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ON THE COVER

Reaching the next generation often means getting your hands or your faces dirty. Amplify Student Ministry of FBC Broken Arrow, Oklahoma hosts "Color Wars" – a time of fellowship, competition, worship and outreach. The event involved more than 300 middle and high school students, 300 pounds of colored cornstarch, and a message from Student Pastor Jeremy Nottingham that challenged students to use the Bible as a basis for their decision making. During the event several students made decisions to follow Christ.

Learn more at swbts.edu/brokenarrow.
(SWBTS Photo/Matthew Miller)

OCTOBER

Sept. 29 – Oct. 3

Fall Break

Classes Dismissed

6

Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop

swbts.edu/aepw

10-11

UFM 2014 Women's Retreat and Conference

swbts.edu/ufm

16-17

Preview Southwestern

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17-18

Certification in Biblical Counseling Levels 1 & 2

swbts.edu/biblicalcounseling

22

Women's Auxiliary Luncheon

Riley Center

NOVEMBER

4

Messiah Concert

Truett Auditorium

6

Women's Auxiliary

Fallbrook Church, Houston, Texas

10-11

SBTC Annual Meeting

MacGorman Chapel

17

College Legacy Banquet

with special guest Eric Metaxas
college.swbts.edu/legacy

24-28

Thanksgiving Break

Classes Dismissed 24-28
Offices Closed 26-28

DECEMBER

4

President's Club Dinner

5:00 p.m.

Keyboards and Carols at Christmas

MacGorman Chapel

7:30 p.m.

5-10

Final Exams

12

Graduation

MacGorman Chapel

24-26

Christmas Holiday

Offices closed

Dec. 31-Jan. 1

New Year's Day Holiday

Offices closed

LOOKING AHEAD

February 19-21, 2015

Art of Homemaking Conference: Strengthening Family & Building Faith

artofhomemaking.com

March 2-3, 2015

Expository Preaching Workshop

swbts.edu/epw15

March 20-21, 2015

Stand Firm Apologetics Conference

with special guest J. Warner Wallace

swbts.edu/standfirm

March 24, 2015

Gala Concert

swbts.edu/gala

April 10-11, 2015

Youth Ministry Lab

youthministrylab.com

April 23-24, 2015

Preview Southwestern

swbts.edu/previewsouthwestern

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a letter from THE PRESIDENT

At not yet thirty years of age, more years ago than I would like to remember, I was called to be pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas. These were the sweetest, most long-suffering people in the world, and even to this day I love them profoundly. However, while there I received a critique, which I prize until now being the finest compliment I ever received. Coming out of church one day behind two elderly gentlemen who had no idea of my presence, I heard one say to the other, “Our pastor is nothing but a glorified youth minister.” Although he did not know it, he made my day.

First Baptist Fayetteville was in an interesting situation. Most of the students from the University of Arkansas attended University Baptist Church, adjacent to the campus. First Fayetteville was a church of aristocracy. We had seventy PhDs in the church so that it was very much like trying to herd a thousand jack rabbits across an open prairie. Bill Brunner was a deacon and the vice principal at the high school. As I worked with Bill, I had the thought that the high school kids were the one group in Fayetteville being neglected by everybody. I decided to train our high school students and to work with them. I believe that a great mistake among today’s contemporary pastors is their individual neglect of the high school and middle school students. In this issue of *Southwestern News* you will find critical insights from some of the most productive youth pastors in the nation. I thank God for every one of these men and for the work that they do. That said, I still believe that the pastor needs to plan time more than just once a year during the annual summer retreat to be with his high school and middle school students. Frankly, by the time they get to college it is too late. Actually the assignment is not difficult.

Every Sunday night during the church training period (unfortunately now abandoned by most churches) I met with the high school young people in the recreational room. I taught them three critically important lessons. First, I taught them systematic theology, in which they quickly developed a superb interest. They loved going home to supper after church and asking dad and mom whether they were dichotomists or trichotomists. Second, I taught them to love lost people and witness to them. Third, I taught them

how to do church planting, which they proceeded to do—planting one church in New York City, one in Winnipeg, and five in the western provinces of Canada. I frankly could not have hoped for more effective church planters, and out of that five-year ministry, God gave us fifty-two young people who committed their lives to church-related vocations, many of whom have kept that commitment and even today are involved in the Lord’s work.

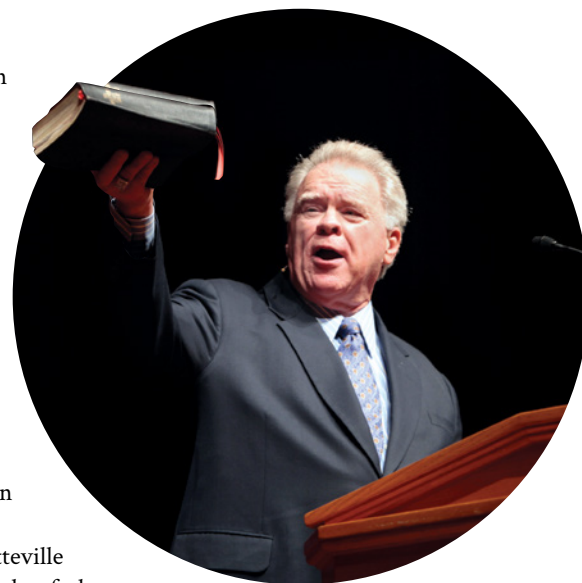
Even though First Baptist Fayetteville was a great church and a church of the aristocracy, it did have a problem or two. The congregation was deeply committed to the seven last words of the church, “We never did it that way before.” So I told the high school kids that I wanted them to sit on the first few rows in every church service, which they proceeded to do. I told them that the whole purpose of this was “to stampede” the church. They loved the idea, and they succeeded marvelously at doing just that. Of course, more happened. Being at the front in the congregation put them right in the center of what was going on, and they became among the most ardent students of the Word of God.

As you read this issue of *Southwestern News*, I hope you will thank God for these representative middle school and high school pastors and for the fabulous work that they do. But I also ask you, pastor, to do what is necessary to spend quality time guiding your high school and middle school students. There is no greater ministry for you in this day.

Until He Comes,



Paige Patterson







A COLORFUL LOOK

Student ministry often means getting dirty. Students at First Baptist Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma participate in "Color Wars"- a time of fellowship, competition, and outreach involving more than 300 middle and high school students & 300 pounds of colored cornstarch. Following worship and a message where Student Pastor Jeremy Nottingham presented the Gospel and challenged students to use the Bible as a basis for their decision making, students were divided into teams and the war began.

MIXING IT UP

Evan McFarland, middle school pastor at First Baptist Church Bossier City, La., plays soccer with his youth group after a day of serving at Mission Arlington. Students are given the opportunity to lead out in evangelism, teaching, discipleship, and all areas of ministry. This trip is one of the many ways that FBC Bossier City equips their middle school students to live out the Great Commission.





9

By RICHARD ROSS

CORE VALUES TO SHAPE STUDENT MINISTRY

After morning worship, I can hardly wait to get to my office at Southwestern Seminary. Every single day one particular vision is my focus. I have a burning desire to see young people who are – for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit – spending a lifetime embracing the supreme majesty of the Son, responding to His glorious reign over all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.

This vision that I share with Johnny Derouen, my colleague in youth ministry, guides us as we train those who minister to students in local churches. There are nine core values we want to instill in these church leaders:

2 STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDS ITS MINISTRY DESIGN ON AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE.

Some leaders use their own intelligence to create an approach to student ministry. Then they add a few Scripture verses so it will be more palatable to the church. We take the opposite approach. We start with Scripture and allow it to define approaches to student ministry. When we compare our intelligence to the One who spoke the cosmos into existence, we are confident that the Almighty ought to be the one who defines ministry with a young generation. We believe He does so in the Bible.

***Moral Therapeutic Deism** is a term that was first introduced in the book *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* by sociologists Christian Smith.

1 STUDENT MINISTRY EXALTS KING JESUS IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE GLORY OF THE FATHER.

The "faith" of most teenagers in the church is ***Moral Therapeutic Deism**. At Southwestern, we prepare ministers who will give teenagers the antidote to that tragic perspective. That antidote is a high Christology, lifting the eyes of teenage believers to the reigning majesty of the Son, seated on the throne of heaven. Proper theology moves them from "It's all about me" to "It's all about King Jesus." Such believers rise up and join Him in bringing His Kingdom on earth.

3 STUDENT MINISTRY PLACES SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER OF SPEAKING, TEACHING, AND DISCIPLING –

LEADING TO TEENAGERS WHO INCREASINGLY HAVE A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, THE ABILITY TO ARTICULATE SOUND DOCTRINE, AND THE ABILITY TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE CORRECTLY ON THEIR OWN.

We believe an 18-year-old should know how to apply the basic principles of interpretation to any passage of Scripture. During junior high and high school, that teenager should take responsibility for his or her own spiritual growth. For the second time in his life, he should learn to feed himself. Under the guidance of parents, pastors, and volunteers, that teenager should construct a biblical worldview and develop the ability to articulate, embrace, and defend the doctrines of the faith.



4

STUDENT MINISTRY LEADS TEENAGERS TO CHRIST AND MOBILIZES TEENAGE BELIEVERS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH.

We believe the mission of Christ is the mission of student ministry: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). We believe a youth pastor not mobilizing teenagers and leaders for evangelism is like a fireman who doesn’t fight fires or a surgeon who doesn’t operate. Lost teenagers today may have reservations about religion, but they are entirely open to the Gospel. They have not rejected Jesus. Today, they have never even heard about Jesus.

5

STUDENT MINISTRY RECOGNIZES, EQUIPS, AND MOVES PARENTS INTO FIRST PLACE IN THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Contrary to Scripture, the majority of church parents have attempted to outsource the spiritual leadership of their children to church leaders. We prepare youth pastors to spiritually awaken, call out, equip, and lead parents to again step into first position with their children — as they sit in their house and walk in the way (Deut. 6:4-9). We also champion godly families taking under their wing those teenagers whose parents are lost.

6

STUDENT MINISTRY LEADS TEENAGERS TO BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS—LOCALLY, DOMESTICALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY.

We believe 12-year-olds should be actively involved in making disciples of all peoples. We believe 18-year-olds should have the solid intention to take the Gospel to hard places for a lifetime. Many churches believe the only way to attract teenagers is through constant entertainment. We believe in joy and laughter, but we also believe teenagers are drawn to authentic faith that calls for risk, adventure, and sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel.

7

STUDENT MINISTRY CONSISTENTLY EQUIPS VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE CALLINGS IN STUDENT MINISTRY.

If churches put a spiritually plateaued leader in a room with teenagers, a year later they probably will find spiritually plateaued teenagers. If youth pastors want to see adult volunteers grow in Christ, they have to take intentional steps in that direction. We prepare youth pastors to disciple leaders and to “be seminary” — teaching leaders everything they know about Scripture, teenagers, and youth ministry.

8

STUDENT MINISTRY CHAMPIONS TEENAGERS EMBRACING THE FULL CHURCH, SERVING IN ALL AREAS OF CHURCH LIFE, SHARING COMMUNITY WITH THE OTHER GENERATIONS, AND BEING VIEWED AS YOUNG ADULTS BY THE CONGREGATION.

We view entering the youth ministry as almost a rite of passage. We call churches to view teenagers as very young adults who have gifts and abilities useful to the church and Kingdom today. We prepare youth pastors to immerse teenagers in the full life of the congregation, building around each teen a rich web of intergenerational relationships. We believe the concept that a youth group operates as an appendage to the church is outdated and not biblical.

9

STUDENT MINISTRY REMAINS BALANCED AND IS NOT DRIVEN BY FADS.

Many youth ministries erratically follow the newest fad, book, or conference. Or, ministries may follow the personal interests of youth pastors as they come and go. We prepare youth pastors to hammer out a youth ministry plan from Scripture and then keep a consistent focus on that plan. We also train them to balance worship, evangelism, missions, discipleship, ministry, and joyful fellowship—as fads come and go.



If the churches of Western Europe had embraced these nine principles two decades ago, their churches now might be packed with young adults in love with Christ, His church, and His Kingdom. Instead, the churches mostly are empty. We pray that student pastors prepared by Southwestern Seminary will lead the American church toward awakening, vibrant churches, and Kingdom expansion.



HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO STUDENT MINISTRY?

LET US PREPARE YOU.

Our goal is to equip you with the tools necessary to do effective ministry with the next generation.

DEGREE OPTIONS

Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.)

- Collegiate Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Student Ministry

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

- Collegiate Apologetics
- Collegiate Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Student Ministry

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SWBTS.EDU/STUDENTMINISTRY

A group of students, including a young woman in the foreground with her head bowed, are gathered around a document. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows. The students are dressed in casual attire, and the overall atmosphere is one of focused collaboration.

