

SouthwesternNews

WINTER 2014

A Publication of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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The Statue of Liberty overlooks New York City, one of the largest cities in the world, where millions walk in darkness without the light of the Gospel. (Photo by Matt Miller/SWBTS)

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Spring Classes Begin

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thelandcenter.org

7-8

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swbts.edu/gala

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7

Southern Gospel Concert with Greater Vision & Mark Trammell Quartet

7 p.m. - MacGorman Chapel

swbts.edu/southerngospelconcert

7-16

Pauline Turkey and Seven Churches of the Revelation Tour

contactason@swbts.edu

7-17

Haiti Mission Trip

contactmsanders@swbts.edu

9-12

Revive this Nation

swbts.edu/rtn

10-14

Spring Break

Offices open/Classes dismissed

27-28

Preview Southwestern

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SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Ministering to the Hearts of the Great Cities

Southern Baptists were at their best in those days when our constituency consisted of “butchers and bakers and candlestick makers.” As we experienced upward mobility in society, our evangelism experienced a downward trend. This issue of *Southwestern News* will picture those courageous and dedicated students and graduates who have a heart for the urban centers of Canada and the United States. With recovery of efforts to reach urbanity, we will also see our baptisms begin to increase.

In this issue you will learn about a church in the heart of New York City; another in Vancouver, British Columbia; a Mandarin Baptist Church in Los Angeles; and a wonderful growing church in Baltimore, Maryland. These stories mark the contributions of John Fils-Aime, Matthew Bond, Daniel Chan, and Ronjour Locke—men of God who are proving that with God there is no such thing as the impossible. With men much is impossible—but not with God. With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). These faithful recent graduates of Southwestern have made their way into the hearts of these cities. Matthew Bond has taken a church that nearly died, and he has watched as Christ has brought it to life.

John Fils-Aime, on the other hand, has taken a church in New York City and



watched it rebound even while the area around his church has changed to include a large Jewish community. Daniel Chan and Ronjour Locke have likewise gone to the heart of where the people are living to share Christ.

In some ways, those ministering to the hearts of the great cities function more like the Master than just about any I can imagine. Jesus went where the people were, and that is exactly what these men are doing. They are typical of hundreds more who are pursuing the lost wherever they find them.

Years ago, I asked Charles Lyons of Chicago how he made Armitage Baptist Church a viable congregation again. He

replied simply, “I moved into the neighborhood and would not leave.” That kind of dedication and commitment is typical of our students.

I want you to do three things with this issue of *Southwestern News*:

First, read the stories for your own encouragement.

Second, after each story, please stop what you are doing and for just a moment lift that pastor and his wife before God in prayer, asking the Lord to intervene in a special way in the life and ministry of this godly couple and their work.

Third, would you purpose in your heart to do everything possible to extend this ministry to the ends of the earth?

This issue will encourage your Christian commitment as much as any we have published. May God pour out His blessings upon this vast church planting and renewal movement.

Until He Comes,

Paige Patterson





Keeping the

G O S P E L C E N T R A L on the Upper West Side

Story by **Keith Collier** • Photos by **Matthew Miller**

Basketball was the only thing that kept John Fils-Aime out of trouble as a teenager in Miami's Overtown neighborhood, the third-poorest and third-most-violent community in America at the time.

But after his hoop dreams failed to garner interest from college programs, Fils-Aime gave up on school his senior year, and his grades plummeted. He found himself working in a shoe store, unsure if his life would ever rebound.





Fils-Aime started playing in a midnight basketball program run by former NBA player Jabali Warren and designed to keep inner-city youth off the streets. Warren heard about Fils-Aime's story and how his grades were poor but his SAT scores were the highest in the county.

Warren connected Fils-Aime with Geri Dolan, a woman who worked at a major accounting firm in Miami. Dolan asked him to meet at her office one day, where she gave him a check to pay for his first year of junior college in Marianna, Fla., which according to Fils-Aime is "as far from Miami as you can be and still be in Florida."

This was Fils-Aime's chance to bounce back and get a new shot at life. Not only did Dolan finance his education, but she also became a personal friend and mentor.

"Geri was a constant presence in my life," Fils-Aime says. "She visited me during the holidays. I spent my vacations with her. She really just became part of the family. And I could never really understand why this white woman from Ohio was taking an interest in a black kid from Overtown, Miami. She never shared the Gospel with me in the first two years of knowing her, but she would always give me godly advice."

Fils-Aime excelled in junior college and returned to Miami on a basketball scholarship at Florida International University. Around Easter, Dolan invited him to a passion play at her church.

"Geri had changed my life in ways I couldn't even say," Fils-Aime recalls. "She poured into me financially and emotionally. We had become really good friends, and I really didn't want to go, but Geri had asked me for so little, I felt obligated to go.

"I went to that Easter pageant passion play called the Living Cross, and two days later, on my couch, I opened the Bible and the words just came alive to me. I remember reading a passage in Mark: 'What good is it if you gain the whole world and lose your soul.' For the first time in my life, that made sense."

Fils-Aime placed his faith in Christ and started attending Miami Shores Baptist Church with Dolan. Feeling called to full-time ministry, he became a pastoral intern at the church and completed an undergraduate degree in biblical studies from Trinity International University. When it came time to attend seminary, Fils-Aime chose to study at Southwestern.

"The transition from Miami Shores to Southwestern was a natural one," Fils-Aime says. "Miami Shores had three full-time pastors on staff, [and] all three of them were Southwestern grads. The church financially supported me through my first year at Southwestern."

The minute he stepped on Southwestern's campus, it felt like home.

"I always had in the back of my mind the stories that my pastors had told me, about the relationships they had developed and how your friends at Southwestern are your friends for life. So before I even stepped foot on campus, I heard about how great of an institution it was. Something in my heart was pulling me toward there."

Fils-Aime's time at Southwestern confirmed everything his pastors had told him.

"To this day, my best friends in ministry are the friends I met at Southwestern. The relationships I made with people there was priceless. It was an amazing time there."



Fils-Aime completed his M.Div. at Southwestern and moved to Vancouver to pursue a Th.M. in Old Testament at Regent College, where he met his future wife, Kristy. After completing studies there, he moved to Chicago, where he served at two churches and continued to look for a senior pastor position.

In 2010, Central Baptist Church in New York City, an historic church on the Upper West Side, called Fils-Aime to become senior pastor.

Fils-Aime credits his time at Southwestern with equipping him for this role.

"My education at Southwestern was second to none, so I was really prepared for the preaching and teaching aspect that ministry requires," says Fils-Aime.

"But more than that, Southwestern exposed me to different people and helped me build different relationships. Because I had these relationships, whenever I ran into



“I always had in the back of my mind the stories that my pastors had told me, about the relationships they had developed and how your friends at Southwestern are your friends for life. So before I even stepped foot on campus, I heard about how great of an institution it was. Something in my heart was pulling me toward there.”



trouble, I got support and encouragement from my professors at Southwestern, with whom I still continue to be in contact. I also got leadership advice from my friends and professors whom I knew at Southwestern, which made the transition easy.

“As much as you try to prepare through education, nothing prepares you to be a senior pastor. The most important thing is developing a network of people around you whom you can call, who have been through these things, who can advise you on the next steps. And that’s what Southwestern has given me in abundance—a network of people on whom I can rely and call when I get into trouble, who can advise me on the right course to take.”

Fils-Aime realized quickly that the life of a pastor is both challenging and rewarding.

“Pastoring is very humbling all around,” Fils-Aime says. “You go in thinking you know it all, and after six months you realize you know nothing.

“That’s the bad, but the good is that I really do think it’s God who joins pastor and people. When God is involved in the process of bringing a pastor to shepherd His people, then the church accepts you with your flaws and all. They’ve been patient with me as I grew as a leader and a

“We don’t want people to feel like the Gospel is our spiel but that the Gospel is how we live our lives. And the way we communicate that is through our care and compassion for everyone who walks through our doors.”

preacher to the point where as I grow, the church grows.”

The church’s motto—“The Friendliest Church in New York”—existed before Fils-Aime arrived, but he says it fits his own experience as well as his vision for ministry.

“I came to Christ through a relationship with a woman who recognized that she had

to be my friend before she could introduce me to Jesus,” Fils-Aime says.

“That’s a philosophy that I’ve used throughout my time in ministry. How can I approach you as a friend, as someone who cares about you, as someone who is concerned about your well-being?

“That’s the type of environment we try to foster here at Central. We want people to feel at home. We don’t want people to feel like the Gospel is our spiel but that the Gospel is how we live our lives. And the way we communicate that is through our care and compassion for everyone who walks through our doors.”



↓

The historic, 170-year-old church has been a mainstay in Manhattan over the years. Rev. Robert W. Lowery, the church's pastor during the late 19th century, composed numerous hymns, including "Nothing But The Blood" and "Shall We Gather At The River."

HISTORY OF
CENTRAL BAPTIST

74 Nothing But the Blood of Jesus.
R. L. Rev. Robert Lowery.

1. What can wash a - way my stain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
2. For my cleans-ing this I see—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
3. Noth-ing can for - give a - tone—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
4. This is all my hope and peace—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
5. Now by this I'll o - ver-come—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
6. Glo - ry! glo - ry! thus I sing—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;

What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my par - don this my plea—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right-ous-ness—Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

SWBTS.EDU 11

However, while many churches in the area wave the flags of social justice, community service, and equal rights, Fils-Aime has worked hard to make sure the Gospel remains primary at Central.

“One of the things that I tried to do as soon as I got here was to make Central as Gospel-centered as can be,” says Fils-Aime.

“We try to communicate the Gospel in everything we do, from our Sunday school to the preaching in the pulpit to the music that we play. If you’re in a ministry, whenever you meet, the Gospel has to be presented in some way, even if you’re just meeting for a potluck. So, one of the strong areas of our ministry is that we’re committed to the Gospel.

“It’s amazing when you make the Gospel central to everything you do the type of people you attract.”

Fils-Aime loves the ethnic, economic, and educational diversity found in his congregation. On any given Sunday, you

will find corporate executives seated next to individuals on government assistance, church members with terminal degrees shaking hands with those who never completed high school. Their location brings in people from all walks of life but all in need of the Gospel.

“Working in the city, you get to meet lives that are in dramatic need of change, stuff that just doesn’t happen in the suburbs,” says Fils-Aime.

Sometimes people walk into the church high on drugs or drunk, but Fils-Aime notes, “God has called you to minister to them.”

“It’s such a reward,” Fils-Aime says, “when God brings them from the lowest of low to a point where they’re celebrating what Jesus is doing.

“It’s a reward to be on the front row and see God rescuing people from spiritual depths and introducing them to His Son Jesus and seeing how Jesus changes their lives.”



New York City

Population: 8,336,697 (largest in U.S.)

Total area: 468.9 square miles

Notable sites: United Nations Headquarters,
Empire State Building, Broadway,
Wall Street, Ellis Island

MISCELLANEOUS:

- As many as 800 languages are spoken in New York, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world.
- One World Trade Center (known colloquially as Freedom Tower), built at Ground Zero, is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.
- Central Park, located in Manhattan, is the most visited city park in the United States, with 25 million visitors each year.



