

WINTER 2015

# SWN

SouthwesternNews

PREDICA LA PALABRA  
ALCANZA EL MUNDO

THE ART *of* HOMEMAKING  
CONFERENCE • 2015

*Strengthening* & *Building*  
FAMILY FAITH

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2015

*Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary • Fort Worth, Texas*

..... *with speakers* .....



SUSAN  
G. Baker



DEVI  
Titus



VICKI  
Courtney



CANDI  
Finch



DOROTHY  
Patterson



ALICIA  
Williamson Garcia  
*Worship Leader*

*The Art of  
Homemaking*

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[artofhomemaking.com](http://artofhomemaking.com)

  
SOUTHWESTERN  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# STILL

PSALM 46:10

YOUTH MINISTRY LAB

APR 10-11, 2015

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY | FORT WORTH, TX



GUEST SPEAKER  
**JD GREEAR**



GUEST SPEAKER  
**CHRIS OSBORNE**



GUEST SPEAKER  
**GARY THOMAS**



GUEST SPEAKER  
**JOSH PATTERSON**



WORSHIP WITH  
**KEVIN JONES BAND**



WORSHIP WITH  
**MATT BOSWELL**

[YOUTHMINISTRYLAB.COM](http://YOUTHMINISTRYLAB.COM)



PREACHING  
**JUDE**  
IN TODAY'S  
CULTURE

Learn to communicate effectively through exciting, *text-driven* preaching.

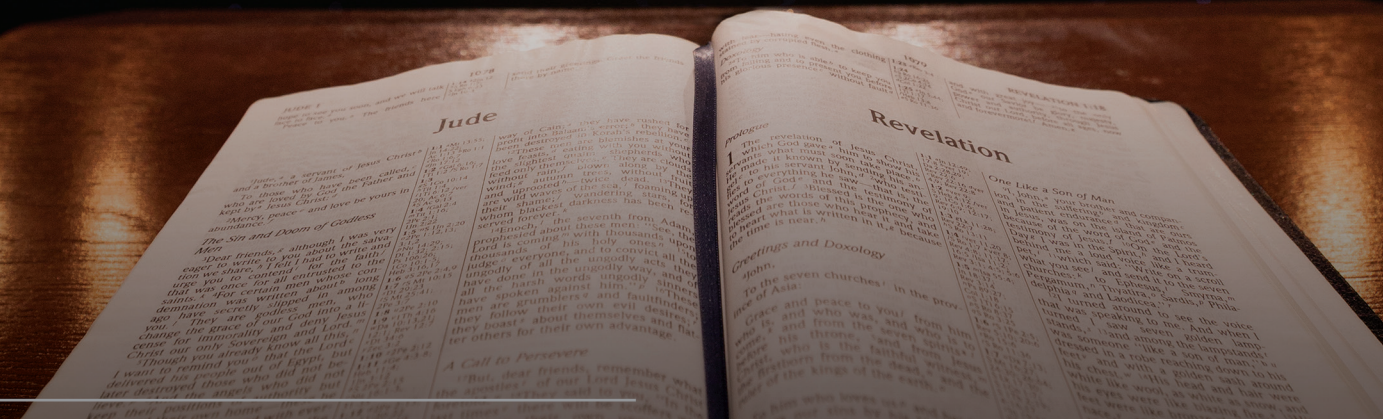
**EXPOSITORY PREACHING WORKSHOP**

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY | FORT WORTH, TEXAS

MARCH 2-3, 2015  
[SWBTS.EDU/EPW](http://SWBTS.EDU/EPW)



PREACH THE WORD.  
REACH THE WORLD.  
[SWBTS.EDU](http://SWBTS.EDU)



# IN THIS ISSUE

**GUATEMALA**  
Southwestern's partnerships throughout the Hispanic world are equipping a new generation of leaders to spread the Gospel.

## FEATURES

### 10 **A LEGACY OF WORLDWIDE IMPACT: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT LEAD TO GREATER MINISTRY**

As a modern-day apostle to the Hispanic world, Southwestern Professor of Missions Daniel Sanchez has built an international network of relationships to strengthen theological education and advance the Gospel of Christ.

### 14 **PUTTING THE WORLD AT THE FEET OF JESUS: SEMINARY PARTNERSHIP AWAKENS PURSUIT OF CUBA FOR CHRIST**

Spiritual investments from foreign believers have enabled the Baptist theological seminary in Havana, Cuba, to expand its ministerial reach throughout the island and beyond.

### 24 **EQUIPPING THE SAINTS IN GUATEMALA: SEMINARY FINDS NEW LIFE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

From nearly closing its doors to thriving as an educational institution, the seminary in Guatemala City strives to educate the next generation of God-called men and women to be theological leaders in the Spanish-speaking world.

### 30 **PRACTICAL THEOLOGY: TRANSFORMING A SOCIETY THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

For more than six decades, the seminary in Cali, Colombia, has aimed to produce theologians who not only think, but who can also go to the field and impact the world for Christ.

### 36 **FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD: DEMONSTRATING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

More than a dozen College at Southwestern students spent a week of their Christmas break on mission in Mexico, impacting a Mayan community with the message of God's universal grace.

### 42 **BECOMING A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH: REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY**

Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, intentionally reflects the demographics of its community, bringing people of diverse ethnicities and cultural backgrounds together as one body of believers.

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 5 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 6 FIRST LOOK
- 48 CAMPUS NEWS
- 56 QUICK TAKES
- 58 ADVANCEMENT: MINISTRY PARTNER
- 63 AROUND THE WORLD
- 64 LAST WORD

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 60 STUDENT LIFE



### ON THE COVER

"Predica la Palabra, Alcanza el Mundo" translates to, "Preach the Word, Reach the World."

(SWBTS Photo/  
Adam Covington)

## JANUARY

9-10	<b>Certification in Biblical Counseling: Level 3</b>	swbts.edu/bccertification
20	<b>New Student Orientation – Fort Worth Campus</b>	
20-23	<b>Winter Welcome</b>	
22	<b>Fort Worth Convocation: Spring Classes Begin</b>	
30-31	<b>Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1 &amp; 2</b>	swbts.edu/bccertification
26	<b>Houston Convocation: Extension Campuses Spring Classes Begin</b>	

## FEBRUARY

19-21	<b>The Art of Homemaking Conference</b>	swbts.edu/ artofhomemaking
<b>Seminary Women's Network - Women's Leadership Consultation</b>		
2.26 - 3.1	<b>Southwestern Photojournalism Conference</b>	swbts.edu/swpjc

## MARCH

2-3	<b>Expository Preaching Workshop</b>	swbts.edu/epw
6-15	<b>Biblical Tour of Israel</b>	contact: ason@swbts.edu
6-16	<b>Haiti Mission Trip</b>	contact: msanders@ swbts.edu
8-11	<b>Revive This Nation</b>	swbts.edu/rtn
9-13	<b>Spring Break</b>	Offices open/Classes dismissed
20-21	<b>Stand Firm Apologetics Conference</b>	swbts.edu/standfirm
20-21	<b>Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1 &amp; 2</b>	swbts.edu/bccertification
24	<b>12th Annual Gala Concert</b>	MacGorman Chapel, 7:30 p.m. swbts.edu/gala
28	<b>Eggstravaganza</b>	

## LOOKING AHEAD

4.10-11	<b>Youth Ministry Lab</b>	youthministrylab.com
4.23-24	<b>Preview Southwestern</b>	swbts.edu/ previewsouthwestern
5.11-22	<b>International Church Planting Modular in Chiang Mai, Thailand</b>	
5.21 - 6.7	<b>Madagascar Mission Trip</b>	swbts.edu/wmc
6.16-17	<b>SBC Annual Meeting</b>	sbcannualmeeting.net
7.1-21	<b>Chiang Mai, Thailand Mission Trip</b>	swbts.edu/wmc
7.6-23	<b>Oxford Study Program</b>	swbts.edu/oxford

# SouthwesternNews

WINTER 2015 Volume 73 Issue 2  
swnews.org

**President** Paige Patterson  
**Executive Editor** Steven W. Smith  
**Director of Photography** Matthew Miller  
**Director of Videography** Adam Covington  
**Art Director** Aubri Duran

**Editors**  
Matthew Miller  
Adam Covington

**Graphic Designers**  
Brad Powers  
Michele Davis

**Photographers & Videographers**  
Adam Tarleton  
Jason Davis  
Neil Williams

**Writers**  
Alex Sibley  
Katie Coleman

**Online Content**  
Dillon Hess

All contents © 2015 Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary. All rights reserved.

1.800.SWBTS.01 | [swbts.edu](http://swbts.edu)





To comment on articles in *Southwestern News*  
or to suggest story ideas, write to  
communications@swbts.edu.

*Southwestern News* (ISSN 0038-4917)  
is published four times a year by the  
SWBTS Communications Group  
2001 W. Seminary Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76122  
817.923.1921, ext. 4848

To make mailing address changes, email  
friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu, or  
write to the address below.

Issued quarterly.  
Periodicals postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas  
and at additional mailing offices.  
Postmaster: Please send address changes to  
*Southwestern News*  
P.O. Box 22500  
Fort Worth, TX 76122

### Stay Connected:

 [swbts.edu](http://swbts.edu)  
 @SWBTS  
 SWBTS  
 SOUTHWESTERNSEMINARY

**Give to Southwestern:**  
[swbts.edu/giving](http://swbts.edu/giving)



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## A TASTE OF SOUTHWESTERN'S GLOBAL OUTREACH

**T**HIS ISSUE OF SOUTHWESTERN NEWS AGAIN FOCUSES ON THE INCREDIBLE EXTENT OF the worldwide outreach of Southwestern Seminary. The work of Daniel Sanchez, who has become the face of missions in every Latin American country, is highlighted. His heart for the world and especially for the far-reaching Hispanic witness is legendary, and he is the most indefatigable man that I have ever known. I thank God for him and want you to know him and his heart through the articles in this issue.

In addition, you will read herein about the extent of our work in Cuba, Guatemala, and Southwestern's annual mission trip to Mexico. The College at Southwestern, of course, is totally unique in several ways. But one of those ways is that in order to be a student in the college, you must agree to go on a mission trip sometime during the process of completing your degree. There are very few institutions that have a required mission trip for students. Students must raise their own resources to do this trip, but they are involved in direct missions in ways that cannot be experienced otherwise. In fact, this adventure puts an exclamation point on all that they have studied here on the campus. Sharing the Gospel in a place outside of your comfort zone is just one of the ways in which the College at Southwestern makes an impression on students for Christ far beyond anything anybody could ever imagine.

Read these pages and join us in prayer for these endeavors. Rejoice with us over all that God is doing around the world through Southwestern Seminary.



Until He Comes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paige Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paige Patterson







## CUBA

Since the 1960s, the Cuban government has regulated many aspects of Cuban life, including food (rationing is the norm) and education (which is entirely state-run). Religious freedom has also been impeded, with the state officially characterizing itself as atheistic until 1992. Restrictions have eased over the last two decades, however, and despite accounting for less than five percent of the population, evangelicals are taking the Gospel throughout the country.





## MEXICO

During the College at Southwestern's January mission trip, a game of softball with a local team opened doors to share the Gospel. Following the game, the team, along with local children who had gathered to watch, enjoyed a skit performed by Southwesterners based on the parable of the prodigal son. Afterward, they heard a short devotional and a Gospel presentation.



---

# A LEGACY OF WORLDWIDE IMPACT:

---

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

---

## THAT LEAD TO

---

# GREATER MINISTRY

*By Alex Sibley*

**W**hen Daniel Sanchez surrendered his life to Christ at the age of 12, he immediately felt a sense of peace and found a sense of purpose. Even at this early age, Sanchez, who now serves as professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, desired to share with people about the Lord, becoming active in Sunday school and evangelistic activities. Before long, Sanchez realized that God was calling him to full-time ministry. When Sanchez shared this revelation with his father, his father smiled and said, "I knew it."

Although the call was undeniable, not until after college, when he went as a student missionary to Guatemala, did Sanchez learn that God was calling him specifically to missions. During a church service following his return to the United States, the pastor invited those who sensed a call to missions to step forward. Sanchez went; but when he met the pastor, Sanchez apologized, explaining that while he knew God was calling him, he did not know where.

With a smile, the pastor said to Him, "Son, just give the Lord a blank check. Just tell Him that you will follow Him, and He will lead you." In obedience to his call, Sanchez wrote that blank check to God; and in the ensuing decades, God has led him to serve in more than 50 countries around the world, leaving an indelible mark on all who have been touched by his passionate pursuit of equipping the saints and winning the world for Christ.



