

SPRING 2014

SouthwesternNews

A Publication of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

C. CASH
U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY



IN
JESUS'
NAME

*FROM THE MILITARY TO THE MARKETPLACE,
CHAPLAINS CARRY JESUS' NAME TO EVERY
SECTOR OF LIFE. >>>>>>>>>*



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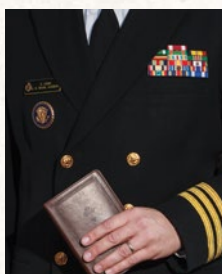
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Commander Carey Cash, deputy command chaplain for the U.S. Naval Academy, in his Service Dress Blue, holding a Bible. (Photo by Matthew Miller/SWBTS)

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Graduation
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sbcpc.net

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Noon
Baltimore Convention Center
Ballroom 1 on Level 400
Tickets: \$20
swbts.edu/sbclunch

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Summer Music Camp
swbts.edu/musiccamp

JUNE 23-JULY 18

Gezer Excavation Project
telgezer.com

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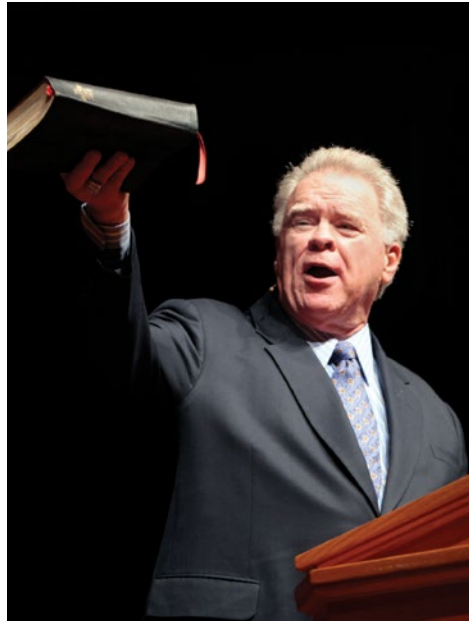
The Many Hats of Chaplaincy

Dear Southwesterners:

Based upon my own experience from a journey into “no man’s land” in Beirut, Lebanon, on the worst day of one of its wars, I conclude that every human ought to have to endure this one time. Looking at the injuries exposed to the general public on “wounded hero” advertisements should be enough to convince any thinking person that war is never a good thing. While some of us believe that there is a just war, we also believe that war should be rare. Unfortunately, we have been told by our Lord that until the end comes, there will be wars and rumors of wars; so we live with the tragic conditions of war and its aftermath.

One of the few good things about war is the outstanding record of Southern Baptist chaplains. When the bullets begin to fly, our Baptist chaplains have proved repeatedly that they are unafraid to function in harm’s way. They have been called by God to lay their very lives on the line in behalf of not only our troops but also even the enemy when occasion arises. In this magazine you will read the stories of Jared Vineyard and Carey Cash, remarkable examples chosen out of hundreds who have been willing to do whatever is necessary to take the story of Christ and His redemption and healing to the place where day by day men are placed at highest risk.

However, chaplaincy has proven applicable to vistas far beyond the military. Gil



Stricklin became the founder and CEO of Marketplace Ministries, which assigns chaplains to the industrial and business world, beginning in America and now reaching to international locations. Although most of us have had no vision to imagine that CEOs of multiplied hundreds of companies would not only welcome such a chaplaincy but also seek out Gil Stricklin, that is exactly what happened. Gil Stricklin saw it coming and prepared for this amazing development. The story of the rapid expansion of Marketplace Ministries and what these chaplains do to preserve spiritual wellbeing in the marketplace is an astonishing story. Don’t miss this one.

Additionally, Ladislao Robinson brings the example of hospital chaplaincy, a difficult area in this day, but an

area of stupendous need; and Robinson does it well.

Sports chaplaincies abound now, and we advise all of our future pastors to find a local athletic team for which they can become chaplains. Caleb Higgins and Alex Ennes exhibit chaplaincies with the ARCA racing world and the Cleveland Indians baseball franchise.

Since chaplaincy has extended to other areas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary needs its own chaplain to assist the president and the vice president for student services in caring for the needs of more than 3,000 students and their families. Chaplain Dean Nichols carries out that work admirably and serves at the same time as the chaplain for the Fort Worth Police Department. Meanwhile, John Babler of our counseling faculty serves admirably as chaplain for fire and rescue in Texas and was prominent in the West, Texas disaster relief. His story is here, too.

Few people think of seminary training as a tool for producing chaplains, but read this issue and rejoice in your heart over the many ways Southwestern Seminary is finding hurt and bringing healing throughout the world.

Until He Comes,

Paige Patterson

FROM THE DESERT TO THE YARD

Navy Chaplain Engages in Spiritual Warfare

Story by **Keith Collier**

Photos by **Matthew Miller**

C. CASH
U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY



A

fter 40 days and 40 nights in the Kuwaiti desert, the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment crossed the line of departure into harm's way in Iraq on March 20, 2003—the start of what would become known as Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We had the first man killed in action in the whole war in our unit and fought what many believe is the most decisive battle in the fall of Baghdad,” says Carey Cash, a Navy chaplain assigned to the regiment.

Yet, in the midst of this physical war, a spiritual battle for the lives of these men was already underway as God brought revival to the unit. In the battalion of 1,000 men, Cash says, “about one out of four had a profound spiritual awakening.”

At the beginning of the deployment, Cash asked the men, “Who’s thinking about baptism and would like to explore what it means to follow Christ? Join me for a 12-week study.”

Six of the 12 weeks occurred in the Kuwaiti desert. During those 40 days and nights, Cash conducted classes and counseled daily with Marines as they wrestled with the claims of Christ on their lives. Just before crossing into combat, they baptized 60 Marines as new Christians. Several others were baptized while in combat, including one inside Saddam Hussein’s

palace on Palm Sunday.

In all, more than 250 men either made a profession of faith or rededicated their lives to Christ. In addition to those baptized during the deployment, many more were baptized in their churches upon returning to the States.

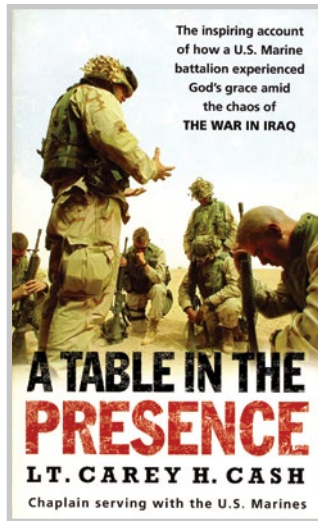
The experience served as one of many points along the way where Cash felt an affirmation of God’s calling on His life. His 2003 book *A Table in the Presence* chronicles the story of these spiritual victories.

However, a medical crisis nearly prevented him from ever serving in the military.

Cash grew up in a military family, his father a career Naval officer and fighter pilot who served as a commanding officer at the prestigious Top Gun flight school. For Cash, military blood always coursed through his veins, but football was his passion early on.

Cash received a football scholarship as an offensive lineman to The Citadel, a military college in South Carolina, but during his final season, doctors found an inoperable tumor at the base of his brain stem.

“The rug was completely ripped out from under my wife and me,” Cash recalls. “I’d always identified myself physically, and the very thing where I’d always found my identity was gone. But it was during that season of incredible struggle that I began to hear God’s call to ministry.



“All this is happening at the same time: I’ve got this issue going on with my head, this deep sense of calling to ministry that I’m feeling certain about, and out of left field comes this love for the military that’s never really left me as well.”



Commander Carey Cash preaches during a Sunday evening contemporary worship service at the Naval Academy.

“Southwestern is the convergence of God’s truth and a desire to share that with others.”

Unsure how this all fit together, Cash sought the wise counsel of his father-in-law, who served as Chaplain of the Marine Corps. As soon as his father-in-law mentioned chaplaincy, Cash says, “It was like the light bulb went on.”

“It was absolutely crystal clear that this is where God wanted me, but the only mitigating problem was that I had a tumor. It’s hard to get a commission when you potentially have a catastrophic illness.”

As expected, the Navy denied Cash’s application for active duty chaplaincy due to the tumor. By this time, however, Cash had already enrolled in classes at Southwestern Seminary.

Yet, despite having symptoms related to the tumor for more than a year and a half, Cash says, “The week I entered seminary, August of 1994, the symptoms stopped forever. I’ve never had another symptom.”

Cash loved seminary and credits Southwestern with giving him a love for the Bible and the ability to combine a biblical worldview with a missionary heart.

“Southwestern is the convergence of God’s truth and a desire to share that with others,” Cash says.

“I like ethics, and I love evangelism, but if you don’t have the Bible at the bottom of that, infusing that, you’re a do-gooder but people aren’t coming to the Lord. Southwestern was such a special, sweet time in my life and my wife’s life of spiritual growth, our understanding of God’s Word, and a love for evangelism.”

Still convinced of God’s call to chaplaincy, Cash sought a medical waiver from one of the top neurosurgeons in the country. Providentially, the doctor was a Christian, and after a year of monitoring the tumor with no significant growth or changes, he signed Cash’s medical waiver.

A few months later, Cash received an approval letter from the Navy.

“I still have the tumor,” Cash says. “I really do believe God allowed that just so He could say, ‘Let me show you who I am and what I can do.’ And in many ways, it pronounced my calling to the chaplaincy.”

Cash graduated from Southwestern in 1998, served a few years as a pastor, and started Navy chaplain training in August 2001, one month before two planes struck the World Trade Center in New York City. As he watched the towers fall on television, he knew he would be deployed. He was eventually assigned to the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment and began training.

During this time, Cash learned the essence of a being a good chaplain.

“The bottom line is that you don’t have to be a great preacher, you don’t have to be a skilled counselor,” Cash says, “but if you will love the men and spend time with them, you’re in.”

Every Friday before the unit deployed to Iraq, Cash would go on a hike with a company even though he was not required to do so.



Of the 19,000 Naval Academy applicants for Fall 2014, only 1,100 will be admitted. Admissions officers select students based on academics, physical fitness, leadership experience, and community engagement. Graduates earn Bachelor of Science degrees, mostly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.



“There’s nowhere in the world that I know of where you just have such an opportunity to carry out a ministry of presence,” Cash says. “Love the men and suffer with them, and you’re in. The many months of time in the states before we deployed to war was a time of preparation, building and seasoning these relationships, so when we got into combat all these things bore fruit.”

Following his deployment to Iraq, Cash served on a guided missile cruiser in the Arabian Gulf and then conducted retreats and taught ethics at a base in Italy. Near the end of his assignment in Italy, his superiors encouraged him to submit an application for the chaplaincy post at Camp David, a facility that serves as the President’s retreat center.

Cash received the appointment and arrived at Camp David in December 2008, one month before President Obama was sworn into office. He served at the post for two and a half years, ministering to the needs of the Camp David staff as well as the President and visitors.

“It was an absolute privilege to serve the people that worked there and the administration,” Cash says.

“It’s one of those rare opportunities where you feel like God’s placed you there, so I wanted to be a good steward. It was a great opportunity—in a very small but maybe significant way—to be a voice.

“Take away all the veneer and the trappings, we are all people who need the Lord. So, in some ways, it helped humanize for me the political side of life. A lot of times, we see people on the news or CNN, whoever they are, they’re so ensconced in the political identity that we just sort of see them as an object and not as a person. Being at Camp David helped me realize that no matter who a person is, whether they occupy 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. or a house in Bakersfield, Calif., there’s a spiritual need there, there’s a need for there to be a loving voice in those people’s lives. It doesn’t mean that the prophetic side isn’t important; it is, but you walk that edge prayerfully and thoughtfully.”

Following his time at Camp David, Cash was deployed to Afghanistan for nine months before receiving his current assignment as Deputy Command Chaplain of the U.S. Naval Academy (or “The Yard,” as it is sometimes called), where he serves alongside and supervises other chaplains. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Cash counsels students, faculty, and staff; performs weddings and funerals; preaches regularly in the main Protestant service and the Sunday night contemporary service; teaches discipleship and seeker classes; and teaches on the academy’s ethics faculty.

“What’s such an honor here is that you get to preach to the soul of the Navy,” Cash says.

“As the military changes its culture, I think chaplains have the opportunity to be prophetic voices to the institution. Here is a great opportunity for that because if there’s anywhere in the Navy that’s a symbol of the institution, it’s the Naval Academy. This is the training ground for our future leaders.”

One of Cash’s favorite times of ministry at the academy rolls around every June—Plebe Summer.

“Plebe Summer is the first six weeks for all the new freshman class. It’s very tough for them—physically arduous, mentally arduous. They’re 18- or 19-year-olds arriving on campus, heads are shaved, everything’s taken away from you. You’re basically not a person like you were in civilian life; you’re a number, you’re a Plebe.

“As a chaplain, you have a very important role to play. [Most] Plebes have never met a chaplain. It’s really an incredible window of opportunity over those six weeks to build relationships with them and in many ways open the door to the Gospel. There will be Plebes who come to church who have never darkened the door of a church until that summer.”

