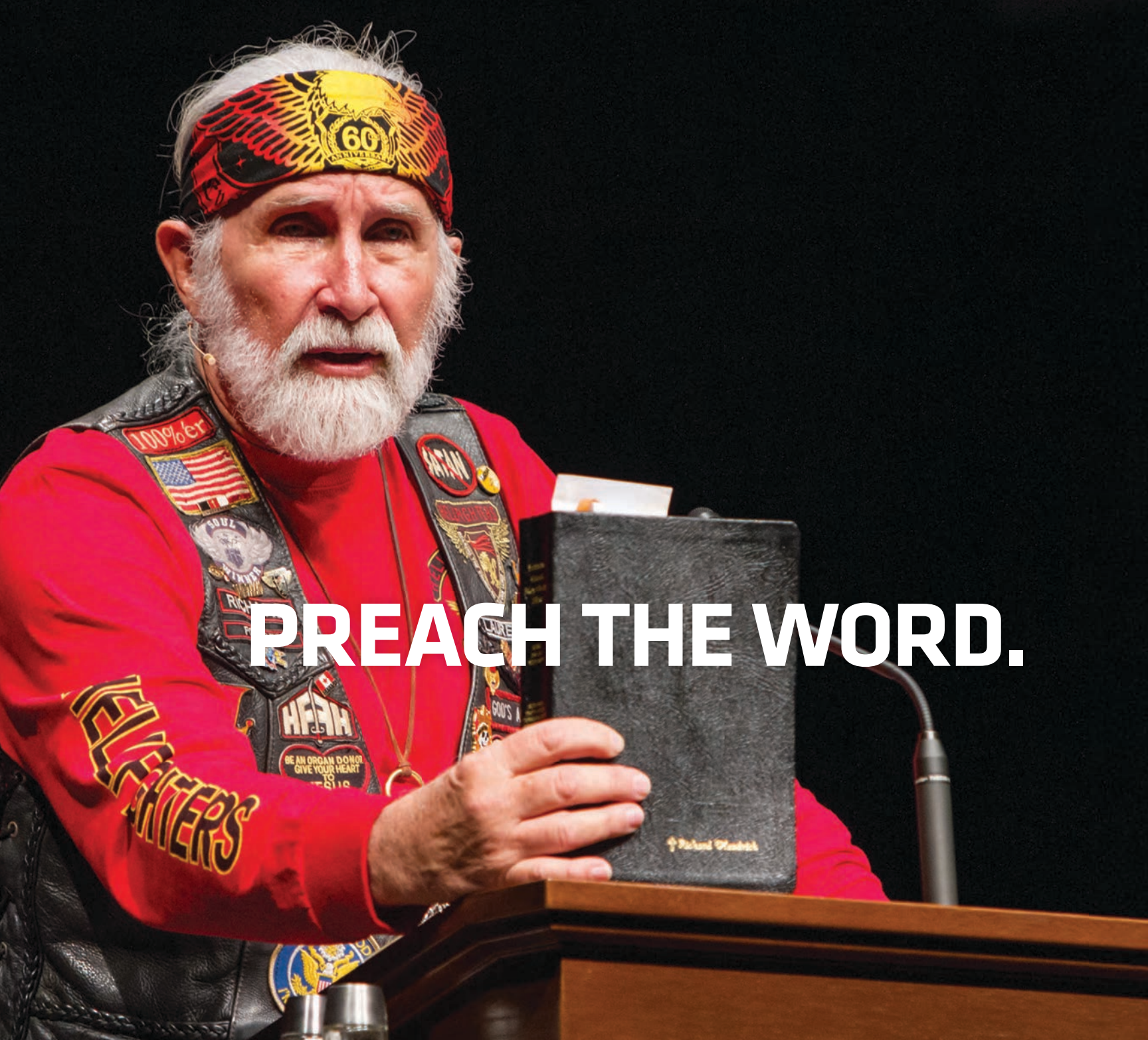


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Located in an idyllic geographic setting, the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary has access to people from all over the world, making it a key institution for furthering the Kingdom in Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINES The seminary in Baguio City, the Philippines, is one of several dozen seminaries with whom Southwestern has formed an international partnership. These schools have been strategically chosen because, demographically, geographically, and in terms of their missions focus, they have potential for immense global impact in evangelism and church planting.

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ON THE COVER

A young Quechua girl from Salasaca, Ecuador attends a program for youth at Camp Chacauco. Her parents recently accepted Christ.

(SWBTS Photo/
Adam Covington)

JUNE

5.21 – 6.7	Madagascar Mission Trip	
5.29 – 6.27	Japan Mission Trip	
24-26	Global Theological Innovation Summit (GTI) at SWBTS	
8-12	Music Camp	swbts.edu/musiccamp
14-15	SBC Pastors' Conference	sbcpc.net
6.15 – 7.10	Gezer Excavation Project	telgezer.com
16-17	SBC Annual Meeting	sbcannualmeeting.net
17	Southwestern Alumni Luncheon	
	Noon · Hilton Columbus Downtown Hotel · George Bellows Ballroom A-C · Tickets: \$20	swbts.edu/sbclunch
6.18 – 7.6	Croatia Mission Trip	

JULY

1-21	Thailand Mission Trip	
3	Independence Day	Classes dismissed/ Offices closed
6-23	Oxford Study Program	
7-23	Australia Mission Trip	

LOOKING AHEAD

8.24	New Student Orientation	Houston Campus
8.25	New Student Orientation	Fort Worth Campus
8.27	Convocation – Fall Semester Begins	Fort Worth Campus
8.31	Convocation – Fall Semester Begins	Houston Campus
10.15-18	Preview Southwestern	swbts.edu/ previewsouthwestern

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A MINISTRY THAT ENCIRCLES THE GLOBE

ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW, YOU WILL FIND ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN the history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Never in my most speculative moments did I foresee anything like what our Savior has brought to pass in GTI (Global Theological Innovation), initiated by the fervent missionary efforts of Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary. We began working some years ago with seminaries in Cuba. (Highlighted in Southwestern News winter magazine 2015.) These efforts were expanded by a combination of factors, and the first thing that I knew, we had a consortium of 17 seminaries throughout Central and South America.

Confession is good for the soul; and this president, who always thought he could keep all of the balls in the air, finally discovered that he was completely overwhelmed. In the graces of our Savior, I was able to secure the help of Brent Ray, former missionary to Brazil, who joined our administrative team and has made nothing short of monumental contributions, not only to Southwestern but also to seminaries around the world. Today, GTI is working with some 70 seminaries and is growing on an almost daily basis, literally encircling the globe. This issue tells the story of Global Theological Innovation.

The story that follows also focuses on Champion Churches. These churches have realized that the seminary cannot do this task alone and have come alongside in partnerships. We wish we could tell you about all of them, but that would not be possible. We have chosen to focus on the work of Pastor David Mahfouz and the partnership of First Baptist Church of Port Neches, Texas, with the seminary in Portugal and the story of Yoido Baptist Church and Central Asia Baptist Theological Seminary in Central Asia. When you read the stories of the involvement of these Champion Churches—only two out of a large number—you will be tempted to conclude that somebody has made all this up. But these events have actually happened, and God has given us the opportunity through individual donors, Champion Churches, and the labor of love of our faculty and students to accomplish what no one would ever have dreamed.

So as you read the stories that follow, be encouraged that God is still mightily at work throughout the world. Also as you read these stories, my prayer to God is that He will lead you to come alongside us and help with this impossible but, under the hand of God, imminently possible ministry to the ends of the earth. Remember that this movement is about training the leaders of innumerable countries around the world to do the impossible and reach their nations for Christ. We at Southwestern could never do such a work by ourselves, but in partnership with these national seminaries, the goal can be easily achieved.

Note especially in this issue Brent Ray's article describing exactly how this plan functions and how you can become a part of it. May God's blessings rest upon you as you read and rejoice.

Until He Comes,



Paige Patterson







ECUADOR

In the shadow of the active volcano, Tungurahua (which translates, "throat of fire"), Camp Chacaucó will serve as the home of PESCA seminary, training church leaders in Central Ecuador.

The seminary's first 11 students, three of whom are pictured here with missionary John Thompson (far left), are currently enrolled in Southwestern's online MET program. Upon completion, they will serve as PESCA seminary's first faculty.





BRAZIL

Sugarloaf Mountain, or Pão de Açúcar, rises almost 1,300 feet above the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rio is the second largest city in Brazil and home to almost 6,000,000 residents. Locals and visitors alike often make the nearly mile-long cable car journey to the summit of Sugarloaf for sunset views of Brazil's world famous beaches (Copacabana and Ipanema) and Cristo Redentor, a 98-foot statue of Christ overlooking the city. Join us in praying that the people of Brazil will not just know Christ the Redeemer as a statue but as their Savior.

INNOVATIONS IN GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

STORY by BRENT RAY

For 107 years, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has pursued the dream of preparing men and women for Christian ministry around the globe. The school's primary objective from its founding under B. H. Carroll has been to provide training for men who would serve as "preachers of the Gospel," particularly in America's western frontiers. And since 1908, more than 44,000 Southwestern graduates have left Seminary Hill to take up the mantle of presenting the Good News to a lost world in their generation. But we can do more....

In March of 2012, Southwestern's president, Paige Patterson, launched a new initiative he called "Global Theological Innovation" (GTI). The vision for this new program was "to undergird and strengthen global Baptist theological education—reaching, teaching, and equipping the next generation of international theological educators, pastors, missionaries, and church leaders." When asked why he felt so passionate about global theological education, Patterson simply replied, "We (Southwestern) have been so blessed by God; we owe it to God's Kingdom!" That vision and passion set the stage for what has become Southwestern's GTI division.

Southwestern's GTI program seeks to fulfill this vision through the development of strategic alliances and partnerships with our Baptist conventions and seminaries overseas. GTI

also engages with mission-minded Southern Baptist churches in these alliances and partnerships through the "Champion Church" program, which seeks to connect SBC churches with international Baptist seminaries. Through the Champion Church program, GTI seeks to identify Southern Baptist Churches that are (1) committed to both the Cooperative Program and our denominational mission efforts, but that (2) also have a passion for direct, personal involvement in ministry projects in evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, theological education, and human needs efforts on the foreign field. GTI then works with the leadership of that Champion Church to develop a ministry covenant and partnership agreement based upon the needs of the seminary partner abroad.

Using all forms of volunteer mission activities and a wide variety of media and communication resources, employing the very best of emerging technologies in online education, and expanding the Seminary Professor Abroad program (sending our faculty, students, and Champion Church pastors and staff to seminaries around the globe as visiting professors), GTI and its Champion Churches seek to foster, support, promote, and engage in the expansion of biblically-based theological education around the globe, strengthening and complementing the mission of the church in the fulfilling of the Great Commission. Together, Southwestern and its GTI Champion

Churches are currently working in more than 70 seminaries around the world. If the seminary extension programs of these schools are added, that number almost doubles.

Apart from a sense of indebtedness and gratitude, why has Southwestern engaged in innovation in global theological education? Over the last 40 years, many denominational mission agencies have abandoned the task of formal theological education. This retreat began in the late 1960s with the World Council of Churches' "Moratorium" on western missionary deployments. The idea was that through the withdrawal of western missionaries, third/ developing-world nations would more readily develop indigenous theologies and their own systems of theological education. A similar moratorium was issued in the late 1990s by International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (under the "New Directions" mandate).

The net result of these withdrawal strategies has been a marked reduction in all forms of sound, biblical theological education on a global scale. In fact, many of our Baptist convention partners have watched helplessly as their seminaries, once staffed and/or assisted by IMB missionary personnel, have withered and died—several closing their doors forever. The sudden, unexpected withdrawal of missionary personnel from these schools left many Baptist seminaries, Bible institutes, and even national Baptist conventions without the means to support faculty, maintain programs, or even preserve the physical campus that once served as a training center for local church leaders, missionaries, theological educators, and denominational leadership.

Yet Southwestern recognizes the fact that theological education

is the lifeblood of the work of the church; it is the framework upon which all other Christian ministry depends. Where the Word is not "cut straight" (2 Timothy 2:15), the church becomes anemic and falters in its mission. We must constantly seek to reach, teach, equip, and mobilize the next generation of Christian

leaders. For without sound, biblical, theological education, the church is ultimately condemned to mediocrity and insignificance in the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan and purpose. It is, therefore, the mission of global theological education to both strengthen and accompany the mission of the church in fulfilling God's mission on this earth.

In the fall semester of 2014, Southwestern students came from 46 states and more than 45 foreign countries, representing more than 40 denominations. By the fall semester of 2016, Southwestern will be engaged in training and equipping both faculty and students in almost 120 nations around the world, including many seminaries in limited and closed access countries. In addition, through the efforts of GTI, Southwestern is currently engaged in the founding of five

new Baptist seminaries in Central and South America, as well as in Central Asia.

