

FALL 2015

SWN

SouthwesternNews

Rookie Season

NOW TAKING THE FIELD...

SouthwesternNews | FALL 2015

VOLUME 74 | ISSUE 1 | SWNEWS.ORG



MEN'S

GAME BANQUET

FEBRUARY 20, 2016 • 4:00 - 8:30 PM

ON THE CAMPUS OF SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY

JOIN US TO HEAR A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM:

PAIGE PATTERSON

*President of Southwestern
Seminary, Big Game Hunter*



DAVID MORRIS

*Tecomate President and
CEO, Founder, Partner*

Door Prizes • Men and boys only

Register online for this FREE event: **SWBTS.EDU/HUNT**

OXFORD

2016

JULY 5-21



Ready to Walk with Spurgeon,
the Prince of Preachers?

EARN UP TO SIX HOURS OF CREDIT.

Experience the sights and sounds of historic Britain. Learn about the Reformers, Baptists, C.S. Lewis, C.H. Spurgeon, British preachers, and modern missions. Study theology, experience church history, and engage in evangelism with SWBTS professors.

Courses offered:

Baptist Heritage, The Bible and Moral Issues, Church History II, The History and Theology of British Preaching, and Missiology, as well as Missions and Evangelism Practicums.

Cost: \$4,200

includes travel, accommodations,
meals, and tuition

Contact: Oxford Study Program

swbts.edu/oxford

oxford@swbts.edu

817.923.1921, ext. 4488



SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FLEX ACCESS PHD

at Southwestern

This three-year initiative allows students to participate in Southwestern's existing Ph.D. program as a residential student or online through live video web conferencing. Regardless of the means, all students have access to the same quality education.

WHEREVER YOU ARE,
SOUTHWESTERN IS THERE.



RESIDENT

Attend classes and seminars in person as a residential student at Southwestern.

ONLINE

Attend classes and seminars virtually through live online attendance.

HYBRID

Attend classes and seminars through a combination of online and on-campus attendance.

» Visit swbts.edu/flexphd for more info.



SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FORT WORTH • HOUSTON • ONLINE • THE WORLD

FEATURES

12 A FORCE IN THE KINGDOM: EXALTING THE WORD TO AWAKEN A VISION

Through faithful text-driven preaching, Pastor Timothy Pigg has been used of God to awaken in his congregation the vision of being a viable force in God's Kingdom.

IN THIS ISSUE

ROOKIE SEASON

18 CAPTURING A VISION OF DISCIPLE-MAKING: REACHING STUDENTS TO REACH THE WORLD

Armed with a ministry model of one-on-one discipleship, collegiate minister Brett Luker aims to produce disciple-making students of the Word.

24 LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST: BREAKING NEW GROUND TO IMPACT THE KINGDOM

Laboring in a field where the workers are few—the American Northwest—church planter Dave Elliff is breaking ground where no other work is being done.

30 ALL ABOUT JESUS: HUMBLY DEPENDING ON A FAITHFUL GOD

Though inexperienced in leading a youth group of 80-plus students, student minister Jonathan Cofer's humble dependence on God has produced a fruitful, Christ-exalting ministry.

36 APPOINTED TO SERVE: MINISTERING IN AND THROUGH THE HOME AS A WIFE AND MOTHER

As a pastor's wife, Abigail Criner initially envisioned taking a more active role in the church, but God soon revealed that her greatest impact would be in the home.

42 JOINING THE ETERNAL CHORUS: SINGING AS ONE THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

A multigenerational congregation means multiple preferences for music, but worship pastor Andy Hammond strives to lead his people to see beyond the music, lifting their eyes to heaven and singing with one voice of the greatness of God.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 5 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 6 FIRST LOOK
- 50 CAMPUS NEWS
- 62 ADVANCEMENT: MINISTRY PARTNER
- 63 AROUND THE WORLD
- 64 LAST WORD

HIGHLIGHTS

- 48 REVIVE THIS NATION STATS
- 58 STUDENT LIFE



ON THE COVER

Jonathan Cofer, Minister of Students and Recreation at FBC Buna, Texas, delivers weekly exhortations from Scripture during Wednesday night gatherings of the student ministry.

(SWBTS Photo/
Matheus Oliveira)

JANUARY

6-13	Mexico Mission Trip	
15-16	Certification in Biblical Counseling: Level 3	swbts.edu/bccertification
19	New Student Orientation – Fort Worth Campus	
21	Fort Worth Convocation	
21	Fort Worth Campus Spring Classes Begin	
25	Houston & Extension Campuses Spring Classes Begin	
29-30	Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1 & 2	swbts.edu/bccertification

FEBRUARY

1	Houston Convocation	
19-20	Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1 & 2	swbts.edu/bccertification
20	Game Banquet	swbts.edu/hunt
26-28	Southwestern Photojournalism Conference	swpjc.org

MARCH

4-5	Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1 & 2	swbts.edu/bccertification
7-8	Expository Preaching Workshop	swbts.edu/epw
9	BH Carroll/LR Scarborough Awards	
10-11	Preview Southwestern	swbts.edu/previewsouthwestern
13-17	Revive This Nation	swbts.edu/rtn
14-18	Spring Break	Offices open/classes dismissed
25	Good Friday	Offices closed/classes dismissed

LOOKING AHEAD

April 1-2	Youth Ministry Lab	youthministrylab.com
April 5	13th Annual Gala Concert of Sacred Music MacGorman Chapel, 7:30 p.m.	swbts.edu/gala
April 12	Scholarship Donor Banquet	
April 15-16	Stand Firm Apologetics Conference	swbts.edu/standfirm
May 26 -June 12	Madagascar Mission Trip	swbts.edu/wmc
June 14-15	SBC Annual Meeting	sbcannualmeeting.net
July 7-25	Chiang Mai, Thailand Mission Trip	swbts.edu/wmc
July 5-21	Oxford Study Program	swbts.edu/oxford

SouthwesternNews

FALL 2015 Volume 74 Issue 1
swnews.org

President Paige Patterson
Executive Editor Charles W. Patrick, Jr.
Director of Photography Matthew Miller
Director of Videography Adam Covington
Art Director Aubri Duran

Editors
 Adam Covington
 Matthew Miller

Graphic Designers
 Michele Yates
 Faith Morgan
 Leah Highsmith
 Caitlyn Jameson

Photographers & Videographers
 Adam Tarleton
 Neil Williams
 Matheus Oliveira

Senior Staff Writer/ Copy Editor
 Alex Sibley

Writers
 Katie Coleman
 Eunsun Han

Social Media and Digital Marketing
 Alyssa Martin

Online Content
 Dillon Hess

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





1.800.SWBTS.01 swbts.edu

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

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

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

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

Stay Connected:
 swbts.edu
 @SWBTS
 SWBTS
 SOUTHWESTERNSEMINARY

Give to Southwestern:
swbts.edu/giving

 **SOUTHWESTERN**
 BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

a letter from **THE PRESIDENT**

IN EXACTLY THREE MINUTES, THE WOMAN SINGING WILL COMPLETE the special music. You will stand and face the congregation for your first sermon as the new pastor. Anticipation reverberates through the 125 assembled worshippers who have lived through six former pastors and logged a total of 125,000 hours listening to sermons. They remember all the points they intensely disliked in former pastors and would be hard-pressed to think of many pleasant memories as they await your exposition. Whatever it was that you ate for breakfast has returned to life and is now buffeting your stomach. Your clammy hands grip your Bible as though you fear that the sacred book might sprout wings and soar into the stratosphere, leaving you void of text. Your wife's lips are moving, but no sound escapes her lips – she is praying fervently for you, as is the pulpit committee.

But Southwestern has prepared you intellectually and spiritually for this moment. This sermon, as you have been taught, has been marinated on the altar of God. Your legs tremble as you approach the pulpit. “With your Bible in your hand,” you intone, “turn to Romans, chapter one.” Then suddenly, like the sails of a great bark, the wind of the Spirit wafts the sanctified breeze of God through the sails, and the great vessel begins to move.

This “rookie” moment happens hundreds of times every year. Like receiving the opening kickoff in the National Championship game, the pressures are surreal. Unlike players in a game of football, these young rookie pastors find themselves in an arena where eternity is at stake and rich meaningful life for all. The young pastors and their families featured here invite you to experience those early moments with them.

Read these stories and rejoice that you had a substantive part to play in this spectacular moment. Few opportunities will come to anyone greater than the preparation a pastor makes for this classic moment. You made it happen! Now rejoice in what our Lord is accomplishing through the lives of these young men of God.

Until He Comes,



Paige Patterson







FLORIDA

When most people think of South Florida, they picture sunshine and beaches, but inland Florida is better known for its marshes, swamps, and alligators. Lake Trafford, located just three miles from Immokalee, where Southwestern alumnus Timothy Pigg is serving in his first senior pastorate, is home to these reptilian creatures, who flourish among the abundant vegetation in and around this 1,500-acre lake.

MICHIGAN

Michigan State University's Spartan Marching Band provides the soundtrack for MSU football, which unites the school's 50,000-member student body. This student body is the people group to which Southwestern alumnus Brett Luker has devoted his ministry, endeavoring to reach as many students as he can with the light of the Gospel so that they, in turn, can bring the good news of Christ to the ends of the earth.





WASHINGTON

The Pike Place Fish Market is a popular destination in downtown Seattle, well-known for the fishmongers who throw fish customers have purchased before packaging the fresh caught seafood. One of the North American Mission Board's Send cities, Seattle has one church for every 30,404 people. Roots Community Church, planted by Southwestern alumnus Dave Elliff, is one of the new churches that the Lord will use to push back the darkness of the Pacific Northwest.