**MOBILIZING
STUDENTS
AS
AMBASSADORS
FOR THE
KINGDOM**

STORY BY ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY JASON DAVIS & ADAM TARLETON

AT WHAT AGE IS SOMEONE TRULY READY—INTELLECTUALLY, PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, OR SPIRITUALLY—FOR BEING CHRIST’S AMBASSADOR?

More than a philosophical query, this question is a cornerstone for the ministry of Matt Hubbard, associate pastor for student ministry at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.

“I believe that when Christ calls us to join Him in a relationship,” Hubbard says, “He also immediately equips us and empowers us to be His ambassadors in all walks of life, at any age.”

Hubbard notes that this sentiment has many precedents.

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were likely teenagers when King Nebuchadnezzar put them on the stand, and yet they proclaimed, ‘Even if our God does not save us, we are still not going to bow down.’ Were they too young to really know what they were doing?

“Was Lottie Moon too young to take the Gospel to China when she was commissioned at age 33? Was Billy Graham too young to preach the Word when he began to pastor after graduating college?”

Hubbard poses these questions rhetorically, recognizing that there are no age requirements for ministry. Hubbard’s application is that teenagers are fully capable of furthering the Kingdom of God.

“Students are just as much the church of today and the ministers and missionaries of today as anyone else in the church,” Hubbard says.

This zeal for the mobilization of students began when Hubbard received the call to ministry during his senior year of high school.

At a DiscipleNow event that year, in what Hubbard calls an “incredibly brave” move, Hubbard’s youth pastor asked the high school seniors to lead the small groups. Hubbard happily accepted the task since two years before he had rededicated himself to Christ and committed to go “all in.”

“I was given the seventh graders,” Hubbard says, “but not just any seventh graders. These were the ones — the misfits — who continually acted up during our student ministry activities.

“I led the first Bible study session and thought it royally flopped. But later that night, those same seventh graders whom I thought didn’t get anything that I said were now doing their own devotionals and talking about it with their peers. It was then that God told me that this is what He was calling me to do: work with students.”

In pursuit of this goal, Hubbard attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 2003 to 2006, graduating with a Master

of Arts in Christian Education. It was there that Hubbard’s perspective on student ministry truly began to take shape.

“I remember spending countless hours with all of the student ministry professors while serving as co-captain of Youth Ministry Lab for three years,” Hubbard says. “All of those hours spent with them have guided my philosophy of ministry, particularly with our emphasis on parents and families, leadership development, and discipleship.”

While still a student at Southwestern, Hubbard exercised this philosophy by volunteering in the student ministry at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. In that capacity, Hubbard invested in a group of ninth grade boys, leading by example in teaching them a model for discipleship.

“Nearly every Thursday,” Hubbard recalls, “they would come to my apartment in Student Village [and] raid my already scarce pantries for food — and then we would hold each other accountable and challenge each other with the Word.”



MATT HUBBARD, wife Cassie, and son Jackson.



ON MISSION

At Mission Arlington, Matt Hubbard, Student Minister at Immanuel Baptist Church, has the unique opportunity of equipping high school student to invest in junior high students. A small core of Hubbard's older teens lead a larger group of younger teens in evangelism and discipleship through neighborhood Bible clubs.



OFF THE GRID

Hubbard intentionally takes his high school students on a camping trip that is “off the grid.” He finds it necessary for them to disconnect from the outside world in order to bond as a group. He also brings adult volunteers on this trip so they can better connect with students outside of their weekly Sunday morning setting.

Luke Mitchell, one of these students, says, “Every time I wanted to drift away from my walk with Christ, Matt wouldn’t allow it. He stayed right there with me and encouraged me to pursue Christ on a daily basis. As a result, my relationship with Christ grew dramatically in high school due to Matt’s influence on my life.”

Hubbard says despite all four students graduating and going to separate universities in different states, he continues to disciple them on a regular basis. All are out of college and most have already started replicating what Hubbard taught them.

“I have been fortunate to lead a group of high schoolers for the past four years,” Mitchell says, “and I can say with certainty that the way I have led those guys comes from what I observed from Matt when he led the group of guys I was with.”

After spending several years working with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and serving in a local church, Hubbard came to Immanuel Baptist Church in 2012.

“God opened the door at Immanuel to pioneer, to a degree, some new work that included mobilizing students and families to go to the nations,” Hubbard recalls.

One of the first things Hubbard did upon arriving at Immanuel was assemble a task force of students, parents, and adult volunteers to compile a list of expectations for everyone connected to the student ministry.

The completed list’s expectations included having a personal and visible relationship with Jesus, being a personal witness for Christ, and having a positive and respectful spirit toward the leadership and vision of the church.

“These expectations are not another list of commandments or legally binding,” Hubbard says, “but they do set the bar high, and our students and adults have been striving to reach them on a daily basis.”

Hubbard says these heightened expectations are important because churches often set the bar too low for students.



TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Missions is the lifeblood of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark. Each circle represents an annual mission trip and a continuing partnership. From the toddlers to the elderly, this church is truly reaching the ends of the earth.



“When we expect students to be young and ‘do stupid things’ or ‘sow their wild oats,’ they do just that,” Hubbard explains. “I’m not saying that by raising expectations students won’t do stupid things, but these students who have set the bar high will be better known for what they are doing spiritually for the Kingdom than for the moral failures they may experience.”

Under the umbrella of these raised expectations, Hubbard stresses to his students the importance of serving God, especially through missions and discipleship.

Regarding the former, Hubbard says he is passionate about exposing his students to the world and its need for Christ. Each year, Immanuel’s student ministry sends students on up to three mission trips: middle school students go to Mission Arlington; freshmen and sophomores go to one of North America’s international cities (such as New York City, Seattle, or Toronto); and juniors and seniors travel to an international destination (such as Southeast Asia, London, or Ghana).

Regarding discipleship, Hubbard says that everything in Immanuel’s student ministry prepares students for making disciples and even provides them opportunities to do so while still teenagers.

One of these opportunities overlaps with missions, as one of the key elements of the middle school trip is high school students going with them, not as chaperones, but as leaders, teaching them, among other things, how to lead Bible studies, do crafts, and share their testimonies.

These opportunities are the beginning of what Hubbard hopes each year will be deeper, lasting relationships between high school and middle school students. Explaining the importance of older students investing in the younger, Hubbard says, “What our students lack most are real, live models—not those models who act as if they have it all figured out but those who are transparent and honest with their successes and failures in their faith development journey. Teenagers seem more open to putting themselves out there for this task. Both our high schoolers and middle schoolers have done an amazing job of investing in current and future generations.”

Caitlin Bennett, a former student of Immanuel’s youth group, says these discipleship practices have led to the student ministry becoming a “big family.”

“Our leaders really try to get the middle school and high school involved together as a whole youth ministry,” she says. “Even as a young college student who is out of the youth ministry now, I still get to be involved and see kids I got to disciple as a high schooler discipling others. It’s a neat cycle to see and be a part of.”

Hubbard says what makes Immanuel’s student ministry unique is that while many churches view student ministry as a form of baby-sitting or as something they have to do to keep the teenagers out of trouble, Immanuel sees it as a strategic ministry for both church growth and Kingdom advancement. In other words, they believe teenagers, like all Christians, are called to be Christ’s ambassadors from the point of salvation.

The church’s trust in their students’ ability to be used by God is epitomized by an annual Student Takeover month.

Student Takeover is when high school and some middle school students are given the opportunity to lead in nearly every area of the church. Students can sign up for a range of ministries, including teaching Sunday School classes, leading Wednesday night prayer meetings with older adults, and sharing testimonies during a worship service. Although Hubbard and the adult volunteers maintain oversight, all of these ministries are student-led for the entire month.

In its inaugural year, Student Takeover lasted only two weeks, but this past spring, the entire month of April and the first week of May was dedicated to student leadership.


This month-long event exemplifies Hubbard’s view that teenagers, just like adults, are called to serve the Kingdom of God.

“We work hard to make sure that the students know it is not our job to do the ministry that Christ has set before the church,” Hubbard explains. “That work is meant for all, not just the church staff. We want our students to know and to practice what it means or does not mean to be ministers regardless of a vocational call.” ■



EQUIPPING ONE GENERATION TO DISCIPLE THE NEXT

STORY BY ALEX SIBLEY
PHOTOS BY JASON DAVIS



The problem today isn't that many of our church kids are rejecting the faith of their parents," says Doug Bischoff, next generations minister at Houston's First Baptist Church. "The problem is that too many are accepting the apathetic, impersonal, mediocre faith of their parents."

This sentiment explains why Houston's First carries the vision that ministries designed for people ages 18 and under must also minister to their parents. Bischoff explains that God's design is for parents, not church leaders, to be the primary disciplers of their children.

"Deuteronomy 6 makes it clear that God's intention was for parents to pass along the Law to their children," Bischoff says. "In our context, that means a genuine faith in Christ. God has hardwired parents to be the most influential people in the life of a child."

Bischoff first arrived at Houston's First in 2007 when he was hired as the church's student minister. For the discipleship of students, he brought with him a set of sound principles that included an emphasis on equipping parents. He derived these principles from his roughly 20 years of youth ministry experience and from his education at Southwestern Seminary.

Then a Ph.D. student at the seminary, having already earned his master's degree from Southwestern years earlier, Bischoff credits Southwestern with shaping him theologically. Under the tutelage of professors like Phil Briggs, Wes Black, Johnny Derouen, and Richard Ross, Bischoff says he was trained in what it means to be a "professional" student minister.

"It's much more than just planning a trip to Six Flags," Bischoff says. "I learned a heart for discipleship of students and the equipping of parents to be disciplers."

During his Ph.D. program, Bischoff worked closely with Richard Ross. Bischoff says that his ministry experience along with Ross' passion for training parents was "the perfect storm" for Bischoff to formulate his key principles for discipleship.

Bischoff employed these principles as student minister of Houston's First for five years. During that time, he began to take on more and more responsibilities related to bringing together different age groups (preschool, children, and students) to impact the whole family. In 2012, the church decided that giving attention to this impact on a regular basis would prove beneficial.

As a result, the church created a position called "next generations minister." Bischoff took the position, which gives him oversight of all ministries catering to people ages 18 and under, now known collectively as "NextGen" ministries.

"Our main desire in creating this role," Bischoff says, "was to bring together the preschool, children's, and student ministry staffs of our church as one big team to

"LISTEN, ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THESE WORDS THAT I AM GIVING YOU TODAY ARE TO BE IN YOUR HEART. REPEAT THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN. TALK ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE AND WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET UP. BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND AND LET THEM BE A SYMBOL ON YOUR FOREHEAD. WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 (HSBC)



DOUG BISCHOFF, wife Wendy, and children Micah, Bailey, and Ruthie.





➤ **Tony Bianco**, middle school student minister, uses this lunch to welcome Houston's First Baptist Church seventh graders and their parents to the youth group. Bianco's desire is to come alongside the parents and to equip them to effectively disciple their young teens in this unique time of transition.





➔ “When mom and dad love Jesus and are pouring into a student, and then that student is surrounded by three or four other adults doing the same—watch out! That’s a game changer! God could very well use that kind of kid to turn the world upside down.”

Doug Bischoff, *next generation’s minister, Houston’s First Baptist Church*

ensure that our discipleship of students and our equipping of parents were consistent and compatible. More than anything, we want kids to walk with God for a lifetime.”

One of the areas where the impact of this ministry is best seen is in the transition of students from one ministry to another.

“A 4 year old differs drastically from a 14 year old,” Bischoff explains. “It is essential that we minister to them differently, that we relate to them differently, and that parents parent them differently.”

What is gained in specialization, by dividing childhood into preschool, children, and students, Bischoff said, is often lost in isolation.

“Sometimes the greatest predictor of a child’s success in one stage is the transition into that stage from the previous one. In other words, the smooth handoff of a preteen from the children’s ministry to the student ministry is vital.”

Tony Bianco, middle school student minister at Houston’s First, says that this transition is one of his primary responsibilities.

“The idea of small groups and corporate peer worship are two big aspects of the student ministry that are new to those coming in,” Bianco says. “I work closely with the preteen ministry (fourth and fifth graders) to help get them ready for the switch.”

Bischoff says that, in addition to providing a smoother transition, uniting the church’s ministries under the “NextGen” banner allows them to join efforts in targeting families as a whole.

“Since most families have kids in more than one area at a time,” Bischoff explains, “our common message has been heard more clearly by families. When a preschool ministry has one idea of what’s important in ministry, but the children’s ministry looks very different, it causes confusion among parents and

leads to mistrust as to what is really important. Our families tell us that NextGen makes doing church as a family simpler and easier to navigate.”