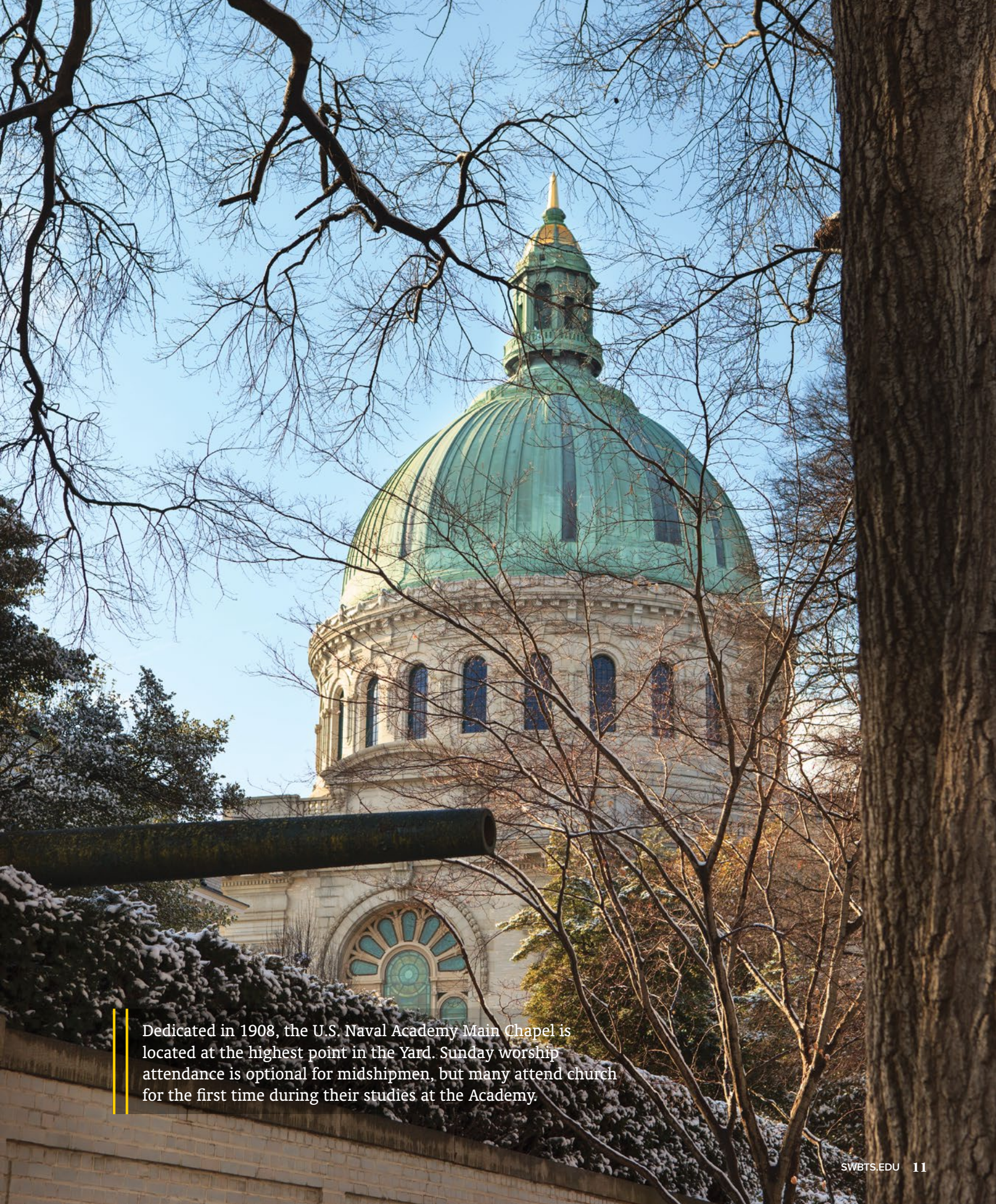
During Plebe Summer, chaplains jump into the fray, arriving at the athletic fields every morning at 0545 to participate in physical fitness alongside the freshmen.

“We’re all wearing red shirts with ‘Chaplain’ on the back, so it’s a great hands-on ministry,” Cash says. “We’re sweating with them, singing with them when they run.

“We do a lot of counseling with kids whose lives are being ripped out from under them because their grades are low or they’ve never failed before. It’s a great opportunity for many to meet Jesus.”

After more than a decade in the military, with many significant places of service, Cash remains optimistic about the future of military chaplaincy.

“The reason I think chaplaincy is so exciting is because we’re still in that wonderful tension where we have an answer and there is a need,” Cash says, adding with a smile, “God’s still working in the military.” **§**



Dedicated in 1908, the U.S. Naval Academy Main Chapel is located at the highest point in the Yard. Sunday worship attendance is optional for midshipmen, but many attend church for the first time during their studies at the Academy.

FOLLOWING IN DANIEL'S FOOTSTEPS

Story by **Alex Sibley** Photos by **Matthew Miller**



A PROVIDENTIAL LIGHT IN DARKNESS

W

hen searching through Scripture for a biblical character most like a chaplain, Captain Jared Vineyard turns to Daniel.

Taken to Babylon in the first wave of exile, the prophet Daniel was trained for government service, served as an advisor to leaders, and was a wise man in whom others confided. Also, as a young man, he witnessed military conflict in the siege of Jerusalem. Ultimately, though, Daniel represented the Lord and was placed in his position to bring glory to God.

“He was a light in a secular system who had been providentially placed for the times in which he lived,” says Vineyard. “I believe that chaplains fit this bill. We are men and women ‘in the system,’ groomed for government work, advisors to leaders, ‘wise men’ of counsel in whom others confide, but most of all, we are representatives of God.”

Raised on stories of his grandfathers’ World War II experiences, Vineyard grew up with a passion for the military, specifically the Army. This passion led him to attend West Point Military Academy, from which he graduated in 2002. Following this, Vineyard was commissioned as a field artillery officer. During a yearlong deployment in Iraq, however, Vineyard, a Christian since age 7, began to feel “the tug” toward ministry.

“In February 2004, another believer who was serving with me asked to speak to me,” Vineyard recounts. “He said



that he felt that God wanted him to tell me that I needed to change vocations. He believed that God had told him to tell me to go into the ministry. I was astounded because this is what I had been praying about for two months.”

Vineyard wrestled with the decision, however, as he wanted to serve God in another way, particularly by going to law school. But then God orchestrated a series of events that made the call to ministry undeniable.

On April 29, 2004, one week before he was scheduled to return home, Vineyard and the other men in his unit went out on patrol as part of a routine operation, making safety checks on vehicles in areas where engineers were rebuilding.

About 10 a.m., a car loaded with 500 pounds of artillery shells, TNT, and dynamite advanced on the group, then exploded.

Vineyard describes the experience as being “surrounded by a fireball,” adding that he felt as though he had been hit with a baseball bat. (He later learned that this was actually a piece of shrapnel, the damage from which was mostly absorbed by his helmet).

The eight other men with Vineyard were all killed, but Vineyard, although within 15 feet of the car (well within the area known as the “kill radius”) survived with no lasting injuries.

Looking back, Vineyard says, “That day and all of the combat experience up to that point helped give me an insight and understanding into soldiers that I never would have had. While it is true that no one’s combat experience is exactly the same, many of the same types of emotions, fears, and frustrations are. God has used these often normal (in combat) anxieties



and experiences in my life to help bridge the gap between lost and found; darkness and light.”

Vineyard concludes, “In the whole process, God was calling me to ministry, and then God saved me in order to do ministry.”

Later that year, in what Vineyard calls a “miraculous release” from his active duty commitment, Vineyard was able to enroll in the Army’s Chaplain Candidate Program. This allowed him to begin attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in fall 2005. He graduated with a Master of Divinity in December 2008.

While at Southwestern, Vineyard served as youth pastor at First Baptist Church in Hillsboro, though he had not lost his passion for the Army and for soldiers.

During a practicum at Fort Hood

the summer before graduating from Southwestern, Vineyard listened to a wounded soldier recount his story of how he was injured in Iraq. The story was almost identical to Vineyard’s in many ways, except the ending.

“He finished his story saying that he had no hope at all,” Vineyard says, “while my story ended with an infinite amount of hope based off of my relationship with Christ. I was able to share the Gospel with him, and by the end of the day, I knew that God had called me back to the Army, this time as a chaplain.”

After completing the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course, Vineyard was commissioned as an Army chaplain in May 2009. His first assignment was at Fort Campbell, Ky., a three-year tenure

that included a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. He now serves at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo.

Elaborating on this experience, Vineyard explains, “One year you could be ministering to a soldier who is behind a 50-caliber machine gun pulling over watch on an Afghan valley (me in 2010-2011), and the next year you could be ministering to soldiers who sit behind a computer in a cubicle processing information (me, 2012-present).”

Vineyard’s goal is to be salt and light where God has placed him, which looks different in each context.

“It may look like helping marriages grow and heal through the retreats that I run,” Vineyard says. “It may look like planting a seed of truth in an ethics class that I teach.



Daniel: An Ancient Chaplain?

- ★ Many military chaplains have seen war and its effects. Daniel had seen it as a young man when Jerusalem fell.
- ★ Military chaplains are educated—that is, “qualified” for government service. Daniel had three years of training for his service in the king’s palace.
- ★ Military chaplains are “system men,” familiar with the workings of bureaucracy and advisors to leaders. Daniel, too, filled all of these roles.

Ultimately, military chaplains are men who represent the Lord and are placed in their position to bring glory to God. Daniel was a man of God, placed in his position to bring glory to Him.

As a point of reference, two men who ministered at the same time were Daniel and Ezekiel. Daniel filled the role of a chaplain—a man in the trenches of an organization to bring glory to God—while Ezekiel was more of a local pastor—a man who was in the trenches with the general population to bring glory to God.

“WE AS CHAPLAINS ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO BRING THE HOPE AND HEALING OF CHRIST TO THE PEOPLE IN OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT.”

It may look like seeing a soldier or spouse come to faith in Christ after sharing the Gospel with them. It may look like being ‘God’s ear’ and simply listening to someone tell me his story after a tragedy has occurred. This is a very diverse ministry.”

Vineyard says Southwestern prepared him for his present ministry immensely.

“Southwestern gave me a great foundation in, knowledge of, and passion for God’s Word that has allowed me to be ready for any and every situation in which God has placed me in the Army,” Vineyard says.

“This zeal for God through His Word has been a source of strength when my strength would have failed, a source of wisdom when my knowledge would not have been enough, and a source of comfort when I did not know what to say.”

Although people are generally receptive to his work, Vineyard says his ministry is not without opposition. When faced with such detraction, however, Vineyard refers back to Daniel for encouragement.

“He did all things well,” Vineyard says. “People may have disagreed with the God whom he served, but they couldn’t

disagree with the quality of the work that he did. I have tried to keep this lesson close to heart.

“Many people (believers or not) see chaplains as people who care and will take the time to talk and listen,” Vineyard concludes. “It sort of goes back to the old adage, ‘People don’t care so much about what you know, just about how much you care.’ For many people in our line of work, this statement is absolutely true.

“We as chaplains are in a unique position to bring the hope and healing of Christ to the people in our unique environment.” **§**

VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

Chaplains View
Marketplace as
Mission Field

Story by Keith Collier

Photos by Jason Davis



S

crawled out on a yellow legal pad, 14 reasons why Gil and Ann Stricklin should not venture out in faith and start Marketplace Ministries stared them in the face.

“If you’re not going to do something, you only need one reason, but I had a lot,” says Gil.

Among those reasons: they were too old—Gil was 49 at the time; they had two sons in college at Baylor University; and they did not want to start a parachurch organization. But most important for Gil: “Because I don’t think my wife wants me to do it.”

Then, on the opposite side of the page, Gil wrote one reason he believed they should do it: “The best I can interpret it, this is God’s will for our life at this time.”

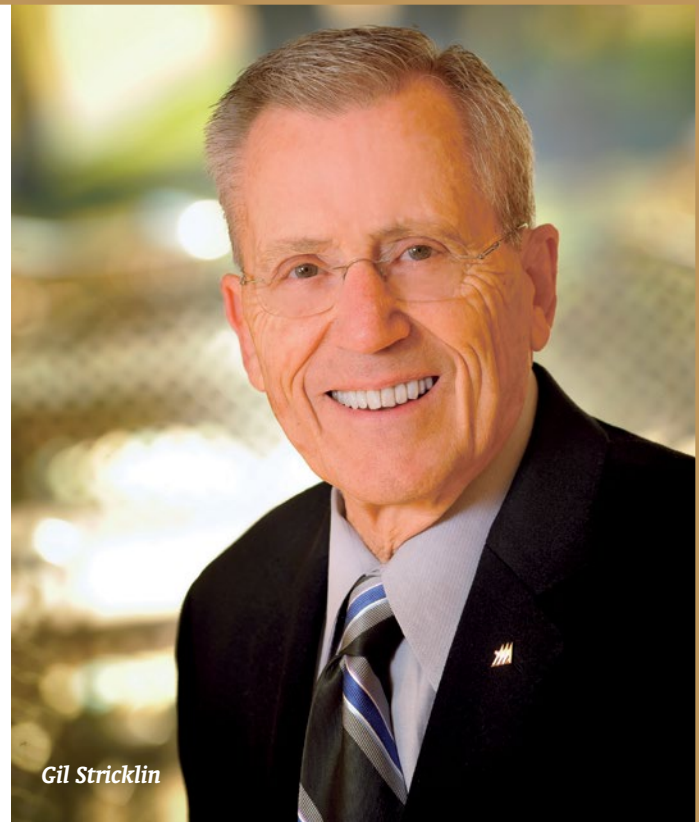
For three years, Gil and Ann had prayed about starting a ministry aimed at caring for and presenting the Gospel to employees in the secular workforce.

On this morning in 1983, as they discussed it over breakfast, Ann said, “If you can look me in the eye and tell me it’s God’s will, then I think we ought to go do it.”

“That day was the day we really decided we would do this,” Gil says.

Thirty years later, Marketplace Ministries is comprised of four non-profit organizations with more than 2,800 chaplains serving nearly 600 companies worldwide, caring for the needs of 145,000 employees and their 400,000 family members. They are thought to be the largest and oldest workplace chaplain organization in the world outside of the U.S. military.