PIKE PLACE FISH MARKET
AIRLINE APPROVED ↑
48 HOUR ICEPACK BOXES

PIKE PLACE FISH MARKET
WWW.PIKEPLACEFISH.COM

THE HAWK FOR CHUCK'S PIES
\$15.99

THE BIG ONE!
AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES
BY ORDER & DELIVERY

GO

WHALE
WING
\$15.44

SEA
\$13.99

SEA
\$20.99

SEA
\$17.99

SEA
\$2.99

SEA
\$4.99

SEA
\$3.99

SEA
\$5.44

WE SELL ONLY
WILD SALMON
CAUGHT BY
WILD FISHERMEN!

WHALE
\$9.99

HELL
\$4.99

Rookie Season

Player TIMOTHY PIGG

Position SENIOR PASTOR

Homefield IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA



A FORCE IN THE KINGDOM:

exalting the Word to

AWAKEN A VISION

Story By ALEX SIBLEY

Photography By MATT MILLER

When Timothy Pigg assumed the pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Immokalee, Fla.—his first ministry assignment following his graduation from Southwestern Seminary—the condition of the church was bleak. In the wake of a devastating church split, attendance had dropped significantly, and the vision of the church as a force in the community was perishing.

Pigg appealed to Ephesians 4 as his guide for how best to shepherd this new flock over which God had appointed him. Linking success in ministry with verses 11-13 specifically, Pigg strove from day one to be a pastor who equips God's people to do ministry, promotes unity within the church, and strives for spiritual maturity. In order to meet these aspirations, Pigg did not rely on some special program, nor did he water down the Gospel message in order to provide what "itching ears" wanted to hear. Instead, he upraised one thing: the Word of God.

As a result of this special emphasis, in his roughly seven months with the church, Pigg has seen the great power of God's Word awaken the congregation to the truth that they can be a viable force in God's Kingdom as they seek to reach the lost world around them. Attendance in Sunday morning worship has doubled, and Sunday School numbers have tripled. And whereas the congregation previously felt wounded and lacked hope, now there is great hope and excitement as they witness each week what God does both in them and through them.

"We have seen unbelievable growth numerically and spiritually, which I believe is a testament to faithful text-driven preaching," Pigg

“And [Christ] Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13



says. “We do not have fancy programs or any outlandish techniques. Instead, we have sought to make God’s Word the program with which we do ministry.”

Raised in a pastor’s home and professing Christ at age 7, Pigg’s passion for the Word of God had already been brewing for many years when he arrived at FBC Immokalee. His call to ministry came while he was attending his church’s middle school camp at age 12. Though the particulars of his call were not immediately palpable, in the ensuing years, God refined his heart until it became abundantly clear that he was called to pastor a local church and preach the immeasurable riches of God’s Word.

Following Pigg’s graduation from high school, Southwestern Seminary proved to be the appropriate incubator for Pigg’s burgeoning pastoral heart. “Southwestern taught me that godly character is of greater importance than

academic prowess,” Pigg says. “This is in no way to say that Southwestern is an academic breeze. Instead, the focus of Southwestern is on building character, and by building character, Southwestern builds pastor-theologians.”

Pigg initially joined the College at Southwestern, completing his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities in 2013. He subsequently enrolled in the seminary, and he graduated with his Master of Divinity in the spring of 2015.

Particularly impactful on his current ministry is the time Pigg spent in Southwestern’s chapel services. “The statement that President [Paige] Patterson says often—‘Chapel is the president’s classroom’—resonated greatly with me,” Pigg says. “Throughout my seven years at Southwestern, I listened and watched as Dr. Patterson taught us young pastors how to conduct a worship service.”

In late 2014, Pigg was informed by Mark Gonzales, director of missions for Southwest Florida and a Southwestern alumnus (M.Div., 1983; D.Min., 1988), that FBC Immokalee was in need of a pastor. At Gonzales’ recommendation and through much prayer, Pigg submitted his resume to the search committee and later preached in view of a call. The church voted to call him as their pastor in March 2015, and Pigg officially assumed pastoral duties on Sunday, May 17, barely a week after his graduation from Southwestern.

As a rookie pastor, Pigg has made it a goal to know the Scriptures with such intimacy that, when challenged with a problem, he is equipped to address it with a word from God. In the context of FBC Immokalee, which was still dealing with the ramifications of a church split upon Pigg’s arrival, that has meant exalting Scripture itself above all else.





Alluding to his ministerial objectives derived from Ephesians 4, Pigg says, “The way in which I seek to accomplish these goals is through faithful text-driven preaching and teaching. Since coming to FBC Immokalee, I have challenged our Sunday School teachers to focus on text-driven teaching. Since doing this, we have seen growth in our Sunday School.”

Another means of incorporating God’s Word into the church is through music. “[Dean of Southwestern’s School of Church Music] Leo Day taught by example during chapel that sharing God’s Word is not reserved only for preaching,” Pigg says. “Now we have begun to incorporate a time of prayer and Scripture-reading during the music portion of our service. We want it to be so obvious to anyone who visits our church that we are grounded in the Word of God.”

As the people of FBC Immokalee have been confronted week after week with the truths of Scripture, tasting and seeing the goodness of God, a desire to reach their community for Christ has been awakened. The church now provides weekly opportunities for men and women to evangelize their community, and on the evening of every fifth Sunday of the month, the entire church bands together to reach the surrounding neighborhood through door-to-door evangelism. Other outreach efforts include community block parties and home Bible studies specially designed to reach the unchurched. Finally, Pigg says, those in the workforce “are utilizing their workplace as a mission field, and they are reaching their co-workers for Christ.”

Pigg attributes the numerical growth in the church to these evangelistic efforts, and while he says there is still much work to be done, he rejoices that his people have caught the vision that they can be instruments in God’s hands for accomplishing Kingdom purposes. Ever striving to equip the saints for the work of ministry, Pigg has begun to see the fruit born by his faithful preaching of the Word; and the church, whose mission had been so devastated by past hurts, is now on the path to attaining to “the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13b).



Words of Wisdom



PREACHERS

By Jerry Vines

LOOKING BACK OVER 62 YEARS OF PREACHING, I WAS GREATLY BENEFITED BY SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OLDER, SEASONED PREACHERS. HERE ARE SOME THAT HELPED ME; THEY MIGHT HELP YOU AS WELL:

- If you are in the ministry for any other reason but Jesus, you are destined to become a bitter old man. You may be mistreated, unappreciated, and disrespected, but none of that matters if you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Do all to the glory of God.
- Give your mornings to God, your afternoons to the church, and your evenings to your family. You may not be able to do this all the time, but it is a good goal for which to strive.
- Minister to your own family as you minister to other families. I have talked with scores of people who felt neglected by their preacher fathers. If you fail as a parent, you aren't likely to succeed as a pastor.
- Preach through books of the Bible. This is the best way to teach your people God's Word, and in the process, you will feed your own soul as well.
- Love the people in your congregation. Mean people? Yes. Ornery people? Yes. Irregular people? Yes.
- Whatever unjust criticism you receive in the ministry, pass it on to the Lord. Tell the Lord on them! Whatever praise you receive in the ministry, pass it on to the Lord. After all, you aren't in the ministry for your sake, but for His sake.

Jerry Vines is a two-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., having pastored there for more than 23 years. He is also the founder of Jerry Vines Ministries, which seeks to better equip pastors for ministry through conferences and the provision of Bible preaching and teaching materials.

Rookie Season

Player BRETT LUKER

Position COLLEGIATE MINISTER

Homefield EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN





CAPTURING A VISION OF DISCIPLE-MAKING:

reaching students to
REACH THE WORLD

Story By ALEX SIBLEY

Photography By ADAM TARLETON

Brett Luker is part of a three-person pastoral team for Christian Challenge, the Baptist student ministry at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing, Mich. When he started in this position in January 2013, all of the students previously involved with the ministry had graduated, so Luker was tasked with starting the ministry from scratch.

“I figured it would take a little bit to get students involved, but it was a lot harder than I thought,” Luker recalls. “It takes a lot of work to start something from nothing.”

In fact, it took two years before Luker and his team had more than one student attending their Bible study. No one attended the first year; but during the second, one faithful student eventually became four, and this year that four has grown to a solid core group of seven.

“I told that to one person, and he was so apologetic that we had so few students,” Luker says. “[But] I was like, ‘Are you kidding? This is the best year we have ever had!’”

Luker joined the staff of Christian Challenge immediately after his graduation from Southwestern Seminary in December 2012. He brought with him a clear vision for one-on-one discipleship, which has allowed the ministry to gradually expand from its starting point of zero. The ministry now comprises small-group Bible studies, an English-tutoring ministry to international students, and Sunday evening worship services at Jacob’s Well—an on campus church founded by Luker and his team. Although much work still needs to be done to reach the 50,000 students on campus, Christian Challenge is nevertheless progressing toward its goal of reaching MSU to reach the world.



Born and raised in Indiana, Luker became a Christian at age 6 and received the call to ministry as a sophomore in college. Though he initially desired to minister to teenagers, Luker's involvement with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at the University of Southern Indiana (USI)—where he was pursuing his bachelor's in history—led him to consider becoming a collegiate minister instead. One of the primary draws of campus ministry for Luker was and continues to be the fact that people develop who they are for the rest of their lives during the ages of 18 to 22.

"College is when you are most influenced by what you hear and you begin to develop your beliefs," he says. "It's amazing some of the questions that you hear from students, especially from believers when they are being torn apart from what the world wants them to

think and what they believe to be true. They are the most moldable during this time—try to get a 40-year-old to change his or her ways."

Following his graduation from USI in 2009, Luker came to Southwestern Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity with concentrations in biblical languages and collegiate ministry. The courses in this latter concentration, which were taught by Professor of Collegiate Ministry Max Barnett, proved particularly impactful. Whereas Luker previously had a programs-based approach to ministry, Barnett taught him to adopt a disciple-making approach instead.

"When Max talked about disciple-making, he was talking about one-on-one, walking someone through Scripture and through life in order for him to be like Christ," Luker says. "He used many examples of how Christ did

the very same thing with his 12 disciples. That really had an impact on my ministry, and it's the foundation to everything we do here at Michigan State."

When Luker's time at seminary drew to a close, Barnett put him in touch with Larry Woods, lead pastor at MSU's Christian Challenge. After some email correspondence and a few campus visits, Luker knew God was calling him and his wife, Niccole, to Michigan. He began serving at MSU in the spring semester of 2013 as both a worship pastor and Bible study leader, roles he still fills today.

Of the many challenges ministers face in the Midwest, Luker says one of the most pertinent is a culture that is resistant to the Gospel. "Most people are not only turned off from the Gospel; they also don't want anything to do with it," he explains. "It's old news for a

lot of people. They have already heard it and don't want it. So that's a big challenge, as the culture is so different from many places of the U.S., especially from the South."

Even so, getting through to students is not impossible, as Luker has learned firsthand. "The biggest reward [of ministry] is seeing someone 'get it,'" he says. "What I mean by that is they begin to really understand what being a Christian is all about. We have had some of those moments this semester so far, and it has been great to see students begin to understand what Christ wants in their lives."

Jacqui, a sophomore involved with Christian Challenge, had one of those moments this fall when, in the midst of a discussion about heart attitudes, she realized that she needed to be more intentional not only in inviting her friends to church events but also in witnessing to them on a regular basis. She also realized that she needed to spend more one-on-one time with God so she could better serve Him. Luker characterizes this revelation as "a defining moment where she realized she needs God in order to get through college and wants to share His love with others."

Andrew, another sophomore, has also experienced growth during his year of being involved with the ministry. A Christian for little more than a year, Andrew asks questions during Bible study that others seldom consider, including queries about faith, grace, and righteousness. "It is really encouraging that he is engaging the Bible in such a way," Luker says.

Nearing completion of his third full year at MSU, Luker says seeing students experience God in such ways as these makes him grateful to be able to serve in a location where ministry is so difficult. He elaborates, "Because when you are able to get inside people's hearts, it's the most rewarding experience I have ever come across. ... Now if we can get [our seven core students] to capture the vision of disciple-making, that will be a huge step toward our main goal, and that is to disciple students to reach the world."





Words of Wisdom



COLLEGIATE MINISTERS

By Max Barnett

AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN 37 YEARS MINISTERING TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS I THINK WILL HELP YOU IN CAMPUS MINISTRY:

- Maintain your daily time in the Word and in prayer at all costs. You will minister out of who you are.
- Ask God to give you a few specific people in whose lives you can minister more deeply. Be faithful to do that, and they will help you minister to the larger group.
- When students come to anything you sponsor, have an objective you are trying to accomplish and make sure it is well worth their time.
- Find holes in students' schedules where you can get extra time with those you are seeking to train. Retreats, mission and training trips over spring break, summer training programs, and exposure to men and women who walk with God are so important.
- Teach them how to have a quiet time, memorize Scripture, witness, take notes on sermons, and always be learning so that they can pass on what they learn to others.
- Train them to make disciples who multiply. Make sure that is your overall objective for your students.
- Teach them to always have a ministry in two places: the church and the marketplace (Acts 17:17).
- Teach them that their studies are important but that the most important priority should always be their relationship with God.
- Work on having good relationships with the pastor, staff, other youth leaders in the church, and parents.
- Thank God for the incredible opportunity you have, and have fun with and enjoy your students.

Max Barnett serves as professor of collegiate ministry, director of collegiate ministry training, and Edgar F. "Preacher" Hallock Chair of Baptist Student Work at Southwestern Seminary. He previously served as Baptist Student Director at the University of Oklahoma for more than 37 years. Barnett earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern in 1965.

Rookie Season

Player DAVE ELLIFF

Position CHURCH PLANTER

Homefield SEATTLE, WASHINGTON





LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST:

breaking new ground to
IMPACT THE KINGDOM

Story By ALEX SIBLEY

Photography By ADAM COVINGTON

Someone once shared an image with church planter Dave Elliff of 10 men carrying a telephone pole through a field, with nine men on one side and one on the other. Elliff was then asked, “Whom are you going to help?”

For Elliff, who now serves as founder and lead pastor of Roots Community Church in the Roosevelt neighborhood of Seattle, Wash., this effectively answered the question of why he would plant a church in the Northwest rather than somewhere in the South, closer to home. “There is a great need for more workers out in this area of the country and in this city,” Elliff says of his current place of ministry. He adds that one of the rewarding aspects of planting a church, particularly in an area like Seattle, “is that we’re able to break ground where there is no other work being done. That is one of the reasons we came to Roosevelt—because it needed a solid evangelical church.”

Since arriving in Washington in spring 2015, Elliff has been pleasantly surprised by people’s openness to talking about spiritual matters. Though he and his team have received pushback, they have also seen God open doors more quickly than they anticipated, allowing false assumptions to be corrected and barriers to be broken. As laborers sent into a field where the workers are few, they have seen Jesus’ words in Matthew 9:37 ring true—“the harvest is plentiful.”

Elliff’s call to ministry came when he was 11 years old, and he soon developed a heart for missions and discipleship. After college, he served in a collegiate ministry at the University of Oklahoma and then as a church planter in Southeast Asia, discipling university students there, as well. When he returned from the mission field, he felt God leading him



to further his theological training, so Elliff enrolled in Southwestern Seminary. There, through an evangelism course taught by Professor of Baptist Church Planting Steve Lee, God clarified Elliff's ministerial future.

"In that class, God really turned my heart toward the need for North American church planting," Elliff says. "I was planning on going overseas and doing missions, but God really just shifted that and made me aware of the opportunity for missions right here in North America. So that made a great impact on my ministry, and Dr. Lee's advice and vision for church planting greatly affected what I'm doing now."

In order to learn more about this newly specified calling, Elliff participated in a church planting vision tour in Seattle. Though he initially desired to plant a church in California due to personal connections there, his trip to Washington alerted him to the great spiritual need of the Northwest, especially Seattle. One of the North American Mission Board's "Send" cities, Seattle has only one Southern Baptist church for every 30,404 people, and only 11.9 percent of the population is affiliated with an evangelical church.

"So just those statistics and then coming here and seeing the need really confirmed in my heart that this is where we needed to go," Elliff says. "My wife, Mary, and I have always prayed, 'Lord, lead us to a place where there is a significant need and where we can make a great impact for your Kingdom.' And we really felt like God answered that in leading us to Seattle."

Elliff graduated from Southwestern with his Master of Divinity in 2014, and after spending nine months as a resident church planter in Tyler, Texas, he moved his family to Seattle and formed a church planting team to establish Roots Community Church in the Roosevelt Way district. Currently, the church's primary ministry is Gospel-focused service that aims to build relationships and create opportunities to share Christ. They also have a weekly Bible study, with plans to begin monthly gatherings next spring and weekly services next fall.

One of the most significant ways in which Roots Community has served the neighborhood thus far is through the "Bull Moose Festival" last July. Named after President Theodore Roosevelt, who is also the namesake for the neighborhood, the Bull

Moose Festival is an annual, community-wide event that features food, music, contests, and booths hosted by local businesses. Roots Community volunteered to essentially set up and run the entire festival with no strings attached. They set up all the tents for the booths, hung all the signs, ran the registration booth, and cleaned up trash and broke down the booths at the end of the event. In addition, the church also hosted their own booth, which the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association granted them for free.

"That was really a turning point in the community, where people began seeing us as a part of the Roosevelt neighborhood," Elliff says. "And actually, the director of the event, who is not a believer, said, 'Thank God for your team; we couldn't have done this without you.'"

In addition to direct service opportunities like this, the Roots Community team members have also become regulars at local businesses in order to bless them and show them that they want their businesses to succeed. Elliff says this has opened the door for numerous spiritual conversations, and several business owners have embraced them as part of the community.





One business owner, for example, identified himself to Elliff as “the man you need to know in Roosevelt.” A member of the Roosevelt Business Board and the neighborhood association, as well as the man in charge of community and cultural events, this business owner, on the day he met Elliff, invited him to that night’s neighborhood association meeting and opened the door to numerous relationships within the community that Elliff was looking to build.

More recently, a different business owner, who is not a believer, approached Elliff and said, “Dave, I need to serve.” Unsure of how exactly to respond, Elliff commended him for his servant’s heart. The man continued, “I would love to partner with Roots Community Church in giving free food to the homeless on the last Sunday of every month.”

“That just blew me away,” Elliff says. “Here’s a guy who doesn’t know Christ, and who, when he thought about needing to serve and make the community a better place, thought about our church. That, I feel like, is a direct answer to prayer—God working and bringing people of peace.”

Elliff says these are just two examples of relationships that God has initiated and used for greater ministerial purposes, not the least because Elliff has been able to share the Gospel with both men, and though neither has come to Christ, both have been receptive to the message. Regarding the significance of such relationship-building, Elliff says, “It really is important to be authentic and upfront about your faith, but also to push through and continue to build the relationship with people and let them see how Christ affects your daily life. Not shoving it down their throats, but not pulling back or being shy about how important God is to you in your daily life.”

As Elliff and his team continue to invest in the Roosevelt neighborhood, they ultimately hope to see Roots Community Church develop into a multiplying community of fully devoted followers of Christ who disciple those around them and plant new churches in the Northwest. Though this is a lofty aspiration, they trust in the Spirit’s ability to raise up new laborers for the harvest to break ground in areas of spiritual need to ultimately make an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God. Such work is already being done in Roosevelt, and the season for reaping the plentiful harvest draws closer each day.



Words of Wisdom



CHURCH PLANTERS

By Dan Morgan

Over the last 30 years, I have worked with many church planters fresh from seminary. Some have thrived, some have failed to plant a lasting church, but all have struggled with some common issues. One of these, when the adrenalin rush is gone and the reality of the spiritual war for souls sets in, is the feeling that “we are all alone in this.”

I think of Elijah’s complaint to God, “I alone am left, and they’re looking for me to take my life” (1 Kings 19:14). God’s response was that there were 7,000 who had not worshipped Baal. And these encouraging words from God came after He had given time for Elijah to rest, eat, and recover physically. When the ministry has worn you and your wife to a frazzle, you need to remember that you are not alone. God is for you, and He has placed people in your life who will encourage you—if you let them.

I encourage you to find, from the very first, friends who are a source of refreshment and activities that recharge your soul. Don’t wait until exhaustion clouds your judgment. One of the key activities of the first days of a church planter is networking for opportunities to share the Gospel and finding persons of peace and places to build credibility by serving like Jesus. In the course of this, you will find people, places, and activities that you and your spouse really enjoy. Don’t feel guilty about these preferred aspects of ministry. Return to them again and again to maintain balance in your life and the recharge that keeps the church planting adventure fresh.

Dan Morgan has been a missionary with the North American Mission Board for nearly 15 years. He currently serves as professor of church planting at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. He earned both his Master of Divinity (1977) and Doctor of Philosophy (1993) from Southwestern Seminary.

Rookie Season

Player JONATHAN COFER

Position YOUTH PASTOR

Homefield BUNA, TEXAS





ALL ABOUT JESUS:

humbly depending on a

FAITHFUL GOD

Story By ALEX SIBLEY

Photography By NEIL WILLIAMS & MATHEUS OLIVEIRA

Although Jonathan Cofer had some ministry experience prior to being hired as minister of students and recreation at the First Baptist Church of Buna, Texas, this experience comprised only part-time and volunteer positions in youth ministries of 15-20 students that had little to no leadership or parental involvement. So when he came to FBC Buna in spring 2015, his biggest challenge was learning how to lead a youth ministry of 80-plus students, involved parents, and a team of roughly 20 adult leaders. The learning curve has been steep, and Cofer says it is “mind-blowing” how much he has had to learn and is still trying to learn.

Fortunately for him (and for those involved in his ministry), Cofer understands that this ministry does not exist for the exaltation of himself. In fact, when he arrived, he changed the name of the student ministry to “iNAM,” which stands for “It’s not about me.” As its theme verse, Cofer employed John 3:30, wherein John the Baptist says in regard to Jesus, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” Cofer has adopted this same attitude, and his humble dependence on God has produced a blessed ministry in spite of the difficulties.

“Success is letting God lead the ministry, not Jonathan,” Cofer says. “I’ve learned that as long as I’m making it all about Jesus, and I’m equipping myself, parents, leaders, and students, and then I’m praying constantly throughout all of it, then everything will be OK.”

Cofer became a Christian at age 9, and he knew from then on that God had called him to preach. Throughout college, he served in a variety of student ministry positions, but following graduation, he failed to find a full-time position. Surmising that perhaps churches



did not want to hire him due to his lack of seminary training, he enrolled at Southwestern Seminary in pursuit of a Master of Arts in Christian Education. In retrospect, Cofer realizes that the training he received there was, indeed, essential.

“If I had not gone to Southwestern,” Cofer says, “I would not be anywhere close to where I am today. Given my inexperience in a church the size of FBC Buna, I would not have had a clue what to do or what to focus on.”

“Without the teachings of [student ministry professors] Richard Ross and Johnny Derouen, I would have been lost. ... I’ve pulled my class notes out so many times to get help.”

Even though Cofer has yet to graduate (with one course left to complete, he hopes to graduate in May 2016), one of his

professors recommended him for the open student minister position at FBC Buna in late 2014. After a series of interviews, the church unanimously voted to call him as their minister of students and recreation in April 2015.

When Cofer arrived, the youth group comprised roughly 60 students, but that number quickly rose to 80. Though he has found it difficult to administrate such a large ministry, his relative lack of experience allows him to depend more on others, especially God.

“I rely on God for each thing I do,” he says. “I also don’t just make decisions out of nowhere; I always seek the counsel of my pastor, deacons, parents, students, and youth leaders. This makes making big decisions a lot easier—when I make people feel important and a part of something bigger.”

“It’s not the Jonathan show anyway. It’s a God show, and we need to try to make the best decisions we can for His glory.”

Wary of making major changes in his first year, Cofer’s primary emphasis has been creating opportunities to build relationships. This includes having lunch with students at their schools twice a week; involving himself in students’ extracurricular activities such as band concerts and sports events; and, along with his wife, Meagan, hosting a pancake breakfast at their home once a month.

Building on the foundation of these burgeoning relationships, Cofer delivers exhortations from Scripture during the weekly Wednesday night services, devoting each month to a particular category (Old Testament, New Testament, or a specific topic). This fall, for example, he spent five weeks teaching through the book of James.





Speaking of this five-week period, Cofer says, “God has been moving, and every single Wednesday night, someone has come forward to talk about salvation. Three students out of the five weeks have come to Christ. It is very exciting to see God move.”

In addition to these three students, another four students have been led to the Lord by Cofer’s leadership team in the last several months, and Cofer has been afforded the opportunity to baptize one. “What I’ve found is that when I’m faithful to share the Gospel, people respond,” Cofer says. “I still have salvation talks with students each week.”

Another aspect of Cofer’s ministry is involving students’ parents so that they can become effective disciples of their children. Though Cofer is still working through what such a ministry should entail, for the time being, he strives to “communicate like crazy” with regard to what is going on in the student ministry so that parents never have to guess what their children are doing in the church. In the future, he hopes to organize events specifically designed to disciple parents.

A final means for cultivating a fruitful ministry is leadership equipping. Cofer has a core group of nearly 20 adult leaders whom he is responsible for teaching to be as effective in ministry as possible, and who are also responsible for helping Cofer be as effective as he can be.

“Success [in ministry] is equipping others to know God and make Him known,” Cofer explains. “Success is doing what I know, the best that I can, then seeking others to allow them to help me in the ministry in order to make it the best it can be.”

In order to meet these aspirations, Cofer maintains constant contact with his leaders, texting them often and meeting them for lunch during the week. In addition, he plans to bring his team to Southwestern’s Youth Ministry Lab next April.

Though Cofer came to FBC Buna with zero experience in leading a large, growing student ministry, time has proven that God not only appointed him to serve there but also equipped him with the knowledge, the wisdom, and a faithful group of helpers to realize a fruit-bearing, Christ-exalting ministry. The work has been stressful at times, but Cofer’s ministry remains productive nonetheless.

“Ministry is tough, but I wouldn’t have it any other way,” he says. “God is good, and He is always faithful. It’s so amazing that He would call men to do the work of the ministry.”



Words of Wisdom



YOUTH PASTORS

By Johnny Derouen

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, FOR MOST MINISTERS, IS CALLED THE HONEYMOON TIME. SUPPOSEDLY, THE CHURCH IS GLAD YOU ARE THERE AND WILL GIVE YOU THAT TIME TO GET YOUR FEET PLANTED. SO WHAT SHOULD ONE DO AND AVOID DURING THEIR “ROOKIE SEASON”?

- Do whatever it takes to keep your walk with Jesus fresh. Proverbs 3:5-6 and Psalm 25:14 encourage us to seek to know Him for the direction and intimate counsel for our lives and ministries.
- Invest a lot of time getting to know the students God has led you to serve and equip. Meet them in groups, lunches, etc., but invest time in really knowing them. Most teenagers will allow you to make some mistakes when they know you truly love them. You need to know the people you are serving.
- Learn the history of the church and community to avoid the “golden calves” that could hurt you if you make some changes too quickly. Learn and be patient in making changes.
- Your theology will drive your ministry practice. Consider these passages as driving your ministry: Ephesians 4:11-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Psalm 27:4; Nehemiah 8:10; Luke 18:8; 2 Timothy 2:14-16; Proverbs 1:7, 4:7. Equip your people to fear and fall in love with King Jesus and to walk with/seek Him.
- Organize your office immediately. Otherwise, the busyness of ministry will crowd this out, and you will be spending hours trying to organize as needs come at you from all directions.
- Be kind, grateful, and encouraging to the church secretaries. No one knows the church and its happenings more than they do.
- Remember, the church is not your church; it is God’s church! You are a servant of God called to equip, disciple, and serve His church.

Johnny Derouen serves as associate professor of student ministry and chair of the Human Growth and Development Division at Southwestern Seminary. He has served as youth pastor in multiple churches over the course of roughly 30 years. Derouen earned both his Master of Religious Education (1993) and Doctor of Philosophy (2005) from Southwestern Seminary.

Rookie Season

Player ABIGAIL CRINER

Position PASTOR'S WIFE

Homefield BELLVILLE, TEXAS





APPOINTED TO SERVE:

*ministering in and through
the home as a*

WIFE AND MOTHER

Story By KATIE COLEMAN
Photography By ALYSSA MARTIN

As a pastor's wife, Abigail Criner thought she would minister and serve alongside her husband, leading in different areas of the church. She grew up in a household that loved to serve in the church as often as possible, so a visible and active role in ministry seemed natural to her. But as her family began to grow—she now has three children under the age of 5—she discovered that her role in ministry would be different yet equally valuable.

Criner's husband, Michael, serves as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bellville, Texas, roughly 65 miles northwest of Houston. A graduate of Southwestern Seminary (Master of Divinity, 2007), Michael moved his family to Bellville in 2012 after several years in college ministry. Though Abigail initially struggled to find what this season of ministry would look like for her, God eventually opened her eyes to the numerous ministry opportunities available through being a wife and mother.

"It took me a while to realize that my ministry was home and that I needed to be a missionary to my kids," Criner says. "I need to raise them in the Lord but also create a place of peace for my husband."

Criner first sensed God's call to ministry while she was attending Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. Initially unsure of what God was specifically calling her to do, she did ask one thing of Him: that He would not make her be a pastor's wife.

"From the outside looking in at that role, I just saw the hardships, the hurt, the pain, and the frustration," Criner explains. During college, however, God began to give her a new attitude about ministry.



Specifically, she developed a willingness to surrender to His calling. “Little did I know,” she says, “[that calling] was that I would be a pastor’s wife.”

At Howard Payne, Abigail met Michael, and just two months after they got married, he was called to serve as an interim college minister in Lubbock, Texas. He later spent six years as college pastor at the First Baptist Church of Woodway, Texas, before following God’s call to become senior pastor of FBC Bellville. God had, indeed, appointed Abigail to be a pastor’s wife.