One theme common to all NextGen ministries is the training of parents to minister to their children.

“I have many goals, but one main goal is to walk alongside the parents of my students to assist and equip them in being the primary disciplers of their families,” says Bianco, who graduated from Southwestern in 2012.

“I do this in a few different ways. We offer something called the ‘Parent Path,’ which is a walk-through, from birth to graduation, of teaching and training for parents based on their student’s age. We also try to communicate to our parents what we are teaching so they can have conversations with their student about faith-based topics. We communicate



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The Curve Changes Everything
The Next Big Thing is Here



➤ The youth group of Houston's First work with a number of church plants to engage communities in New York City, N.Y. — just one of the many ways that these students are already turning the world upside down for Christ.



this through email and [a smartphone] app.

“Often parents want to be the disciplers they are called to be but have a hard time starting or knowing how to have faith-based conversations with their student. We help the best way we can.”

Bianco notes that, as Houston's First has employed these methods, they have seen more and more parents grow closer to the Lord and, in turn, assist their children in their walks with the Lord.

“Parents who accept the role of being the primary disciple-makers of their children have many more hours a week to invest in and disciple their children than a church or student ministry,” Bischoff says.

“When it works best, church is a time of reaffirming what is being taught in the home.”

As pastors and parents have invested in

students, Houston's First has seen them grow and mature in their faith, with some professing Christ for the first time.

One recent example is a student about whom Bianco was told when he first arrived at Houston's First in 2012. Shortly after his tenure began, Bianco met with the parents of one of his students. They explained that even though their son grew up in church and knew the right answers, he was not a believer in Jesus Christ. They shared with Bianco, however, that they continued to pray for their son, hoping that one day he would put his faith in Jesus.

Bianco says that he became intentional with this particular student, sharing with him the love of Christ. The student continued attending church and encountered adult volunteers in the ministry as well as Christians his age. In the meantime, his

parents continued to pray for his salvation.

Two years after their initial meeting, in August 2014, the parents rejoiced as their son was baptized. He had finally accepted Christ. God had answered their prayers.

Bianco says, “It was because of the constant intentionality that his Bible Study leader, friends, parents, our [high school] student minister, and I put into him through conversations and prayer that God worked in this student's life.”

“When mom and dad love Jesus,” Bischoff concludes, “and are pouring into a student, and then that student is surrounded by three or four other adults doing the same—watch out! That's a game changer! God could very well use that kind of kid to turn the world upside down.” ■

are alive in us
in take Your place
e all we need
e has set us free



LEADING & SERVING

Focusing on students' hearts produces servant-minded youth

STORY BY ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY NEIL WILLIAMS

Scott Johnson, youth pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Paradise, Texas, says the biggest misconception people have about middle school and high school students is that they are incapable of being trusted and being responsible—whether as members of society or as fellow believers.

“My advice for these people,” Johnson says, “would be to volunteer with a local youth group and witness the love, joy, and life that students are capable of—especially when given the chance to lead.”

At Grace Fellowship, 50-60 students, ranging from fifth through 12th grades, serve in some capacity in the church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Christian, for example, a high school junior, has served in ministry since he was in eighth grade. He began as an aide to one of the pre-teen small group leaders and has since developed into a regular small group leader and communicator on Sunday mornings in the pre-teen ministry. Johnson says it has been incredible to see Christian’s response to God’s call in his life and his evolution—not only as a leader, but also as a follower of Christ.

“The most rewarding aspect of ministry for me is seeing ministry happen without me,” Johnson says. “There are few things in ministry that can compare to seeing students

we’ve poured our lives into step out and lead through communicating the truth or facilitating a small group.”

Regarding his goal for ministry, Johnson says it is simply to lead students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. He and his staff accomplish this by placing students in environments where they connect personally with Christ, find accountability in their pursuit of God, and have opportunities to impact those within their spheres of influence.

“Because we strive to focus on the hearts of our students,”

Johnson explains, “helping them find hope and joy in Christ ... creates a contagious attitude that students want to be a part of and stay a part of. It is less about what we do and more about what is done organically through those relationships.”

Johnson says his ministry is important to him because, as a teenager, he made several unwise decisions that had far-reaching consequences. Because of this, he desires to see students pursue Christ instead of themselves.

“The adolescent years are so formative,” Johnson says, “and I get the excuse of stepping in and providing hope and a loving God during these potentially turbulent years.”

After becoming a Christian at age 7, Johnson felt called to ministry as a high

“There are few things in ministry that can compare to seeing students we’ve poured our lives into step out and lead through communicating the truth or facilitating a small group.”

~Scott Johnson



school student. Since the majority of his mentors were graduates of Southwestern Seminary, Johnson decided to attend there for his Master of Arts in Christian education, graduating in 2008.

“My biggest takeaway from my time at Southwestern has been the connections that were made during my time at the campus,” Johnson says. “From professors to classmates, I have found that several of those connections have been great sources of wisdom and direction through the ebb and flow of ministry.”

As youth pastor at Grace Fellowship, Johnson strives to teach his students the basics of Christianity: pursuing Jesus on a daily basis, understanding the value of time alone with God, and having the attitude of Christ in everything they do. As students develop these disciplines, the natural result of their spiritual growth is serving in the church, and as the older students lead by example, the younger students are eager to follow.

“Within our ministry,” Johnson explains, “students regularly see older students leading out and serving in different capacities. As a result of this, we’ve seen younger students wanting to find their places and their opportunities to serve. That sense of ownership has also driven them to invite their friends to be a part of what God is doing.

“By design, this self-perpetuating model leads to deeper relationships with Christ and with other believers and leads to growth, not only as an individual but also as a youth group.” ■

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wisdom and direction through
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~Scott Johnson



TAKING THE GOSPEL TO VANCOUVER



STORY BY MICHELLE TYER
PHOTOS BY ADAM TARLETON

S

even students from the College at Southwestern spent two months of summer vacation helping church planters in college, youth, and other ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia. The city of roughly 2.3 million residents is on the North American Mission Board's list of SEND cities desperately in need of churches.

Only about three percent of the large city's population professes to be Evangelical Christian, and there is only one Canadian National Baptist Convention church for every one of the 35,690 Vancouver-area residents.

Southwestern Seminary eagerly accepted the challenge of reaching the young people in that spiritually dark area of Canada. The seven college students of varying degrees left for Vancouver in June.

The Southwestern students split into two teams and dove into the ministries of two local churches, Ekklesia Baptist Church and Church on the Rock. The teams assisted in children's, youth, men's, and women's ministries, while also reaching out to college students at the local university by starting a Bible study.

Matthew Bond, an alumnus of Southwestern Seminary and church planter at Ekklesia, partnered with the Southwestern students after his family's own journey to Canada. Acting on faith, Bond – on his way to becoming a school principal after spending 16 years as a high school teacher in Tennessee – moved his family to Fort Worth for seminary after God called him to full-time ministry, first as a youth pastor and then as a church planter.

"Beginning a new life at the age of 40 was not what I had planned," Bond says. "But God used our seminary time to deepen our faith, teach us a deeper understanding of God's Word, and open the possibility of coming to British Columbia to plant churches."

Bond says the goal this summer for the Southwestern students was twofold. First, the church wanted to invest in the interns themselves as they gained on-field experience, witnessing for themselves what international ministry and church planting looks like. Secondly, they wanted to spread the Gospel through Ekklesia and other opportunities created by the students.

The interns helped the church by serving in various ministries designed to reach out to the younger members of the community and to connect with students at the University of Victoria. Bond calls this a daunting task on Vancouver Island because of the spiritual climate.

"I believe young adults in college and high school have a low tolerance for the superficial Christianity that they have seen too often in those who call themselves believers," Bond says of the spiritual state of the students they

met. "Engaging students on their campuses and investing in their lives is a key component to reaching this generation and the next. I also contend they are searching for truth and a purpose in life, yet moral relativism has hijacked their minds, clouding their judgment and openness to the absolute truth of the Gospel."

The Southwestern interns counteracted the spiritual darkness by providing the truth of the Gospel as they invested in the university campus as well as other neighborhoods around Vancouver.

The Southwestern teams led soccer camps and Bible studies for the children of the community, teaming up with youth volunteers invited by the Bonds and showing them how to lead those children's camps and how to do street evangelism themselves. Bachelor of science student Kamron Johnson, who is working toward a Bachelor of Science in



➤ After a summer of doing Vacation Bible School style camps and street evangelism, Southwestern students trained youth volunteers to do the same. They both taught and modeled what Reaching the World looks like on a Canadian island.





✦ **KAMRON JOHNSON** (far right), student at the College at Southwestern, leads a group of volunteers in park evangelism. On beautiful Vancouver Island, B.C., Romans 1:20 is an ever present reality. In a culture that treasures the outdoors, creation is often the best setting for engaging the lost.



Biblical Studies, says he especially enjoyed participating in street evangelism and sharing the Gospel with those he met around the city.

"I loved playing the 'tourist' guy and asking questions about Canada and all the hot spots to see and places to hang out at," Johnson says. "Then, once they were comfortable, that's when I asked the deeper questions about church and faith."

Johnson says at first many were opposed to talking about God, but the team persisted and saw fruit as the Vancouver residents began to open up to them.

Theresa Shirley, a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, said she chose to participate in the trip for the opportunity to observe church planting first hand and because of the many ministries with whom she knew they would serve. Although most of the students with whom they interacted were young men, Shirley says she enjoyed getting to invest in the young women she met and looks forward to more opportunities to minister to girls in student ministries.

"Of all the ministries we worked through, I loved getting to teach the youth most of all," Shirley says of her months in Canada, helping at Church on the Rock. "We want to encourage the students to grow in Christ and to develop strong faith so that as they go out they will be faithful to Jesus even when it is no longer the 'cool' thing to do. To have a strong student ministry, it has to center on discipleship."

Bond says he not only saw an impact made on the community but he also saw growth in the four Southwestern interns who helped at Ekklesia, none of whom had ever been on a mission trip for that length of time. As they celebrated achievements and worked through disappointments, Bond says they grew spiritually even as they left an indelible mark on the area.

Under the direction of Steve Lee, professor of Baptist church planting, the College hopes to send a team to Vancouver with the Generation Send effort with NAMB again next summer. Bond also says they look

forward to welcoming future interns to help their church reach the community.

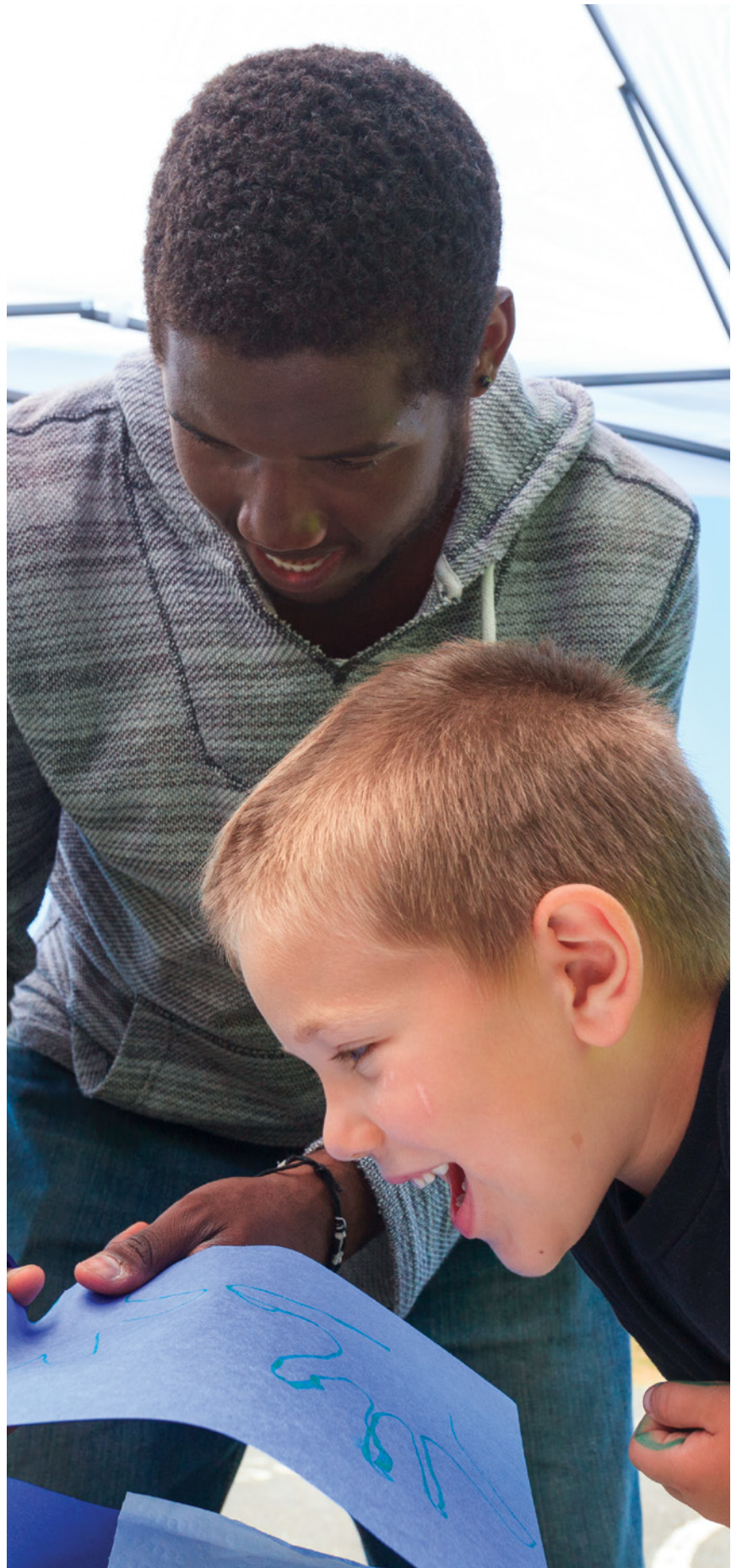
"I saw God using us to break down walls of hostility to the Gospel," says team member Jenn Ulrich, who will serve as NAMB's Campus Mobilizer at Southwestern next year. "When we got there, we met several people who were turned off to Christianity because their perception of Christians was as hateful or exclusive or legalistic; but we really spent a majority of our time emphasizing the love of Christ. We got to watch hearts soften to the Lord."