Online Extra

Watch an interview with Pastor John Fils-Aime at swbts.edu/fils-aime.







CHURCH PLANTING TO THE *Left of the West Coast*

*Story by Keith Collier
Photos by Matthew Miller*

Billed as North America's most diversity-dense city, Vancouver, British Columbia, boasts 200 language groups among its population of 2.3 million. Naturally, this Canadian region, which includes nearby Vancouver Island, has become a strategic city for the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send North America church planting initiative.

In the shadow of this towering urban melting pot, across the Strait of Georgia, sits the picturesque seaside town of Sidney, a year-round tourist destination known for its fishing and natural scenery.

"Though the island is an extremely beautiful creation of God, it is a spiritually



dark place, heavily influenced by cults, the occult, wiccans, mysticism, and a host of other worldly spiritualism,” says NAMB church planter and Southwestern alumnus Matthew Bond.

Less than 2 percent of Vancouver Island claimed Christianity on a 2011 census, and 40 percent claimed “no religion.”

“I call the island the left of the west coast because of its liberal leaning and its bent toward spiritualism,” Bond says.

“Most people here are enamored by the natural beauty of creation but reject the Creator. We are working hard to help people connect the Creator with His creation.”

Bond, his wife Heather, and their two teenage sons, Ethan and Joseph, landed in Sidney in 2012 to plant Ekklesia Church. In less than a year, they have established this thriving congregation and have branched out to planting additional churches across the island, which claims a population of 770,000.





Meet the Bonds

MATTHEW, HEATHER, ETHAN & JOSEPH





“We have wonderful conversations beginning with God,” Bond says, “but when the conversation turns to Jesus the people become defensive and turn away. We are definitely not in the Bible Belt anymore! Another challenge is the beauty of the island and the lifestyle of islanders. It’s hard to convince people that they need God when life seems so good.”

The Bonds’ church planting journey began in their home state of Tennessee, where Bond taught at a local junior high school as well as in a Sunday school class at their church.

“As I grew spiritually,” Bond says, “a friend challenged me to open my Christian worldview to actually include the world. This process led my wife and me to sell everything and move our family to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend Southwestern.”

Soon after, a professor informed Bond of a seminary evangelism course that would take place in Vancouver, so he signed up.

“When I returned from Vancouver,” Bond recalls, “I could not stop thinking and talking about Vancouver and the trip.” As he and Heather talked and prayed about God’s leading, they decided to take a family trip to explore the region and discuss opportunities with other church planters.

As time passed, the Bonds were convinced God was calling them to Vancouver.

“One important point about our church planting adventure is that our whole family is called to this wonderful adventure with God. This is our family’s mission calling, not just mine,” Bond says.

“My prayer was for God to call us as a family and for each of us to find a special place within God’s plan to serve. God affirmed this when Ethan, my 15-year-old, came home and announced he had signed me up to coach volleyball and soccer at his new school. He understands the value of building relationships through building community with others.

“Another great example is when Joseph, my 13-year-old son, shared the Gospel with a kid at school after the kid told Joseph he was going to hell. These are the moments, plus many others, in which God affirms our calling; and these are the stories we hold onto when we face spiritual

warfare and discouragement. We are here for God’s glory and not our own.”

From the beginning, Bond says they saw God’s hand in planting Ekklesia Church.

“We planted Ekklesia in a very unique way that brought with it different rewards and challenges,” Bond says. “There was a group of about 40 Christians who had been displaced from a Canadian Fellowship Baptist Church that closed its doors. They asked the NAMB Vancouver Catalyst to plant a church in this town that they could join. We accepted this challenge from NAMB and began planting Ekklesia without following any of the church planting models found in the textbooks.

“We began meeting with this group of 40, teaching them about church planting, the vision God gave me, the *Baptist Faith and Message*, and our views on doctrine, evangelism, and missions. We spent three and a half months meeting, teaching, worshipping, and fellowshiping. During this time, we lost some of that original 40, and we gathered new people.

“We have wonderful conversations beginning with God, but when the conversation turns to Jesus the people become defensive and turn away. We are definitely not in the Bible Belt anymore!

“Another challenge is the beauty of the island and the lifestyle of islanders. It’s hard to convince people that they need God when life seems so good.”



“In December 2012, we held a commitment service when 37 people chose to commit to being a part of Ekklesia and spreading the Gospel in Sidney. Since then we have grown to an average attendance of 50-60 people, added children’s Sunday school and an active youth group with about 10 teenagers, and we currently have six home Bible study groups.”

Recently, sparks of revival and awakening have caught fire. Bond says they have witnessed three people place their faith in Christ along with “seeing a spiritual awakening among many senior adult Christians in the church, many that are praying aloud and sharing their faith with others for the first time.”

As part of their church planting strategy, Bond challenges church members to give themselves away, noting that they want “to send people out to plant new works where the Gospel is not being proclaimed.

“We are currently working diligently toward creating a strong core church in order to celebrate the sending of people to reach people with the Gospel in communities where truth is not proclaimed.”

Already, they have started a home discipleship group in a community 20 minutes south of Sidney, where church members who live in the area are building relationships and studying the Bible with non-Christians.

We are praying that God will take this group and build our first daughter church in Brentwood Bay,” Bond says, adding, “... and then keep moving down the peninsula, planting new groups in communities until we work all the way down and then all the way up the island.”

Bond points to his training at Southwestern as a “launching pad” for their ministry in Canada.

“God used the move from Tennessee to Texas as a point of separation of everything we knew in order to prepare us for a much bigger step to Vancouver



Island,” Bond says.

“I consider my seminary training as an invaluable tool to my ministry of planting churches and reaching the lost with the Gospel. It provided a biblical foundation, sound doctrinal training, and crucial lessons of faith for myself and our family.”

Heather, likewise, sees the impact of their time at Southwestern. While Matthew was taking classes, Heather served in the seminary’s institutional advancement office.

“Working with, and being mentored by, women such as Mrs. Patterson, Dr. Stovall, and Karen Collett taught me the ministry of hospitality, service, and of grace,” Heather says.

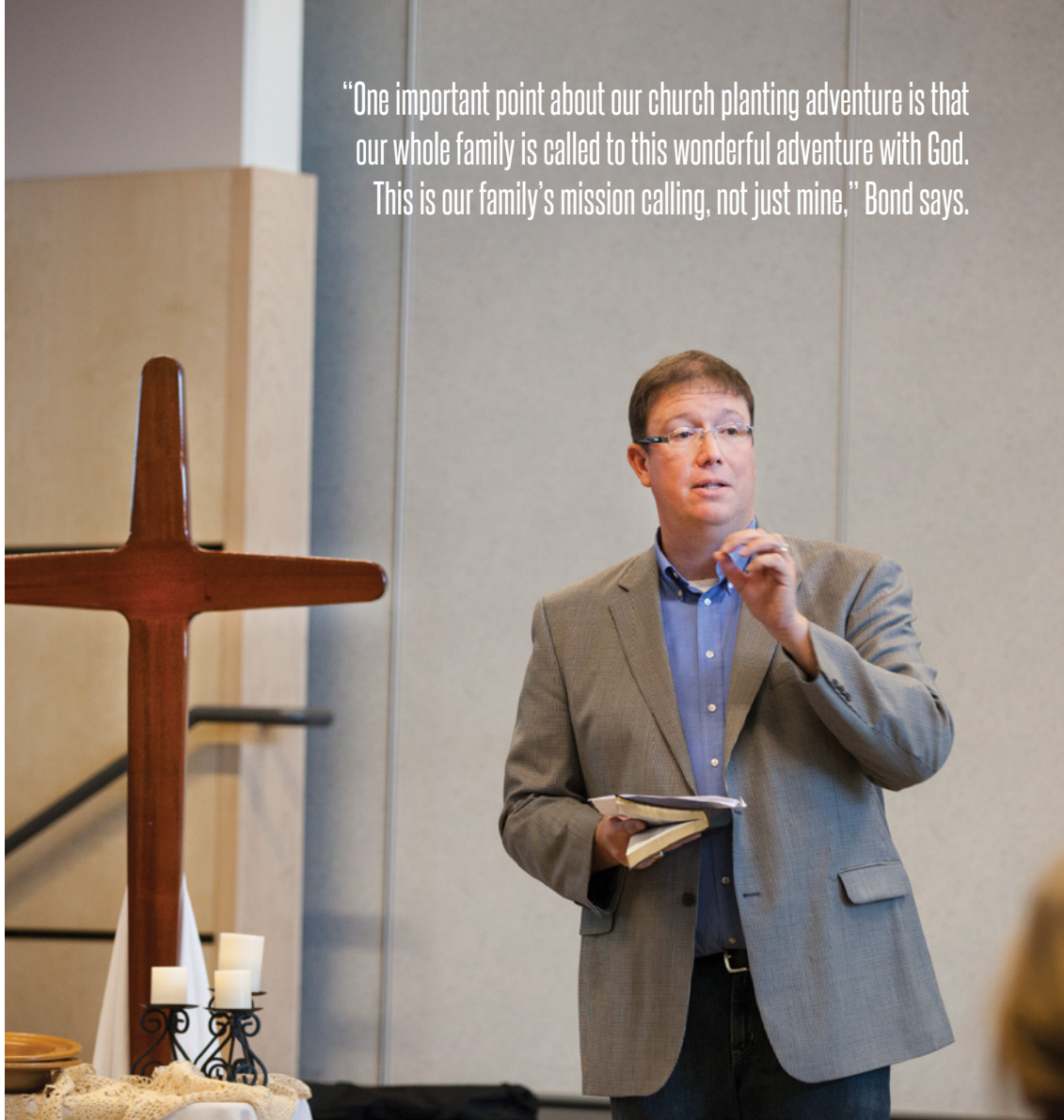
“They taught me how to be a better wife and helpmate for my husband and how to manage the busyness of marriage,

children, home, and ministry. They taught me how to use my home as a safe haven for my family and a place of ministry for our church.”

As their family continues to serve to the left of the west coast, they remain anchored in the God who called them to this geographically beautiful but spiritually dark region.

“I love church planting because there are no safety nets to catch us,” Matthew says.

“Our dependence, faith, and trust in God have grown exponentially since our arrival at Southwestern and then landing on the island. When I see spiritual transformation take place, I know it is from God’s power through the Holy Spirit. I cannot manipulate or create the things we are experiencing on the island.” ⑤



“One important point about our church planting adventure is that our whole family is called to this wonderful adventure with God. This is our family’s mission calling, not just mine,” Bond says.



Vancouver

Population: 2,313,328 (Greater Vancouver)


Total area: 1,111.4 square miles

Notable sites: Stanley Park, Canada Place, Fairmont Empress Hotel, Butchart Gardens, Kitsilano Beach

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 52% of its residents have a first language other than English.
- Major film production studios have turned Vancouver into one of the largest film production centers in North America, earning it the film industry nickname “Hollywood North”.
- In 2007, Vancouver was ranked by Forbes as the world’s 10th cleanest city.
- The Vancouver International Film Festival is among the five largest film festivals in North America, showing more than 350 films throughout two weeks each September.