In September 2012, the Criners moved their family into the two-bedroom parsonage across the street from FBC Bellville. They spent the first weeks finding their routine in their new town and new church. Criner, who had spent much of her life seeking leadership opportunities and found joy in involving herself in as many aspects of church as possible, had difficulty discovering in what ways God would use her in this season of ministry.

Now with three young children, she knew her understanding of ministry had to change. She learned that her schedule would have to be filled less with church programs and more with her family. The greatest impact she could now have was within her home.

“I became more intentional to teach my children the Word, taking more of the responsibility of home and bills to help my husband’s load, and keep our space as nice as the day would allow,” Criner says. “Each day, I try to do everything from housework to parenting to the glory of the Lord.”

Reflecting on the influence her own childhood had in how she now raises her children, she recalls her parents demonstrating a love for the church and a love for serving and worshipping together as a family. Intentionally avoiding language such as “We do this because your dad is a pastor,” Criner explains to her daughters, “We go to ‘where the church meets’ because we want to gather with other believers. We

serve because we want to serve the Lord. We love, give, and worship as an overflow of our love for our merciful God.”

Even with the challenges that can accompany ministry in a small town, Criner learned the joyful experiences were far greater. She quickly found an ease in loving her church and intentionally “living life” with them through her family.

“Moving into a senior pastor role, it became a little more family-friendly than college ministry. My kids became an access to the community,” Criner says. “We have honestly been at a church that has been so grace-filled toward my kids, and the church just loves us really well.”

One such access to the community is the Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ministry, a weekly gathering for mothers of children from birth to kindergarten. When her family first arrived in Bellville, Criner learned that about 20 women were traveling to another town to participate in the MOPS ministry there. She immediately





saw the need for such a ministry in Bellville, so she took the initiative to begin a new MOPS group closer to home that would foster Christ-centered community among mothers in Bellville.

Criner has since seen the Lord use this ministry to bring many families back to the church as well as develop new leaders within the church. “These moms were not only hungry for community, but they were hungry for the Lord,” Criner says. “The greatest reward is getting to be a part of what God is already doing.”

In summer 2015, the MOPS ministry experienced a significant change in leadership when half of the women returned to the work force. Criner worried about how they would manage another year of MOPS when so many of its leaders and mentors had transitioned away. But it was in the midst of her worry and anxiety that God reminded her of one word: “trust.”

“So I did,” Criner says. “I did what I could while I trusted the Lord to put together pieces of a large puzzle that were missing. And He did!”

New women stepped forward in leadership roles and filled in the gaps. At the first meeting of the fall semester, Criner could only stand back and rejoice in God’s provision. “I think that’s what is so sweet about ministry,” she says. “Relying on the Lord and watching Him work is such a worshipful experience.”

Criner says she has found joy in this new season of life, through both the visible roles, such as leading MOPS, and the less visible role of caring for her family. She adds that God continually uncovers her tendency to please others, projecting an image of the perfect wife, mother, and leader. The pastor’s wife who “has it all together,” she explains, is not an expectation from God, but from herself. While attending a conference for pastors’ wives at an annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, she was reminded, “[His] yoke is easy and [His] burden is light” (Matt. 11:30).

“Ministry is to be enjoyed, not a burden,” Criner explains. She has learned that, in every struggle she may face as a pastor’s wife, it is important to lift her gaze—to set her eyes on Jesus.

“You can’t worry about what you are supposed to be doing or what others think you should be doing. Don’t worry about the next day. Be faithful to what the Lord puts in front of you today and keep your eyes on Him. He will be that strength.”



Words of Wisdom



PASTOR'S WIVES

By Donna Gaines

The most important advice I could offer to a pastor's wife is to protect and prepare for her daily time with the Lord. When our four children were growing up, about the only time I could be alone was early in the morning. I am not particularly a morning person, but you can become one when it is linked to survival. I soon realized that if I didn't spend time in God's Word and prayer on a daily basis, there was no way I could live life filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and be the woman, wife, mother, and pastor's wife that God had called me to be.

As I spend time with Christ, I am modeling the devotion of Mary of Bethany, whom Jesus commended for choosing the "one thing necessary" that would not be taken away from her (Luke 10:42). Mary chose to sit at Christ's feet and listen to Him. It will be the truths gleaned from these moments that no one will be able to take away from you. When Christ speaks to you through His Word, it is burned into your heart and mind, and it becomes a part of you. Things you hear from others will only be partially remembered, but the things God reveals to you personally not only become a part of you, but they change you into Christ-likeness.

We cannot pass on what we don't possess. Dear pastor's wife, guard your time with Jesus! Make Him your priority, and He will meet your every need "according to His riches in glory" (Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:33).

Donna Gaines is a pastor's wife, Bible teacher, author, and frequent speaker at women's conferences and retreats. She is married to Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Rookie Season

Player ANDY HAMMOND

Position WORSHIP PASTOR

Homefield HERNANDO, MISSISSIPPI





JOINING THE ETERNAL CHORUS:

*singing as one the song
of the*

REDEEMED

Story By ALEX SIBLEY

Photography By JUSTIN VENEMAN

There is a song that only those in Christ can sing: the song of the redeemed. Previewed in Exodus 15 after God delivered the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians, this song continues to echo throughout the heavens in the book of Revelation. It is to this song that Andy Hammond, pastor of worship and media at Hernando Baptist Church in Hernando, Miss., strives to keep his church connected.

“I want to remind our people of our place in God’s story of redemption,” Hammond says, “and enable them to respond the way God has given us to respond: singing. It’s my prayer that God would use me to help show our people the majesty of Christ and help them respond in faith-filled congregational praise.”

Hammond has pursued this goal since arriving in Hernando after his graduation from Southwestern Seminary in 2011. Because the church is multigenerational, with 80-year-olds worshipping just a few rows away from high school students, this goal has not always been easy to attain, as multiple generations means multiple preferences for music. Nevertheless, Hammond works to see the members of his congregation lift their eyes to heaven and unite as one people in singing the ongoing song of the redeemed.

“I primarily see the blessing of God in those moments when the instruments stop playing and the praise team lowers their microphones, and we hear the people of God sing together,” Hammond says. “Indeed, [that is] music to this worship pastor’s ears.”

Hammond was formally introduced to music through 6th grade



band, where he played the trumpet, and his love for making music quickly blossomed. He learned to play as many instruments as he could find, teaching himself to play guitar and piano before finishing high school. While later pursuing his bachelor's degree in instrumental music at Mississippi State University, Hammond, a Christian since age 7, led worship at a local church—the First Baptist Church of Aberdeen, Miss.—and there, he received a special word from God.

“Something finally clicked,” he explains, “and I felt God calling me to the music ministry, where I would spend my life combining my two greatest passions: making much of Jesus Christ and helping the church sing their song to Him in worship.”

Beyond being the means by which God called him to ministry, FBC Aberdeen also fashioned in Hammond a love for seeing multiple generations worship the Lord together. “Sure, we may all have different

style preferences,” Hammond says, “but what a joy it must be to the Father, and what a picture of the unifying power of the Gospel and the self-sacrifice modeled by Christ to see the church gather in humility and worship together.

“Vitality and passion from the students; wisdom and stability from the senior adults. I saw this firsthand at FBC Aberdeen.”

After graduating from MSU in 2009, Hammond married his wife and partner in ministry, DeAnna, and came to Southwestern Seminary. Regarding his pursuit of seminary training, Hammond explains, “College taught me to be a musician; now I wanted to sit under some wise men who could teach me to shepherd people in worship.”

Studying under the likes of Professor of Church Music Gordon Borrer, Hammond learned during his time at Southwestern how to better conduct a choir, refine his singing voice, and plan a worship service.

“But more importantly,” he says, “I learned principles of worship from God's Word that should inform every aspect of worship ministry. Southwestern trained me to be an artistic theologian.”

Hammond graduated in 2011 with a master's in church music. Through a connection at MSU, Hammond was put in touch with the worship pastor search team at Hernando Baptist Church, and God quickly made it clear that He had appointed Hammond to serve there.

As pastor of worship and media, Hammond's primary responsibilities at Hernando Baptist revolve around congregational singing. This means carefully and purposefully choosing songs not only for theological correctness but also for how “sing-able” they are by the average church member. Some of the practical means for teaching songs to the congregation include posting recordings of upcoming worship songs on the church

website so people can come on Sunday prepared to sing, using the choir to teach new songs, and even distributing sheet music when a new song is introduced. Hammond and his team are also sure to keep the house lights up during congregational worship so members can see one another (among other things, this reminds churchgoers that the unifying power of the Gospel transcends age, occupation, race, etc.), and they typically sing at least one song with only piano accompaniment.

Though leading worship in a multigenerational church with multigenerational tastes presents challenges, Hammond, quoting Southwestern professor Gordon Borrer, says, “The tension of the past and future helps keep the present standing up.” He continues, “We like to say that we don’t sing just the old songs or just the new songs; we sing the good songs.” This means ultimately singing songs that match the tastes of all age groups, thus requiring the younger members of the congregation to learn Isaac Watts and Fanny Crosby and the older members to learn the Gettys, Matt Redman, and Chris Tomlin.

Hammond adds that having multiple preferences affords the church a good teaching moment. “We can help show our people the discipleship aspect of congregational singing—forsaking preference for the sake of unity and love of our brothers and sisters in Christ,” he explains. “It’s not always easy, but it’s always worth it.”

Though seeing the generations worship together in this way is a mark of success for Hammond, it is not an end in itself. Rather, success is ultimately found in exalting the name of Jesus in worship Sunday after Sunday so that everyone who graces the building—be they young or old—will know whom the worship services are truly about.

“It is God’s calling in my life to point others to Christ as more worthy and more beautiful than they could ever imagine this side of eternity,” Hammond says, “and to lead them to lift their eyes to Him and join the eternal chorus of heaven: ‘Worthy is the Lamb!’”





Words of Wisdom



WORSHIP PASTORS

By Bruce McCoy

I SERVED AS MINISTER OF MUSIC FOR THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIAN ROCKS, FLA., FOR SEVEN YEARS, AND THE MUSIC MINISTRY THERE DEVELOPED INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION. HERE IS WHAT I WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS PREPARING TO ENTER THE MUSIC MINISTRY...

1. Love God, love people. You know and love music; now learn about those you lead and love them always, forgive them quickly, see the best in them, and sincerely praise them—often.
2. Fashion your music ministry to complement the preaching ministry of your pastor.
3. Organize with the “Golden Rule” in mind. Treat others how you wish to be treated. Our music ministry grew from 22 in the choir to 200 in five years. Our entire music ministry exceeded 800. We did it by loving, leading, and humbly learning from the Pastor’s Conference at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.
4. If you are wise, you will learn from even the least musical people in your ministry. Some of our greatest helpers were not very good musicians, but they were indispensable.
5. Find out who has “always sung the solo for ‘O Holy Night’” and proceed carefully. Some things are not worth changing.
6. Give most of the best solos to others.
7. Do everything for the glory of the Lord and the winning of souls.
8. Love your wife; speak only praise for her.
9. Love your pastor; give no ear to his critics.
10. Now then, stand up and serve the Lord as a skillful musician.

Bruce McCoy has experience both as a worship pastor and senior pastor in churches in Florida and Missouri. He has also served two terms as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention. In 2011, McCoy came to Southwestern Seminary to begin serving as a development officer in the school’s Office of Institutional Advancement. Along with composer and pianist Don Wyrzten, McCoy also presents “Heritage of Hymns” concerts at churches throughout the country (<http://swbts.edu/heritageofhymns>).

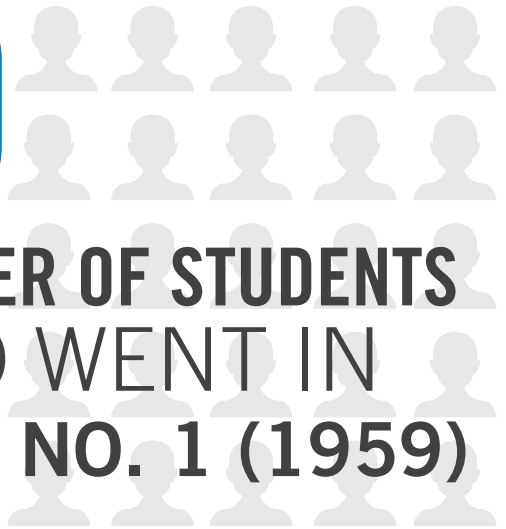


56

**NUMBER OF YEARS
PROGRAM HAS
BEEN IN EXISTENCE**

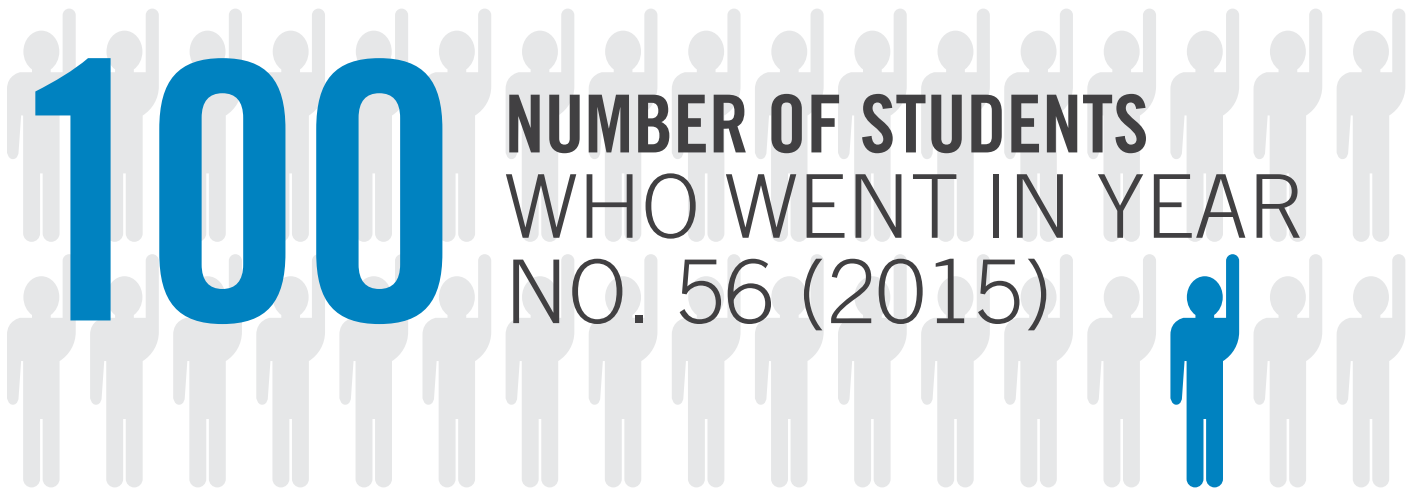
30

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS
WHO WENT IN
YEAR NO. 1 (1959)**



100

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS
WHO WENT IN YEAR
NO. 56 (2015)**



NUMBER OF NAMES BY WHICH THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN KNOWN

3 PIONEER PENETRATION
SPRING REVIVAL PRACTICUM
REVIVE THIS NATION

5,066

NUMBER OF REVIVALS CHURCHES HOSTED



14,086

TOTAL NUMBER OF SALVATIONS

MORE THAN

131,394



MILES TRAVELED IN THE AIR AND ON THE GROUND IN YEAR NO. 56.

1,716

NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS EARNED



THROUGH THE PROGRAM IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

5,712

NUMBER OF PREACHERS SENT



SOUTHWESTERN PARTNERS WITH LOCAL CHURCH IN TRAINING, EVANGELISM

By Alex Sibley

On Saturday, Sept. 19, Southwestern Seminary professors Matt Queen and Brandon Kiesling partnered with Calvary Baptist Church in Kaufman, Texas, to train 50 Southwestern students in evangelism. Calvary Baptist Church, led by pastor and Southwestern alumnus Robert Webb (Master of Divinity, 1992), hosted the training, which was led by special guest William Fay and based on his book, *Share Jesus Without Fear*. After the training, students partnered with Calvary church members and hit the streets of Kaufman to evangelize local residents. As a result, 12 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The 50 Southwestern students are enrolled in Queen's and Kiesling's "Contemporary Evangelism" classes, and the training granted them the opportunity to see how a local church can do evangelism well. "They saw a good example of a church that practices personal evangelism on a weekly basis,"

Queen says. "We can talk about that and say this is what we want you to do, but they were able to see that kind of example."

During the time of intentional evangelism following the training, M.Div. student Ryan Thiessen was on a team with Queen; Queen's daughter, Madison; and the wife of another student, whom Thiessen says was "just kind of coming along for the ride, as it were, and found herself in the thick of it with the rest of us." Though the team did not see any professions of faith, the Spirit provided them with divine appointments for discussion nonetheless.

The team's last encounter was with a woman named Jade. Thiessen initially attempted to lead the discussion, but by his own admission, he was "getting absolutely nowhere." Jade, who barely even opened the door for them, acknowledged that she was going to hell but simply did not care. Queen then spoke up.

"Jade," he said, "my daughter is 10 years old, and you've been real kind to let us talk to you, but do you mind if I have my daughter tell you what the message is that we wanted to bring to you today?"

By Thiessen's recollection, Madison stepped forward and gave a "first-rate" Gospel presentation using the Romans Road. As she did so, Jade's demeanor changed. She stepped outside, sat down on the stoop, and stared into Madison's eyes. Madison proceeded to share her own testimony of coming to faith in Jesus.

Jade was nearly in tears. "I think I know why you guys are here," she said.

Jade revealed that she had prayed the previous night, and though she did not provide explicit details, it was clear that she was aware of her spiritual needs. Though she turned down Queen's invitation to respond to the Gospel, Jade nevertheless acknowledged that God had sent them to her.

"It was a great experience," Thiessen says of the day. "And it was interesting to see God, through the Holy Spirit, just using the talents of the whole group, young and old; some who thought they were going to be there and some who didn't realize that was going to be the case."



KEYBOARDS & CAROLS SPREADS GOD’S LOVE IN THE COMMUNITY

By Eunsun Han

On Dec. 3, Southwestern’s School of Church Music presented the annual Keyboards & Carols at Christmas, a festive musical celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The MacGorman Chapel and Performing Arts Center was filled with more than 2,800 people who came to enjoy a spectacular performance of more than 60 pianists on 13 Steinway grand pianos accompanied by more than 120 choral singers. It was a time of musical worship sharing the Good News with Southwestern friends, families, and many who came from local churches and neighborhoods.

“Preparing for Keyboards & Carols was a lot of work,” says Leo Day, dean of the School of Church Music. “But it’s a labor of love that’s meant to share God’s love with people, especially at Christmastime. This is a moment for God to

speak into people’s lives as only He can.”

During the concert, Day thanked Southwestern President Paige Patterson and First Lady Dorothy Patterson for helping the School of Church Music become an “All-Steinway” school. “We’re very close to becoming an ‘All-Steinway’ school, which means that every piano on campus is going to be a Steinway,” Day said. “Since you started this Steinway initiative, you have given us the best instruments to play on so that we can bring our best music unto God.”

The night was a joyful time of worship and music for everyone who attended. “I’m really glad I came,” says Master of Divinity student Amy Shin, “because this concert truly brings out the meaning of Christmas.”

One of the highlights of the concert was the performance of the Southwestern

International Children’s Choir, which the School of Music created for children ages 8 to 14 in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The goal of the choir, Day explained, is to inspire the children of diverse backgrounds to grow into men and women who love and serve the Lord.

President Patterson explained that Southwestern’s School of Church Music remains the only free-standing school of church music that is part of a theological seminary in the United States. “God has enabled us to have a music school with the finest group of professors in the world,” Patterson remarked. “There is a generation coming that is going to say, ‘Three guitars and a drummer are not enough. We need an orchestra, we need a piano, and we need an organ.’ And Southwestern is determined to lead the way in providing that.”



Announcing Southwestern's new
SCHOOL OF PREACHING



TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW SCHOOL OF PREACHING AT FALL MEETING

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's board of trustees approved the establishment of a School of Preaching; elected five new faculty members; received reports of triple-digit enrollment increases for the fall semester; and conducted other business during their fall meeting, Oct. 19-21.

SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Trustees unanimously approved the establishment of a new School of Preaching at Southwestern. As the seventh of Southwestern's academic schools, the School of Preaching will be dedicated to training students in the art of text-driven preaching.

Trustees also elected David Allen, who currently serves as dean of the School of Theology, as the School of Preaching's founding dean. Allen will be part of a seven-member faculty that includes Barry McCarty, chief parliamentarian for the SBC; Vern Charette, who specializes in evangelistic preaching; and Steven Smith, whose published works include *Dying to Preach: Embracing the Cross in the Pulpit* and *Recapturing the Voice of God: Shaping Sermons Like Scripture*.

All preaching courses at Southwestern will be taught through the School of Preaching. Degrees available through the school include the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Ministry, and Master of Theology. In addition, the school will also offer the certificate of preaching that will supplement the Master of Divinity programs of the School of Theology and Fish School of Evangelism and Missions.

The school will officially open on Aug. 1, 2016. To read more about the School of Preaching, visit swbts.edu/preach.

ENROLLMENT INCREASE

The admissions office reported that enrollment has increased 10 percent over the last two years, with this fall's enrollment exceeding last year's by 400 students. In addition, the number of prospect cards for new enrollees is up 52 percent, new student applications are up 19 percent, and the number of those moving from application to enrollment is up 19 percent as well.

SALE OF E.D. HEAD APARTMENTS

Trustees approved the sale of the E.D. Head apartment complex, located four blocks

east of the campus. Southwestern President Paige Patterson explained that, with the New Student Housing apartments located across the street from the main campus, the E.D. Head apartments are no longer necessary. Also, given the complex's distance from campus, Patterson noted that it is difficult to provide adequate security for the students who live there. The sale of these apartments will serve to bring student housing closer to the main campus.

FACULTY ELECTIONS

Nathan Burggraff was elected assistant professor of music theory.

Ben Caston was elected associate professor of voice.

Barry McCarty was elected professor of preaching and rhetoric.

Charles Savelle was elected assistant professor of Bible exposition at the J. Dalton Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston.

David Toledo was elected assistant professor of music ministry.



PATTERSON CALLS CHURCH LEADERS TO INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM

By Alex Sibley

With the overall numbers of baptisms, Cooperative Program giving, Sunday School attendance, and church membership in Southern Baptist churches down, one cannot deny a general downturn among Southern Baptist life. Joking that the solution to such unfortunate realities is often to form a committee to study and then report on what churches have done wrong and need to do differently, Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson said that, even if these suggestions are followed, there will still be a downturn in the end.

“The truth, as usual, is far more simple [than the hypothetical committee’s suggestions],” Patterson said. “The truth is that we’ll see an upturn when we get back into the highways and hedges and start giving the Gospel to people.”

Preaching during Southwestern’s chapel service, Nov. 4, Patterson recalled why God so blessed the early days of Southern Baptists that they grew to become the largest denomination in the United States. “It was very simple,” he said. “Everybody understood his obligation to take the Gospel to everybody else, and a large percent of them were doing it. We shared our faith, and God blessed it.”

Patterson noted that Scripture presents metaphor after metaphor, particularly in the teaching of Jesus, that focuses on evangelism; and in these metaphors, one key aspect always stands out—the intentionality of the evangelist. The parable of the sower in

Matthew 13, for example, says that the sower “went out to sow.” The parable of the good shepherd says the shepherd left his 99 sheep in order to search for the one who had gone astray. The metaphor of Christ’s followers being “fishers of men” calls to mind the fisherman who must get himself to the lake and cast his net into the waters.

“If the Lord Jesus defined His own mission as seeking and saving the lost,” Patterson said, “and if He turned right around and said to us, ‘As the Father has sent me, in the same way send I you,’ can there be any question in anybody’s mind that the chief reason we are left on the earth once we have been born again is to take everybody we can to heaven with us?”

Patterson concluded that church leaders can do everything other than evangelism that they want to do, but none of it will avert the downturn in Southern Baptist life. “The decline is going to go on unless we make up our minds that we will be faithful witnesses for Christ; we will accept the intentionality of getting out of bed and going out and sowing the seed; we will accept the intentionality of getting in the boat and going fishing; we will accept the intentionality of being the good shepherd, looking for the sheep that has gone astray.”

“And if we do that,” Patterson said, “there’s a heavy price to be paid, but oh my goodness, what will happen will be unbelievable because God will see and reward from heaven.”





GROUND BROKEN FOR MATHENA HALL

By Alex Sibley

Ground was officially broken for the construction of Mathena Hall on the campus of Southwestern Seminary, Oct. 21, under the excited eyes of trustees, faculty, staff, students, and friends of Southwestern. The building, which will be located between Pecan Manor and the Recreation and Aerobics Center (RAC), will house the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions and the College at Southwestern and will feature smart classroom facilities and the Chinese home of missionary Lottie Moon.

Mathena Hall is named for Harold and Patricia Mathena, who last year bestowed to the seminary a lead gift of \$12 million toward construction of the building. During the groundbreaking ceremony, Mathena explained that, by investing in this newest building on the Southwestern campus, he is merely supporting the vision of Southwestern President Paige Patterson. While articulating this vision during the ceremony, Patterson made an important clarification regarding its purpose.

“I want you to pray that the result of the construction of this building will be that tens of thousands of people come to know Christ as Savior,” he said. “It’s nothing but another brick and mortar structure unless it results in people coming to Christ. And so I want us to begin today, at groundbreaking, to pray that God will bring many to Christ.”

Twelve people participated in the official groundbreaking, including Patterson; Harold and Patricia Mathena; Dean of the Fish School of Evangelism and Missions Keith Eitel; and Dean of the College at Southwestern Michael Wilkinson. Also involved were Jonathan Collins, representative of Manhattan Construction Company, the same company that built MacGorman Chapel and is now contracted to construct Mathena Hall in the coming months, and Chris Huckabee of Huckabee Inc., the architectural company that designed the building.

CENTRAL ASIA MISSION TRIP PROVIDES PRACTICAL BUSINESS-AS-MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

By Katie Coleman

Nine students from Southwestern's Fish School of Evangelism and Missions traveled to Central Asia, Sept. 26-Oct. 2, to work with an entrepreneur who has had a fruitful career using business as a platform to spread the Gospel. The weeklong trip was part of Southwestern's "Business as Missions" course taught by Dean Sieberhagen, associate professor of missions and Islamic studies.

Although this course has been offered at the seminary previously, this is the first time it has included the mission trip to Central Asia.

Sieberhagen says the addition of the trip offers a practical component to the course, allowing students to go beyond classroom theory and see firsthand how business as missions can work.

"One of my hopes for the students was that they could see an example of the opportunity to overcome the sacred/secular divide," Sieberhagen says. "When you get up on Monday and go wherever you are going, that is missions. You are living out your faith in whatever you do."



CONFERENCE ENCOURAGES ASIAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH PLANTING

By Eunsun Han

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Southwestern Seminary's Asian-American students and professors gathered at the Student Center to listen to Paul Kim, speaker for the A2CP2 (Asian-American Church Planting/Cooperative Program) conference. Kim, who serves as Asian-American relations consultant for the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and is also a Southwestern trustee, discussed the importance of Asian-American leadership in preparation for next-generation discipleship and church planting.

Kim called on Asian-American pastors to participate actively in advancing the Kingdom of God through the SBC. "You are called

to change this society, this community," he said. With more Asian-Americans serving in leadership positions in the SBC now, he continued, "there is more room for you to be involved in Southern Baptist life, Southern Baptist ministry, and Southern Baptist work."

Kim emphasized that God has chosen Southwestern students to become the leaders of the next generation. "Whatever you do, you are to do one thing: to make disciples of all nations," he emphasized. "I want you to have a vision, a heart, and a commitment to prepare for the next generation to come."

ENGAGE24 EVANGELISM HARVESTS SOULS FOR CHRIST IN FORT WORTH

By Eunsun Han

On Oct. 15, roughly 80 Southwestern students and professors joined in the seminary's Going the Second Mile evangelism initiative as a way to participate in Engage24, a day set aside by the Southern Baptist Convention for intentional evangelism. Organized into teams that met throughout the day, the Southwestern evangelists launched out into the streets of Fort Worth within a two-mile radius of campus for both door-to-door and campus evangelism. By the day's end, at least nine men and women had professed Christ as their Savior as a direct result of these team efforts.

The day was a blessing for both Southwestern students and those who heard the Gospel, says Ph.D. student Brandon Kiesling, who led some of the evangelism teams. He adds, "Each group that I led got to plant multiple seeds, and I believe God was faithful."



COLLEGE RETREAT GIVES STUDENTS CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS, STAFF, AND THE LORD

By Katie Coleman

More than 60 students from the College at Southwestern participated in the second annual College Retreat held at the Heart of Texas Camp in Brownwood, Sept. 11-12. Led and organized by Student Life, the weekend getaway provided opportunities to connect with fellow students through worship, Bible study, and evangelism.

Garrison Griffith, Student Life coordinator, says the retreat is a great opportunity for students to focus on the Lord together as they enter the semester. "We know that students must first and foremost pursue a deep relationship with Christ in order to be successful here at Southwestern," Griffith says. "We believe the retreat encourages them toward this and allows them to grow in community."