Since the ministry’s founding, Marketplace chaplains have witnessed approximately 100,000 professions of faith and have helped Christian employees grow spiritually and get reconnected with a local church.



Gil Stricklin



(middle) Stricklin points to a framed reminder of his first office—a 1974 Datsun—and a ledger showing their first deposit of \$25 for the ministry.

(far left) Stricklin talks with John, a Williamson Printing Corporation employee, in Dallas in 1986.

“There will be twice as many people who will rejoin a church, who will become active again in a local congregation, who have been AWOL for years,” Gil says. “For every one person we lead to Christ, there will be twice that many who will rejoin a church.”

Though Gil’s age seemed like a reason against beginning the ministry, his rich experience with chaplaincy and ministry actually served as a solid

BY THE NUMBERS

MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES*

CHAPLAINS **2,816**

COMPANIES **589**

EMPLOYEES **145,510**

FAMILY
MEMBERS **404,518**

STATES **44**

CITIES **962**

FOREIGN
COUNTRIES **4**

INTERNATIONAL
CITIES **23**

SERVICE
LOCATIONS **3,104**

INDUSTRY
TYPES **23**

*STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 2014

foundation, ensuring their sustained success for three decades.

Gil graduated from Baylor University with a business degree in 1957. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force through Baylor ROTC, but in order to delay entrance for a year so he could marry Ann, his college sweetheart, he had to be pursuing a graduate degree. Although he did not feel called to full-time ministry, he wanted to study theology and preaching, so he submitted an application to Southwestern Seminary.

Initially receiving a rejection letter because he could not articulate a call to vocational ministry, Gil petitioned seminary professor H.C. Brown, who had served as interim at Gil's home church. Brown provided a meeting with seminary president J. Howard Williams, and after Gil explained why he wanted to study at Southwestern, Williams welcomed him in as a student.

After his year at Southwestern, Gil married Ann and served as an Air Force public information officer initially assigned to the Military Air Transport Service (MATS). Then, he returned to Southwestern in 1961 to complete his seminary degree, earning a Bachelor of Divinity in 1965. Following graduation from Southwestern, Gil served as a special assistant to Billy Graham for five years before joining the evangelism department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) in 1970, where he served for 14 years.

In 1973, while working for the BGCT, Stricklin also joined the Army reserves chaplain corps, where he served two tours at Arlington cemetery as well as a year of active duty during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. His passion for evangelism coupled with his military chaplaincy experience sparked the idea for marketplace chaplaincy.

In the reserves, Gil worked among military medical staffs and would receive calls between drill weekends to perform marriages and funerals.

"If these people need a chaplain," Stricklin thought, "what about everybody else out there that isn't connected with the Army?"

"It was out of that experience that we said, 'Maybe we can do this and help a lot of people.'"

In 1983, Stricklin completed additional classes at Southwestern and earned his Master of Divinity with biblical languages. He also approached several businessmen in his church with his idea for workplace chaplaincy, but every one of them turned him down and said it would not work. Then, a Christian businessman outside his church agreed to hire him to minister to 150 employees.

Stricklin resigned from his position at the BGCT and started the ministry on Jan. 1, 1984 with just \$25 and a 1974 Datsun as his office.

At his first workplace, Gil had to wade through the awkwardness of the new ministry.

"I knew what to do, but nobody gave me an opportunity to do it," Gil says.

"I would go to break time. I didn't have anything else to do, so I just stayed out there all the time for the first 3-4 months."

The company gave Stricklin an office, but no one ever stopped by, so he asked the owner to give him a job so he could be among the people. For the next few months, he packed sunglasses in a warehouse as a way to get to know the employees.

"Finally," Gil recalls, "one day a lady came to me and said, 'Are you that preacher man? My mother had a stroke last night. She's down at Baylor hospital. Would you have time to go and check on her and come back and tell me since I can't get there until tonight?' I said, 'I'll go right now.'"

Changing into a suit and tie, which he always kept in his car, Stricklin visited the woman's mother and returned to the hospital every day before she passed away. A few days later, he performed the funeral, his first as a marketplace chaplain.

MINISTRY IN MANY CONTEXTS

Marketplace chaplains serve a variety of industries, including automobile dealerships, food distributors, oil & gas operators, home builders, manufacturers, banking companies, investment firms, insurance agencies, major chain restaurants, software developers, law firms, environmental engineers, engineer-architects, railroad companies, etc.

More than 100 Marketplace Ministries chaplains graduated from Southwestern Seminary.



BERL PEDIGO (MDIV 1962)



JOSEPH BENNETT (MARE/MAMFC 1997)



LYNDA DYCK (MDIV 1998)

Around that same time, he led his first person to Christ as a marketplace chaplain—a salesman by the name of David, whose daughter had stomach cancer. After leading David to Christ, Gil made 113 hospital visits over the next 6 months and performed the funeral service for the young girl.

By the end of the first year, four companies had hired Stricklin to serve their employees. Unable to keep up with the ministry on his own, he hired additional chaplains, and with the exception of a nationwide economic recession in 1987, the ministry has grown every year since, expanding to 44 states and 23 international cities in four countries, including China, which they added in 2013. Additionally, Marketplace has around 800 female chaplains to meet the needs of the growing numbers of women in the workforce.

Marketplace chaplains minister in a variety of worksites, including blue-collar and white-collar settings as well as companies owned by Christians and non-Christians.

For non-Christian companies, Stricklin emphasizes the benefits of lower turnover rates, savings on health insurance, and a better work environment between labor and management.

“If a guy is a non-Christian, we can show him it’s good business and it’s more profitable to take care of people than it is not to take care of them. If you take care of your people, they will take care of your profit.”

Of course, with Christian businessmen, Stricklin also stresses the eternal value of marketplace chaplains.

“It’s amazing that by just building relationships with people—a trust level and a confidence level—they know why you’re there. You’re there to help them,” says Stricklin.

“You’re the DH. In baseball, it’s the Designated Hitter; for us, it’s the Designated Helper. You’re designated to be the guy that, if they’ve got a problem or need some help, they come to you. We make over 13,000 worksite visits per month, which is over 150,000 for the year, where we’re actually going to a worksite.”

Marketplace holds high standards for their chaplains, requiring every chaplain to sign a statement of faith and agree to their “Standards of Conduct.”


“We want guys that are dedicated, committed, strong in their faith, brilliant, and theologians to be in this ministry, and they live holy lives and are soul winners,” Stricklin says.

Expecting chaplains already to have pastoral skills, Stricklin says, “We teach them how to take their religious skills and move it to a non-religious environment.”

“Most churches are looking for young guys, but we’re looking for old guys. ... On the average, our [male chaplains] have 20 years of pastoral experience, and they have at least 30 years of walking with Christ. They have a track record.”

Likewise, Marketplace Ministries has a proven track record caring for men and women who might otherwise never go to church. While he was unable to clearly define a call to vocational ministry when he entered seminary, there is no doubt Gil Stricklin has found it now.

“I don’t ever want this just to be a business,” says Stricklin, who received a distinguished alumni award from Southwestern in 2010 and the L.R. Scarborough Award in 2014.

“I want us to stay on track that we’re a soul-winning agency and that we’re a church-supporting agency.” 

UNDER DIVINE INSTRUCTION

MINISTERING TO THE BROKEN AND WOUNDED

Story by Alex Sibley

Photos by Adam Covington

Jesus said that those who will inherit the Kingdom of God are they who, among other things, care for the sick. He explained, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matt. 25:40).

Ladislao Robinson, a hospital chaplain in Houston, Texas, uses this verse as a foundation for his ministry.

“I am under divine instruction, straight out of the mouth of Jesus, to visit the sick,”

Robinson says. “He expects that. Heavenly reward and recognition are promised. Visiting the least of these is a visitation to the Lord Himself.”

Born on the island of Old Providence (part of Colombia), Robinson became a Christian at age 7 and immediately knew he had been called to minister to the sick, but not as a doctor.

“People are not only body. They are also soul,” Robinson says. “When the soul hurts, no I.V. medication can fix it. It needs another kind of physician, the one who

deals with the soul: chaplains.”

After spending the first 40 years of his life in Colombia, earning multiple degrees and serving as an associate pastor, Robinson sensed that God was calling him to move overseas to pursue his goal of becoming a chaplain. So, in 1999, Robinson and his wife, Evelyn, moved to Houston. There, Robinson began Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), a requirement for chaplaincy, which comprised a yearlong residency at The Methodist Hospital in Houston. Following this, Robinson enrolled in Southwestern



“God called me to serve and meet people at their point of need and brokenness.”

Baptist Theological Seminary, graduating in 2003 with a Master of Divinity, another requirement for chaplaincy.

Now amply qualified, Robinson set out to become a chaplain. He first attempted to be a hospice chaplain but was not chosen for a position. Next he contemplated the military but was told that he was too near the age limit for entry.

Then one day, a friend informed him that Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston needed a chaplain. Believing (incorrectly, as he later learned) that it would not provide further learning opportunities for his professional growth, Robinson did not want the position. He submitted his resume out of loyalty to his friend, but he hoped the hospital would not call. When they did not, Robinson was glad.

But then Robinson’s friend contacted him again, explaining that the hospital had not called because, for whatever reason, they had not received the resume. When Robinson resubmitted it, they called immediately.

“I was not even interviewed,” Robinson says. “I was just hired. Interestingly, I am still employed there after 10 years.”

Robinson says this was God’s leading, as the position has allowed him to touch the lives of many and so impact their eternity for good.

“Whatever the reason may be that brought me there,” Robinson concludes, “people’s needs have been keeping me there. I see Jesus’ words coming alive: ‘They are like sheep without a shepherd.’ I want to step in that gap and be a Christ-shining light.”

Over the last 10 years, Robinson says he has tried to minister in such a way that patients and families, on their own initiative, request to hear the “good news of eternal salvation in Christ alone for their own benefit.”

“Because I try to embrace those opportunities—properly announcing, lovingly and audaciously, the Gospel message—there have been numerous dying patients and their grieving family members who have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. After all, this is the highest wellness anyone can experience: the blissful wellness of their soul in the kingdom of the Lord forever.”

The job does have its challenges, however.

In one instance, for example, Robinson was on call at the hospital when a 15-year-old boy who had been shot died on arriving at the Emergency Room. Robinson was present when the boy’s father was informed of his son’s



death and subsequently shared a “meaningful time with him in silence.” But when other family members arrived, the boy’s aunt screamed at Robinson, “I don’t want to hear anything from God right now.”

In all calmness, Robinson looked at her and said, “I hope you are not thinking that I am God, for certainly I am not.”

“Her aggressiveness shifted,” Robinson recalls. “After that, we all had a civilized interaction.”


In 2007, Robinson returned to Southwestern to obtain a Doctor of Ministry. He graduated in December 2013, having written his dissertation on hospital chaplaincy.

Reflecting on his experience at Southwestern, Robinson says, “Through the various seminars and all the educational experiences that I was blessed to have—whether it was preaching, leadership, chaplaincy, supervisory, conferences, or hallway dialoging—I had a sense that I was being equipped for life as well as for ministry. Southwestern has given me the tools to keep on learning the art of doing hospital chaplaincy ministry.”

In addition to being a chaplain, Robinson also serves as pastor of Iglesia Bautista Lindale, a bilingual (English/Spanish) church in Houston. He says his clinical ministry enriches his congregational ministry and vice versa.

Robinson hopes to continue doing both of these jobs for many years to come and simply strives to fulfill God’s calling to this kind of ministry.

“God called me to serve and meet people at their point of need and brokenness,” Robinson says, explaining that chaplaincy is a means of continuing “the incarnated ministry of Christ in ministering to the broken and wounded in body, soul, and spirit.”

He explains, “The sick have been visited. The grieving and bereaved loved ones have been comforted and strengthened. The frightened pre-operative patients have been given assurance and hope through prayer and support. These things that I have done are unto the Lord.” 



CHURCH PLANTER FINDS MINISTRY ON THE DIAMOND

Story by **Keith Collier**
Photos by **Adam Tarleton**

AS

winter thaws into spring, sandlots stir across the country, as the warmth of springtime signals the start of America's pastime—baseball.

For Alex Ennes, a church planter and Major League Baseball chaplain in Cleveland, Ohio, spring represents the start of a new season, as he exchanges the chilling confines of the city for the arid Arizona desert in Phoenix to take part in Cactus League Spring Training.

Now in his third season as chaplain to the Cleveland Indians, Ennes builds each year on the relationships he has developed with players, coaches, and the organization.

“The first season,” Ennes says, “I didn't know what was going on, and I was trying to figure it all out. Of course, it's like any other relationship—it takes time.”

Spring training provides the perfect environment for Ennes to reconnect and strengthen relationships as well as introduce himself to new players and their families.

“It's a long, grueling season,” Ennes says, “so this is the time when they're more relaxed and they have extra time.”

For Ennes, sports chaplaincy has been part of his ministry passions for more than a decade. While serving in ministry in Arkansas shortly after graduating from Southwestern Seminary, he had the opportunity to serve as football chaplain for Henderson State University and women's basketball chaplain for Ouachita Baptist University, which fueled his heart for sports chaplaincy.

After one early morning football chapel, Ennes says, “The offensive coordinator leaned over to me, and he said, ‘You've got a real gift for this. The guys really like you.’”

“It was just one of those moments. We've all had those moments when someone

speaks into you, and it doesn't have to be long. I'll never forget that.”

A short time later, Ennes met and married his wife Shari and moved to Cleveland, where he began serving in a church, and the thought of sports chaplaincy fell into the background.