Through the ministry of our Global Theological Innovation program, and with the partnership of our GTI Champion Churches, Southwestern is committed to continue to innovate, improve, and expand sound, biblical, Baptist theological education around the world. The next generation of theological educators, pastors, missionaries, and church leaders must be equipped to carry God's message of hope to a lost world in their generation. The only thing missing in this ministry effort is you!

GTI and its Champion Churches seek to foster, support, promote, and engage in the expansion of biblically-based theological education around the globe, strengthening and complementing the mission of the church in the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

For more information about Southwestern's Global Theological Innovation program or the Champion Church program, please contact Brent Ray or Sam Brittain at swbtsgti@swbts.edu.

GTI REPRESENTED ALL OVER THE WORLD

AFRICA

ARGENTINA

BELIZE

BRAZIL – BELO HORIZONTE

BRAZIL – RECIFE, PERNAMBUCO

BRAZIL – RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZIL – BAHIA

CHILE – SANTIAGO

CENTRAL ASIA

COITE D'IVOIRE

COLOMBIA – CALI

CUBA – HAVANA

CUBA – SANTA CLARA

CUBA – SANTIAGO

ECUADOR – GUAYAQUIL

ECUADOR – QUITO

ECUADOR – PESCA

EL SALVAOR

GERMANY

GUATEMALA

HAITI

HONDURAS

ISRAEL

KOREA

MALAWI

MALAYSIA

MEXICO – CHIPAS REGION

MEXICO – LOMAS VERDES

MEXICO – MONTERREY

MEXICO – OAXACA

LEBANON

NIGERIA – EKU

NIGERIA – KADUNA

NIGERIA – OGBOMOSHO

PANAMA

PERU – LIMA

PERU – TRUJILLO

PHILIPPINES

PORTUGAL

SOUTHEAST ASIA

SPAIN – MADRID

SPAIN – SEVILLE

TANZANIA

TOGO

UGANDA

UKRAINE

URUGUAY

VENEZUELA

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

CANADA

COLOMBIA – SAN ANDRES

KENYA

MOLDOVA

SINGAPORE

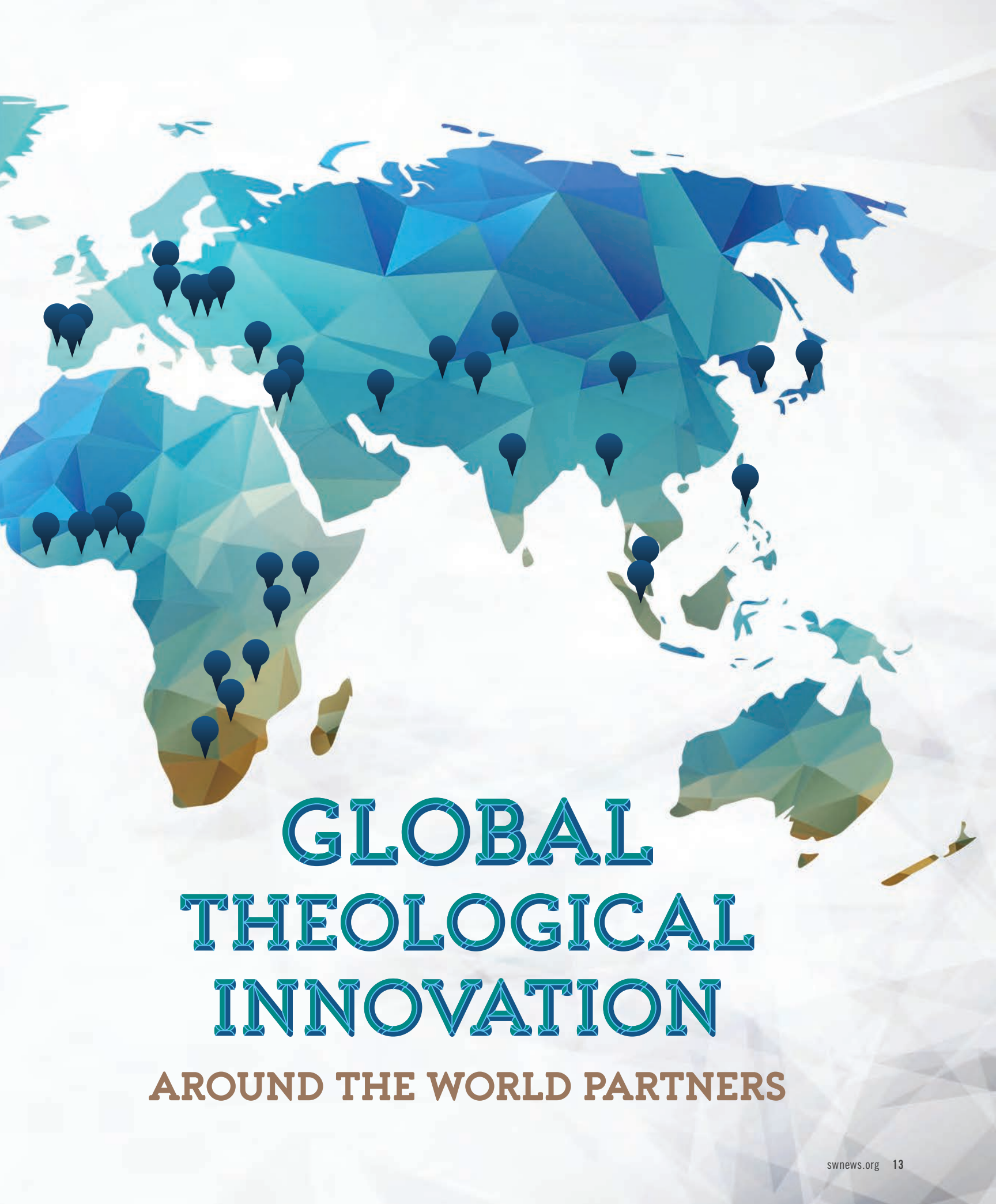
BOTSWANA

JAPAN

MYANMAR

ROMANIA





GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL INNOVATION

AROUND THE WORLD PARTNERS



BUILDING *A HEALTHY* RELATIONSHIP

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE BRINGS LIFE TO INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

STORY *by Alex Sibley* PHOTOGRAPHY *by Matt Miller & Adam Tarleton*



PORT NECHES, TEXAS to PORTUGAL



From the intensive care unit of the Hospital da Luz in Lisbon, Portugal, David Mahfouz, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Port Neches, Texas, prayed in the early hours of the morning. Having nearly died just days earlier, Mahfouz sought God's direction. He asked, "Lord, are you here?"

Mahfouz had gone to Portugal to explore a potential partnership between FBC Port Neches and the Portuguese Baptist seminary. This exploration had nearly cost him his life, and so Mahfouz sought confirmation that this was, in fact, what God wanted him to do.

"As I lay there in the early morning hours," he recalls, "I heard the voice of God speak to my spirit and say, 'David, I never left you. I have been here all the time.'"

At that moment, Mahfouz knew God wanted FBC Port Neches to devote all of its resources to the work in Portugal. As the church would later unanimously confirm, God had called them to become a Champion Church.

Champion Churches are mission-minded congregations that support theological education by committing to a five-year partnership between Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Baptist seminary overseas. These relationships are facilitated by Southwestern's Global Theological Innovation (GTI), which works to connect seminaries with necessary resources in order to raise up the next generation of church leaders. In the words of Brent Ray, director of GTI, Champion Churches are the means by which Southwestern works with



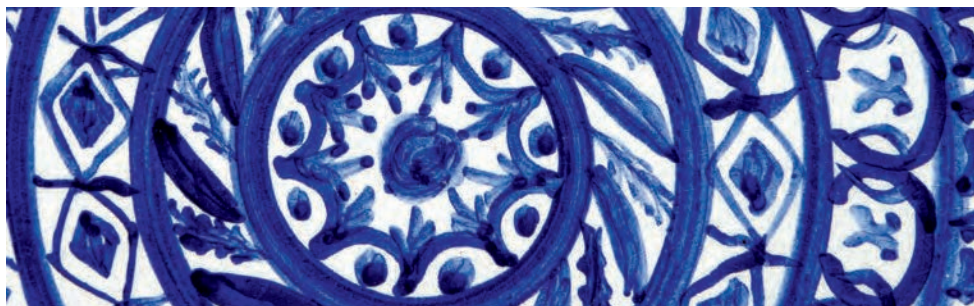
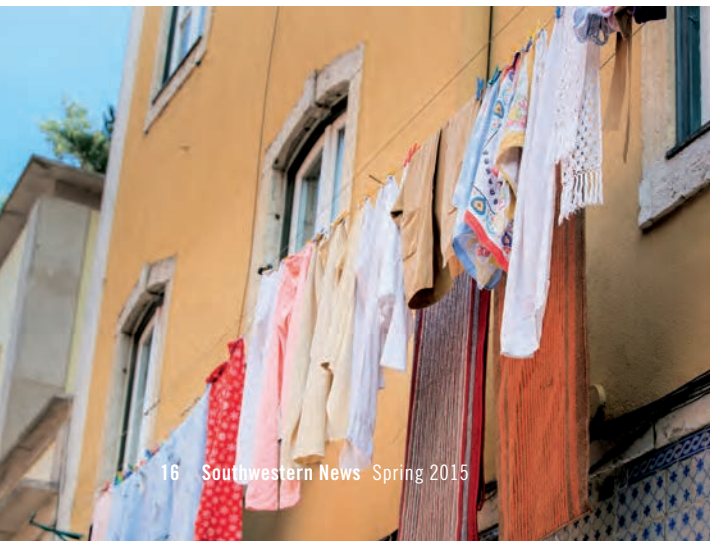
Southern Baptist churches to strengthen Baptist seminaries abroad. While Southwestern handles the academic side of things, Champion Churches cover the practical.

The partnership between FBC Port Neches and the Portuguese seminary began in October 2014. The church, whose previous international partnership had recently come to an end, had begun praying for new opportunities for mission work when Ray contacted them about participating in a GTI partnership. The church accepted the invitation, and a “vision trip” was scheduled for the following January.

Mahfouz, a three-time graduate of Southwestern (Master of Arts in Religious Education, 1986; Master of Divinity, 1996; Doctor of Ministry, 2005), departed with Ray for Lisbon on Saturday, January 10, 2015, in order to meet and discuss plans with the seminary and convention leadership of Portugal. They arrived the following day.

On the connecting flight from London, Mahfouz began to feel ill. Unable to sleep on the plane, he declined his meetings on Monday and stayed at the hotel. Because the hotel was undergoing a renovation, however, with constant pounding of jackhammers and grinding of saws, sleep eluded him once again.

The next day—his second in Lisbon—Mahfouz found himself unable to get out of bed. When Ray called him that afternoon to check on him, Mahfouz did not answer. Concerned, Ray sent two of the missionaries with whom they were working to Mahfouz’s room with hotel security.



“They literally carried him out,” Ray recalls. “He would have died by Tuesday evening if we’d left him alone.”

Mahfouz’s glucose level was in excess of 695 (normal levels are in the low 100s). His condition was critical as he bordered on diabetic ketoacidosis. But through this crisis, God not only demonstrated His providence over the situation but also confirmed to Mahfouz that He had indeed called his church to establish a partnership in Portugal.

Upon hearing of the situation, the president of the Portuguese seminary called the president of the Portuguese Baptist Convention, who then called the director of the bank that owns the Hospital da Luz, one of the best private hospitals in Portugal. The bank director, who just so happens to be the former vice president of the convention, called the hospital director and said, “Whatever treatment this man needs, give it. We’ll work out the payment later.”

“So he was admitted the same day,” Ray says. “We got him in without concern over payment. God was in that from the moment he got sick.”

When Mahfouz arrived, his condition concerned the doctors enough that they put him in ICU immediately. As it turned out, one of the lead endocrinologists in all of Western Europe was there. He participated in the team that cared for Mahfouz, quickly diagnosing the problem, beginning treatment, and ultimately saving his life.



GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

KEITH EITEL

KEITH EITEL AND HIS WIFE, GLENDA, LIVED AND WORKED AS CAREER MISSIONARIES

in Cameroon, Central Africa, from 1977 to 1980 and again from 1982 to 1985. Eitel joined the faculty of Criswell College in 1985 and then transitioned to the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1992.

Prior to serving in Cameroon, Eitel earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Dallas Baptist University in 1976 and a Master of Arts in church history from Baylor University in 1977. He would later receive his Doctor of Missiology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Doctor of Theology in historical missiology from the University of South Africa. Eitel also has more than 20 years of pastoral experience, both as lead pastor and several interim pastorates.

Eitel now serves at Southwestern as director of the World Missions Center and dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions. Eitel has worked alongside Brent Ray and Daniel Sanchez in establishing GTI, connecting with overseas seminaries and raising awareness of their needs.





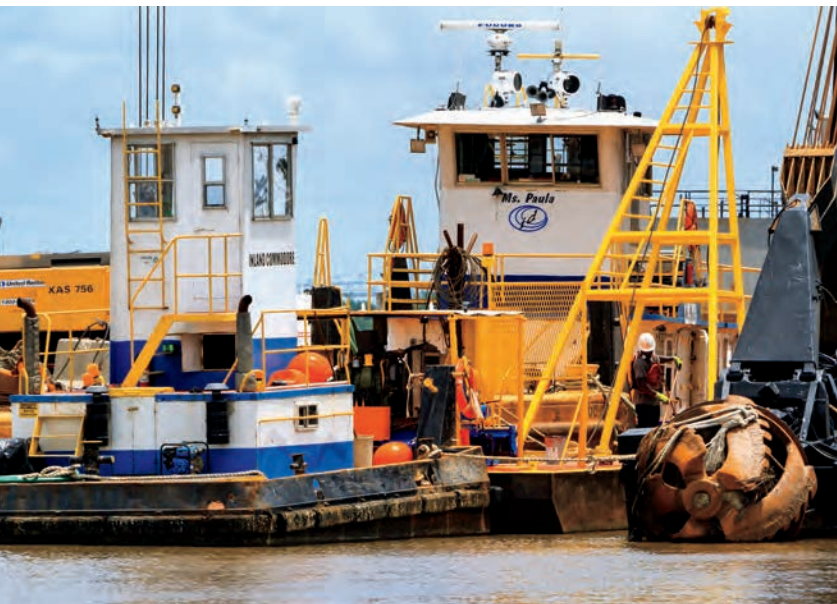
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PORTUGUESE SEMINARY DESIRES TO TEACH, TRAIN, AND EQUIP STUDENTS FOR THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM.

Mahfouz spent the next five days in ICU, followed by three days on the hospital floor. During that time, representatives of the seminary and the Portuguese Baptist Convention visited Mahfouz in the hospital and prayed for him. Also, because he was a foreigner in a strange city and hospital, doctors and nurses came by to visit with him in order to find out what he was doing in Portugal. This provided him the opportunity to explain why God had brought him there.

“He never got to visit the seminary,” Ray says. “He never got to see Lisbon. But God impressed upon him from a hospital bed where he almost died that his church was called to Lisbon.”

When Mahfouz was finally healthy enough to return home, he shared his experience with his church. He described the hospitality shown him by the Baptist leadership in Portugal and explained how God had spoken to him directly in his hospital room, affirming the church’s call to become a Champion Church. When he asked the congregation if they wanted to make this commitment, all the people said, “Amen!”

Through this developing partnership with the Portuguese seminary, FBC Port Neches plans to send Mahfouz and other church leaders to Lisbon to teach courses at the seminary; work with local churches through sports evangelism and Vacation





Bible Schools; and assist in the construction of an “e-classroom” that connects the seminary to Southwestern and the seminary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Through this classroom, the Portuguese seminary can participate in courses conducted at either of the other two seminaries simultaneously through video-chat software.

In addition to all this, the church will provide scholarships for 20 church planters to help them start 20 new house churches over the course of the next year. As Ray points out, “that’s more churches than have been planted in Portugal in the last 20 years. It’s so encouraging [that] it’s frightful.”

Because FBC Port Neches has always been a mission-minded congregation, Mahfouz says the Champion Church model fits their DNA. He looks forward to how this partnership will bless not only the Portuguese seminary but his own congregation, as well.

“Through the mission action, the lives of our students and adults will be strengthened as they become short-term missionaries,” Mahfouz says. “I believe that God will use this effort to call out those within our student ministries to serve as pastors, ministers, and missionaries in the coming days.”

Having begun the partnership from a hospital bed in the ICU of a Portuguese hospital, Mahfouz, whose health and strength have returned, is now leading his church to strengthen churches and encourage the healthy theological education of the next generation of church leaders in Portugal. He concludes, “I am hopeful [about this partnership] because I have seen what God can do when people cooperate together to accomplish His work. The leadership of the Portuguese seminary desires to teach, train, and equip students for the work of the Kingdom. We are moving forward prayerfully in the partnership effort and have found much cooperation and many open doors for ministry.”



BEACONS OF LIGHT





DISPELLING SPIRITUAL DARKNESS THROUGH SEMINARY EDUCATION

By Alex Sibley

Photography By Matt Miller

After traveling 48 days by cargo ship through the Atlantic Ocean, Buck and Anne Bagby, the first Baptist missionaries in Brazil, anchored in the quiet waters of the bay of Rio de Janeiro on March 2, 1881. In a letter to the Foreign Mission Board, Buck Bagby recounted his first impression: “It is the most beautiful scene my eyes have ever beheld. Pen cannot picture the loveliness of these encircling mountains, clad to the top with luxuriant verdure, and dotted with villas and chapels. ... Certainly this must be the rival of earth’s most beautiful scenes.”

“But as I look out tonight upon the splendid panorama of lights,” he continued, “glistening in the water’s edge, up the mountainsides, and mingling with the gleams of stars, my heart is grieved that here there are thousands who are without God and without hope, walking under the shadow of an eclipse.”

Bagby prayed that God would allow His truth to fill the land “from north to south, and from the Atlantic to the Andes.” In the ensuing 134 years, God has continually answered this prayer. Not only has the Gospel continued to spread, but seminaries have also been established to serve as beacons of light to overcome the spiritual darkness in Brazil and even beyond. Through its Global Theological Innovation (GTI) program, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has partnered with three of these seminaries in order to establish them as regional anchors for reaching the uttermost parts of Brazil.



Specifically, Southwestern has partnered with the seminaries in Rio de Janeiro; Recife, Pernambuco; and Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. Director of GTI Brent Ray says that, through these three schools, every part of Brazil can be reached by theological education in order to call out the called—preparing, training, equipping, and mobilizing the next generation of pastors, theological educators, missionaries, and evangelists. These schools were chosen not just for their regional outreach, however. Southwestern has strategically chosen them because of their potential for global impact.

The first of these partnerships was with the seminary in Rio. Southwestern had been invited to the Brazilian Baptist Convention's annual meeting in February 2013 by the newly elected president, Roberto Silvado, a two-time graduate of Southwestern (Master of Divinity, 1983; Doctor of Ministry, 1987).

Discussions between Southwestern and Brazilian Baptist leadership produced an agreement to coordinate a partnership between Southwestern, the Rio seminary, and the Baptist convention.

One of the areas in which the Brazilian Baptists asked for assistance was the area of preaching. In response, Southwestern established a 12-course postgraduate diploma in expository preaching. In this program, six Southwestern professors and six Brazilian professors teach courses in preaching. The ultimate goal—beyond the postgraduate program—is the launch of the Brazilian Baptist Convention's pastors' conference and expository preaching workshop, similar to Southwestern's annual Expository Preaching Workshop.

Director of the Rio seminary Luiz Sayão says this partnership benefits the Rio seminary in multiple ways. "First," he says, "we have the opportunity to have good, qualified Southwestern professors helping our future pastors and church leaders. Second, these professors are a blessing for us, because they come with a missionary heart. Third, they are helping us go back to the Bible as the true Word of God."

"We had a negative liberal influence in the history of the seminary," he explains. "[But] we are coming back to an evangelical, biblical perspective."

When leaders of the seminary in Recife heard about GTI's work in Rio, they also invited Southwestern to establish a partnership with them, and the same preaching program has since been established at that seminary, as well. In early 2015, the seminary in Belo



Horizonte likewise reached out to Southwestern. Although a partnership with this seminary has not yet been formalized, the forthcoming relationship will see an expansion of that seminary's programs.

Ray says Southwestern will not form any GTI partnerships beyond these three seminaries because, through these three schools, all of Brazil can be reached (through extensions, mission work, church planting, etc.). Beyond their potential for continental impact, however, these seminaries are also springboards for reaching the world's other Portuguese-speaking nations.

"They have more opportunity in the Muslim world than any Baptist convention in the world," Ray explains, alluding to such Portuguese-speaking countries as Mozambique and Angola. "You want a Baptist convention and foreign mission board that have the potential for global impact? There is no one greater than Brazil."

As a means of expanding particularly the Rio seminary's outreach, Southwestern has connected the Rio seminary with the Portuguese Baptist seminary in Lisbon, Portugal. The relationship between these two seminaries has manifested in two ways. First, a Brazilian foreign missionary was recently elected vice president of the Lisbon seminary. Ray explains, "So the Brazilian foreign mission board has invested in this partnership by allowing one of their missionaries to assume an academic and administrative role at a foreign national seminary in order that we can make this three-way tie between Southwestern, Rio, and Lisbon."

"...THROUGH THIS GTI PARTNERSHIP, NOW WE HAVE BRAZIL IMPACTING LISBON AND LISBON IMPACTING ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, SÃO TOMÉ, ETC. IT BECOMES A GLOBAL EFFORT AND NOT JUST A LOCALIZED SEMINARY EFFORT."





The second manifestation is the construction of e-classrooms at each of the seminaries. Through video-chat technology, these classrooms will allow courses to be taught at one campus and broadcast to the other two seminaries simultaneously.

The intention behind this three-way partnership is to reach the Portuguese-speaking nations of sub-Saharan Africa. Through equipping missionaries in Brazil and especially in Portugal, Ray hopes that a mission force will be created that has better access to these Muslim nations.

As Ray explains, to travel from Texas to Mozambique requires a roughly \$3,000 investment, not to mention the time commitment required for travel, the change in time zones, and the subsequent challenges of the language barrier and culture shock. From Lisbon, however, the cost is only about \$400 round-trip.

“They overcome the time, because it’s the same time zone,” Ray continues. “They overcome the travel, because it’s almost a local flight. They overcome the language barrier because both nations speak Portuguese.”

“So through this GTI partnership, now we have Brazil impacting Lisbon and Lisbon impacting Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé, etc. It becomes a global effort and not just a localized seminary effort.”

As Brazilian believers continue to equip and be equipped in the ministry of the Word, and as these believers spread throughout Brazil and into the rest of the world, Bagby’s prayer that God’s truth spread “from north to south, and from the Atlantic to the Andes” continues to be answered. But God is going beyond Bagby’s prayer, for the light of the Gospel is not only dispelling darkness in Brazil; through the combined efforts of these Brazilian believers and international partners, God has begun to illuminate the whole world.





Another benefit of the Brazilian convention's GTI partnership is its connection to the College at Southwestern. Because of their placement on the mission field, many of the children of Brazilian foreign mission board missionaries are home-schooled and therefore do not qualify to take the government-required college entrance exam. For this reason, these "missionary kids" (MKs) need to continue their studies outside the country. The Brazilian foreign mission board looked at several different Baptist universities across the U.S., and they chose the College at Southwestern as their partner school for receiving Brazilian MKs. Degrees earned at the college are recognized by the Brazilian government, so Brazilian MKs who study at Southwestern can return to Brazil for employment or further study.

GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

BRENT RAY

BRENT RAY AND HIS WIFE, ELAINE, SHARE MORE THAN 36 years of experience in a variety of ministry settings. From 1976-1990, Ray served in four pastoral ministry roles in North and Central Texas, during which he also began his education. Following preliminary studies at Baylor University, Ray transferred to Dallas Baptist University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He later attended Southwestern Seminary, earning his Master of Divinity in 1989.

Ray and his wife served as International Mission Board missionaries in South America from 1998-2003 prior to their return to Texas in November 2003. In addition to founding a regional church-planting ministry in northeastern Brazil, teaching at the Northeast Baptist Theological Seminary in Bahia, and guiding mission leaders in the development and execution of strategic ministry initiatives, Ray also served in regional supervisory and administrative roles for missionaries in Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. In 2003, Ray joined the Hope for the Heart and the Hope Center Foundation in Dallas, Texas, where he served as president.

In 2011, Ray was preparing to leave his role at Hope for the Heart and make a ministry change. He and his wife had

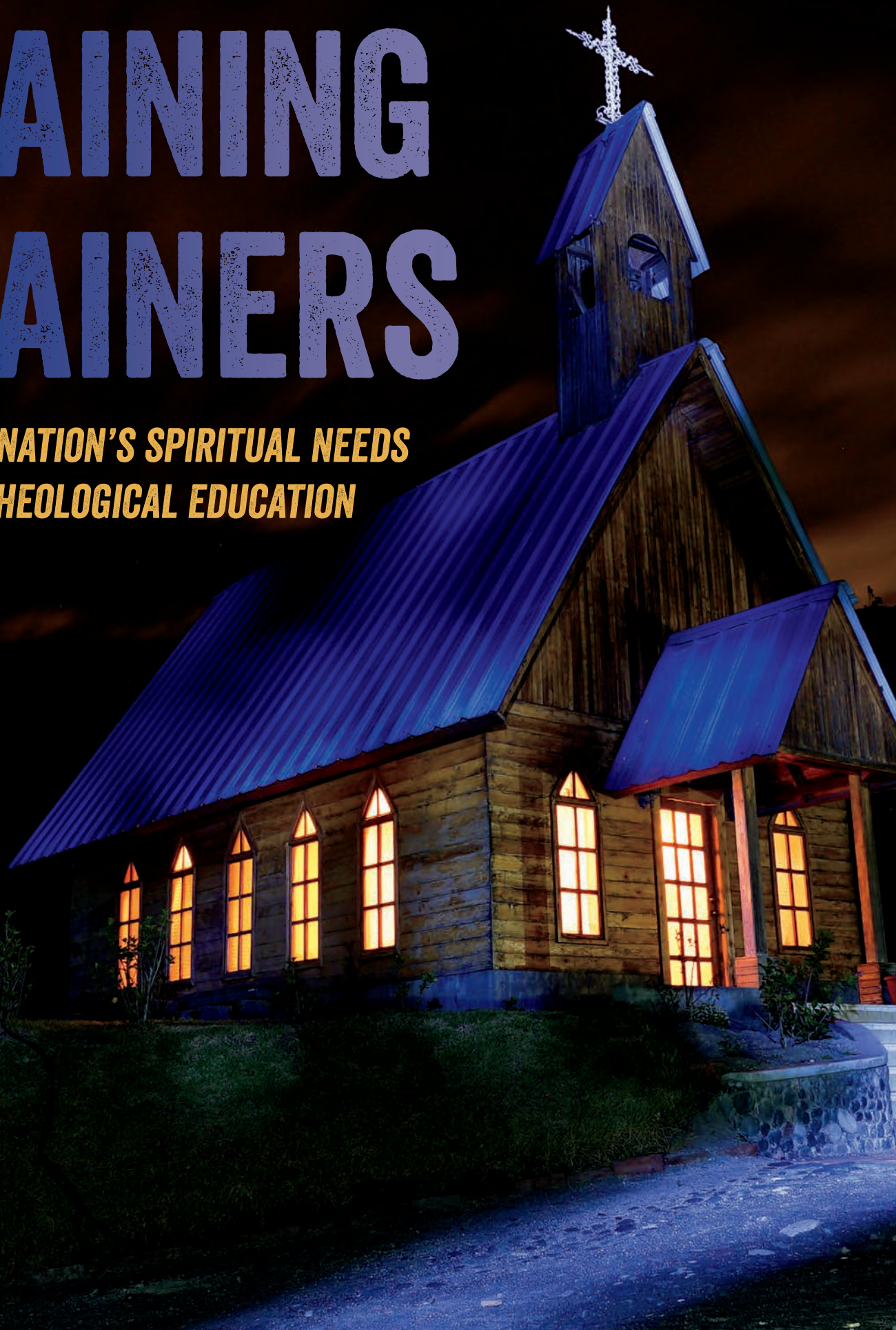
been praying for a hybrid ministry role wherein he could both return to teaching ministry and focus on developing partnerships and strategic alliances for Christian leadership development on the foreign mission field. Dorothy Patterson, who served on the board of Hope for the Heart at the time, made Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson aware of Ray's desire for this change. Patterson and Dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions Keith Eitel invited Ray to visit Southwestern about a new initiative that they, along with Daniel Sanchez, had been discussing for some time—the Global Theological Innovation (GTI) program.

Ray joined Southwestern's World Missions Center team in March 2012 as director of GTI and associate director of the World Missions Center. As GTI director, Ray fosters relationships with overseas seminaries in order to strengthen theological education around the globe.



TRAINING TRAINERS

*MEETING A NATION'S SPIRITUAL NEEDS
THROUGH THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION*





STORY by *Alex Sibley*

PHOTOGRAPHY by *Adam Covington*

At one time, Ecuador had two Baptist seminaries—one in the north and one in the south—that trained Baptist leadership for the whole country. Over the last two decades, however, with a decline in international support, the influence of these seminaries has dwindled. Although both institutions continue their efforts to equip church leaders, these efforts have become largely localized, leaving those in the center of the country without access to theological education. This gap of spiritual leadership formation, along with increasing government pressure for professionals to be certified in their respective fields (including pastors in the area of pastoral ministry), has produced the need for an accessible, doctrinally sound seminary.

PESCA Baptist Theological Seminary, located in the Andes Mountains in the center of Ecuador, will attempt to meet this need. Founded by Southwestern alumnus Steve Thompson (Master of Arts in Education, 1983), the seminary is part of the PESCA Foundation (“Project of Evangelism and Social work Covering the Amazon”). Thompson and his wife, Carol, long-time missionaries in Ecuador, founded PESCA in 2005 with the simple yet profound goal of reaching Ecuador for Christ. This goal has been pursued primarily through activities conducted at Camp Chacauco, PESCA’s campground that hosts camps for youth, young adults, and local Baptist churches, as well as pastor education conferences.

Located on these campgrounds, PESCA seminary is roughly three years away from





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accepting students. Until then, its focus is on something of first importance: training its faculty. Desiring not only to provide theological education for a broader range of God-called men and women in Ecuador, the seminary also seeks to create an accredited program that is doctrinally sound. For this, the seminary leadership has turned to Southwestern Seminary’s Global Theological Innovation (GTI) for assistance.

Presently, PESCA seminary has 11 students who, following training, will become the seminary’s faculty. As the first phase of PESCA’s partnership with Southwestern, these 11 are enrolled in Southwestern’s online Maestría de Estudios Teológicos (MET), a 36-hour Spanish-language master’s program.

These 11 students, all of whom are from central Ecuador, are either pastors or lay leaders. Some of them are businessmen. One is an architect. Two are practicing lawyers. One is a former leader of the communist party in Ecuador. But through PESCA seminary and its partnership with Southwestern, these men are becoming seminary professors. When they complete the MET program in two to three years, they will be adequately equipped to train the next generation of leaders at the college level.

William Goff, senior professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern and project leader for the GTI partnership with PESCA, says, “The GTI plan is simple: train trainers. That’s our moniker. We will not go to build buildings or to support professors; we will help train the trainers so they can take what we give them and develop it further.”

In addition to training professors through the MET program, the GTI partnership will also see Southwestern professors aiding in curriculum development and teaching courses as PESCA faculty request. This will be accomplished either in person or electronically through e-classroom technology.

As with most GTI partnerships, the trigger for the formalization of this relationship was the commitment of a Champion Church to cover the practical





side of turning the PESCA seminary into a thriving, accredited, Bible-teaching, Baptist institution. So, when Thompson approached Southwestern about partnering with PESCA, GTI searched for a Champion Church to join in the partnership. That church turned out to be Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ennis, Texas.

The connection began in late 2014 when Professor of Missions Daniel Sanchez, on behalf of GTI, went to Tabernacle to speak with the pastor, Southwestern D.Min. student Todd Gray, about becoming a Champion Church, not for Ecuador, but for another country in South America. It just so happened that Thompson, who is the father-in-law of Tabernacle's worship pastor, was visiting Ennis at the same time. Through the family connection with Thompson, Tabernacle had already done various projects in Ecuador, so, when Sanchez approached Gray about becoming a Champion Church, Gray thought to himself, "We already have this great connection with Ecuador. We've already sent teams to Ecuador. Why don't we just see if we can be the Champion Church for Ecuador, since that's already something that's in the works."

Discussions between Gray, Sanchez, and Thompson led to the decision that Tabernacle would explore the possibility of partnering with PESCA seminary. Karen Hixson, Thompson's daughter and wife of Tabernacle's worship leader, says, in light of this convenient turn of events, "I really feel like it was God orchestrating everything to come together at the perfect time."

Gray and Goff visited Ecuador in early 2015 in order to explore the potential for the partnership. Gray says the trip was both life-changing and eye-opening, as he found the local pastors' passion for education "mind-blowing."





“After the trip, our church voted to be the Champion Church, even though we don’t know exactly what that means yet,” Gray says. “Like Abraham, we just know God has called us to go and support without knowing exactly what that will look like.”

Although the partnership is still in its early stages, Tabernacle has already contributed what Gray calls “seed money” to get the 11 students started in the MET program. He says, “We know we will not be able to support all of them individually, but we have decided that part of the Champion Church responsibility for us means casting vision to other churches to be sister partners in support of these pastors that desire to get a theological education. We believe God will help us find all the support we need to get these guys through seminary.”

In the future, Tabernacle plans to send mission teams to Ecuador to complete various projects for the seminary as needed, cover the costs of travel for pastors to attend the seminary, and accomplish other tasks about which they learn along the way. As Gray says, the seminary provides the passion, wisdom, and education; the Champion Church provides support and resources that God uses to make the education happen.

With the aid of Southwestern and Tabernacle Baptist Church, the 11 students began their first classes in May 2015. Like the falling of small stones before an avalanche, the training of these 11 will eventually lead to the official opening of PESCA seminary, with the long-term result being Baptist leadership trained to carry on and extend the work of church planting and leadership development throughout the nation of Ecuador.

“There’s something here that’s bigger than Southwestern Seminary that is providential,” Goff says regarding both the formation of this partnership as well as its potential for impacting the country. “The quality of the leadership that has risen up in Ecuador gives quite a bit of assurance that this is something the Lord is causing and will enable to move ahead.”





GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

DANIEL SANCHEZ

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY in 1962, Daniel Sanchez went as a student missionary to Guatemala. There, he discovered his calling to serve God through missions. Willing to go anywhere, God has led him to serve in more than 50 countries around the world, allowing him to invest in the lives of numerous students who have since gone to serve in numerous ministry positions throughout the world.

After graduating from Southwestern Seminary with his Master of Divinity in 1966, Sanchez and his wife, Carmen, were appointed as missionaries to Panama by the Foreign Mission Board (now known as the International Mission Board). During that time, Sanchez served as both a professor and the academic dean of Panama Baptist Theological Seminary. They served there from 1967-1971. After returning to the United States, Sanchez served as the assistant director for the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in Atlanta, Ga., and later became evangelism director of the Baptist Convention of New York, leading state missionaries and pastors in evangelism and church-planting activities.

In 1983, Sanchez was invited to become a missions professor at Southwestern. Accepting the invitation, he has served at Southwestern ever since. In addition to teaching, Sanchez also serves as associate dean for master's programs, the director of the Scarborough Institute for Church Planting and

Growth, and holds the Vernon D. and Jeannette Davidson Chair of Missions. In addition to fulfilling his responsibilities at Southwestern, over the last three decades, Sanchez has traveled to numerous foreign countries to teach in churches and seminaries.

In 2007, Sanchez and Keith Eitel, dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern, were invited to the Baptist seminary in Havana, Cuba, to train professors in the area of evangelism and missions. Because most of the professors at the Havana seminary had not had the opportunity to leave Cuba for any additional training, Sanchez and Eitel agreed to send professors from Southwestern to teach the Havana seminary's professors. Through these courses, the Havana professors were able to obtain master's degrees.

When seminary leaders in other countries heard about this work, they requested similar programs at their own institutions. This laid the groundwork for what would eventually become Global Theological Innovation.







CENTRAL
ASIA

ESTABLISHING A PILLAR OF TRUTH ALONG THE *Silk Road*

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY *by Adam Covington*

One of the northern routes of the Silk Road, an ancient trade route connecting Persia, Europe, and Africa with Imperial China, utilized the valleys and peaks of the Tian Shan Mountains, a severe, rugged, and breathtaking mountain range cutting through the middle of Central Asia. Studied by sociologists and anthropologists, the Silk Road has been credited as a major contributor to the transmission of culture, art, and religion between the East and the West. Now, a present-day partnership involving Southwestern Seminary, Yoido Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, and the Central Asia Baptist Theological Seminary promises to deliver along this same ancient route biblically sound theological education.

This partnership, nearly 24 years in the making, has its roots in 1990, when a group of pastors met in Seoul. Reverend Billy Graham invited nearly 160 pastors from Central Asia and the former Soviet Union to the meeting. The founding pastor of Yoido Baptist Church and trustee chairman of foreign missions in the Korean Baptist Convention, Kimaan Han, served as one of the primary organizers of the meeting that year. The purpose was to encourage these pastors who served in difficult circumstances under a communistic government.

**MORE THAN A DOZEN
EVANGELISTICALLY
ZEALOUS KOREAN
BAPTIST MISSIONARIES
PLANTED CHURCHES
...THROUGHOUT THE
MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS
OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Assistant Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology Dongsun Cho serves as Southwestern's project leader for the work of GTI in Central Asia. Cho, a native of South Korea, was chosen to lead this project because of his ability to communicate with the leaders of Central Asia Baptist Theological Seminary and Yoido Baptist Church, and because God has given him a heart for training leaders in this part of the world.



As a result of this shared time of mutual encouragement and enthusiastic conversations about the bright future of mission work in the former Soviet Union, the leadership of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists in Russia invited Han to visit Russia and some of the former Soviet Republics three months after their initial meeting. During a visit to Moscow and a handful of capitol cities in the former Soviet Republics, one of the Russian Baptist leaders pointed out to Han a significant population of Korean people living in these Central Asian countries.

Called "Kor-ei-sky's" in Russian, or "Koryo-Saram" as a self-identification, this people group is ethnically Korean but thoroughly Russified. The Russian leader's question to Han was, "Can you send your missionaries for these Kor-ei-sky's in Central Asia?" Within the year, Yoido Baptist Church did so, commissioning the first of many Korean Baptist missionaries to Central Asia.

In the following years, more than a dozen evangelistically zealous Korean Baptist missionaries planted churches not only among Koreans but also among Russians, Dungans, and other people groups living throughout the mountains and plains of Central Asia. As various groups of people came to faith in Christ, these missionaries, along with the local Baptist Convention, agreed to start a seminary in Central Asia in 1997, the Central Asia Baptist Theological Seminary (CABTS).

The first dean of the seminary was a missionary from Yoido. He spearheaded the effort to get the institution registered in the country with the Department of Justice. Over time, the seminary



would experience obstacles in regards to physical location and its status as a legitimate institution of education with the government. In 2002, after frequently changing locations and operating in a transient satellite fashion, the new dean of the seminary, also a Yoido missionary, and other seminary leaders prayed about finding a fixed location for the seminary. This prayer was finally answered in 2006, when a Korean Christian businessman living in Central Asia donated the property and building for the seminary.

Since 2002, CABTS has produced 10-20 graduates every year. Initially a one-year program of study, the seminary now requires students to study on-site for two years. Students who apply to CABTS must have a letter of recommendation from their local congregation and a call to return to pastor a local church. Also, during winter and summer breaks, students are required to return to their sending churches to serve, and at the end of the break, they each receive a report card rating their experience.

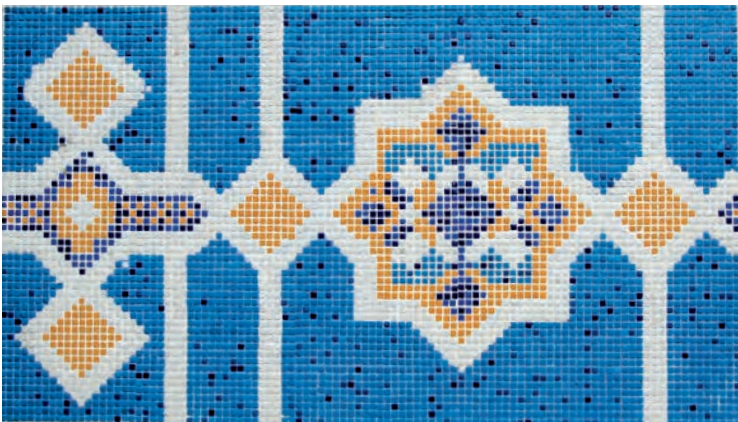
In 2007, after only a year in their now-fixed location, CABTS encountered another obstacle. The government in its operating

country issued a new religious law requiring all religious institutions to be registered with the Department of Education. CABTS' application with this governmental agency was repeatedly denied, and the seminary was, in essence, prohibited from teaching classes.

This is becoming a growing problem around the world, notes Director of Southwestern Seminary's Global Theological Innovation (GTI) Brent Ray. "This is a big issue: global persecution through governmental restriction based upon the requirement of state-recognized ordination certificates, diplomas, or other requirements," he says. "And it is growing. We have seen the same thing happening in Mexico, Africa, and now here in Central Asia."

In the case of Central Asia, the local government requires all pastors to have degrees from institutions the government recognizes as legitimate, but through the writing of restrictive laws and regulations, no institutions within the region are recognized as legitimate. As a result, CABTS has not been allowed to issue degrees or diplomas to students since 2008. Nevertheless, CABTS remains firmly convinced that theological education is a necessity.





Recognizing their need for assistance, CABTS reached out to other seminaries for help. Southwestern answered this call in the form of a partnership through the GTI program. Dean of CABTS and Missionary from Yoido Philip K* says, "Our seminary has been struggling with this issue, and we cannot resolve this difficulty, but now, thanks to Southwestern, we finally have found a way to meet this need."

Representatives of CABTS, Yoido Baptist Church, and Southwestern Seminary signed formal documents during a chapel service on the campus of Southwestern on April 22, 2015. This partnership seeks to find a creative way to assist the seminary in Central Asia and develop a program of mutually defined credits that allows students to receive a valid diploma, certificate, or degree. Yoido Baptist Church formally agreed to join the partnership as a Champion Church for CABTS. In signing this document, Yoido became the first international congregation to covenant with Southwestern as a Champion Church.

Myung Ho Cook, who succeeded Han as lead pastor of Yoido, encourages all pastors to consider how their churches should be involved in missions. "No matter where you are or what your cultural background, missions is the essence of the church and your church's ministry," he says. "Missions is not an optional thing."

Phillip K remarks, "One of the benefits of having this meeting is that I now understand that the genuine intention for Southwestern to do GTI is not to influence our agenda ... but to really help theological education in a place where the indigenous people could not have. I appreciate the genuine purpose of this program for helping [workers on] mission fields be well-trained theologically."

**Name changed to protect mission work.*

The Korean leadership of CABTS aims to turn over the direction and administration of the seminary to indigenous leaders within the next 10 years. Southwestern will help the seminary meet this need through training professors who will be its future leaders. Southwestern has already provided four scholarships to pastors and missionaries serving in Central Asia so they can achieve a formal degree that will allow them to teach on a college level at CABTS.

Suyong Lee, missions pastor at Yoido, rejoices in the partnership. “If you do not have consistent, universally accepted biblical theology,” he says, “then the Central Asian Baptist Convention itself could be divided. I expect the partnership with Southwestern will make the Central Asia Baptist Convention a pillar of the truth.”



GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

SAM BRITTAIN

SAM BRITTAIN GREW UP IN ATHENS, GA., WHERE HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY of Georgia, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Spanish in 2010. After graduating, he then served as an IMB Journeyman missionary in South Asia from 2010 to 2012. Upon returning to the United States, Brittain taught Spanish to children in pre-K through fifth grade for a year at Prince Avenue Christian School in Athens, Ga.

In the fall of 2013, Brittain began studying in the Master of Divinity program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Shortly after arriving at Southwestern, he began working alongside Brent Ray as a coordinator for GTI, assisting in the daily operations of the program. His work has included acting as a project manager for a South Asian country, traveling to South Asia to teach, planning GTI events, and coordinating travel for professors. He has also participated in two expository preaching workshops for Brazilian pastors and seminary students.

Brittain will marry Julie Lewis on June 20, 2015. They plan to stay at Southwestern until Brittain completes his Ph.D. studies. They anticipate serving the Lord in a teaching capacity in the United States or internationally after Brittain completes doctoral studies.



ON THE
FRONTLINES
OF
SPIRITUAL BATTLE
GIVING ALL SO THAT THE LOST MAY HEAR

STORY by Alex Sibley PHOTOGRAPHY by Matt Miller





In order to enroll in the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Beirut, Lebanon, students must commit to return to their local churches upon graduation. As Seminary President Elie Haddad explains, this is because the school's vision is not to train students but to serve the church. Therefore, the seminary strives to ensure that every graduate is serving the church in his/her home country, be it Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, or any of the other countries in the Arab-speaking world. Given the religious climate of this region of the world, as well as the rise of extremist forms of Islam, this is a dangerous assignment. Nevertheless, these students are determined to minister in their homelands.

"They have no problem dying for Christ," Haddad says. "They have no problem living for Christ, no matter how difficult it is. There's a reason there's a revival in many places in North Africa and the Middle East—people are willing to die for their faith. They're not looking for ways to run away or compromise."



LEBANON



Founded in 1960, ABTS has trained hundreds of God-called men and women to serve in church leadership positions, many of whom are now ministering throughout the Arab world. With resident certificate, diploma, and master's programs, the seminary provides funds to cover all of its students' costs, including tuition, textbooks, room and board, and even schooling for students' children. As Haddad summarizes, "They get themselves to Lebanon; we basically take care of everything else." Given the amount of fundraising this requires, Haddad jokes, "That's why I practically live in an airplane."

Even so, students must make many sacrifices in order to attend the seminary. They leave their homes, their jobs, and their ministries in order to enroll full-time at the seminary and live without any financial income. For some, even getting to Lebanon is a problem. One couple from Sudan came to the seminary with three children, two of whom have special needs. In order to afford tickets to travel to Lebanon, they had to sell all their furniture. So, whenever they go back home for the summer, they live in an empty house.

As one student explains, such sacrifices are worthwhile because seminary training will produce better ministers of the Word who will take the Gospel to the lost. Alluding to Romans 1:14, wherein Paul says he is obligated to minister to the Gentiles, this student says, "My ministry is for these people, because God's grace was very big to me, so I owe these people—to show them how I got this grace and how they can get it. I feel I owe the Bedouin, I owe the Syrians, I owe the Muslims in my country. I owe my brothers and sisters. I owe all of these people."

This God-given compassion for the lost sustains these seminary students as they return to their homelands to minister to those who often respond to the Gospel with hostility. Although Lebanon itself remains safe, much of the Arab world has become dangerous, and churches—many of which are led by ABTS graduates—have been threatened.

In the face of such persecution, Haddad says it is "extremely important for the churches to maintain their vibrant witness, to discover their prophetic voice, to be able to understand what's happening in the region and what God wants to do, and to have a response for it. And that kind of response requires leaders who can lead in that kind of thinking. So more and more, our graduates—the leaders that go out to these churches—find themselves in more and more challenging environments."

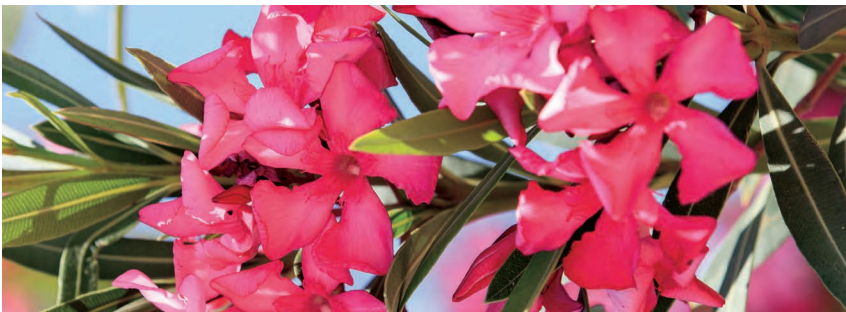


This is why theological education is so crucial in this part of the world. People in this region can no longer settle for being “cultural Christians,” nor can they retreat from the frontlines of this spiritual battle. Instead, as Haddad says, in order to reach their persecutors, churches must proclaim Christ in a new way. This, he says, requires a different kind of leadership—one that can be developed through seminary education.

Because of the potential of its student body and its strategic location in the world, ABTS is a pivotal institution in Baptist work around the globe. Also, because Lebanon is the only country in the Arab world in which institutions are legally allowed to enroll students who come from non-Christian backgrounds, Brent Ray, director of Southwestern Seminary’s Global Theological Innovation (GTI), says there is no seminary of greater strategic importance in the Arab-speaking world than ABTS.

“There are more students from North Africa and the Middle East attending ABTS than any other Arab-speaking seminary in the world,” Ray says. “And these students come there to study and then go back to minister. And they have students not just from Baptist backgrounds; they have multiple denominations represented in their student body along with multiple countries and





dialects. So ABTS is a key institution globally, and it is probably better equipped than any school in the world to reach out to North Africa and the Middle East.”

So, because of ABTS’ position as a gateway to the Arab world, investment in its theological education efforts is important. Although a partnership has yet to be formalized, discussions have begun between Southwestern, ABTS, Lebanon Baptist Convention, and the Lebanese Baptist Society (a non-profit organization committed to serving the church in Lebanon and the Arab world) about establishing a GTI partnership. Through this partnership, in addition to assisting in faculty development and providing library resources for ABTS, Southwestern will recruit churches in the United States to reach out to churches in the Middle East to encourage them, pray with them, and assure them that they are not alone.

Ray explains that, because of ongoing violence and political instability in the region, tourism to that part of the world has decreased heavily, which means U.S. churches are no longer visiting their brothers and sisters in the Middle East. The result is that Middle Eastern believers have lost not only their support but their encouragers and prayer partners, as well. For this reason, Ray says it is important to remind Middle Eastern churches that they are not forgotten, and hopefully this partnership will help alleviate their feelings of abandonment.

Also central to the partnership is the idea of an international student exchange between Southwestern



and ABTS, wherein students in Southwestern’s Middle Eastern studies program would go and spend a semester in Beirut, and students from Beirut would come to Fort Worth. This immersion in language as well as culture would prove invaluable for future international missionaries.

Southwestern Professor of World Christianity and Middle Eastern Studies Tony Maalouf, who spends six months a year teaching at ABTS, says partnerships like this are important because they revive the involvement of Southern Baptists in theological education ministries around the world. “It goes without saying that one of the key components of church planting in cross-cultural settings is the training of church leaders and church planters,” he continues. “While we [at Southwestern] are training missionaries

to take the Gospel to people groups around the world, we need to invest at the same time in strengthening the training of local leaders in places where the Gospel is being spread.”