GRINDSTONE PANEL EXPLORES DIFFICULT TOPIC OF MINISTRY

By Alex Sibley

On Sept. 15, Southwestern Seminary's first Grindstone of the fall semester explored some of the difficult questions of ministry related to people who struggle with same-sex attraction. The three panelists were Charles Hott, a Texas businessman; August Boto, executive vice president and general counsel for the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; and Evan Lenow, assistant professor of ethics and chair of Southwestern's ethics department.

Lenow offered this advice on ministering to those struggling with same-sex attraction: "Be honest. It's OK not to be an expert on everything, and it's OK to say, 'I don't know, but I'm willing to walk with you to figure this out.' I think that involves honesty and it involves a relationship." Hott, who previously struggled with same-sex attraction, added, "It shows [them] you care."

PREACHING LECTURES HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANCE OF AUTHORIAL INTENT

By Eunsun Han

Southwestern Seminary's annual Northcutt Lecture series, which took place in chapel Oct. 6-8, featured Abraham Kuruvilla, professor of pastoral ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary. Over the course of the three-day series, which seeks to promote exegesis of the biblical text in the original language for preaching, Kuruvilla explained that proper interpretation and application of Scripture depend on proper discernment of the author's intent.

Kuruvilla suggested that preparations for a sermon should follow the "text-thrust-application" model, the "thrust" being the original intent of the author in writing the biblical text. Without correctly understanding the thrust of the author in a biblical passage, Kuruvilla said, a preacher cannot deduce valid applications from that passage.



ONE THING
PSALM 27:4

YOUTH MINISTRY LAB
APR 1-2, 2016
 Southwestern Seminary | Fort Worth, TX

youthministrylab.com

ym!
youth ministry lab

SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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



STUDENT LIFE PROMOTES CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's Student Life organization strives to take the term "SWBTS Family" seriously, hosting events that encourage community, relationship-building, and getting involved outside the classroom. This fall, students were afforded numerous opportunities to get plugged in to campus life. From concerts, the annual Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off to the monthly "Café Nights" (including "Game Night," "Trivia Night," and "Open Mic Night"), there was something for everyone. In addition, monthly campus worship services allowed students to worship the Lord together, engage in small-group discussions, and hear Southwestern professors preach on the topic of God's calling on the life of every believer.









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



Thank you

Through the generous donations of ministry partners and friends of Southwestern, over the last year, students have received \$4,660,570 in scholarships and fellowships. In addition, Southern Baptist churches have contributed \$8,467,487 through the Cooperative Program, lowering the tuition of every Southwestern student by nearly 50 percent. Such financial contributions allow our students to graduate with little to no debt, meaning that they can enter their fields of service unhindered by financial concerns in order to better focus on Kingdom work.

To invest in the equipping of our students as ministers of the Word, visit swbts.edu/give.

Grant T. Bowles (MDIVBL 1997) to First Baptist Church, Sanger, Texas, as pastor; wife Denise Bowles, neé Schneider

Paul J. Wellinghoff (MDIVBL 1999) to First Baptist Church, Eminence, Mo., as senior pastor; wife Laura D. Wellinghoff, neé Plavnick

Chason L. Farris (MDIVBL 2002) to First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N.C., as associate pastor of worship; wife Shelly Farris, neé Rice

Retirement

Larry W. York (MDIV 1975) retired with wife Jennie York, neé Wright, living in Cleburne, Texas

Gilbert D. "Gil" Lain (MDIV 1977, PHD 1982) retired with wife Mary Lynn Lain, neé Ellison, living in Tyler, Texas

Mark R. Danner (MM 1995) retired with wife Ruth M. Danner, living in Spokane, Wash.

Memorials

James R. Diggs
Bill Haffaker
Stella F. Hardin
G.A. Magee
Slay Miles
Jimmy C. Odom
John H. Weaver

1940

Charles F. Polston (MTH 1945)

Audine L. Clark (BRE 1946)

Myrta A. Garrett, neé Latimer (MRE 1946)

Oscar H. Davis, Jr. (BDIV 1949)

1950

H. Franklin Dearing (BDIV 1950)

Robert E. Mitchell (BDIV 1951)

David W. Petherbridge (BDIV 1951)

Amelia H. Bishop, neé Morton (MRE 1953)

Van Gladen (BDIV 1953)

Leslie H. Coleman (BDIV 1954, THD 1959)

Thomas T. Martin (BDIV 1955, MDIV 1974)

Robert E. "Bob" Peek (BDIV 1955)

James L. Stancil (BDIV 1955)

Truett L. Kuestler (BDIV 1958)

Gordon T. Walker (BDIV 1959, MDIV 1973)

James Franklin Evans (BD 1955, THD 1962, MDiv 1973)

1960

Billy G. Sewell (MRE 1964)

Robert R. Pettit (BDIV 1966)

Lester L. Vinson (BDIV 1966)

Robert N. Dennis (MDIV 1968, DMIN 1981)

1970

David A. Pouchot, Sr. (MDIV 1974)

James P. "Phil" Whitten (MDIV 1977)

1980

John F. Duncan (MDIV 1985)

Keep in Touch

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

Mailing Address:

PO Box 22500
Fort Worth, TX 76122-0500

Physical Address:

2001 W. Seminary Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Phone (toll free):

1.877.GO.SWBTS (1.877.467.9287)

Phone (local):

817.923.1921, ext. 7200

Email:

friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu

Faculty wife, alumna Myrta Garrett dies at age 90

Myrta Ann Latimer Garrett, wife of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Theology James Leo Garrett, died Oct. 3 in Nacogdoches, Texas, just 13 days shy of her 91st birthday. A librarian, faculty spouse, and committed Christian, Garrett's Southern graciousness, keen intellect, moral earnestness, and playful spirit attracted legions of friends and admirers wherever her husband's career took them, from Princeton to Harvard; from Kentucky to Washington, D.C., and Oxford, England; and then back to Texas.

THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES EVERY ROOKIE NEEDS TO KEEP IN MIND

By Mac Brunson

Some three-hundred-years before the establishing of the kingdom of Rome, the Hebrews founded a school of the prophets. The school existed in the days of Samuel and David, (1 Samuel 19:18-24). This was nearly five-hundred-years before Gorgias who emphasized the practical application of rhetoric toward civic and political life. The Hebrews were already teaching their young prophets the Word of God, how to preach, and how to speak before the notion ever hit the learned Greeks.

This tradition has been the guiding principle for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the past 107 years. There is no more critical need for our day than a trained servant of God for ministry, and every Christian generation has a great and grave responsibility to equip and train the next generation of God's prophets.

What young pastor does not remember walking into an office, sitting down behind a desk on the first day in his first church. Newly graduated, library in hand, anxious to get into a pulpit on a regular basis, it hit me, "What do I do now? I feel totally and completely inadequate." Paul said the same thing, "And who is adequate for these things?" (2 Corinthians 2:16b NASB).

There are three guiding principles that every rookie needs to keep in mind in those first days, weeks, and months of ministry. These three principles will follow you all the days of your ministry if you make them a part of your first days of ministry.

First, every pastor needs a dedicated devotional life. Begin the day with God and make that time an appointment that you keep without excuse. Whether you are a rookie in your first church or a long tenured pastor with

years of service behind you, you have no greater need than to get into the presence of God every morning. The best way to begin your day is to get up and go to a place where you will not be disturbed. The Psalmist says in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God . . ." Note the time the Psalmist suggests in Psalm 5:3:

In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice;

In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch.

The truth of the matter is if you cannot discipline yourself to a daily time in scripture and prayer, why in the world do you think you can discipline yourself to care for the flock of God? There are few things that you can do in life and ministry that will be as enriching or as helpful as spending time every day with God.

Secondly, the pastor needs a clear sense of call to ministry. Many today have disregarded the necessity of a call to ministry. They believe that if you have the ability to do ministry, calling is not important. Nothing could be further from the truth. Just look through scripture at the men God called and how He called them. From Abraham to Moses, to Isaiah and Jeremiah, to the twelve, and finally to Saul who becomes Paul, all of these had a very distinct call from God to ministry.

Anyone who is called will never be fulfilled in life unless he or she answers that call in obedience. There are days in the ministry that your call will be all you have that holds your hand to the plow. With that in mind, remember, "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable," (Romans 11:29 NASB). Your call will keep you anchored in an often-turbulent sea.



Finally, the pastor must accurately handle the Word of God. The call to ministry leaves an insatiable desire to preach/teach the Word of God. Jeremiah says it is like fire shut up in your bones (Jeremiah 20:9). To stand and deliver the Word of God is an indescribable joy and an indefinable burden at the same time. It is the main thing that God has called His prophets to do and Paul tells us we are to do it as "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB)

The way we handle the Word of God has serious ramifications. P.T. Forsyth said, "With its preaching, Christianity stands or falls."¹ The great legendary Baptist preacher John A. Broadus in his classic work *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* states that the well being of the church "is directly related to the strength of the pulpit."² In this post-Christian era nothing is more critical than "rightly dividing" the word of God.

These three guiding commitments are necessary for the rookie and the seasoned pulpiter. Our desire should be, that all the days of our ministry we "glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3 NASB)

PASTOR MAC BRUNSON has served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., since 2006. He holds degrees from Furman University (Bachelor of Arts) and Southwestern Seminary (Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry), and has pastored churches in South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, and Texas.

¹ P.T. Forsyth, *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980), 3.

² John A. Broadus, *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* (New York: Harper & Row, Pub., 1979), 7.



EXPOSITORY PREACHING WORKSHOP 2016

RECAPTURING THE VOICE OF GOD

— PREACHING THE GENRES OF SCRIPTURE —

DAVID ALLEN ▪ VERN CHARETTE ▪ BARRY MCCARTY ▪ MATTHEW MCKELLAR
STEVEN SMITH ▪ JERRY VINES ▪ KYLE WALKER

MARCH 7-8, 2016



SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SWBTS.EDU/EPW

Announcing Southwestern's new
SCHOOL OF PREACHING

*Wherever you're called to #PreachTheWord,
We're called to prepare you.*



SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



SWBTS.EDU/PREACH