“Daniel Sanchez has, in the passing of the years, become virtually the modern-day apostle of Christ to Central America, South America, Spain, and throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Sanchez not only demonstrates the finest conceivable qualities of patience, long-suffering, endurance, and intense optimism about the future plans of God, but he also brings those into the lives of all with whom he works. Wherever I go in South or Central America or in Spain I find people asking about Daniel Sanchez and expressing the deepest gratitude of their hearts for this unusual man.

“When I arrived at Southwestern Seminary [in 2003], I was eager to meet him, because he was already a legend. But during these 12 years, I have watched the legend grow and have seen firsthand the remarkable commitment of this man of God. I thank the Lord for him.”

*Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*



Following the confirmation of his call to missions, Sanchez attended Southwestern Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity degree. Sanchez says that while he found all of his courses helpful, the seminary’s focus on missions impacted him most. Particularly influential was the time he spent studying under and fellowshiping with Cal Guy, who occupied the George and Ida Bottoms Chair of Missions at Southwestern from 1948-1982 and also was the founding director of Southwestern’s World Mission/Church Growth Center, now called the World Missions Center.

Brent Ray, who studied at Southwestern under both Guy and Sanchez, says one of the key principles Guy taught in all of his classes is that all ministry is built upon relationships. Ray notes that, as one of Guy’s disciples, Sanchez has fleshed out this principle to the extent that it is now part of his DNA. “I think that is what Dr. Sanchez has mastered,” Ray says, “and that will be his legacy: the relationships that he has built over the years that led to greater ministry.”

Sanchez’s worldwide network of ministry relationships has developed largely within the last 30 years, although his international mission work began long before that. After graduating from Southwestern in 1966, Sanchez and his wife were appointed as missionaries to Panama by the Foreign Mission Board (now known as the International Mission Board). They ministered there from 1967-1971. During that time, Sanchez served as academic dean of Panama Baptist Theological Seminary, a position that entailed developing curriculum, hiring and equipping professors, and determining which courses would be taught each semester. In addition, Sanchez also served as a professor, allowing him to personally invest in students at the seminary.

At the end of his term, Sanchez and his family returned to the United States, where he accepted the position of assistant director for the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in Atlanta, Ga. He later became evangelism director and then state missions director of the Baptist Convention of New York, leading state missionaries and pastors in evangelism and church-planting activities.

In 1983, following Cal Guy’s retirement from Southwestern, Sanchez was invited to become a missions professor at the seminary. Sanchez accepted the invitation; and although he continues to have a worldwide impact, he has remained at Southwestern ever since. In addition to teaching, Sanchez also serves as associate dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, director of the Scarborough Institute for Church Planting and Growth, and holds the Vernon D. and Jeannette Davidson Chair of Missions.

As a professor, Sanchez has invested in the lives of countless students who have since become ministers, international missionaries, and seminary and convention leaders. This expansive reach has led Ray, who now works closely with Sanchez as director of Southwestern’s Global Theological Innovation

(GTI), to wonder if it is possible in the midst of his international travels to avoid meeting someone connected to Sanchez in some way.

“Everywhere we go, I meet one of his students,” Ray says. “Everywhere I have gone—Cuba, Guatemala, throughout Latin America, even into Western Europe—students who have studied under Dr. Sanchez and learned his diplomacy, his gentleness, and his approach in dealing with challenges and problems still honor that relationship and the impact he has had.”

In addition to teaching students at Southwestern, Sanchez has also traveled to foreign countries to teach in churches and seminaries there. Due to his cultural background (his great-grandparents came from Spain) and his ministry experience in Latin America, he has given special attention to Hispanics.

In 2007, Sanchez and Keith Eitel, dean of the school of evangelism and missions at Southwestern, were invited to the Baptist seminary in Havana, Cuba. Interestingly,

in order to broaden their ministry capabilities.

Sanchez and Eitel went to Havana, met with the seminary’s leaders, and agreed to send professors from Southwestern to teach courses at the seminary in order to enable the Havana seminary’s professors to obtain master’s degrees and start a missions school. Following the completion of this training, Sanchez and Southwestern President Paige Patterson went to the seminary’s graduation service and presented master’s degrees to 15 professors there. These professors then turned around and gave diplomas to 125 students whom they had trained. Sanchez says this was the beginning of what has now become GTI. “When Dr. Patterson was [in Cuba], he saw how we were able to enable that seminary to greatly increase its enrollment and ministry capabilities by training their professors and then being supportive in the work that they were doing,” Sanchez says.

When leaders of the seminary in Guatemala learned about this, they invited

After Southwestern’s work with Guatemala, Sanchez began receiving invitations from other seminaries around the world. Since Sanchez was still committed to teaching full-time at Southwestern, Patterson commissioned Brent Ray to become the director of GTI. Through the GTI program, numerous seminaries have now been equipped with electronic, financial, and human resources.

“This really came from the Lord,” Sanchez says, “in that we did not set out to do these things, but there was a paradigm shift when we went to Cuba and they asked us to train their professors over against going and teaching their students. And that’s what we’re doing now. By and large, we are training the professors, and that is greatly encouraging the seminaries as well as enabling the seminaries to move forward.”

From his early work as academic dean of Panama Baptist Theological Seminary to his current ministry through Southwestern and GTI, Sanchez says that fostering relationships in order to strengthen seminaries worldwide has become a clear goal of his, and one that has been very rewarding. Sanchez explains, “[The Havana seminary’s] enrollment increasing from 68 to 835 students; the seminary in Cali, Colombia, from 70 to 700 students; the seminary in Guatemala from wondering if they’re going to be able to survive to being restored ... that’s very rewarding—just to see what these seminaries are doing and the people they are training.

“Every time I visit these seminaries, I just marvel at the students who are there, whom the Lord is calling to ministry, and the kinds of ministries in which they are involved. The vast majority of these students are pastoring churches or are serving in ministries within the church. And so we see, then, that [theological education] is not just about imparting knowledge, but equipping people for ministry.”

Regarding his friend, mentor, and colleague, Ray concludes, “Much of what is happening in Latin America is due to the fact that Dr. Sanchez, over the course of these 30 years, invested his life and ministry not just here at Southwestern, but well beyond, including countless international Baptist leaders who were either his students here at Southwestern or whom he taught through visits, teaching courses on the field. His focus has been on that Hispanic connection these 30 years, and now we’re reaping the benefit of his investment.”



however, the request was not for them to teach students. Instead, they were asked to train professors in the area of evangelism and missions.

Although most of the professors at the Havana seminary were graduates of the seminary and pastors of local churches, they had not had the opportunity to leave Cuba for any additional training. Because the Havana seminary only offered training in becoming pastors, these professors needed outside help

Sanchez to do the same in Guatemala. Sanchez obliged, teaching courses there so the professors could obtain master’s degrees.

“And whereas they were previously at a point of almost shutting down,” Sanchez explains, “they caught a vision, and now the seminary has extensions in a number of countries—Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Belize. And so that greatly encouraged us: to see that by helping to train professors, we could enable the seminaries to do a lot more.”



**CUBA** | Communistic ideologies and government restrictions historically have hindered the spread of the Gospel in Cuba. Recently, however, the tide has begun to turn, and the message of Jesus is gaining ground in Cuba as it never has before.





# Putting the world at the feet of Jesus



## SEMINARY PARTNERSHIP AWAKENS PURSUIT OF CUBA FOR CHRIST

*By Alex Sibley*

*Photography By Adam Covington*

“Cuba for Christ” has been the theme of the Baptist Convention of Cuba for many years, but according to Hermes Soto, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Havana, there was a time when this theme seemed to be asleep.

Difficult times in the country’s history, a general lack of resources, and a sense of loneliness caused by feelings of separation from fellow believers around the world left Christians in Cuba, particularly those connected to the Havana seminary, feeling discouraged. For a time, the seminary’s enrollment comprised only one student.

Recently, however, the tide has begun to turn. Innovative ideas from spiritually zealous students and a partnership with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have opened doors to expand the seminary’s ministry throughout the island of Cuba and even into other parts of the world. Enrollment has climbed to more than 800 students, and the seminary, which had for many years offered only one degree, now offers degrees in multiple areas of ministry. Additionally, the seminary has opened 11 extensions around

**THE THEME OF  
“CUBA FOR CHRIST,”  
WHICH FOR SO  
LONG HAD BEEN  
STAGNANT, HAS  
INDEED BEEN  
AWAKENED.**



the country and has aided, directly or indirectly, in planting thousands of house churches.

Reflecting on the preceding period of stagnation, Soto says, “Maybe we, humanly speaking, were exhausted. Maybe, humanly, we were a bit frustrated because we were not seeing that our work was advancing. But God gave us a great lesson. He gave us a new strength. He gave us new purposes. But always there was his purpose of ‘Cuba for Christ.’”

“And when the story is written,” he continues, “it must be stressed that God put this [partnership] in the minds of Southwestern Seminary and our seminary. We have been able to overcome limitations and to establish a path that has greatly contributed to the effectiveness of our seminary. We are not the same now. I don’t think we will ever be the same, because a profound and radical change was established in which Southwestern Seminary has played a major role.”

Southwestern’s official partnership with the Havana seminary began in 2007, although various Southwestern professors had done prior work with the seminary over the years. Through this partnership, Southwestern has, among other things, trained professors at the Havana seminary, donated laptop computers with thousands of digital books for the libraries on the central campus and in the extensions, and connected the seminary with two Champion Churches in the U.S. that have provided financial resources for campus construction and renovation.

One of Southwestern’s major contributions to the Havana seminary was aiding in the establishment of a missions school.

The idea of a missions school had existed since the early 1990s when Daniel Gonzales, then a student at the seminary, spoke to the president about his calling to be a missionary. At the time, the seminary only provided training for pastors. When Gonzales protested, the president told him that he should start the missions school himself.

Although this dream was not realized immediately, the seminary did deploy Gonzales as a missionary to Guanabo, a beach in the Havana province, and later to the Island of Youth, an island southwest of mainland Cuba. In both of these places, Gonzales began a church-planting movement that saw numerous indigenous people not only come to faith in Christ but also take the reins of spiritual leadership in their communities.

Motivated by the fact that one of its students was making great headway in the area of missions,



Carlos Miguel



Hermes Soto

the seminary devoted greater depth of thought to its missions strategy. Initially, however, progress was slow.

“We were trying to improvise and trying to come up with answers, but we didn’t have much strength,” Soto recalls. “We saw the need that we had, but we did not feel capable enough, because the task was large, arduous, and profound.”

For this reason, the seminary reached out to Southwestern for help. As Soto explains, “It was not just a matter of professors coming to teach our students, but actually to train our professors so we could establish a missions department in our seminary.”

“Southwestern was able to empower us in many ways,” says Gonzales, who now serves as director of the Havana seminary’s missions school. “For me, one of the most important things is that we started the missions school. That was the catalyst that changed the paradigm, because after that we started five more schools, [including] a youth school, Christian education, worship, and others.”

One of the effects of starting these new schools, Gonzales says, is that all the students at the seminary realized they need each other to do ministry well. The school of pastors, for example, learned that they need missionaries to work with them, as well as worship ministers and youth workers.



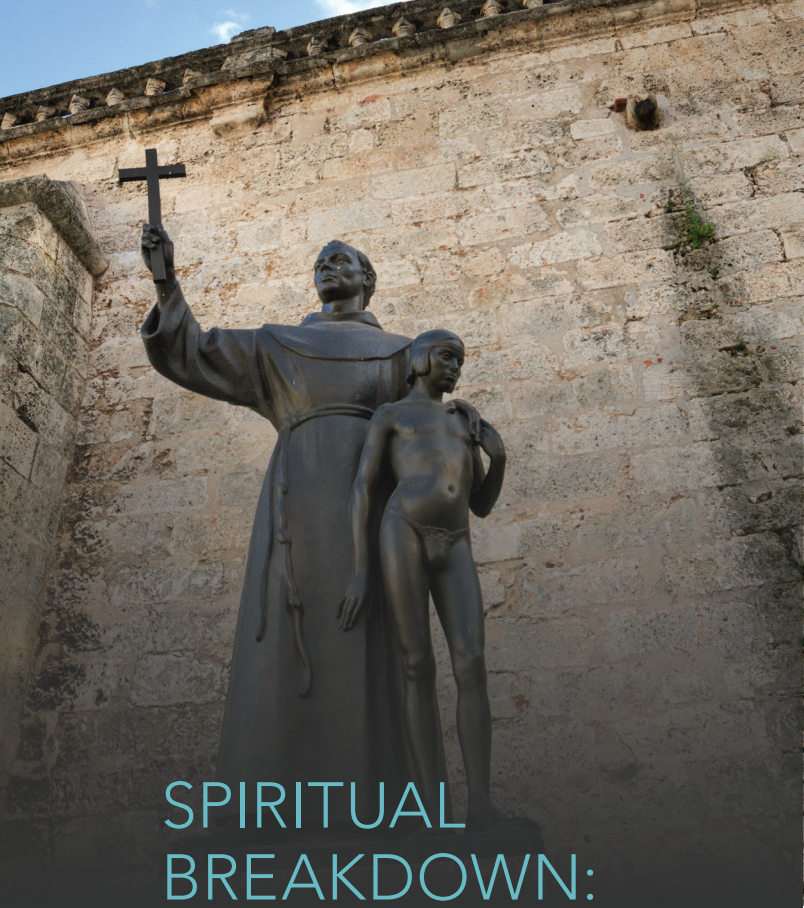
# CUBA

- + **OFFICIAL NAME:** Republic of Cuba
- + **POPULATION:** 11,167,325
- + **TOTAL AREA:** 42,426 square miles
- + **CAPITAL:** Havana
- + **GOVERNMENT:** The country is subdivided into 15 provinces and one special municipality (the Island of Youth). Since 1965, the country has been governed as a single-party state by the Communist Party. Raúl Castro succeeded his brother, Fidel Castro, as president in 2008.