During the trip, the team members did not witness anyone come to faith in Christ, but Bachelor of Arts student Ulrich says they saw several take steps toward Christ. In future years, as more teams go, they hope to see even more fruit in the dark city.

"I can see God working there," Ulrich says. "And my prayer is that God would send more workers because there is a harvest just waiting." ■



➤ College at Southwestern students served alongside the Bonds—church planters on Vancouver Island, B.C., —at every level of ministry. Whether setting up for a pier side worship service, leading in music, doing outreach to local fishermen, or cutting out crafts with kids, these students took every opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



POWERFUL POTENTIAL



STORY BY MICHELLE TYER



“We love seeing teenagers respond to opportunities, because they’re at that season of life where they’ll do anything and they’ll go anywhere for the sake of Christ because they just don’t know any better.”

—CHAD GLOVER

WITH RECENT DECISIONS AND DEBATES attacking religious rights, traditional marriage, and other similar topics in federal and local governments, Christian teenagers in the United States face an uphill battle as they strive to bring the Gospel to their culture.

Describing teens as being “in the fight of their life,” Chad Glover, high school student minister at First Baptist Church of Bossier City, La., says he believes “culturally they’re getting hit with all kinds of things.”

“Their family is a foxhole. They’re trying to wade through what are true norms,” Glover says. “It’s definitely a delicate thing, but they’re fighting and they can be triumphant in this if they have good direction.”

Glover first entered student ministry as an intern at a church in Tyler, Texas, where he worked with middle school students after his first year in college. Glover used some of his own difficult experiences in his earlier years to minister to youth going through similar struggles.

Glover spent a summer helping at churches’ Disciple Now events for their youth. He started his own business in Tyler and began preaching part-time as a bi-vocational pastor. But an opportunity came for him to help a small, satellite congregation start a youth ministry.

“In the end, God really just gave me a burden for preaching and discipling men,” Glover says. “And that really played out in the realm of student ministry.”

He then accepted a full-time position in Shreveport, a position he held for three years before being called to First Bossier, where he has served for more than two years. During his time at Shreveport, Glover commuted to Southwestern, where he says he received a quality



education that he uses regularly in his student ministry today. He completed his Master of Arts in Christian Education in December 2012.

Glover refers to First Bossier as “cutting edge and creative” in their area, as they lead the charge forward into their culture by reaching local high schools, with the expectation that God will bless their efforts. Glover says he has witnessed God’s favor as students are baptized.

Glover says the church has prioritized ministry to students at this important season in their lives – a time of developing beliefs and opinions and absorbing knowledge. They are also more than willing to serve, Glover says.

“A lot of people say the youth is the church of tomorrow,” Glover says. “It’s the church of today, and so we really try to give them an experience of what it looks like to be the church and give them jobs and give them opportunities to explore the giftings that God has given them.

“We love seeing teenagers respond to opportunities, because they’re at that season of life where they’ll do anything and they’ll go anywhere for the sake of Christ because they just don’t know any better.”

On a weekly basis, the student ministry participates in Wednesday worship, Sunday small groups, and accountability groups. They also hold a 12 to 15-week discipleship strategy, training students in how to make disciples among their friends, that is, how to lead others to follow Jesus the way they do.

Glover says their student ministry has an Acts 1:8 vision. In that verse, Christ commanded His disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the world. The students of First Bossier reach out to other nations through mission trips to El Salvador and Juarez, Mexico. They may go to Haiti this year. They have also gone on trips to Washington, D.C., partnered with First Baptist Church of Houston, and helped with Bible clubs for children at Mission Arlington in Arlington, Texas.

Evan McFarland, minister to middle school students at First Bossier and a current student at Southwestern, led middle school students as they served at Mission Arlington this past summer. While there, the students themselves organized Bible clubs for children at different apartment complexes, leading the children in music, games, crafts, and Bible stories.

“Our vision for our students is to mobilize them to go out and create disciples, so missions is a huge emphasis for us,” McFarland says. “That’s why they do the El Salvador trip in the summer and also Mission Arlington: to prepare them. Not just a mission trip where we build houses or paint. That’s really good, but we want to make them comfortable in sharing their faith and making disciples and reaching people and reaching families to bring them to the Kingdom.”

While reaching out through missions across the country and the world, the students also seek victories in the battle



“Our vision for our students is to mobilize them to go out and create disciples, so missions is a huge emphasis for us ... Not just a mission trip where we build houses or paint. That’s really good, but we want to make them comfortable in sharing their faith and making disciples and reaching people and reaching families to bring them to the Kingdom.”

—EVAN MCFARLAND



“WE ALWAYS TELL OUR KIDS THAT THEY SET THE SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH BECAUSE THEY HAVE THIS YOUTHFUL ENERGY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM IN THIS SEASON OF LIFE THAT CAN IGNITE PASSION AND BECOME CONTAGIOUS TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH. WE BELIEVE THAT THE STUDENTS HAVE THAT POTENTIAL AND THAT POWER.”

—CHAD GLOVER

ground that includes their local high schools. Throughout the school year, the student ministry participates in a four-week strategy they continue throughout the year called HOPE – an acronym for Help, Overcome, Prepare, and Engage.

Each week the staff goes to the high schools. First they have students share evangelism strategies such as the Romans Road. The next week they bring in a Christian member of the community, such as a lawyer, who shares with the students how they can bring the Gospel into the community. The third week, select students share their testimonies, and they all create a list of lost friends for whom to pray. During the final week, the students invite those friends to the session on campus where food is provided, the Gospel is presented, and an invitation is given. The process is then repeated.

“We are on a nine-month-long mission trip with that strategy,” Glover says. “It’s been really cool seeing them be bold in their context on a day-in and day-out basis.”

While connecting students with their peers, the ministry staff also strives to connect students with others in the church and with their families. Senior adults are paired with students so they can faithfully pray for that student, benefitting both groups as they interact.

“We always tell our kids that they set the spiritual temperature of the entire church,

because they have this youthful energy that God has given them in this season of life that can ignite passion and become contagious to the entire church,” Glover says. “We believe that the students have that potential and that power.”

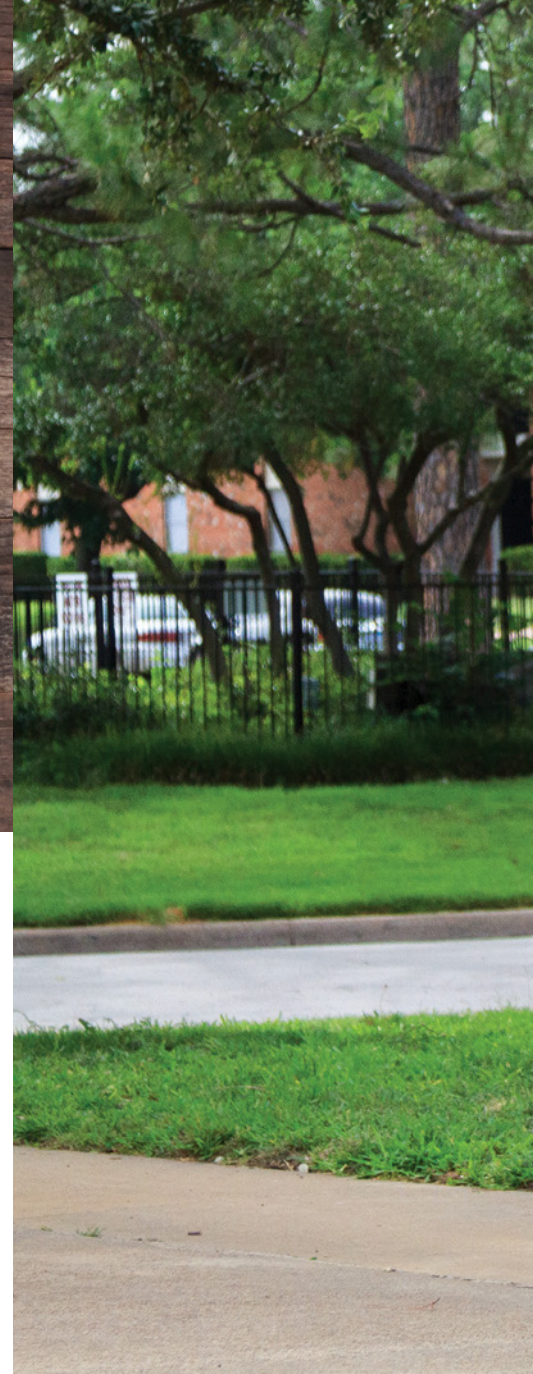
The ministry also provides classes for parents so they can be equipped as they train and disciple their teenage sons and daughters. They also provide a devotion for the parents following the students’ Bible study so the parents can discuss with their teen students what they learned the previous Sunday.

“The success of us as a ministry is totally dependent on the success of the family at large,” Glover says.

Glover says with proper training from their parents and the church, Christian students at First Bossier and across the United States will become a force to be reckoned with as they reach their peers and even the world with the Gospel.

“I think most students are just waiting for someone to call them out... [to tell them] ‘It’s time to take your faith seriously and here’s an opportunity,’” Glover says. “They typically will rise to the occasion and do a great job.

“I think a lot of them are just waiting for someone to believe in them and to mobilize them to do something great and even radical ... because they feel accomplished when they are obedient to Christ,” Glover concludes. “A lot of them just need that nudge.” ■





The students of First Baptist Bossier, La., reach out to other nations through mission trips to El Salvador, Juarez, and possibly one to Haiti this year. They have also gone on trips to Washington, D.C., partnered with First Baptist Church of Houston, and helped with Bible clubs for children at Mission Arlington in Arlington, Texas.



PRACTICAL MEANS

» ————— « *for* « ————— »

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

STORY BY MICHELLE TYER | PHOTOS BY MICHELE YATES

In 17 years of ministry, Ryan Walling, youth pastor of First Baptist Church in Hurst, Texas, and an alumnus of Southwestern Seminary, had never sought out anyone to specifically assist in the youth ministry as a girls' ministry associate.

Walling reasoned that he preferred having fluidity and consistency throughout the youth instead of including a specific girls' ministry that might divide the ministry's efforts.

"Recently I've changed my outlook," Walling now says. "Some of this has to do with changing times and the ever-increasing gap of need between males and females."

So when Walling's wife had to take a step

back from serving youth alongside him, to take care of their children, Walling decided to look for someone to fill that role.

Chelsea Francis, a student at Southwestern, had served as a youth minister in a small Southern Baptist church for a time in the Austin area before coming to school, but she especially looked forward to ministering to young women. That opportunity came when Walling interviewed her for the position.

"I was looking for someone who could connect deeply with the girls in the group," Walling says, "being a mentor and discipler for them, but also seeing the bigger picture of student ministry in the church."

In November 2013, Francis began working with Walling to serve the youth ministry, connecting with the girls and planning events to equip them physically and spiritually and to reach their lost friends.

Francis says her goal is to help train the young ladies to become mature women through such practical means as lessons on cooking, shopping, and budgeting. Those practical lessons also impact their spiritual maturity.

"Students are capable of maturity," Francis says, a lesson she learned at Southwestern Seminary from professors including Richard Ross and Johnny Derouen. "We can help give them responsibilities and experiences to prepare



them for adulthood. Our job isn't to spoon-feed them with cookie cutter Bible lessons and flashy, fun events, but rather it is to guide them to be able to feed themselves spiritually."

And that is what Francis has endeavored to do over the past months at First Baptist Hurst through events such as a clothing swap that taught about modesty, materialism, and generosity, and a painting event focused on Eph. 2:10 and the truth that the girls are each a masterpiece with purpose. Another event focused on God's Word as a guide in life.

With every event, Francis says they focus on spiritual aspects in order to train the girls spiritually. In Bible studies, she also encourages group discussions to develop critical thinking.

While personally training the girls is important to both Francis and Walling, connecting them to their parents is even more important, a truth Francis says she learned at Southwestern and now applies to her ministry.

"The program here has helped me recognize that student ministry is not only for students, but also for parents and families," Francis says. "Our job is to partner with parents in cultivating spiritual maturity in students."

Walling says that connection with their parents, as well as with other mentors in the church, is important in a youth ministry.

"It is our philosophy that student ministry is not an appendage to the church but a vital part of it," Walling says. "We seek to connect teens with older adults in the congregation, not seclude them in their own little bubble."

Francis says she uses the lessons from Titus 2, Paul's instruction for older women to challenge the younger women in the church, as a model in her ministry. Too often, Francis says, churches overlook a formal way of applying that truth in youth ministries.

"Many times girls are overlooked in youth ministry," Francis says. "Whether or not a church has a paid girls' minister on staff, the ministry is essential."

Having a specific girls' ministry provides opportunities for discussions that would not be comfortable in a larger group setting with young men present and gives Francis a chance to invest more specifically and personally in the girls' lives.

"It facilitates times and places to deepen relationships between students, parents, and youth workers," Francis says. "It provides experiences for them to see godly women model maturity and to take part in it themselves."

"But most of all, girls' ministry shows girls that they are valued and loved by the God of the universe." ■

FRANCIS SAYS HER GOAL IS TO HELP TRAIN THE YOUNG LADIES TO BECOME MATURE WOMEN THROUGH SUCH PRACTICAL MEANS AS LESSONS ON COOKING, SHOPPING, AND BUDGETING. THOSE PRACTICAL LESSONS ALSO IMPACT THEIR SPIRITUAL MATURITY.



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MISSIONS AS DISCIPLESHIP

A 20-YEAR YOUTH PASTOR'S KEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

STORY BY ALEX SIBLEY
PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER



When Victor Flores interviewed for the position of pastor of student ministries at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., nearly 24 years ago, he was asked where he saw himself in 20 years.

He answered, “When God created me, he made a youth pastor, and so I see myself doing this as long as I possibly can. I hope I get to do it until I retire.”

Flores was hired, and nearly two decades later, he still serves in the same position. This longevity has allowed Flores’ consistent vision for ministry to provide a stable foundation for thousands of students to become servant-minded followers of Christ.

Flores was called to full-time youth ministry quickly after becoming a Christian in his late teens. Since he did not grow up in the church, however, much of the church’s terminology proved elusive to him, as did many of the methodologies his ministry would require. For this reason, his time at Southwestern Seminary proved particularly beneficial.

“The very practical nature of many of my courses was very helpful because of my lack of

familiarity with Southern Baptist practices and terminology,” Flores says. “So everything was fresh and new for me. I was like a kid in a candy store, just eating all this up.”

Flores graduated with his Master of Arts in Religious Education in 1985. His passion for youth ministry developed throughout his time at Southwestern, and he sensed that his youth ministry career might carry on longer than most.

At one point during his time at seminary, Flores inquired of his former pastor and mentor how long he thought Flores could do youth ministry.

Despite this inquiry coming at a time when few people did youth ministry long-term, Flores’ mentor responded without flinching, “Vic, you can do this as long as you want to. Age is not a factor. You do it as long as you think God has you in it.”

A few years later, Flores was hired at Bell Shoals. There, Flores has impacted the lives of thousands of students, several of whom have since gone into full-time ministry. Flores attributes the spiritual depth of his youth group to Bell Shoals’ continuing emphasis on missions.

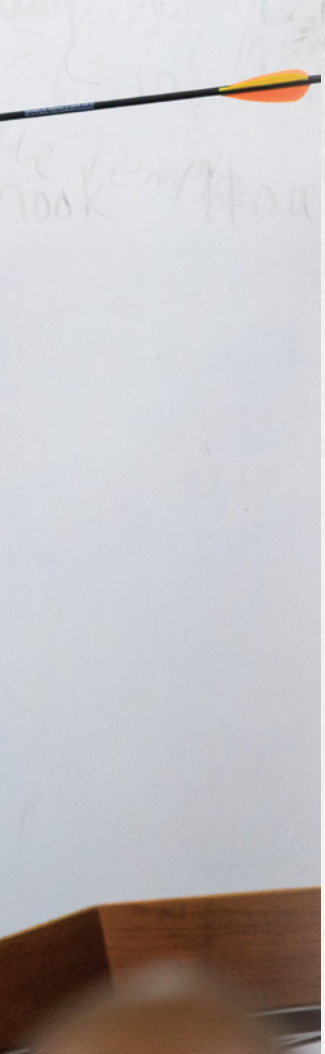
“Capturing and catapulting this generation

is critical in the spread of the Gospel,” Flores says, noting that today’s youth seem to possess an adventurous spirit that makes them ideal candidates for missions.

“It’s the same spirit that will cause a kid to ride his skateboard on the top of a car while the car is moving and see if he can stay balanced,” Flores explains. “Well, that’s stupid. But it’s that kind of crazy, risk-taking behavior that also will make a guy like Jim Elliot go to the most dangerous tribe on the face of the planet to share the Gospel. We don’t think that way in my age, but young people are just primed for that.”

Flores and his fellow youth leaders at Bell Shoals utilize this spirit in three major ways: “Point Beyond Partnering,” weekly “Go Teams,” and an annual mission trip to Brazil.

Point Beyond Partnering (so named because the youth building at Bell Shoals is called “The Point”) is an effort to get students outside the walls of the church to serve local ministries with which the church partners. These partners include homeless ministries, halfway houses, and a ministry designed for migrant workers. Each year, every department—from seventh through 12th grade—chooses a partner ministry



with which they will serve throughout that year.

Go Teams are small groups of students plus one adult who make home visits each Wednesday to church guests and chronic absentees. These visits are largely goodwill visits to show visitors gratitude for attending Bell Shoals, provide informational materials, and answer any questions they may have. The goal of each visit is to always look for an opportunity to share the Gospel.

Of all the youth ministry's missions opportunities, Flores says the annual mission trip to Brazil has the most impact toward creating passionate followers of Christ.

Bell Shoals has been sending teams of 60-80 students to Curitiba, Brazil, for 15 years. There, students have the opportunity to present the Gospel in local schools and parks through the use of drama, testimonies, and one-on-one encounters.

While many youth groups emphasize missions, Flores says his church is unique because it views missions as a disciple-making endeavor for individuals and families.

For example, training for the Brazil trip, which takes place in April, begins in October. Flores and the other adult volunteers, therefore, have several months' worth of weekly meetings to disciple the students going on the trip.

"There's training, there's teambuilding, and we even do language lessons," Flores says. "There's a lot that happens to prepare them for the trip, so the week in Brazil is just the tip of the iceberg."

Flores elaborates, "When we push students to do something that's a little bit harder, takes some effort, and costs some money, they seem to respond and grow from that. Our growth so often is precipitated by an admittance of weakness. And that's a lot of times exactly where God wants us. So when you're weak, then that's when you're strong."

"Our kids are so often used to cockiness and just want to look good. I like putting them in a place where it's hard to look good. They're going to struggle. They're going to have a little fear. But they just seem to grow more that way."

Flores recalls a few years ago when Bell Shoals' college pastor brought forward roughly a dozen students on a Sunday morning and asked the congregation to pray over

them because all of them felt called to missions, particularly in difficult locations.

"I remember sitting there," Flores says, "thinking about the fact that every one of those guys went to Brazil when they were in student ministry, and that's where it started."

Flores says that part of why disciple-making and missions are important to him is because all three of his children—now in their 20s—went on an extended mission trip in their youth, beginning with his oldest daughter who spent a month in Kazakhstan. Although Flores was initially reluctant to allow his daughter to go anywhere in the Middle East, she went, and Flores says it changed her life. His other two children had similar experiences.

When another parent asked Flores what was most significant in his children's spiritual growth, Flores said that it was those extended mission trips.

"It just fueled their faith and it challenged them," Flores says.

Flores believes such challenges are crucial for spiritual growth in the lives of students.

"Involvement in evangelistically-charged events and opportunities always produces what I have come to appreciate as a healthy dose of fear in the lives of our otherwise self-reliant students," Flores says. "Students are more apt to enter those teachable moments that youth pastors crave after being blatantly challenged in their faith."

Having taught these things to countless students for more than 20 years now, Flores says he has seen much return on his investments.

"One of the many unique joys of having served at Bells Shoals this long in the same position is to be able to easily stay in contact with students and their families," he says. "And of course it is such a great blessing to be associated with those former students whom God calls into ministry. There are many who are now serving throughout the nation and some overseas as missionaries ... by far one of my greatest joys!"

A Bible verse that characterizes Flores' sentiments about his students and is also one of his favorite verses is 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." ■

Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla.





LIFE-ON-LIFE MODELING:

**DISCIPLING STUDENTS TO BECOME
SPIRITUAL SELF-FEEDERS**



STORY BY ALEX SIBLEY
PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER



John Kelsey became a Christian at age 8, but in the ensuing years, he led a double life. Though he faithfully attended church three times a week, his life outside the church was characterized by rebellion. As Kelsey recalls, he knew all the right answers, but what he lacked was a deep, abiding love for Christ.

Not until he became involved with the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at the University of Oklahoma did Kelsey's life begin to turn around.

"I quickly saw an authentic brand of Christianity that, quite frankly, I'd never really seen before," Kelsey recalls. "There were these guys who were upperclassmen living in my freshman dorm. They were living there with the sole purpose of reaching out to freshman guys like me. So they were leading Bible studies and freshmen family groups, and these guys really loved me and were praying for me."

Although the change was not immediate, as these upperclassmen continued to disciple him, Kelsey's spiritual life underwent a radical transformation.

"Jesus found me and I got right with God," Kelsey says. "And it was through seeing the Gospel being lived out by those guys living in my dorm and seeing the contrast of what authentic Christianity was versus my brand of it. I really wanted what they had."

Roughly 20 years later, Kelsey now serves as director of OU's Baptist Student Union (now called Baptist Collegiate Ministries, or BCM), engaging brokenness with the power of the Gospel and leading a modeling discipleship ministry to transform lives.

Kelsey's call to ministry came in the wake of his spiritual turnaround. Initially, Kelsey's passion was for missions, so he went to Southwestern Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree with the intention of proceeding to Central Asia as a missionary. After his wife experienced a car accident that had lasting repercussions, however, Kelsey realized that trajectory would not pan out. Although the next year was difficult, God soon gave the Kelseys a course correction.

Kelsey was invited by Max Barnett, then the director of the BCM at OU, to join the campus ministry. After Kelsey and his wife prayed about the decision, the Kelseys understood that God had called them to work with students. Specifically, God called Kelsey to return to the

ministry that had significantly impacted his own life several years earlier.

“So we live as missionaries here at OU,” Kelsey says, “and the university campus is our people group. We’re going to reach them.”

Although he did not initially go to Southwestern to prepare for campus ministry, Kelsey realizes now that he uses what the seminary taught him on a weekly basis. Classes such as Hermeneutics taught him how to better understand the Scripture and communicate it effectively—skills he employs every week as he engages students at OU.

“Southwestern gave me a confidence that I could do professional ministry,” Kelsey says. “It gave me confidence and courage to stand before the people of God.”

After graduating from Southwestern in 1998, Kelsey served on staff at the BCM under Barnett for six years. When Barnett retired in 2004, Kelsey took over as director.

Kelsey says that although methods have changed in the last 10 years, the BCM’s vision and core values have not.

“We want our students to understand how to really engage Christ on their own,” Kelsey says. “Our ministry is not just about getting a crowd around but really training men and women in their walk with God and helping them with a difficult vision of spiritual multiplication so that they can be self-feeders spiritually. Our hope is that, when they leave OU, wherever they go, they will continue fulfilling the Great Commission in the context of their local church, either as laymen or as ministers.”

Kelsey says that community is a large factor in achieving this desired spiritual growth, particularly for this generation.

“They operate really well in teams,” Kelsey explains. “So the model we use is a funnel—we first want to bring people in the front door. So we’ll use our Tuesday night service or our small groups as a front door to bring them into community to initiate relationships with them.”


Following this, the BCM begins a specific and intentional discipleship process. Kelsey explains that everything in the “funnel” moves students deeper and deeper into the ministry, where more commitment is expected and the BCM staff is able to invest in them even more to build up their lives through prayer, time in the Word, and evangelism.

“The whole construct is life-on-life modeling,” Kelsey says, “and that’s the method of trying to build those things in their lives.”

“People do what makes sense to them,” Kelsey concludes, “so we try to bring them in and demonstrate—just like it was demonstrated for me 25 years ago—what authentic community looks like and what authentic Christianity can be.”

One of the BCM’s specific methods for reaching this goal is Paradigm, a weekly worship service that takes place on campus.





"WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO REALLY ENGAGE CHRIST ON THEIR OWN," KELSEY SAYS. "OUR MINISTRY IS NOT JUST ABOUT GETTING A CROWD AROUND, BUT REALLY TRAINING MEN AND WOMEN IN THEIR WALK WITH GOD AND HELPING THEM WITH A DIFFICULT VISION OF SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION SO THAT THEY CAN BE SELF-FEEDERS SPIRITUALLY."

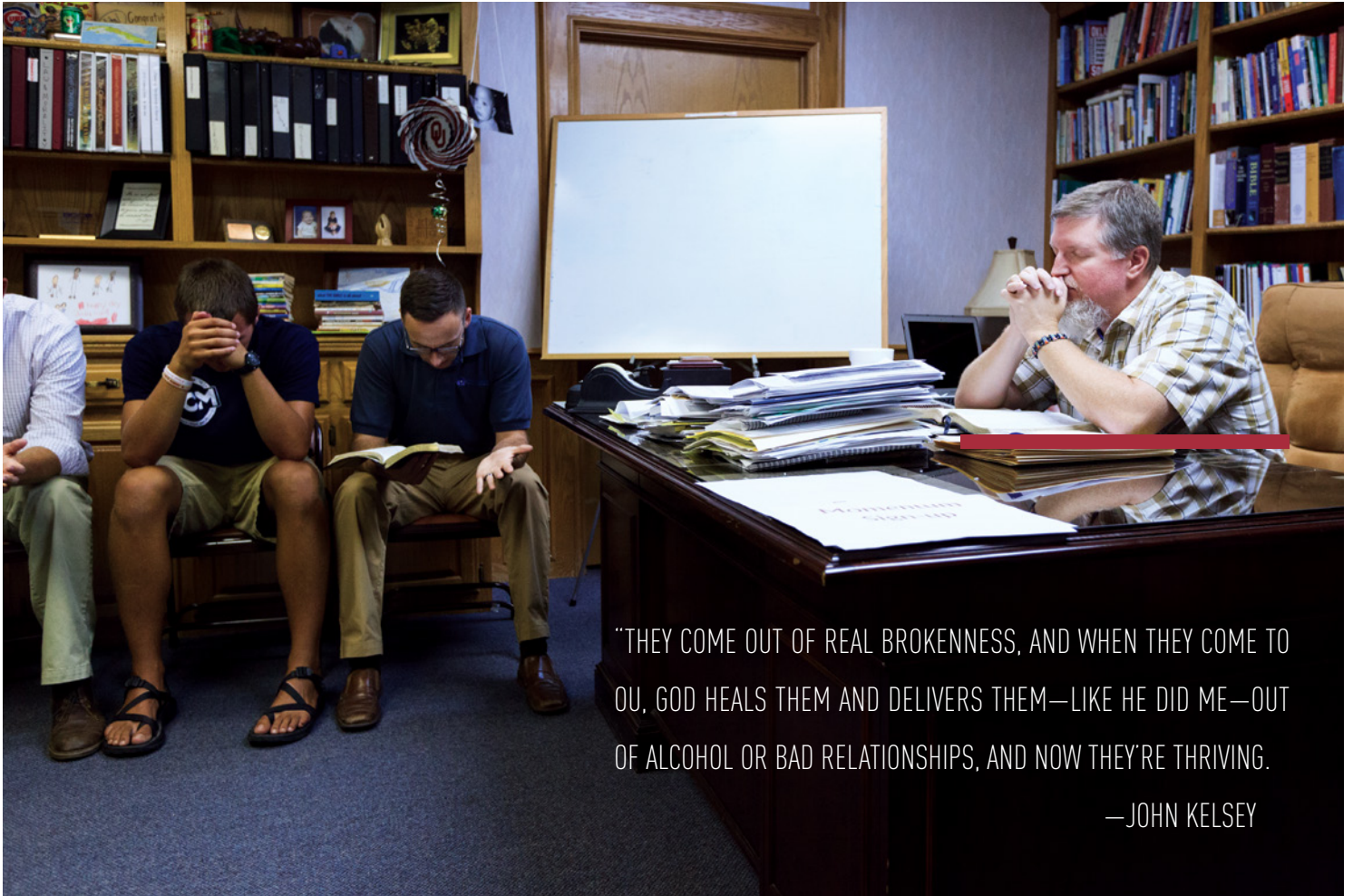




Daniel Pons, a senior at OU, says a positive experience at Paradigm while visiting the campus is what led him to go to OU in the first place.

“Everyone at Paradigm was welcoming before and after the meeting,” Pons says. “And they were completely focused and taking notes while the speaker was talking. That meant a lot to me, because I had never seen other people setting the bar so high and leading by such a good example.”

Another method for discipling students is Villages—missional communities that function as a network of relationships. These groups average roughly 15 students each and meet weekly for worship, fellowship, and exploration of the Word of God. More than a Bible study, however, each Village meets in a strategic location on- or off-campus in order to reach an identified group of people (such as those living in a particular dorm).



“THEY COME OUT OF REAL BROKENNESS, AND WHEN THEY COME TO OU, GOD HEALS THEM AND DELIVERS THEM—LIKE HE DID ME—OUT OF ALCOHOL OR BAD RELATIONSHIPS, AND NOW THEY’RE THRIVING.

—JOHN KELSEY

Ultimately, the goal is multiplication. As students from these target groups join Villages, the Villages separate to accommodate the growing numbers. In other words, if a Village in a particular dorm grows too large, it separates into two Villages.

Kurt Shiver, another Southwestern graduate on staff at the BCM, is one of several Village facilitators, meaning that he trains upperclassmen to lead Villages in a key dorm tower on campus, specifically reaching out to the freshmen living there.

“In our ministry, most of our upperclassmen choose to stay in the dorms—and often pay more money—so that they can reach freshmen,” says Shiver, who graduated from Southwestern in 2010.

Shiver recalls an example wherein the parents of an upperclassman told her they could afford to buy her a car or pay for her to live in the dorms. The student chose to go without a car so that she could stay in the dorms and have a ministry to freshmen girls.

A final example of the BCM’s modeling ministry is Project Impact, located in Kansas City. Through this program, students go to Kansas City for the summer where they live together, get full-time jobs, serve a local church, and receive intentional discipleship training on how to live out their faith in day-to-day life.

“We show them what life can look like after college, living as a layman outside of the Bible belt,” Kelsey says.

“They expect a lot from us,” Pons says of BCM ministry leaders. “And they are willing to put the time and effort into helping us grow in meaningful, lasting ways. They keep us accountable by taking the time to get to know us and by personally investing in our lives.

“They demonstrate for us what it means to

reach out to the lost, to love people well, to pray, and to have a meaningful quiet time. They live out what they’re wanting us to understand.”

Pons, who will graduate in May 2015, says this is crucial because “a campus ministry should not just be about providing a good experience and good community while we’re in college. It should be about preparing us to walk with the Lord for the duration of our lives.”

As the BCM has pursued this goal, Kelsey says God has blessed their ministry efforts, with students learning how to own their faith and share it with others.

“I’ve seen it with some of our alumni,” he says. “They come out of real brokenness, and when they come to OU, God heals them and delivers them—like He did me—out of alcohol or bad relationships, and now they’re thriving.

“They’re thriving in their churches and they’re making disciples as laymen. I just can’t get over that. I can’t get over the power of the Gospel in the lives of these students.” ■

FLOYD LEADS PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN AMERICA

By Alex Sibley

On Sept. 2, President of the Southern Baptist Convention Ronnie Floyd hosted a prayer gathering called "Pray for the Nation" on the campus of Southwestern Seminary. Southwestern students and faculty, as well as representatives from local churches, assembled in MacGorman Chapel for the evening, which comprised worship and prayer for spiritual awakening in America.

"I've really become convinced over these days that no great movement of God ever occurs without first being preceded by the extraordinary prayer of God's people, and tonight's really about extraordinary prayer," Floyd said. "We come together tonight with agreement that there is not a greater need in this country than for the God of heaven to step into this nation. That is our number one need and nothing else can fix it—only God can."

Floyd facilitated the evening by leading the congregation through a process of guided prayer. This process began with prayers of personal repentance, surrender to God, and an appeal to be filled with the Spirit. Following this, attendees prayed for revival in their local churches.

Floyd defined revival as when the manifested presence of God comes upon a body of believers,

leading to a season of unusual movement of the Lord in the body of Christ. "Great things begin to happen that were not happening," Floyd explained, "lives begin to be affected that were not affected before, and things change and never go back to where they were. Because God always makes a difference; it doesn't matter where he goes or what he does."

With these foundations laid, the next prayer focused on a new great awakening in the United States. Addressing the current crises going on in the country and around the world, Floyd said that such crises are nothing more than God calling people unto himself.

"God is speaking to his people," Floyd said, "and the wonderful thing about knowing Christ is that we have somewhere to go. We do not stand here tonight as people who are hopeless; we stand with greater hope than ever before that God is moving and God is going to move, and we're going to trust him tonight to do just that."

To illustrate God's ability to do great works in this country, Floyd listed several examples of how God moved among the American people in the past. He cited the three Great Awakenings, which, as Floyd put it, resulted

in the shifting of cultures and unprecedented missionary engagement. Floyd also mentioned a series of prayer gatherings in 1857 and 1858 in which God moved so mightily that in a matter of two years, one million Americans came to Christ.

"And there were only 30 million Americans alive," Floyd said. "Can you imagine what could happen in our country today if the Lord so chose to do that again?"

"God wants to bring a mighty spiritual awakening to America," Floyd continued. "I've never been more convinced of that. We [the United States] have more churches, more buildings, more money, more of this, more of that, but here's what we need: we need more God. And may that be what we become known for."

The final prayer of the evening focused on reaching the world with the Gospel, which Floyd said is the natural result of praying for spiritual awakening in the United States. "This is what we're all about," Floyd said. "This is what called us together back in 1845 [when the SBC was founded]: this idea that we can do a lot for God when we do it for his name and we join together in the right way and we take the Gospel to the ends of the earth."

SOUTHWESTERN INSTALLS QUEEN INTO CHAIR OF FIRE

By Michelle Tyer

Southwestern Seminary honored one of their own on August 21, when they installed Matthew Queen into the L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism.

Originally named the “Chair of Fire,” the



academic chair’s history stretches to the beginning of Southwestern, when founder and first president B. H. Carroll decided the seminary needed a department of evangelism. The Chair of Fire was the first academic chair for Southwestern and the first chair of evangelism in the world.

“I had the privilege of occupying the chair for about eight years,” President Paige Patterson said during the chapel service in which Queen was installed. “But I have never had a more wonderful, affirming moment in my life than to turn that chair over to the one who has just been named the recipient of that chair. He is a true evangelist, and I thank the Lord for Matt Queen.”

Overwhelmed by and appreciative of the president’s support, Queen – also the associate dean for doctoral programs in the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions

– says he at first tried to convince Patterson not to remove himself from the chair, which Queen says is the Holy Grail for evangelism professors.

Queen says he is honored by the installment into the chair, named after the second president of the seminary and a man whose name is almost synonymous with evangelism.

At Southwestern, Queen leads students in door-to-door evangelism in the communities within a two-mile radius of the campus as they participate in the Second Mile effort. It is because of that passion for the Gospel that Queen received the honor of being installed in the Chair of Fire.

“I’m so grateful and it gives me the greatest joy in the world to install you to the L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism,” Patterson told Queen. “And I know that you will continue to put [evangelism] on the front burner for all of us.”

VICTIMS OF AN ANCIENT EARTHQUAKE

By Staff

The Kourion Urban Space project (KUSP) has uncovered the remains of more victims of the massive earthquake that destroyed Kourion in the fourth century A.D. Initial analysis indicates the remains consist of two adults, a juvenile and an infant. The family was found huddled together trying to protect one another; the infant was found under the right arm of one of the adults. They took cover in the corner of a room, outside a doorway, but their precautions were of no avail, as they were killed by the collapse of the large stone walls of a residence partially uncovered by the current excavations. The bones were badly crushed and, in some instances, found directly under collapsed architectural stones.

The site of this tragedy was inside what may be an elite house based on the costly material culture, the monumentality of the architecture, and the expensive decorative materials such as gypsum flooring and marble facing that once adorned the architecture. Potentially two stories high, the floor plan is not yet complete and awaits further investigation. The house was rich in material cultural remains. Fragments of a large (more than 60 cm in diameter)

imported glass plate were found around and under portions of the earthquake tumble. The plate was created from bundles of hollow yellow glass canes, which were fused together in a dark green matrix. These plates are made in Egypt, and are usually found in Coptic cemeteries. The Kourion plate provides what may be the best dated example in the world. A large marble vase, numerous additional highly decorated glass fragments, and fineware ceramics indicate the wealth of the household. Ceramic analysis by the KUSP team including Scott Moore of Indiana University of Pennsylvania indicates a mid-fourth-century date for the tragedy. This has been supported by the numismatic analysis of the coins from the building by the KUSP numismatist, Paul Keen of the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

KUSP has completed the third season of a long-term archaeological investigation at the site of Kourion, Limassol District. KUSP is directed by Thomas W. Davis of the Tandy Institute for Archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Davis was formerly the director of the



Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute in Nicosia from 2003-2011. KUSP partners include the Australian Institute of Archaeology, the University of Cyprus, Cyprus Technical University and the Western Sovereign Base Area Archaeology Society. Students from the seminary were joined by students and volunteers from the consortium partners and from the University of Cincinnati, Arizona State University, the University of Palermo (Italy) and the University of Durham (U.K.). More than 20 local volunteers also assisted in the excavation of the site and the processing of the material remains.

JESSE HENDLEY CHAIR OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY INAUGURATED AND INSTALLED

By Alex Sibley

Craig Blaising was installed in the Jesse Hendley Chair of Biblical Theology at Southwestern Seminary Aug. 28.

The chair's namesake, Jesse Murphy Hendley, served as pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher, and radio minister over the course of his 60-year ministry. Often called the dean of Southern Baptist evangelists, Hendley began Atlanta's first Christian radio broadcast in 1931, which developed into "The Radio Evangelistic Hour" and continued for six decades.

"He was one of the most unique men and one of the most remarkable evangelists who ever lived," said Southwestern President Paige Patterson during the chair's inauguration. "Not only did he have the capacity to be an evangelist and know how to draw the net and extend the invitation so that people came to Christ, but he brought with it a scholarship that is rare anywhere in the pulpit today."

Following Hendley's death at age 87 in 1994, Hendley's son contacted Patterson,

then president at Southeastern Seminary, informing him that he would like to donate some of his father's money to Southeastern. At Patterson's suggestion, Hendley instead split the funds, donating half to Southeastern and the other half to Southwestern in order to endow a chair of theology at each seminary. As of Aug. 28, this has now become a reality at Southwestern.

When the time came to choose who would occupy the chair at Southwestern, Patterson said he considered whom the seminary could choose as an eminent, widely-known, and greatly-honored biblical theologian, but who also holds to a pre-tribulation rapture position on the church (as Hendley did).

"I just couldn't think of anybody more deserving of that than our own Dr. Blaising," Patterson said.



Blaising serves as executive vice president and provost at Southwestern, as well as professor of theology, and has written or contributed to multiple Christian publications, including *Progressive Dispensationalism* and *Three Views on the Rapture*.

PASTORS DISCUSS HOW TO MOTIVATE, MOBILIZE CHURCHES IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

By Staff

The advancement of the Great Commission will never be accelerated without Christians engaging in personal evangelism, newly elected SBC president Ronnie Floyd said at an evangelism panel discussion at the SBC annual meeting June 11.

"Somehow we have to find a way to do more to reach lost people for the Lord Jesus Christ," said Floyd. "You can't accelerate the Great Commission without personal evangelism."

Floyd joined pastors Steve Gaines, Stephen Rummage, and John Meador along with Southwestern Seminary evangelism professor Matt Queen to explore how Southern Baptist churches can be re-ignited with a fire for evangelism. The event, called "Launch: Creating a Culture of Everyday Evangelism" was hosted by Southwestern.

Queen encouraged pastors to model personal evangelism for church members. He recalled his days as a pastor, taking key leaders in his church with him on visits and training them in evangelism.

"Evangelism really is more caught than it is taught," Queen said.

Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis Tenn., added that true discipleship requires teaching that person to share his faith.

"If you're not training them to win people to Jesus, you're not discipling a real disciple of Jesus," Gaines said.

"When you lead someone to Christ, and you have a layman who just helped you share a testimony, you'll never have to convince him that soul-winning is important again. He'll want to see people get saved."

Rummage, senior pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church near Tampa, Fla., prays daily for opportunities to share his faith.

"I want our people to know their personal responsibility for sharing the gospel with people one-on-one and that I have a personal responsibility for sharing the gospel with people one-on-one," Rummage said.

John Meador, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, gave an impassioned plea for pastors and churches to get into the harvest fields during his convention sermon earlier in the day and echoed that plea during the Launch evangelism panel.

"I believe great awakening comes by obeying God in whatever it is we're not obeying Him, and right now, we're not obeying Him in evangelism," Meador said. "I believe God will send great awakening if we will just dive in with evangelism."

Queen agreed. "It's time for prognostication to stop and proclamation to increase," Queen said.

NAMB Vice President of Evangelism Al Gilbert, who led a pastors' task force on evangelistic impact and declining baptisms last year, concluded the panel discussion with a brief explanation of the task force's findings and a prayer for a resurgence of evangelism within SBC churches.



THAILAND MISSION TEAM AIMS TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL FEET

By Alex Sibley

Keith Eitel, dean of the school of evangelism and missions at Southwestern, says he hopes the lifeblood of all the seminary's mission trips will be engaging lostness with the Gospel.

Recalling Romans 10:15, Eitel says, "I guess you could say our aim is to make sure we all have beautiful feet."

From July 1-21, more than a dozen Southwestern students and faculty traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, striving toward this aim. God blessed their efforts, as over the course of the three-week trip, the team saw eight people come to Christ. In addition, the team engaged in numerous conversations, particularly with Buddhists, with each conversation representing a seed being planted.

Eitel, who has been leading Southwestern teams to Chiang Mai since 2006, says he has not seen these kinds of responses in past years, and so it was a "heightened encouragement" to see what God is doing in Thailand.



REACHING THE ANTANDROY PEOPLE OF MADAGASCAR

By Michelle Tyer

When Tom Elliff challenged the Southern Baptist Convention with the Embrace program—to adopt unreached and unengaged people groups (UUPGs) around the world—Southwestern Seminary accepted that challenge with the Antandroy people of Madagascar.

For a third time, the seminary sent students and faculty to the African island to follow through on that commitment, spending two weeks of their summer there, May 22 – June 8.

The team of 12 spent their first week studying African traditional religions in the morning, while in the afternoon they engaged the community through Bible stories and house-to-house evangelism.

After faithful teaching and proclamation of the Gospel during the course of the trip, the team witnessed almost 160 professions of faith.

"It's not an appendage to the Christian life," Keith Eitel, dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern. "But it should be more of a centralized part of what we do, that we touch the lostness around the world regardless of where we live."



OXFORD STUDY TOUR SEES FOUR PEOPLE COME TO CHRIST

By Alex Sibley

Evangelism has been a component of Southwestern's annual Oxford Study Tour since Malcolm Yarnell, professor of systematic theology, began directing the program in 2003.

"The United Kingdom is part of post-Christian Western Europe," Yarnell says, "so the descendants of the very people who once gave us their faith are now in sore need of hearing the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to them in a loving, compelling manner."

During this year's tour, July 7-24, more than 70 people from Southwestern and Southeastern Seminaries shared the Gospel across the United Kingdom. More than an opportunity to visit sites significant to Christian and Baptist history, this year's touch allowed open conversations and seed planting—which harvested four professions of faith.

Yarnell says, "We are reminded during our sojourns through Northamptonshire—where the modern mission movement that has shaped our own evangelistic passion began, and through London, where much of our evangelical Baptist faith was first worked out in the 17th century—that evangelism is a non-negotiable necessity in Baptist life."

Learn more about upcoming trips to Madagascar, Thailand and other locations by visiting the World Mission Center online at swbts.edu/wmc.

Join Southwestern in 2015 for the Oxford Study Tour. Learn more at swbts.edu/oxford.

WELCOME WEEK



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



[@SWBTSlife](#)
SWBTS SELFIE w/ the middle section of New Student Orientation! #swbtswelcome

Southwestern Seminary gave new and returning faculty and students a warm welcome during the days leading up to the first day of school on August 21, starting with helping them move in, August 15. Welcome Week, which was organized by Student Life, included a dodgeball tournament, an ice cream social, a fish fry for men, Chocolate Connection for women, an evening of prayer and worship, and a game of capture the flag across campus. Finally, the block party and church fair gave students a chance to receive information concerning local churches.

MOVE-IN DAY



CAPTURE THE FLAG

BLOCK PARTY & CHURCH FAIR



[@rachelgrad2009](#)
Thanks #swbtswelcome for an awesome block party yesterday! So excited to be a student @swbts



DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

FISH FRY



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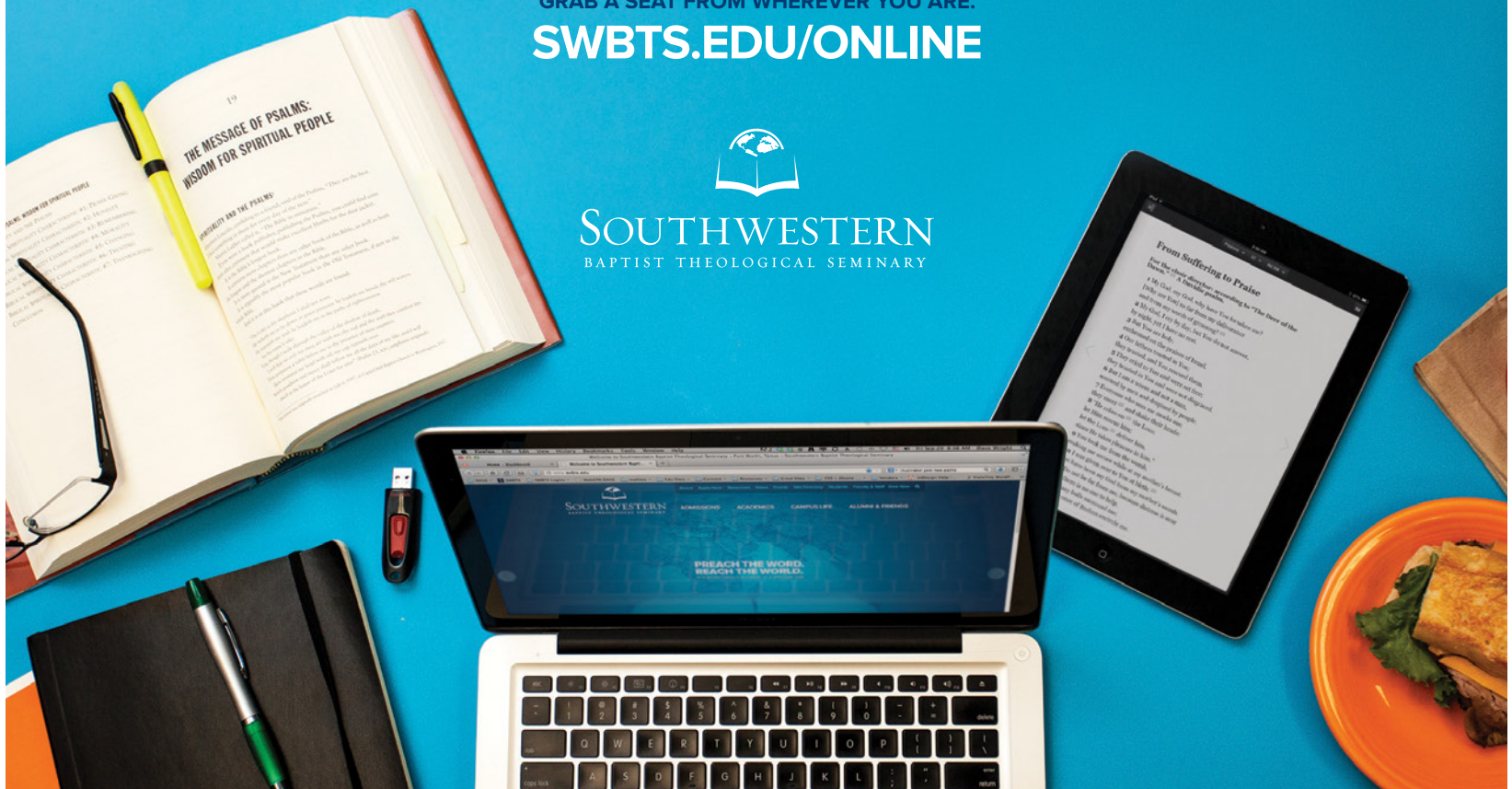
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JOE & DOROTHY COX *Paint with Generosity*

When Joe Cox founded HIS Paints in 1972, it was impossible to conceive of all the ways God would work in his life and bless his business. Now an industry-leading company with distribution around the world, Joe and Dorothy Cox remember that it was not always this way.

Married when in high school in rural Wewoka, Okla., the Coxes faced the struggles of young newlyweds complicated by Joe's struggle to hold a steady job and his love for alcohol. Due to the witness of a pastor knocking on his door and the prayer and fasting of Dorothy, Joe repented of his sins and gave his life completely to Christ. This was a fulfillment of what his praying grandmother had told him as a child: "Joe, someday you will serve God."

Joe and Dorothy have been married for 57 years. They have three sons—Kent,

Kirk, and Tony—who all work with Joe at HIS. Their grandson, Carter Cox, is a recent graduate of the College of Southwestern (Bachelor of Arts, 2012).

The success surrounding Joe's life has led him to profound gratitude and humility, which he retells in his recently released autobiography, *The Paint Man: My Life in Living Color*. "Jesus was never proud or arrogant," Cox writes. "He never tried to make others feel inferior. No matter how we struggle with pride, we can begin to follow Jesus' example."

This humility has bred in Joe and Dorothy a profound sense of stewardship for the blessings that God has entrusted to them. Cox notes, "People around you aren't always going to be there to make your life work or to get you out of your problems. You are not

owed success because of your family, and neither are you entitled to live carelessly, squandering your time, talents, and gifts. Jesus said it best when He said, 'To whom much is given, much is required.'"

This sense of stewardship is manifested in Joe's commitment to partner with ministries that share his passion for evangelism, such as in 2013 when the Coxes underwrote the College at Southwestern's Legacy Banquet. This largesse allowed 100 percent of all gifts raised by the banquet to go directly to student scholarships. As the 2014 College Legacy Banquet approaches, we are profoundly grateful for ministry partners who allow us to support the needs of students studying at the College of Southwestern.



SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ALUMNI *AND* FRIENDS BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014

7 o'clock in the morning

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION ANNUAL MEETING

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Seelig Banquet Room | Naylor Student Center

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J. WARNER WALLACE
Author of *Cold-Case Christianity*



MEET JOHNNY DEROUEN

In the 1970s, two students at a large Louisiana high school began to pray for revival on their campus. As a result, in about a month's time, several hundred students professed their faith in Christ.

Johnny Derouen, associate professor of student ministry at Southwestern Seminary, accepted Christ at that time as a junior in high school, and he soon felt a call to enter the ministry. Later, God refined that calling to youth ministry.

"It all just came naturally," Derouen says of a summer he spent working with the youth of a Methodist church, which gave him permission to teach biblical truths differing from their own. "I've never doubted my call to youth ministry."

While studying at Southwestern, he began working at a church as a custodian. But through that position and the nearby location of their apartment, Derouen began to meet teenagers and, within the first few months, led several to Christ, leading to the church giving him a position as youth minister.

That started Derouen's career in youth ministry that stretched across the state of Texas and its neighboring states for the next 30 years, including at churches such as First Baptist Houston, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, and Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Then Derouen says God showed him that his new assignment was to begin sharing his knowledge and experiences in youth ministry with students as a professor at Southwestern.

Derouen says churches need to train their youth – not just with knowledge, but by experience through service.

"Discipleship is a lifelong process," Derouen says. "And the youth years are a very small part of that lifetime, but it's crucial that they learn how to walk with God before they leave at 18 to go into the military, the university, or the work force."

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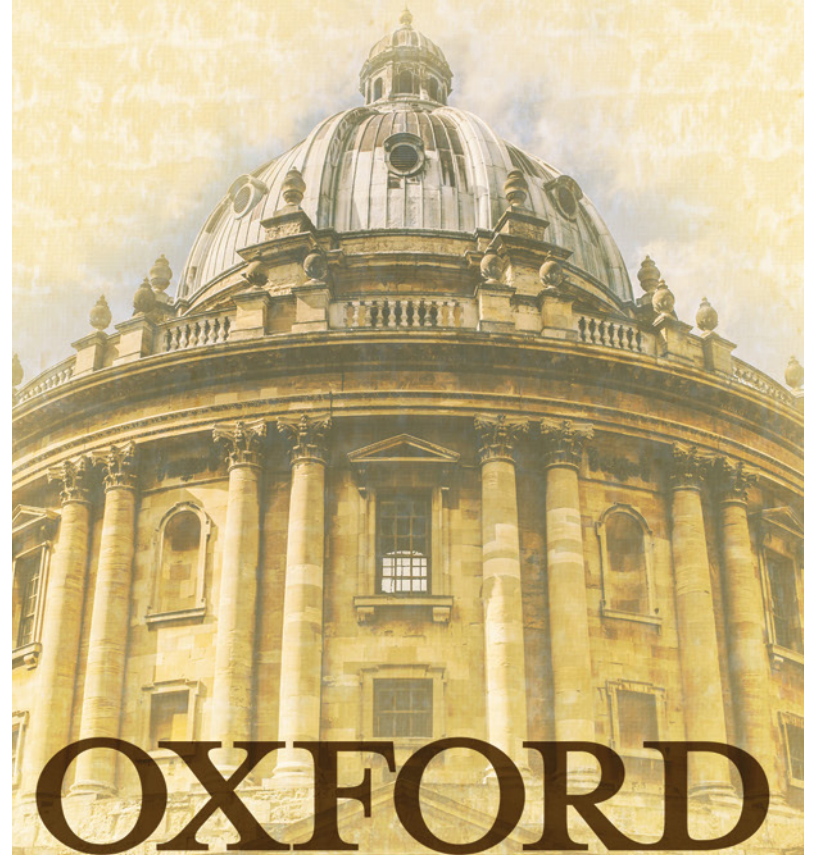
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Alumni Updates

1970

Lisa W. Crouch (MRE 1979) to San Augustine ISD, San Augustine, Texas, as Pre-K teacher.

2000

Ashley T. Payne (MDivBL 2003) to Skyline Baptist Church, Killeen, Texas, as senior pastor with wife, Stephanie Payne.

Retirement

Julian P. Clark (MDiv 1973) retired, living in Oceanside, Calif.

Anniversaries

John W. "Jack" MacGorman (BDiv 1948, ThD 1956) and **Barbara Ruth MacGorman (MRE 1948)**, 67th wedding anniversary (August).

Charles E. Peterson (BSM 1950, MRE 1951) and Myra Peterson, 65th wedding anniversary.

H. Bailey Stone, Jr. (BDiv 1956) and Joyce Stone, nee Pearson, 60th wedding anniversary (June).

Memorials

MINISTRY PARTNERS/FAMILY MEMBERS

Luther P. Adkins

Barbara K. Foster, nee Gornowicz

John L. Kassab

Lela Walton "Walt" Simpson

Dorothy S. Wade

FACULTY/SPOUSES

Carmen Sanchez, wife of Daniel Sanchez, Professor of Missions, and Vernon D. and Jeannette Davidson Chair of Missions

ALUMNI

1940

Howard O. Wynne (BDiv 1948, MDiv 1973)

1950

Donald L. Orr (BSM 1950, MRE 1951, MSM 1951)

George M. "Mac" Cole (BDiv 1952, MDiv 1975)

Sarah Bragg Cather (MRE 1953)

Ray L. McCloud (BDiv 1953)

Joseph T. Nickell (BDiv 1953, MRE 1954, MDiv 1986, MARE 1986)

Freddie Gage (BDiv 1959)

Dorothy M. Shaw (MRE 1953, MARE 1983)

Doyle K. Lawless (BDiv 1954)

Thomas S. Brandon, Sr. (BDiv 1955, ThD 1962)

James H. Weir (BDiv 1955)

John R. Taylor, Jr. (BDiv 1956, MDiv 1973)

Jesse E. White (BDiv 1956)

Billy J. Hudnall (BDiv 1957, MDiv 1974)

1960

Warren G. Hall (BDiv 1961)

Willard E. Burnham (BCM 1962)

Larry Walker (BDiv 1962)

C. William "Bill" McNatt (BDiv 1962, ThM 1966, ThD 1972)

James W. Bryant (BDiv 1963, ThD 1968, MDiv 1973) - swbts.edu/bryant

Thomas J. Rutledge (BDiv 1963, MDiv 1988)

Junius E. Frazier, Jr. (BDiv 1968)

Tom D. Frits (MDiv 1969)

1970

Albert E. Foster (MDiv 1973)

1980

Kirk M. Jones (MDiv 1987)

Missionary Appointments

Since June, nine 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

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EVANGELIST, ALUMNUS FREDDIE GAGE DIES AT AGE 81

By Alex Sibley

Prolific evangelist and Southwestern Seminary alumnus Freddie Gage died Friday, Sept. 12, in a Houston hospital after an extended illness. He was 81.

"Freddie Gage is with his Lord!" said Southwestern President Paige Patterson. "How many hundreds greeted this evangelist with expressions of thanksgiving to God, there awaiting Freddie because he led them to Christ—one only heaven can guess how many. But this one thing

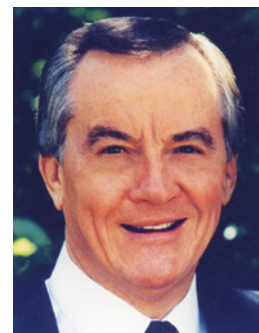
I know: Freddie Gage's single-hearted purpose to introduce people to Christ will be profoundly missed in our churches."

Gage, who graduated Southwestern with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1959, preached in more than 1,300 crusades with 10,000 churches. It is estimated that more than 1 million people have professed faith in Jesus Christ as a direct result of his ministry.

Gage is survived by his wife, Barbara;

four sons, Daniel, Paul, Rick and Rodney, all of whom are ordained Southern Baptist ministers; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Read the full story at swbts.edu/news



GOING DEEPER

I was with a friend and we found ourselves in an unpleasant debate with our New Testament professor during my sophomore year in college. He claimed that Paul taught that Jesus had completely divested himself of His deity during His earthly life, thus denying Christ's deity. Furthermore, according to our professor, Paul taught that Jesus was merely a man who taught people about the Kingdom of God, but not the God-man come to save people from their sin. Since the professor's teaching ran counter to what I knew to be biblical truth and historical orthodoxy, I took exception and objected. A lively debate ensued. He would say one thing, and my friend and I would challenge it and assert a counter-argument. He stated his position louder and with greater firmness; we wouldn't let it rest (I could have been more diplomatic, no doubt). The tension in the room was increasing, but we persisted; most of our classmates were unbelievers and we were convinced that the professor's teaching would lead our classmates away from Christ. Finally, the professor angrily blurted out, "I'm trying to teach you something, but you're being too bull-headed and stubborn to listen!"

For the two years I attended that church-run university, the assault on my faith was a constant reality—and it was a great time! To survive, I had to know biblical truth and

how to defend it, especially in order to share it. At about this same time, I began working with the seventh to ninth grade youth at my church. I had them for an hour every Sunday night before the evening service and had carte blanche to teach them whatever I wanted. I knew they would be going to college soon and would face the same challenges to their faith that I was experiencing. So, I taught them what I was learning: systematic theology and apologetics—not the norm for middle school students, I know. No one told me not to do this, and I knew they would need it. What did I discover? That 13-15 year olds can handle far more than most people give them credit. These students, because they became grounded and confident in their faith, were not afraid to share their faith or to speak up when challenged—they were impressively bold.

Let me challenge you as you work with youth: Take them deep biblically and theologically; they can handle it. Prepare them for the challenges they will face not simply in the university but in the workforce and, more importantly, in life. Consider one other thing: Send your students to us. At the College at Southwestern, our motto is: "Know Truth, Defend Truth, and Share Truth." We strive



to prepare our students to articulate biblical truth and to engage any culture with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, sharing Christ with those who are seeking, and defending the truth against skeptical attacks, all the while reflecting the character of Christ.

MIKE WILKINSON serves as Dean of the College at Southwestern and Assistant Professor of Bible, where he teaches a little bit of everything, but mostly in the areas of theology and church history.

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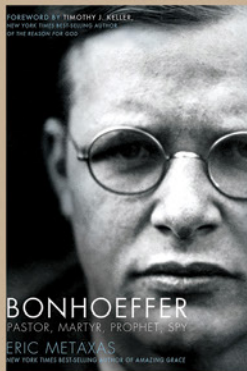

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