As these “local leaders” return to their home countries in North Africa and the Middle East, they will be adequately equipped to spread the Gospel in the face of persecution. In so doing, the lost will hear the Gospel, and the seminary graduates, who gave everything to be trained for ministry, will share God’s love in obedience to His call. It is a dangerous prospect, but it is also a worthy pursuit.

“Life is risky at the frontline, but that’s where fights are fought,” Haddad says. “They’re not fought from a far distance. So even though it’s dangerous, it’s exciting to be at the frontline.”

GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

JANET PETERSEN

PETERSEN GREW UP IN SPRINGFIELD, MO. SHE GRADUATED FROM WILLIAM JEWELL College in Liberty, Mo., with her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 1980. After college, she was called to serve as a Journeyman missionary with the International Mission Board, teaching for two years in Nigeria.

After returning to the United States, Petersen decided to attend Southwestern Seminary, graduating in 1988 with a Master of Arts in Religious Education with a missions concentration. After graduation, she worked at the Lufkin State School as the Religious Education Coordinator for eight years before returning to Fort Worth to teach at a Christian school.

In July 2005, Petersen returned to Southwestern to work in the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions as secretary for the associate dean of master’s degrees. This position led her to begin working with Daniel Sanchez, director of the Scarborough Institute for Church Planting and Growth. Through her work with Sanchez, as GTI developed, Petersen began assisting the program in various administrative roles, including overseeing logistics and coordinating events. She eventually transitioned into her current role as associate director of the Scarborough Institute, which works closely with GTI because of Sanchez’s instrumental role in establishing partnerships between Southwestern and international seminaries.



MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT





STRENGTHENING A SEMINARY TO REACH THE WORLD

STORY by *Alex Sibley* PHOTOGRAPHY by *Neil Williams*

The temperature in Baguio City, situated in a mountainous region of the Philippines, seldom exceeds 79 degrees Fahrenheit. In fact, the highest temperature on record is only 86.7, and average temperatures range from 59 to 73 year-round. Because of this ideal climate, as well as its picturesque landscape, Baguio is a tourist destination for locals and foreigners alike. This means that the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTS), located in Baguio, is well-positioned to reach people not only from the Philippines but also from around the world.

Brent Ray, director of Southwestern Seminary's Global Theological Innovation (GTI), says this was a significant factor in Southwestern's desire to form a partnership with PBTS. He says the driving question for all GTI partnerships is, "Demographically, geographically, and in terms of their missions focus, what schools have the potential for the greatest global impact in evangelism and church planting?" In light of these criteria, PBTS proved an ideal candidate for a GTI partnership.

Conversations about such a partnership began in late 2013 after contact was initiated by Southwestern trustee and alumnus Danny Johnson (Master of Divinity, 1985). Johnson, who now serves as director of missions for the Pulaski Baptist Association in Little Rock, Ark., was a missionary in



the Philippines for almost nine years. During that time, he worked closely with PBTS, serving at one time as vice chairman of its board of trustees. In addition, Johnson developed a friendship with Armand Canoy, then-senior pastor of the University Baptist Church in Manila.

Years later, when Canoy was elected president of PBTS, Johnson volunteered his support of Canoy's leadership. Canoy challenged Johnson to enlist additional faculty who could supplement PBTS in areas of need. Specifically, the seminary needed professors to teach classes that it lacked the faculty to teach.

Johnson accepted Canoy's challenge. Johnson, in turn, challenged Southwestern President Paige Patterson to embrace this opportunity to establish an international partnership.

Brent Ray explored the relationship on Patterson's behalf, and conversations between the two parties revealed the potential of such a partnership for global Kingdom impact. Ray specifically saw PBTS as a potential anchor for theological education in Southeast Asia. Particularly noting the high number of Filipinos entering service industries around the world, which he says—following potential missions training—could constitute “a mission force to be reckoned with,” Ray says PBTS and its extensions are critically important.

Elaborating on its potential as a regional anchor, Johnson says, “Regardless of denomination, PBTS serves as one of the major theological seminaries in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia. The student body there is very diversified, representing 14 countries. ... Countless Filipinos have studied at the seminary and scattered around the world in order to evangelize, serve, and plant new churches in some of the areas most closed to the Good News.”

Tapping into this potential, Southwestern formalized its partnership with PBTS in January 2015. Canoy says he is hopeful about the partnership





because, in it, “two groups agreed together to bring glory to God through the advancement of theological programs in both parts of the world. We are hopeful because each seminary benefits by learning from one another.”

Through the partnership, Southwestern is sending professors to the Philippines to teach courses at the seminary. In addition, some of the PBTS professors are coming to Southwestern for their sabbatical assignments in order to be exposed to Southwestern’s training and resources.

Deron Biles, dean of extension education at Southwestern, serves as GTI’s project leader for PBTS. This means he coordinates the partnership through constant communication with Canoy.

Biles says the partnership is “a way for Southwestern to help the work of theological education around the world.” He explains that although Southwestern is not in a position to offset the budget of the institution, it is targeting more and creative ways to come alongside PBTS to assist them in the area of theological training.

In addition to participating in PBTS’ course offerings and investing directly in its students and faculty, the partnership also allows Southwestern professors visiting



the Philippines to impact local churches. Biles, for example, who spent his sabbatical in Baguio in early 2014, preached in 10 different churches during that time. He says opportunities such as this allow visiting Southwestern faculty “to model for the churches not just good principles of biblical interpretation but solid Bible-focused theological education that’s relevant in the lives of people.”

“I’m hopeful that we’re not just an encouragement to the seminary,” he says. “I hope we are an encouragement to the pastors and strengthening the churches.”

“I’M HOPEFUL THAT WE’RE NOT JUST AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE SEMINARY, I HOPE WE ARE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE PASTORS AND STRENGTHENING THE CHURCHES.”

Having worked with PBTS for many years, Johnson says his passion and prayer has been that God would open the door for a partnership between the seminary and a conservative Southern Baptist institution in the U.S. in order to enrich theological education in all of Southeast Asia. Johnson praises the Lord that He has answered this prayer through the GTI partnership and that Patterson and Canoy have both embraced the vision to spread biblically sound theological education around the globe.





GET TO KNOW THE GTI TEAM

PETER VAVROSKY

PETER VAVROSKY GREW UP WITH MISSIONARY PARENTS, living in places such as Taiwan and South Africa. He would go on to study in Saskatchewan, Canada, and receive his undergraduate degrees in business administration and computer information systems, specializing in open source software integration and security.

After graduating in 2007, he looked for a school that offered an Islamic Studies degree and found Southwestern Seminary. He has since earned his Master of Arts in Islamic Studies and subsequently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program.

At Southwestern, Vavrosky was hired as a technician in the Information Technologies (IT) department, later being promoted to enterprise application administrator. Through these positions, Vavrosky started working with Daniel Sanchez in the Scarborough Institute for Church Planting and Growth, providing help for the technology needs of seminaries in Latin America.

As these relationships with seminaries have developed into GTI partnerships, Vavrosky has assisted GTI in its mission to bring

theological education to the world by means of implementing new technology. He began work to find affordable ways to connect people with technology, starting with Cuba and quickly expanding to other countries with the aid of Champion Churches.

In fall 2014, Vavrosky spent time in such countries as Colombia and Guatemala to set up IT and system integration at these seminaries, creating websites, and implementing open source software (software created and made available to the public to view, edit, and redistribute). In the case of the seminaries' online education, Vavrosky implements a program called Moodle, which is an open source version of Blackboard Learn, and integrates digital libraries with the Moodle structure.





FIRST SEMINARY PRISON PROGRAM IN TEXAS GRADUATES 33 INMATES, SENDS THEM OUT AS ‘AGENTS OF MERCY’

By Keith Collier

Robed in caps and gowns over their white prison uniforms, 33 inmates in Texas' maximum security Darrington Prison Unit made history May 9 as they received bachelor's degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, becoming the inaugural graduating class of the state's first seminary prison program.

"I'm overwhelmed at what God has done," Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said during the ceremony inside the prison's chapel. "Only God could do this."

Patrick served on the Senate Criminal Justice Committee prior to being elected Lt. Gov. last fall. He and Senator John Whitmire, who chairs the committee, were the legislative heads behind the creation of the program, which began in fall 2011. Each year since, a new class of 40 students has been added to the program, and the current number of enrolled students stands at 114.

Looking at the graduates, most of whom will be deployed in groups of four or five to assist chaplains and minister in six other

state prison units, Patrick called them "prison apostles" and charged them to "be models and examples of what Christ can do in [people's lives] if they will give their [lives] to Him."

This summer, approximately two-thirds of the graduates will be transferred to six maximum security facilities in Huntsville and Tennessee Colony to reproduce the ministries—and the radical changes—that have been witnessed in Darrington. The rest will remain at Darrington to mentor underclassmen in the program.

Just before graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson gave a final charge to "his children" from Micah 6:8. Patterson pointed to the graduates' academic achievements in the strenuous, 125-hour degree and said their education could be a "stepping stone to greatness," but it would only be so if they were "agents of mercy ... [who] walk humbly with God."

"You have done a great deal to educate the mind," Patterson said, "but this program is a

little different, isn't it? Because the program has not just been about the mind; it's been about the heart. And, oh, how you've done so unbelievably [well]. I thank God for every one of you today."

Brandon Warren, who has served as the program's administrative assistant from its beginning in 2011, is also a Master of Divinity student at Southwestern's Houston campus. Warren is not unfamiliar with prison, having served eight years at a different facility before his release a number of years ago. Like many of the men in the Darrington program, he found faith in Christ while in prison. Before serving at the Darrington program, he wrote theologically rich correspondence courses on basic Christian doctrines for use in prisons across the state. At Darrington, Warren oversees students' coursework, grades papers, assists professors and serves as a liaison between the school and the prison.

As a way to honor the men in the Darrington program, with whom he has built strong friendships, Warren delayed his graduation from Southwestern and received permission to receive his master's degree at the prison graduation ceremony. As he walked across the stage, the chapel erupted in applause.

For more information on the Darrington seminary program, visit swbts.edu/darrington.



YML PROVIDES PRACTICAL MEANS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

By Alex Sibley

This year marked Southwestern Seminary's 47th Youth Ministry Lab (YML). From April 10-11, a total of 723 ministers, youth workers, and teenage student leaders assembled from 160 churches spread across the United States. While the adult leaders met in the Riley Center for a time of encouragement and equipping, teenagers gathered in Truett Auditorium for their own conference, which taught them how to be better disciples of Jesus.

The main speakers for the adult conference were J.D. Greear, pastor of Summit Church in Durham, N.C.; Gary Thomas, author of such books as *Sacred Marriage* and *A Lifelong Love*; and Chris Osborne, senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in College Station, Texas.

Worship was led by the Kevin Jones Band. In addition to the main sessions, breakout tracks provided opportunities for further enrichment in the fields of student ministry; women's ministry; and Hispanic, Korean and multi-cultural youth ministry.

The main speaker for the conference for teenagers, which had an attendance of roughly 170, was Lead Pastor of Ministry Leadership at the Village Church Josh Patterson. Worship was led by Matt Boswell. Breakout tracks included Bible study, apologetics, missions, and praise band/music.

Kyle Walker, who supervised the student portion of YML, says, "Patterson communicated God's Word with great effectiveness as

he challenged the students regarding their confession of Christ, their commitment to Christ, and their grounding in the Gospel. Students were also given a time to ask any question they liked to a panel of professors and students. The questions revealed the depth of thinking and conviction these students possess."

As Professor of Student Ministry Richard Ross notes, YML is the only major training event in the nation planned and conducted by seminary students. This year, more than 60 Southwestern students worked under the leadership of chairpersons Shara McBroom and Andrew Young. Some leadership roles lasted a semester while others lasted a full calendar year. In addition to planning and executing the conference, these student leaders spent time in concentrated prayer every week since last year's YML ended. Coincidentally, prayer has already begun for next year's YML, which will take place April 1-2.

SOUTHWESTERN RECEIVES RARE INQUISITION-ERA TORAH SCROLL

By Alex Sibley



On Aug. 2, 1492, just one day before Christopher Columbus departed on his famed voyage of discovery, nearly 200,000 Jews were exiled from Spain in the midst of the Spanish Inquisition. Only 10 near-complete Torah scrolls from pre-Inquisition Spain are known to exist today. One of them, the Sephardi Torah, is now in the possession of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The generous gift of Slumberland Inc. owner Ken Larson and his wife, Barbara, the Sephardi Torah is roughly 80 feet long and contains all the books of the law, from Genesis to Deuteronomy. The Torah was secured from the world's second largest collection of Torah

scrolls, which is in Jerusalem, with the aid of Scott Carroll, executive director of the newly formed National Biblical Museum in Texas. The Larsons, who have purchased Torah scrolls for other seminaries as well, presented the Sephardi Torah to Southwestern President Paige Patterson during chapel on March 25.

