valley Ranch community in Irving. And, although Valley Ranch contains only two Baptist churches, it is home to a mosque extension center, a Hindu shrine, and one of the highest-grossing Bollywood (Hindi-language) theaters in the nation.

Smith long dreamed that God would assign him to ministry outside of the Bible Belt—a desire reflected in his life verse: "God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations" (Psalm 67:1-2). Because of this passion for reaching the nations, the cultural diversity in Irving enticed Smith in 2006 to accept the pastorate at MacArthur Blvd. Baptist Church.

The son of evangelist Bailey Smith and a fourth-generation preacher, Smith came to faith in Christ at the age of 15 during a Go Tell Youth Camp. Soon, he developed a heart for missions, and he pursued a bachelor's degree in missions and cross cultural studies. After college, he ministered throughout Eastern Europe, preaching in Slovakia, Serbia, Montenegro, and the Czech Republic from 1997-1999. This European sojourn not only reinforced his passion for reaching the nations with the Gospel, but it also kindled his love for preaching.

After returning to the United States, Smith enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during Paige Patterson's tenure as president of the school. Given his heart for missions, he also led the international student ministry at First Baptist Church in Durham, N.C. While serving in this role, he began to grasp the importance of the local church.

"God gave me a new love for the local church," Smith says, noting the "ministry, power, and impact that a local church has." He

began to see that the church is at "the center of God's plan ... to advance His kingdom and exalt His Son."

As his graduation date at Southeastern Seminary approached, Smith started the application process to be an international missionary, with hopes of working in Montenegro. Around the same time, however, he met his future wife, Andrea, whom he married the same year he graduated in 2003. They now have four daughters, Lily, Gracie, Josie, and Annalee.

After graduation, the newlyweds moved to Little Rock, Ark., where Smith served at Summit Church as a missions and teaching pastor. Then, with the recommen-

"God has placed us here, in the midst of the most confusing, strangest, most complicated community. He has surrounded us by the rich. He has surrounded us by the poor. He has surrounded us by every different color, every different nationality. He has surrounded us by young, by old, by fatherless, by those in families, and by every different religion imaginable. And in the midst of this vast lostness, He has dropped a church, filled with people who know Jesus Christ. And He has given us an assignment."

dation of former pastor and current Southwestern Seminary dean David Allen, the congregation at MacArthur Blvd. Baptist Church called Smith as their pastor in 2006. As he came to the church, he realized that God was drawing together his passion for preaching, the local church, and missions.

At this time, Smith also entered the Doctor of Ministry program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with an emphasis in preaching.



Josh Smith with his wife Andrea and four daughters.



“The Doctor of Ministry in preaching has completely changed my preaching,” Smith says, explaining that the program has taught him how better to know what the text of Scripture says and also how to communicate what it means for his church. Smith is committed to preaching the text of Scripture and to helping his congregation understand what the Bible teaches them about the assignment that God has given them.

During a sermon in January, Smith called his congregation to pursue the task that God has given them. The sermon introduced the new “We Will Tell” initiative at the church, based on Psalm 78:4—“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.” Seeking ways to reach out to the diverse population in Irving, Smith and his congregation have recognized an open door into the community—children. In fact, Smith says, the church’s Awana and Mother’s Day Out programs have waiting lists filled by Hindu and Muslim families who want the best for their children.


In his sermon, Smith explained a “kingdom principle” that is interwoven into the text of Joshua 1: “God always fulfills his

mission through specific assignments.” In other words, God brings the Great Commission to fulfillment as every local church fulfills its own specific God-given task.

“God is leading us to accomplish our assignment,” Smith told his congregation. “He is showing us an incredible opportunity to reach the next generation around us by bringing them here, raising them up, training them to trust and follow Christ, and then sending them out to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. That may not be anybody else’s assignment, but it is ours.”

“Now we’ve got a lot of assignments,” he added, sharing about the church’s mission involvement in Montenegro, Guatemala, Asia, and the Middle East. “But we have an assignment right here in this community.”

“God has placed us here, in the midst of the most confusing, strangest, most complicated community,” he said. “He has surrounded us by the rich. He has surrounded us by the poor. He has surrounded us by every different color, every different nationality. He has surrounded us by young, by old, by fatherless, by those in families, and by every different religion imaginable.

“And in the midst of this vast lostness, He has dropped a church, filled with people who know Jesus Christ. And He has given us an assignment.” 



[GET TO KNOW]

J. JOSH SMITH

- Pastor of MacArthur Blvd. Baptist Church in Irving, Texas
- Pursuing D.Min. in Expository Preaching
- Married to Andrea; Children: Lily, Gracie, Josie, and Annalee
- Served with the IMB in Eastern Europe from 1997-1999
- Serves as pastor in the most diverse city in the United States

DE TODA TRIBU Y LENGUA

EL NUEVO
TESTAMENTO

LA VERSIÓN INTERNACIONAL

EDIFYING CHURCHES
FROM EVERY TRIBE,
NATION, & LANGUAGE

Story by Benjamin Hawkins

Photos by Matt Miller & Alyssa Martin



IN RECENT YEARS, the interaction between English speakers and Latinos around the globe has created a new language category: Spanglish—diverse blends of English and Spanish used by some people in Texas and throughout the world. This linguistic development is a reminder of the influx of Latinos that have come to reside in the United States. It also reminds Southern Baptists in Texas that they minister among people from every tribe, nation, and language.

Experts estimate that more than 50 million Hispanic people live within the United States and that, by 2050, Hispanics will reportedly make up one-fourth of the U.S. population. More than 9 million Hispanics live in Texas, making up 38.1 percent of the population.

According to Mike Gonzales, in only a few decades Latinos will make up the majority of the population in Texas. In 2011, Gonzales was one of six people with ties to Southwestern Seminary named to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) 18-member Hispanic Advisory Council, tasked with providing insight as the convention attempts to meet the needs of Latino churches in the SBC.

For more than 40 years, Gonzales has worked with Hispanic churches in Texas and throughout the world. He came to faith in Christ at a young age and surrendered to the ministry while pursuing his bachelor's degree at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. Recognizing that a call to ministry is a call to prepare, he then enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1975.

"My experience at Southwestern was great," Gonzales says. "It prepared me theologically. It prepared me to share the Gospel. One of my fondest memories is Roy Fish because I took as many courses as I could under him."

After graduation, Gonzales moved to Barcelona, Spain, with his wife, Dalia, and their baby girl, Angela. In Spain, he served with the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board), pastoring several churches in the country. During his tenure in Spain, Southwestern created a new M.A. in Missiology degree, which Gonzales completed during their furloughs in the United States in 2005. After 15 years, health concerns compelled the Gonzales family to return to the states, although their daughter and son-in-law now serve with the IMB in Trujillo, Spain. Gonzales also continues to serve the IMB as a trustee from the state of Texas.

After returning to Texas, Gonzales served as pastor at Primera Iglesia Bautista of Pleasant Grove in Dallas, Texas, and then began to serve in various denominational roles. Today, he serves as director of language ministries for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC).



In this role, Gonzales leads the SBTC in developing regional conferences throughout Texas that emphasize evangelism, discipleship, missions, marital enrichment, and pastoral development. He also organizes men's and women's conferences, as well as a retreat for pastors and their wives. All of these conferences, as well as Gonzales' work with local churches and associations, aim at edifying and strengthening Hispanic churches throughout the state. Gonzales labors especially to develop the leadership in Hispanic churches by helping pastors gain a better ministerial education.

"Sometimes, pastors come from other countries, and they don't have much of an education," Gonzales says. "That is a



challenge because if you don't have a pastor who is well trained, that church is not going to grow. And many times, pastors may come from a Pentecostal background or from the Assemblies of God, and so they end up going off the deep end because a lot of people that come from South America or Central America have [been impacted by the charismatic movement]. So they need to be well-trained. They need to know the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 well."

Gonzales also desires to strengthen families in Hispanic communities and churches. He is especially committed to ensuring that pastors and their wives remain close and spend time together—a conviction that he has carried with him throughout his own ministry.

"My wife and I always have a date night," he says. "We do like to get away, maybe go to a nice restaurant and get away. I've done this all through my ministry. You have to make time. That has been one of the things that, I think, people don't do anymore. People are so busy, but they need to slow down. We need to take our time being together, talking to each other. ... Find time to be with your wife. Life is too short."

Gonzales also tries to strengthen families by encouraging children to stay in school.



"We need to instruct our families to encourage their kids to go to school, to stay in school, and to go to college and seek careers," Gonzales says. "That is a big challenge," especially when some children are pulled into gangs during grade school or when they come from dysfunctional families.

However, Gonzales not only works with Hispanic churches, but he also advises English-language churches that, especially in urban areas, are now surrounded by Spanish-speaking communities because of the influx of Latinos in the state.

The language ministries team at the SBTC helps these churches "evaluate their present situations," Gonzales says, "because they are about to die. ... We help them see the picture of what they need to do."

He advises churches that desire to reach the Hispanic population in Texas to "have a multi-ethnic mentality," to "open the doors to all people," and "to get to know the cultures of the people who live around the church."

He also reminds English-speaking churches that Latinos from different locations around the world have a diversity of values, even though they may all speak Spanish. People from Mexico, San Salvador, Argentina, Chile, Spain, and other Spanish-speaking nations may have different dialects, and they all have their own customs.

For example, Gonzales says, food customs may differ among Latinos from different regions

of the world. Whereas many Mexicans enjoy spicy foods, "people from Ecuador and San Salvador shy away from the hot sauce and jalapeños. People from Spain often feel that black pepper is too hot."

For this reason, ministers at English-speaking churches need to avoid stereotyping Latinos. In order for Spanish-language ministries at these churches to flourish, ministers need to pay attention to the "cultural innuendos" that exist among Latinos from various nations.

Alongside his work with Hispanic churches and ministries throughout Texas, Gonzales also supports churches filled with people that have come to the state from other areas of the globe. He reports that more than 300 language groups reside in Texas, including people from Cambodia, Vietnam, Egypt, China, and many other areas of the world. And it is his passion to build up and support churches that can reach men and women from each of these tribes, nations, and languages. ⑤

[GET TO KNOW]

MICHAEL GONZALES

- Director of Language Ministries for Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
- M.Div. (1975); M.A. in Missiology (2005)
- Married to Dalia; Children: Angela
- Trustee for International Mission Board
- Member of the SBC's Hispanic Advisory Council
- Served for the IMB in Barcelona, Spain, for 15 years





LONGVIEW, TEXAS

A HIDDEN JEWEL

A PINEY WOODS CHURCH AND ITS WORLDWIDE MISSION

Story by Sharayah Colter
Photos by Adam Covington

TIRE LANE

G

LYNN STONE REMEMBERS HIS TIME AT SOUTHWESTERN as 10 of the best years of his life. He says it was during those 10 years that he met Angie, “the love of his life,” and that he trained for the calling on his life—the call to preach the Gospel.

Now, married to Angie and the father of three boys, Stone, who earned both his Master of Divinity and his Ph.D. in Evangelism at Southwestern, spends each day practicing all he learned in seminary and applying it to a growing ministry in East Texas at Moberly Baptist Church in Longview. While he has spent some of his time teaching at Southwestern, Dallas Baptist University, and Shorter College, Stone says his first love is pastoring in his local church—something he says Southwestern thoroughly equipped him to do.

“I have nothing but great things to say about Southwestern and the choices they continue to make in moving forward in a firm reliance on the Word of God,” says Stone, whose father and sister both studied at Southwestern as well.

Stone says growing up the son and grandson of soul-winners and studying under the same type of men like Roy Fish and Jack MacGorman at Southwestern has helped frame his understanding of ministry and has developed in him an urgency for the Gospel—an urgency visible in each arm of Moberly’s ministry in the Piney Woods.

Since 2007, when Moberly called Stone as its pastor, the Southwesterner has seen the Lord increase church attendance by nearly 1,000 people, from an already strong 1,400 to about 2,300. Of those 2,300 people, more than 200 were baptized into the fellowship just last year.

Moberly’s impact and message extend far beyond their expanding plot of land in Texas, though. Each year for the past three years, the church has reproduced itself through church planting in cities not only across the nation but also across the globe. This year, the church will launch its fourth church plant.

“In addition to regular cooperative program giving and Lottie [Moon] and Annie [Armstrong], we planted a church in Anchorage, Ala. three years ago,” Stone says. “We planted a church in Spearfish, S.D., two years ago; we planted a church in





Preston, England, last year; and this fall we are getting ready to plant a church in San Francisco. We have probably [given] 40 church members to those church plants—either staff or volunteers have chosen to relocate with those church plants, and each one of them [is] just experiencing a wonderful blessing of God.”

Stone says the capital campaigns begun by pastors who preceded him have been a major factor in allowing Mobblerly to plant churches around the world.

“This church has been in back-to-back capital campaigns for 36 years,” says Stone, who added that the 75-year-old church gives between \$2 million and \$4 million above and beyond their budget each year. “We are in the 12th capital campaign, so when

I got here, we certainly continued that, moving forward and building things here on our campus; but we said, ‘Okay we’re going to take the first \$150,000 to go plant a church somewhere in Alaska, whenever God tells us where and whoever God tells us to lead it, then we’ll know, we’ll just put that money aside.’”

By the summer of 2009, Mobblerly knew whom the Lord would have them send to Alaska and where exactly to plant the church.

“By the fall, we had relocated two families to Anchorage and had the start-up money there [for True North Church],” Stone says. “They just planted their first church in Anchorage as well and are the second largest Southern Baptist Church in Anchorage at this point. I think they have baptized about 50 in the last 18 months. It is just amazing what God has done there.”

Stone says planting these four churches, in addition to helping an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary plant 1,000 churches in Malawi, demonstrates Mobblerly’s commitment to “lead all people into

a life-changing, ever-growing relationship with Christ”—a mission the church has as its vision statement.

“I’ve never met a church that comprehends their vision statement more than Mobblerly Baptist Church,” says Stone, who also served a two-year term as a trustee of the IMB. “They understand what it means to win every generation to the Lord. They’re applying what they’re being taught. It’s not just local. It’s not just global. It’s all of it. Our statement to lead all people is truly embraced by this church.”

Stone says the church’s willingness to serve and spread the Gospel to every part of the world makes Mobblerly a treasure of a church that he is grateful to pastor.

“It’s exciting to me to see the people in our church just embrace what God is doing even so much as to be willing to be a part of that, picking up roots and moving,” Stone says. “Whether they’re on staff or they volunteer, they’ve got the real tentmaker mentality of Priscilla and Aquila. I’ve always said that I think Mobblerly is just this hidden jewel in East Texas. Clearly we are impacting the world. Whether anybody else ever notices that is not really on any of our minds, but [we’re] just being faithful to what God has called us to do, and we’re seeing a huge response to the Gospel that way too, here and all around the world.” ❧



[GET TO KNOW]

GLYNN STONE

- Pastor of Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas
- M.Div (1998); Ph.D. in Evangelism (2005)
- Married to Angie; Children: Trey, Luke, and Colt
- Former International Mission Board trustee
- Leading church to be involved in personal evangelism and church planting



R

EACH THE FATHER, EACH THE FAMILY

Story by Keith Collier
Photos by Matt Miller & Adam Tarleton



S COTT MOODY KNOWS FIRSTHAND the ministry axiom that if you reach the father you will reach the family.

As a young boy, his father served in the Air Force and the family rarely attended church. However, things changed when Moody was 10. His father, who had made a profession of faith earlier in life, decided it was time to get involved in church again.

“It didn’t take long for me to see my dad leading the way and serving the Lord,” Moody recalls. About a year later, Moody felt the Lord’s conviction, repented of his sins, and turned his life over to Christ.

Initially pursuing undergraduate studies in pre-law at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., Moody sensed a call to ministry the summer between his junior and senior years while serving as the preacher in a four-person revival team in the Pacific Northwest.

After graduation, Moody headed west to Fort Worth to attend Southwestern. During his seminary studies, he also served as a pastor near Hico, Texas. He went on to serve as pastor in churches in Texas and Louisiana before coming to First Baptist Church in Silsbee, Texas, 17 years ago.

Seventeen years at the same church has allowed Moody to see his people progress through the stages of spiritual maturity.

“There is a blessing in pastoral longevity—to see the growth in people’s lives and in the church, new generations coming along, and people surrendering [to the call to ministry] out of our fellowship to go and serve in other churches and places and mission fields,” Moody says. “You would not see that if you didn’t stay.”

Moody and his wife have sought to model a “kingdom focus” at the church, and the congregation has caught the vision.

“We are looking with eyes that include the world,” Moody says. “We’re looking beyond just Silsbee, Texas, and Southeast Texas to see that God has a plan to impact His kingdom in far-away places and even right here at home.”

PASSION FOR PREACHING

Central to Moody’s ministry is a passion for expository preaching, which he learned at Southwestern. He admits that during his M.Div. studies he did just enough with the biblical languages to “get by and get out.” However, he picked up A.T. Robertson’s *The Minister and His Greek New Testament* at the bookstore while visiting the campus for a conference in 1986 and was convicted to learn and use Greek in his sermon preparation.

“Preaching is one of the joys of ministry for me, and I want to be the best that I possibly can,” Moody says.

“When I’m in my own study, with my own Greek text, with my own deadline, and my own sermon to preach before my people on Sunday, that’s when it becomes real. You move away from the theory, and now you’re dealing in everyday practice. That’s when I knew that my sermons would find their origin in the text and flow from the text to feed God’s people. If I would concentrate on feeding the people, as Jesus encourages us, then I would be fulfilling my call.”

In recent years, this passion for preaching has put more than 42,000 miles on Moody’s car as he has driven five hours each way to Fort Worth to pursue doctoral studies at Southwestern. Currently in the dissertation phase of his Ph.D. in Preaching, he says these advanced studies have benefitted his church by developing further depth in his preaching.

REACHING FATHERS AND FAMILIES

Several years ago, Moody looked around his church and saw families that could be stronger in serving the Lord.

“They only seemed to be as strong as the man who was leading the family,” Moody says.

Having experienced this in his own life, he set out to reach the men in his church and received mentoring under Buddy Griffin, men’s minister at Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston.

“If you change the men in your church,” Moody says, “then you will change your church. If you can lead your men to follow the Lord with a full-hearted devotion, it’s very likely that their families are going to do the same.”

In addition to large kickoff events each year, Moody leads Men’s Fraternity courses and challenges men to be the spiritual



leaders in their homes. He also meets with businessmen in town on Wednesday mornings at 6 a.m. for “Business by the Book,” where they discuss biblical principles for business. He even helps other pastors reach the men in their churches as he speaks at men’s ministry conferences sponsored by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

“I have literally seen men changed and their families changed because of what God has done through our men’s ministry,” Moody says.

“When my dad stepped up and decided to take the lead, it wasn’t long before I walked down the aisle to say I wanted to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior,” Moody says. “I want to see that replicated in the lives of the men in our church.”

This experience has also led Moody and First Baptist to be intentional about reaching families. In addition to publicly recognizing milestones in children’s lives, the church is in the process of

creating a “home center” where families can get resources to help them establish Christ-centered homes.

Along these same lines, Moody says he and his wife Lori have worked to bring covenant marriage to Texas. Already established in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Arizona, covenant marriage laws serve as an alternative option to standard no-fault divorce laws. If approved, couples would have the option to select under which laws to be married.

Covenant marriage laws require premarital counseling,

crisis counseling in the event of marital difficulties, and a waiting period before a divorce is granted under permissible grounds for legal termination. With Moody’s undergraduate background in pre-law, he has worked with legislators in Austin and testified before a House committee on the subject, and he has been involved in promoting the initiative through the Texas Covenant Marriage Facebook page. For Moody, protecting marriage is a way to protect families.