REACHING
EVERY TRIBE,
TONGUE
AND
PEOPLE GROUP

Story by Keith Collier
Photos by Matthew Miller

With a weekly attendance near 2,000, Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles (MBCLA) is the largest Chinese Baptist church in California. However, even more impressive is the fact that the church is made up of three different language congregations—Mandarin, Cantonese, and English.

Started in 1963 by founding pastor and Southwestern Seminary graduate Y.K. Chang and his wife, Cherry, the church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. At the core of the church from the beginning was a desire to reach all generations and language groups in L.A. with the Gospel.

“When we started the church, we certainly considered our younger generations,” says current senior pastor Peter Chung, who came to study in the United States from Indonesia in 1966 and was initially invited to MBCLA by a friend. He became pastor of the church in 1976 and has served faithfully for 37 years.

Chung says the church wants to reach all generations of families, many of whom speak a variety of languages. Each language congregation has its own associate pastors, and the church offers youth ministries to each language group while combining all children’s ministries in one English-speaking group.

“Basically, the three language groups are parallel,” Chung says. “They are not under the Mandarin group, even though the Mandarin group is the largest. We treat them as equals—Mandarin, Cantonese, and English. They have representatives in the council meeting and are represented in the deacons.”

With such a unique strategy for reaching their community, many might wonder what problems this approach has raised.

“Praise the Lord, so far we’ve had no problems in our church,” Chung says. “I don’t know about other churches, but so far [there have been no problems] because of our staff. Pastoral staff is very



important; if pastors have a teamwork spirit, it will be okay.

“When I call a pastor, the most important trait for me is that they should have a teamwork concept. He may be a good preacher or teacher, but if he doesn’t have a team concept, it will create a problem in the future.”

Chung works hard to delegate responsibilities to the other pastors and to give them full support and credit for any successes.

When asked if he thinks there will always be a need for three congregations, Chung says, “Someday the English congregation will grow to be the largest, but as long as there are immigrants coming in, we still need to have three different languages.”

Not only was the church founded

by a graduate of Southwestern, but the seminary’s influence remains strong today, with 12 alumni now serving on staff.

“Our founding pastor, because of his education and experience at Southwestern, laid a very good foundation, emphasizing Bible teaching, Sunday school, and so on,” Chung says. “So, we just built upon this foundation.”

Daniel Chan, who earned theology and music degrees at Southwestern and is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry in preaching at the seminary, serves as



JESUS
SAVES

Daniel Chan

Discipleship Pastor
for the Mandarin
congregation.

Current D.Min.
student at
Southwestern.

“What I learned in preaching [at Southwestern] worked well here. Text-driven preaching is not only important to Chinese churches but to all churches. Right now, the seminary is doing the right thing in the preaching area.”

discipleship pastor for the Mandarin congregation. Born in Beijing, Chan grew up in Hong Kong and knows Mandarin, Cantonese, and English.

“Coming here is God’s providence,” says Chan. “I never thought I would come to this church. It is a very famous church.

“What I learned in preaching [at Southwestern] worked well here. Text-driven preaching is not only important to Chinese churches but to all churches. Right now, the seminary is doing the right thing in the preaching area.”

As part of MBCLA’s church planting efforts, Chan is working on starting a new mission church in Yorba Linda, Calif. They recently formed a church planting committee and are actively seeking a possible location.

“From a church planting point of view,” Chan says, “I personally prefer a Southwestern graduate to help because they are more evangelistic, and they are well-trained in expository preaching.”

Long known for its evangelistic emphases, MBCLA translated the Southern Baptist evangelism program Continuous

“It takes a long time to build a church. If a young pastor moves around—two years here, three years there—I don’t think he can accomplish much. He needs consistency in the church for at least five years minimum before he starts seeing results.”

Witness Training (CWT) into Chinese 20 years ago, and members still use it today. MBCLA has planted five mission churches in the area, and two of those churches have planted other churches.

Additionally, the church has planted an Indonesian church and provides space each week for a Spanish congregation. They see this as an opportunity to impact more people groups and languages with the Gospel.


“Our church started out with the help of our Anglo brothers and sisters,” says Chung, “so we are obligated to make ourselves available and to offer any help to any other group.”

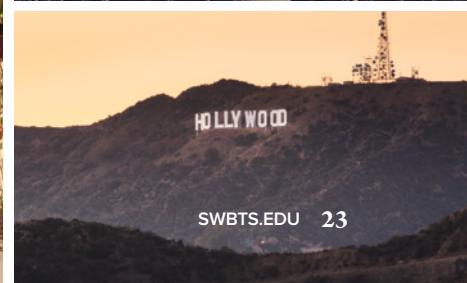
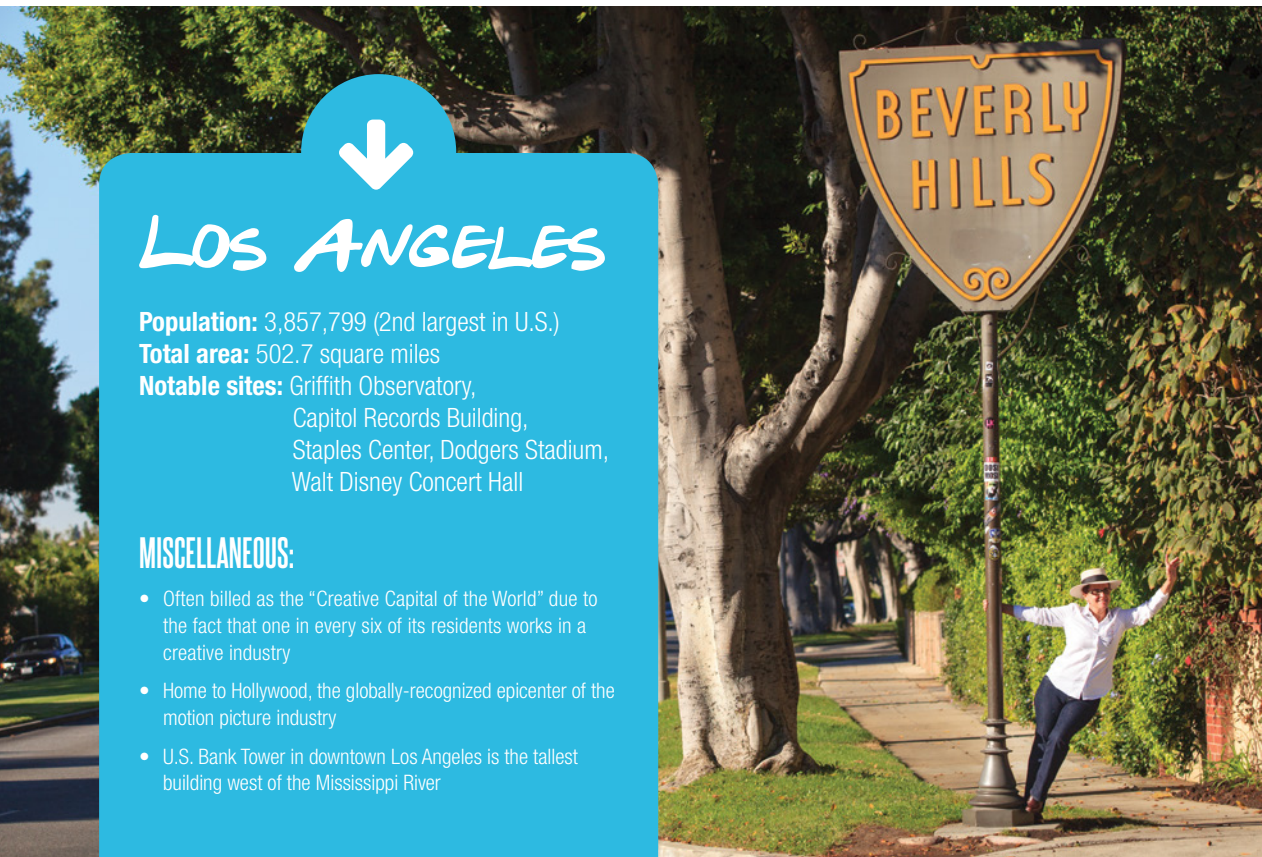
In the community, MBCLA offers after-school programs for children and teaches Chinese and English classes to all ages. They regularly offer classes to prepare immigrants for U.S. citizenship,

and they also host an annual health fair for the community.

Additionally, MBCLA has been recognized by the International Mission Board for its annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Not only does the church give generously, but many of its members are serving as missionaries around the world. Currently, 86 members are serving with IMB throughout Asia.

When asked why he thinks God has blessed MBCLA for so long, Chung says, “Praise the Lord, it is the grace of God. Certainly, we’ve had to work very faithfully and persistently.

“It takes a long time to build a church. If a young pastor moves around—two years here, three years there—I don’t think he can accomplish much. He needs consistency in the church for at least five years minimum before he starts seeing results.” 



LOS ANGELES

Population: 3,857,799 (2nd largest in U.S.)
Total area: 502.7 square miles
Notable sites: Griffith Observatory, Capitol Records Building, Staples Center, Dodgers Stadium, Walt Disney Concert Hall

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Often billed as the “Creative Capital of the World” due to the fact that one in every six of its residents works in a creative industry
- Home to Hollywood, the globally-recognized epicenter of the motion picture industry
- U.S. Bank Tower in downtown Los Angeles is the tallest building west of the Mississippi River

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

HOW THE GOSPEL
THAT SAVES
ALSO TRANSFORMS

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER
PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MILLER

Every Monday morning during college, Ronjour Locke would meet his girlfriend Annie at McDonald's for a breakfast date. As they talked, Ronjour would grab a napkin and scribble down these brainstorm sessions filled with dreams and what-ifs for the future.

Many mornings, the conversation turned to where they would like to live and minister after they married and completed their studies at Washington Bible College near Washington, D.C.

"We discussed if we were ever going to do ministry somewhere, where would it be?" Ronjour says.

Having gone on their first date and gotten engaged in Baltimore, they thought, "Let's go to Baltimore. That would be pretty cool if that were to happen."

"We knew the need was there," Ronjour says, "and the diversity was something we were passionate about—being someplace where people from different walks of life and different backgrounds could worship the Lord together."

Yet those dream-scribbled napkins were just that—dreams—until the Lord brought them back to Charm City two years ago to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Known as a city of neighborhoods, Baltimore boasts more than 200 individual neighborhoods. Whether it is the trendy, up-and-coming Federal Hill filled with young urban professionals or the iconic Inner Harbor with its waterfront shops and

restaurants, each neighborhood reflects its own history, culture, and personality.

In January 2012, the Lockes and their four children moved to Brooklyn—one of Baltimore's southernmost neighborhoods—where Ronjour became pastor of First Baptist Church of Brooklyn, the only Southern Baptist Church in their area.

Brooklyn is an ethnically diverse neighborhood primarily comprised of low-income and lower middle-class residents. Over the past few decades, the government constructed several Section 8 housing units, which has resulted in a densely populated neighborhood.

"They put houses everywhere, squeezing them in all kinds of places," Ronjour says. "There are homes everywhere, and of course, within them are people."

FBC Brooklyn reflects both the ethnic and economic diversity of the neighborhood.

"We have people who are making good money, and we have people who are struggling. We've got some folks who have lost their jobs over the last couple of years,



who cannot find a job for the life of them. We've got some folks that are homeless, and we're trying to help them."

As with many urban communities, Brooklyn suffers from the ills of crime, drugs, and broken homes.

"You'll have homes where the mom is there, and you have say five or six kids, and each kid has a different dad. That's not uncommon around here," Ronjour says.

"I initially thought that this was an older neighborhood based on how many folks in

Sadly, many churches in the area have closed their doors in recent years, leaving an even greater need for Gospel-centered lights in the community.

our church lived in the area,” Ronjour says, “but I was wrong. It’s actually a lot more generationally diverse than I thought, which surprised me.”

While the streets immediately surrounding the church are quiet, Ronjour says, “you go down [a couple streets], and you’re going to see a lot more drugs, a lot more violence, a lot more stuff going on.”

“It’s really sad,” Annie adds. “It’s a lot of theft, but it’s usually a family member to a family member because of their addictions.”

“It’s sort of the personality of Brooklyn that we are the forgotten,” says Ronjour.

“We’re not the cool Federal Hill. We’re not the Inner Harbor. We’re the area where a lot of people just don’t get recognized.”

Sadly, many churches in the area have closed their doors in recent years, leaving an even greater need for Gospel-centered lights in the community.

“You have a community that changes around you, whether it be ethnic or generational diversity that comes in, and those churches met it with resistance,” Annie says.

“I think it’s a cultural shift,” Ronjour adds. “The churches that are closing their doors peaked around the 1970s or ‘80s. They all had kids but didn’t have intentions of reaching their kids or their kids’ friends. It’s that whole cultural battle of ‘We’re

not going to adapt.’ Now they’re shutting their doors. The church dies with their generation.”

Despite all of the unique challenges, the Lockes feel their time at Southwestern prepared them to serve and revitalize the church in Brooklyn.

After graduating from college, Ronjour taught school for a while in Maryland and then served on staff at a church in Hanover, Pa. During that time, they began to explore seminary options.

“Annie and I flew down to Texas [to visit Southwestern], and while we were there,” Ronjour says, “there was something about the culture that ‘We’re about the nations,’ which was much of a continuation from college for me. Southwestern was about getting the Gospel to every neighborhood and to every nation.

“When we got to Texas and got a taste of that, it was obvious to us. We knew we didn’t need to look anywhere else. This is where we should be.”

Once on campus, Ronjour says Southwestern helped shape and solidify his understanding of the Gospel’s impact on the church, particularly “in terms of the primacy of the Word, the insistence on making disciples, and shaping disciples with the very Gospel that was used to save them.”

“There’s no gimmick to the Gospel,” Ronjour says.





“The Gospel that saves us is the Gospel that changes us. And the Gospel forms this church so that when we gather together, we worship God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. All of that is by means of the Gospel, by means of what God has accomplished for us. That affects the way that I parent, the way that I live with Annie, the way that I pastor, etc.”

door at 1 a.m. and saying they don’t have a place to live—I think, ‘What did I learn at seminary?’

“I learned that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

“So how do I address these things with the Gospel? How do I address addictions with the Gospel? Love them, give them the help they need, and share the Gospel. With broken families and poverty and all

“The Gospel that saves us is the Gospel that changes us. And the Gospel forms this church so that when we gather together, we worship God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. All of that is by means of the Gospel, by means of what God has accomplished for us.”

This Gospel-shaping influence has played an important role in Ronjour’s ministry as pastor at FBC Brooklyn.

Once he arrived, he began asking himself, “What are my priorities as a pastor? Am I just here to raise a bunch of money? Or do I have to be the coolest guy in town? Or am I here to shepherd, to continue to say over and over and over again, ‘This is the Gospel. This is the one true living God, and this is where life happens, in Him’—constantly pointing people and shepherding people toward Him.”

At times, as he has adjusted to life outside the “seminary bubble,” Ronjour has wondered if seminary prepared him for everything he would encounter. While he did not take a class on shepherding people with drug issues whose kids have been taken away from them, he realizes his time at Southwestern did equip him with the answer.

“With all the violence and things I’ve encountered—people knocking on my

these things that we have over here, it’s the Gospel that changes lives. So ground zero for us is, ‘Let’s be a church that’s about the Gospel.’”

Ronjour is already seeing the fruits of this approach. He says one of the most rewarding experiences has been “watching people learn [the Gospel] for the first time.”

“Nothing has been drastic in terms of change and transformation,” Ronjour says. “It’s just slowly but surely. It’s a systematic walking through the Bible and seeing how God is changing and shaping us.”

Annie agrees, adding that she never grows tired of “seeing Christ become more than enough for people,” more than their addictions, more than their broken relationships or sin-stained lives.

“So, in some ways,” Ronjour says, “there were things that Southwestern didn’t prepare us for; but at the same time, Southwestern prepared us for everything.” **§**





BALTIMORE

Population: 621,342

Total area: 92.052 square miles

Notable sites: Johns Hopkins University;

Fort McHenry; Baltimore Harbor, which has several historic ships on display, including the USS Constellation, the last Civil War-era vessel afloat; the original Washington Monument; National Aquarium

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Home to Johns Hopkins Hospital, which was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the best overall hospital in America for 21 consecutive years.
- "The Star-Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key in response to the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812.
- According to the Brookings Institution, almost a quarter of the jobs in the Baltimore region are science, technology, engineering, and math positions, which makes Baltimore rank eighth out of 100 U.S. metropolitan areas for its concentration of STEM jobs.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Americans are doing what is right in their own eyes, and it is not going well for America. Throughout the book of Judges, this motif is repeatedly observed: everyone did what was right in his own eyes (e.g., Judges 17:6, 21:25). It did not



go well with the nation of Israel when they followed their way instead of God's way. Walk through a mall, turn on the television, or follow a recent Twitter feed, and you are rapidly confronted with the moral decline

of America. I am mortified and infuriated with the state of America's morality. How about you?

Neither an economic stimulus, nor a political party, nor education reform will remedy America's current state of morality. What will change America is a spiritual transformation. More than ever before, my eyes are opened to the dire need to share Christ with a lost and dying America and world. The fires of evangelism and prayer have been stoked as God has worked in me to answer the question, "Do you love your neighbor enough to share the Gospel?"

It is clear that an army of Christ-followers needs to permeate every fabric of America—church, marketplace, government, military, and family. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is actively training men and women who are set apart to take the Gospel throughout America and to the ends of the earth. Not only are students being theologically trained, they are

actively winning souls around the campus of Southwestern through the Going the Second Mile evangelism initiative,

It is true that America is in a state of moral decline. However, there is encouraging news! As the pastor and evangelist

Bo Baker frequently stated, "Come a little closer." As I travel and meet our ministry partners, whether in the executive board room or on a dry piece of earth in West Texas, I sense a stirring among God's people. New and existing ministry partners are partnering with Southwestern so that the Gospel is proclaimed and so that the hearts and lives of Americans and the world are transformed by God. This movement is occurring across generational lines. The baby boomers desire to end well (2 Timothy 4:7) and to leave a kingdom legacy. On the other end of the spectrum, the millennials want to invest in something that has purpose.

How about you? Will you consider helping effect eternal change? A gift to the Southwestern fund or to a scholarship will immediately help a student who will impact the spiritual life of America.

Your gift, no matter the size, will significantly help. The inset box presents representative expenses that confront Southwestern students. If you are ready to make a stand against the Prince of Darkness and the moral decline in America, join me in training and deploying Christ's special forces.

You can do so online at swbts.edu/give or via mail at:

P.O. Box 22500
Fort Worth, TX 76122.

Mike Hughes serves as Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Representative Expenses

\$500	Send a student to preach a revival through Revive This Nation
\$750	Digital radio for security officers to keep students safe
\$4,500	Send a student to share the Gospel with the Antandroy people of Madagascar
\$4,600	Annual tuition and fees for a M.Div. student taking 21 hours
\$7,000	Annual tuition and fees for a College at Southwestern student taking 27 hours
\$10,000	Minimum amount to endow a student scholarship
\$20,000	Practice piano for the School of Church Music
\$100,000	Minimum amount for a maintenance and operations endowment to ensure students have proper facilities
\$1,000,000	Minimum amount for an endowed academic chair to ensure godly and distinguished faculty are present to teach students

throughout America through Revive This Nation and as NAMB missionaries, and throughout the world through seminary mission trips and as IMB missionaries. I am thankful to know my gifts to the Cooperative Program via my church are impacting the kingdom of God in these critical ways.

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FORT WORTH, TEXAS



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BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Patterson answers rapid-fire questions during live Twitter Q&A

By Keith Collier

Southwestern President Paige Patterson answered nearly 60 questions related to theology, pastoral ministry, personal interests, and his views on the future of the Southern Baptist Convention during a live question-and-answer session via his Twitter account, Sept. 27.

Patterson called the hour-long social media session the “Lion’s Den” after a similar ask-anything format he uses in chapel services on campus from time to time. Questions poured in from all over the country as people tweeted to @_PPatterson_ and used the hashtag #AskDrP to track the discussion. A complete account of the Twitter session can be found at www.swbts.edu/AskDrP.

Responding to the question of how he would do the Conservative Resurgence differently if he had the chance, Patterson answered, “1. Pray

more. 2. Much more diligently try to see people not hurt.”

Patterson also answered questions related to difficult interpretations of biblical passages. One Twitter user asked, “If the temple in Ezek. 40-48 is a future physical reality, why does God put an altar in it when we already atoned for?”

“The problem is not just altar but sacrifices. The nature of it all seems to be memorial and significance,” Patterson replied.

The Twitter Lion’s Den also exposed Patterson’s lighter side as he answered questions about his first date with his wife, his thoughts on Christian hip hop music, and his favorite weapon. When asked about his favorite dish made by his wife, he replied, “Prepare to be hungry: sweet potato biscuits. They are probably the original manna.”

Patterson also gave pastoral advice. When asked what is most important in the first year of a new pastorate, he replied, “Preach hard, pray much, get acquainted with the sheep, and meet their needs. No new programs.”

As the Lion’s Den session ended, dozens of questions remained, but Patterson remarked that he would enjoy doing it again sometime.

Reaction on Twitter to the ask-anything digital forum was positive. Southwestern student Phillip Box tweeted, “Pretty cool that our president @_PPatterson_ of @swbts took time to answer any question on twitter. #hipster #AskDrP #lionsden.” Likewise, another student, Maggie Ledbetter, tweeted, “Loved the #lionsden with @_PPatterson_ Really appreciate going to a school where our president enjoys interacting with us so much #AskDrP”

Seminary construction project changes lives

By Alex Sibley

When Craig Abbott accepted the assignment for project manager of the construction of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's MacGorman Chapel in 2010, he did so reluctantly.