Carroll noted that the 10 surviving Inquisition-era scrolls "were tucked underneath the arms of Jews who were expelled from Iberia, from Spain, from Portugal, and they were forced to go to North Africa right around the time that Christopher Columbus was making his maiden voyage across the Atlantic from the same ports. Imagine this [the Sephardi Torah] being protected and cared for by someone as he is being exiled from his land. That's the story that you have here."

ADMINISTRATION PROFESSOR ROBERT MATHIS DIES AT AGE 67

By Alex Sibley

Robert Mathis, professor of administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Jan. 25 after roughly a decade-long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). He was 67.

The day after Mathis' death, Southwestern President Paige Patterson said in a statement to the campus, "It is with a combination of regret and joy that I must inform you that Dr. Robert Mathis has gone to dwell in the presence of our Lord. I say 'joy' because Dr. Mathis was irrepressibly joyful. Some of you remember him sitting at the side of Truett Auditorium in his wheelchair during chapel. Dr. Mathis lived with Lou Gehrig's disease, a disease that is slowly debilitating to the muscular system, for more than a decade. In all that time, he never gave in to the disease, nor did he complain. We give thanks for his life and for his time with us. He prayed for and supported Southwestern right up until his death."



Mathis earned both his master's in religious education and his Doctor of Philosophy from Southwestern (in 1978 and 1984, respectively). He later earned his Doctor of Education in higher education administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1995. He joined Southwestern's faculty in 1998.

Roughly a decade ago, Mathis was diagnosed with ALS, a disease that affects nearly 30,000 Americans, with approximately 5,600 people diagnosed with it every year. In the ensuing years, in honor of Mathis, Southwestern faculty and students participated in ALS walks in Dallas in order to raise money for the ALS foundation. In 2009, Southwestern organized a walk on the seminary campus in order to allow more people to participate.

Also in 2009, Southwestern held a ribbon cutting in honor of Mathis to mark the newest wheelchair accessibility ramp to Price Hall, where Mathis worked. Due to his ALS, Mathis used a wheelchair for his primary mobility, thus necessitating the new ramp on the west side of Price Hall, the closest entrance to the parking lot. At the brief ceremony, Mathis became the first person to ride up and down the ramp. He jokingly asked for it to be named the "Mathis Tollway," with all the proceeds going toward his retirement fund.

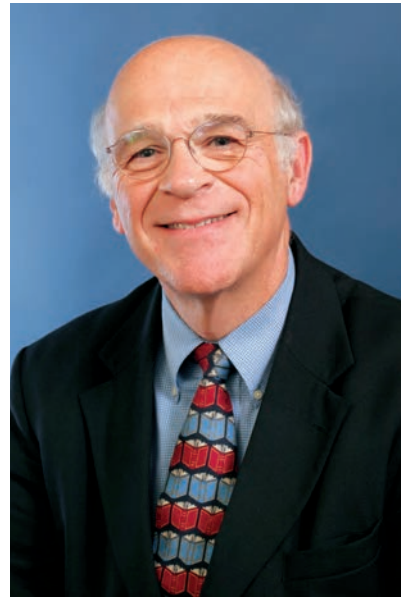
LANGUAGE PROFESSOR ROBERT BERNARD DIES AT AGE 69

By Alex Sibley

Robert Bernard, professor of modern languages at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, whom Southwestern President Paige Patterson identified as a "spark plug" of the campus with regard to prayer, died in the early hours of March 19 after a multi-year battle with cancer. He was 69 years old.

"Southwestern is aware of serious loss in the passing of Dr. Bob

Bernard," Patterson says. "We rejoice for Dr. Bob; he was the grand encourager of students and fellow professors, the faculty leader of our prayer ministry, and a teacher as greatly beloved as any who have ever taught here. We pledge our prayer support for the comfort of a family as supportive of this professor as he was of all others. How we miss him already."



Bernard earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Ph.D. from Princeton University

(1969, 1984) and his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological University (1979). He later served as scholar-in-residence at Southwestern during the 1987-88 academic year. Over the last three decades, Bernard held numerous academic positions, serving first as instructor of Hebrew at Princeton Theological Seminary and later serving as adjunct professor at such schools as Southwestern, Texas Women's University, Texas Wesleyan University, and the University of North Texas. His subjects included Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Japanese, mythology, and history. As a faculty member at Southwestern, Bernard held the positions of director of modern languages studies programs and chair of the philosophy and ethics division.

Craig Blaising, executive vice president and provost, says that Bernard was a skilled philologist "who by himself was the department of modern research languages." Blaising also identifies Bernard as an Augustine scholar and an excellent historian of late antiquity.

"But what students and faculty colleagues will remember most," Blaising says, "was his warm, gracious, and joyful spirit. He was an encourager. He was also a prayer warrior—an intercessor—holding many of us and our families before the Lord. We will miss our dear brother even as we thank the Lord for him and rejoice that he is with the Savior."

SUPPORTING SOUTHWESTERN MADE EASY BY ONLINE GIVING

By Katie Coleman

In a time when people already use the Internet for almost everything, more people are paying bills online, shopping online, and even tithing to their churches online. As the trend of those giving online to their churches has increased, so has the percentage of gifts given online to Southwestern. It is a convenient way for people not just to make a gift but to take an active role in supporting students' current and future ministries.

"We build relationships at Southwestern in order to develop ministry partners," says Mike Hughes, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "We hope that people who give will turn into partners. We want to help them continue to support the things that God has laid on their hearts; that they want to support. So our role is to help them find that process. As people engage online, we want to develop a ministry partner to stay with us and support the students for a long time."

According to Hughes, Southwestern has seen a significant shift in the last two years in online giving. From 2012 to 2013, the number of online

gifts increased 94 percent. From 2013 to 2014, they increased another 22 percent.

The increasing trend of people who utilize Southwestern's website to make donations is partly due to the familiarity many have with using online platforms. More people are comfortable with a secure location and can easily maintain documentation for their personal records.

"People have begun to navigate the end of that territory and utilize it as a resource more than ever before," Hughes says. "I think that when they come to our website, they find it very user-friendly."

There are several advantages to using this online giving platform. Using a simple, secure online form, Southwestern offers online giving for first-time and regular givers. Gifts can be given on behalf of a company, anonymously, or as a tribute to someone else. Southwestern also offers a recurring giving feature that allows donors to schedule monthly gifts or pledges on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Donors can choose to designate their gifts to one of many needs, such as the Southwestern Fund

and General Scholarships. All online transactions are safe and secure with a PCI compliant system and 128 bit SSL technology for data transactions, eliminating any worry about what is happening with one's money or information.

The most attractive feature to many online givers is convenience using a computer, phone, tablet, or other mobile device. Even if individuals or families decide against scheduled giving, the process for giving only takes a few keystrokes to fill out donation, personal, payment, and billing information.

Along with the ease of online giving, there is an upward trend of people who make end-of-year gifts. This allows people to reflect on their year and then make their donations online.

Even though Southwestern continues to receive a majority of gifts via hand-written checks, Hughes says, "There will be a gradual shift to more people giving online than through mail over the next five to ten years. I think in that time we will see the numbers flip. It's all a matter of what churches do and how easy it is."

Any gift, no matter the size, has an important role in supporting the ministry of Southwestern and the future of its students. To learn more about how to support Southwestern or to move forward with any financial gift, visit swbts.edu/give.

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TRUSTEES APPROVE ESL INSTITUTE, MATHENA HALL CONSTRUCTION AT SPRING MEETING

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's board of trustees approved an English as a Second Language Institute; passed a nearly \$36 million budget; authorized construction of Mathena Hall once funding reaches a level of 90 percent of costs; hired five new faculty members; and conducted other business at their annual spring meeting, April 15.

ESL INSTITUTE

Trustees approved an English as a Second Language (ESL) Institute at Southwestern. The Institute will assess international students' competencies in English for undergraduate and post-graduate work by utilizing data from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and in-house assessment tools. Students will be assigned to an Intensive English Program (IEP) according to the assessment results with the aim of achieving both written and oral English competency. The IEP will be non-credit and designed to include both classroom and lab components as an extension of Southwestern's Writing Center.

MATHENA HALL CONSTRUCTION

Trustees approved construction of Mathena Hall contingent upon acquiring 90 percent of costs in cash and pledges. The building, which will be located on the immediate west side of Pecan Manor, will house the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions and the College at Southwestern, as well as a memorial to Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon.

UNDERGRADUATE CONCENTRATION IN ESL CERTIFICATION

For undergraduate students seeking to teach ESL in a missionary context, the undergraduate concentration in ESL teaching certification was approved for the College at Southwestern. Courses in this program include linguistic science, language acquisition, and an internship in linguistics and ESL.

BYLAW AMENDMENT

Trustees modified the bylaw article outlining the composition of the student body to allow a "modified criteria for admission" for "limited special circumstances" such as those involving

online education and the Darrington prison extension program. Current policy requires that students profess a divine call to Christian ministry and show church endorsement.

Previously, an exception was granted by President Paige Patterson to allow a Muslim student to study archaeology in the Ph.D. program after having worked with Southwestern's Tel Gezer dig in Israel. Patterson apologized to trustees and Southern Baptist Convention messengers at last year's annual meeting for having caused any difficulties incurred to the Southwestern family because of the exception. The new bylaw language clarifies that trustees must approve any modified criteria for exceptional cases.

FACULTY ELECTIONS

Madison Grace as assistant professor of Baptist history and theology.

Ross Inman as assistant professor of philosophy.

Mark Janzen as assistant professor of history and archaeology in the College at Southwestern.

Dale Johnson as assistant professor of biblical counseling.

Stephen Mizell as assistant professor of humanities in the College at Southwestern.

All faculty elections are effective August 1.



CONFERENCE TEACHES WOMEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN HOME, LIFE, AND MINISTRY

By Katie Coleman

Women from across Texas and even some from out of state came to Southwestern Seminary's Art of Homemaking Conference, Feb. 19-21, to learn how the Lord can use them in their homes, culture, and ministry. The conference featured general session speakers Susan G. Baker, Devi Titus, Vicki Courtney, Candi Finch, and Dorothy Patterson. Worship music at each session was led by Alicia Garcia. Along with the general sessions, women had the opportunity to choose from 24 breakout sessions throughout

the weekend, with topics including house and home, marriage, parenting, engaging culture, life changes, and women's ministry. Breakout sessions were led by Southwestern Seminary women's programs faculty, wives of faculty and pastors, and other Southern Baptist seminary first ladies including Rhonda Kelley from New Orleans Seminary and Ann Iorg from Golden Gate Seminary.

First Lady Dorothy Patterson, professor of theology in Women's Studies, ended the conference with her session on leaving a "legacy"

for future generations. Patterson explained that there is a contrast in the world women live in today: hostility to the Gospel, but also women who want to serve the Lord. Speaking from 1 Samuel 1, Patterson said, "That's why this chapter is so important. We're going to see Hannah's journey, and Hannah's journey is one that, as women, we must all eventually take if we want to protect our children."

Patterson said that whatever women are doing, or whatever stage of life they are in, God has equipped them to be able to influence and mold future generations. Concluding she gave important ways for women to leave an impact for the next generation, including to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for Christian marriages and to teach their children Biblical truths.



FIRST PERSON: PERSONAL EVANGELISM STILL COUNTS

By Paige Patterson

While sitting in the Mobile, Ala., airport, my phone began to vibrate—not a good sign on Sunday evening. Answering, my wife said through her tears, “Leroy Krolczyk just transferred his home to glory.” Many who read this would not know Leroy, but he was precious to Southwestern and especially precious to me. After he served with his wife, Sharon, for quite a number of years as minister of music in our churches, he joined the staff of Houston Baptist University in Institutional Advancement. Later, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was able to secure his services to assist in our growing Havard Campus in Houston.

And Leroy Krolczyk got it! Raising money for the seminary is fine, but it is never the end or real purpose of the ministry. The guiding commitment is always to take care of the donors, to meet their spiritual needs, to love them supremely, and to trust God for the rest. Leroy—wonderful husband, consummate father, gentle and encouraging minister of the Gospel—waited on his flock as unselfishly and faithfully as any I have ever known. All who knew him rejoice with his new adventure with God but sense only too well the loss we have sustained.

When I learned from my wife that Leroy was gone, I wept, but then I was flooded with a memory so sweet that I thought I heard angels singing. Suddenly, I was 19 again, and I was just walking onto the platform of Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, Texas, to preach the evening revival service. It was 6:15 p.m.,

and I was a few minutes early to begin the service at 6:30 p.m. Then it hit me. I had attempted to share my faith with a young man that afternoon. He was from a Roman Catholic background but was most curious about Jesus. He informed me that he could not talk then, but that he finished work at 5 p.m. He asked me to come by his house. “I will be there at 6 p.m.,” I replied. Then, may God have mercy on my soul, I forgot. Walking on the platform at 6:15, the Lord suddenly brought Leroy back to my mind. What would I do? By the time I got to his house and shared a few moments with him, it would be time for me to preach, and all the saints would wonder where the evangelist was.