Whether he is playing the mandolin on the porch with his family or on stage with his church staff bluegrass band at a men’s ministry event, Scott Moody seeks to connect men with Christ in order to reach families who will in turn reach the world. §



[GET TO KNOW]

SCOTT MOODY

- Pastor of First Baptist Church in Silsbee, Texas
- M.Div. 1983; Pursuing Ph.D. in Preaching
- Married to Lori; Children: Wes, Lauren, and Mary
- Trustee for North American Mission Board
- Serves on executive board of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
- Leading the charge for Texas Covenant Marriage



LIVING WATER IN A DRY AND THIRSTY LAND

ONE CHURCH'S MISSION TO SHARE CHRIST
WITH WEST TEXAS AND THE WORLD

Story by Sharayah Colter

Photos by Matt Miller & Jason Davis

Situated between miles of khaki-colored West Texas desert and in the flight path of tumbleweeds large and small, Ozona First Baptist Church has praised the Lord and shared His good news since 1892—the same year a Baptist minister wrote the Pledge of Allegiance.

Now, 121 years after the first seven members met in a two-room schoolhouse, the church has grown to an average attendance of 120 people each Sunday morning. Chris Johnson, a Minnesota native and alumnus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has led the congregation as its pastor since 2009.

Johnson, a husband to Lauren and a father to three children, earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern, where he is now writing his Ph.D. dissertation. Johnson says before he began studying

at Southwestern, he considered education to be learning information. Southwestern, however, challenged him to learn how to think.

“That has given me a love for scholarship and learning that I don’t think I had before,” Johnson says. “I was not the most impressive student. My undergraduate degree was in biblical studies, so I thought I knew it all. Fortunately, many classes along the way provided opportunities for humility.”

Johnson says he looks to a handful of professors at Southwestern as being largely instrumental in shaping him and his ministry.

“Dr. Steven Smith has had a huge impact on me,” Johnson says. “I was a mediocre student in his homiletics classes, but he has forced me to be a better communicator. More specifically, he equipped us in how to preach the Bible rather than just preach some thoughts from the Bible.”



“I took Dr. Patterson’s class on ecclesiology, which went a long way in preparing me to lead a local church. I didn’t realize how deeply the local church needs courageous leadership until I entered that capacity myself. Dr. Patterson really helped prepare us for that.

“Dr. David Allen has also made a huge impact on me. I had him for two different Ph.D. seminars. He challenged me in that he is able to unite precise, detailed scholarship with passionate preaching. As a pastor, his example pushes me to see academia as a friend, not a foe, of pastoral ministry.

“The most surprising thing I think about seminary was how much Southwestern pushed me to grow as a personal soul-winner. The deepest impact was seeing professors share their faith in real life and share about those experiences in the classroom.”

Learning “how to think” at Southwestern has prepared Johnson for what he sees as one of the hurdles in ministry.

“In established churches, tradition often trumps Scripture,” Johnson says. “The individual issues we’ve faced often go back to whether we do things ‘the way we have always done them,’ or whether we follow Scripture.”

Ozona’s primary mission, Johnson says, is to make disciples

in West Texas, in America, and in the world. Lately, Johnson has seen the members of Ozona stepping further out of their comfort zones and engaging their community in conversations about the Gospel.

“Slowly, people are [gaining] a sense of personal responsibility for sharing the Gospel,” Johnson says. “It is awesome to see. With a few of our men, we’ve seen them go from unchurched to attending church to active in church to then going on the mission field to share the Gospel. I’ve got a few folks who now approach me and ask me to go witnessing with them rather than me trying to beg people to come to our evangelism time. That’s exciting to see that kind of transformation!”

Johnson, who enjoys hunting, hiking, camping, and being outdoors with his family, says the oilfield industry, along with the many laborers it attracts, provides a mission field right at their doorstep. He says one of his newest hobbies

has also presented some unexpected opportunities to share Christ.

“Since I was a little kid I’ve always loved cars,” Johnson says. “I recently bought an old 1960s car that I’m fixing up with my boys. It is remarkable the opportunities for witnessing that can come from an old car!”

The old car also affords Johnson opportunities in discipleship. The pastor works on the restoration project with men from his church, mentoring them in between ratchet twists and building relationships that may never have begun during worship services.


“I’ve felt like my interest in cars has really disarmed a lot of men who have a preconceived notion of the preacher,” Johnson says. “It gives me something in common that allows me to build a bridge to the Gospel, or for men who already follow Christ, discipleship.”

Johnson says his wife, whom he met at Southwestern, has also built up a fantastic women’s ministry in Ozona and that the church offers a strong outreach to the community’s youth and children as well.

“This past year, we’ve really been utilizing that more effectively to connect with the families of the children to whom we minister,” says Johnson,

who also coaches his sons' T-ball team in order to connect with families in the community.

Knowing the important role seminary has played in his life and ministry, Johnson also urges current students to soak up as much wisdom, knowledge, training, and experience as possible while studying at Southwestern in order to prepare for ministry in a khaki-colored West Texas desert, under the hood of an old car, in an oil field, or anywhere in the world.

“Do not wish away your days at seminary,” Johnson says. “Be faithful in the little things. God’s preparation is never wasted. And be careful: the patterns and habits you set in seminary for your work ethic and time management will be difficult to change later in ministry.” 



[GET TO KNOW]

CHRIS JOHNSON

- Pastor of First Baptist Church in Ozona, Texas
- M.Div. (2007); Pursuing Ph.D. in Preaching
- Married to Lauren; Children: Elijah, Gabriel, and Abigail
- Coaches sons' T-ball team
- Uses car restoration hobby to share the Gospel

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WITH PAIGE PATTERSON



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Trustees approve fully online degree, address tenure program

The Board of Trustees at Southwestern Seminary approved a fully online master's degree, agreed in principle to cease the institution's tenure program, and elected new officers during their spring meeting on campus, April 3. Additionally, they approved faculty promotions and a proposed budget.

FULLY ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE

Trustees approved the new 36-hour Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree, which will launch this summer and becomes the shortest fully online master's degree among Southern Baptist seminaries. Seminary administrators and trustees said the fully accredited degree combines the rigorous academic content for which Southwestern is known with the accessibility and affordability those in ministry often need.

Administrators also noted that one unique aspect of the degree is that the courses are predominately taught by full-time faculty members, rather than adjunct professors. Of the courses in the MTS, 92 percent of the online courses are taught by elected faculty and former full-time faculty members.

Twelve three-hour courses make up the MTS, including classes in hermeneutics, Old Testament, New Testament, church history, Baptist heritage, systematic theology, apologetics, and ethics. As an academic degree, the program is not meant to replace the comprehensive Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees, which provide further ministry training and still require a portion of credit hours to be completed on campus. These programs provide additional coursework in biblical languages, preaching, pastoral ministry, evangelism, missions, and electives.

TENURE PROGRAM

President Paige Patterson recommended that the board eliminate the use of tenure. Following Patterson's recommendation, Charles E. (Eddie) Miller, a board member from Nevada and director of missions for the Sierra Baptist Association in Reno, Nev., made a motion, which stated, "Believing that the majority of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary agree in principle with the cessation of tenure for this institution, I move that the Bylaws

and Policies Committee bring revisions to cease future extension of tenure to the fall 2013 trustee meeting."

Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Trustees elected three new officers during the board meeting. Steven M. James, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., was elected chairman. Miles F. (Mike) Boyd, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., was elected vice chairman. John S. Brunson, an at-large trustee from Houston, Texas, was elected secretary.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Trustees approved seven faculty promotions, effective Aug. 1, 2013:

- Miles Mullin was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of church history.
- Ben Phillips was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of systematic theology.
- Greg Smith was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of Bible.

- Gerardo Alfaro was promoted from associate professor to professor of systematic theology.
- Berry Driver was promoted from associate professor to professor of systematic theology.
- Tony Maalouf was promoted from associate professor to professor of missions.
- Steven Ortiz was promoted from associate professor to professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds.

APPROVED BUDGET

The trustees approved a budget for the coming fiscal year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$32.9 million. This represents a decrease from the previous year coming from staff reductions and programs that no longer exists, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition. No increases in tuition or fees for educational programs were made.

Professor deems Patterson ‘modern-day Martin Luther’ in festschrift dedication

Professor of New Testament Terry Wilder presented Southwestern president Paige Patterson with a festschrift written in honor of his and Judge Paul Pressler's work in the Conservative Resurgence—the two-decade effort to turn the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) back to a firm stance on the inerrancy of Scripture—during chapel, April 17. Wilder cited the work of Patterson and Pressler as a significant part of the state of the SBC today.

“We owe much to this man,” Wilder said of Patterson. “Most of us would not even be here today, were it not for him and Judge Pressler. If they had not done that under the leadership of the Lord, I dare say the SBC today would be a quagmire of ecumenism, pluralism, universalism, and drifting further to the left, not concerned about evangelism as much as we are today.”

Wilder co-edited the book, titled *In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture*, with Associate Director of the Apologetics Resource Center Steven Cowan. Contributors include both Southern Baptists and other evangelicals.

Wilder said that while the battle for the Bible within the Southern Baptist Convention is largely over, the challenges that sprout along the way demand attention, lest Baptists revert to a low view of Scripture, which Patterson and Pressler worked to absolve.

“When these challenges arise, it's important to deal with them as they occur, or frankly we're doomed to repeat our past,” Wilder said. “It's this sort of thing that with recent challenges in evangelicalism and within [some of] the SBC, that Steven Cowan and I have edited a book that was written in honor of Dr. Patterson and Judge Pressler.”

Inside its cover, the book bears the text of Jude 1:3 and this inscription: “To Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, contenders of the faith. Untold numbers of Christians are forever in your debt.”

The first few pages also include founding president B.H. Carroll's deathbed commission to L.R. Scarborough to keep the seminary “lashed to the cross.”

“Our president, whether you know it or not, is a modern-day Martin Luther, and we're thankful for his leadership,” Wilder said.



Patterson gratefully accepted a three-paneled plaque including the book's cover and two inside pages, saying that the festschrift was indeed an honor and reminding those in chapel that the fight for the Bible, which came with great cost, will come again.

Terry Wilder (right) presents President Paige Patterson (left) with a plaque commemorating a festschrift in his honor.

Southwestern offers scholarships for missionaries and their children

Desiring to train men and women who will reach the world for Christ, Southwestern Seminary has announced a new set of scholarships available to Southern Baptist missionaries and their children.

According to Thomas White, vice president for student services and communications, this new scholarship opportunity “will help give back to those who have sacrificed for the cause of Christ” by following God's call to the mission field.

Students eligible for these scholarships include career missionaries currently serving with the International Mission Board (IMB) or North American Mission Board (NAMB), as well as those who conduct International

Learning Center (ILC) Preparatory Training and Journeymen.

“As Robert Naylor, former president at Southwestern Seminary, said, ‘The sun never sets on Southwestern.’ With such a heart for preaching the Word and reaching the world, we wanted to help NAMB church planters and IMB missionary personnel by offering the widest possible package of scholarships,” White said.

This scholarship opportunity, he added, “demonstrates kingdom cooperation across the Southern Baptist Convention and the heart for the Gospel and missions that flows through all that we do at Southwestern.”

Southwestern's new missionary scholarships will also fund 100 percent

of the tuition for children of career missionaries who currently serve with IMB or with NAMB. Missionary children who pursue their undergraduate degrees may receive complete funding for as many as four years. Those who pursue master's degrees may receive this funding for three years.

“For church planters or missionaries who can't really save for their children's college education, this provides an opportunity for a biblically based education and demonstrates that the heart of Southwestern beats for preaching the Word and reaching the world,” White said.

Career missionaries themselves may benefit from this opportunity by receiving funds to cover 50 percent

of their graduate training, or 20 to 30 percent of their postgraduate training. Those who serve with ILC may receive 100 percent of their funding for up to 6 hours. Additionally, Journeymen who take classes while on the field will receive full funding for their tuition, while returning Journeymen will receive funds for 100 percent of their tuition during their first year of studies and 50 percent for the following two or three years.

To learn more about these scholarship opportunities at Southwestern Seminary, visit swbts.edu/missionaryscholarships.

By Sharayah Colter

With abortion advocate next door, adoption center offers hope

Tiffany Bowman wears a silver, thumb-sized Africa pendant around her neck. In the center of the tiny continent is a heart-shaped cutout where Ethiopia would be found on a map. In that small, heart-shaped cutout is Bowman's heart—a heart for missions she discovered while serving in Ethiopia and that has led to her current ministry at Gladney Center for Adoption in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bowman, a Master of Divinity student at Southwestern, works as a week-night residential coordinator at Gladney's dormitory for birth mothers. There, like in Ethiopia, she walks side-by-side with women through their hopes, triumphs, trials, and tears, offering not only her ear and shoulder but also the lasting hope found in Christ.

"I have always had a heart for adoption and the beautiful picture it displays of our relationship with Christ," Bowman says. "There are people who have not heard [about salvation through Christ], and I've come across that at Gladney. I start my day asking that God would give me an opportunity to share the Gospel with them, if not through words, then by actions."

Bowman says the birth mothers who come through the adoption center's dorm often have nowhere else to turn. No family willing to support them and their decision to deliver their baby. No friends willing to encourage them through the trying months of pregnancy. No resources to care for their unborn child. For these women, Bowman, along with staff and other women in the dorm, becomes their friend, their sister, their mother, their mentor.

"I'm there to walk alongside them through their adoption process and support them as they make their decisions," says Bowman, who lives on site at Gladney and is available to them nearly around the clock. "For the most part, they know I am there if they ever need anything. I am able to live life with them and be a role model for them."

Bowman says her seminary studies are helping her prepare not only for

future ministry in missions but also for the ministry she currently has with the eight women and girls living in Gladney's dorm. She is learning how to be prepared for whatever is thrown her way, including how to answer difficult questions, how to serve and teach, and how to live a life that reflects the message of the Gospel.

A letter framed on the "Legacy of Hope" wall, written from one birth mother to those who would come after her, explains the priceless role Gladney's residential center and women like Bowman played in her choosing life, choosing family, and choosing Christ.

"If these walls could talk, they would tell you what a real struggle is," the letter reads in blue, cursive handwriting. "If these walls could talk, they'd tell you how I got on my knees and found Jesus."

Gladney has always stood as a beacon of hope, connecting birth mothers with families for the past 126 years, but now that hope is beginning to take an even brighter sheen as new neighbors move in next to their Fort Worth facility. Only feet away from the adoption center, construction crews have begun building a Planned Parenthood center on the adjacent lot. The signs for the two vastly different centers stand nearly shoulder-to-shoulder. Jennifer Lanter, director of outreach and public information officer for Gladney and an adoptive mother herself, says she remembers the day news came of Planned Parenthood's decision to build next door.

"The day we found out about it was a hard day," Lanter recalls. "We did not expect to have Planned Parenthood as a neighbor, but also we understand that there is a bigger plan than even Gladney knows about."

With a firm resolve to maintain their own mission and dedication to adoption, regardless of who moved in next door, Lanter says Gladney's president chose to look at the positives in the situation. Though it would certainly be best for no abortion-promoting facilities to exist,



if they are indeed going to exist, what better place for one to be located than next door to a beacon of hope?

"Our president said it would almost be worse if they were one or two miles away than right next door," Lanter says. "What we know of women is that they are literally looking for a sign [when deciding what to do with an unplanned pregnancy]."

So, a sign they would give them. Lanter says Gladney has been working to make their mission very visible on the signs that welcome women, families, and visitors to their center, boldly emblazoning their mission of "a hope and a future" on one sign and "Gladney Center for Adoption" on the other, with a secret garden-type area in the middle, offering women a quiet place to sit and think about what they really want for their unborn child.

Some of those women may even find their way into the refuge of the center's dorm, where Lanter says Bowman's work is critical.

"It is extremely important that we have 24-hour care for all of our clients," Lanter says. "The night can be a scary time for a woman who is going through an unplanned or crisis pregnancy."

Bowman says the hands-on service and missions training she is garnering while working at Gladney during her time at Southwestern will equip her for whatever assignment the Lord should give her.

"Having these day-to-day relationships with women and being able to pour into their lives daily and being able to just be there in all circumstances with them, whether they're happy or sad or joyful, and just the unconditional love and support I can have for them, can be translated to settings in the future," Bowman says.

Emphasis calls Southwesterners to seek the unreached in North America



Jeff Christopherson called students and faculty members to seek the lost throughout the continent during the North American Church Planting Emphasis at Southwestern Seminary, March 26-28.

“What is worse than being lost? There is one thing: Being lost, and nobody is looking for you,” Christopherson, vice president of the Canada region for the North America Mission Board, said. “Let that sink in, because that is the reality of a lot of North America. They

have not rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They haven’t heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor had their parents.”

While one Southern Baptist church exists for every 1,300 people in Mississippi and one for every 3,350 people in Texas, one Southern Baptist church exists for every 59,000 people in New York and for every 115,000 people in Canada.

“Often, people talk about measuring lostness: ‘Our area is 80 percent unchurched,’” Christopherson said. “And

really, that is the wrong measurement. It is not about the percentage of lostness. It is how many people are actually out there looking for the lostness.”

Christopherson said NAMB is attempting to mobilize people to areas like New York and Quebec, where people have lived for generations without hearing the Gospel. Churches, he said, must value the expansion of God’s kingdom more than they value the internal affairs of their own church. Considering some parables of Jesus about the kingdom of God, Christopherson said that the kingdom has more to do with weakness than with strength, and the kingdom of God requires instant obedience.

Students responded positively to Christopherson’s challenge.

“For me to be able to follow the Lord, I have to be obedient to what He wants me to do,” Rodel Chiu, a student leader for Southwestern’s Fellowship of North American Church Planters, said, reflecting on Christopherson’s sermon. Recently, Chiu was given an opportunity to reach out to his own people group, Filipinos, who live in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Although

he continues to seek God’s will in this, Christopherson’s words reminded him that he must follow God immediately, wherever He leads. Chiu added that the church planting emphasis at Southwestern also reminded students that God can use them to reach many lost people even in the United States.

Clarity Thoreson, another student leader for the church planting fellowship, agrees.

“God, in his sovereignty, is moving people here from all over the world, especially in major cities—San Francisco, Toronto, and Vancouver,” Thoreson said. “How do you reach the Chinese population in Vancouver? How do you reach the Muslim population in Toronto? ... Even in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, we have people from Nepal and India.

“Still there are pockets, areas where there are no churches, where there are no outreaches being done. ... So I believe that the church planting week is about opening our eyes to see the need to plant churches where people are not being reached for the Gospel, and it is just as much a need here as it is overseas. Both are needed.”

Southwestern honors exemplary seminarians with 43 student awards

Southwestern presented 43 student awards at a luncheon, April 25, to students who demonstrated personal and academic excellence through their seminary studies and in their preparation for service in ministry.

LifeWay Christian Resources awarded Matt Duran with the LifeWay Leadership Award. Duran was selected as the most outstanding Master of Divinity student who will go on to serve as a pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention. Duran said receiving the award was unexpected and a true honor.

“It’s a huge honor because I think there are a lot of people who are more deserving, so it is an honor to be recognized as deserving among people who are probably more deserving,” said

Duran, a United States Army veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq before enrolling at Southwestern.

Southwestern also recognized, among others, Megan Matthews, a native of Canada. Matthews received the Wayne (Polly) McNeely Piano Award for outstanding achievement in piano as well as the President’s Scholar Award for the School of Church Music for outstanding academic achievement and for best representing the seminary’s goals and traditions.

President Paige Patterson commended the award recipients on a job well done and encouraged them through the Proverbs to remember to, above all, rejoice in salvation in Christ.

“You are among the leaders,”



Patterson said. “You have done well. You have a fabulous future ahead of you, but let your wealth be in the blessings of the Lord. Receive the award that you received today, and thank God for

it. You’ve earned it—no question about that. Rejoice in it. But don’t stop rejoicing more than that, that your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. That’s the only thing that ultimately matters.”

By Sharayah Colter



(left) Southwestern Seminary graduates line up before entering the commencement service. (above) Family and friends meet graduates outside of MacGorman Chapel at Southwestern Seminary.

Children of professors, pastors among more than 200 spring graduates

Southwestern presented diplomas to 234 students at its spring commencement ceremony, May 10, where President Paige Patterson charged the men and women to keep leading people to Christ their top priority.

Preaching from Mark 2, in which Mark describes the scene where a crippled man's friends let him down through a roof to see Jesus, Patterson reminded the graduates that they can never be a better friend to someone than they can be when leading that someone to Christ. He told students that while their secular counterparts graduate this spring with the objective of making a living—and a good one at that—their charge is singular in nature and quite counter-cultural.

"How different it is for you," Patterson said. "Today you graduate with only one purpose in mind, and that is to proclaim the in-breaking of the kingdom of Almighty God."

Patterson charged graduates to preach the kingdom of God no matter what and above all else.

"May I tell you, my children, that is the priority," Patterson said. "Not physical healing, though God grant that we do everything we can for everybody.

Not to minister to the poor; they are our responsibility, and we minister to the poor, but if that's your priority, it is totally misrepresenting the Word of God. Not to bring peace to the earth; we are not war mongers. We are apostles of peace. But that's not our main responsibility. Our primary responsibility and *your* primary responsibility must be to preach the life-saving, eternity-changing Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which says, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Place your trust in Him. Commit yourself to Him, and the moment that you do that, you will be saved; your sins will be forgiven.'"

The Southwestern Chamber Chorus and the chapel orchestra joined Associate Professor of Instrumental and Jazz Studies Joe Hardin and Professor of Conducting David Thye in leading worship throughout the commencement ceremony.

Senior Pastor Hayes Wicker and Senior Associate Pastor Doug Pigg of First Baptist Church in Naples, Fla.,

"Today you graduate with only one purpose in mind, and that is to proclaim the in-breaking of the kingdom of Almighty God."

~ PAIGE PATTERSON

assisted in the ceremony as well, as both men had sons graduating from Southwestern. Wicker, whose son Evan graduated with a Master of Arts in Christian Education, read a passage of scripture from 2 Timothy; and Pigg, whose son Timothy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from the College at Southwestern, gave the invocation.

"Father, how we're encouraged that these men and women will go out equipped and prepared to share the Gospel in a world that so greatly needs just that—the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Pigg prayed. "Father, help us to remember that's what we've been called to do, that's what we've been sent to do, is to share Your love and share the Truth with a world that desperately needs it."

Associate Professor of Counseling John Babler also had children graduating with degrees and thus wore the badge of proud father and proud professor as his own children and his Southwestern "children" received diplomas. His daughters, Rebecca Babler and Sarah Babler Hampton, both received Bachelor of Arts in Humanities degrees, which Patterson allowed him the privilege of presenting to each woman.

After the presentation of degrees and a congregational hymn, Bill Apelian, father-in-law of Ph.D. graduate Scott Aniol and Chief Publication Officer of Bob Jones University, offered the benediction.

"Heavenly Father, we've come to the end of this Christ-honoring service, but it is a day of beginning for these graduates—new places of ministry, new shapes of ministry, new opportunities to bring glory to Christ. We ask, our God, that You would teach them, in all walks of life, to preach the Word and to win the lost."

Watch the online video of the graduation at swbts.edu/2013springgraduation.

Carter: Expository preaching makes Jesus star of sermon



Matt Carter, pastor of The Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, challenged students to preach the Word of God expositively if they want to see lives changed. Carter, a graduate of the seminary, addressed the topic during a chapel message, March 21.

Preaching from 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Carter described the common pressure pastors feel to impress the congregation.

“You feel this earthly pressure to stand in the pulpit and say something intellectually stimulating or in a way people have never heard before, to be persuasive enough in your speech to get the people to flood down the aisles

and make a decision for Jesus Christ,” Carter said. “Paul makes a statement and says, ‘That is not how I preach.’”

Carter pled with students to follow Paul’s example of preaching the Word.

“Every single time you preach, someone is going to be exalted; somebody is going to be highlighted; someone is going to be in the forefronts of the minds and hearts of the people to whom you preach,” Carter said. “And the question becomes: When you preach, is the star of your sermon going to be Jesus or is the star of your sermon going to be you?”

“If people walk into a church service and the greatest thing they encounter

is you and your speaking ability, then they’ve just wasted 30 minutes of their lives and nothing will change. But, if they walk into that same service and in that time they encounter and experience the Word of the living God, then everything can change in their lives.”

Carter said expository preaching—taking a passage of Scripture, explaining it to the congregation, and then applying it to their lives—brings with it the power of God.

“There’s a way that you can preach that will not bring forth a demonstration of His Spirit and His power. That’s scary to me,” Carter admitted. “The Scripture is making the statement that there is a way that you can preach where the Spirit of God does not show up in power.

“But there are words that you can preach that because they are inspired by the Spirit of God they possess the power of God—and they are not your words. They are not your stories. They are not your cool illustrations. They are not your applications. But it’s the Word of the Living God.

“There’s only one way that you can guarantee that your preaching will possess the power of God, and that is when you are preaching the Word of God.”

Carter planted The Austin Stone in 2002 and has seen God grow the church from 15 to more than 8,000 in the past decade. In addition to numerical

growth, the church has been influential in the city of Austin and has sent members around the world to bring the Gospel to unengaged, unreached people groups.

“God has blessed our church in ways I could not have possibly imagined,” Carter said, “and it’s not because I am a powerful speaker. It’s not because I’m a great pastor. Because the truth be told is that I’m neither of those. But the content of my preaching is powerful because the content of my preaching is the living God.”

Carter addressed the growing hostility in America toward Christianity and the Gospel, noting that churches built on weak preaching will crumble in the face of opposition.

“Folks, our beliefs as Christians are going to be put to the test and are going to be challenged in the public arena in a way over the next 20 years that I think most of us are going to have a hard time even imagining right now,” Carter said. “The faith of your people, the faith of your congregation cannot be built on a foundation of your wisdom and your cool stories. The foundation of your people’s faith better be built on the power of the Word of God, or we will not stand.”

Carter concluded his message with the same charge Paul issued to the young pastor Timothy: “Preach the Word.”

Student spouses receive 50 percent tuition discount

In an effort to make theological education more affordable, Southwestern Seminary now offers a 50 percent discount on tuition to student spouses.

This discount applies to whichever spouse is enrolled in fewer hours during a given semester, and it only covers the tuition for on-campus courses. Moreover, it will be added to the Cooperative Program scholarship that already covers 50 percent of the tuition for members

of Southern Baptist churches.

“Southwestern values the family and toward that end, we wanted to do something to help spouses be able to attend classes,” Thomas White, vice president for student services and communications, said. “If only the husband or wife takes classes then sometimes a married couple can grow apart. We hope this discount allows both to take classes so that they can grow together and grow closer.”

By Sharayah Colter and Benjamin Hawkins

Youth Ministry Lab offers something for everyone in 45th year



No one gets left out at Youth Ministry Lab (YML). After months of preparation, seminary students and professors come together to hold a conference that offers training to anyone involved in any aspect of youth ministry. This year's event, April 5-6, marked YML's 45th anniversary.

YML co-captain for 2013, Sara Lynn Winburn, said YML offers something to everyone from full-time student ministers to part-time student ministers to student

ministry spouses to volunteers to parents to student leaders.

"Youth Ministry Lab is such a blessing to many different types of people," Winburn said. "I love watching how student ministers leave with a renewed passion for ministry, a refreshed spirit, and better training to address issues regarding students today."

This year YML trained several hundred people and helped them refine

their focus in ministry, reminding attendees of the essence of life and its frailty, said Jeremy Houf, Winburn's co-captain.

"James 4:14 tells us your life is a mist," Houf said in a pre-conference video. "It's a vapor. You're here, and then you're gone. We hope to awaken the next generation and equip you with the tools for the end of high school, for the end of this life, and even for the end of this age."

The David Gentiles Band led worship, and Clayton King, national speaker and author, led the main sessions for the event. The weekend included breakout sessions for those in Korean ministry, Hispanic ministry, and girls' ministry as well as for student praise bands, volunteers, and youth ministers' wives.

Nearly 50 seminary students served in leadership roles for YML, under the coaching leadership of professors Richard Ross, Johnny Derouen, and Paul Stutz. Ross said this year's event saw 12 accept Christ's salvation and 47 commit their lives to vocational ministry. He said YML seeks to minister to the hearts of leaders so that they can then turn around and minister to their youth.

"We focus on the heart of leaders, believing that when they go deeper in Christ, that will splash all over those they lead," Ross said. "We give youth leaders practical ways to connect teenagers with parents and the full congregation—believing that leads to deeper transformation than keeping teenagers in a youth group silo."

Conference calls Christians to pray for Jews, Arabs

God is working to bring Jews and Arabs throughout the world to faith in Jesus Christ, and Christians should pray that more and more will believe, experts said during a conference at Southwestern Seminary, April 9-11.

The conference, called "Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis," emphasized the proclamation of the Gospel among both Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. During the conference,

speakers from Chosen People Ministries presented messages during chapel at Southwestern Seminary. On Thursday, April 11, Chosen People Ministries president Mitch Glaser joined Darrell Bock, senior research professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, Tony Maalouf, associate professor of Missions at Southwestern Seminary, and others for a Grindstone panel discussion.

The Grindstone speakers testified that God has begun to work in significant ways among both Jews and Arabs throughout the Middle East. Nevertheless, Grindstone speakers emphasized the need for prayer.

Glaser turned to Bock with a question about Scripture's call for prayer on Israel's behalf.

"In Psalm 122, verse 6, we're exhorted to pray for the peace of Jerusalem," Glaser said. "How would you make the application to believers today? What does that mean?"

Bock responded by noting two passages, one in Luke and the other in Matthew, where "Jesus declares Israel's house to be desolate because they have rejected the Messiah, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

"And so, when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, one of the things

you are actually praying for is that you are praying for Jewish people to realize the hope of Jesus Christ," Bock said. "When you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, you are not merely praying for peace in political and social terms. You are actually praying for a peace that is rooted in the very heart of the Gospel."

Maalouf also emphasized the need for prayer.

"I believe that it is really essential to have the spirit of supplication and grace poured on the people in the Middle East, especially on the Jews. But I see that there is a big need for all of us to be engaged in prayer, because this is a spiritual battle. ... We have to start praying for the Spirit of supplication and grace to be poured on the Jewish people, and on the whole Middle East, because that will impact the rest of the world."





Koo urges fellow students to seek good by seeking God

Phillip Koo, a Ph.D. student in the School of Theology, challenged fellow Southwesterners to seek good by seeking God during his chapel sermon, April 25. Faculty selected Koo as the student preacher, an honor given each spring. Audio and video of Koo's chapel message can be accessed at swbts.edu/chapelarchives.



Southwesterners fellowship, fight during Bake & Box

Students and faculty members at Southwestern Seminary built relationships over homemade goodies during the seminary's Bake & Box, March 22. Some Southwesterners challenged one another during a bakeoff at the event, and others fought one another during an inflatable sumo wrestling tournament.



Patterson completes sermon series on book of Isaiah

President Paige Patterson concluded his 10-part spring sermon series through the book of Isaiah, April 30. The series, titled "The Man Who Saw Tomorrow," surveyed the Christological prophecies of Isaiah and addressed topics such as the inerrancy of Scripture, the atonement of Christ, and the end times. Watch, listen, or download the series at swbts.edu/Isaiah.



Southwestern awarded for drawing national attention to Fort Worth

The Fort Worth Chapter of the American Advertising Federation presented Southwestern with its 2012 Dateline Award, March 20, for drawing attention and tourism to Fort Worth through the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition. In years past, organizations such as Texas Rangers Baseball, Texas Christian University Football, and the Modern Art Museum have received the Dateline Award.



Children hunt for eggs, celebrate the risen Christ

Despite a sudden cold front and a night of spring showers, dozens of families paraded into the Recreation Aerobics Center (RAC) at Southwestern Seminary to hunt for Easter eggs and celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus, March 23. Children left the event with baskets full of candy and a gift from Southwestern's first lady Dorothy Patterson.



Patterson receives Pilgrim Award for Workplace Evangelism

Bo Pilgrim, founder of Pilgrim's Pride and a lifelong evangelist, awarded Southwestern Seminary president Paige Patterson with the Pilgrim Award for Workplace Evangelism, Apr. 30. The award included a plaque recognizing Patterson for modeling "the preaching of God's inerrant Word and the practice of personal evangelism," and a \$10,000 check that will help fund Southwestern's evangelism campaigns.

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LET'S GO
TOGETHER.

By Sharayah Colter

FRANK PAGE

2013 Distinguished Alumnus

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page says he was only 4 years old when he felt the Lord calling him to preach the Gospel.

"It is an odd juxtaposition, as I was not saved until I was 9," Page recalls. "However, I knew at that moment what God wished for my life."

Though Page grew up in a financially strapped, non-Christian family, neighbors in Greensboro, N.C., invited him and his siblings to Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. There, in a small, conservative church, Page heard the Gospel and responded one evening while attending on his own, accepting God's gift of salvation.

"I began seeking Him and growing in Him," Page said. "I loved everything that the church had to offer, including both RAs and Boy Scouts."

Page began preparing in earnest for his service to the Lord in preaching when he enrolled at Gardner-Webb University, choosing the school because of its large number of ministerial students.

"Upon arriving there, I became aware that it was far more moderate than anything I had ever heard about," Page says. "Therefore, I chose to graduate with a degree in psychology with minors in New Testament Greek and sociology."

Page graduated at age 20 and immediately enrolled at Southwestern, where he earned both his Master of Divinity and Ph.D.

"I would write home to my then fiancée and tell her that it was the education I had always dreamed about," Page says. "My seminary [studies] at Southwestern prepared me greatly for ministry. Coming from the background in which I was raised, I needed help in basic theology, biblical knowledge, preaching skills, evangelistic training, pastoral ministry assistance, etc. I received all of that at Southwestern Seminary! The professors were caring, godly men who, by and large, had a high view of Scripture. I cannot speak well enough of the quality education that I received there."

Since graduating, Page has gone on to serve as a pastor for 34 years and president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). He began his tenure as president of the SBC Executive Committee in October 2010 and says his time at Southwestern prepared him



Frank Page

specifically for his current role in the convention by encouraging in him a heart that is "hot" for missions and evangelism.

"To be a student at Southwestern Seminary meant, and still does mean, that you understand the passionate need to share Christ with those around you," Page says. "In the Executive Committee, I see my role as encouraging brothers and sisters to do the same. In almost every meeting that I attend or lead, I try to point people to the end result, and that is winning men, women, boys, and girls to Christ. Therefore, Southwestern served me well in helping prepare that foundational passion."

Page, a husband to Dayle and a father of three daughters, says his designation as a distinguished alumnus of Southwestern is truly an honor for which he is incredibly grateful.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized as a distinguished alumnus," Page says. "Honestly, I did not see this coming. I do not see myself as a great man or a great leader in any capacity. Therefore,

"I would write home to my then fiancée and tell her that it was the education I had always dreamed about. My seminary [studies] at Southwestern prepared me greatly for ministry."

to be recognized in this way is humbling beyond words. I truly believe there are others who are far more deserving, but I am deeply thankful for this moment."

The pastor-author-denominational leader says he would urge current Southwestern students to keep the task of knowing and sharing Christ of utmost importance as they study in seminary and as they minister.

"I always encourage them to never let the academic take place of the devotional," Page says. "They need to continue growing in the Lord. Also, I do not want them to buy into 21st-century lies, which say that people no longer will talk about the Gospel. That is patently untrue. If there was ever a day in time we need to be sharing the Gospel, it is now! So therefore, as students, do not forget what is God's ultimate heart desire. He wants to see people come to know Him. The Great Commission is not yet complete!"

STEVE GAINES

2013 Distinguished Alumnus

Bellevue Baptist Church Senior Pastor Steve Gaines knew from the time he heard Roy Fish preach five messages on evangelism at the Tennessee Baptist Evangelism Conference that he needed and wanted to study at Southwestern. So, in 1980, Gaines left Dyersburg, Tenn., for Fort Worth with Donna, his bride of two months, and they moved into Carroll Park student housing. Gaines says he never once regretted that decision. While at Southwestern, Gaines earned his Master of Divinity and his Ph.D. in Preaching and Evangelism. He also worked closely with Fish, serving as his grader for seven years.

Gaines says God mightily used Southwestern to shape him into the husband, father, preacher, and pastor that the Lord would have him to be.

"I cannot overstate how God used my education at Southwestern to mold me spiritually and every other way," Gaines says. "My professors loved me and poured their knowledge as well as their hearts into me and the other students. My professors taught me how to be a better preacher, soul-winner, and pastor, [in addition to] modeling for me how to be a godly husband and father. Many of the friendships I made during my years at Southwestern are still vibrant and alive."

Gaines served as both youth pastor and senior pastor of Lake Shore Baptist Church and senior pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church during his time at seminary. After graduating with his Ph.D. in 1991, Gaines moved to Alabama to pastor Gardendale First Baptist Church, where he served until 2005. In 2005, the Lord led the father of four to Bellevue Baptist Church to follow Adrian Rogers in serving as that church's senior pastor.

Gaines says Bellevue has been a wonderful place to serve the Lord and the people of Memphis for the last seven-and-a-half years, adding that with predecessors such as Rogers, the bar of expectations had been set high.

"Dr. Rogers did an excellent job training the lay leaders," Gaines says. "The church is filled with godly, Spirit-filled, evangelistic, mission-minded, Bible-centered, praying Christians. Bellevue is one of the best places in the world to preach. The people have been exposed to great preachers and preaching.



Steve Gaines

When a preacher steps into Bellevue's pulpit, he'd better be studied up, prayed up, and ready to preach. That is what this congregation has come to expect."

Gaines, who has also served as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, as a member of the committee that revised the Baptist Faith & Message in 2000, and as a trustee for LifeWay Christian Resources, says to be selected as a recipient of the distinguished alumnus award is truly an honor—a humbling honor and one for which he gives God all the glory.

"When I received the notification of being selected as a distinguished alumnus, I just thanked the Lord and gave Him the glory," Gaines says. "If it wasn't for Jesus, I would have never gone into the ministry, I would never have met Donna, and we never would have attended Southwestern. The Lord alone deserves any credit for any good in my life."

Gaines encourages current seminary students to cherish their days at Southwestern and to wring every last drip of wisdom and preparation from them.

"Your seminary days will fly by," Gaines says. "Take

"I cannot overstate how God used my education at Southwestern to mold me spiritually and every other way. My professors loved me and poured their knowledge as well as their hearts into me and the other students."

advantage of them in every way. Attend every class, sit on the front row, and pay attention. Fulfill every class assignment and requirement, and then do a little extra. Get to know your professors and your fellow students. Talk with them, dine with them, and discuss the Bible, theology, and life with them."

Gaines urges students not to wait until graduation to get involved in a local church but to serve throughout their studies. He also encourages them to value the school both during and after their time at the seminary.

"Treasure your time at Southwestern—your days spent there are blessed ones," Gaines says. "Once you graduate from Southwestern, continue to pray for the school, support it financially, and recommend students to attend there.

"One of my main prayers for Southwestern is from Haggai 2:9, that God's latter glory at Southwestern will be even greater than it has been in the past and is at the present. May it be so, in the name of and for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!"

By Keith Collier



Left: The community of West, Texas, shows its support for fallen first responders.

Above: A supporter joins others along the street to show support for West, Texas, fallen first responders, April 25.

Chaplain introduces President Obama to grieving families in West, Texas

Less than 24 hours after a fertilizer plant exploded in the central Texas town of West, Fire Chaplain John Babler arrived on the scene and helped emergency crews remove the remains of fallen first responders from the blast zone. A week later, as Co-Incident Commander for the Texas Line of Duty Death (LODD) Task Force, Babler introduced President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama to the families of the 12 fallen firefighters and EMS workers following the April 25 memorial service at Baylor University's Ferrell Center.

"When the president arrived, there were three of us who met him and welcomed him on behalf of the task force," said Babler, who serves as associate professor of counseling at Southwestern Seminary.

"He and Mrs. Obama were very compassionate and thankful for what we had done."

Following the memorial service, the president and first lady spent an

additional hour meeting with each family individually.

"Both he and Mrs. Obama went group to group introducing themselves, talking with each person," Babler said. "I had the opportunity to walk through with them. In addition to his remarks during the program being very appropriate and very helpful and encouraging to the families, that time with them alone after, I know, was very encouraging to them."

In the wake of the April 17 tragedy that made national news, Babler experienced long hours, little sleep, and emotional exhaustion. Still, Babler and his colleagues embraced the difficult assignment in front of them.

"My primary role the night [after the blast] was to go into the hot zone and represent the families as a chaplain and make sure that their loved ones were handled with dignity as they were placed in the funeral home van and honor guard members draped them

with a U.S. flag," Babler recalls.

Babler's responsibilities in the week following the explosion included planning the joint memorial service, providing honor guard and chaplaincy support for the families as well as firefighters and EMS workers, and providing support for the individual funerals.

"Since we found out that President Obama would be attending the service," Babler said, "much of my time was spent in planning meetings with White House staff, Secret Service, Baylor University, and others as we developed and coordinated the memorial service."

Babler said his goal was to "honor the fallen while making sure that the fallen were the focus of and were truly honored by the service and that the families, firefighters, and EMS workers were the VIPs of the service." Thousands of friends, family, and community members attended the memorial service, which featured remarks from President Obama, Texas Governor Rick



Fire Chaplain John Babler (far right) coordinates details during the West, Texas, fallen first responders memorial at Baylor University, April 25.

Perry, Baylor President Ken Starr, and others.

Yet, even though the memorial service is over, Babler's work is not complete. The LODD response team, a partner with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, provides counseling for families and firefighters in the wake of these tragic deaths. They spend an average of three years caring for a family and one year caring for a department.

Allen contributes to Crossway's "Preaching the Word" series



David Allen, dean of theology at Southwestern Seminary, contributed a soon-to-be released commentary on 1-3 John to Crossway's "Preaching the Word" series. Allen's volume in the series, *1-3 John: Fellowship in God's Family*, will be released June 30.

According to J. D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., Allen's commentary "is brimming with gospel hope."

"A rich resource covering one of the New Testament's most profound sections of Scripture, pastors and theologians of all persuasions will benefit from the thorough treatment Dr. Allen gives to these letters," Greear wrote in his online endorsement of the book.

Daniel L. Akin, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, agrees.

"*1-3 John* is a welcomed addition to the Preaching the Word series. The 22 studies in this volume reveal careful research, theological insight, and exegetical integrity. Anyone preaching or teaching through the epistles of John will be greatly assisted by this volume."

Allen hopes the volume will especially be an aid for preachers. According to Allen, he analyzed 1-3 John paragraph by paragraph and wrote a "free-standing sermon" on each paragraph. Allen hopes that the volume will be "a good model for what an expository sermon should look like in terms of the balance between

exposition, illustration, and application." Each section of the commentary is also written to sermon-length and in everyday English, as it would be preached in the pulpit.

Allen dubbed this volume a "sermonary," describing it as "a hybrid between sermon and commentary."

"It is less than a standard commentary," since it does not delve into detailed exegetical analysis of every verse, "but it is more than a sermon," Allen said. Each sermon within the volume includes numerous "hefty footnotes" that allow the reader to explore each passage of 1-3 John in more depth. This also shows readers the kind of research and exegetical analysis that should undergird an expository sermon.

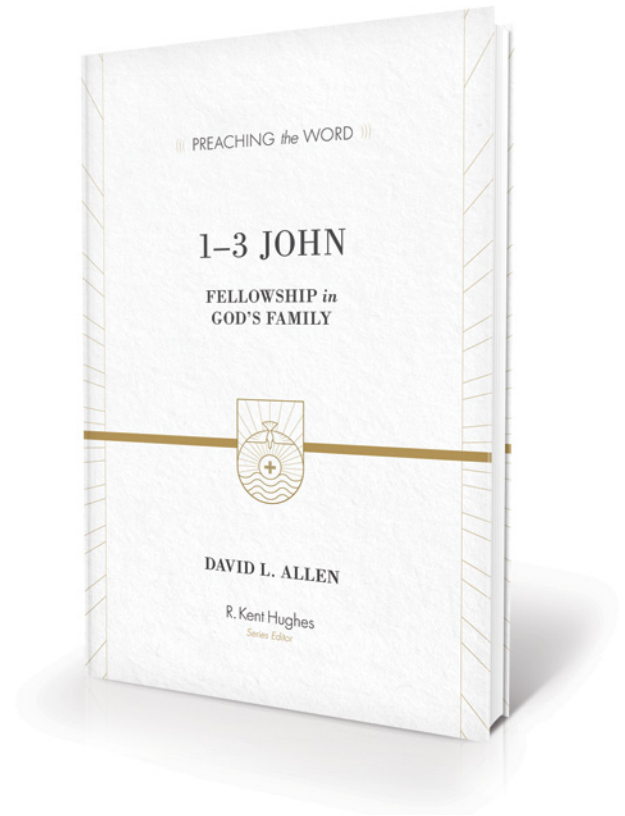
In this way, the book reveals "something of the exegetical process," Allen said. "There are a number of exegetical footnotes where I state, 'Here is why I preach this in this way, because this is an objective genitive (in the Greek language)'" Allen hopes that this would "be very helpful not only to beginning preachers but even ... to seasoned preachers."

According to Allen, a commitment to expository preaching connected him with Kent Hughes, the general editor of the "Preaching the Word" commentary series and the first contributor to the series.

"I first met Dr. Hughes when I was still teaching at the Criswell College and directing the preaching center there," Allen said. "And then when I came to Southwestern, I also had him come and speak here for a preaching lecture series. And I found that my heart was knit to his in the area of expository preaching. He was really committed to expository preaching."

After retiring from the pastorate, Hughes asked Allen if he would help to complete the "Preaching the Word" series by writing one of its final volumes. He also gave Allen the choice of which volume he would write.

"1 John has always had a special place in my heart," Allen said, explaining



why he chose the volume on 1-3 John. "That was the first book of the New Testament I preached through in my first pastorate ... in 1982."

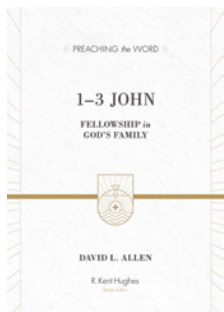
Allen added that the epistles of John are extremely significant "in terms of practical and theological help to the churches." The first epistle shows Christians "what is absolutely essential to be faithful and to be strongly committed as a Christian in the local church." 1 John reveals "the necessity of truth, the necessity of love, and the necessity of holiness."

On the other hand, 2-3 John show Christians how to respond to false and proud itinerant teachers, as well as true and godly teachers. This, Allen said, "is a perennial problem today."

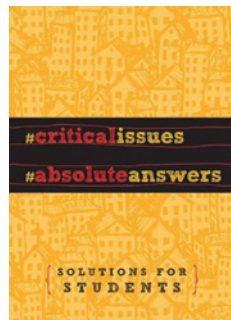
Allen's 1-3 John commentary in the "Preaching the Word" series can be pre-ordered online at crossway.org/books/13-john-hcj.

"A rich resource covering one of the New Testament's most profound sections of Scripture, pastors and theologians of all persuasions will benefit from the thorough treatment Dr. Allen gives to these letters."

J.D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.



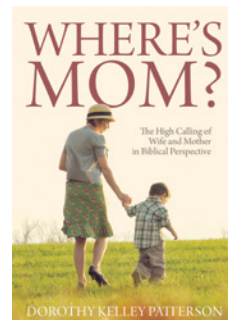
1-3 John (Preaching the Word Series)
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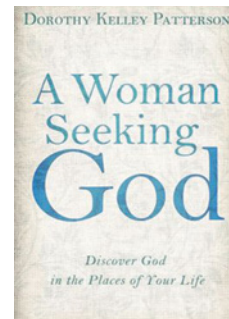
Critical Issues, Absolute Answers: Solutions for Students
Candi Finch (contributor)



The Christian Homemaker's Handbook
Dorothy Patterson,
Patricia Ennis (editors), et. al.



Where's Mom?
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Seven Summits Worth Climbing in Church History: Carl F. H. Henry
May 16, 2013 | Jason Duesing

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on B&H Academic Blog and is part of a series of theological biographies by Jason Duesing: Seven Summits Worth Climbing in Church History. "He is intellectually the most eminent of conservative theologians. I would say he's been the professor and I've been the student." So said Billy ...

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"He is intellectually the most eminent of conservative theologians. I would say he's been the professor and I've been the student." So said Billy Graham reflecting upon the influence of Carl F. H. Henry (1913-2003). Like Philipp Melancthon to Martin Luther, or Andrew Fuller to William Carey, with the passing of time the figures in history that built the theological infrastructure to support and defend an evangelical movement often fade from popular memory. Graham, Luther, Carey we know, but names like Carl F. H. Henry are not readily in view. Although unknown, Henry is not forgotten. Gregory Alan Thornbury's latest work is quickly becoming one of the books to read this year. This is a welcomed and needed volume, for the perceptive Thornbury observes, "So it seems as though there may still be enough of us left who believe that Carl Henry, a key to evangelicalism's past, may in fact be a cipher to its future." What is it then that made Henry so effective in his day and thus worth reviewing now? Carl Trueman believes that one part of what made Henry remarkable was his "unerring ability to see the big picture, to focus on issues of real substance, and to communicate the significance of these issues to the theological public." Henry saw this big picture first in his younger days as a journalist. Read More

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Announcements

1950

Sara Hines Martin (MRE 1957) a licensed professional counselor in suburban Atlanta, Ga., was recognized by the state association as the oldest practitioner in the state, at 80.

1970

Phillip E. Sitton (MRE 1971) to Baylor Singing Seniors, Waco, Texas, as conductor.

1980

Kirk A. Kriegel (MRE 1984) to Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown, Texas, as chairman of the board of directors.

1990

Neal H. Cordle (MARE 1991) to Fruit Cove Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., as executive pastor.

Rob Peters (MDivBL 1995) to Calvary Baptist Church, Winston Salem, N.C., as senior pastor.

Charles "Chuck" A. Schroer (AscDiv 1987, MDiv 1992) to Paramount Baptist Church, Hagerstown, Md., as associate pastor.

Darren W. Thomas (MARE 1995) to the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, N.C., as program manager of The Cove.

2000

Chad Morgan (MDivBL 2003) to First Baptist Church, Murphy, Texas, as pastor.

Ken Nobles (MACE 2008) to Trinity Christian Academy in Weatherford, Texas, as secondary principal.

Retirement

Joyce E. Mahaffey Boom (MRE 1979) has retired from Lubbock Independent School District after 28 years, living in Kodak, Tenn.

Judy K. Carpenter (MRE 1974) has retired from the International Mission Board after 30 years, living in Cookville, Tenn.

Harvey E. McMurry (MDiv 1971) has retired from City View Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, after 27 years with wife, Berta, living in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Milton I. Redeker (MARE 1961) retired after 55 years in church ministry with wife, Rebekah Redeker, living in Manvel, Texas.

Anniversaries

Alvin M. Stone (BD 1951) and Margaret A. Stone will celebrate 70 years of marriage (June 2013).

G. Norman Weaver (MRE 1949, DRE 1960, EDD 1976, MARE 1983) and Garnet E. Newton Weaver celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary (December 2012).

Rhesa R. Davis (MRE 1974) and Jo Lynn Thompson Davis will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary (June 2013).

Memorials

Edna Alice McDowell Estep

1940

Julia Green Colson (MRE 1940)

Margaret Greer Sledge (MRE 1949)

1950

Edward W. Nelson (BSM 1952, MSM 1953)

O. Jack Chastain (MRE 1953, BD 1961)

Sherman D. Bridgman (BD 1955)

Keating A. Armstrong (MRE 1956)

H. Leon McBeth (BD 1957, ThD 1961)

1960

Charles P. Roden (BD 1960)

Wilburn T. Booth (BD 1964)

Freeda Fae McArthur (MRE 1965)

1970

Wayne K. Franklin (MRE 1973)

John Clark Herrington (MDiv 1973)

1980

Rick W. Byargeon (MDiv 1984, PhD 1991)

Church history professor for 45 years, Leon McBeth, dies at 81



Harry Leon McBeth, distinguished professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary for 45 years, passed away April 29. He was 81.

McBeth earned his bachelor's degree at Wayland Baptist University in 1954, followed by studies at Southwestern Seminary, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) in 1957 and a Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in 1961. While he began teaching at the seminary as a doctoral student in 1958, he was elected to full-time faculty in 1960.

During his time at Southwestern, he served as the chair of the church history department and published numerous books, which include *The*

Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness, A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage, and Texas Baptists: A Sesqui-centennial History.

McBeth also served as pastor of churches in western and central Texas, and he served as an interim pastor in more than 30 churches. He received Distinguished Alumnus awards from Wayland Baptist University in 1992 and Southwestern Seminary in 2001, and the George W. Truett Award from the Baptist General Convention in Texas in 2001.

In denominational life, McBeth served on numerous boards and committees. He served as a member of the

board of trustees at Wayland Baptist University, chairman of the Texas Baptist Historical Committee, president of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, and chairman of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Showers of blessing

BY SHARAYAH COLTER

IN FLOODS OF DISTRESS

SOUTHWESTERN MINISTERS TO STUDENT AMID FAMILY MEDICAL CRISIS

At first glance, 2-year-old Kaden Williams looks like a happy, healthy little boy. But behind his jovial smile and playful spirit, is a disease that has taken a toll not only on his own young body but on his caring family as well.

Trip after trip after trip to the hospital with fevers, rashes, swollen lymph nodes, and low energy led doctors to diagnose Kaden with Kawasaki's Disease—a condition that causes inflammation in the walls of small and medium arteries. However, doctors could just not seem to get a handle on treating Kaden, and soon his symptoms expanded to swelling in his joints that made him unable to walk. Doctors admitted Kaden to the hospital for a fourth time in one month where they used more aggressive measures to treat the disease. By this time, though, swelling had begun in his coronary arteries which could lead to aneurysms, heart attacks and long-term damage. Thankfully, though the small boy will have to remain in isolation for some time and have

his heart checked yearly for damages, it seems that the final treatments doctors administered to Kaden have worked.

An experience such as the Williams' would try and tax any family, but being in seminary, the Williams felt their son's illness more keenly, as seminary is commonly known as a time of meager income for the majority of those who attend. Kaden's father, James, earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern in 2009 and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology. He believes the Lord has called him to pastoral ministry.

Throughout the Williams' time spent in and out of the hospital with Kaden, Southwestern ministered to them in ways that are only made possible by the Lord's provision through faithful ministry partners.

"Many from the seminary prayed for us, sent us encouraging messages [and] brought meals," James said. "As you can imagine, being in the hospital for about 19 nights and receiving major treatments led to a large hospital

bill. We reached our out-of-pocket insurance maximum by the second visit. We applied for the Emergency Grant with the Seminary and received a \$750 scholarship, which helped us greatly. The prayers, support, calls, hospital visits, and financial help were a tremendous blessing. It made all the difference in the world.”

James said he and his family are incredibly grateful for the way the seminary ministers to its staff, faculty, and students as they both serve the Lord and prepare for future ministry.

“While seminary is a great blessing, it can be a financially challenging time for many students,” James said. “Trying to support a family [and] pay for school is very difficult, and many students live paycheck to paycheck just to survive. This is manageable until unexpected expenses arise. Emergencies happen and students who are already struggling financially are really put in a bind. Thankfully, the Lord provides through His

saints to help those in need. The Lord is certainly able to make money fall from the sky, but in my life he’s always provided through generous saints.”

James says he looks forward to the day he can turn around and minister to other seminarians the way so many have ministered to him and his own family.

“I have been greatly blessed by scholarships throughout my time at seminary, and for that I am truly grateful,” James said. “Being able to enter the ministry with the education I have received, and to do so without the debt of student loans is very much a blessing.

I believe a great way to serve the church of our Lord is to help those who are entering the ministry receive the education they need to effectively minister to the flock. I hope to one day be able to do the same thing and pour into future leaders of the church, both spiritually and financially.”

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YOUR GIFTS TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS HELPS SUPPORT STUDENTS LIKE JAMES AND HIS FAMILY. TO TALK WITH A SOUTHWESTERN REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP OR CONTRIBUTING TO AN EXISTING SCHOLARSHIP, CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT 1.877.GO.SWBTS OR FRIENDSOFSOUTHWESTERN@SWBTS.EDU.

Deep in the Heart of Texas & Beyond

I have spent the last nine years of my life serving Southwestern Seminary. Over that time, I have grown to love the Hill and its rich history. In 1908, B.H. Carroll had a vision to establish a seminary in the southwest for the education of young ministers. Southern Seminary already existed, but Carroll recognized that some of the best young ministers traveled north and never returned to Texas. His vision became a reality, beginning in Waco and then moving to Fort Worth in 1910. Since that time, more than 43,000 graduates have received degrees from Southwestern. Dr. Robert Naylor, the seminary's fifth president, famously commented that "the sun never sets on Southwestern" because the institution has graduates serving all over the world. While many of our graduates do travel to the ends of the earth, Carroll saw his vision become a reality in that some of the best and brightest stay at home in Texas.

In this issue, you read about some amazing people with incredible ministries. I am convinced that Southwestern has some of the best graduates on the planet, and truth be told, you have only heard the half of it. We have alumni who have mentored pastors all over the state and ministered for years in cities of strategic importance like Chris Osborne. We have alumni who pastor some of the largest churches in America like Jack Graham. We have faithful followers of Christ who have spent years preaching the word, serving in children's homes, planting churches, and serving in any number of other ministries. Each story told in these pages represents thousands of other stories that could be told if we had the space. Their impact can be felt deep in the heart of Texas and to the ends of the earth.

Soon, thousands will descend on Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention, and Southwestern

alumni will be front and center. From Gregg Matte, president of the Pastors' Conference, to speakers like Bruce Frank, Mike Huckabee, and Matt Carter, Southwesterners lead the way. During the convention, Nathan Lino, John Yeats, and many others will do their part serving as officers at this year's annual meeting.

In this last word, we simply want to say thank you to the graduates of Southwestern Seminary. We know that you have made the institution what it is today, and we know that you have made an incredible impact on the kingdom of God. For each of the stories told in these pages, 10 more just like it could have been written. For the work of those servants of God, we are thankful.

We are proud of the many alumni all over the earth serving so well. Perhaps the only thing that makes us smile more are the current students who make up the future of the Southern Baptist Convention. We see daily some of the best and brightest training to be missionaries, musicians, youth leaders, and preachers of the Gospel. In fact, you will see some of them at this year's convention as they serve as microphone monitors and pages. I encourage you to get to know them so you can see firsthand how great a future we have as Southern Baptists. I am thankful that God has allowed me to spend this time serving at one of the greatest institutions in the world. Southwestern's halls are filled with faithful men and women dedicating their lives to serving our Savior. We have a great heritage and a strong present, but the brightest days still lie ahead on the Hill. Perhaps that is because the sun never sets on Southwestern.

Thomas White serves as vice president for student services and communications at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

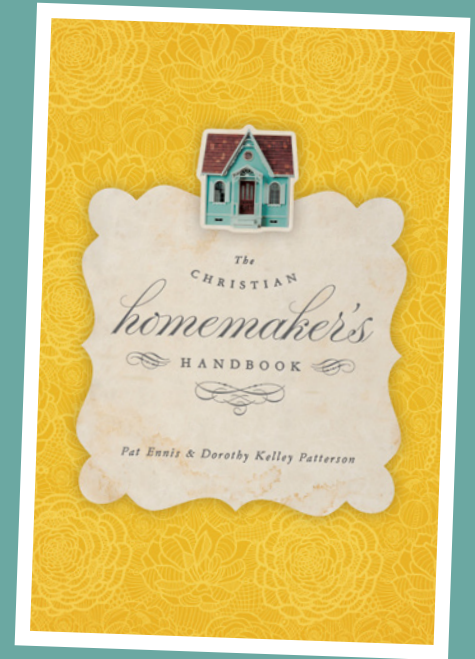


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