**CUBA** | With its tropical climate and colonial architecture, Cuba has long been an attractive tourist destination. Although the tourism industry was essentially eliminated following Fidel Castro's ascension to power in the 1960s, economic difficulties following the collapse of the Soviet Union led Cuba to reopen its doors to foreign travelers.



## SPIRITUAL BREAKDOWN:

- ✦ In accordance with the traditional anti-religious doctrine of Marxist-Leninist ideology, the Cuban government, following the communist revolution of 1959, adopted a policy of promoting atheism. Religious practice was restricted, leading to persecution of religious adherents.
- ✦ Religious freedom increased through the 1980s, with the government amending the constitution in 1992 to drop the state's characterization as atheistic.
- ✦ Cuba's prevailing religion is Roman Catholicism. The Roman Catholic Church estimates that 65 percent of the population is Catholic, although only 5 percent of that number attend mass regularly.
- ✦ Protestants account for roughly 5 percent of the population.
- ✦ The religious landscape of Cuba is also strongly defined by syncretisms of various kinds. Christianity is often practiced in tandem with Santería, a mixture of Catholicism and mostly African faiths, which include a number of cults. Eleven percent of the population falls under this category.
- ✦ The remaining 24 percent of the population identifies as "non-religious."



"So in some way, even when Southwestern didn't help to directly start, for instance, the Christian education school, they started the first one [the missions school], and that made a lot possible," Gonzales explains. "Even in their time at the seminary, ministers of the Lord learn to do teamwork."

Gonzales says another way in which Southwestern empowered the Havana seminary is through the idea of extensions, the significance of which Gonzales learned while serving as a missionary in the Island of Youth. During that time, Gonzales realized that he did not have the resources, time, or knowledge to prepare all of his disciples to be pastors, missionaries, and worship ministers. Even so, the indigenous believers told Gonzales not to bring anyone from Havana; they wanted to be the ministers.

"That was great," Gonzales says. "And the best answer to that request was extensions."

Extensions, which are housed in local churches, allow for the training of ministers who cannot attend the seminary in Havana. Professors of these extensions, like those at the main campus, are volunteers, sacrificing their time for the sake of equipping future ministers.

As a result of extensions on the Island of Youth, the island now has more than 200 house churches and 15 official churches. Gonzales says these extensions are possible because of the partnership with Southwestern, as Southwestern aided in training professors and connecting them to necessary resources.

Francisco Medina, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Cristobal, Cuba, and director of the extension there, says, "It has been a blessing for our students who live in this province to be



## MISCELLANEOUS:

- ✦ Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean, and with more than **11 MILLION INHABITANTS**, is the second-most populous (after Hispaniola).
- ✦ After being discovered by **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN 1492**, Cuba was a colony of Spain until the Spanish-American War of 1898. Cuba officially gained independence in 1902.
- ✦ Cuba came under the **DICTATORSHIP** of Fulgencio Batista in 1952, but growing unrest and instability led to Batista's ousting in 1959 by the July 26 movement, which afterward established a government under the leadership of Fidel Castro.
- ✦ Cuba is a **MULTIETHNIC COUNTRY** whose people, culture and customs derive from diverse origins, including the aboriginal Taíno and Ciboney peoples, the long period of Spanish colonialism, the introduction of African slaves, a close relationship with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and proximity to the United States
- ✦ Internet in Cuba has some of the lowest penetration rates in the Western hemisphere, and all content is subject to review by the Department of Revolutionary Orientation. Additionally, the sale of computer equipment is strictly regulated. **INTERNET ACCESS IS CONTROLLED**, and e-mail is closely monitored.
- ✦ Following the 1959 revolution, the Castro government **NATIONALIZED ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS** and created a system operated entirely by the government. Cuba's literacy rate of 99.8 percent is the 10th highest globally. Its high school graduation rate is 94 percent.
- ✦ Due to historical associations with the United States, many Cubans participate in sports that are popular in North America rather than sports traditionally promoted in other Spanish-speaking nations. **BASEBALL** is the most popular; other sports, and pastimes include soccer, basketball, and boxing.



able to come and study here instead of having to go all the way to Havana. Here they have a place very close to their home, their church, and their family to get training. I consider it a privilege that our seminary has caught the vision of having these extensions and implementing this strategy to train the largest number of students possible.” Medina adds that his church has started 10 new churches in their community, and the pastors of these churches are men who have been trained in the extension.

In addition to the Havana seminary’s partnership with Southwestern, churches throughout the U.S. as well as state conventions—particularly the Florida Baptist Convention—have invested time and resources in Cuba in recent decades. Carlos Miguel, dean of students at the Havana seminary, commends these fellow believers for enabling the spread of the Gospel in Cuba and beyond.

“We believe that our strategy for reaching the world for Christ is only possible when all of us in different parts of the world unite to reach this purpose,” Miguel concludes. “And this becomes possible when we educate our leaders in a proper way, when we are involved in missions with a sound theology, and when we attain a healthy growth in missions. That’s why a partnership of this kind makes it possible to put the world at the feet of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Gospel.”

# DANIEL GONZALES:

## *catalyst to change the paradigm*

By Alex Sibley | Photography By Adam Covington

When Daniel Gonzales came to the Baptist Theological Seminary of Havana, Cuba, in 1993, he did so with a special calling from the Lord to be a missionary. At that time, however, the seminary did not have a missions school; the only option was to become a pastor. When Gonzales explained to the president of the seminary that God had not called him to be a pastor, but a missionary, the president told him to come to the seminary anyway, and if he truly wanted the seminary to have a missions school, he should start it himself.

Gonzales came and earned his pastoral degree, but over the next decade, his missionary zeal encouraged the seminary to examine its missions strategy and ultimately decide to establish a school of missions. The seminary appropriately appointed Gonzales as the school’s director. “For me, of course, [the establishment of the missions school] was great,” Gonzales says with a laugh, “because I didn’t want other people who received the call to be missionaries to receive the punishment of studying to be a pastor.”

Although the seminary did not have a school of missions during Gonzales’ time there in the early 1990s, many of his professors were nevertheless aware of his passion for missions. In an effort to utilize his passion, the seminary deployed Gonzales as a missionary to Guanabo, a beach east of Havana. At that time, there was not a church in that region.

Gonzales says Guanabo is important because it serves as a tourist destination for many Cubans. While stationed there, Gonzales started the first church in Guanabo. This proved to be part of God’s divine plan, because the following summer, Cuba experienced widespread emigration, with many Cubans departing the country directly from Guanabo. The church had the opportunity to minister to these people.

“Many people went, risking their own lives, to the United States, going in whatever ‘boat’ they could find,” Gonzales recalls. “Many people lost their lives. I remember that we spent whole nights trying to convince people not to do that, as well as preaching the Gospel.” Gonzales notes that his work in Guanabo was evidently important, because now, nearly 20 years later, Guanabo is home to four Baptist churches. When the seminary professors and leaders of the Baptist Convention of Cuba realized that Gonzales had started a church planting movement in Guanabo, they decided to send him to the Island of Youth, an island southwest of mainland Cuba, to start a church planting movement there as well.

Gonzales first went to the Island of Youth in April 1995. Two years later, he and his wife Anna moved there





permanently in order to devote themselves more fully to the mission work developing there. Gonzales says his relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention was important at that time, with International Mission Board personnel serving as unofficial advisors.

“They gave us a vision as missionaries that we must mobilize and train people in that place, not bring people from other locations,” Gonzales explains. “So that was one of the most important keys to developing a very endemic, indigenous church planting movement in the Island of Youth.”

As Gonzales’ mission work continued to expand, the Havana seminary took notice. Inspired by Gonzales’ passion for ministry, as well as the fruit this passion bore, the Havana seminary decided to establish a school of missions in the early 2000s. With the aid of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, which included theological training for its professors and curriculum development, the Havana seminary did so in 2007. As director of the missions school, Gonzales now leads the seminary’s charge to win Cuba for Christ.

One of the seminary’s major initiatives is Urban 20/20. Because more than 50 percent of the Cuban population lives in Cuba’s 20 largest cities, Gonzales notes that reaching these 20 cities means reaching half of the Cuban population. His goal is that by the end of 2020, all the Cuban neighborhoods that do not currently have an evangelical church will have been reached by the Gospel.

Step one is reaching Havana. Gonzales and his team have begun this task by extensively researching all the neighborhoods in Havana, collecting information on demographics, cultural and religious backgrounds, etc. By the end of the year, the team will assemble this research into a manual, which will be made available to pastors during the next meeting of the Baptist Convention of Cuba in hopes that they will adopt one or two neighborhoods and

focus their ministries on those areas.

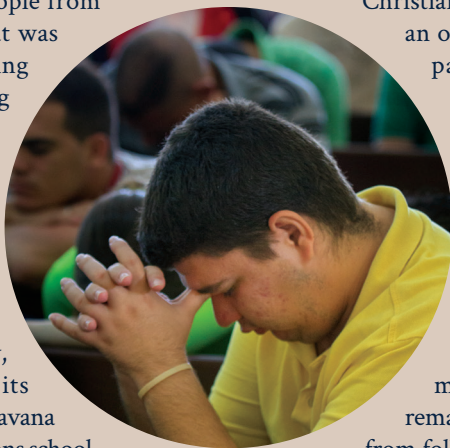
“In this way, the seminary is providing a very useful tool to mobilize and to give orientation for the churches to be involved in the church planting movement,” Gonzales says. Regarding missions beyond Cuba, in addition to sending missionaries to foreign nations, Gonzales says that the emigration of Cuban Christians to other countries in Latin America presents an opportunity “to share with another people the passion and the fire that the Lord has been giving us in Cuba during these years.”

“For instance,” Gonzales explains, “one of the families that left [my church] recently ... went to Ecuador, and as soon as they arrived, they got in touch with a church in Quito. And only one week after they arrived, they started a house church like they used to have here in Cuba.”

Although Gonzales has seen the Gospel make great gains in Cuba and Latin America and remains hopeful for the future, he cautions churches from following the same paradigm in the coming years.

While acknowledging that the unchanging Word of God must remain the foundation of every church, Gonzales, having played an instrumental role in changing the Havana seminary’s paradigm through the establishment of the school of missions, understands the importance of not simply following a model but rather adapting to new ministry requirements.

“If we as leaders don’t see that the calling of the Lord is not only about having a group of people singing in buildings or houses but also about influencing all the aspects and levels of Cuban society, we will never reach our dream of ‘Cuba for Christ’ in our generation,” Gonzales says. “At the same time, if there is an important moment when this dream could be reached, it is in our generation, because if we have the wisdom of the Lord and we have a brave heart to change our paradigms, many things can happen.”







# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS IN GUATEMALA

*seminary finds new life through  
international collaboration*

*By Katie Coleman Photography By Matt Miller*

When aspiring pastors in the United States sense God's call to ministry, the next step is seminary. But in Guatemala, a country where over half of its citizens live below the poverty line, taking that next step isn't always feasible. In 60 years of existence, the Baptist Theological Seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala, has desired to train the next generation of leaders to spread the Gospel but often lacked the tools to do so. They didn't have adequate facilities, lacked academic resources, and students could not afford to pay fees or travel across the country to take classes.