In 2006, Alex and Shari planted Gateway Church in downtown Cleveland. With a heart for multiplying churches, Gateway planted two more churches in Cleveland in 2009 and 2011. Then, through a providential

series of events in 2011, Alex was asked if he would be interested in interviewing for the chaplain position with the Indians.

After going through the interview process with Baseball Chapel, the organization recognized by Major League Baseball to provide all team chapel leaders in professional baseball, they selected him to be the Indians' chaplain.

When Ennes asked why they selected him, they responded, “We think that you're located in downtown Cleveland, you're







"You will notice the point where you're no longer the chaplain, you're their pastor. There will come that point where you're not just giving a message. You'll know about the needs, the hurts, the breaks just like a pastor does, and then they will recognize you as their pastor. They will call for advice."

// Alex Ennes, *Cleveland Indians* baseball chaplain



almost right across the street from Progressive Field, and because of your church planting background, we think you'll learn the culture rather than just coming in here with preconceived notions about what to do."

And they were right.

"Because of what I had done with church planting," Ennes says, "I was already used to being in awkward situations. How do you carry on a conversation with a person who has no interest in what you're doing? How do you find some common ground to at least talk to them?"

"One of the biggest things I learned in church planting was to trudge through the awkwardness. When you meet someone new, you're nervous about what to say and what not to say, and you've just got to trudge through it. Realize that these guys are in a world separate from yours, so it ought to feel weird. It never feels normal to me, but it always keeps me on my toes."

As part of his responsibilities, Ennes conducts chapel services before every Sunday home game during the season. He also remains in contact with players throughout the season, encouraging them and helping them coordinate weekly Bible studies.

Additionally, Alex and his wife Shari make ministry to players' wives and families a top priority. Every season, they hand out gift bags to players' wives or girlfriends as a way to connect with and encourage them. Shari also coordinates Bible studies with players' wives and serves as an encourager and resource to them during the season.

"What Shari and I are really trying to do is take care of their family," Alex says. "The player has friends, and he knows when he's supposed to be somewhere. She's coming into a city and people she doesn't know. She's wondering whom she can trust, and that takes time. It's not an immediate relationship where someone immediately trusts you, but they know that you're the chaplain,



and you probably don't have an angle."

Justin Masterson, a starting pitcher for the Indians, says this aspect of Ennes' ministry has truly blessed his family.

"One of the biggest roles for me is that there is someone there to help with my family," says Masterson. "It's not just that you get taken care of and you have the chapel service, but especially with Alex and Shari, they do an incredible job of loving on the families too, and not just for those who come to chapel, but they'll do anything for anybody."

"Those are the things that throughout the year give comfort to a ballplayer. If we're on a road trip, there's someone there that if something happens, they can help with your family back in Cleveland."

Ennes also reaches out to new players—whether minor league call-ups or

veteran players who have joined through free agency—to help them adjust to their new surroundings.

David Murphy, who is starting his ninth year in the majors and signed a deal with the Indians in the off-season, says Alex was one of the first people to reach out to him.

"From the very beginning, Alex was helping me connect with guys on the team since I didn't know how to get hold of them," Murphy says.

"He was sending me links to help me find a place to live in Cleveland. He's been as accommodating as he possibly could. Just having the relationship with him and his family has eased the transition and helped us become more excited about what lies ahead."

Over the course of a 162-game season, playing games nearly everyday, chapel often



“The way I approach the guys in baseball is the same way I approach the people who live around me,” Ennes says. “I’m trying to figure out their culture. I think one of the big keys is that if non-chapel guys are friends with you and other guys who are non-chapel guys see that, they recognize that I’m accepted. If I’m just talking to [guys who attend chapel] all the time, then they’ll think, ‘He’s just the chapel guy.’”

In 2013, Ennes saw the need for another church plant on the west side of Cleveland, so he and his wife Shari branched out and planted Gateway River Church, which is part of the Gateway Church network he started. As he has discovered over the past few years, his role as chaplain influences his role as pastor and helps people see that he is a part of the community.

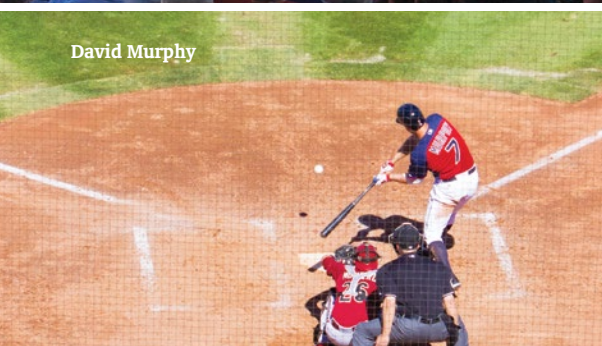
“It’s been huge not only for the credibility of our church but the credibility of all of our church plants,” Ennes says.

Gateway River Church is in the area where several players live, but Ennes is quick to let players and their families know that they are always welcome but never need to feel obligated to come to his church because he’s the chaplain.

“If you’re a true pastor,” Ennes says, “you care more about the individual than where they land.”

With a new season in view for both the church and the Indians, Ennes hopes to build on this foundation as he points players and people in his community to Jesus Christ. **S**

David Murphy



Cody Allen



becomes the players’ church.

“You will notice the point where you’re no longer the chaplain, you’re their pastor,” Ennes says. “There will come that point where you’re not just giving a message. You’ll know about the needs, the hurts, the breaks just like a pastor does, and then they will recognize you as their pastor. They will call for advice.”

As part of his ministry, Ennes often helps players put together discipleship plans for the season.

“I don’t do a one-size-fits-all,” Ennes says, noting that he tailors each plan to the individual.

“The great thing about doing something like that is that now you have a reason to be in constant contact with them, and you

don’t feel like you’re imposing,” Ennes says.

Cody Allen, a relief pitcher for the Indians, is excited about the discipleship plan he and Ennes created and appreciates having someone he can call to receive counsel, encouragement, and prayer.

“He knows me individually and the areas where I’m weak and strong. We’re attacking both of them just to grow,” says Allen. “He’s a sounding board who I can just bounce so many things off.”

As Ennes has developed relationships with players over the past few seasons, he occasionally uses them as a sounding board as well to make sure he does not unintentionally put off other players in the clubhouse. He desires to build relationships with all players, not just those who attend chapel.

START YOUR ENGINES



Racing moves from favorite sport to track of opportunity

Story by Michelle Tyer Photos by Matthew Miller

A

love for cars and competition fueled Caleb Higgins' fascination with stock car racing in high school. So naturally, as a student in the College at Southwestern, Higgins jumped at the chance to join Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries at Texas Motor Speedway (TMS), an evangelistic ministry that provides live music, transportation, and children's activities in addition to sharing the Gospel with fans during race weekends.

Higgins became very involved in the ministry led by Southwestern professor John Babler but admits he initially did so more as a fan wanting to get closer to the races.

"Over time, God had started changing my heart from the sport to the people."

"Over time, God had started changing my heart from the sport to the people," Higgins says.

With that change of heart, Higgins also felt led to the racing ministry as a chaplain.

"Somehow, God placed in my heart that I wanted to be a chaplain in racing," Higgins says. "Little did I know that there are very few chaplains in racing at all. Becoming a chaplain in racing is very hard; there aren't that many that are in it. I just pressed on. I knew God had called me to it; I just didn't know how."

While still serving at TMS after graduating from the College at Southwestern in 2010 and marrying that same year, Higgins met a man involved in a chaplains' racing ministry. Listening to his counsel and acting on faith, Higgins and his wife moved to South Carolina, unsure what they would find.

"As always, God had already gone before



and planned everything out," Higgins says.

An opportunity came when the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) series in 2012 offered him the position of chaplain with Master's Men, an organization focused on leading men to Christ and discipling them to be leaders.

As chaplain, Higgins gets even closer to the track and racers than before, but now his focus is to share the Gospel with drivers and their teams, encouraging them to join the race to which followers of God are called.

"In the racing community, a chaplain is like a pastor to a large traveling church," Higgins says. "A chaplain in racing has over 500 men and women whom he is responsible to show Christ's love to and care for all who are involved in the community and their families back at home."

Higgins' ministry to the ARCA community picks up speed when race weekends arrive, with each second just as important as it is for those on the track.

"Race day is the busiest time of ministry for us," Higgins says.

The typical race weekend, such as the recent one at Daytona International Speedway in Florida, kicks off with the arrival of the racing teams who then spend



much of their time waiting in line as equipment is unloaded and inspected. Higgins says this is a perfect opportunity to meet or reconnect with crews.

"This is a great time to visit with the crew and to see how their day is going," Higgins says of that first day, which he calls Tech Day.

"Being part of the community means we catch up on what's been going on in life, ... talking about racing, fishing, and whatever else comes to mind ... however, I'm always mindful to have intentional conversations about life issues and faith."

Later that first day, crews keep busy as they ready and repair vehicles and practice or complete qualifying runs. While the

teams are busy, Higgins turns his attention to building relationships with race officials. As the first day at the track ends, Higgins joins crews for dinner in order to foster relationships while they are off the job.

On race day, ARCA calls on Higgins to lead devotionals with the racers and officials as well as conduct a chapel service. Higgins also prays with racers individually and for their families.

At smaller racetracks without a track chaplain, Higgins gives the invocation before the race. At Mobile International Speedway, for example, he had the opportunity to offer the invocation and to share the Gospel with the more than 9,000 fans present.

During the race, Higgins remains in a care center so he can be on hand if an accident occurs on the track. If drivers are

“The College has tremendously helped grow me in ministry. The practicality of the classes taught me how to build and maintain relationships so that discipleship may grow from those relationships.”

hospitalized, Higgins takes their families to the hospital and cares for their physical and spiritual needs.

Higgins says all these opportunities—endorsed by and encouraged by the ARCA president and organization—are an encouragement to his ministry.

Higgins’ favorite part of being chaplain to this large community has been the sense of being part of such a large family, but it has also been the hardest part.

“The hardest part of our ministry is building the relationships with the crews,” Higgins says. “In auto racing, crew members come and go. One weekend they may be at the track, and the next weekend they may not.”

Day to day, members of the crews may lose their jobs or move out of the racing community, so Higgins must make the most of the time he has with them and keep in touch with those whose journey leads them elsewhere. His education in



the College at Southwestern prepared him for that investment in others.

“The College has tremendously helped grow me in ministry,” Higgins says. “The practicality of the classes taught me how to build and maintain relationships so that discipleship may grow from those relationships. . . . Seeing the professors demonstrate discipleship in our classes made me want to imitate them in how to disciple the men and women in racing.”

In between races and during the off season, Higgins connects with racers and teams at their shops where they take care of their vehicles and shares meals with them. He also leads Team Studies—Bible studies held with racing teams inside NASCAR shops during lunch breaks.

Despite the investment poured into the racing community, Higgins says the fruit is not always evident. “Sometimes it feels as though you are not



VIDEO EXTRA

Scan the QR code
or go to
swbts.edu/higgins
to watch an interview
with Caleb Higgins.

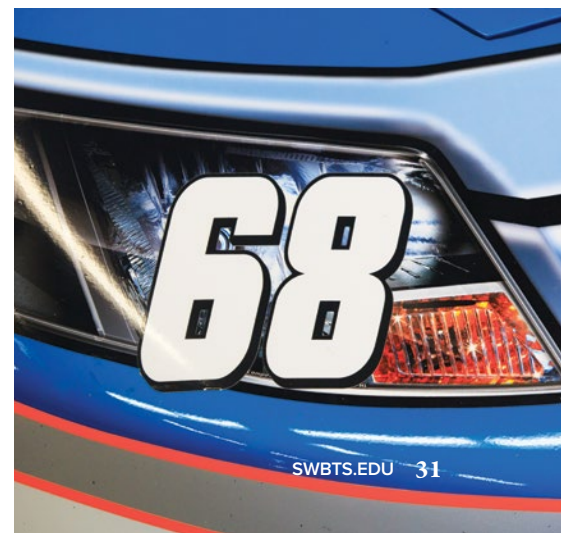


having any impact on the people in the community,” Higgins says. “But we have to be assured that we are.”

Higgins recalls one such situation when he befriended a racer in the NASCAR truck series and spent much time investing in him, but with little results. At a lunch meeting, the racer surprised Higgins by asking if he would start up a Team Study in his own NASCAR shop.

“This is a situation that, when it seems as though I am not having an impact on the people, I can look back and see that God’s hand is at work,” Higgins says of the unexpected reward of his efforts with that specific racer.

With the start of a new race season, Higgins looks forward to similar stories as he continues to reach drivers and their crews, who may never set foot in a church otherwise. And this excites him more than the thrill of the race. **S**



BACK THE BADGE

Reaching Those Who 'Protect and Serve'

STORY BY MICHELLE TYER • PHOTOS BY JASON DAVIS

FOR DEAN NICHOLS, who served in the United States Air Force and then in the Houston Police Department for five years before being called to the ministry, connecting with fellow police officers is not a foreign concept.



But now Nichols serves alongside law enforcement in a different way, supporting officers spiritually as a chaplain.

After the former Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) chaplain retired, Nichols stepped into the part-time

position while continuing to serve as the campus chaplain at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Nichols makes sure the police officers know that he is there for them if ever they need spiritual support, encouragement, or guidance. Already he has had opportunities to provide marriage counseling as well as a listening ear concerning the weight of the job.

"They know I'm here," Nichols says. "I have a love for policemen because I know the difficult job they have."

But earning the trust of the officers—establishing himself as part of their team even though he does not necessarily join them on the front line—takes time.

"It's a work in progress," Nichols says, "trying to get in so the men and women of the FWPD have a spiritual outlet that can minister to them. ... People need to know that they can come pour their heart out to you, and you're going to listen and not talk and tell others. That's something that's very crucial, especially when you're dealing with law enforcement."

Nichols also uses the light-hearted side of his personality to build rapport with the officers. At Southwestern, Nichols has been referred to as the minister of laughter, and he took that with him, adding to the number of practical jokes he says are widely present in most police departments.

"I try to get people not to take themselves too seriously," Nichols says. "If you ever lose your ability to laugh at yourself, your life's not going to be fun anymore. Keep your ability to laugh."

But some days, that laughter does not come so easily.

"Normally, when they need me it's not good," Nichols says of his job.

Although he primarily ministers to police officers, Nichols also answers the call in difficult situations to which the police department responds. Just this year, the department called for Nichols to minister to a grieving mother when her boyfriend killed her toddler son.

"I don't care who you are, that takes a toll on your emotions," Nichols said of that situation.

So far, he has only been called for a handful of those difficult circumstances.

"The hardest thing is, normally with a chaplaincy, when people are dealing with you, it's when they are at rock bottom," Nichols says. "You catch people at their lowest."

When counseling officers or others going through such a crisis, Nichols tells them of three truths: "[God] knew about it, He has a plan for it, and ultimately ... it will work out for good."

Having "faith that God is sovereign and that God can work all things for good" helps people endure crises, Nichols says.

"Wrap your mind around the fact that as much as we don't understand about this, the sovereign God of the universe has a plan to use this."

Despite what situations the officers, others, or he himself faces as their chaplain, Nichols' goal is that all involved understand God is with them, and He wants them to know Him, even in the midst of crisis. **\$**

RUNNING TO THE FLAMES

Reaching First Responders

STORY BY KEITH COLLIER • PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MILLER

LESS THAN 24 HOURS after a fertilizer plant exploded last year in the Texas town of West, Fire Chaplain and Southwestern Seminary counseling professor John Babler arrived on the scene and aided emergency crews in removing the remains of fallen first responders from the blast zone.

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

As Co-Incident Commander for the Texas Line of Duty Death (LODD) Task Force, Babler’s responsibilities in the week following the explosion included planning the joint memorial service, providing honor guard and chaplaincy support for the families as well as firefighters and EMS workers, and providing support for the individual funerals. At the end of the week, Babler introduced President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama to the families of the 12 fallen firefighters and EMS workers following the joint memorial service.

While this was a high profile and nationally recognized tragedy, Babler has been faithfully serving firefighters and their families for 15 years.

After a 1999 church fire in Fort Worth took the lives of three firefighters, including his daughter’s Sunday school teacher, Babler sensed a call to join the fire department as a firefighter and chaplain.

“I looked around at that point in my life and realized that the only people I knew were Christians,” Babler says. “It was a great opportunity to spend time with people who weren’t Christians.”

Eventually, he served as a fire department chief for three years, and he currently serves on the board of directors for the LODD Task Force as well as vice president for the Texas Corps of Fire Chaplains.

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

“People in crisis are open to spiritual things,” Babler says. “When we encounter crisis, whether we want to or not, we typically at some level reflect on life and death. The firefighters in a department where there has been a line of duty death are not only impacted by the loss of a friend or brother firefighter, but they think of things differently.”

Babler teaches his counseling students to make the most of opportunities to minister, share Scripture, and pray with others.

“One of the things that we try to do in biblical counseling is encourage people not only to provide counsel from the Bible but also to take advantage of informal opportunities,” Babler says.

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

“God has called me and put me in a situation where I take that passion and focus



on people and practical application of Scripture,” Babler says, “and He challenges me to teach it to students, and hopefully they’ll develop some of that as well.”

Even though he has been involved in fire chaplaincy for many years, Babler’s compassion for people has never been extinguished. Every time he hears the final call at a fallen fireman’s graveside service, tears well up in his eyes.

“If I ever make it through one of these without tears,” Babler says, “I know it’s time to quit.” §



A LEGACY OF CHAPLAINCY

Southwestern’s second president, L.R. Scarborough, served as a fire chaplain in Abilene, Texas.

Southwestern has a rich heritage of chaplains serving in a variety of contexts. Discover more about how Southwestern trains students for chaplain ministry at swbts.edu/chaplaincy.



Evangelistic atheist becomes passionate Christian evangelist

By Michelle Tyer

Students and faculty at Southwestern can easily recognize first-semester student Putti Sok riding her longboard, often with a flower in her hair. Even more recognizable is her passion for the Gospel and evangelism.

But just a few years ago, she did not even know the Gospel.

Sok's parents are both Cambodian, but she was born in Long Beach, Calif., and grew up in Dallas. Despite being raised in the United States, the Cambodian culture still influenced her life.

"My identity as a young girl, I saw myself as a Cambodian Buddhist girl," Sok says. "Why? Because my parents told me."

Cambodia is about 95 percent Buddhist, Sok says, and her family continued to carry out the religion's traditions when they came to America. But those traditions meant little to her. Sok considered Buddhism a ritual that came with the culture, just as she saw Christianity as a religion only for Americans.

In junior high and high school, Sok began to realize that religion is a decision and not inherited culturally. But instead of choosing either belief, she became an "evangelistic atheist." She would ask others what they believed about God, challenging them to try to convince her that God exists.

Beginning her college education at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2008, Sok became friends with several Christians and even attended church and campus Bible studies with them.

Sok would even serve neighbors alongside her Christian friends, doing chores or other projects and saying they did it because they wanted to show Christ's love. Sok could only say that she was doing it because of her love.

"It wasn't until later that I saw everything I was doing was becoming meaningless and in vain if it didn't have eternal meaning," Sok says.

With that realization, Sok began to pray each night that God would help her understand what she heard from her friends and read in the Bible.

Then one day, Sok entered the campus BSM's prayer room. Inside, she found a bowl filled with pieces of paper with the names of students' lost friends. One after another, Sok looked at the slips of paper and found her own name.

Witnessing the faithfulness of her friends after a full year, despite her previously telling them not to pray for her, Sok burst into tears that day in the tiny prayer room.

"I [had] told them," Sok says. "I was very adamant about it—'Stop praying for me. I'm never going to become a Christian; that's never going to happen.'"

But God was softening her heart, and the very next day, Sok went to the Riverbend Retreat Center with the BSM where they heard from a guest speaker.

"I felt that God was asking me to respond," Sok says. "All my questions and concerns and doubts that I had, I finally laid aside, and then that night I prayed to receive Christ."

Still facing doubts, fruit of her changed life became evident after returning from the retreat and going back to UTA.

"All of a sudden, I just had a desire to go and share with people," Sok says. "God is real, and He has changed my heart."

After making that decision to follow Christ, Sok also decided to follow His leading into ministry. Upon completing her undergraduate work at UTA, Sok served as a campus missionary for a year, led the BSM's Friday evangelism group and a dorm ministry, and this year is serving as an intern for the BSM.

But Sok also believed that to continue in that ministry, she should continue her education at a theological school to equip and prepare her.

"I looked at different seminaries and felt God was really leading me to Southwestern," Sok says. "I love it."

Taking just one class this semester, Sok says she looks forward to being a full-time student studying missiology in the fall and getting involved with the evangelism opportunities Southwestern provides.

Reed uses MTS program to strengthen ministry

By Michelle Tyer

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,” has become the motto of Charles and Spring Reed’s ministry as they spread the Gospel despite difficulty.

When Charles was just 4 years old, living in a small Tennessee town, he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy that led to his being almost completely wheelchair-bound by the age of 9. In high school he began to lose strength in his hands and in college began having respiratory problems until he needed a tracheostomy.

But instead of allowing himself to remain discouraged, Charles and his wife, Spring, use their story to encourage others.

Not long after he was confined to a wheelchair as a young boy, Charles decided to become a follower of Christ, a defining moment that shaped his future and strengthened him through times of discouragement and depression. That decision eventually led him to attend Union University, where he felt called into the ministry.

In October of 2012, the Reeds began their ministry through blog posts on their website as well as through speaking engagements at churches and other venues, including the Speak foundation based out of Atlanta and a high school baccalaureate service.

Charles says God has provided just what they need each step along the way in their ministry, even bringing them to each other at the right time.

In 2011, Charles and Spring met and were married after God led them to each other despite living states apart. Spring, a Texas native who studied nursing, has also felt a call to missions since she was young.

Before meeting Charles, Spring completed her Master of Arts in Christian Education with a concentration in women’s ministry at Southwestern in 2008. Spring says she enjoyed studying under Terri Stovall, dean of women’s programs, who continues to mentor her in her ministry and personal life.

“She gave me a lot of guidance because I was doing women’s ministry,” Spring says of Stovall, who also gave her counsel before she married and visited the Reeds when Charles faced serious medical difficulties last year.

Spring’s Southwestern education prepared her for their current ministry by strengthening her faith, showing her how to serve alongside her husband, and also how to complete practical tasks such as coordinating events.

“My seminary education has helped me in so



many ways just in day-to-day life in our ministry,” Spring says.

Charles also decided to prepare himself further for their young ministry by registering for the Master of Theological Studies at Southwestern Seminary in 2013. The completely online master’s degree is a perfect fit for his circumstances.

Charles wanted to continue his education at a conservative institution and says Southwestern fit the bill.

“I was just wanting to learn more for our ministry,” Charles says.

The courses have helped him greatly, Charles says, and he likes that the MTS program allows him to continue his education while they also continue their ministry.

The Reeds use that ministry to not only bring the Gospel to the lost, but also minister to Christians who are disabled or have disabled family members and need encouragement.

“We want to give them hope that God has a plan for their lives and that God is faithful. He can use



them for whatever He has for them,” Charles says. “He will work things out for His will and that may not be what we want all the time.”

Charles says they have to remember that God’s will comes before their own, even in physical difficulties and other discouragements. Spring says they push through those difficulties so they can be used by God as an encouragement and hope for others.

“We’re not perfect people by any means,” Spring says. “But I think that the challenges that we face inspire other people to face the challenges they have and to continue to trust the Lord no matter how dark and difficult the days get.”



Gala provides time of worship, musical enjoyment

By Michelle Tyer

Southwestern's School of Church Music provided an enjoyable evening of music in their 11th annual Gala, Feb. 27.

"We've come to lift up the Lord," Leo Day, dean of the School of Church Music, said in his introduction, reading Bible passages of praise and songs. "Let everything that has breath tonight praise the Lord."

About 1,200 members of the community and the Southwestern family attended the event.

"It was a beautiful, collective, unified School of Music function and everybody knew why they were there," Day said. "And that was to worship God and not to be seen."

Day felt that God did bless and magnify the Gala even as the performers and members of the audience worshipped.

"I think it went very well," Day said. "I don't take it for granted when God walks into the room."

While in past years, the Gala has featured special guest artists such as Steve Green, this year the music school displayed its own students and faculty in the Southwestern Singers, Chamber Chorale, Chapel Choir, Mansemble, Jazz Combo, and other performers, alongside the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

College and graduate students and faculty

performed a wide variety of styles, including jazz pieces, hymns sung in traditional and more contemporary ways, opera, spirituals, as well as songs sung in different languages.

Former music minister and Southwestern alumnus Phil Jones attended the concert with fellow members of a local church.

"I was encouraged by the giftedness of the young performers," Jones said. "Their skills coupled with their Christian foundation will make a difference for Christ in the years ahead."

President Paige Patterson pointed out the blessing the music school is at Southwestern.

"When every other seminary music school in the country has gone out of business, God is blessing ours," Patterson said.

Near the end of the program, Day introduced the old spiritual song, "Calvary," saying the song and the entire program was "all about the cross."

Day, David Thye, John Simons, and Kurt Sprenger each conducted songs through the evening. Vocal soloists included David Robinson, Angela Cofer, Chan Yang Lim, John Green, Leo Day, Genesis Miranda, and Reynier Carballosa. The evening also featured violin and organ pieces.

City of Fort Worth honors Patterson with award

By Keith Collier

The City of Fort Worth presented Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson with the prestigious "The Best is Yet to Come" Hero Award prior to its Jan. 14 meeting. The award is sponsored by the city, Score a Goal in the Classroom and BNSF Railway.

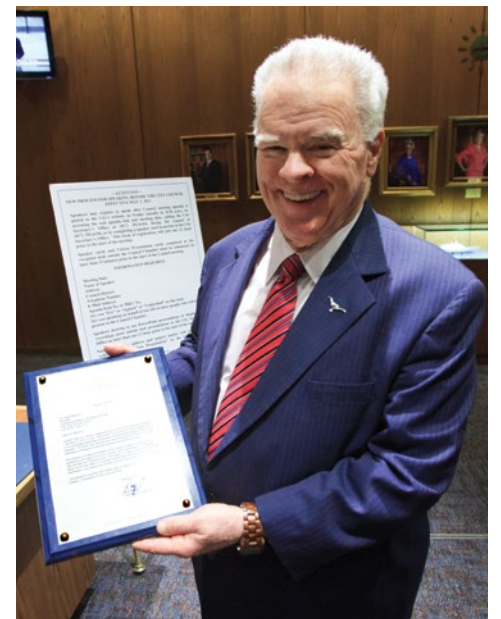
"This certificate is from the Office of the Mayor," said Mayor Betsy Price. "And in appreciation for your outstanding leadership, the City of Fort Worth hereby recognizes Dr. Paige Patterson of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for 'The Best is Yet to Come' Hero Award. Accomplishments like these go a long way in strengthening Fort Worth's reputation as America's most livable community and ensuring that we are recognized as one of the best places to live, work, and serve."

Ernie Horn, executive director for Score a Goal in the Classroom presented Patterson with two plaques, one for 'The Best is Yet to Come' Hero Award and another for outstanding leadership, as well as a proclamation from U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger.

Patterson addressed the mayor and city council members, thanking them for the honor and for their faithful service to the city.

"I know that the responsibility you have does not always make you popular, but I want you to know that there is never a time when the students, professors, and administration of Southwestern Seminary are not praying for you," Patterson said.

"Southwestern has been here for 105 years. ... It is our great joy to live in the finest place in the world. My wife and I have been to 125 countries in the world. There are some that we like very much but no place anywhere close to Fort Worth."





Seminary couple retires \$32,000 debt

By Alex Sibley

By the time they graduate, many students are deep in debt. But when Brandon Kiesling graduates Southwestern Seminary with his PhD, he will be debt-free. Over the last three years, Brandon and his wife, Alicia, paid off \$32,000 of debt.

The Kieslings came to Southwestern in fall 2010 so that Brandon could pursue a Master of Divinity degree. With Brandon a full-time student and Alicia a substitute teacher, the couple made only \$12,000 their first year. Already in debt from undergraduate student loans, the couple, having read Dave Ramsey's *Total Money Makeover*, called Ramsey's radio show for advice.

"We had some savings that we had brought down with us," Brandon recalls, "but we didn't know for sure if we should keep a hold of that savings or put it towards debt. So I had that question for [Ramsey], and I told him how much we were making, and he told me to get a job—a weekend job or something—because I needed to provide for my family even while I was going to school."

Brandon first got a weekend pizza delivery job, and then he and Alicia both attained administrative assistant positions, Brandon

at the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern and Alicia at a local church.

"We just decided we're going to knock this debt out," Brandon says, "and regardless of how hard it is, we're just going to make this a priority because we don't want to be a slave to debt. The Bible says, as Dave Ramsey quotes all the time, 'The borrower is a slave to the lender' (Proverbs 22:7)."

Their solution for getting out of debt was "working hard and saving money and living below [their] means."

"The biggest thing is the budget," Brandon says. "One thing Dave Ramsey teaches is that you have to tell your money where it's going before it goes, and that's what a budget does every month. That way, you're in control of your money. Your money just doesn't do whatever it wants to do."

The couple made their last student loan payment on Sept. 19, 2013.

"[That day] was a celebration," Brandon says. "My wife and I both sat there in front of the computer, and we pushed the button together and just instantly felt like we accomplished something great."

Romanian university names Chair of Biblical Womanhood after Dorothy Patterson

By Michelle Tyer

Emanuel University in Oradea, Romania, honored Southwestern Seminary first lady Dorothy Patterson by establishing the Dorothy Patterson Chair of Biblical Womanhood, Dec. 18.

Elijah Soritau, a professor at Emanuel, and his wife Raelene witnessed the Pattersons' passion for biblical family values while he studied under then Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson.

"We saw firsthand the role of biblical manhood and womanhood lived out for us by this extraordinary couple," Raelene says.

Upon their arrival at Emanuel University, Raelene began a Bible study in her home with 10 female students.

"Dr. Dorothy Patterson has always been a champion of the biblical home and an inspiration to many in fulfilling her roles as godly wife, mother, and servant in the kingdom of God," Raelene says.

That inspiration led her to start the Bible study using Mrs. Patterson's book, *A Woman Seeking God: Discover God in the Places of Your Life*. The small group grew into the university's women's ministry called "The Beauty of Holiness."

The Dorothy Patterson Chair of Biblical Womanhood will help enhance the ministry of that group with seminars, conferences, scholarships, and the translation of literature.

"It was instinctive to name this endowment chair after her since her name is synonymous with biblical womanhood," Raelene said.

Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson said his wife has worked from the shadows for years to establish biblical Christianity around the world, such as through fundraising and writing books.

"She is just as happy for her work to remain in the shadows," Patterson said, "but I am grateful that Emanuel has chosen to honor this woman who has contributed so greatly to literature for women."

"Dr. Dorothy Patterson has always been a champion of the biblical home and an inspiration to many in fulfilling her roles as godly wife, mother, and servant in the kingdom of God."

~ RAELENE SORITAU

Preaching workshop explores 1 John

By Keith Collier

Several hundred pastors and students developed a better understanding of the book of 1 John and how to preach it during Southwestern's 10th annual Expository Preaching Workshop, March 3-4. Sessions led by seminary faculty and guest speakers ranged from sermons on specific passages to helpful resources and strategies for preaching through the book to handling difficult texts.

"Do you want to know how to have power in the pulpit?" asked Robby Gallaty, senior pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. "Start preaching what God says."

"When you preach what God says, that's what motivates and moves the hearts of men and women."

Gallaty led two sessions during the workshop, his first being a sermon on 1 John 2:28-3:3 and his second being "Five Pitfalls that will Sidetrack Your Preaching Ministry." During this second session, Gallaty explained his sermon preparation process and gave helpful instruction on understanding the meaning of the text, delivering a text-driven sermon, and developing as a preacher.

Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications at Southwestern, gave instruction on preaching difficult texts in Scripture, primarily using passages from 1 John as examples. He warned pastors not to ignore difficult texts but to interpret and explain them with humble confidence.

"If we ignore texts," Smith said, "people will lose confidence in us; but that's not the bad part. If we ignore hard texts, they lose confidence in God's Word. God has no other plan to relate to your people outside of His Word."

"If you can explain [difficult texts] in a win-some way, without glossing them, taking your time and walking your people through it, ... you've given people an unbelievable gift. They will trust their Bibles, and as a consequence, they will trust you."

School of Theology dean David Allen dug from his decades as a pastor and preacher to provide what he considered the best resources for preaching 1 John, including books and commentaries.

Jerry Vines, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., also joined the conference, as he has done since 2005. Vines preached a chapel sermon on Psalm 51, which he called the Old Testament version of 1 John 1:9.



Robby Gallaty, senior pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., discusses preaching and discipleship with pastors and students following one of his sessions at the 2014 Expository Preaching Workshop.

"The most costly thing in all the world is sin," Vines said. "All the mathematicians are not able to compute it; all the computers are not able to calculate it, but we learn from the Word of God in David's experience the high cost of sin."

"When we confess our sins, He clears the record, He covers them with His blood, and He casts them into the depths of the sea."

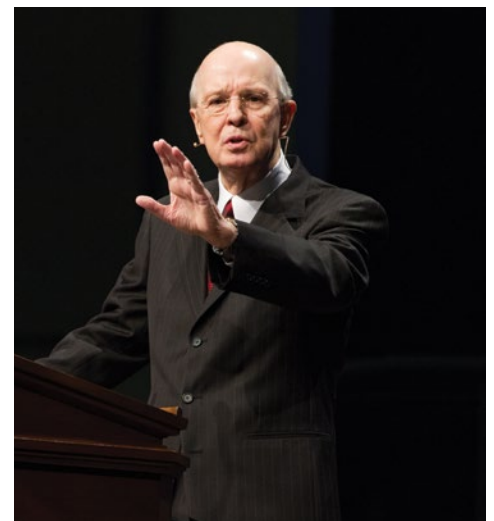
Matthew McKellar, associate professor of preaching at Southwestern, challenged pastors to deliver the message of 1 John as a pastor-evangelist. He appealed to 1 John 2:1-2 and John's emphasis on Jesus' substitutionary atonement and advocacy on behalf of Christians.

"According to this text," McKellar said, "every believer has an advocate at all times in the best place who offers real help."

Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson concluded the conference with an exposition on 1 John 5:1-12.

"The Spirit of God is a witness, and He'll take the preacher with a heart for God and a love for the lost, and He'll ingrain that message in your heart until, like the prophet, there is fire in your bones and you cannot keep silent," Patterson said.

As part of this year's Expository Preaching Workshop, Southwestern hosted about a dozen pastors



Jerry Vines, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and a mainstay at Southwestern's annual Expository Preaching Workshop for 10 years, preaches in chapel on Psalm 51.

from Brazil who were on campus for the workshop as well as intensive classes in preaching and pastoral ministry later in the week.

Carroll, Scarborough award recipients honored for investment in Southwestern

By Keith Collier

Southwestern honored Gil and Ann Stricklin and Dale and Linda Behan as recipients of the L.R. Scarborough and B.H. Carroll awards, respectively, March 5. President Paige Patterson praised both couples for their commitment to the Lord and support of the seminary during a luncheon in their honor.

In 1984, Gil Stricklin started Marketplace Ministries, which provides chaplains for secular businesses and care for their employees. Over the past 30 years, the ministry has expanded across the United States and around the world.

“He saw a rising need that nobody had ever thought of,” said Patterson. “Who would ever guess that industry would need a chaplain?”

Stricklin expressed his gratitude for the award, sharing his own experience as a student at Southwestern in the 1960s, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity, and then his return to the seminary in the 1980s to study biblical languages and earn his master’s degree.

After serving in the Air Force as a military chaplain, Stricklin served in the public relations office with Southwestern, with Billy Graham, and as youth evangelism director with the Baptist General Convention of Texas before starting Marketplace Ministries.

“Ann and I have been grateful to be a part of the history of the school, and also we pray to be part of the future of it, as this seminary shares the Gospel with the whole world,” Stricklin said.

“I cannot express the difficulty it was to come here with a family and with children to earn a degree from the seminary, it was not easy. And at that time, we had a desire placed in our heart that one day we were going to financially help other students that came to this seminary to get their degrees and to serve God.”

For Dale and Linda Behan, the pattern of the right person at the right place at the right time defines not only their business success but also their connection with the seminary. Despite experiencing all the highs

Both couples gave glory to God for their awards, noting that they are simply vessels used by Him to accomplish His purposes. Southwestern is grateful for their rich generosity in training future ministers and leaders in local churches and mission fields around the world.

and lows of business in the contracting and oil industries, they recognize God’s faithfulness along the way.

Dale Behan shared the story of going from a bankruptcy in the contracting business through the lean years of starting over in water transfer services for the oil industry to selling his company for several million dollars in 2011. Each step of the way, God placed the right people in their lives just at the right time.

Eventually, the Behans became the right people at the right time for Southwestern Seminary. When the seminary was in need of new pianos for the music school, the Behans stepped in and funded the purchase of eight new Steinway pianos.

“While it is true that today myself and my wife are center stage along with Gil and Ann and the attention is on us, the truth is that it’s not at all about us. It’s actually all about you. God shines on our lives by the people He places in our lives.”

Both couples gave glory to God for their awards, noting that they are simply vessels used by Him to accomplish His purposes. Southwestern is grateful for their rich generosity in training future ministers and leaders in local churches and mission fields around the world.



Gil and Ann Stricklin



Dale and Linda Behan

Students help churches in Mexico over Christmas break

By Michelle Tyer

While some students used the winter break to relax with family or take winter courses, 27 Southwestern students had an opportunity to go to Mexico to assist churches.

The team, led by College at Southwestern professor Travis Dickinson, departed Jan. 8, for the week-long trip south of the border.

The team stayed at a local orphanage in the small town of Tekax in the Yucatan Peninsula. But they spent much of their time traveling to communities as far as two hours away to assist churches.

The group split into two teams, each having students participate in craft, drama, or sports teams. At each location, the teams would lead programs for the area's children during the day and often during the evening have an evangelistic message for the community.

Members of the team also came prepared with sermons for these services, one student even preaching for his first time. More than 20 people accepted the Gospel and the gift of salvation over the course of the week.

Dickinson said he thinks the trip was "great in every way," saying one of the key impacts on the students was getting away from the affluence in the United States and seeing the joy of believers in that part of Mexico despite having so little.

"It's a good challenge for all of us," Dickinson said. "But for some of them that have never seen it before, it's life-changing."

The students experienced that culture change when they traveled to places where families lived in huts with dirt floors or when they visited a church that consisted of just four walls and a roof. Each night the students even slept in hammocks.

"I just think that makes for a good trip," Dickinson says. "You see another world and the way



people live, and you get to really just minister to them the whole time."

Although only a week long, Dickinson said the trip was beneficial to the students, the lost they came in contact with, and especially the churches they helped.

"It really creates a boost for the church and pastors," Dickinson said.

Music Education student Laura Baskin said she enjoyed getting to help the ministries already occurring in Mexico.

"That's one of the biggest things about short-term mission trips," Baskin says. "You get to not only encourage believers who are there but you get to expand their ministry they're already starting and

help them to reach further out than they maybe can by themselves."

A goal for the students, Dickinson says, is that they will become sympathetic to and supportive of missionaries, whether they plan to become missionaries themselves or not.

Baskin, who has been a children's minister for over three years, said she is not sure that she is called to overseas missions or not, but that she saw the trip as a great opportunity and a way to help her own ministry, which includes reaching out to a Hispanic community surrounding her church.

"I just want people to know Jesus," Baskin says. "So I'm trying to start somewhere."

Conference educates church leaders to address urban issues

By Alex Sibley

Abortion, fatherlessness, poverty, and unemployment were among the issues discussed at the Urban Economics and Ministry Conference, Feb. 6-7, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. As part of what keynote speaker Tony Beckham called "the urban milieu," these issues were presented to attendees—mostly pastors and church leaders—so they could lead their churches in addressing them.

"You can't just sit as an ostrich with your head in the sand," said Beckham, a business consultant and scholar. "You need to have an awareness and grapple with 'how do you then respond to what's in the urban milieu?'"

The conference's theme was "The Urban Church as a Catalyst for Human Flourishing," and speakers examined how churches can respond to issues common to the urban setting. Pastors were tasked

with raising awareness about these issues and helping people within the church recognize their own gifts so they can then implement these principles and bring about change. In this way, the church truly can serve as a catalyst for human flourishing.

Other speakers at the conference included Ryan Bomberger, founder and chief creative officer of the Radiance Foundation, and Jim Petty, director emeritus of the Children's Jubilee Fund of Philadelphia.



15 Steinway pianos delivered to Bowld Practice Room Suite

Fifteen new Steinway upright pianos were delivered to the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Practice Room Suite on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dec. 18. The installation moves the seminary one step closer to becoming an "All-Steinway School."



Patterson prepares students for spiritual war

This spring, Southwestern President Paige Patterson's 12-part sermon series is titled, "Walking toward Danger: Why a person should use caution when entering the ministry." He began by introducing five "officers" to guide students in their ministries (the law, wisdom, etc.), with the remaining messages revealing what specific challenges they will face.



Welcome Week makes students feel at home

The beginning of the spring semester brought with it a week of activities aimed at welcoming students, current and new, to Southwestern. Welcome Week kicked off with Move-in Day on Jan. 17. Student Life representatives, dorm parents and other servant-minded individuals helped new students as they came to Southwestern for the first time.



New documentary provides honest look at True Love Waits movement

Twenty years after Southwestern Seminary professor of student ministry Richard Ross created True Love Waits with Jimmy Hester, LifeWay Christian Resources has created a new documentary that tells the history of the movement and the heart behind the curriculum's relaunch. For more information, visit LifeWay.com/TrueLoveWaitsFilm. Read more about TLW's original launch and 20-year history at swbts.edu/tlw20.



Courage, faithfulness, godliness should define manhood, Patterson tells sportsmen

President Patterson served as the keynote Master Sportsman for the 2014 Dallas Sportsmen's Prayer Breakfast, Jan. 10. The prayer breakfast, sponsored by the Christian Sportsmen's Fellowship, was held in conjunction with the Dallas Safari Club convention at the Dallas Convention Center.



Conference teaches photojournalists to honor God through storytelling

The prominence of photography was foundational to the 21st annual Southwestern Photojournalism Conference, Feb. 28-March 2, a gathering of visual communicators who believe that God has called them to tell stories, the greatest of which is the Gospel.



“I never set out to build a ‘big church.’ What I did set out to do was to fulfill the Great Commission and be the pastor of a local church. . . . All of this massive growth that God has given us as a church, that’s just all glory to Him.”

~ JACK GRAHAM

Prestonwood pastor Jack Graham recalls seminary days, invests in new generation

By Keith Collier

Although Prestonwood Baptist Church pastor Jack Graham leads one of the largest churches in America, he credits his years in seminary as some of the best years of his life.

“Seminary training was vital to my life, and I wouldn’t want to think about ministry without it,” Graham says.

From humble beginnings as a minister at Sagamore Hill Baptist Church in Fort Worth while he attended Southwestern Seminary, Graham went on to pastor rural churches in Oklahoma and then First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., prior to becoming pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, in 1999. Prestonwood has experienced explosive growth under his leadership, with more than 33,000 attending weekly services.

“I never set out to build a ‘big church,’” Graham says. “What I did set out to do was to fulfill the Great Commission and be the pastor of a local church. . . . All of this massive growth that God has given us as a church, that’s just all glory to Him.”

Graham says his days as a Master of Divinity student were formational for his life and ministry.

“For me, as I look back, seminary training was a time of personal renewal and revival. I’m not saying every day sitting in a Hebrew class was revival, but

those years in my life were great years. I look back on those years in seminary as some of the best years of our lives because there was so much hope and promise, and [we] had people who cared about [us] . . . and came along in our lives to bless us and to help us.”

In addition to completing his Master of Divinity in 1976, Graham also became one of the first Doctor of Ministry students at Southwestern, graduating with his doctorate in 1980.

While his studies were crucial for ministry preparation, Graham also encourages seminary students to forge lifelong friendships that will serve them throughout their ministry.

“Lifelong friends that I made in seminary are still important to me this very day,” Graham says.

“We committed together as young students that we weren’t just going to start ministry, we were going to finish ministry. There was a real uniting of our hearts when we were in seminary to be in this for a lifetime and to give ourselves unconditionally. Some of us have held each other accountable on that all these years. So there are many friends here in ministry whose company I enjoyed in seminary days, and I still do today.”

Throughout his ministry, Graham never forgot the investment made in his life by friends, professors,

and pastors. Because of this, Graham says, “I just determined that if I was ever given that opportunity going forward that I would reach back and help younger men. So, right now, that’s one of the top three goals of my life, to transition a new generation of leaders.”

One of the chief ways he invests in the next generation is through Prestonwood’s pastoral intern program. Presently, more than 30 interns are also Southwestern Seminary students. As he equips these young men, he sees a great future ahead.

“I have an incredible amount of confidence in the burgeoning, growing, developing generation of young leaders,” Graham says. “God always sees to it that He raises up a new generation of people who are faithful to the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus, and love the church and will serve the church in their own lifetime and in their own generation.

“I’m extremely encouraged about that. I get fired up when I see what God is doing in young lives. It is very, very important. I always encourage people who are young in their faith or young in the ministry to get both the practical side of ministry, but at the same time the formal side of education that you can get at Southwestern Seminary is important to their discipline and their personal devotion to Christ and their walk in ministry.”

Dockery encourages spiritual unity despite denominational distinction during Day-Higginbotham Lectures

By Alex Sibley

In a Gallup poll two years ago, only 16 percent of Christians said that their denominational identity was important to them. By comparison, in the same study, 21 percent of the general population said it mattered to them what kind of toothpaste they chose.

“So denominational identity is not nearly as important in the lives of some as it is for me and for you,” said David Dockery, newly-elected president of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., during Southwestern Seminary’s 2014 Day-Higginbotham lectures, March 6-7.

In his lectures, Dockery, who is completing an 18-year tenure as president of Union University, examined the topics of denominational development and decline, evangelical identity, and the future of theological education in the 21st century.

“Why look at denominations?” Dockery asked in his first lecture. “Because, historically, denominations have been the instruments used of God to help men and women who think in organizational terms to provide structure for carrying forth three major things: (1) the supporting and starting of churches, (2) maintaining shared beliefs and practices, and (3) the enabling of shared work of evangelism, missions, education, and benevolence.”

Dockery began his series of lectures by summarizing the long history of denominations, beginning

with the three broad traditions that have shaped the understanding of the Christian faith throughout history: Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism. Dockery discussed how various denominations broke off from these three branches over the years such that now there exist thousands of denominations and variations thereof.

Dockery then looked at evangelicalism, which he said is distinct from a denomination.

“Evangelicalism is a cross-denominational movement,” Dockery said. “[Evangelicals are] people who are heirs of the Reformation, influenced by Puritanism and pietism, shaped by the 18th century revivals and 19th century mission movements. Largely it’s a renewal movement that countered liberalism, rigid fundamentalism, and dead orthodoxy.”

Regarding evangelical identity, Dockery said it is “grounded in a commitment to the truthfulness and authority of the Bible, to the uniqueness of the Gospel, to the necessity of conversion, and to the need, then, for taking this Gospel to the ends of the earth in forms of service and mission.”

Dockery ended his series by discussing the future of theological education. He encouraged renewed emphasis on a number of topics, including biblical, theological, and ministry formation (including the use of mentoring models rather than just lecturing



hundreds of students at a time); helping students think about church health, renewal and church planting; careful biblical interpretation and theological reflection; and a global vision that includes cross-cultural and inter-cultural conversations that are contextual, yet convictional.

In conclusion, Dockery said that denominations are still important, as is evangelical identity, but he also stressed overall unity among Christians.

“It is possible,” Dockery said, “to hold hands with brothers and sisters who disagree on secondary matters and work together toward a common good to extend the work of the Gospel around the world and advance the kingdom of God.”



Marvin Griffin (left) and Leon Hardee (right) became the first African-American graduates from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1955.

Marvin Griffin, Southwestern’s first African-American graduate, dies at age 90

By Alex Sibley

Marvin C. Griffin, Southwestern’s first African-American graduate and long-time pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, died Dec. 25 at the age of 90.

Griffin and L.F. Hardee became the first two African-American graduates from Southwestern in 1955, paving the way for hundreds more in the decades to follow.

From 1951 to 1969, Griffin served as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. Here, amidst the tumultuous period of the civil rights movement, Griffin led marches and picketing for restaurants to open to African-Americans.

In July 1969, Griffin began his tenure as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, where he

served for 42 years. In 1988, Griffin led the church to create the East Austin Economic Development Corporation to provide affordable housing, care for senior adults, a child-development center and other services in its neighborhood.

Griffin was also appointed by Gov. John Connally to the Texas Southern University board of regents, and he was elected first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1996. In 2007, the Black Southern Baptist Denominational Servants Network presented Griffin with the Kennedy-Boyce Award, which is named after the pastors of the first two African-American churches to join the Southern Baptist Convention in 1953.

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.



Thank You for Bringing Jesus Back to the Big Screen: A Review of "Son of God"

By Jim Wicker | Associate Professor of New Testament

Jesus has been missing from the big screen for too long. It has been 10 years since Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ," and it focused only on the end of the Passion Week. But for a Bible-based full life of Christ, it has been 35 years since the "Jesus" movie (1979) and 49 years since "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (1965).

Roma Downey (star of the television series "Touched by an Angel") and her husband, Mark Burnett (producer of "Survivor," "The Voice," "The Apprentice," and "Shark Tank"), said the idea for the "Son of God" movie came while filming "The Bible" television miniseries. The cast and crew watched weekly cuts of the series, and they decided to add some footage and make the feature-length film "Son of God." One hundred million people watched the television series across the world, and one hopes even more people will watch "Son of God." It is a positive movie about Jesus, and the world needs to hear and understand its message.

Read more at <http://swbts.us/1o9rrR9>.



What is the Value of Apologetics?

By Travis Dickinson | Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Christian Apologetics

There are, on my view, a variety of values that can be had by practicing what we call Apologetics. Let's first say what Apologetics is as a discipline. In its most general sense, apologetics is a preparatory discipline where one readies oneself to commend and defend the truth of Christianity. What immediately comes to mind for many of us are the overly cerebral arguments one may offer in defense of the faith. These are the ones that, for many, cause immediate eye glazing to occur. They may include formal arguments for God's existence; historical evidence for the resurrection; addressing challenges, such as the so-called problem of evil; alleged contradictions in Scripture; and alleged moral issues in Scripture as well as a whole host of other academic topics. These are indeed in the corpus of Apologetics topics. However, on my view, commending and defending the faith may at times be much less cerebral.

Read more at <http://swbts.us/1nwwWsj>.



Before the "Wow!" You Must Experience the "Woe!"

By David Allen | Dean of the School of Theology

During a chapel sermon on Feb. 18, Dr. David Allen preached on Isaiah's vision of the Lord in Isaiah 6:1-13. As he explained Isaiah's response to seeing the Lord, Allen noted that if you want the "wow" of worship and service you must first experience the "woe" of repentance and cleansing.

Watch the short video clip at <http://swbts.us/1gQ0RZp>.



Teenagers: From Self-Absorbed to Self-Sacrificing

By Richard Ross | Professor of Student Ministry

Researcher Tim Elmore has found young adults to be a narcissistic or me-centered generation. They have spurts when they want to change the world but have not grown up with strong enough commitments to sustain activity toward change. Youth ministry today shapes future young adults.

Read more at <http://swbts.us/1meexWv>.



Federal Judge Strikes Down Texas Marriage Amendment

By Evan Lenow | Assistant Professor of Ethics

In what is now a string of cases decided by federal judges regarding state laws, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia has struck down Texas' constitutional amendment defining marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman. After the state legislature presented the amendment in 2005, 76% of Texas voters approved the addition of the amendment to the state constitution.

Read more at <http://swbts.us/1kcmBFx>.



Continue reading these articles and many more at: THEOLOGICALMATTERS.COM

MY POCKETBOOK WAS BAPTIZED TOO

Story by Charles W. Patrick Jr.

The man was larger than life—the patriarch of a republic and state, an alcoholic, lawyer, and a life-long fighter in the political and military arenas. It took three pastors as well as a devout and praying Baptist wife to help this man surrender his life to Christ. All four were present at his baptism. On November 19, 1854 in a pond off Little Rocky Creek in Washington County, Texas, General Sam Houston was baptized. From that time forward, Houston became a generous supporter of Kingdom purposes, beginning with paying half the local pastor’s salary. When queried about this, Houston reportedly stated, “My pocketbook was baptized too.”

Houston realized that salvation is a heart transformation of all aspects of person. He would agree with Martin Luther’s amusing and convicting statement that “there are three conversions necessary—the conversion of the heart, of the mind, and of the purse.” Transformed Christians give from their hearts. It is a natural outcome of whole-life transformation to be generous and rich towards God.

Working in Institutional Advancement is an exciting and fulfilling ministry. Yes, biblical fundraising is a ministry. It plays a critical role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Fundraising indirectly fulfills the Great Commission by gathering the funds necessary to send God-called men and women to “all the nations” to make disciples. Fundraising directly fulfills the Great Commission through discipleship, facilitating the transformation of people into the image of Christ by “teaching them to observe all that [He] commanded” about possessions and generosity. That is, the staff of Institutional Advancement is called to present opportunities and allow God to move ministry partner’s hearts to give whatever time, talent, and resources He reveals to them as their proper participation. The staff stands ready to minister to you whether you need assistance with presenting the theology of possessions and generosity to your family and church, developing



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your family legacy, matching your God-given passions with opportunities at Southwestern, or optimizing your time, talent, and resources.

Randy Alcorn writes, “We come to understand that our perspective on and handling of money is a litmus test of our true character. It is an index of our spiritual life” (*Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, p. 21). If I gauge the faith and generosity of Southwestern’s ministry partners by this, I can unequivocally conclude that Southwestern is blessed with saints that have been transformed into the image of Christ! Southwestern is blessed with ministry

partners of every ilk, from the widow who gives her Social Security-based mite and takes Southwestern’s petitions to the throne of God fervently and consistently, to the wealthy ministry partner who wants to impact the Kingdom with his financial generosity and circle of friends, to the couple who sacrificially helps students who are in need of basic food, clothing, and housing. Southwestern reiterates the Pauline thanksgiving of 1 Thessalonians 1:2: “We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers.”