“Well, it was just another kid,” I reasoned. He probably would not have been home anyway. Surely to stay and preach to a large gathered congregation was more important. I sat in the cushioned platform chair and opened my Bible. But I could not shake the vision in my heart. God seemed to say, “You promised Leroy that you would come. What need have I for a preaching evangelist who is not a man of his word? Go now, and someday you will be a thankful man.” Approaching pastor Ed Thiele, I said, “Pastor, I have made a terrible mistake. I must go and make it right. Please sing until I return.” I drove to the address that Leroy had provided.

Sitting on the front porch, Leroy said, “I was about to give up on you. I thought you had forgotten me.” I told him the truth. I did forget. Please forgive me. But God reminded



me; and though the service is already under way, I had to come here. Oh glorious night! On that night, Leroy Krolczyk invited Christ to be his Savior. On that day, he set a course that would change the lives of hundreds for good and for God.

Now in the airport, I missed him greatly—taken from us, I thought, far too soon. But then I remembered the delinquent witness who almost did not go to Leroy. And I wept once more as I thanked God that He would not let me forget, and I also realized anew that this is precisely how God intends evangelization to take place. Not preaching to massive crowds, but the personal word of love and salvation—this is what God has purposed to use. Please, precious Lord, never let me forget again. And please, Lord Jesus, may our people recover this vision.

Farewell, sweet brother, Leroy Krolczyk. I know that it is only for a while; and when I approach, you will be waiting for me on the porch of heaven.

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MORE THAN \$2,000 COLLECTED IN CHAPEL ‘BOOT OFFERING’

By Alex Sibley

In chapel, April 7, Executive Director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Jim Richards preached on the topic of “grace giving.” Appealing to Jesus as the ultimate example of such giving, he said, “Jesus shows how to be a grace giver, and if Jesus gave it all, how much should we hold back? We put our all on the altar. Grace giving enables us to accomplish the task of the Great Commission collectively, continuously, and cooperatively.”

Following the sermon, Southwestern President Paige Patterson provided students and faculty the opportunity to put into action what they had just heard by taking

an impromptu “boot offering.” In lieu of traditional collection plates, several cowboy boots were passed throughout the congregation, allowing chapel attendees to present an offering to the Lord. A total of \$2,057.80 was collected.

When recounting this information in chapel the following day, Patterson joked, “Given the fact that this comes from poverty-stricken students, I thought that was a worthy boot offering.” In addition to the cash offerings, two additional items were also contributed: a tie and a Taco Bell gift card. Patterson explained that though these gifts

are not usable as they are, they do “reflect the giving spirit of our students.”

Patterson then educated students on what to do when they receive such items as gifts in the context of a local church: auction them off. Asking for bids from the chapel audience, Patterson proceeded to exchange the tie for \$100 and the Taco Bell gift card—which may or may not have been worth anything—for \$25.

The collected funds will be given to the SBTC to support the convention’s efforts to evangelize the city of El Paso. Admitting his surprise at the overall amount that had been contributed, Patterson commended students and faculty for their generosity and assured them that they “had done very well for missions in El Paso.”

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STUDENT LIFE CREATES ENVIRONMENT FOR PERSONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By Alex Sibley

Throughout the spring semester, Student Life continued its pursuit of making Southwestern a place for students to grow spiritually, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. Events included Winter Welcome, an end-of-semester Crawfish Boil, and monthly evenings of campus worship.

“You do a lot of things when you’re here at the college or the seminary,” said Dean of Students Kyle Walker during the semester’s first worship service, Jan. 22. “But nothing is more important than setting our attention on Christ. And this is a time we can voluntarily

come together as a student body to encourage one another, get into the Word together, grow together, build community, hold each other accountable, and push each other toward Christ.”

Walker elaborated that he and other members of Student Life strive to see students not only succeed academically while here at Southwestern but also grow in their walks with Christ. Walker, therefore, expressed the hope that events such as these worship services will help students stay focused on God in the midst of their busy schedules.





To see additional photos as well as videos from Student Life and other campus activities, visit [Facebook.com/swbts](https://www.facebook.com/swbts)





SHARON EDWARDS *a renewed passion for kingdom service around the world*

By Katie Coleman

After the death of her husband 13 years ago, Sharon Edwards' life was marked by a season of grief and spiritual conflict. Following this time of mourning, however, Edwards asked the Lord to rekindle her heart and show her where He would have her serve. The Lord was quick to answer her prayers.

Edwards immediately saw a change in her own heart with a new compassion for others and an urgency and eagerness to share the Gospel. Sensing the Lord's call to serve internationally, Edwards says, "I began to have this desire to tell anybody and everybody about Jesus Christ—not just those I knew, but everybody."

Looking through a list of potential short-term trips organized by the missions committee at Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, Edwards was first drawn to the appeal of countries such as Greece and Spain. However, the Lord began calling her to serve on a trip in Brazil. She was, at first, uncertain of this call, but her doubt was quickly met with a gentle reminder of her prayer for guidance and a place to serve.

After she decided to go on a trip to Brazil, friends and family asked her why she needed to go to Brazil when she could stay in the country to do evangelism. She responded that the Lord was calling her there, and she needed to be obedient to that calling. Edwards has not looked back since.

Edwards has now been part of 13 trips to Brazil. During these trips, Great Hills Baptist Church hosts Vacation Bible

Schools for children and provides support for a free clinic. While people wait to receive medical care from a doctor or dentist, Edwards and other church members sit with them and present the Gospel. She thanks God for allowing her to experience the joy for each new person brought into the Kingdom of God.

Edwards first connected with Southwestern through its Widows' Might ministry and later joined the Board of Visitors in 2014. When she came to the October meeting, it was through listening to a report from President Paige Patterson that she first heard about Global Theological Innovation (GTI) and its work in South America. Because of her passion for missions in general and Brazil specifically, she was immediately drawn to the work of Southwestern through GTI.

"When I first heard about GTI, I remember thinking that those [local] seminaries were put there for a purpose," Edwards says. "The thought of seminaries dying or prospective pastors not having access to theological education was just really sad to me." Edwards' statement captures the heartbeat of GTI.

Because of her hope to see seminaries equip people to take the Gospel throughout the world, Edwards was compelled to financially partner with Southwestern. "I see GTI as a new beginning for these pastors and seminaries," she says. "I see GTI as a major tool in helping students who want to go out in that country, or wherever else, and spread the Gospel of Christ; that is what it's about."

Alumni Updates

1990

Kevin G. Parker (MDIVBL 1991) to Baptist New Mexican, Albuquerque, New Mexico, as editor; wife Susan E. Parker

2000

Jair F. Santos (MDIV 2014) to Bethel Baptist Church, Pouso Alegre, Minas Gerais, Brazil as senior pastor; wife Leticia L. Fernandes

Retirement

1980

Stephen D. Kelley (MRE 1982) retired with wife Janis J. Kelley, living in Conroe, Texas

Awards

Alta Belle Kemp (MARE 1959) received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Memorials

Ruth F. Baker
 Robert W. Bernard
 Nellie P. "Ann" Brosius
 Mary Cook
 Bruce E. Forlines
 Rose Gude
 John W. Owens
 Joe E. Sharp
 David Silva
 Velma L. Stevens
 Chester H. Sylvester
 Paul R. Ware
 Donald E. Williams
 Leta F. Woodfin, neé Beene

1950

William D. Lockard (BDIV 1951, THD 1967)
 Bettye C. Nelson (MRE 1954)
 Joe T. Poe (BDIV 1954, MDIV 1970)
 Robert L. Cargill (BDIV 1955, MDIV 1974)
 Urban L. Green (BDIV 1956, MRE 1957)
 Frank J. Mackey (BDIV 1959)
 John V. Roberts (MRE 1959)
 Marshall D. Woodruff (BDIV 1959)

1960

James E. Carter (BDIV 1960, THD 1964, PHD 1974, MDIV 1975)
 Peggy E. Tisdell, nee Smith (BRE 1960)
 Franklin E. Gist (BDIV 1961)
 Charlie C. Lyles (BDIV 1961)
 Max L. Brown (BDIV 1963, MDIV 1968)
 Lanny D. Curry (BDIV 1963)
 John D. Hopper (MTH 1966, THD 1977)

1970

Kenneth L. Harlan (MDIV 1970)
 Robert K. Twining (MRE 1973, EDD 1975)
 Harold D. Hicks (DipTH 1975)
 Leroy H. Krolczyk (MACM 1975)
 Michael E. Gresham (MDIV 1978)
 Robert R. Mathis (MRE 1978, EDD 1984, PHD 1994)

1980

Gary Castleberg (MRE 1982)
 Charles C. Gilmer (MRE 1982)
 Jon D. Randles (MDIV 1987)
 Wayne A. Vleck (MDIV 1987)

1990

Walter T. Hall (MA 1994)

Keep in Touch

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

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 Fort Worth, TX 76122-0500

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 Fort Worth, TX 76115

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Phone (local):

817.923.1921, ext. 7200

Email:

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STANDING ON TRUTH

By James T. Draper, Jr.

When Southwestern Seminary moved from Waco to Fort Worth, my grandfather, L.M. Keeling, entered the seminary with the first class. By 1914, he had completed two degrees at this seminary. Since that time, six more family members have come through Southwestern, resulting in a total of seven family members from five generations coming to Seminary Hill. My earliest memories are of this seminary while my father was a student.

I am enthusiastic about this seminary and its global impact in the years ahead. I am that way because this seminary stands solidly upon the Word of God. This institution affirms that truth is not determined by the latest poll. We live with what someone has called the “USA Today syndrome.” That is, our culture believes that the majority determines what the truth is.

Louis Pasteur lived in a world that believed bacteria were spontaneously generated from the mud and dust. He alone believed that they multiplied microscopically in septic conditions. Pasteur was right, and the world was wrong. Galileo dared to affirm that the sun was the center of the known universe, not the earth. One man understood the truth, and the rest of the world was wrong.

Those devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ understand that ultimate truth rests in Him alone. Whatever the unbelieving world affirms must be measured by the truth as it is in Christ Jesus and in the Word of God. He is the source of all truth.

When academic pursuits enter into the presence of Jesus Christ, every area bows before Him. Southwestern acknowledges that “all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16-17). His is the only adequate viewpoint from which to integrate the educational process.

At Southwestern, we seek Truth because we have already found it in Jesus Christ. We

have freedom of thought because we have already submitted every thought captive to Jesus Christ as the ultimate truth. We can study complexity because we have already found simplicity in Jesus Christ.

The greatest minds of the Western World have always confessed how little they actually knew. Secular institutions teach conclusions that are accepted now. Ten years from now, other conclusions will force a change in what is taught. Amidst the changing world of understanding about us, Southwestern Seminary holds that the only way to look at our changing world is through the lens of the unchanging Lord Jesus Christ and Word of God.

Southwestern is built solidly on that foundation. It has an undivided focus on academic excellence as well as personal and practical implementation of missions and evangelism. Taking the Gospel to the nations is in our DNA. Never could our denominational forefathers have predicted the geopolitical complexities of the 21st century, but Southwestern is structured to literally reach the “uttermost” parts of the world with the Gospel. We take seriously God’s mandate to share the Good News of salvation. All ministries are important and have their place, but the greatest service we can provide to a lost world is personally introducing people to the Lamb who sits on the Throne. Through the GTI program, that has never been more possible.

Southwestern is committed to the premise that there is strength in our cooperative efforts. We can do more together than we can by ourselves. Through its numerous partnerships with Baptist seminaries around the world, Southwestern can accomplish more for the Kingdom than ever before. No one institution can completely fulfill the Great Commission, but together we can. We love church planting. We understand that simply leading others to salvation is only part of the process. Through the church we grow spiritually, beginning



with the church from which we are sent out, and continuing with the church to which we bring the lost. GTI, in partnering with foreign seminaries to raise up church planters, makes it possible to plant churches all over the world.

Southwestern has a clearly defined doctrinal base. The Baptist Faith & Message 2000 outlines our theological parameters and is a statement of our commitment to the Word of God.

We have joined with our other SBC seminaries to develop the most effective theological training anywhere in the world. Through the GTI program, Southwestern has partnered with international seminaries that share the same goal. Our students are being trained to confront our world and nation with men and women who will impact the world with the Gospel for generations to come. We are providing a much-needed biblical worldview in an increasingly hostile world.

The pages of this edition give a brief glimpse of the heart and soul of Southwestern Seminary. GTI is merely another means of reaching the world. This is who we are!

JAMES T. DRAPER, JR. BD 1961, MDiv 1973

James T. Draper, Jr. is president emeritus of Lifeway Christian Resources. He earned two degrees from Southwestern: a Bachelor of Divinity in 1961 and a Master of Divinity in 1973. Chairman of Southwestern Board of Visitors.

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