About six years ago, the Baptist Theological Seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala, created a goal for their seminary to be an institution that collaborates in theological education throughout Guatemala, Southern Mexico, and all of Central America. The leaders of the Guatemala Seminary knew the only way to make this happen was through international collaboration.

Valdemar Morales, president of the seminary in Guatemala, recalls thinking the idea seemed "insane" and began to see the goal fall through their grasp. Even with this seemingly impossible task, they clung to their vision of training new leaders in their country and trusted in the Lord's provision. "We were motivated by our love for true doctrine and for a good theological education for the pastors in Central America," Morales says.

Christians in Guatemala often felt as though they were alone and isolated from other believers in the world. The seminary had fallen on hard times: It was not excelling at the academic level they desired or needed; financial woes resulted in a diminishing number of students and faculty; and what resources they did have were outdated and failing.

In spite of any efforts the seminary's faculty could make on their own, the reality was the seminary might have to close its doors indefinitely. This was a discouraging prospect because they were passionate about providing theological education for Christian leaders in Guatemala.

As Morales and the other leaders prayed over their vision, the seminary began receiving letters from Christians in El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize who wanted to be a part of the same mission. These letters told stories of Christians in Central America who were passionate about spreading the Gospel and desired to see a renewal of theological education in Central America. It was still unclear how the Guatemalan Seminary would move forward in their



**“WE BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT THE LORD HAS PUT ON OUR HEART. IT’S LIKE GOING TO THE SOURCE OF THE STREAM AND YOU DO SOMETHING AT THE SOURCE OF THE STREAM, IT AFFECTS EVERYTHING DOWNSTREAM AND WE SEE IT THIS WAY. AS WE INVEST IN THE WORK OF THE SEMINARY AT GUATEMALA, THEY TRAIN LEADERS THAT ARE BIBLICALLY SOUND AND LEADERS THAT HAVE A HOT HEART FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.”**

**- MIKE HENSON**



vision, but they held fast to their belief that God would sustain them and provide the resources to accomplish it.

With a renewed hope to find a way to save the seminary, the remaining faculty formed a committee to make decisions about their future. It was around the same time that they began conversations with Daniel Sanchez at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Southwestern sent professors to assist in the renewal process of the academic program and resources. What they found was a faculty that needed more training, a library nearly empty, decades-old computers, and problems with the seminary's facilities.

Southwestern then looked for Southern Baptist churches in the U.S. to become "Champion Churches." These churches would come alongside the seminary in prayer, provide resources, and assist financially. Champion Churches commit to a five-year covenant with an international seminary. Southwestern

serves as a facilitator between the church and the seminary, providing a needs survey and encouraging the Champion Church not only to meet those needs but also to engage with local churches through the seminary.

First Baptist Church of Bowie, Texas, learned about the opportunity, and as a church that was already missions-minded, they knew this was something they wanted to do. The church's pastor, Mike Henson, says his church is excited about the partnership and "what is going to happen in the days and years to come, making a difference for the cause of Christ."

Henson and his church signed a covenant with the seminary in Guatemala and immediately began to raise funds and make plans to support the seminary. The members of the church were eager to be involved in missions and evangelism but quickly found other projects that needed to be addressed first.

During a preliminary visit to the seminary, Henson sat in the president's

## GUATEMALA

- ✦ **OFFICIAL NAME:** Republic of Guatemala
- ✦ **POPULATION:** 14,647,083
- ✦ **TOTAL AREA:** 42,042 square miles
- ✦ **CAPITAL:** Guatemala City
- ✦ **GOVERNMENT:** Guatemala is a constitutional democratic republic whereby the President of Guatemala is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system.



## SPIRITUAL BREAKDOWN:

- + Although Catholicism was the official religion during the colonial period, since 1882, Guatemala has had no official religion.
- + Nevertheless, roughly 60 percent of the population in Guatemala is Roman Catholic.
- + Protestants make up about 30 percent of the population, and have seen an increase in recent years, especially among Evangelicals and Pentecostals.
- + The constitution of Guatemala guarantees its citizens the right to practice their religion in a public setting.

office when water began to drip on their heads. It had begun to rain, but the 60-year-old, decaying roof was leaking, not only in the president's office but also in classrooms throughout their building. A rotted roof meant classes could not be held when it rained. In one week, FBC Bowie raised \$50,000 to replace the rotted wood rafters with ones made of steel and placed a new roof on the seminary building in Guatemala.

Henson's team also found 20-year-old computers that were the seminary's only technological resources. FBC Bowie soon purchased a new computer server to aid in general technological needs, with hopes that the seminary can provide online courses for students who cannot travel to the campus in Guatemala City.

"We believe this is what the Lord has put on our heart," Henson says. "It's like going to the source of the stream and you do something at the source of the stream. It affects everything downstream and we see it this way. As we invest in the work of the seminary at Guatemala, they train leaders that are biblically sound and leaders that have a hot heart for the Lord Jesus Christ."

These new partnerships have provided opportunities to extend beyond Guatemala City into other regions of the country and even beyond the country's border. Richard Cooke, a missionary with the International Mission Board, has served more than 30 years in Latin America. Knowing the tumultuous nature of theological education in these countries, he says the best work has been when there is cooperation between different seminaries.

Most students at the Guatemalan seminary live in Guatemala City, but many travel from other parts of Guatemala, and some even travel from Honduras. Students continue to commute from remote



areas to study at the seminary, but the reality for most is that they cannot travel often, if at all, because of full-time employment or financial difficulty. This created a need to bring the school to different regions of the country.

The seminary has opened seven extension campuses throughout Guatemala, as well as extensions in Honduras and Belize, relieving many students of the burden of travel. Many professors travel to these locations, but as the seminary grows in its resources, some professors now live near the locations at which they teach.

Professors at the seminary do not receive a salary, but they continue to teach because of their passion for theological education and its impact in the expansion of the kingdom of God. In a country

where most people live below the poverty line, students struggle to pay even what minimal fees the seminary charges, but Cooke says that even through the lack of finances, “many are eager to become better trained, to study theology, and to study ministry.”

Everything that is done to support and rebuild the seminary is done to equip pastors and leaders. Cooperation is key; partnership is key; the goal is to be self-sufficient through the partnership and cooperation with U.S. churches and other seminaries in Central America.

The partnerships with Southwestern and FBC Bowie have brought new life to the seminary in Guatemala and enabled them to reach their ultimate goal of equipping students to preach and spread the Gospel throughout Guatemala and Central America.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

- Guatemala is the **MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY** in Central America.
- Guatemala is a predominantly **POOR COUNTRY**. Its people especially struggle with many areas of health and mental development including infant and child mortality, malnutrition, and literacy.

- Its **LARGEST EXPORT** partner is the United States, and their highest exports include coffee, sugar, petroleum, and fruits.
- The ethnic makeup of the country derives from **MANY DIFFERENT ORIGINS**. In 2012, Mestizo and European people made up 59.4 percent of the population, followed by K’iche, Kaqchikel, Mam, Q’eqchi, and other Mayan ethnic groups.
- With almost half the population under the age of 19, it is the **YOUNGEST POPULATION** in Latin America.







COLOMBIA



# PRACTICAL THEOLOGY:

*transforming a society through*  
**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

---

*By Alex Sibley*

*Photography By Matt Miller*

**L**eonel Rubiano, vice rector of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, Colombia, says that education in Colombia is very important, especially because of the demands the government places on churches today. In order to be officially recognized, churches in Colombia must be inscribed by the minister of the interior, and every pastor must be ordained and theologically educated. In addition to these government requirements, Colombian Christians have demands of their own. “The church today demands the preparation of leaders who are willing to give their best in the teaching and preaching of the word,” Rubiano says.

# COLOMBIA

- + **OFFICIAL NAME:** Republic of Colombia
- + **POPULATION:** 47,846,160
- + **TOTAL AREA:** 440,831 square miles
- + **CAPITAL:** Bogotá
- + **GOVERNMENT:** Colombia is a republic structurally similar to the U.S., with separation of powers into executive, judicial, and legislative branches. Its legislature has a congress, its judiciary has a supreme court, and its executive branch has a president. Unlike the U.S., however, Colombia is a unitary republic, meaning that it is governed as a single state.



To meet these demands, the Cali seminary and its extensions are currently equipping more than 700 God-called men and women throughout the nation of Colombia to become not only hearers of the word but also doers. “Always our vocation is toward service to God and to the kingdom of God,” Rubiano says. “Our courses are not just theological, but also practical. And 90 percent of our professors are involved in the pastorate. This adds a lot of weight to the teaching of theology, and it helps for this to be a practical theology in consonance with the needs of the world.”

Missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board (now called the International Mission Board) founded the Cali seminary in 1953 and subsequently operated the institution in the ensuing four decades. In 1995, administration of the seminary was transferred to the Baptist Convention of Colombia. Although this change allowed for native Colombians to run the seminary, it was not without difficulty.

Pablo Moreno, the current president of the seminary, says, “When we assumed this responsibility, we had to be much more creative and more open to relate to other institutions in order for us to be able to fulfill our responsibility in theological education. We thank the Lord that there have been retired missionaries and a number of churches that have helped us in small projects throughout these years as we have continued our ministry.”

Despite this change in leadership and the subsequent financial strain that the seminary still faces today, seminary growth continued. In the 1990s, average enrollment was 70 students, but in the following 10 years, it reached 700. This was largely due to the fact that the seminary diversified its degree offerings on both the main campus and in the extensions, of which more than 25 have been established throughout the country. In addition to the bachelor’s in theology, now there are also degrees in pastoral ministry, counseling, and missions.

**HAVING BEEN EQUIPPED WITH THESE VARIOUS RESOURCES IN RECENT YEARS, THE CALI SEMINARY IS NOW MORE CAPABLE THAN EVER OF EXPANDING THE REACH OF THE GOSPEL TO THE FURTHERMOST PARTS OF COLOMBIA THROUGH SEMINARY EDUCATION.**





## SPIRITUAL BREAKDOWN:

- ✦ Although Catholicism had been the official religion of the country since the Spanish colonization, the Colombian Constitution of 1991 abolished the condition of the Roman Catholic Church as the state church and specifically included articles providing for freedom of religion.
- ✦ Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) does not collect religious statistics, and accurate reports are difficult to obtain. However, various studies and surveys provide rough estimates.
- ✦ Roughly 90 percent of the population adheres to Christianity, with the majority (70-80 percent) identifying as Roman Catholic.
- ✦ Protestants account for roughly 17 percent of the population.
- ✦ Depending on the study, anywhere from 40-60 percent of Colombians who identify with a particular religion report that they do not actively practice their faith.



Moreno says the seminary was further strengthened in 2013 when it was invited by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to participate in the first meeting of a global theological education consortium, which took place on Southwestern's campus in Fort Worth, Texas. Seminary presidents and deans from 27 countries participated in the meeting.

Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern, says the consortium has been instrumental in helping these seminary leaders share information, articulate agreements for mutual recognition of academic credit, exchange faculty members, and work together to strengthen Baptist theological education in the Spanish-speaking world in order to win that world for Christ. Moreno says one of the things the Cali seminary has learned through the consortium is the possibility of relating to "Champion Churches" that can support theological education. Champion Churches are congregations in the U.S. that partner with overseas seminaries in order to assist them through prayer, financial support, and any additional resources a seminary may need. These partnerships are facilitated by Southwestern Seminary.

"Very quickly [after the consortium meeting], we were able then to establish a relationship with Champion Forest Baptist Church [in Houston, Texas]," Moreno says. "We are very grateful and excited about the fact that they have decided to provide funding for scholarships for indigenous students who are in extensions, enabling them to participate in these programs for theological education."

Another major contribution of Southwestern to the Cali seminary was the provision of laptop computers containing digital libraries, Google, and Moodle (a free online content management program similar to Blackboard Learn), which will allow for distance learning through online education. In addition, Peter Vavrosky, enterprise application administrator in Southwestern's IT department, spent a week at the Cali seminary last December training faculty on the operation of Moodle. Sanchez says this will enable the Cali seminary to save thousands of dollars in the operation of its courses online and in other ministries.

Having been equipped with these various resources in recent years, the Cali seminary is now more capable than ever of expanding the reach of the Gospel to the furthestmost parts of Colombia through seminary education. Frida Robles, who graduated with three degrees from Southwestern in 2001 and now serves as an IMB representative at the Cali seminary, says that half of Colombia's 100 people groups are unreached by the Gospel. For this reason, she works with the seminary's missions school to mobilize mission-minded believers by equipping them with a degree in missions. Furthermore, she and other professors spend weekends traveling to various people groups in order to train indigenous pastors to lead churches in their own communities. This theological training, which is important for the pastors and churchgoers alike, also allows these churches to operate under the government's regulation requiring all pastors to have documentation proving they are theologically educated.