If you want to discuss how Southwestern can minister to you in your God-oriented stewardship, please contact Mike Hughes, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at mhughes@swbts.edu or (817) 923-1921, x7200. If you already prayerfully know how to match your pas-

sion with a specific opportunity at Southwestern through a financial gift, you may do so online at swbts.edu/give or via mail at: P.O. Box 22500, Fort Worth, TX 76122.

Join me in praying that God’s people will continue to be conformed to the image of Christ and become generous as Christ is generous, that they too will be able to say, “My pocketbook was baptized too.”

Charles Patrick Jr. serves as Director of Operations for Institutional Advancement and teaches adjunctively in the School of Theology.

Alumnus, former trustee Bobby Holt dies from ALS

By Alex Sibley

Charles E. “Bobby” Holt, a graduate and former trustee of Southwestern Seminary as well as long-time pastor of Vista Grande Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., died Thursday, Feb. 13 after battling ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) for more than a year.

“Dr. Bobby Holt has suffered long enough, and God has taken him triumphantly home to a great reward in the heaven for which he longed,” said Southwestern President Paige Patterson. “Pastor, evangelist, preacher, trustee and much more, this precious man was faithful.”

Holt graduated from Southwestern with a Master of Divinity in 1978 and later obtained his Doctorate of Ministry in 1989. He began full-time Christian ministry in 1974, attaining his first pastoral position in 1978. After preaching in Texas for 16 years, he was hired as senior pastor of Vista Grande Baptist Church in March 1994. He served on Southwestern’s board of trustees from 2003 to 2013.

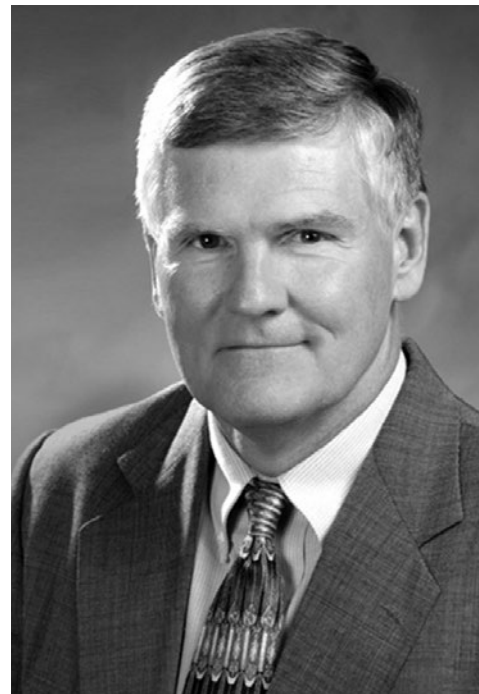
During Holt’s tenure, Vista Grande saw new emphases added to international missions,

sponsoring trips to Brazil, Zimbabwe, Croatia, Uganda and Mexico in addition to a ministry with a church in the Philippines. On the home front, in 1996, Holt oversaw the purchase of 13 acres on which new building facilities have since been constructed.

Within three years of Holt arriving at Vista Grande, average attendance had grown to 400, and by 2013, it had grown to 700.

Additionally, Vista Grande has been, and continues to be, a strong supporter of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, which supports the Colorado Baptist General Convention, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and the six Southern Baptist seminaries, including Southwestern.

In October 2012, Holt was diagnosed with ALS. The following April, Vista Grande held a 35th Anniversary in Ministry Celebration to honor and thank him for his years of dedicated service to the Lord. In September 2013, Holt applied for long-term disability, which went into effect in December, thus concluding his formal ministry as pastor.



Faithful ministry partner, Roy Baxley, dies at 92

By Keith Collier



Dallas businessman and Southwestern ministry partner Roy Baxley died March 1. He was 92.

Baxley, who served as president of Texas Sign Supply Company for more than 50 years, actively served in Southern Baptist churches and denominational work over the years. He was one of the key organizers of the Southern Baptists of Texas

Convention (SBTC) in 1998 and served as an original board member of the SBTC Foundation.

Baxley and his wife, Lynn, supported Southwestern Seminary and other institutions through scholarships and other contributions for more than 40 years.

“I have been a part of Southwestern for many, many years,” Baxley said in a 2012 interview with Southwestern. “Education, and especially religious education, has always been one of my favorite spots, and it still is.”

At Southwestern, the Baxleys supported students through tuition scholarships as well as scholarships for travel study tours. Additionally, they supported other seminary endeavors, including the construction of MacGorman Chapel, the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition, and acquisition of Steinway pianos for the School of Church Music. Southwestern gave the Baxleys the B.H. Carroll Award in 2013. The interactive dig site used during the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition has been named Baxley Archaeological Park and is being enhanced and prepared for school groups.

OT professor Paul Chen dies

By Keith Collier

Paul Li-Tah Chen, assistant professor of Old Testament in the J. Dalton Havard School of Theological Studies in Houston, died March 4 from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). He was 62.

Chen taught adjunctively for Southwestern beginning in 2005 and was elected to faculty in 2007. Prior to that, he held academic posts at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Seminario Teologico Servo de Cristo in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Denny Autrey, dean of the Houston-based school, described Chen as “a renowned Old Testament scholar, a gentleman who is thorough in his understanding of the Old Testament, and he is also gracious in dealing with students.”



Alumni Updates

1970

Rickey “Rick” Ellison (MRE 1978) to the Baldwin Baptist Association, Silverhill, Ala.

David M. Park (MDiv 1971, PhD 1976) to First Baptist Church, Blanco, Texas, as Interim Pastor with wife Mary L. Park.

1980

R. Kern Railsbeck (MA 1981) to First Christian Church, Athens, Texas, as Senior Minister with wife Barbara D. Railsbeck.

David S. Williams (MRE 1981) to Trinity River Baptist Association, Liberty, Texas, as Director of Missions with wife Donna K. Williams.

Lamar A. Black (MRE 1987) to South Burleson Baptist Church, Burleson, Texas, as Pastor with wife Carol Black.

1990

Ronald E. Herring (MDiv 1992, DMin 2002) to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, as Pastor with wife M. Gail Herring.

2000

Jonathan L. Curtis (MDiv 2001, MA 2002, PhD 2009) to First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. with wife Lori A. Curtis.

T. Wayne Livingston (MDivBL 2005) to Trinity Baptist Church, Kaufman, Texas, as Pastor with wife Mary F. Livingston.

Alan W. Fruge (MM 2006) to Bethel Baptist Church, Warren, Texas, as Minister of Music with wife Nora Lynn Fruge.

Retirement

***Betty L. Danley (MRE 1963, MA 1986)** retired with husband John Danley, living in Oklahoma City, Okla.

E. Frank Whitaker (MRE 1983) retired with wife Carol Whitaker, living in Arab, Ala.

Ronald W. Dyess (MDiv 1987) retired, living in Mineola, Texas.

Births

Stephen Michael Summers, October 15, 2013, to Holly and Michael Summers (MDiv 2007).

Anniversaries

John Danley and Betty L. Danley, (MRE 1963, MA 1986), 50th wedding anniversary (August).

Memorials

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Elaine Douglass Allen

Roy S. Baxley

L. O. “Pete” Bentley

Helen C. Ferrell

Lois Ann Hendricks

Bobby Joe LaGrone

William O’Daniel Smith

David Marshall Southerland

Betty J. Wickes

ALUMNI

1950

Richard G. Cook, Sr. (BDiv 1952)

Rosemary Thompson (MRE 1952)

Abner Anglin “A.A.” Hyden (BDiv 1953, MRE 1953, DRE 1960)

Robert G. “Bob” Glenn, Sr. (BSM 1953, BRE 1953)

Wanell Clayton O’Barr (MSM 1954)

Robert Lee Hamblin (BDiv 1954, ThD 1959, PhD 1979)

Harold Wayne Reed (BDiv 1955)

Arthur Franklin Fray (BSM 1957, MRE 1958)

1960

Henry Adrion, III (BDiv 1960, MDiv 1974, DMin 1984)

Hardy M. “Bill” Lovett (MRE 1960)

Elbert Lee Smithen, Jr. (BDiv 1962)

Larkin Johnson Yeager (AVDPT 1963)

Lynn Allen Hughes (BDiv 1964, MDiv 1974)

Ray Marshall Hartline, Sr. (BDiv 1964)

William Ralph Carroll (Dip Th 1964)

Gary C. Inman (MDiv 1968)

1970

Moses Perales (MRE 1970)

Ben Edwin Loring, Jr. (MDiv 1972, DMin 1975)

Gilbert Terry Martinaz (MRE 1972, DEM 2004)

Charles Onis Price (MDiv 1973, DMin 1976)

Ethel Mae Wolfe (MRE 1974, MA 1997)

Stanley D. Coffey (MRE 1974)

Richard Murray “Rick” Cagle (MDiv 1978)

Charles E. “Bobby” Holt (MDiv 1978, DMin 1989)

1980

Joseph Crawford Carriere (MRE 1987)

Missionary Appointments

Since November, 6 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:

Mailing Address:

PO Box 22500
Fort Worth, TX 76122-0500

Physical Address:

2001 W. Seminary Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Phone (toll free):

1.877.GO.SWBTS (1.877.467.9287)

Phone (local):

817.923.1921, ext. 7200

Email:

friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu

In Jesus' Name

Chaplaincy is an exciting and burgeoning ministry. The stories in this issue of *Southwestern News* give just a taste of the variety of ministry foci available to chaplains, from the more traditional areas of military and healthcare, to more recent developments in public services such as law enforcement, fire and rescue, and emergency response; in sports and entertainment; in corporate environs; and in campus/university settings, among others. The possibilities for this type of ministry are limited only by our imaginations and willingness to serve.

As a chaplain and a professor, I have had the opportunity to think quite a bit about the biblical, theological, ethical, and cultural/legal issues that arise as a result of chaplaincy ministry. There is a lot of misinformation out there, but there are also valid concerns that we face. Continuing constitutional challenges to chaplaincy in both the public and private spheres put pressure on both chaplains and their employers to know what the law says and means, and to ensure the ministry is conducted in a way that is legally responsible, while (more importantly) remaining biblically/theologically sound.

Recent developments with regard to homosexuality in the public square, such as the end of the military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Supreme Court's failure to rule on DOMA, have been a cause for serious concern regarding the limits of chaplaincy ministry. Sometimes we feel like we are walking a proverbial tightrope.

Still, these issues should not be a hindrance to Christian involvement in chaplaincy ministry; if anything, they should spur us to further engagement because they serve as a reminder that our struggle is spiritual (Eph 6:12). Chaplain Cash's point regarding the reality of the political side of chaplaincy is well made; while we have real and legitimate concerns, we must remember to see all persons (even those with whom we disagree) as individuals whom God loves, for whom Jesus died, and who are made in God's image; and we should view our interactions with them as God-ordained, Holy Spirit-empowered opportunities to love them and to share the saving message of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection with them.

Chaplains may evangelize, though such efforts ought always be done by the leading and in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the message is

well received. Chaplains are also free to preach as they see fit, though we always try to present the message in way that is inviting to others, even as we recognize that the cross can be an offense and a stumbling block to some (1 Cor 1:23; Gal 5:11).

The point here is that, like the early Christians, we do not go looking for a conflict with the state, but we do not compromise our convictions or the truth of the Gospel. As with any evangelism strategy of the local church or missiological society, chaplains trust that God's Spirit will open the doors for sharing and lead them to submit wisely to His leading throughout the whole process.

Being a chaplain is like being a conglomeration of vocational ministers: part pastor/staff minister, part counselor, part evangelist, part professor, part ethicist, part administrator, and part political advisor/strategist. Chaplaincy is somewhat different from the traditional pastorate in a number of ways. Chaplains serve as ministers for people from a variety of faiths, often times in very unusual circumstances. Chaplains have access to their congregants in venues that most pastors would envy (e.g., the workplace), and they tend to be among the people more regularly than the traditional pastor.

Chaplaincy affords us the opportunity to interact with and minister to many persons who would never walk into a church building, and that opportunity is often when they are at their time of greatest need. Chaplains are responsible for the religious support to all the people of the organizations they serve, but that does not mean they have to compromise their faith or perform religious services/rites of other religions. Quite the contrary; chaplains represent their own faith.

For Southern Baptists, that means we must be good representations of what a Southern Baptist minister looks like: evangelistic, Christ-centered preaching, and all! Still, chaplains are not pastors, and we encourage the persons with whom we interact to be involved in a local church body. I see my chaplaincy ministry as an extension of my local church's ministry and in some ways, an extension of the ministry of Southwestern Seminary. In fact, when persons ask me to provide religious rites, I always ask why their pastor is not doing so. Whenever I lead someone to Christ, I point that person



Being a chaplain is like being a conglomeration of vocational ministers: part pastor/staff minister, part counselor, part evangelist, part professor, part ethicist, part administrator, and part political advisor/strategist.

to a local congregation with which he may unite and grow in the faith.

Chaplaincy represents a wide-open frontier of ministry wherein Christians may minister to those in need where they reside and work. In an increasingly secular world, it is a vitally important ministry, one that is making great strides for the Kingdom of God and Christ. May more surrender to God's call to this important work, and may the Church continue to partner with chaplains to ensure success.

John D. Laing serves as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Southwestern's Harvard School of Theological Studies in Houston. He is author of *In Jesus' Name: Evangelicals and Military Chaplaincy*.

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