Still hurting from the death of their infant son just three years prior, Abbott and his wife Michele were both in a dark place. Feeling that his lifestyle did not match the standards of Southwestern, Abbott approached the task cynically, but he soon learned that God would use the experience to transform his entire family.

"My peers in the industry [had] kind of a joke coming in before we started," Abbott says. "'You're gonna go out to Southwestern Baptist, and you're gonna find you some Jesus.' And that's what happened."

Abbott, the Manhattan Construction project manager for both MacGorman Chapel and the seminary's new student housing, shared his testimony during a chapel service, Oct. 8, relating his gratitude to Southwestern as the catalyst by which God changed his life.

"I thank God first of all for putting me here [at Southwestern]," Abbott says. "The first three years, I didn't want to be here, but He used it for His good."

Following the death of their son in 2007, the Abbotts both turned to alcohol. Their marriage and family spiraled out of control as a result.

"I really hated the man I was at that time," Abbott says. "I was trapped in this sin. And my family was a wreck. And I was really sick and tired of trying to live the lie that I had it all together."

Halfway through the chapel construction, Abbott's wife entered rehab. Though Abbott initially planned to use this as a catalyst for divorce, he soon realized that God had a different plan.

"[God] really began to point out the fact that I really deflected everything onto my wife," Abbott says. "I wasn't the man I needed to be."

While attending church one day, Abbott heard a sermon on comfort from 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, a passage in which Paul relates that he and his companions endured suffering "that [they] might not rely on [them]selves but on God, who raises the dead."

"At that service, it clicked," Abbott says. "I accepted Christ as a child, but I really never truly surrendered my will to His will. I'd been running the show for 30 years, and it wasn't working. So that following day I made the decision that I would turn my life over to Christ.



"My peers in the industry [had] kind of a joke coming in before we started," Abbott says. "'You're gonna go out to Southwestern Baptist, and you're gonna find you some Jesus.' And that's what happened."

~ CRAIG ABBOTT

"At that point, everything changed. It was phenomenal. And this is why Southwestern Baptist is so special to me, because it was while I was working here that I found my true purpose in Christ. It was while I was here that I learned to be the spiritual leader of my family. It was while I was working here that my entire family that following summer found salvation. The chains of addiction were broken. We celebrate two and a half years sober. Not only that, the Lord equipped my wife and me to serve as leaders in our church's Celebrate Recovery ministry. He just turned our life around."

In addition, God blessed the Abbotts with a son in the summer of 2012.

"I don't tell you this, though, to boast," Abbott says, "but to give glory to God and to thank you guys. As a little baby Christian trying to find my way, Southwestern's been a haven where I can really grow in my knowledge of Christ.

"God used Southwestern Baptist to really water the seed that had taken root. And for that I am eternally grateful."

Jim Bob, Michelle Duggar share story behind ‘19 Kids & Counting’

By Keith Collier

A chapel service at Southwestern Seminary turned into a family affair, Oct. 24, as Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, along with 18 of their 19 children, spread across the stage in MacGorman Chapel to share Scripture, play instruments, and sing hymns.

In addition to the musical performances, Jim Bob and Michelle shared their life stories and explained how their family was selected for the hit cable television show “19 Kids & Counting,” which airs on TLC.

Jim Bob and Michelle began their story by explaining how each of them came to faith in Jesus Christ. Jim Bob grew up attending church and became a Christian at an early age. Michelle, however, never attended church as a child and became a Christian in high school after a friend shared with her how she could have a right relationship with the Lord.

The Duggars dated in high school and married soon after. Like most couples, they were unsure if they wanted to have children right away, so Michelle took birth control pills. Three and a half years later, Michelle stopped birth control, got pregnant, and gave birth to their firstborn son, Josh.

“Then, we didn’t want to have them too close together, so she went back on the pill,” Jim Bob said.

“But we did not realize—and this is not something that is really well known—but sometimes the pill can allow you to get pregnant but can then be abortive. And that’s what happened in our situation. Michelle was on the pill, got pregnant, and then the pill caused a miscarriage, and we lost our second child.”

“We were devastated,” Michelle said. “Here we were, Christians, loving being parents, holding this one baby in our arms and then realizing that with our own hands, our own lack of knowledge, we held out our [other] baby to be destroyed.

“We got on our faces before the Lord, and we cried out, ‘Father, forgive us and give us a love for children like You love children.’”

Jim Bob and Michelle committed to receive whatever gifts—that is, children—God would give them. Soon thereafter, Michelle gave birth to twins, and the Lord continued to bless them with children one after the other.



“Following the Lord is an exciting adventure, and I pray that each one of us will follow that still, small voice of the Lord and watch Him work in our lives in a miraculous way.”

~ JIM BOB DUGGAR

Jim Bob admitted that they are not a perfect family nor are he and Michelle perfect parents.

“I really never had an anger problem until we had started having children,” Jim Bob said. “I realized that when we started having these kids and I started blowing up in anger to correct them, it was building a wall between me and my children.”

Jim Bob explained how he asked his family to forgive him and requested that they keep him accountable when they noticed him reacting in anger. He encouraged the chapel audience to consider doing likewise.

“You can take your children to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night,” Jim Bob said, “but if you’re blowing up at home, it will undermine your whole ministry.”

Additionally, Jim Bob challenged fathers to “be the spiritual leaders of your family.”

“Read the Bible to your children, explain what the scriptures mean, give illustrations, and make it practical for them.”

Jim Bob and Michelle concluded their time in Southwestern’s chapel service with a challenge to seminary students.

“Our challenge to you,” Jim Bob said, “is to follow the Lord wherever He leads you, to do whatever He puts on your heart—maybe to be a missionary overseas or to be a pastor or maybe getting involved in politics.

“Following the Lord is an exciting adventure, and I pray that each one of us will follow that still, small voice of the Lord and watch Him work in our lives in a miraculous way.”



To watch Jim Bob and Michelle tell their story, visit swbts.edu/DuggarStory



Conference on the home draws more than 1,000 women

By Michelle Tyer & Keith Collier

Southwestern President Paige Patterson referred to the home as God's "first and most important institution" during the opening session of a women's conference on campus Oct. 25-26.

"If the home fails, not far behind it will come the whole social order. Destroy the home and you will destroy the social backbone of any republic wherever it may be."

More than 1,000 women registered for the Art of Homemaking Conference, which drew not only seminary students, but also women from across Texas and even out of state.

Michelle Duggar, the loving mother from TLC's hit cable reality show "19 Kids and Counting," spoke during the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon plenary sessions, offering advice as well as encouragement to mothers.

"I will be the first to admit we do not have a perfect family," Duggar said. "We have challenges every day. Just multiply that 19 times over... and you can just imagine we face challenges. But by God's grace and by His principles and His ways, we have learned and our family has experienced joy unspeakable and we have experienced unity all because of Jesus."

Duggar said her goal during her time at the conference was to pass on wisdom she had received from godly mentors and to give practical advice on how to bring unity and peace to the home.

"True character is not dictated by our circumstances; it just reveals it. What's deep in our heart comes out when we're squeezed," Duggar said.

Dorothy Patterson, wife of Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson, taught a session Saturday afternoon from the Proverbs 31 passage concerning a noble, or virtuous, woman instead of one affected by the negative impact from culture.

"Are you just following the women in front of you, are you just following the culture... or are you looking at the light that can be found in Scripture and from God Himself?" Patterson challenged the women at the conference.

Author and national speaker Elizabeth George's spoke Saturday morning on how to be a woman after God's own heart. George's book, *A Woman After God's Own Heart*, has sold more than 1 million copies.

George, who did not surrender her life to Christ until she was 28 years old, shared that when she first read Acts 13:22, which describes King David as a "man after God's own heart," it challenged her.

George emphasized that reading the Bible and spending time in prayer are crucial for managing the home.

"A woman after God's own heart is a woman of the Word," George said.

Along with the plenary sessions, the conference gave women opportunities to choose from 17 breakout sessions throughout the weekend with

topics including the ministry of prayer, raising teens, raising preschoolers, planning holidays, working from the home, the effects of feminism, and how to bring joy to one's husband without losing her own.

Breakout sessions were led by Southwestern Seminary women's programs faculty, wives of faculty and pastors, and others. In addition to Dorothy Patterson, wives of three other Southern Baptist seminary presidents presented at breakout sessions – Mary Mohler from Southern Seminary, Rhonda Kelley from New Orleans Seminary, and Ann Iorg from Golden Gate Seminary.

Additionally, more than 40 authors were on hand signing books, including the Duggar family and contributors to the Crossway publication, *The Christian Homemaker's Handbook*, which was edited by Dorothy Patterson and homemaking professor Pat Ennis.

The conference, in large part, sprang from Dorothy Patterson's passion for the family and for training women how to build healthy, Christ-honoring homes. Appropriately, the first day of the conference happened to also be her birthday, so Southwestern Dean of Women's Programs Terri Stovall took the opportunity to recognize Patterson's special day as well as her rich contribution to women's ministry.

Preaching workshop untangles book of Revelation

By Keith Collier

Nearly 200 local church pastors and seminary students were challenged to overcome their fears of preaching through the book of Revelation during Southwestern Seminary's Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop, Oct. 7. Professors at the seminary provided insight and tools into the apocalyptic conclusion of the New Testament and



exhorted workshop participants to preach from the only biblical book that promises a blessing for those who read, hear, and keep what is written in it.

Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson, who wrote the commentary on Revelation in the *New American Commentary* series, spoke

during two sessions of the workshop. He noted that Revelation can be a great source of encouragement to churches during difficult days.

"The book of Revelation focuses on how bad the world is," Patterson said. "You can't imagine anything as bad as the world of Revelation. But not only does it tell how bad the world is, it also tells how great the Savior is and how His providence extends to all portions of our world."

David Allen, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern, discussed the seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3, which he said offer counsel and encouragement to churches today.

Allen noted that if churches in Revelation are representative of all churches, then at least five out of seven have problems that need to be addressed. Often, he said, the solution is repentance.

"Chronologically," Allen said, "the last word of Jesus to His church is not the Great Commission, 'Go ye ...' The last word is Revelation 2-3, and it's 'Repent ye ...'"

Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications, addressed the overwhelming Christology within the book of Revelation.

"The book of Revelation is not explicitly a book about prophecy; it's not a book about figuring out the end times; it is a book about Jesus," Smith said.

Smith shattered common misperceptions of Jesus, saying that too often Christians focus solely on Jesus during His earthly ministry and neglect who He is today.

Smith explained that Revelation presents Jesus in His present, exalted state. The book reveals "how Jesus wants us to think about Jesus"—a glorious judge, a warrior Messiah, and a reigning King.

Executive Vice President Craig Blasing, a noted scholar in the field of eschatology, presented an outline of the book of Revelation and identified the central, recurring theme as "Jesus is coming."

"No matter how dreary things are, no matter how bad they become, no matter who rises up, and no matter how deeply entrenched evil is," Blasing said, "He is coming, and He is going to change everything."

In conjunction with the preaching workshop, Patterson's sessions also doubled as lectures in the seminary's annual Northcutt Lectures on Preaching. He concluded the lecture series during a chapel sermon on Oct. 8, where he preached on Revelation 12.



Audio of the workshop can be accessed at swbts.edu/AEPW13

13 new merit-based scholarships make kingdom impact

By Keith Collier

Administrators at Southwestern have approved 13 new merit-based "Impact Scholarships" designed to assist students with specific backgrounds or areas of ministry. These new scholarships will be available for the spring 2014 semester.

"For years, Southwestern has offered affordable tuition and will continue to do so. Now, we can also advantage the hardest working students in a way that communicates their efforts will be rewarded," said Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications at the seminary.

"This sends a huge message to incoming students that we are serious about attracting the brightest students."

Ministry-specific scholarships include studies in preaching and pastoral ministry, biblical counseling, chaplaincy, Christian education, and ethics. Additionally, scholarship categories include aid for women, the disabled, ethnic minorities, and international students, as well as specific aid for college students, campus employees, and students from particular states.

One of the most unique scholarship opportunities is the Ministry Team Scholarship, which is designated for families in which both the husband and wife have chosen to study at Southwestern in preparation for ministry.

Previously, Southwestern only offered the General Scholarship, a need-based scholarship available to all students with minimal criteria. The

financial aid office has restructured scholarship offerings to now include merit-based and general scholarships. Merit-based scholarships are considered on a competitive basis, which means a scholarship committee will select recipients based on the quality of applications, scholarship parameters, and other factors, such as GPA.



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Trustees adopt response to mental health motion, decide on tenure

By Keith Collier

Southwestern Seminary trustees responded to an SBC messenger's request regarding mental health ministries, adopted bylaw and policy changes regarding faculty tenure, elected faculty, and recognized President Paige Patterson for 10 years of service at their fall meeting, Oct. 16.

During the SBC annual meeting in June, Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., presented a motion requesting SBC entities to report on past, present, and future efforts to assist churches in ministry to people who suffer with mental health challenges. Trustees adopted a response to the motion, noting the seminary's graduate and post-graduate coursework in biblical counseling and pastoral ministry.

In addition to coursework, trustees said the seminary "provides for the churches counseling workshops in which the laity come to be trained in how to respond to the difficult problems that people face. So in this way Southwestern not only trains its students but also reaches out to provide help for the churches.

Further, our faculty in counseling spends a great portion of its time counseling the counselors from the churches who frequently call on us for help with various kinds of problems."

Trustees also unanimously approved changes to the seminary's bylaws and policies, eliminating the future extension of tenure to faculty. Elected faculty who have already been granted tenure are unaffected and will retain the rights and privileges of tenured faculty.

Trustees elected two new faculty members, both of whom were serving under presidential appointment. Scott Aniol was elected as assistant professor of church music in the School of Church Music, effective Jan. 1, 2014. Dean Sieberhagen was elected assistant professor of missions and Islamic studies in the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

During a chapel service, Oct. 16, trustees recognized Paige and Dorothy Patterson for 10 years of service at Southwestern. The decade represents a portion of their nearly 40 years of service in theological education.



James recalled hearing Patterson preach in 2010 during the dedication of the seminary's MacGorman Chapel. He told Patterson he was impressed during the sermon with "the mercy, humility, and compassion that you have in your heart, especially for those who are lost."

"That's when my spirit—even with all we went through in the '80s—really connected with your spirit."

James read an official proclamation from Texas Governor Rick Perry and another proclamation from the City of Fort Worth declaring Oct. 16, 2013, as Paige Patterson Day.

Southwestern celebrates 20-year partnership with Ark. state convention

By Michelle Tyer

Throughout its history, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has broadened its geographical reach and influence by opening extension campuses in other areas, starting with Houston in 1975, and today includes classes as far away as Germany.

But this semester the seminary celebrates the 20th anniversary of partnering with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) to bring seminary education to students at the Little Rock extension.

"We began in 1992 with the partnership between the state convention and Southwestern growing out of the desire to allow students who were already in ministry in Arkansas to begin or continue

their theological education through Southwestern Seminary," Dean of Extensions Deron Biles says.

Tim Deahl has been integrally involved in the partnership, serving as an adjunct professor for the extension, local church pastor, executive support for ABSC, and liaison between the main campus and extension. Deahl, who earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern, says most of those students are already involved in areas of ministry as opposed to preparing for ministry.

In the future, Biles and Deahl both say online education will likely increase and may impact the further growth of enrollment in a positive way for those who cannot attend class in person.

"It's a new day with online education," Biles says. "I see online education strengthening the work of our extension centers. This now becomes an opportunity for students to continue ministering where they are, and they now have new options to continue or even complete their degree and continue to serve in the place God has called them and led them.

"This is, I think, an opportunity for us to see the potential of reaching students that we might never had reached."

Biles and Deahl both look forward to the continuing partnership between Southwestern and the ABSC, as they train students to preach the Word and reach the world.

Pianos play on despite ice storm

By Michelle Tyer

Despite the icy weather that came to north Texas, Southwestern students, faculty, and others outside the Southwestern community came to see the seminary's Keyboards at Christmas concert Dec. 5.

The concert drew more than 1,000 to the seminary's MacGorman Performer Arts Center.

"It was a beautiful program from beginning to end," said Leo Day, dean of the School of Church Music.

Before the concert, Day referred to the event as "a feast for the eyes, a feast for the soul, and a feast for anyone who has any kind of musicianship within the soul or even if they have zero musicianship."

Seventeen Steinway grand pianos were fitted onto the stage to be played during the concert, which featured more than 70 pianists including special guests, faculty, students, and even preschool children.

For a second year, Master of Music student Kaitlyn Zachary played in the program and said she enjoyed it after all the preparation and work that went into it.

"It wasn't just work anymore," Zachary said of the evening. "It became an act of worship."

Day also says that the evening was not just a performance but a time touched by God.

"He blessed the event," Day said. "And at the end of the day that's all I care about, that His presence was magnified by the program."

Those in attendance were able to enjoy a wide selection of Christmas carols such as "Jingle Bells" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" to other classics such as the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah* to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" by Vince Guaraldi.

"There was something on the program for everybody," Day said.

Becky Lombard, professor of music at Truett-McConnell College in Ga., helped organize the event. In recent years, Day and Lombard participated in Keyboards events in New Orleans where they both served.

The event is part of the school's effort to become an "All-Steinway" school. This year the seminary did not have to rent any of the pianos, all of them already being found on campus. Day said that is just another sign that they are nearing their goal.

The seminary will likely continue to hold the event until they raise enough funds from the offering to reach the "All-Steinway" status. After that, they may continue the program or rotate it from year to year with a new one.



Registrar provides opportunity for advanced standing credit

By Alex Sibley

Students may now receive credit on their graduate transcripts for their undergraduate experience thanks to a new opportunity offered by Southwestern Seminary.

In the past, students with experience in such classes as Greek, Hebrew, and Old and New Testament could substitute advanced classes instead of repeating these basic courses. But with this new opportunity, students may take exams

to prove their proficiency in a given subject and earn course credit.

Exams exist for all the courses mentioned above, as well as Church History and Baptist Heritage, though no more than 1/4 of a degree may be completed through taking exams. Southwestern faculty created the exams, which are basically the equivalent of final exams.

The exams are free and offered in a timed

format. No study guides are available, and students must have completed the courses at the undergraduate level with an A or B to qualify for taking the exams. Also, students have only one opportunity to take each exam. A grade of 75 percent is the cutoff score for earning credit.

Students interested in taking an exam should contact the registrar's office and complete the request form. All exams are currently available.



Businessmen view marketplace as mission field

Neal Johnson, chair of the Business and Management department of Hope International University in Fullerton, Calif., addressed students, professors, missionaries, and businessmen at Southwestern's Kingdom Professionals Conference, hosted by the Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement, Nov. 1-2, encouraging them not to choose between missions and business but to do both, reaching people for Christ in the marketplace.



Southwestern experiences highest enrollment in five years

This fall, Southwestern Seminary reported the largest student body enrollment in the past five years, with a total enrollment of 3,259 for the 2012-13 academic year. In addition, the fall 2013 enrollment represents an increase of 5.8 percent over last fall.



International Church Planting Week focuses on Central Asia

Tents lined the seminary lawn Sept. 6 as the International Church Planting Week kicked off with a campout for world missions. ICP Week is an annual emphasis week designed to encourage students to consider the call to international missions and to provide information on how they can be involved.



Handel's 'Messiah' continues to draw members of community

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Master Chorale and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra proclaimed Christ's birth through this year's performance of Handel's *Messiah* on November 5. Leo Day, dean of the School of Church Music, sang the tenor part of *Messiah* in his first semester at Southwestern.



High attendance makes Chili Cook-off a success

Thirty-six contestants participated in third annual Southwestern Chili Cook-off, Nov. 8, sponsored by Southwestern's Student Life department. Dozens of students, faculty, and staff attended. Within 40 minutes, attendees had completely exhausted the supply of chili. Fortunately, they could still indulge in free hot dogs, bounce houses, and hay rides.



Graduates commissioned for service

Southwestern Seminary's fall commencement service, Dec. 13, saw more than 150 students receive degrees for undergraduate, master's, and doctoral studies. The ceremony, which took place in MacGorman Chapel, also included the singing of hymns and a commission offered by Southwestern President Paige Patterson.

To read expanded versions of these and more articles, visit swbts.edu/campusnews.

Media Resources Online: swbts.edu/resources.

Billy Graham's "My Hope America" reaches football team

By Alex Sibley

Having won only one game in three years, the Thomas Jefferson Patriots needed hope.

Luis Lama, a Southwestern alumnus who now serves as associate minister of Prestonwood En Español, spent 10 weeks this season as this Dallas high school football team's chaplain. For the first nine chapel services, Lama went through the book of John to teach the team about Jesus in the context of athletics and what a real man looks like. Knowing that he wanted to end the chapel series with an invitation, Lama attained permission from the team's coaches to host an off-campus breakfast for the final chapel service, Nov. 9, during which Lama showed Billy Graham's "My Hope America" video. The result, Lama says, was a miracle.

"They were captivated," Lama says. "They were focused. And at the end of the video, I got up and gave a testimony and I prayed and gave an invitation. And I believe that was the best possible way that we could end the chapel series with these students, because 15 students [and one coach] came to Christ."

Born in Lima, Peru, Lama's early life did not indicate such a fruitful future in ministry. His family attended Pentecostal house churches in Lama's early childhood, and later, the whole family was baptized into the Mormon church.

"I was a faithful follower along with my family," Lama says, "until my senior year of high school. Being a part of religion didn't compare to the other things the world had to offer. The pursuit of being entertained became my quest: money, fashion, pleasure, the night life. 'Give me fun, just don't talk about Jesus and ruin the mood' was the way I looked at things."

This life of sin persisted until God intervened. Lama, 26, had a major arrhythmia attack. During the ER doctors' initial attempts to treat him, he flatlined.

"Never had death become a probability until it was a reality," Lama says. "I spent the following weeks seeking the help of cardiologists to help me with my physical heart, but also in prayer to help my spiritual heart. I started attending Prestonwood a few months later."

This ultimately led to Lama's salvation.

"The moment of decision came at a men's conference," he recalls. "On March 31, 2007, my knee caps were shaking as I stood up and received Christ by faith as Lord and Savior. The only thing I remember about the message was that it made me take an honest assessment of myself ... I was a



Photos courtesy of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

sinner in need of forgiveness. The cross finally made sense to me. It was an overwhelming rush of love that covered me."

Following this, Lama pursued God through discipleship classes, service opportunities, and missions. While on a five-month stay in Argentina, Lama sensed the call to ministry. Returning to the country in January 2009, Prestonwood offered him a student ministry internship. He was admitted into Southwestern that same year, graduating with a Master's in Missiology in December 2011. He now serves on staff at Prestonwood En Español, working specifically with students. This position afforded Lama the opportunity to work with students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas.

This past summer, Prestonwood decided to participate in Billy Graham's "My Hope America" outreach program, which comprises video testimonials with an evangelistic focus. Because Prestonwood En Español is the largest Spanish-speaking congregation involved with the program, the Billy Graham Association filmed a video about Lama's fruitful experience with the football team, available on billygraham.org/video/varsity-football-victory.



Since that day, Lama has begun discipling students with the follow-up lessons provided by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He also planned, along with the coaches, a community service project for December, which was followed by the team's attending a church service together, during which those students who gave their lives to Christ were baptized.

"The people feeling the win are the students from my student ministry," Lama says. "They have been really supportive through prayers, fundraising, and attending the games. I feel that the students have had a front-row seat to the workings of the Spirit of God."

"It is possible to meet new people, invest in them, share God's message, and invite them to respond."

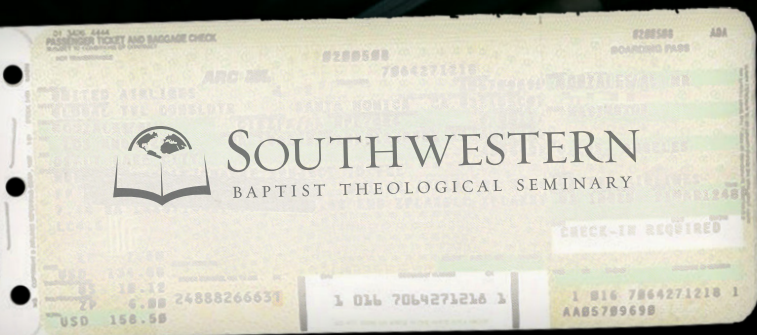
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“One of the reasons I’m excited to be here tonight and so grateful for Dr. [Paige] Patterson’s vision for the College at Southwestern from the beginning is because he still believes that training students not in just what to think but how to think is the greatest kind of education that a student will ever have.”

~ MIKE HUCKABEE

Huckabee urges scholarship support for the College at Southwestern

By Keith Collier

Former Arkansas Governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee spoke to a crowded banquet room at Southwestern, Oct. 4, asking them to invest in the future of America by supporting the College at Southwestern’s Legacy Scholarship.

“The reason that the College at Southwestern is an incredibly important part of America’s future is because there just aren’t too many places in all of this country that are truly equipping young people beyond the ‘what’ and deep into the ‘why,’” said Huckabee, host of the hit show “Huckabee” on Fox News.

“One of the reasons I’m excited to be here tonight and so grateful for Dr. [Paige] Patterson’s vision for the College at Southwestern from the beginning is because he still believes that training students not in just what to think but how to think is the greatest kind of education that a student will ever have.”

Huckabee, who received the distinguished alumnus award from Southwestern in 2012, explained that America needs institutions that do not treat students as computer hard drives into which they can simply pour information but rather treat them like

computer processors, “who take the data and actually process it and do something significant with it.”

“The College at Southwestern is not training students to be data drives but rather to be processors, to take the greatest truth of the world of all time, ... the gospel of Jesus Christ, to translate it and then transmit it. That is a powerful tool in our world today.”

Huckabee lamented that the reason the world is in such a mess is because people disregard God’s way and merely “make it up as they go.”

“An education changes that but not just any education. It has to be an education that grounds us in the Word of God,” Huckabee said.

“Imagine a student coming out of the College at Southwestern not only knowing what the truth is but being able to defend it, and most importantly, being able to lovingly share it.

“This campus is still dedicated to the belief that the Bible is the Word of the living God—inerrant, infallible, trustworthy—with no apologies. And this campus is still dedicated to putting the fire of missions and evangelism into every student who walks onto these grounds.”

During his introduction, Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson surprised Huckabee with a gift from his time as a student at Southwestern. Patterson presented Huckabee with a graded paper, in which he received a 98, on the topic of Jesus and personal evangelism.

Prior to Huckabee’s presentation, Sarah Jo Thomas, a senior in the College at Southwestern, shared how she left a fully scholarshiped nursing program to prepare for ministry at Southwestern.

“When I see someone like Sarah Jo, who comes and so eloquently is able to say her convictions to serve God,” Huckabee said, “I’m reminded that God must still be somewhat hopeful about our future or else He wouldn’t be calling people that young to be out there serving.

“And wouldn’t it be magnificent if there were not only people being called but that there was a school where they could be thoroughly equipped and prepared for what God has called them to do? ... Preparing people for the kind of life that will change the world is what the College at Southwestern is committed to doing.”

New book aims to help teenagers grow up

By Alex Sibley

Richard Ross' new book, *Accelerate: Parenting Teenagers Toward Adulthood*, teaches parents how to keep their 25-year-olds from aimlessly living in their basement. Below is an interview with the author on his motivation and hopes for the book.

Q: Why should people read this book?

A: If you just go back 150 years, parents mostly used approaches that resulted in young adults with a vocational focus, strong work ethic, and confidence regarding marriage and child rearing. Over time, parents shifted their parenting approaches, and now we have young adults who are stuck and not moving forward in their lives. This book brings parents back to those principles that we know are related to moving teenagers to adulthood and related to giving teenagers a lifetime faith.

Q: Who do you hope will read this book?

A: I hope parents of teenagers and preteens will read this book. I also hope church leaders, who want to champion parents moving in new directions, will read it as well.

Q: How can churches use this book to equip parents?

A: Parents who read and reflect on the book will think new thoughts, but I see even greater impact when groups of parents move through the book together. They can reinforce new thinking about parenting, and they can support each other as they make changes at home.

Q: Is there anything else you would like us to know?

A: If you ask 25-year-olds if they are adults, over half [will] answer that they are not. They're not teenagers, and they do not see themselves as adults. Instead, they are living in a Never-Never Land without an identity and without a purpose that moves them forward.

Just over 40 percent of college graduates move back home with their parents. Economic reasons are not the central issue. Many recent graduates say they are not ready for independent, adult living.

The book challenges families to invest around 30 minutes, twice a week, preparing teenagers for adulthood. In addition to family worship and prayer, we challenge parents to cover topics as diverse as



creating and living within a family budget, civic responsibilities, understanding insurance, biblical principles of marriage, biblical principles of parenting, the care of babies, car maintenance, etc. The newest brain research demonstrates that real-world, adult-like experiences accelerate the development of the prefrontal cortex—the thinking and controlling center of the teenage mind. Without those experiences, the mind still works in “adolescent” ways through the mid-20s.

What if teenagers spent 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday at work or in apprenticeship or mentoring activities? What if some teenagers explored vocations by working for entities that reflected their interests? What if some were rewarded with modest pay and some were only rewarded by the experience gained?

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Battle for the Bible still an issue for Christian universities, seminaries

By Keith Collier

Leaders in higher education discussed growing challenges and obstacles faced by Christian universities and seminaries related to the topic of biblical inerrancy during a Nov. 19 panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Baltimore, Md.

The panel, hosted by Southwestern Seminary and moderated by Southwestern vice presidents Jason Duesing and Steven Smith, featured Cedarville University President Thomas White, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Jason Allen, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Dean of Theology Greg Wills. Panelists addressed the role of biblical inerrancy in their own institutions as well as trends in higher education they see that call for courageous leadership in the face of opposition.

Allen noted that the president of the institution is the “lynchpin” in preserving an institution’s adherence to doctrinal convictions.

“It is my job to enforce the doctrinal standard,” White said. “I’m thoroughly convinced that most institutions drift toward (theological) liberalism, or at least start that drift, under presidents that are not moderate or liberal in nature. They would call themselves conservatives, but they’re just not ‘minding the store.’”

Panelists said one of the growing issues for Christian colleges and universities is homosexuality.

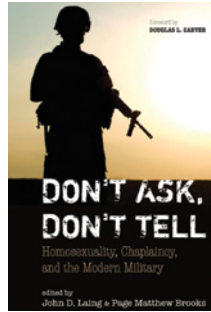
“For Christian colleges, the issue of sexuality is the driving issue,” Allen said. “Most Baptist colleges and most Christian colleges, ostensibly self-recognize that way, are seeking their own ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy. They’re not speaking to it, and they’re trying to please different constituencies with divergent view.”

When asked about how such strong stances on biblical inerrancy affects the idea of academic freedom in higher education, panelists said true academic freedom is a false notion.

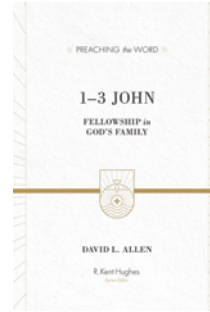
“It’s not academic freedom in the way it’s advertised,” Wills added. “Academic freedom, as it has developed in the American university system, is one that was designed deliberately for the toleration of leftward views on the faculty of all sorts. ... Don’t buy the advertisement that it’s some kind of neutral freedom.”



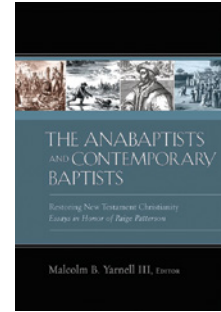
Accelerate: Parenting Teenagers Toward Adulthood
Richard Ross (author)



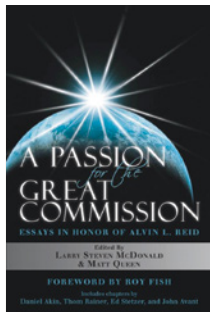
Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Homosexuality, Chaplaincy, and the Modern Military
John D. Laing (co-author)



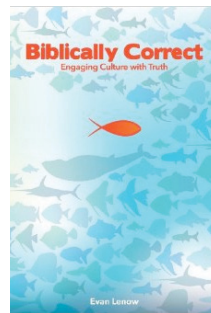
1-3 John: Fellowship in God's Family
David L. Allen (author)



The Anabaptists and Contemporary Baptists: Restoring New Testament Christianity
Malcolm B. Yarnell III (editor)



A Passion for the Great Commission: Essays in Honor of Alvin L. Reid
Matt Queen (co-author)



Biblically Correct: Engaging the Culture with Truth
Evan Lenow (author)



Christians and the Color Line: Race and Religion after Divided by Faith
Miles Mullin, II (contributor)

To view other publications from our faculty, visit swbts.edu/facultypubs

B&H presents Paige Patterson with Anabaptist book in his honor

By Keith Collier

B&H Academic Vice President Jim Baird presented Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson with a copy of the recently published book, titled *The Anabaptists and Contemporary Baptists, Restoring New Testament Christianity: Essays in Honor of Paige Patterson*, during a seminary chapel service, Oct. 15.

“Obviously, Dr. Patterson, this book is to honor you for the work that you’ve done with the Anabaptists and all the insights you have brought,” Baird said. “But I want to tell you that it is also for your service to our Lord and to His church, and it is to thank you for having the courage and

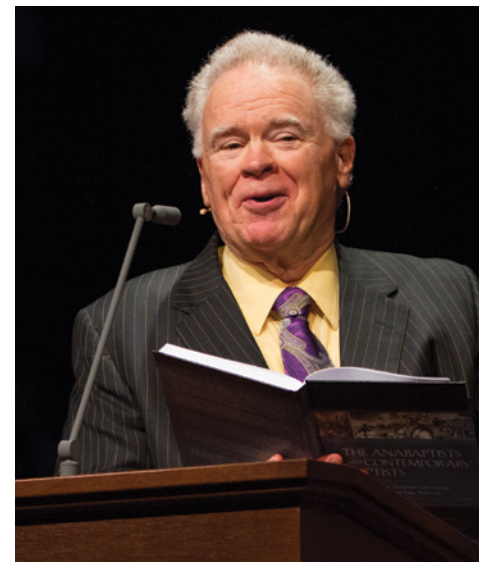
character to lead sometimes when others would not.”

The volume is largely composed of essays presented at Southwestern’s conference on Anabaptists in January 2012, with many of the authors being current or former doctoral students under Patterson’s mentoring.

Unique to the book is a section with photos taken from a spring 2012 Anabaptist study tour through Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic, which was led by Patterson and Malcolm Yarnell, professor of systematic theology and director of the Center for Theological Research at Southwestern as well as editor of the book.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., contributed a preface for the book, and Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., wrote the introduction.

Some of the more noted contributors include Saddleback Church pastor Rick Warren, Anabaptist scholar Abraham Friesen, Truett-McConnell College president Emir Caner, Cedarville University president Thomas White, Southwestern Seminary vice president Jason Duesing, and Yarnell. Additionally, an essay by Patterson himself was included.



THEOLOGICAL MATTERS

TheologicalMatters.com provides a range of helpful articles written by Southwestern faculty addressing topics such as preaching, ethics, apologetics, current events, church history, marriage, family, ministry, and more. Below, you'll find excerpts from some of our most popular articles. Visit the blog to read the full articles and share them with friends, family, and church members.



The Strange Value of the Internet Bible

By Paige Patterson | President

As everyone who knows me well is aware, I have often not been a fan of the Internet. However, the Internet is very much like atomic energy. Used properly, there are great blessings. Used in a less than desirable fashion, it is accompanied by great sadness. Recently a student asked me the question, "Do you mind if we follow the Bible reading in chapel on our iPhones (I'm sure iPads and other contrivances could be included)?" My response might have startled him a bit, but I informed him that I was not in the least offended by such. Read more at swbts.us/1aAvIph.



Text-Driven Preaching and Linguistics: What the Preacher Must Know to be a Good Exegete

By David Allen | Dean of the School of Theology

The painstaking work of exegesis is the foundation for text-driven preaching. Exegesis precedes theology, and theology is derived from careful exegesis. To preach well, it is vital to understand certain basics about the nature of language and meaning. Read more at swbts.us/IOBcHq.



Spiritually Shallow Parents and the Reformation of Sunday School

By Richard Ross | Professor of Student Ministry

Those of us leading parents back into primary spiritual leadership with their children have brought a secret out of the closet. Mom and dad may not be spiritually developed enough to lead their children, even if they are active church members. Spiritually, parents cannot take children places they have not been. Read more at swbts.us/1cYwv68.



Debating Paige Patterson: 1981 Southern Baptist Inerrancy Debates with Cecil Sherman & Kenneth Chafin

By Jason G. Duesing | Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Seven-score and ten years ago this very day, Abraham Lincoln arrived in a town not far from here to dedicate the cemetery and honor the men who had fallen at the Battle of Gettysburg. In his two-and-a-half-minute address, Lincoln remarked, "Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure." Gettysburg, says historian Alan C. Guelzo, was "the greatest and most violent collision the North American continent had ever seen," and thus the testing of the nation to which Lincoln alluded was "a kind of pass/fail examination to determine once and for all whether the American founding had indeed been misbegotten." Read more at swbts.us/19hHcyq.



Wholly Bible: Why Genre Matters in Preaching

By Steven Smith | Vice President for Student Services & Communications

In this 10-part series, preaching professor Steven Smith examines how biblical genre influences text-driven preaching. Smith says, "We do not take a shape and lay it over the sermon, we actually reflect the shape that is in the text." Genres addressed include Old Testament narrative, Law, Psalms, wisdom literature, prophecy, Gospel narratives, parables, and Revelation. Access the series at swbts.us/1gF9Crc.



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1970

Ludwig Otto (MDiv 1978, DMin 1980) received the 2014 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award (NISOD)

1960

Milton I. Redeker (MRE 1964) to University Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, as director of senior adult and men's ministries

1970

Larry T. Angel (MRE 1978) to Candlelight Christian Fellowship, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as volunteer minister of senior adults, and to Highgear International Ministries, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as president

1980

Raymond E. "Gene" Wood, Jr. (MDiv 1982) to Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., as pastor

Randal A. Bayne (MM 1989) to Trevecca University, Nashville, Tenn., as executive director of National Praise & Worship Institute

K. Lyn Holly (MDiv 1989) to Cannon Baptist Church, Van Alstyne, Texas

Myron E. "Gene" Roberts, Jr. (MM 1989) to Hillcrest Baptist Church, LaFollette, Tenn., as pastor, and to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky., as adjunct music professor

Memorials

Charles D. Risk
Mary Elizabeth Stone Morris
Joan Stine

1940

Robert M. "Bob" Lawrence (BSM 1948, MRE 1948)
Vivian F. Dutton (MRE 1949)

1950

Victor K. Cooper, Sr. (MRE 1956)
Hilliard K. Berrey, Jr. (BRE 1958, MRE 1958)
B. Clinton Watson, Jr. (BDiv 1956, MDiv 1975)
H.K. Neely, Jr. (BD 1958, ThD 1963)
V. Ralph Knepper (EXRE 1959)

1960

Earl I. Pfeil (BRE 1962)
Eldon J. Pritchard (DipTH 1964)

1970

Sealy B. Smith (MDiv 1970)
Russell C. Cawthon, Jr. (MRE 1973)
Charles O. Price (MDiv 1973, DMin 1976)

1980

David A. Massey (MDiv 1983)
C. Reed Harris (MAComm 1989)

Missionary Appointments

Since September, 10 missionaries with ties to Southwestern were appointed by the IMB to serve in locations around the world.

Keep in Touch

We love to hear from Southwesterners from all over the world. If you have recently changed ministry positions or celebrated a retirement, anniversary, or birth, we would love to hear about it. Please contact us at:

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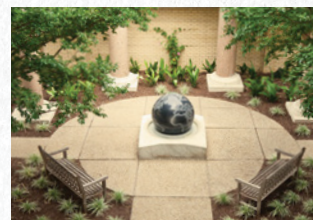
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The Shepherd in the City

As I walked up the steps of the Central Baptist Church in NYC, it's hard to describe how excited I was. I had always dreamt of this day: my first opportunity to preach in an African-American congregation.

The historic building looked as old as it was; but it also felt like a bubbling child ready to tell a thousand stories if just given the chance. The brick and masonry stone formed an edifice that could not be ignored at its 100+ year post on the Upper West Side. Two blocks off Central Park, the environment around the church has transitioned to a high-rent area providing a fluid haven for young families—many Jewish—working and living in the city.

Amid the bustle of the city are some amazing churches. Not unlike a rural church in Texas, they are pastored by faithful shepherds who want to lead their congregations well. After leading an expository preaching workshop offered to these local pastors on Saturday, I was thrilled to preach on Sunday.

The lighting in the sanctuary, novel in its day, was dim compared to modern convention. And with no central air on this August day, the sanctuary was cooled by two large, mounted fans producing a baritone hum that filled the sanctuary and resonated off the brick walls. When the service would grow silent, you could hear them rumble, recirculating the warm air around the room.

Walking into this silence and onto the platform, I tried to pretend I wasn't thinking it, but I was. I was wondering if this was going to be like the set of a made-for-TV movie. You know, being shouted down while I preached, perhaps a Hammond B3 organ hitting the good points. That I thought it makes me naïve. Why I thought it makes me ashamed. You see, the assumed difference in worship styles, somewhere subtly in my thinking, translated into a portended difference in my mind. And this, this lack of difference, is what struck me. So this is where I preached; I preached in the absence of difference.

Seated before me were executives, young professionals, teachers, widows; some trying to figure out their next step, some not sure if they want to be broken before God, some coming on Sunday to genuinely celebrate their resurrection from death to life. Just people. Strip away the shiny veneer of city lights, and you realize that all NYC really has is just people. That's about it. It reminds me of a similar experience preaching in another major city.

Several years ago, I preached at a church in downtown Manila, Philippines. The congregation was an aggregate of rich and poor; a swath of social classes. The city of Manila has "officially" 2 million people (no one knows the real number) in a city less than 14 square miles. It's dense.

The pastor of the church told me that the greatest asset the Philippines had to offer the world was its people, referring to the roughly 30 percent of the citizens of the country that are OSW (overseas workers). Just people. It reminded me of not only why we do what we do but also how we do it. Because there are people in the city, we send people to the cities. That's where the people are, so that's where we are.

Some will argue that Jesus preferred the cities. I guess a case could be made for it. However, what Jesus preferred was not geography but people. He did not care if you were poor, and he did not discriminate against the rich. He told them all the same truth wherever He went; and He went where the people were. This is the opposite of the world. Cities excite people because they represent commerce, leisure, fashion, or political identity. Yet, Jesus wept over the city because He saw people with no spiritual leadership, no Shepherd in the city (Matt. 9:36).

This is why it thrills me to read the stories of Southwestern in the city. Because when our graduates see a city, they see people; and by God's grace they provide needed spiritual leadership. This is what thrills me about those who send their children and ministers to Southwestern. For every new student, there is a potential shepherd in



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the city. They come here to go there. East Coast, West Coast, or a city thousands of miles from here—the cities represent people. And because He was in the city, so are we; in these places that appear to have everything but really have nothing but people, people who need a Shepherd.

Steven Smith serves as vice president for student services and communications at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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