"There are a lot of needs in these different areas of Colombia," Robles says, "but little by little, they have been reached. The problem is the distance; they are too far away; too remote. So we try to train the indigenous leaders; they come out [for training] so they can go themselves."

Another of the seminary's outreach efforts is church planting. Roughly 200 students are enrolled in the church planting degree program, which requires each of these students to be part of a church planting team. Their simple yet profound objective is to plant new churches in select cities in Colombia. Combined with the seminary's mission efforts, this reflects the seminary's belief that all people—whether they live in distant, rural communities or in large, populous cities—are in need of the Gospel.

Although reaching these people may seem an arduous task, the Cali seminary nevertheless strives to see the entire nation come to faith in Christ. Hundreds of ministers have received training from the seminary over the years, with hundreds more now benefitting from the seminary's relationships with Southwestern Seminary and Champion Forest. Moreno says he is encouraged to see those who graduate get involved in ministry in churches and institutions in Colombia and Latin America, applying what they learn from the seminary in a practical way.

"To see how all the churches that they are involved in are growing and reaching out gives us gratitude that we were able to contribute just a grain of sand into their formation," he says. "A banner of our university is practical theology," Rubiano concludes. "We don't need only theologians who think, but also ones who go to the field and can impact Colombia and this society with an integral Gospel that transforms the society."



## MISCELLANEOUS:

- + Has a complex **POLITICAL HISTORY**, at various times known as the Viceroyalty of New Granada, Gran Colombia, the Republic of New Granada, the Granadine Confederation, and the United States of Colombia before finally being declared the Republic of Colombia in 1886.
- + Colombia is one of the world's 17 **MEGADIVERSE** countries, countries that harbor the majority of the Earth's species and are therefore considered extremely biodiverse. Colombia is considered the most megadiverse per square kilometer.
- + Home to the third largest number of **SPANISH SPEAKERS** in the world after Mexico and the United States.
- + Colombia is **ETHNICALLY DIVERSE**, with the descendants of the original native inhabitants, Spanish colonists, Africans originally brought to the country as slaves, and 20th-century immigrants from Europe and the Middle East producing a diverse cultural heritage.
- + Colombia's national **SPORT IS TEJO**, a team sport that involves launching projectiles to hit a target. The country's most popular sport, however, is soccer.



**FOR GOD SO**

# LOVED THE WORLD

*demonstrating God's love through international missions*

*By Alex Sibley Photography By Neil Williams*



**J**ohn 3:16 says it was out of His love for the world that God sent His son to save it. Furthermore, 2 Peter 3:9 says God desires that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Never are these principles of God’s universal grace more clear than on an international mission trip. From January 6-13, 20 representatives of the College at Southwestern served as manifestations of God’s love to the Mayan people of Tekax, Mexico.

Bachelor of Science student Barry Mathis says of the experience, “I was blessed by seeing the presence of the Lord shown through us. We got the opportunity to minister to a lot of kids. We did crafts with them and taught Bible stories, and it was just amazing to see how we were able to connect with them and how much the kids enjoyed the affection of adults. Even though there was a language barrier, there were ways to communicate, and they were able to understand a lot of what we were trying to tell them. It was amazing to see how the Lord used us to share His love with them.”

Donald Kim, assistant professor of Bible at the College at Southwestern, led the trip this year. He says the main reason Southwestern has sent teams to Mexico over the past several years is because of the mission work that was already transpiring there.

“I think it is important for students to see that one week of mission work does very little in the grand scheme of things,” Kim says. “In fact, one week of relationship-building could do more harm than good. But that one week can make an impact if we assist the work that is already going on. We can come as a catalyst to break down some initial barriers in doing Gospel work.”

Kim explains that the allure of “Americana” can initially draw people in, but that Southwestern is careful to work with the local churches and missionaries so the Gospel outreach and discipleship will continue even after the mission trip ends. Having invested in this way over the years, Kim says he has been blessed to see the fruit of Southwestern’s labor.





**MEXICO** | The Southwestern team, led by Assistant Professor of Bible Donald Kim, meets with children in a local park to play games, do crafts, and perform skits. In spite of the language barrier, the team was able to effectively communicate the message of the Gospel in a way the children could understand.





**“IT’S AMAZING TO SEE HOW GOD IS ACTIVELY WORKING AMONG THE MAYANS, WHO WERE AT ONE TIME ENSLAVED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS,” KIM SAYS, REFERRING TO THE MAYANS’ TROUBLED HISTORY. “IN THESE PAST FEW DECADES, IN THE AREA WHERE WE HAVE BEEN GOING, THEY ARE NOW BEING SET FREE FOR ALL OF ETERNITY BY THEIR CREATOR THROUGH HIS SON.”**



“Whenever anyone makes a profession of faith,” Kim says, “the believing community gets involved. There’s follow-up, accountability, and discipleship. Each year, we hear about or even sometimes meet the people who made professions of faith in the previous years and we see what God has done.”

Each year, Southwestern has partnered with Shelby Boyd, a missionary who has served in Tekax for more than 20 years. Boyd has worn multiple ministry hats, including church-planter, theological educator, and founder of homes for abused or abandoned children. Boyd first visited Tekax through a mission trip and quickly realized that God was calling him to specifically minister to the Mayan people living there. As a result of Boyd’s work, as well as fellow believers from the United States and Mexico, the Gospel has made great gains in the area.

“It’s amazing to see how God is actively working among the Mayans, who were at one time enslaved for hundreds of years,” Kim says, referring to the Mayans’ troubled history. “In these past few decades, in the area where we have been going, they are now being set free for all of eternity by their Creator through his Son.”

Kim says Boyd’s philosophy for ministry centers on the parables of the lost in Luke 15. As soon as the team from Southwestern arrived in Mexico, Boyd informed them of this, emphasizing the need to focus on “that one lost coin, sheep, or son.” Kim explains that this helped everyone stay focused on searching for “that one.”

The team’s outreach efforts entailed working largely with children at local churches and parks. Through such ministries as games, crafts, and skits, the team hoped to impact the community with the Gospel. Some students also preached in local churches. Ultimately, as a result of these



efforts, eight people made professions of faith. Kim says he is excited to see next year how these eight new believers will be raised up in the faith.

Four of these eight people were saved on the team's first night of the trip. Ben Hollan, a

Bachelor of Arts student, preached in a local church, with Bachelor of Science student Jonathan Ramos translating. Hollan preached John 3:1-17, relaying Jesus' explanation to Nicodemus of the need to be born again. Hollan explained what this meant and how to do it, then invited the congregation to respond.

"When I gave the invitation for people to experience the new birth that Jesus offers," Hollan says, "four people came down to the front to receive Christ. This was our first full day there, and to have the privilege to be used by the Lord in such a great way to begin the trip was a great experience. The people there were hungry for the Word and, given the chance, they responded."

Emma Kim, a Bachelor of Science student, established a special connection to the people in and around Tekax. She specifically emphasized reaching out to children.

"No matter how shy they were, when I kicked a soccer ball or bounced a basketball with them, they would immediately show interest and join me," Kim says. "Through them, I was able to talk with their parents and the neighboring local adults. It was a great way to engage with the members of the community."

So special was Kim's connection to one family that they invited her to their home for a meal, which, in that culture, demonstrates their utmost respect for her. Kim says this gave her the opportunity to learn about local culture, and although the language barrier prevented them from sharing their testimonies or reading Scripture, it was still a blessed time.

"The greatest encouragement," Kim says, "was to know that, despite the major language barrier, they always called me 'hermana en Cristo,' which means, 'sister in Christ.' We are a family, regardless of our ethnic differences, because we believe in Jesus."

Donald Kim concludes that, while numbers are good, the team focused on longevity and continuity in ministry rather than the number of professions made. Community investment that yielded the planting and watering of Gospel seeds, as well as discipleship of local believers, was the goal; and from that perspective, the college's annual mission trip to Mexico was a success.

"Numbers are great," Kim says, "but more important, we desire a ministry that has eternal implications over many generations. So we say 'yes' to the many professions while desiring genuine growth among the new believers and the church."

— BECOMING A —

# NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

— REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE —

## SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

*By Alex Sibley Photography By Matt Miller*





## “WHO LIVES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?”

David Fleming, senior pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, says the answer to this question should be the driving force behind the demographics of a church. Whoever lives in the community is who the church should both reach and reflect.

“If you’re in an all-white community, it makes perfect sense that you are a mono-cultural church,” Fleming explains. “If you’re in an all-black community, it’s very likely you have a mono-cultural church. But if you’re in a diverse community, then your church should reflect those community demographics within the congregation. And that’s what drives the conversation for diversity: It’s not diversity for diversity’s sake; it’s reaching people for Christ, asking, ‘Who’s out there that we need to reach?’”

Because Champion Forest is located within a diverse community of Houston, the people of Champion Forest strive intentionally to reflect their community in order to more effectively reach their community. As a result, the church is far from a mono-cultural congregation. The church’s intentionality has yielded great diversity among the congregation, which comprises people of numerous ethnicities and cultural backgrounds.

“Diversity has not been our goal,” Fleming says. “Racial reconciliation has not been our goal. Our goal is reconciling people to Christ. Missions, evangelism, and soul winning have been our primary focus. This is about mission and reaching people for Christ, and of course we’re passionate about doing that all around the world. But here in Houston, the world has come to our doorstep.”

Fleming came to Champion Forest in 2006, attracted by the diversity of the community and feeling called to pastor a multicultural church. When he arrived, he and his staff looked at the demographics of Houston and learned that the population is roughly 33 percent white, 33 percent Hispanic, and 33 percent African-American. With these statistics in mind, the people of Champion Forest agreed that their church—both congregation and staff—should reflect such demographics.

One of the key manifestations of this reflection is the Spanish-language worship services, of which there are two every Sunday. Champion Forest had a Spanish



mission for roughly 30 years, but even into the mid-2000s, it was essentially a separate congregation. The mission, which met in Champion Forest's chapel, comprised roughly 50 people and was led by a part-time, bi-vocational pastor who was not part of Champion Forest's staff.

Fleming's vision for Champion Forest, however, was to have "one church with many languages." Not wanting to have multiple distinct congregations meeting in the same facilities, Fleming sought to have one church that made provision for the various cultural groups in Houston, including African-Americans and the Spanish-speaking community.

With this in mind, Fleming and his staff integrated the Spanish mission into Champion Forest. Fleming asked Ramon Medina, the part-time pastor of the mission and a Master of Arts in Missiology student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, to become a lead pastor of Champion Forest. This meant that although

Medina's primary focus would be on Hispanic ministry he would have responsibilities over the entire church. This ensured that there was no division within the church between the English- and Spanish-speaking groups.

"We try to maintain the sense of unity in the midst of diversity," Fleming says. "So we don't have a Spanish mission; we don't have a Spanish congregation. We don't use those phrases and terms. We don't have a Spanish budget. We have one church, we have one leadership structure, and we have one budget. We are one congregation."

Since Champion Forest began having Spanish-language services, the number of Hispanic members grew from the 50 who used to gather in the Spanish mission to roughly 1,500 adults every Sunday. As Fleming notes, this means that a mega church has essentially grown up within a mega church—that is, both the Spanish- and English-speaking groups, individually, are large enough to be considered mega churches.



Medina, who plans to graduate Southwestern in summer 2015, first came to Champion Forest in 2005. The following year, when Fleming came to the church and shared with him his vision of reaching the whole community, Medina shared his vision of specifically reaching the Hispanic community. He explained, however, that he wanted to reach not just one type of Hispanic people but all types.

Through his education at Southwestern, particularly under professor of missions Daniel Sanchez, Medina learned the importance of intentional outreach to first-, second-, and third-generation Hispanics, all of whom must be reached differently. Sanchez also taught him to take into account the different nationalities of Hispanics, noting, for example, that reaching Hispanics from Colombia is different than reaching Hispanics from Mexico. Bearing such teaching in mind, Medina and his fellow ministers at Champion Forest have carefully and effectively appealed to their community, as the church now has “diversity in the diversity.”

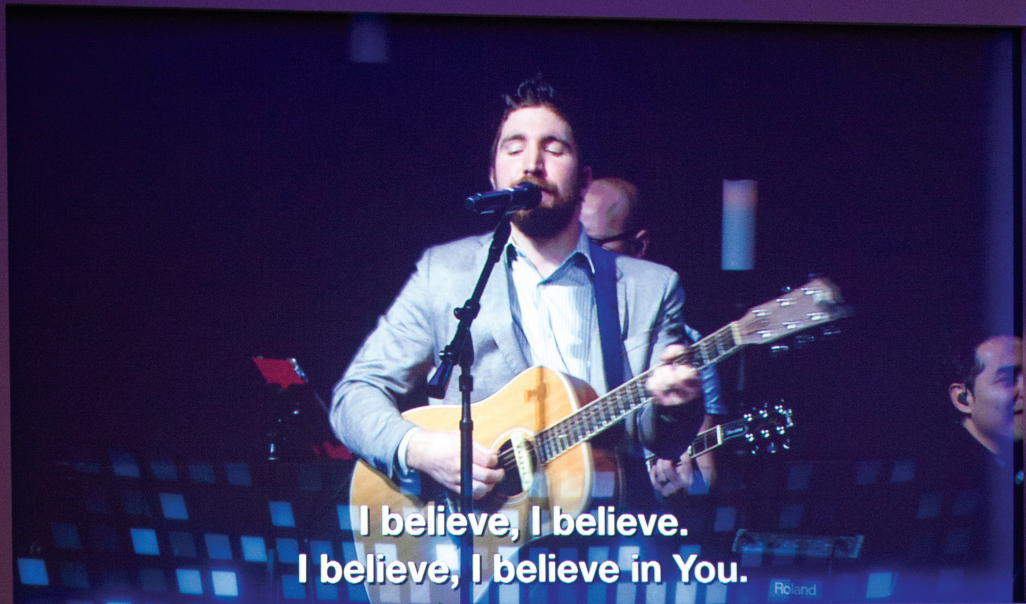
“We have people from all the countries in Latin America now in Champion Forest, but also we have people from all socioeconomic statuses,” Medina explains. “It is not easy to work with all these kinds of people, but we try to build bridges to connect similar peoples, and then, when those people are connected, we try to connect them to all kinds of people to help them in different things. We have a diverse church, but also we have a diverse Hispanic congregation.”

Fleming says that over the last eight years these ministry emphases have led Champion Forest to become a New Testament church, “where the barriers have been torn down, and Jew and Gentile have become one in spite of their profound differences.” A recent illustration of this is Champion Forest’s Christmas production, which took place in early December. The production comprised five services—three in English, two in Spanish—and over the course of these five services, more than 23,000 people attended, roughly 10,000 of whom were Hispanic. Important, however, the choir, worship team, and media team are all integrated. This means that the same people presented the production—more than two hours’ worth of material—in Spanish and English.

“We have a language-driven service so that people can worship in their heart language, but when we’re talking about reaching our community, which is what that Christmas production is all about, we are right in there together—black, white, and Hispanic,” Fleming says. “It’s a very cool thing to watch people work together who ordinarily probably wouldn’t have anything to do with each other, even in the church.”

In addition to these mission efforts within their own community, Champion Forest also has an international reach. Medina, having grown up in Cali, Colombia, has a personal connection with the seminary there, as both his parents taught there as professors. For this reason, Medina already had in mind to assist the seminary in some way. So when Daniel Sanchez offered to facilitate a partnership between Champion Forest and the Cali seminary through Southwestern’s Global Theological Innovation, Medina joyfully accepted.









As a Champion Church for the Cali seminary, Champion Forest has provided financial resources to send professors from the seminary to unreached people groups in Colombia to educate local believers to become pastors. Also, in early December, the church sponsored a technician from Southwestern to travel to Colombia in order to aid the Cali seminary with its online programs. This coming February, Medina and Fleming, along with Sanchez, plan to visit the Cali seminary to equip and work with professors, students, and leaders in the community.

“A good reason to do something with the seminary is that we are investing in people who can multiply all the investment that we are doing in them,” Medina says, “because if we can invest in one leader in theological education, he can be a pastor who can do amazing things in the future. I think that any investment we do in the seminary will be exponential in the spiritual world.”

As Champion Forest continues to serve and grow, the church has expanded from one campus to three and from two languages

to four (including Portuguese and American Sign Language). Fleming hopes that as Champion Forest perseveres in its commitment to reach and reflect whites, Hispanics, and African-Americans alike the church will eventually expand to two more campuses and even add a fifth and sixth language.

“Our congregation celebrates the fact that we can embrace diversity and celebrate it but still be one in mission, purpose, and fellowship,” Fleming says. “I talk often about seeing the grace of God at work and on display, because the natural thing to do is huddle up in your own culture—white, black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.—but

when you see something happening that puts people of different cultural experiences and backgrounds on the same row together, worshiping together, praying together, sharing meals together ... that’s really the grace of God on display. That’s a really cool thing.”

**“...OUR GOAL IS RECONCILING PEOPLE TO CHRIST. MISSIONS, EVANGELISM, AND SOUL WINNING HAVE BEEN OUR PRIMARY FOCUS. THIS IS ABOUT MISSION AND REACHING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST...” DAVID FLEMING**



## ENGAGE24 EMPHASIS YIELDS 9 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

By Alex Sibley

In early October, a discouraged former graduate of Southwestern Seminary wrote on Twitter that, due to a perceived lack of evangelistic focus among Southern Baptists, he would no longer identify himself with the denomination. Tommy Kiker, assistant professor of pastoral theology at Southwestern, discovered this tweet and reached out to its disheartened author. Kiker encouraged him to reconnect with Southwestern, informing him that groups of students and faculty go out into the community every day, Monday through Friday, in an effort to evangelize every home within a two-mile radius of the campus through an initiative called “Going the Second Mile.”

On Oct. 14, in response to Ronnie Floyd’s call to all Southern Baptists to share their faith with at least one person in a ministry effort titled “Engage24,” Southwestern students and faculty committed to devote the day to evangelism. Although the seminary had already scheduled teams to evangelize that day (as they do every day), additional slots were opened to allow more people to participate in

the Going the Second Mile effort.

At the end of the day, Kiker reached out again to the discouraged former graduate and informed him that Southwestern’s evangelism efforts that day yielded nine professions of faith. The former graduate responded that he was inspired by such zeal for evangelism, which he said he never sees anywhere else. He added that, next time he is in Fort Worth, he will join one of Southwestern’s evangelism teams.

Matt Queen, Southwestern’s L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism (“Chair of Fire”), says that evangelism is the spirit of who Southwestern Seminary is.

“Evangelism as an academic discipline was birthed at this school,” he says. “Southwestern has been known for professors, staff, and students evangelizing consistently throughout its history; and so we, today, are just part of a story that’s gone on since 1908.”

As a result of the Going the Second Mile initiative, since January of 2014, 121 people have professed faith in Christ for the first time. Since fall 2013, at least one person has been saved every week.

One of the nine professions that occurred on Oct. 14 resulted from the efforts of Southwestern Ph.D. students Brandon Kiesling and Allen Davidson as they participated in the Going the Second Mile effort. They met a young man



named Christian who knew the facts of Scripture concerning Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and yet was attempting to reach God through good works. Recalling the experience in chapel the following day, Kiesling said he and Davidson opened up the scriptures and showed Christian that salvation is by faith alone. At that point, Christian decided to put his faith in Christ.

"Lord, I know I'm a sinner," he prayed. "I've known that for a while. I've been trying to get to you, but I'm going to stop that, and I'm going to allow you to come to me today."

Steven Polino, a Bachelor of Science student, was part of another evangelism team. Engaging three young people whom they met on the street, Polino and his team led all three of them to Christ. Following this,



the team engaged another man, and he, too, placed his faith in Jesus. Of these four, two were Hispanic, one was African-American,

and the other, Caucasian. Reflecting on the experience, Polino said, "It was so good to see God save and accept all sorts of shapes, sizes and skin colors today."

Master of Divinity student Luke Romans, along with two of his friends, had a fruitful evangelistic encounter on their first try, meeting a young woman at the first house they visited. Romans says the woman knew Jesus was God but had never accepted him as her Savior, a fact that her sister-in-law "kept bugging her about."

"We were able to show her in the Bible what Scripture says about the need for salvation," Romans says. "She accepted Christ! [One of my teammates] had never seen someone come to salvation via door-to-door witnessing, and I think I've got him hooked!"



# OXFORD

EXPERIENCE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF HISTORIC BRITAIN

**EARN UP TO SIX HOURS OF CREDIT**  
Learn about the Reformers, Baptist history, C.S. Lewis, women in church history, and modern missions. Study theology, experience church history, and engage in evangelism with SWBTS professors.

**Courses offered:** Baptist Heritage, The Reformation, Contemporary Evangelism, Apologetics, The History of Christian Women, and Missions and Evangelism Practicum.

**JULY 6-23, 2015**  
**Cost: \$4,200**  
Includes travel, accommodations, meals, and tuition

Contact: David Norman  
swbts.edu/oxford • oxford@swbts.edu  
817.923.1921, ext. 4488



## KEYBOARDS AND CAROLS HIGHLIGHTS MUSICIANSHIP AT SOUTHWESTERN

By Katie Coleman

Musicians including faculty and students from Southwestern’s School of Church Music entertained their audience with arrangements of popular Christmas songs

at the seminary’s Keyboards and Carols at Christmas concert, Dec. 4, drawing 2,800 people to the seminary’s MacGorman Chapel and Performing Arts Center.

“It’s my favorite time of the year,” said Dean of the School of Church Music Leo Day. “I love the lights. I love the carols. I love the sparkling Steinways. I love it all. But the thing I am most happy about tonight is that King Jesus is in the house.”

More than 60 pianists played the 13 Steinway grand pianos displayed on the stage. Pianists ranged in age from preschool children to seminary students and faculty.

The Fort Worth Children’s Choir joined the Master Chorale in several of the night’s performances. Those in attendance enjoyed arrangements of such well-known Christmas songs as “Jingle Bells” and “O Holy Night” and participated in the singing of “Angels We Have Heard on High” and “The Birthday of a King.”

The concert is an important part of the seminary’s efforts to join the worldwide roster of more than 170 “All-Steinway” schools. “To reach this goal means all students will learn, practice, and perform on these beautiful instruments, the finest in all the world,” said Southwestern President Paige Patterson.



In attendance was Sally Coveleskie, national director of institutional sales at Steinway & Sons who observed “the pursuit of achievement of excellence is clearly evident here. What you have done by inspiring the Steinway initiative will assist the students of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to reach their fullest potential as musicians and teachers.”

The seminary is very close to reaching the goal of becoming an “All-Steinway” school. Completing the inventory of pianos is critical to our entire music program.



Newly elected President of the International Mission Board (IMB) David Platt spoke in chapel at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Nov. 5. Preaching from Genesis 1-3, Platt identified four biblical foundations with cultural implications for the church today.

“Based upon biblical foundations clearly laid on the opening pages of history, I challenge you to engage in the battle on the front lines in our culture, from abortion to poverty; from slavery to sexual immorality,” Platt said. “To refuse to pick and choose which battles you’re going to stand up and speak out on and which ones you’re going to stay silent on.”

Beginning with the biblical foundation that God creates people as a demonstration of his glory, Platt explained that such a foundation’s cultural implication is that Christians must fight against abortion. Citing statistics indicating that there are 130,000 abortions around the

## PLATT SUMMONS CHRISTIANS TO FRONTLINES OF CULTURAL BATTLEFIELD

By Alex Sibley

world every day, Platt said, “I do not believe it is an overstatement to call abortion a modern holocaust.”

The second biblical foundation is that God designs people for the display of his Gospel, the implication being that Christians must flee sexual immorality and defend sexual complementarity within marriage for the sake of the Gospel.

“This is one of those areas in our day where the word of God comes up totally against the patterns of our culture,” Platt said, “and we’re forced to make a decision: are we going to believe the Bible or not? Are we going to trust God, who says we all have personal worth, are made in his image, and yet have different roles in a way that does not devalue worth but actually exalts worth?”

The third biblical foundation is that God judges people by his righteous law. The implication, then, is that Christians must work for justice in the world as they speak about the Judge of the world. Platt said Christians need to open their eyes to the desperate poverty and gross injustice in the world.

The final biblical foundation is that God pursues people with his redeeming love. The implication is that Christians must give their lives and lead their churches to pursue the 6,000 people groups still unreached by God’s redeeming love.

“When our time is done,” Platt said, “may it be said of you and me that we loved our Lord and we led his church for the demonstration of his glory and the display of his Gospel amongst the most pressing issues of our day, including those people who’ve never even heard the Gospel.”



## SOUTHWESTERN RECEIVES \$12 MILLION LEAD GIFT FOR NEW COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS BUILDING

By Alex Sibley

Harold Mathena announced in chapel, Oct. 16, that he is bestowing to Southwestern Seminary a gift of \$12 million for the construction of a new building for Southwestern's college and Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions. This lead gift will cover roughly half the cost of construction.

"There are living in this world seven billion unsaved men and women, boys and girls," said Mathena, a bi-vocational evangelist. "I also know that, from the beginning, Southwestern Seminary's mission has been to prepare men and women to take the Gospel to the ends of the world. To enhance this mission of taking the good news of Jesus Christ to every man and woman, we [the Mathena family] believe that the Lord wants a home for the proclamation of the Gospel on this campus. We want to be a part of that.

"After much prayer, [my wife] Patricia and I want to give you today this pledge of \$12 million as our testimony and our personal stewardship commitment to the College at Southwestern and to the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions—for the building of a complex to hold their strategic ministries."

Concerning Mathena's generous contribution to Southwestern for its new building, Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, says, "Harold Mathena knows that evangelism and missions are not

accomplished through a building. My pledge to Harold Mathena has been that this building will be used to train men and women for the glory of God to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. I promised him that, and that's what he's interested in. Bricks and mortar, he knows you have to

have them, but in the end, what he's interested in is the taking of the Gospel to the ends of the earth."

The new building will be located on the immediate west side of Pecan Manor. In addition to housing the college and Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, Patterson says the building will contain up-to-date classroom facilities and a memorial to Lottie Moon, a Southern Baptist missionary who spent nearly 40 years teaching and evangelizing in China. The memorial will contain some of Moon's belongings as well as her Chinese home. Patterson says ground could be broken on the new building as early as summer 2015.

Mike Hughes, vice president for Institutional Advancement, says the new building will ameliorate critical facility limitations as well as accommodate future growth and sustainability. He adds that it will be "an outward expression of Southwestern's abiding commitment to the spiritual formation of all who come to Southwestern to prepare for ministry and the mandate to reach the world for Christ."





## PATTERSON ADMONISHES GRADUATES TO IMITATE JOSEPH'S OBEDIENCE

By Alex Sibley

During Southwestern's fall commencement service, Dec. 12, Southwestern President Paige Patterson, speaking to the 146 graduating college, master's and doctoral students, expounded Matthew 2:13-15, which describes Joseph's flight to Egypt to escape the murderous King Herod.

The passage says that Joseph acted in response to a message from God given to him in a dream. Patterson noted that, as soon as he heard the word of God, Joseph took his family and left for Egypt in the middle of the night. Patterson encouraged graduates to listen to and obey the voice of God with the same urgency.

"The success of your ministry will depend upon whether or not you know the Lord

God and walk with Him on a daily basis," Patterson said. "Thank God that Joseph, though a carpenter of Nazareth, was a man who knew the Lord God, and he walked with Him carefully so that he was available to the voice of God."

Following the sermon, graduates accepted the president's admonition as they received their degrees and went out from the seminary in order to serve the kingdom of God. Among the graduates was Gilberto Rufat, Southwestern's first Spanish-language Master of Theological Studies (MTS) graduate.

The 36-hour Spanish MTS program was launched in fall 2013 as part of Southwestern's "strategic global outreach," according to Craig

Blaising, executive vice president and provost. In addition to being completely in Spanish, the online program is also offered at a discounted rate. Rufat says this was a major contributing factor to his enrolling in the program.

After graduation, Rufat characterized his time at Southwestern as a blessing.

"I had the opportunity to start my studies in Puerto Rico," Rufat said. "I got a diploma, an associate's, a bachelor's, and I started my master's degree. But the quality of the professorship here at Southwestern is far superior. And the thing I love most is being exposed to the theological problems and teachings that I, as a pastor, am going to have to deal with."

## FLEXIBLE ACCESS PH.D. WIDENS AVAILABILITY OF DOCTORAL STUDY

By Alex Sibley

Interspersed throughout the country are people who wish to enroll in the Ph.D. program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Unfortunately, these people are so embedded in their ministries that they cannot move to Southwestern in order to participate in the residential program. Fortunately for them, Southwestern has proposed a solution for reaching these people: a flexible access Ph.D.

"Flexible access means that the access to seminars and the instructional and research components of the degree program is flexible between physical presence in a residential mode or virtual presence from a distance," explains Craig Blaising, executive vice president and provost at Southwestern. "The 'flexible' means that it's either remote access into the program at a distance through online,

virtual access, or personal, physical presence in a residential format."

As distinct from a strictly online program, the flexible access Ph.D. is the same program as the residential Ph.D., because it allows distance students to participate in the same seminars as residential students via group video chat software. This means that the program is synchronous (that is, taken while class is in session), unlike online programs, which are asynchronous (taken whenever a student is able). In other words, residential students who are physically present at a seminar on Southwestern's campus can take the class alongside distance students who are virtually present.

"This basically allows a distance student to have the same quality of instruction

and supervision that they would have [as a residential student]," Blaising explains. "While we believe that residential is the best way to do it, we also believe that this is the best way to bring online students into the program."

Blaising stresses that this flexible access Ph.D. is not a new program, but is rather part of Southwestern's "one and only Ph.D. program."

"The degree program is exactly the same," he says. "The standards are the same; the work that one has to do is the same. [But] the benefit will be that it will open the opportunity of doctoral study to a broader student pool."

Southwestern's board of trustees approved the proposal for the flexible access Ph.D. during their annual meeting this fall. The proposal now awaits the approval of Southwestern's accrediting bodies.

## NOTED PRAYER WARRIOR T.W. HUNT DIES AT AGE 85

By Alex Sibley

Widely recognized in Christian circles as an authority on prayer, Thomas W. (“T.W.”) Hunt, author of such books as *The Mind of Christ* and *Disciple’s Prayer Life* and former professor of music and missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died December 11 at the age of 85.

Hunt’s granddaughter, Katherine Fruge, a doctor of philosophy student at Southwestern, characterizes his passing as “successfully finishing his race,” noting that he died peacefully with family by his side “cheering him on to victory.”

“T.W. Hunt met Jesus yesterday,” Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson said in a statement the following day. “It was a meeting of a faithful servant and his Lord, to be sure. But in a sense, it was just a reunion of old friends, because few men ever walked with God like Enoch and T.W. Hunt. As a faculty member, as a pastor, and as a friend, Dr. Hunt was the champion of prayer and devotional walk with the Master. His family, his friends, his church, and his seminary will miss him profoundly. Now, my friend, enjoy all that God has now richly provided for you.”

Born in 1929, Hunt accepted Christ at an early age, although it was not until 1959 that he truly surrendered himself to God’s plan for his life. That year, he received a special gift—a copy of the Martin Luther translation of the Bible, given him by a student who knew he spoke German. Hunt later said the day he received this Bible was one of the most memorable in all his life, and he decided then to commit himself entirely to Christ.

Four years later, Hunt followed God’s call to teach in the School of Church Music at Southwestern Seminary. Within a few years, he had transformed the way music was used for missions. Specifically, he developed the Music in Missions class, which offered techniques for using music to communicate the message of the Gospel by focusing on the indigenous music of the particular mission field. This concept would later prove to have played an integral role in revolutionizing musical evangelism. In 1987, Hunt became the first prayer consultant for LifeWay (then called “the Baptist Sunday School Board”). From that position, Hunt became recognized as an earnest prayer warrior and was often asked to speak at conferences and state convention meetings on the topic of prayer.

After retiring from LifeWay in 1994, Hunt remained an active author and speaker over the next two decades. In 1994, LifeWay published what would be Hunt’s most popular work, *The Mind of Christ*, a Bible study focused on Philippians 2:5-11, which Hunt co-authored with Claude V. King. Throughout his ministry that spanned more than five decades, Hunt always ensured that people did not focus on him. Instead, as he once said to Baptist Press, “I’d rather they know about God.”



## FORMER TRUSTEE LOLLIE COGSWELL DIES AT AGE 78

By Alex Sibley

Lollie Cogswell, who served on Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s board of trustees from 1992 to 2004 and was an active member of First Baptist Church of Sherman, Texas, died January 1 at the age of 78.

“Lollie Cogswell served as a faithful member of Southwestern’s board of trustees during a transitional time in the seminary’s history,” says Craig Blaising, executive vice president and provost at Southwestern. “She played a significant role in shaping the future direction of the seminary. She was a strong voice advocating fidelity to Scripture and doctrinal integrity in faculty and administrative service.”

Not long after Cogswell became a trustee, trustees elected Ken Hemphill as Southwestern’s seventh president. Later, in 2003, following Hemphill’s departure from the seminary, Cogswell and fellow trustees chose as Southwestern’s eighth president, Paige Patterson.

Patterson, who still serves as president of Southwestern more than 10 years later, says, “If there were a way to make heaven more interesting, the entry of Lollie Cogswell accomplished that goal. A remarkable woman with the sweetness of a honeycomb, the strength of a giant redwood, and the determination of a charging rhino, her departure for the well-earned rest of Glory leaves on earth a chasm in the hearts of many and a major loss for godly, conservative causes both in the church and nation.

“Throughout Southwestern’s most difficult days, Lollie stood like a fortress when sometimes even Bible-believing men found that posture awkward. Unconcerned about negative portrayals, she just wanted to be right before God and just in her actions.”

Patterson explains that, through her effort to win the denomination back to the “faith of the fathers,” Cogswell could always be found faithful. He identifies her as one of only a handful of people whom he never saw stumble nor stop to question what people might say. All that mattered to her, Patterson says, was, “What did God say?”

Mike Lawson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sherman, Texas, where Cogswell was an active member for 34 years, recalls that his earliest encounters with Cogswell quickly revealed her great concern for the denomination, its institutions and its leadership.

“With tender heart and deep conviction, she would express and pursue her longing for theological integrity and a return to Great Commission goals,” explains Lawson, who earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry at Southwestern in 1987 and 1992, respectively. “Before Southwestern board meetings, she would come by my office for prayer. Her desire for the same solid theology in our church was one I too shared. As a pastor, it was my joy to see a lady of such conviction and strength who wholeheartedly supported my determination to stand squarely on the Word of God. Lollie was always ready to share Christ and to encourage believers, including her pastor. Her presence was significant, and she will be missed greatly by all of us. Heaven is enriched by her presence.”



SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | FORT WORTH, TEXAS

2015 APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

# STAND FIRM

MARCH 20-21, 2015



**J. WARNER WALLACE**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**WILLIAM ABRAHAM**



**BARRY CREAMER**



**DAVE STERRETT**



**ALLEN HAINLINE**

[SWBTS.EDU/STANDFIRM](http://SWBTS.EDU/STANDFIRM)



MASTER OF ARTS IN

## CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

STRENGTHEN YOUR ABILITY  
TO ENGAGE THE WORLD  
WITH THE GOSPEL.

A NEW 45-HOUR MASTER'S DEGREE STARTING FALL 2015

[SWBTS.EDU/APOLOGETICS](http://SWBTS.EDU/APOLOGETICS)



PREACH THE WORD.  
REACH THE WORLD.  
[SWBTS.EDU](http://SWBTS.EDU)

## SOUTHWESTERN HOSTS ANNUAL SBTC MEETING

By Alex Sibley



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary hosted the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's annual meeting, Nov. 10-11. The meeting included a Bible conference, committee reports and SBTC missions and ministry testimonies.

Southwestern President Paige Patterson delivered the seminary's report, Nov. 11. He began by explaining the "difficult trouble" that American seminary education faces today, noting that a seminary closes every other month. Nevertheless, he assured listeners that the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries are the exception to these facts, since all six schools experienced growth in 2014.

On Nov. 12, Assistant Professor of Ethics at Southwestern Evan Lenow participated in a panel discussion on the topic of the church and homosexuality. Other panelists included Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC, and Nathan Lino, pastor of Northeast Houston Baptist Church. The panel discussed the church's response to civil disobedience, same-sex marriage legal issues, and how to minister to those with same-sex attraction.

## SOUTHWESTERN BUILDS SMART TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOM

By Katie Coleman



Southwestern is working to provide a better classroom experience for both professors and students with its new "smart classrooms." The new classroom is designed with stadium seating and rows of desks equipped with electrical outlets for every two students. The room has recording capability for broadcasting to online students; TVs will replace projectors; and professors can teach from touch-screen computers.

"The new 'smart classrooms' will enable us to bring digital instructional materials into the classroom while at the same time expanding the reach of classroom instruction to remote access students," says Craig Blaising, executive vice president and provost. "It will upgrade our classroom furnishings and technology, providing a unique learning environment for both residential and distance students."

The first of the "smart classrooms" will be located in Scarborough Hall and ready for spring classes. Southwestern's goal is to equip all classes in Scarborough Hall with this technology and eventually expand to other locations on campus.

# REVIVE THIS NATION

2015 SPRING REVIVAL PROGRAM

SPRING BREAK  
MARCH 8-11, 2015  
[SWBTS.EDU/RTN](http://SWBTS.EDU/RTN)



## WHERE WILL REVIVAL BEGIN?

This spring break, Southwestern will be sending more than one-hundred students and professors to preach in churches across America and to evangelize the communities around them. Revival begins in the church.

[SWBTS.EDU/RTN](http://SWBTS.EDU/RTN) | 817.923.1921, EXT. 7300 | [RTN@SWBTS.EDU](mailto:RTN@SWBTS.EDU)



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## PHILIP AND SUZY ARMSTRONG

# All by Grace

By Katie Coleman

Philip Armstrong has always had a passion for serving the Lord, wherever that might take him. From the time he and his wife, Suzy, were married, that passion was specifically for international missions.

In 2001, the Armstrongs became involved in mission work in Cuba by going on a short-term mission trip there. Through this first trip, they connected with many other people working in the country and learned how to live outside their comfort zone. Impacted by their experience, the Armstrongs have continued to serve in Cuba over the last 14 years. Although they have served in several capacities, in everything they have done, they have simply looked for ways to spread the Gospel.

“We are not the leaders,” Armstrong says. “We are the helpers; we are the servants.”

The Armstrongs’ time in Cuba has led them to be involved with many pastors, missionaries, churches, seminaries, and other Bible institutes across the island. Armstrong considers it a joy to serve the Lord with the resources that the Lord has given him.

In 2006, Armstrong formed All By Grace (ABG) Ministries, whose mission is to be active in spreading the Gospel in multiple foreign countries, but especially in Cuba. ABG works extensively with the Western Baptist Convention of Cuba to support mission work in various ways with the main purpose of spreading the Gospel across the island.

“As we put our eyes on Jesus and trust him to perform good works through us, He is faithful to do just that,” Armstrong says. “We always watch the Lord do amazing things through such weak people as we are. It is a great

blessing to see God do His work when we are willing to trust completely in Him and His provision.”

About seven years ago, Armstrong was introduced to Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who was also doing work in Cuba. After observing Sanchez’s ministry there, Armstrong knew that partnering with Southwestern in its different ministry efforts, particularly in Cuba, would be an important way to help further the Gospel.

Armstrong has supported Southwestern in various ventures over the last several years. For example, at a pastor’s conference led by Sanchez and Brent Ray, associate director of Southwestern’s Global Theological Innovation, pastors from Central and South America were in attendance, many of whom lacked the necessary resources for their churches and ministries, so Armstrong provided for them several hundred flash drives that could be filled with biblical materials in their language.

“The work of Southwestern is very important in meeting the needs of needy seminaries in other parts of the world,” Armstrong says. “Southwestern is directly involved with training leaders in multiple countries, and this is a very fruitful work that we want to support as much as possible in the future.

“We want to support the great work that so many at Southwestern are doing to train the next generation of pastors and leaders who will take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We hope and we know that God is using Southwestern in a great way now, and we hope and pray that this work will continue by the grace of God.”





## STUDENT LIFE AIMS TO FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS FOR KINGDOM IMPACT

By Alex Sibley

Associate Director of Student Life Garrison Griffith says the goal for Student Life at Southwestern is to help students build lasting friendships with other students who will support them in future ministries. Student Life provides opportunities for building such relationships through fun events that provide a break as well as times of studying and discipling.

Throughout the fall semester, Student Life has hosted numerous events, including a Fall Festival, the annual chili cook-off, a disc golf tournament, and block parties for campus housing.

“Our goal in Student Life is that at our events students would develop friendships and relationships that lead to long-term kingdom impact,” says Griffith. “The more time we allow students to create relationships in these environments, the more, we hope, we are encouraging their future partnership with one another in ministry and missions.”









## Alumni Updates

### 1970

**Richard A. Blank (MDIV 1977)** to March Air Reserve Base, Riverside, Calif., as chaplain.

### 1980

**David Dockery (MDIV 1981)** to Trinity International University, Deerfield, Ill., as president. Dockery, who last year completed an 18-year tenure as president of Union University, was inaugurated as Trinity's 15th president on October 23, 2014.

**Gerald M. Small (MRE 1982)** to Greater Life Sports and Education, Saint Joseph, Mo., as owner.

### 1990

**Mark D. Dance (MDIV 1991, DMIN 1995)** to Lifeway Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn., as associate vice president for pastoral leadership.

**James F. "Fulton" Ammonette (MARE 1992)** to Arkansas Valley Baptist Association, West Helena, Ark., as associational missionary.

**Mary-Margaret Atkinson (MDIV 1994)** to Association of Professional Chaplains, Schaumburg, Ill., as president.

### 2000

**William J. Gernenz (MDIV 2003)** to First Baptist Church, Blanco, Texas, as pastor, with wife, Heather I. Gernenz, née Imrie.

## Retirement

**David B. Hill (MRE 1976)** retired, living in Bentonville, Ark.

## Awards

**Guillermo Escalona (MDIV 1987)** presented "2014 Chaplain of the Year" by the Florida Baptist Chaplains Network

## Anniversaries

Rolla M. "Ronnie" Bradley, Sr. (BDIV 1961) and Genevieve W. Bradley, née Wellborn, 60th wedding anniversary (August)

## Ministry Anniversaries

**Johnny N. Burnett (BDIV 1956, MRE 1971, MDIV 1973, EDD 1988, PHD 1994)** with Barbara Ann Burnett, née Evans, 60th anniversary as an ordained minister

**Fred L. Sain (MRE 1954, BDIV 1955)** 65 years at Prairie Hill Baptist Church, Prairie Hill, Texas, on September 25, 2014

## Memorials

Ruth F. Baker

Robert D. Beecher

Laura L. "Lollie" Cogswell, née Lenoir

Bonnie J. Combs

Gary L. Curtis

Billy W. Elmore

Kenneth D. Emerson

Donald L. Hay

Robert W. Hayes

Billy M. Lacy

Thelma Lang, née Williams

Danny G. McClinton

Joy A. Nash, née Balyeat

Frank J. O'Banion

Raymon B. "R.B." Tanner

Robert E. Uselton

Virginia E. Webb, neé Phillips

### 1940

Ercell V. Lynn (MRE 1941)

Philip N. "Phil" Tilden, Sr. (BDIV 1949, MDIV 1973)

Mary S. Willis, neé Middleton (MRE 1949)

### 1950

Frederick E. White (BDIV 1951)

Thomas F. Lang (BDIV 1953)

Richard T. Moore (BDIV 1953)

Robert L. Smith (BDIV 1953)

Earl C. Vanderford, Jr. (BDIV 1954)

Jean B. Childers (MRE 1955)

Billy B. Tisdale (BDIV 1955)

Thomas D. Riddle (BDIV 1956)

John P. Hamilton (BDIV 1957, MRE 1964)

Jack M. Kennedy (MRE 1957)

Dan W. Proctor (BDIV 1958, THD 1964, PHD 1977)

Freddie M. Gage (BDIV 1959)

### 1960

Joseph C. Thompson (BRE 1960)

George G. McSpadden (BCM 1962, MACM 1964)

Laurance M. Walker (BDIV 1962)

Julio R. Aldape (BDIV 1963)

Billie L. James, née Julian (MRE 1963)

Roy L. Priddy (BCM 1965, MACM 1971)

Gregorio O. Gomez (MRE 1966, MARE 1983)

John W. Mayner (MDIV 1968)

### 1970

Don R. Murray, Sr. (DipTH 1971)

Robert W. Mulkey (MDIV 1972)

Milton E. Ertelt, Jr. (MDIV 1974)

Garvin McGettrick (DMIN 1974)

Marion F. Meador (MDIV 1978, PHD 1986)

Irvin H. Murrell (MACM 1978, MM 1980)

### 1980

Joe C. Sellars (MRE 1980)

William B. Hardin (MDIV 1989)

### 1990

Claron L. Cage (MDIV 1990)

David W. Landrith (MDIVBL 1991)

Nita L. Newman (MDIVBL 1992)

Jeffrey F. Powers (MDIVBL 1996)

### 2000

Brent E. Bradley (MDIV 2000)

Faith P. Kirby, née Boone (Special Student Theology 2004)

## Correction

**Gerald D. Murphy (BDIV 1955)** was incorrectly listed as Gerald M. Douglas

## Keep in Touch

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

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 22500  
Fort Worth, TX 76122-0500

### Physical Address:

2001 W. Seminary Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76115

### Phone (toll free):

1.877.GO.SWBTS (1.877.467.9287)

### Phone (local):

817.923.1921, ext. 7200

### Email:

friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu

# EL MAESTROS DE ESTUDIOS TEOLÓGICOS

By Craig Blaising

In the past couple of years, three things have come together to extend the teaching ministry of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary into the Spanish-language nations of the world. First is the accumulation of an outstanding collection of Spanish-speaking faculty in several disciplines, including biblical, theological, and ethical studies. Second is the formation of the Global Theological Innovation network of schools (GTI) headed by Dr. Brent Ray. Third is the development of the 36-hour, fully online Master of Theological Studies (MTS). With our Spanish-speaking faculty, Southwestern is able to offer the online MTS fully in Spanish as *La Maestría de Estudios Teológicos (MET)*. Through our partnership schools in the GTI, the MET is able to train potentially thousands of future ministers among the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world.

## WHY THE MTS?

The MTS/MET is unique in several ways. It is the shortest (in terms of number of hours) master's degree offered in Southern Baptist seminary education, and it is only available at Southwestern Seminary. It is fully online, requiring no residential study on campus—no residential term, no intensive courses, no modular week sessions. But more importantly, the entire MTS/MET curriculum is wholly contained within the standard Master of Divinity degree. In fact, the MTS is the core of introductory Bible and theology courses found at the heart of the M.Div. program. What this

means is that an MTS student receives the core introductory education that all those in the M.Div. degree program receive. And, since that is the case, the MTS is well designed for the student who may later pursue the full M.Div.

The MTS was especially designed for those serving on church staffs who have not yet received a formal seminary education. These may be second career laymen who have been called into the ministry of their local church. They may be full-time or bi-vocational staff, full-time or part-time volunteers. Whatever their situation, they serve in ministry but have not had the opportunity to pursue seminary studies. The circumstances of these staff members are such that they are situated and fully engaged in the practical ministry of their church. Their immediate need is not practical ministry training per se (although the broader practical ministry training offered by the seminary is desirable). Their most immediate need is a basic graduate education in Bible and theology, which only the seminary can provide and which can be fully integrated into higher seminary programs. This is what is provided by the MTS. Those who wish to later pursue the M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Education may relinquish the MTS and apply all of its hours to the higher degree or, with an extra semester of study, hold both degrees.



## THE MET

Besides offering a basic biblical and theological education in Spanish to any Spanish-language speaker anywhere in the world, the Southwestern MTS in Spanish (the MET) is especially helpful to our partner schools in the GTI. Not all of these schools are able to offer graduate-level seminary education. Southwestern's MET together with the GTI partner school's own value-added certificate in practical ministry may be an excellent way for those schools to facilitate graduate theological education in their contexts. Furthermore, the MET may be a way to begin, further, or enhance their own faculty training, adding theological credentials helpful in meeting their institutional goals.

The Southwestern MTS/MET is an integral part of overall seminary training, meeting a global need and helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

---

**CRAIG BLAISING** serves as Southwestern's executive vice president and provost and holds the Jesse Hendley Chair of Biblical Theology.

*Don't let student debt be a*  
**ROAD BLOCK**  
*to your future ministry*

**ROAD TO MINISTRY**  
*SCHOLARSHIP*

*we want to*  
**PAY FOR A YEAR**  
*of your education*

**GRADUATE DEBT FREE**

**[SWBTS.EDU/ROADTOMINISTRY](http://SWBTS.EDU/ROADTOMINISTRY)**



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# MAESTRÍA DE ESTUDIOS TEOLÓGICOS

¡AUMENTA TU MINISTERIO SIN DEJARLO!



¿Quieres obtener una educación teológica pero no tienes el tiempo ni los recursos necesarios para moverte al seminario?

Estamos cambiando la forma de pensar sobre la educación teológica con nuestra Maestría de Estudios Teológicos, totalmente en línea.

Para obtener más información sobre SWBTS o para solicitar la admisión visita a [swbts.edu/espanol-MTS](http://swbts.edu/espanol-MTS) o llama 817-923-1921.



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY