

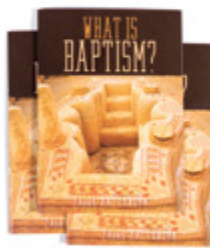
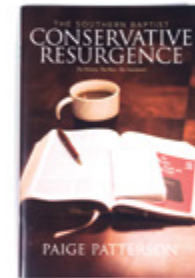
FALL 2016

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WITH CHRIST AFTER THE LOST



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Missionary Kenny Vines prays with a Bible study group in a Zambian village. The two people on the left accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior that morning. (SWBTS Photo/Adam Covington)

OCTOBER

3-7	Fall Break	Classes dismissed
10	Advanced Expository Preaching Workshop	swbts.edu/aepw
16-17	Board of Visitors Meeting	
17-19	Trustee Meeting	
19	Women's Auxiliary Luncheon	Fort Worth
21	Women's Auxiliary Luncheon	Houston
21-22	Certification in Biblical Counseling: Levels 1&2	swbts.edu/bccertification
27-29	Art of Homemaking Conference	artofhomemaking.com

NOVEMBER

10	Handel's Messiah	Truett Auditorium
13-15	SBTC Annual Meeting	Great Hills Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
13-15	BGCT Annual Meeting	Waco, Texas
15-17	Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting	San Antonio, Texas
21-25	Thanksgiving Break	Classes Dismissed 21-25 Offices Closed 23-25

DECEMBER

1	President's Club Dinner	
1	Keyboards and Carols at Christmas	MacGorman Chapel
14	Widows' Might Luncheon	Memphis, Tenn.
16	Graduation	MacGorman Chapel
23-26	Christmas Holiday	Offices Closed
Dec 30 - Jan 1	New Year's Day Holiday	Offices Closed

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a letter from **THE PRESIDENT**

IN ONE OF THE MORE UNUSUAL TURNS OF THE 21ST CENTURY, THE WORD “EVANGELISM” HAS apparently lost some of its appeal in the current religious milieu. This is partially understandable when the observation of evangelism, as practiced by some, mirrors manipulation and a concern for numbers beyond the importance of actual conversion. But, on the other hand, the loss of focus on evangelism is actually a lack of focus on that which is the center-focus in the Scriptures.

Evangelism is a word deriving from *euangelion*, or gospel. Literally, *gospel* means “good news.” The Greek verb *euangelizomai* is most often translated “preach the gospel” or “proclaim the good news.” Although sometimes a congregational emphasis, the expression is often a reference to the transfer of the good news from a believer to an unbeliever. The word, in its various forms, occurs more than a hundred times in the New Testament, and that alone is testimony to its importance.

One actually hears much today about the Gospel. Unfortunately, it is seldom defined and, for many, has become more of a shibboleth than a practice. Nothing could be more the antithesis of biblical Christianity than the failure, for whatever reason, to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. A proper understanding of the Gospel begins with the fall of man in Genesis. The rupture of fellowship with God, if uncorrected, ultimately means the destruction of the man separated from God in a place called hell. Now comes the good news. God loves the sinner and chose in the incarnation to send His own Son, who lived the perfect life. This plan of God for man included Jesus’ death in our place on the cross (for the wages of sin is death). Those who will receive Jesus as Savior and accept His atoning death in their stead, indicating this by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ, will be saved and restored to fellowship with God.

At Southwestern Seminary, we have retained this call to evangelism. We have insisted that, just as Jesus defined His own mission—“the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”—the Lord has extended this mandate also to us when He said, “As my Father has sent me, even so send I you.” We believe that there is nothing more important than getting the good news to all 7 billion people who live on the circle of the earth. This issue of *Southwestern News* highlights how we do this—how we teach the importance of evangelism and how faculty, students, staff, and graduates are intimately involved in the telling of this story. May God bless Matt Queen, who holds the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism, and all those who work so effectively with him. Read and rejoice that Southwestern is one place where the New Testament faith still remains paramount.



Until He Comes,

Paige Patterson





AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
Begun in Jena, Germany, Martha Moore's Connexion college ministry was designed to be replicable in a variety of contexts. Here, in the popular Vondelpark, Moore and her fellow Connexion leaders host a "Week of Welcome" grill-out in order to launch a new Connexion group in Amsterdam.





ZAMBIA

One of Kenny Vines' numerous ministry tasks is equipping local believers to lead others. Here, Vines co-leads a Bible study in a village along the Zambezi River with an aspiring church leader whom he is mentoring. After three years of training under Vines, this man will go forth as a self-sustaining, reproducing minister of the Word, capable of not only evangelizing those within his sphere of influence, but also mentoring students of his own.



Crossover St. Louis

GIVING

HOPE

TO THE

HOPELESS

STORY BY ADAM COVINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEIL WILLIAMS

When Shawn Kirk arrived in St. Louis, Mo., to participate in Crossover, an evangelism effort leading up to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, he was already exhausted. Just two days earlier, he buried his brother, who had died prematurely.

Grieving as one who has hope, Kirk, a Master of Divinity student at Southwestern Seminary, wrestled with the decision of whether to carry on with the week of intentional evangelism with fellow seminary students or stay behind with his family. Ultimately, after praying with his wife about the decision, Kirk knew the Lord had a plan to use him in St. Louis.

On Monday, June 6, Kirk joined 74 other Southwestern students in canvassing neighborhoods near Tower Grove Baptist Church, knocking on doors with the goal of sharing Christ with those who answered. However, the teams were not always well-received.



By the grace of God and to the glory of His Name, these collective efforts ultimately yielded 105 professions of faith.

“I knew we were going to talk to people who didn’t want to have anything to do with Jesus, have people not answer the door, and encounter people convinced they would be good based on their good works,” Kirk says. “I knew that, and sure enough, we were going door-to-door, and that’s what we were getting.”

After having the door closed on him and his team members time and time again, Kirk felt a weight of grief for those who were unreceptive to the Gospel. He had an opportunity to present the Gospel to an 11-year-old boy who was open to

everything Kirk said, but the boy’s mother peeked downstairs and told him to get in the house and close the door.

“He was engaged, and the fact that the door was shut kind of broke my heart,” Kirk recalls. “Because of the things I had been dealing with over the week of loss, I felt loss again there in that moment. I knew we had to keep going, and we prayed right there in that moment because we were broken, each one of us, and we just began to knock on doors again.”

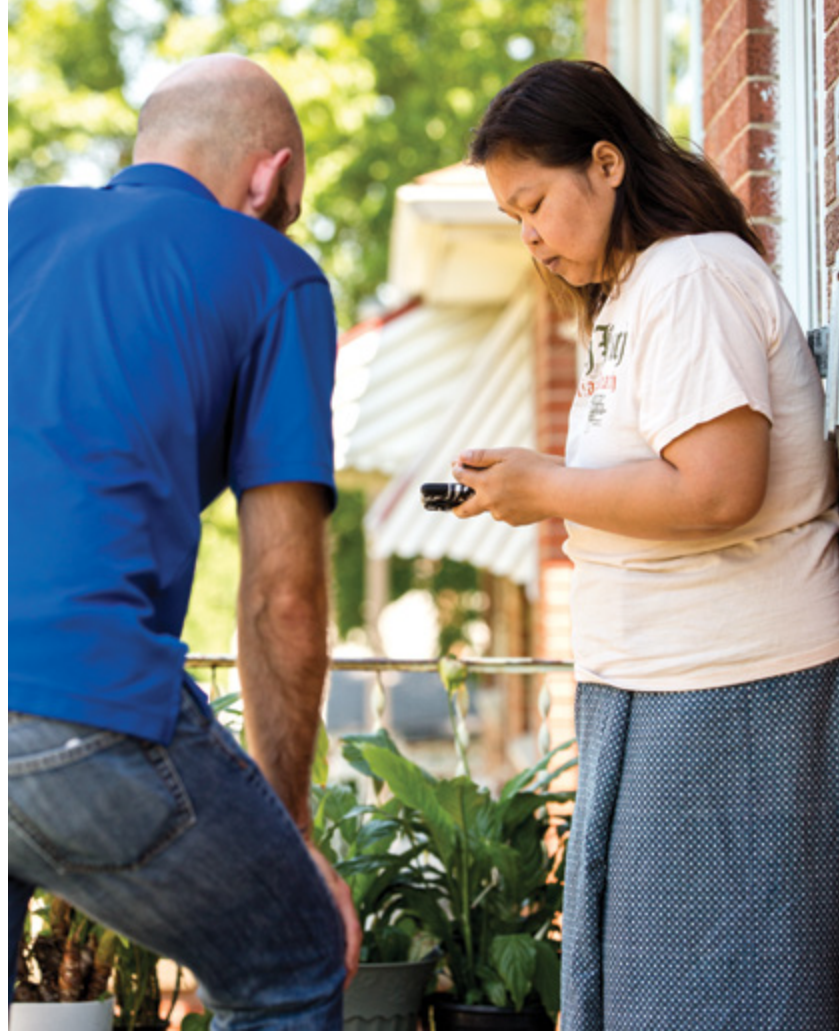
Near the end of the day, tired and feeling the effects of the humid Missouri summer,

Kirk stopped for a drink of water and noticed a man walking down the sidewalk. Initially deeming himself too exhausted to speak to the man, Kirk changed his mind when he saw one of his teammates run over to give the man a flyer inviting him to an event later that week at Tower Grove Baptist Church.

“I wasn’t going to let him just go over there alone,” Kirk says. “So, I walked over, and we met Mike.” The team had knocked on Mike’s door earlier that day, but he did not answer. The two Southwesterners asked Mike how they could pray for him, and he shared that, two weeks ago, his daughter had been brutally murdered.

“I stopped right there, and we prayed for Mike and his family,” Kirk says. “Then, I began to share with him the things that had gone on with me [that week] with my brother, who had passed away. I told him I didn’t know how he was getting through this if he didn’t have Jesus, because if I didn’t find my rest and comfort in Christ, there’d be no way I could get through this loss.”

Mike stared at Kirk, at a loss for words. Kirk asked him if he had ever accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and proceeded to share the Gospel with him.





After hearing of the grace of God and the hope found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Mike responded with four simple words: "Man, I need that." Overjoyed at how God was moving in that moment, the two Southwestern students introduced Mike to Jesus Christ.

This story serves as just a small taste of the many divine appointments that Southwestern students experienced during the week of Crossover, June 6-10. Seventy-five students and staff participated, working alongside Tower Grove Baptist Church to ultimately visit more than 5,000 homes in five days. By the grace of God and to the glory of His Name, these collective efforts ultimately yielded 105 professions of faith.

As evidenced by Kirk's story, several of these professions were wrought out of arduous circumstances, from both the perspective of the evangelist and the one to whom he/she witnessed. For example, on the same day that Mike joined the family of God as one of these 105 new believers, M.Div. student Kim Whitten received a phone call that her brother and sister-in-law, who were expecting their first child, had lost their baby.

Like Kirk, Whitten struggled with this news as one who has hope, and she felt the Lord clearly telling her that He had purposefully called her to Crossover, even as she mourned the loss in her family. So, when a fellow Crossover team member fell ill the next morning, Whitten jumped in to help take her to the hospital for medical attention.

"I didn't want to be in a hospital that day, because I couldn't be at the hospital with my brother and sister-in-law, and it was



a place I just didn't want to be," Whitten recalls. "But I knew this is where God had me, so I thought, 'The Lord says give joy in all circumstances, so I'm going to have joy even while this girl is throwing up on my shoes.'"

Spending a full day at the hospital, Whitten initiated conversations with other people in the waiting room, though in every instance she was cut off due to external circumstances. At the end of the day, as she was preparing to leave, a woman with a deep scowl on her face caught Whitten's eye. Whitten walked over to her, offered her a tissue, and asked one simple question: "Are you all right?"

Sindra, the woman Whitten approached, shared that she had lost her job, been kicked out of her home, and been unable to feed herself for the past two days. "This is the worst day of my life," she told Whitten.

Following the Lord's prompting, Whitten shared the Gospel with Sindra immediately. After walking through the Romans Road, Whitten told Sindra she could have a relationship with Jesus Christ if she would just talk to Him. Sindra began her prayer in earnest by telling God she did not know how to begin.

"But then she just said, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,'" Whitten recalls. "And the more she said 'I'm sorry,' the more broken she became. She was more broken over her sin than anyone I've ever seen."

Sindra ended her prayer by simply stating, "God, if you'll give me hope, I'll give you my life." A smile spread across Sindra's face after she said these words, and her countenance was completely transformed. Celebrating with her new sister in Christ, Whitten reminded her, "Today, you walked in here with no hope and walked

out with the God of the universe to give you not only life, but abundant life."

Brandon Kiesling, instructor of evangelism at Southwestern, says, "One of the things I love, [one of] the effects of this trip, is that students start seeing these opportunities every day. We go after the people by going door-to-door, but God often brings people our way."

Kiesling organized many of the logistics of the trip for the Southwestern students and staff, and he credits the results of the week to the witness of the students and the help of 13 individual donors who helped cover transportation, lodging, and food for those who traveled from Fort Worth to St. Louis.

"Without those donors, we would not be able to do what we do," Kiesling says. "God obviously brought the results, but the donors were what mobilized the students to do this free of charge."

"Evangelistic results are clear. We've been trained to do this, and the funding is what allows us to go out and do what we are trained to do. And the reward is in the harvest."

Southwestern plans to send a group of students to Phoenix next year to participate in the next annual Crossover, and Kiesling hopes to see the number of participants grow to 100 or more. Southwestern President Paige Patterson recognizes the fact that experiences like Crossover turn students into lifetime evangelists.

"The fact of the matter is that these kids change not only other lives, but their own lives," Patterson says, "because they learn firsthand that you really can witness to people and see results, and they'll spend the rest of their lives witnessing. I'm extremely proud of them and grateful for them."



EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS

LIVING PROOF OF A LOVING GOD TO A WATCHING WORLD

In the months leading up to Sagemont Church's first-ever service in 1966, founding pastor John Morgan knocked on the doors of all 200-plus houses in the surrounding part of Houston. He shared with these neighbors his vision for the church, explaining, "We will lift up Jesus, love one another, love God, preach the Word, and try to do what a church ought to do."

"I'm looking for people who are serious about building a church in the community," he told them. "Would you help me?"

By the first Sunday, 51 people—several of whom came from Sagemont's sponsoring church, First Baptist Pasadena—had committed to serve. An additional 100 people attended the first service, and 51 formally joined the church on that day. Also, in response to Morgan's Gospel-centered sermon, a 9-year-old boy gave his life to Christ. This encouraging work of the Holy Spirit just on day one would prove indicative of the church's now-50-year history.

"In every service, we have people saved," says Morgan, who continues to serve as Sagemont's pastor. "I don't think there's ever been a service that I can remember in which someone was not saved. We [even] used to have people saved in business meetings because they'd see the unity, love, personality, and vision of the church."

Since 1966, through the evangelistic efforts of Morgan, the church's staff, and its members, Sagemont has seen, on average, one person saved every day (the total number exceeds 18,300).



In addition, nearly 34,000 people have joined the church; nearly 17,000 people have been baptized; and more than 300 members have been licensed or ordained for Gospel ministry. Though success is not measured by numbers, God's apparent blessing upon this church is undeniable, and as a result, Morgan's emphasis on preaching the Gospel and sending out his people as evangelists in their everyday lives has resulted in extensive Kingdom growth.

"Our mission statement is to be living proof of a loving God to a watching world," Morgan says. "It's built on the idea that people say, 'I've heard all kinds of preaching; I've heard all kinds of music; but I'm just not sure if I've ever seen a Christian.'"

"So the idea is not just talk the talk, but be living proof of a loving God—God saved us, God loves them, God wants to save them—to a watching world. So my goal is to get everyone to focus on the unchurched—the lost—and to assure them that 'whoever will' can come."

Morgan was born in 1941, two years after his father, L.D. Morgan, graduated from Southwestern Seminary. Morgan's father pastored the First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas, for more than 33 years and was active in both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. As such, Morgan grew up surrounded by seminary professors and convention leaders (many of whom had ties to Southwestern) who provided significant spiritual influence. So, when God called Morgan to the ministry, Morgan knew immediately that he wanted to attend Southwestern.

"All of my preacher heroes seemed to be associated with

Southwestern," Morgan says. "It was, without question, the premier seminary in the world. ... So I think the influence of Southwestern was the impact it made on the men whom I had heard preach all my life—the powerful preaching of the Bible, the love for the Scriptures, the strong emphasis on the inerrancy of the Scripture, and the compassion that they had. I felt like going to Southwestern would affirm all of that in my heart."

Morgan graduated with his Bachelor of Divinity in 1966 and, along with his wife Beth moved to Houston immediately thereafter in order to pastor Sagemont Church. From day one, Morgan firmly believed that God established Sagemont in order to fulfill the Great Commission—specifically, to bring people to Christ. This belief has influenced every aspect of his ministry.

"The people tell you here that they don't hear me preach without reminding them that Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost," Morgan says. "And that's what we're here for. We're not here to build a community. That's what heaven's all about; that's when the community will be put together. We're here to share the Gospel and encourage people to give their hearts to Christ and come along and help them to grow in their faith—get them in Bible studies and get them on mission trips, etc."

Morgan's primary mode of evangelism is Sunday morning preaching. He explains that he does not use the pulpit in order to answer questions that his congregants' friends may be asking them, as there are Bible studies and various other resources for addressing such a need. Rather, he approaches his sermons with the mentality

*Trust in the LORD
with all your heart, And lean
not on your own understanding
In all your ways
acknowledge Him, And He
shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6





We're here to share the Gospel and encourage people to give their hearts to Christ and come along and help them to grow in their faith—get them in Bible studies and get them on mission trips, etc.



that interspersed throughout the congregation are lost people who have never heard the Gospel. For this reason, every sermon he preaches ultimately becomes evangelistic, and he always gives an invitation.

One major aspect of this evangelistic preaching is Morgan's emphasis that all believers are called to be evangelists. That is, he is not the only one tasked with sharing the Gospel with unbelievers, and so he urges his congregation to carry forth the message of Christ in their own lives. Therefore, in addition to sending mission teams all over the world each year, Sagemont provides numerous ministry opportunities at the community level, and church members are encouraged to work within their areas of interest to spread the Gospel.

Never asking his people to do anything he will not do himself, Morgan leads by example in finding avenues for everyday evangelism. One avenue that has proven particularly fruitful over the last five decades is that of hunting wild game. Specifically, Morgan invites lost men to join him on hunting trips (or invites pastors to join him and bring along lost men from their communities), and over the course of these multi-day excursions, Morgan and his fellow believing hunters provide for them "living proof of a loving God."

Leaving their worlds behind for explicitly alcohol-free recreation, these men—attorneys, police officers, air conditioning dealers, etc.—are exposed to the Gospel not necessarily through direct preaching, but through the words and actions of Morgan and his fellow evangelists. Praying before every meal, talking around the table about what God is doing in their lives, and simply observing from the star-lit sky how the heavens declare the glory of God—all of these aspects of casual conversation have been utilized to communicate the Gospel and invite a response.

"Every single hunt I did like that, the man came to Christ," Morgan says. "Every one of them. . . . I can tell you literally hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds of stories of that happening."

One such story involves a meat distributor joining Morgan



and several others on a dove hunt in South Texas. After hearing the testimonies of two “tough old guys” who were “heavy into the world” but transformed by the grace of God, the man was quite moved.

Particularly convicting was the men’s use of Scripture. “Pastor,” the man said to Morgan, “I have been to church every Sunday in my life from the time I was a little boy in the Catholic church, but I’m embarrassed to tell you I don’t know one Scripture in the Bible.”

The man began to cry, and Morgan used the opportunity to present the Gospel to him, ensuring that he understood its important elements. The next morning, when the man joined his fellow hunters on the porch, it seemed as though a burden had been lifted from his shoulders.

“Men,” he declared, “I just had the best night’s rest in the last 50 years. I lay down

last night and prayed that prayer to ask Jesus into my heart. I have never felt so good in my whole life.”

In light of this and other stories like it, multiple individuals from Sagemont have taken it upon themselves to host similar hunting trips, many on their own ranches. Others have formed fishing groups, and the church even has a motorcycle ministry.

Sagemont also boasts an active team of volunteers who serve in both the church and community. For example, when two different women from the area gave birth to quadruplets, dozens of women from the church volunteered their assistance in caring for the newborns. Hospital visitations, as well as attendance at funerals and weddings, have also proven an effective means for demonstrating God’s love, particularly to lost family members.

As the members of Sagemont have lived

out their faith as salt and light to the world around them, thousands of individuals have been drawn to the church. There, new believers are discipled, their spiritual gifts are discovered, and they, too, join the effort of bringing the Gospel to the lost, unity to the church, and glory to God.

Nearly every Sunday morning service features at least one new believer getting baptized, and whenever he/she comes up out of the water, the entire congregation joins together in singing, “What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart...” Morgan says this celebration of the continuing expansion of God’s Kingdom is the loudest song sung each Sunday, and the most emotional. He adds that he is thrilled to see his ever-growing church family doing “what a church ought to do” by loving the Lord and one another.



MINISTERING

ALONG THE

ZAMBEZI RIVER

AS MODERN-DAY

LIVINGSTONES

Elephants, antelope, hippos, crocodiles, buffalo, and the occasional lion are among missionary Kenny Vines' travel mates as he moves about his place of ministry in the African nation of Zambia. On multiple occasions, for example, while on his way to another village for Bible study, he has been cut off by a herd of elephants and had to choose another path. At other times, when going across the river for days of extended ministry, the soundtrack to his nights as he lay in his tent featured lions calling, hyenas laughing, elephants trumpeting, and hippos bellowing. Not without reason has Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, referred to Vines as "a modern-day Livingstone."

"Tucked away in the most remote regions of Zambia, Kenny Vines and his family come close to reproducing the earliest experience of missions in Africa,"



Patterson says, recalling the ministry of David Livingstone, a 19th-century explorer and missionary to Africa. “Living far from stores or provisions, his wife [Lesley] cares for the family and, as a doctor, works with those in need of medical assistance. Kenny teaches the Bible, leads men to Christ, and is frequently called when there is a lion, buffalo, or elephant threatening people and they need a man with nerves of steel to face the challenge. Life for Kenny Vines and his family is more breathtaking than any novel that could be penned.”

The Vineses have ministered along the Zambezi River in southern Africa since 2009, and as with all missionary-evangelists, all of their efforts for community involvement anticipate open doors to share the Gospel. Aiming to provide everyone on their mission field the opportunity to both hear and respond to the message of Christ, the family realizes that while it is not their job to save the lost, it is their job to bring the Gospel to

the lost, and they have a “systematic plan” to reach that number comprising direct outreach and spiritual multiplication.

Vines attributes much of his ministerial potential and impact to the education he received at Southwestern Seminary. “There are milestones along the pathway of our growth to spiritual maturity, and my first stint at Southwestern was just that,” says Vines, who completed his Master of Divinity in 2003 and later enrolled in the Ph.D. in World Christian Studies. “While I had a good base from growing up through my parents and my church, Southwestern really helped me to cement a lot of those connections in my mind, my spirit, and my life.”

This impact would be realized more fully after Vines arrived on the field. He explains, “Because of the amount of reading, Scripture memory, and ministry practice that was required of me as a student, I am now able to travel from village to village with only my Bible and am able to handle the spiritual- and knowledge-based battles

that come from African traditional religions and other denominations like Jehovah’s Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists. I am confident with my words and actions now because of my time at Southwestern.”

Vines was deployed to Zambia roughly seven years ago, and he and his wife, Lesley, eagerly prayed that God would open doors for the spread of His Word. Not long after they arrived, this prayer was answered for what would turn out to be the first of many times.

While still in the language-learning phase of their deployment, Vines traveled to Luangwa, the village in which they would ultimately be stationed, in order to explore the location and oversee the preparation of their home. When making his return to the language school, Vines stopped to pick up two people who were flagging his vehicle for a ride. As it turned out, these two people were the wife of and aide to the chief of that area.

“Later, when we moved to Luangwa, we







went to see the chief and introduce ourselves to him,” Vines says. “That divine appointment with his wife and aide helped to pave the road to a great relationship with the chief. In our area, you need the chief’s blessing for all that you do, and because of how the Lord worked in the beginning, our ministry has been able to move and function in this area with no hindrance.”

One of the Vineses’ primary avenues for ministry is community projects. These include digging water wells, assisting in building projects, and performing any other tasks that a village in the area needs accomplished but is incapable of doing alone. Such undertakings allow the Vineses to “get [their] feet in the door” and, hopefully, begin Bible studies in villages with no church or missionary work.

“[Doing these projects] allows us to show the love of Christ through actions, as James describes, while at the same time giving us the ability to evangelize and teach a weekly Bible study in those villages,” Vines explains. “Community projects and community involvement are a great way to open doors of opportunity as well as model faith and works.”

Another ministry avenue unique to this mission field is assisting

the Wildlife Department as different opportunities arise. Vines began volunteering in this area roughly three years ago in an attempt to be more involved in the community, and he now often finds himself going out in the night to confront “problem animals.” More than an opportunity for adrenaline-fueled adventure, these night calls open doors for spiritual conversation.

“When we head out on a call, we will oftentimes sit in the village around the fire for hours while we wait on the problem,” Vines says. “This gives me an insight into the village and culture that I cannot get via books or even an interpreter.”

“Something happens when the sun goes down and you are sitting around the fire,” he continues. “People begin to open up in ways that I would never be privy to. In and through my relationship with the Wildlife Department, I have been able to peer into this culture, and God has given me so many new tools to use in sharing the Gospel now that I didn’t have before.”

Other ministries in which the Vineses are involved include teaching in a local Bible school, volunteering at the village clinic, coaching basketball at a nearby high school, one-on-one mentorship with aspiring church leaders, and a weekly, 30-minute



radio program. This program comprises polling the community for questions (topics ranging from “Abaddon to Zion”) and answering them from the Bible.

“This is a great form of broad seed-sowing since there is only one radio station in our area,” Vines says. “This means that for 30 minutes each Sunday evening, the Gospel is being shared to everyone who turns on the radio.”

In the midst of all these seed-sowing efforts, one of the most rewarding aspects of the Vineses’ ministry is witnessing the maturation process of those to whom they minister. One characteristic of this process is the adoption of a similar, if not stronger, zeal for evangelism.

“It is rewarding to see those whom you have trained show up at your gate and ask for more Gospel tracts,” Vines says. “Then, as you say, ‘Sure,’ you are racing through your mind, trying to remember how you forgot that we were supposed to go out visiting today, when he says, ‘No, we aren’t going out’; that this is something he organized on his own. [It is rewarding] to see those whom you have mentored out doing the very thing, on their own, you have spent so much time teaching.”

Such evangelistic zeal and spiritual multiplication are important, Vines says, because of the context in which they serve. Though having a figurative open-range zoo in one’s own backyard may initially seem exciting, the location has more than its share of danger from predators and disease. As such, bringing the life-giving message of the Gospel to this area is an urgent necessity.

Just as David Livingstone’s pioneer ministry beckoned others to follow in his evangelistic footsteps, so Vines encourages fellow believers to join him in spreading the Gospel along the Zambezi River. “There is an urgency to the call of sharing the Gospel amongst these people,” he says, “but we can’t do it alone.”

“Community projects and community involvement are a great way to open doors of opportunity as well as model faith and works.”







MARTHA MOORE

STORY BY KATIE COLEMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHLEEN MURRAY

LIFELONG LABORERS FOR CHRIST

PENETRATING SPIRITUAL DARKNESS WITH THE
GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

“Do you know where you are? People don’t do religion in east Germany.”

When Martha Moore first moved to Jena, Germany, in 2000 to serve as campus evangelist at the University of Jena and start a new ministry (now known as Connexxion), this was the reaction someone gave when she told him why she was there. In Germany, many are either atheists or agnostics, not caring to give any thought to Christianity or any form of religion. Although it was clear that ministry would be a challenge, such reactions and attitudes reminded Moore of her purpose in Europe: to see lives transformed by the Gospel.

Nearly two decades later, Connexxion has grown from a small group of faithful students to what is now an international ministry with multiple locations in Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands. As Connexxion works to “penetrate the spiritual darkness with the Good News,” Moore, the program’s director, has seen God use this ministry to multiply the number of believers, expand Connexxion’s reach in Europe, and even plant churches.



Moore received her call to full-time college ministry while attending Southwestern Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity in 1987. She says this season of life for young adults—that is, their college years—provides unique opportunities for evangelism and missions.

“College is a great time in which God can call people for a lifetime of ministry, or just to be a lifelong laborer for Christ,” Moore says. “This is a good window of time before financial pressures, before they are sent in different directions, and even before any regret of more and more years lived away from God. It is such a pivotal time to reach people.”

As God led her to serve in Europe, Moore was eventually placed in the university town of Jena to launch what would become Connexion. Noting the significant need for campus evangelism in Europe, Moore hoped to create a ministry model that could be duplicated in a variety of contexts.

Connexion’s vision is for college students “to ‘connect’ with Jesus Christ in faith, have fellowship with one another, and in turn be trained to reach a lost world with the Gospel.” Moore and her fellow team members aim to accomplish these goals by connecting with students and seeking opportunities to engage them in spiritual conversations.

These connections are made in a variety of ways, including outreach through spiritual surveys and Soularium cards (a collection

of photographs with accompanying questions that facilitate spiritual discussion). Although these methods often open doors for conversation, Moore says most students are more receptive after they establish trust with them.

One way in which Moore and her team accomplish this is through informal gatherings such as dinners, game nights, and excursions. During these times, there is no Bible study; rather, students simply get to know one another and develop relationships. Moore explains that, in most cases, students need to feel welcomed by Christians before they are open to the Gospel.

“If you start talking about a lot of belief stuff, that will raise red flags for people,” she says. “So really, we are trying to break down barriers with relationships.”

“When you get to the Gospel, there is a surprising number of people who will say, ‘OK, that is interesting.’ They become much more interested because we’ve already started to build that rapport with them.”

After participating in game nights, or even after just one dinner, students oftentimes join Bible discussion groups and Bible studies. During these small group times, Moore says it is her goal to create a “safe place” for students to ask difficult questions, all while “letting the Holy Spirit work through the power of His Word.”

Regardless of the setting in which students gather, Moore says what remains a priority is a commitment to sharing the Good

News of Jesus Christ. “It has to be about evangelism. We can’t just start getting Christians together and doing discipleship groups. Although that is important, we have to do so with a missional purpose. It has to be missional from the start.”

In October of Moore’s first semester, Anja, a student at the university in Jena, joined one of the group’s evening Bible discussion groups. Anja grew up in former East Germany. Her parents were atheists, and other than reading a passage from a family Bible as a child, Anja never thought much about God.

During Anja’s sophomore year of school, a friend invited her to attend a church service with her. Anja had never experienced such customs as prayer and singing in a group setting, so the entire service was unusual for her. Although the church members were welcoming and friendly, Anja had a difficult time believing their kindness was sincere.

After following up over coffee later, her friend shared the Gospel with her. Anja was not entirely opposed to the message presented to her, but she still had a lot of questions. Her friend then told her about Moore and a weekly gathering of students who were “just like her”—who did not know anything about the Bible and discussed those common yet difficult questions.

Anxious and uncertain of what to expect from the Bible discussion group, Anja showed up the following night. Moore





recalls that she was shy and reserved but clearly interested in that week's discussion.

Anja returned in the following weeks, mostly observing, but eventually, she opened up. She began to read more, and she asked questions when Moore and other students shared the Gospel.

By the following April, the truths of Scripture had finally sunk in, and Anja gave her life to Christ. Moore says she immediately saw a change in Anja as she grew in her relationship with the Lord and became more involved with Connexion.

"God did a great work in her," Moore says. "I saw a real transformation even in her personality. She really came out of her shell and started leading and serving even in major conferences and Bible studies."

Anja was on track for a career in social work, but God used her time as a student leader in Connexion to call her to full-time ministry. In March 2003, she joined the Jena Connexion staff, and Moore eventually encouraged her to pursue theological training. Reflecting on her own time at Southwestern, Moore says she learned the importance of being equipped and biblically grounded when doing ministry.

"Knowing that you are going to be sent out, you soak up and learn all you can, ask the right questions, and get grounded to make sure your theology is solid," Moore says. "It is important to get grounded in your faith and theology so you don't only believe, but know why you believe."

In 2005, Anja moved to Fort Worth to attend Southwestern Seminary in pursuit of a Master of Arts in Christian Education. As Anja prepared to return to Germany following her 2008 graduation, Moore was preparing to move to Spain to start another Connexion group in Seville. So, upon returning to Jena, Anja took over the main leadership position of the Jena Connexion group and later started a new Connexion group in Bonn, Germany.

Now in the early stages of launching yet another Connexion group in Amsterdam, Moore says she is in awe of the way God connects the lives of students and believers throughout the world, furthering the Gospel and making disciples of all nations. "We have seen the walls break down in the lives of students," she says. "[They go] from being raised as atheists to hearing the Gospel and responding in faith and being discipled. Many have even been called to serve internationally as lifelong laborers for Christ."







JOHN & VIRGINIA SUN

STORY BY EUNSUN HAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATHEUS OLIVEIRA

MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS



When Pastor John Sun looks over his congregation on Sunday mornings, he sees people from nearly every continent gathered together to worship the Lord. In a sense, Sun says, the International Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, or IBCA, is a snapshot of the Great Commission in Matthew 28—“make disciples of all nations”—and also of the vision in Revelation 7:9, where people from every nation, tribe, and tongue worship together before the King.

“But the work is never done,” Sun notes. “There are always more people to pursue with the Gospel. Our vision is to see all the people groups in the community worship the Lord in our church and be equipped to be sent out.”

IBCA was first planted in 2012 by a group of students and faculty from Southwestern Seminary with a vision to reach the diverse population of Arlington with the Gospel of Christ. In January 2015, John took the helm of this multiethnic church, and he and his wife



Virginia have strived to strengthen its evangelistic mission and commitment to biblical discipleship. As a result of God's blessing upon their labors, IBCA has become a Great Commission church, equipping those they draw in to go out into the world with the life-changing message of Christ.

Born in Richmond, Va., in 1987, John grew up watching his father, a pastor, pour himself into ministry from morning to night. Thinking he would not follow in his father's footsteps, John entered the University of California, Davis, in the hopes of becoming a dentist. At UC Davis, however, John joined Epic, an Asian-American subdivision of Campus Crusade for Christ, where he learned what it meant to share Christ with nonbelievers and guide young Christians into maturity.

"Toward the end of my senior year, as I was reflecting on what I wanted to do, I reevaluated my time in college and concluded that nothing was more valuable than the time I had spent sharing the Gospel and helping to teach young believers," John says. "I realized there was nothing more valuable than helping someone to go from death to life, to find Christ."

After graduating in 2009, John entered Southwestern Seminary. He completed his Master of Divinity in 2012 and subsequently enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

"The professors at Southwestern really teach the Word of God as the ultimate source of authority," John says. "As they taught, it was applied to our hearts and transformed us. Any church that is heavily involved in sharing the Gospel to nonbelievers will face difficult questions about Scripture and God, and our professors gave us a really good, solid foundation."

In 2014, John met Virginia, a hospital nurse. Virginia had been asking God about serving in the ministry, and at John's recommendation, she enrolled in Southwestern to study for a master's degree in biblical counseling. She and John were married in June 2015.

At IBCA, the Suns seek to share Christ with the large number of international students who attend the University of Texas at Arlington as well as the Hispanic and Vietnamese populations who live in the community. "This place is really like a harvest field and a mission ground where God is bringing people from all different parts of the world," Virginia says. The Suns hope to draw in the lost from among these groups and send them back out as well-trained disciples of the Lord.

The story of Kent, a doctoral student from China who came to the church in May 2015, is a good illustration of IBCA's vision. Kent had never heard of the Gospel before coming to the church. Although he initially came only for the fellowship, Kent decided to put his faith in Jesus Christ after various members shared the Gospel with him repeatedly. Baptized in the fall of 2015, Kent decided to reveal his new Christian identity—as well as the Gospel—to his family when he later went to visit them in China.

"It is really incredible to see international students truly becoming witnesses, being salt and light wherever they go, and not giving in to the cultural temptation to blend," John says. "Our hope is ultimately to train and equip people and see them go out and become a light wherever God may bring them in the future and be active in sharing the Gospel wherever they go."

To build relationships and share the Gospel with UTA







“John and Virginia Sun are an outstanding couple who are highly relational and very, very loving. They are very evangelistic at heart and very Gospel-centered and Christ-centered. John really has a shepherd’s heart and is a model servant of the Lord in every way.”

- Steve Lee, professor of Baptist church planting at Southwestern Seminary and the original visionary behind IBCA

students and people in the community, IBCA sends out evangelism teams every week and hosts various evangelistic events each month. In August 2016, for example, the church hosted an ice-cream social at UTA, inviting students to enjoy food and fellowship while the members of IBCA sought to share the Gospel with them. IBCA also participates in various community events—such as volunteering to clean up local parks on Earth Day—in order to serve their neighbors and shine the light of Christ.

American holidays are another important venue for reaching international students on the UTA campus. Realizing that most international students are unable to visit their families during holidays and become lonely when all their American friends

leave for home, Virginia says that IBCA has decided to share the love of Christ’s family with these students.

“It is a great time to bring them here and show them that we are a family of God and that we want to celebrate together as a family,” Virginia says. “Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, the Fourth of July—every holiday, we are always together.”

Besides special outreach events, the Suns say that church “community groups” are also an important factor in evangelism. Comprising 10-20 members, these small groups meet in homes during the week and study the Word of God together.

“Our small-group system is based on being able to reach out to nonbelievers,” John says. “We keep very open community groups. The idea is to have a warm,

welcoming place where we can bring in people who are seeking to understand who Christ is and what Christians are all about. We have them come and share their lives with us and study the Bible with us.”

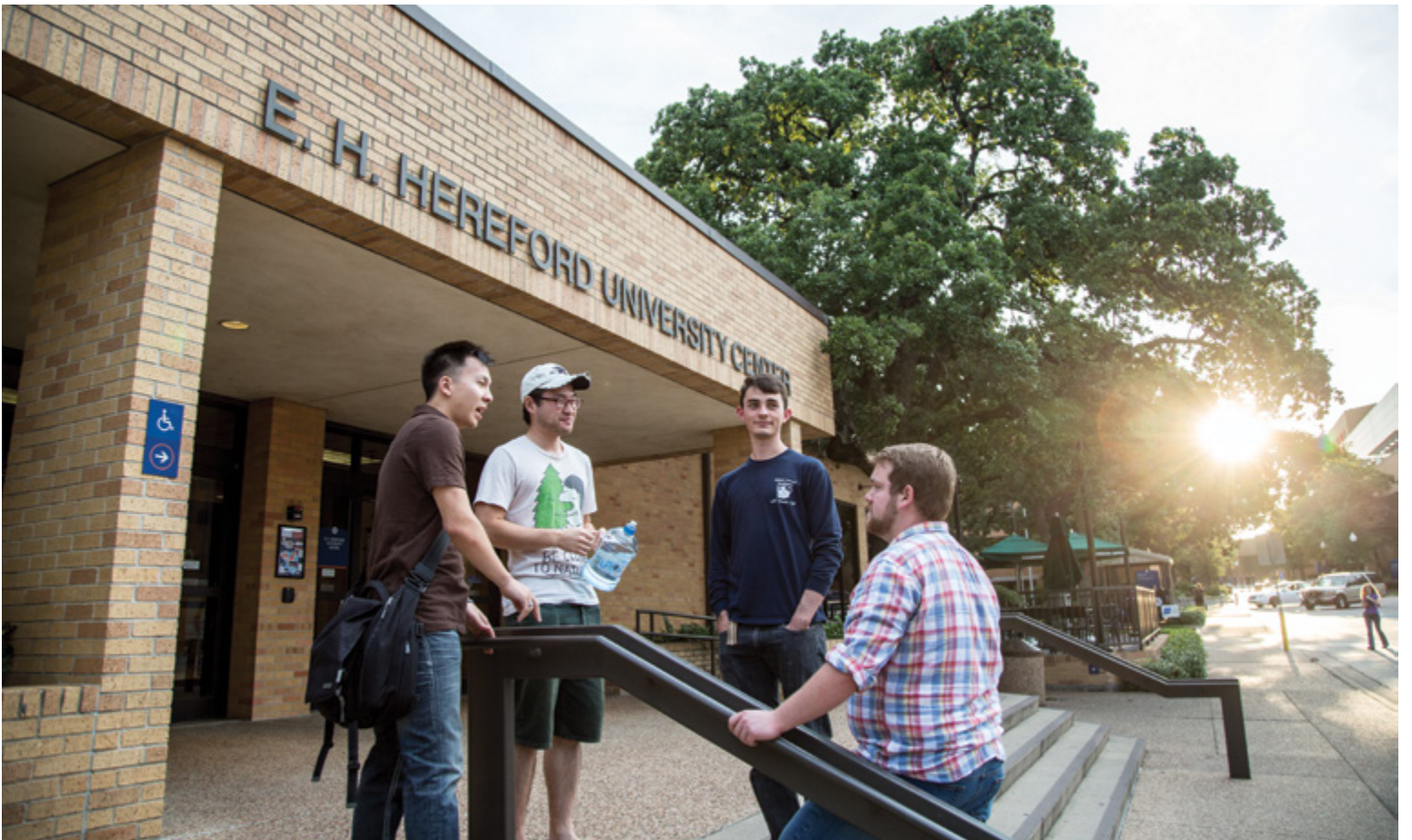
Even Sunday morning worship is all about evangelism at IBCA. John tries to present the Gospel message in each sermon every week, and after the service, church members actively seek out nonbelievers who attended and engage them in spiritual conversation.

“We view our Sundays as evangelism days,” John explains. “After I present the Gospel from the pulpit, our people go and approach those who do not believe and apply the message to their lives.

“Evangelism is not a one-man task. It’s not just pastors and the staff who are supposed to be doing it, but something the whole church should be mobilized to do together.”

John believes that one of the reasons nonbelievers are drawn to IBCA is the sense of warmth and family within the church. Not only do members actively approach newcomers on Sundays, but they meet with nonbelievers throughout the week and share their lives together. As they build intimate relationships, John says, they share their life stories, experiences, and aspirations, but most importantly, they share the Gospel of Christ.

“The people in our church are so willing to spend a lot of time with young believers or people who are new,” Virginia says. “They are so sacrificial with their time and resources. So many Gospel conversations are happening. I think the one big draw of IBCA is these people who are so willing to love genuinely and spend time with new visitors.”





STRIVING TOWARD THE ULTIMATE GOAL

LOVING GOD WITH EVERY OUNCE OF ONE'S BEING

Several years ago, on a drive home from church, Leighton Flowers' children sat in the backseat of the car discussing which one of their parents they loved most. This was a common topic of conversation, so Flowers and his wife, Laura, knew what motivated their children's fluctuating answers.

"Some days, they loved Mommy the most, depending on what she fed them or allowed them to watch on television," Flowers explains. "Other days, they loved Daddy the most, depending upon if I tickled them or brought them home a surprise."

On this particular Sunday, Flowers' daughter Esther, who was 4 at the time, declared that she loved her father the most. Having learned from experience, Colson, her oldest brother, quickly informed her of the rudeness of such a statement, asserting that it could hurt their mother's feelings. Cooper, the middle child,



added that they are supposed to love God most anyway. Esther pondered this for a moment and then rebutted, “But God doesn’t cuddle with me!”

“Laura and I laughed,” Flowers recalls, “but over the next several days, as I thought about that statement, the more it really sank in. What my 4-year-old princess had voiced is actually what I have felt all my life but wouldn’t ever have had the nerve to say.

“Sure, we are supposed to love God above all, but how do you really get to know and love a person you can’t see or verbally hear? As Esther expressed, how can I know and love someone who doesn’t even cuddle with me? How do I relate to someone who doesn’t relate to me in the ways I want Him to relate?”

Flowers, who now serves as director of apologetics and youth evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), grew up as a “church brat,” so he understood his daughter’s quandary better even than she. Having been involved in the church so extensively for so long, first as the child of a minister and then as a minister himself, he admits he often missed the proper motivation for doing ministry in the first place (that is, love for God and obedience to Him). After hearing his daughter’s deceptively profound statement, Flowers realized that he needed to examine his relationship with God and reevaluate his outlook on ministry.

Fortunately, God quickly provided him with a way forward, as Flowers again discerned a surprising profundity from the mouths of his children. Following Esther’s rebuttal in the car that day,

Colson replied, “Who do you think made Daddy?”

Though it would take some time to be properly applied to his ministry outlook, this rhetorical question led Flowers to consider the revelation of God. Specifically, he began to consider that, in addition to revealing Himself through His Word (special revelation), God also reveals Himself through His creation (general revelation).

“When we love human beings,” Flowers explains, “we love the One who created them. When we really get to know His creation, we get a glimpse of the Creator.”

Flowers thus realized that Esther’s love for her parents is an expression of love for the One who created them. In the same way, Flowers’ love for his children is an expression of a deeper spiritual love he has for the One who gave them to him.

In light of this new insight, Flowers concluded that every blessing God bestows upon him ultimately directs him back to God. He therefore began to strive to follow that direction in order to know and love God better. “This must be the ultimate goal of life,” he says, “to learn how to know and love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.”

In the years since then, this personal goal has extended into Flowers’ ministerial goals. Functioning both as an evangelist and as an equipper of believers to share their faith with others, Flowers strives to lead by example in loving God with every ounce of his being and loving his neighbor as himself. This evangelistic ministry is motivated by his love for the Lord, and through the





blessings God provides in and through this ministry, Flowers sees God revealed.

Flowers' journey to this point began when his mother led him to Christ at age 7. In the years that followed, he remained active in church, and he received a call to vocational ministry while in high school. He then pursued ministry training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Given his goal of perpetually seeking to know God better, Flowers says in retrospect that Southwestern proved impactful in this regard. "Reading, studying, and discussing theological matters challenges me to grapple with concepts and perspectives that otherwise would be swept by in the busy pace of life," he explains. "If my goal is to know God and love Him more, I must make time to engage my mind and expand my horizon.

"This is one area where my experience at Southwestern really pushed and challenged me in my growth. For this, I will forever be grateful."

Following his graduation with a Master of Divinity in 2000, Flowers served as a youth pastor, was a regular speaker at youth camps, and later became the staff evangelist of a local church. This position allowed him to travel throughout the country to preach at youth events, revivals, and church services of all kinds.

In 2003, in light of his experience, Flowers was selected to fill a position previously held by his father—that of youth evangelism director for the BGCT. (In 2016, he also began overseeing the BGCT's apologetics ministries.)

In this position, Flowers manages efforts to reach and equip youth throughout the state of Texas. One of these efforts is Super Summer, a weeklong training camp that seeks to develop young believers to their fullest potential as Christian leaders. Another effort is the two-day Youth Evangelism Conference, which aims to challenge students to boldly share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to fully experience the difference a relationship with Him makes.

Regarding specific methods for evangelizing youth, Flowers says, "Do not feel like you have to change how you do evangelism in order to reach young people. Be yourself. Tell your own story, and whatever you do, be real."

Due to his particular upbringing in the church, this mentality has a specific application for Flowers. A large percentage of students who attend BGCT events were raised in the church, but many have lost the motivation for what drives them in reaching the lost. Addressing this loss of motivation is important, Flowers says, because reaching unbelievers "starts with the 'why,' with the purpose of evangelism." He explains that one's love for God and gratitude for what He has done by sending Jesus into the world should inspire obedience.

Flowers learned this lesson from experience, and so, on a personal level, he is uniquely capable of reaching students who come from such a background. Specifically, his relatable testimony opens doors to evangelize the lost and strengthen believers.

"Young people want to see someone who is genuine and real," he says. "Just tell them your story, and don't leave out your mistakes. Let them see that you have struggled just like they are [struggling now], and show them there is hope."





“Young people want to see someone who is genuine and real. Just tell them your story, and don’t leave out your mistakes. Let them see that you have struggled just like they are [struggling now], and show them there is hope.”

Flowers says he is humbled to be even a small part of all that God does in and through his ministry, which provides not only him but also other believers the opportunity to share the hope they have in Christ. Whenever an event concludes, he rejoices as reports of God’s faithfulness pour in.

One report from a 2016 Super Summer session details the salvation of Kaylin, a student who had been largely absent from church during the preceding semester.

Though Kaylin’s youth pastor was initially reluctant to let her attend the training camp (since it is designed for student leaders), a last-minute dropout left an open spot, and so he sensed that perhaps God wanted her to be there.

A few days into the camp, Kaylin informed the youth pastor that she wanted to be baptized. After further counsel, however, she determined that she had never actually made a profession of faith. One of

the Super Summer workers proceeded to walk her through the Gospel, and Kaylin realized that she both needed and wanted to make Jesus the Lord of her life.

When Kaylin shared with the youth pastor about her new birth in Christ, his heart was overjoyed. He exclaimed, “You weren’t even going to come!” He later wrote in his report of the experience, “It was then that I realized that God gave me an incredible opportunity to celebrate the ‘coming to life’ of one of my students; a student who wasn’t even planning to go, but God’s faithfulness to pursue her and transform her heart won out!”

Flowers receives numerous testimonies like these, and he continues to be amazed to see how God uses the ministries he oversees to impact the world. Though he previously struggled with relating to God, he now sees God clearly at work all around him, enticing him to know Him better. Drawing nearer to Him through obedience to His call, Flowers falls more in love with God each day, and this drives him to encourage others to do the same.

EVANGELISM IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

“Evangelism is to be the main business of the Kingdom of God. To the degree that this seminary is based in evangelism, bathed in evangelism, committed to evangelism, rooted in evangelism, the institution is a quickening flame and an all-embracing arm of love around the whole world.”

- Robert Naylor, president of Southwestern from 1958-1978

An overview of some of Southwestern’s evangelistic endeavors over the last decade proves that the seminary, 40 years after Naylor’s declaration, continues to be like a consuming fire, bringing the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world and winning countless souls to the Kingdom of God.

STURGIS (AUGUST 2006)

A small team of evangelists from Southwestern Seminary partner with the Hellfighters Motorcycle Ministry in order to share the Gospel at the annual Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, S.D. Working alongside other churches and ministry partners, Southwestern students hand out hundreds of Bibles and Gospel tracts to bikers and also share the Gospel face to face, shining light onto an otherwise dark event.



CROSS TIMBERS EVANGELISM WEEKEND (APRIL 25-26, 2009)

Eighteen students and faculty join the evangelistic weekend coordinated by Southwestern Seminary and Cross Timbers Baptist Association in West Texas. Churches that had zero baptisms in the previous year invited Southwestern students to engage in door-to-door evangelism on Saturday, followed by preaching in churches on Sunday. The team distributes 250 Gospel tracts and shares Jesus Christ with nearly 100 people. They see nine professions of faith on Saturday, followed by an additional three professions during Sunday services. A second Cross Timbers Evangelism Weekend is held from April 8-10, 2011, comprising more evangelism and Sunday morning preaching.



100 DAYS OF EVANGELISM (SPRING 2008)

In honor of the seminary's centennial anniversary, the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions issues a challenge for 100 days of personal evangelism. Seminary professors commit to 50 consecutive days of personal witnessing, followed by 50 consecutive days of student evangelism in the community. Many Southwestern students and faculty witness 50 or more times each during the campaign.

TAKING THE HILL (2009 -2010)

An initiative designed to bring the Gospel to the nearly 6,700 households within a one-mile radius of the seminary campus. By the end of the first semester, students and faculty reach 26 percent of the homes surrounding the school and see at least 50 professions of faith. This ambitious goal is reached by the end of 2010.

NO SOUL LEFT BEHIND (2011-2012)

A follow-up initiative designed to ensure that everyone in the community has heard the Gospel, No Soul Left Behind seeks to reach those who were not home during the Taking the Hill initiative. Students and faculty trek the neighborhood for door-to-door evangelism, continuing to share the Gospel with households within a one-mile radius of the campus.



GOING THE SECOND MILE (2013-2016)

Having completed the goal of sharing the Gospel with every household within a one-mile radius of campus, Southwestern Seminary expands its evangelistic efforts to a two-mile radius of the school. Still ongoing today, now through “Everyday Evangelism,” faculty and staff members lead Southwestern students into the community for door-to-door evangelism on a daily basis. Since the fall of 2013, at least one profession of faith has been made every week.



MADAGASCAR EMBRACE (2012-PRESENT)

In response to International Mission Board President Tom Elliff’s call to Southern Baptists to “embrace” the unreached, unengaged people groups of the world, Southwestern adopts the Antandroy people of Madagascar. The first mission trip to this East African country takes place in late December of 2012 and results in 180 professions of faith. Southwestern continues to send mission teams to Madagascar each year, with each team seeing more than 100 people saved. In addition, local leaders have received training from Southwestern professors, and so far, 16 biblical churches have sprung up in the region.

EVANGELISM WEEKENDS (SEPT. 14, 2013)

Southwestern sends an evangelism team of 18 students and two faculty to Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., for a weekend of door-to-door evangelism in partnership with the church. They visit 2,292 homes, engage in 230 conversations, and present the complete Gospel 120 times. The effort results in six professions of faith. The following April, a second team is sent to Florida in order to continue evangelizing the community alongside Bell Shoals. A similar evangelism weekend is held Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2015, when Southwestern partners with Friendly Avenue Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C. The team joins the church’s “trunk-or-treat” outreach event, publicly presents personal testimonies, trains church members in personal evangelism, and engages in door-to-door evangelism. They visit 221 houses and give 31 complete Gospel presentations.

ENGAGE24 (OCT. 14, 2014)

Answering Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd's call for all Southern Baptists to share their faith with at least one person, Southwestern Seminary devotes the day to evangelism by opening up additional time slots in the Going the Second Mile schedule. Nine professions are made as a result of this effort. The following year, on Oct. 15, 2015, roughly 80 students and professors join the second Engage24 effort and see an additional nine professions of faith.



POKÉMON GO "LURE PARTY" (JULY 19, 2016)

In order to capitalize on the recent "Pokémon Go" phenomenon, Southwestern sets off 80 Pokémon "lures" across campus over a two-hour period, drawing roughly 200 people from the community. As people come to campus to play the smart phone app game, Southwesterners engage them with the Gospel, and as a result, six Pokémon players profess faith in Christ.



MEN'S GAME BANQUET (FEB. 20, 2016)

An evangelistic event targeted specifically at men and boys from the community who love outdoor activities. Nearly 2,000 people attend and hear speakers David Morris and Paige Patterson talk not just about their hunting experiences, but also their love for Jesus Christ. In response to hearing the Gospel message, 191 people surrender their lives to the Lord.



EVERYDAY EVANGELISM (2016-PRESENT)

An expansion of Going the Second Mile, this initiative advances Southwestern's evangelistic focus beyond a specific geographical area by encouraging students to share the Gospel wherever they are with whomever they meet. Formally, this means doing evangelism both inside and outside the two-mile radius of campus, including nearby parks and universities. Informally, this means fostering a consistent evangelistic lifestyle in every Southwesterner.



POKÉMON 'LURE PARTY' DRAWS 6 PEOPLE TO CHRIST

By Alex Sibley

When viewed through the augmented reality lens of “Pokémon Go,” Southwestern Seminary is home to three “gyms” and nearly three dozen “Pokéstops.” In addition, numerous desirable Pokémon are known to frequent the campus. As such, since this smart phone app launched in early July, numerous visitors who would not otherwise step foot on campus have made their way to Southwestern in order to play the game.

Realizing the unique opportunity to reach out to the community, seminary students and faculty hosted an on-campus “lure party,” July 19. Calling to mind Jesus’ words in Matthew 4:19, wherein He declares his followers to be “fishers of men,” Southwestern set off 80 “lures” over a two-hour period, drawing roughly 200 people from the community—many of them non-Christians—to the campus. Southwesterners utilized the people’s voluntary attendance by engaging the lost with the Gospel, and as a result, six Pokémon players professed faith in Christ.

“When there are so many people involved with something like this,

you can’t miss the opportunity to use it for God’s good in some way,” says Instructor of Evangelism Brandon Kiesling, who coordinated the evangelism teams. “Personally, I think Christians at large have missed too many of these opportunities in the past, and so I would hate to miss another opportunity like this, especially when the people come to us. Why wouldn’t you [seize that opportunity]?”

Housing Coordinator Jonathan Baldwin was among the evangelists, and he personally saw two people—both high school students—believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. “The conversation started about the game, then transitioned into school and future college plans,” Baldwin recalls. “I took this time to share how God had saved me during my senior year of college, and I boasted in the Lord at how amazing this new life with Him is.” In light of the two students’ decision to receive God’s free gift of salvation, Baldwin reflects, “It is always exciting to see God save people and always refreshing to retell His story.”

EXPECTATIONS MET, EXCEEDED ON THAILAND MISSION TRIP

By Alex Sibley

Night market vendors were just beginning to set up their kiosks as the mission team from Southwestern Seminary prayer-walked the community around a mosque in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The team's leader, Keith Eitel, walked by himself roughly a block behind his wife and a translator. This latter pair was handing out Thai-language Gospel tracts, and one man, after receiving a tract, became puzzled by it.

As they later learned, the man is from Nepal and had only come to Chiang Mai for business; he, therefore, could not read Thai. When Eitel reached him, the man noticed that Eitel had the same kind of tract, so the man asked him, "Do you know what these are?"

Eitel, dean of Southwestern's Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, gladly

explained the Gospel to him, and after the man asked a few questions, Eitel asked if he wanted to respond. The man spent a few more moments examining the tracts, which contained diagrams illustrating the Gospel message. He then looked up and said, "I need to do this."

This was one of numerous divine appointments experienced by the team of 16 students and faculty, July 7-25. Channeling their efforts primarily through spiritual conversations on college campuses and showing the "Jesus" film to mountain villages, these Southwesterners went forth as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, faithfully expecting great things from God. These expectations were met and even exceeded by the trip's end, as the team members personally saw 24 people come to know the Lord.

A quote that Eitel often employed as an encouragement to the team was, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." This quote from missionary William Carey served as the guiding principle of not just the Thailand team, but all of Southwestern's missionaries this summer.

"We tend to go into these experiences full of 'attempting,' but we fail to be adequate in full expectation," Eitel says. "So let's go expecting to be surprised; to see what God is going to do."

Considering all that God did through this and the other mission trips this summer, these expectations were clearly rewarded, and God proved that He is indeed "able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).



MADAGASCAR MISSION TEAM EQUIPS LOCAL LEADERS FOR GOSPEL MINISTRY

By Eunsun Han

On May 26, a team of 19 Southwestern students and faculty launched out on an 18-day journey to Madagascar. Now in its fifth year, Southwestern’s Madagascar Embrace program began as an initiative to evangelize the Antandroy, an unreached, unengaged people group (UUPG) in this east African country. This year, in the city of Fort Dauphin, the mission team once again saw God bless their humble labor and joyful sacrifice as local leaders came to learn the Word of God and share the Gospel with the lost.

The Southwestern team’s work this year involved teaching national leaders discipleship, doctrine, and evangelism. In daily training sessions held in Fort Dauphin, male and female national leaders came to learn the Word of God from Southwestern teachers.

On June 9, 66 men and women received certificates for completing the program. At the end of the graduation ceremony, participants washed each others’ feet in the spirit of servant leadership demonstrated by the Lord Jesus.

Following their morning sessions, the mission team and the nationals went out together to visit friends and relatives in order to share the Good News. During the two-week training program, they saw a total of 99 professions of faith. Those who came from outside Fort Dauphin promised to win at least one more soul for Christ as they made their way back home, committing to make the number of professions a full 100. Multiple reports of soul-winning have been made since.



GOD MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE ON JAPAN MISSION TRIP

By Alex Sibley

Because the Japanese are the second largest unreached people group in the world, there has been an influx of missionaries to the nation of Japan in recent times. Unfortunately, this has resulted in increased security measures, particularly on college campuses, that hinder religious activities. So, when the 12-member mission team from Southwestern Seminary deployed to Japan, May 14-June 2, with the intention of reaching university students, they feared that their opportunities for sharing the Gospel had been severely limited.

“But we trusted in God for providing appointments with the right people,” explains master’s student Ariel Lee, who was the trip’s logistics leader. “God definitely answered our prayers! In the three weeks [we were there], even though we shared the Gospel fewer times than previous trips [because of the restrictions], we had five people pray to receive Christ. It was an encouragement to see that even though we shared the Gospel fewer times, God was able to bring much fruit.”





SOUTHWESTERN TEAM MINISTERS TO PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS IN HAITI

By Katie Coleman

From May 27-June 6, a team of five students and faculty ministered in the community of Creve, located in the northwest corner of Haiti, in order to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. The team worked alongside Water4Nations and built three gravity-driven water purification towers, which will provide the entire community with clean water.

Bachelor of Arts student Jim Sprouse says it was important to provide access to such a vital, basic resource, but that it also served as a platform to engage in spiritual conversations. “On the Sunday before we left,” he says, “I shared with many of the people in the community about how Jesus provides us with living water so that we never thirst again. These water purification systems become a springboard for the Gospel message.”

OXFORD STUDY TOUR BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE, DRAWS PEOPLE TO CHRIST

By Eunsun Han

Now in its 20th year, Southwestern Seminary’s Oxford Study Tour offers more than just a trip around the United Kingdom. Students visit sites of crucial importance to evangelical and Baptist history, earn credits for classes offered by seminary professors, and share the Gospel with people from around the world (this year, the team saw two professions of faith). Several factors made this year’s tour, July 5-21, even more memorable: the presence of Steve Gaines, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), as well as several newly added tour sites for the new School of Preaching.

Thirty-seven students from Southwestern Seminary, Southeastern Seminary, and Midwestern Seminary had the opportunity to take a class with Gaines on personal evangelism. Gaines also preached in the

church of William Carey, founder of the modern missions movement.

He spoke on humble Christian service to the church and to the world, and when he finished, he asked the faculty and the church’s pastor to come to the front. Gaines then exemplified his sermon by washing their feet in emulation of the Lord Jesus.

New tour sites, highlighting the lives of great Baptist preachers, included the Great Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, where Charles Spurgeon pastored for many years; the church in which Spurgeon was converted; and Spurgeon’s gravesite at Norwood Cemetery. At each location, Dean of the School of Preaching David Allen offered lectures on Baptist history and preaching.



COLLEGE TEAM GAINS INSIGHT IN CHURCH PLANTING EFFORTS

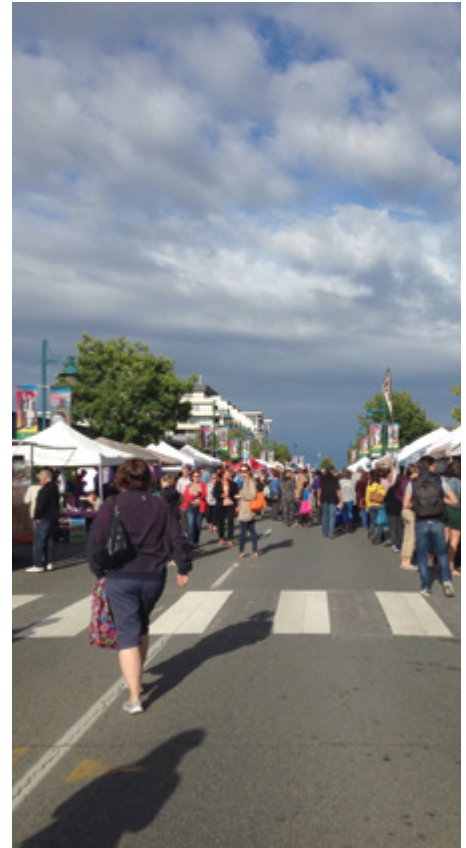
By Katie Coleman

After working alongside church planters in Vancouver, Canada, for six weeks, 10 students from the College at Southwestern returned with a better understanding of what it means to “live life on mission.” Students were deployed to Vancouver Island, June 20-July 29, and there they gained hands-on experience in evangelism, missions, and church planting.

Striving to foster relationships within the community, the team, among other things, volunteered in a local homeless shelter. More than an attempt to fill a need in meal service, this effort opened the door for

Gospel conversations with people who frequented the shelter, as well as its staff and other volunteers.

As reflected in many of their conversations, Bachelor of Arts student Christian Rowland says, many people are interested in the message of the Gospel, but their apathy and search for tolerance has hindered their willingness to respond. “People are definitely searching for the truth, but they are searching in all the wrong places. I was really reminded of the urgency of the message of the Gospel and the need for more workers.”



ARCHAEOLOGY TEAMS HAVE FRUITFUL SUMMER SEASON

By Staff

Southwestern’s two archaeology teams this summer discovered important findings. First, the Kourion Urban Space Project (KUSP) uncovered further evidence of the massive earthquake that destroyed Kourion in Cyprus in the fourth century A.D.

The team determined that the large collapsed building they excavated is either a damaged elite residence or a public building, although its size and construction history are unknown. The power of the earthquake is indicated by the distortions of the walls and the movement of the heavy ashlar masonry. This was the second field season in the investigation of the collapsed building led by Professor

of Archaeology and Biblical Backgrounds Tom Davis.

The second team, the Tel Gezer Excavation Project, uncovered a palatial building in Israel dating back to the 10th century B.C., the era associated with King Solomon. They also found a layer featuring Philistine pottery, which lends credence to the biblical account of the Philistines occupying the city until being overthrown by King David. Steven Ortiz, professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds and director of Southwestern’s Tandy Institute for Archaeology, co-directed the excavation along with Sam Wolff.



STUDENTS EXHORTED TO BE 'LIVING SACRIFICES'

By Alex Sibley

President of Southwestern Seminary Paige Patterson welcomed new and returning students and faculty to the fall semester by noting the implications of their decision to serve the Lord. "To serve the Lord means that you're going to give yourself [to Him]," he explained.

"You are not going to pursue income; that's going to become relatively unimportant to you. You are not going to pursue a degree;

I hope you get one, but it's really not about that, is it? It's not about a career; you don't have a career. If you've chosen to come here, you've given up on a career, and instead, you have a ministry. You become a slave unto God, to serve Him and Him alone in a very special and unique way."

Patterson derived this message from Romans 12:1-2, which he preached during Southwestern's fall convocation service,

Aug. 25, exhorting those assembled to offer themselves as "living sacrifices." In addition to Patterson's sermon, the service featured two other significant events: first, Southwestern's Global Theological Innovation (GTI) formalized its partnership with Word of Life Argentina; and second, seven newly appointed and elected faculty were welcomed to the seminary.

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



SOUTHWESTERN
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NAMESAKE FOR HOUSTON CAMPUS J. DALTON HAVARD DIES

By Alex Sibley

James Dalton Havard, Southwestern alumnus and namesake for Southwestern's J. Dalton Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston, died Aug. 3. He was 93.

Born in 1922 in Lufkin, Texas, Havard became a Christian at age 12. After serving in the United States Air Force during World War II, he was ordained for ministry by North Main Baptist Church in Houston on July 15, 1945.

Havard earned his Master of Arts in Religious Education from Southwestern Seminary in 1956 and later did graduate work at Baylor University while pastoring in Waco. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Odowara College in Odowara, Japan, in 1965.

Havard pastored churches in Texas for 41 years, ultimately retiring from Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, in 1988. In the 20 years that followed, Havard engaged in international mission work, preaching the Gospel on six continents. In 2005, Havard was named pastor emeritus of Sugar Creek Baptist Church, and from then until his death, he continued to preach and teach.

In 2004, Southwestern Seminary's Houston extension received a generous gift in honor of Havard, which helped to establish it as an accredited degree-granting site. The school was named for Havard due not only to the gift made in his honor, but also because of Havard's ministerial investment in the greater Houston area. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the campus, Southwestern President Paige Patterson said that Havard kept "a stellar record of faithfulness in the service of God."

Havard was preceded in death by his first wife, Lucille Dixon, who passed away in 2002; a brother, Eugene; and two sisters, Jeanette and Faye. He is survived by his second wife, Lois Wilson, whom he married in 2003, as well as two daughters, two sisters, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

FORMER DEAN OF LIBRARIES DIES AT 86

By Alex Sibley

Carl R. Wrotenbery, Southwestern alumnus and dean emeritus of libraries, died June 19. He was 86.

Wrotenbery was born in Mount Pleasant on Dec. 14, 1929, to P.H. and Gertrude Cates Wrotenbery. He did undergraduate work at Baylor University and post-graduate work in library science at the University of Texas in Austin. He also earned three degrees from Southwestern Seminary: a Bachelor of Divinity (1954), Doctor of Theology (1964), and Master of Divinity (1974).

Wrotenbery married Julia Winn, also a Southwestern graduate (Master of Religious Education, 1959), on July 27, 1952, and they had two children, R. Alan Wrotenbery and Martha Runnels. Throughout his career, Wrotenbery held positions at the University of Corpus Christi, the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute, and, from 1985-1994, Southwestern Seminary. He also contributed to journals and authored multiple books, including *Baptist Island College: An Interpretative History of the University of Corpus Christi, 1946-1976* and *After the Last Song: Dealing With Violent Death*.

Claudia Martin, wife of Southwestern's former vice president for business affairs Hubert Martin, served as Wrotenbery's administrative assistant in Roberts Library. She says working with him was a privilege and a joy. "He was an outstanding librarian and administrator," she continues. "Students, staff, and faculty respected his leadership as director of libraries."

Jerry Tanner, who earned his M.Div. at Southwestern in 1993, says Wrotenbery was "an extremely effective 'teacher'" who was always available for discussion. "I often enjoyed time with him," Tanner says. "He was a giant among intellectual elites and a warm human being. The world has lost a thoughtful Christian."

Wrotenbery is survived by his wife of 63 years, Julia; his daughter, Martha; three granddaughters; a brother; and numerous nieces and nephews.

HAVARD SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER DIES AT 90

By Alex Sibley

Clifford "Doc" Price, former chairman for the J. Dalton Havard School for Theological Studies' advisory council, died Aug. 21. He was 90.

Price was born on Sept. 8, 1925, to J.C. and Lena Price. During World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard a destroyer in the South Pacific. Upon his return, he attended Baylor University in Waco, but after graduating, he sensed a call to the military again, this time enlisting in the Air Force and serving in the Korean War. Over the next 25 years, Price was promoted from lieutenant to

captain to major and finally to colonel.

Price married his wife, Barbara, in 1949, and they had three children—Lyn, Sheri, and Lesa—and six grandchildren. "He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather," his wife says. "He wore each hat and answered to the many names with great pride. But the next titles were the ones that were dominant in his life—preacher, teacher, Christian."

After five years in the Pentagon as chief of the energy and missile propellants division, Price retired from the Air Force. Then, following a brief stint as a high school teacher,

Price served as senior adult pastor and church administrator at Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, and taught the senior adult Bible class for 31 years. In addition, he volunteered at Second Mile Ministries for 12 years and was vice chairman of the J. Dalton Havard Evangelical Association for 15. He chaired Southwestern Seminary's Houston-based advisory council for five years.

Price is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara; three children; and six grandchildren. His wife says of him, "He has been 'faithful to the end'—a true man of God."

CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN HOWARD BUTT DIES AT 89

By Staff

Legendary Christian businessman Howard E. Butt, Jr., who pioneered the concept that the business world is a high calling for people of faith, died Sept. 11 from complications related to Parkinson's disease. He was 89.

Born Sept. 8, 1927, in Kerrville, Texas, Butt grew up in the food business (HEB Grocery Company) founded in 1905 by his grandmother, Florence. He attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas, graduating in 1947 with a degree in business, and soon afterward married his longtime sweetheart, Barbara Dan Gerber. He later completed his Bachelor of Divinity at Southwestern Seminary in 1948.

As a bridge-builder between the secular and religious worlds, Butt is perhaps best remembered for nationally convening groups from all walks of life for intellectual discussion and inspired reflection, often hosting them at his Laity Lodge Retreat Center west of San Antonio, as well as his nationally broadcast radio program, "The High Calling of our Daily

Work." Butt pioneered terms and concepts—such as work/life balance and small groups—that became hallmarks of mainstream Christianity. He was also an early adapter of the servant leadership movement.

In his early years as a businessman and lay preacher, Butt served as an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. In this role, Butt created the Layman's Leadership Institute, which hosted national faith-based programs for business professionals. In recognition of his efforts on behalf of workers, Butt was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the first Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

Billy Graham credited Butt with pioneering workplace ministry. He once told Butt, "Only when we get to heaven will we see how many lives you have touched through your ministry of evangelism and your tremendous work through Laity Lodge."

Butt is survived by his wife, Barbara; three children; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

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STUDENTS WELCOMED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH CAMPUS LIFE

By Katie Coleman



As students purchased the last of their books and packed away the final boxes in their dorm rooms, Student Life helped them get the semester started on the right foot with the makings of a successful first week back to school: some competition among friends; games in a normally quiet library; and, of course, a lot of good food. Following a successful move-in day, Student Life hosted its annual “Welcome Week,” Aug. 19-26, providing numerous opportunities for students, faculty, and their families to connect with campus community as they geared up for a new semester.





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



A Chair of Fire

By B. H. Carroll.

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary takes the lead in establishing a Chair of Evangelism. For years the mind of its President has been impressed that "the Evangelist" is a distinct New Testament office. That while the evangelist, as other officers, is "set in the church," and each evangelist is responsible to the church of his assignment for character and conduct in his office, yet his field is not the church but the Kingdom instead of a congregation. The ends of his ministry are not to build up the church but to bring the particular church tending to selfish isolation into communion and cooperating with other churches for Kingdom purposes beyond the local assembly.

THE CHAIR OF FIRE

Compelled by a heart for evangelism, Southwestern Seminary's founding president, B.H. Carroll, created the first-ever chair of evangelism in a seminary. Named the "L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism" in honor of its first occupant, the chair is nicknamed "the Chair of Fire." This name represents the fiery evangelistic zeal of those who have occupied it over the last 108 years and the passion they impart to their students.

Occupants of the Chair of Fire from 1908-present:



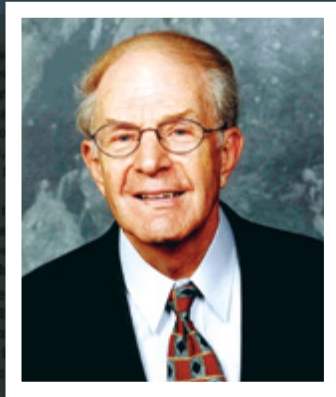
L.R. Scarborough



E.D. Head



C.E. Autrey



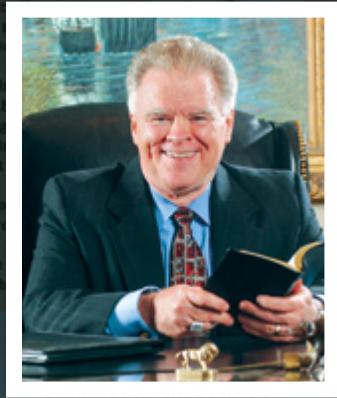
Roy Fish



James Eaves



Malcolm McDow



Paige Patterson



Matt Queen

Alumni Updates

1990

Michael R. Midkiff (MARE 1995) to Faith Baptist Church, Quitman, Texas, as pastor.

Jonathan R. Wilson (MARE 1997) to Fruit Cove Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., as associate pastor of family ministry and missions.

2000

Christopher M. Little (MDIV 2001) to Second Baptist Church, La Grange, Texas, as pastor.

Kylah L. Goff (MDIVBL 2001) to Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, as dean of the School of Education.

Michael B. Linton (MDIV 2006) to First Baptist Sulphur, La., as pastor.

Retirement

George W. Hardeman (MDIV 1971) retired with wife, Helen L. Hardeman, nee Dalton, living in Greenville, S.C.

Gary D. Fenton (MDIV 1972) retired with wife, Alta Faye Fenton, living in Birmingham, Ala.

L. Truman Turk (MDIV 1972) retired with wife, Sylvia R. Turk, nee Moore, living in Abilene, Texas.

Arthur N. McAninch, Jr. (MDIV 1979) retired with wife, Sonja K. McAninch, nee Jackson, living in Bradenton, Fla.

Memorials

Joe B. Bass

Willis M. Freeman

Helen McNeely, nee Trayler

Clifford "Doc" Price

Charles E. "Ed" Shipman

Billy J. Tiller

1940

Howard E. Butt, Jr. (BDIV 1948)

1950

John C. Howell (BDIV 1952, THD 1960, PHD 1975)

Mary J. Randall (MRE 1952)

Morris T. Wall (MRE 1952)

Rily W. Eubank (BDIV 1953, THM 1956)

Carl R. Wrotenbery (BDIV 1954, THD 1964, MDIV 1974)

James Dalton Havard (MRE 1956)

Glenn O. Hilburn (BDIV 1956, THD 1960)

H. Bailey Stone (BDIV 1956)

William H. Gray, Jr. (BDIV 1958, MDIV 1987)

1960

Donald W. Gover (BDIV 1962, MDIV 1975)

Charles R. Causby (MRE 1963)

Allen C. Pennington (MRE 1967, MDIV 1967)

1970

Carol A. Kirkpatrick (MRE 1974)

Judith N. Doyle (MRE 1979, EDD 1984, PHD 1994)

1980

Russell Polson, Jr. (MDIV 1987)

2000

Perry N. McCuller (DIPHTH 2000, MACE 2002)

Deanne D. Garrison, nee Cashman (MACE 2008)

Keep in Touch

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

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SOUL WINNING — A PLEA TO SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

By Steve Gaines

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.” (Acts 8:35)

What is the greatest need in our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)? I believe our primary need is to pray like it matters, knowing that God will do things when we pray that He will not do if we do not pray.

After prayer, I believe the greatest need in our SBC is to train our pastors, staff members, and laypeople to be soul-winners. While some churches are evangelistic, they are not soul-winning churches. Their evangelism is based on a “come and hear” mentality. Instead of inviting people to Christ, they invite people to church events so people can hear the Gospel and get saved at an event.

While there is nothing wrong with “come and hear” evangelism, we must also engage in “go and tell” soul-winning. The church facilities must become a base for soul-winning ministry, not merely a place for evangelism. Like Philip in Acts 8:35, we must verbally share what the Bible says about Jesus with lost people for the purpose of winning them to faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor, when is the last time you personally led a lost person to be saved? When is the last time you led someone to (1) repent of his sin, (2) believe savingly in Jesus, and (3) receive Him as Lord and Savior? I am not talking about someone being saved after you preach. When is the last time you won a soul to Christ?

We rarely hear about soul-winning anymore in the SBC. There was a day when virtually every speaker at the annual SBC Pastors’ Conference and Convention made a reference to soul-winning. That is no longer the case. Instead, we talk about preaching, discipleship, church planting, missions, etc. But hardly anyone speaks about soul-winning.

Since 1999, the SBC has been in an unprecedented nosedive in the number of people who are being led to Christ and baptized in our churches. Baptisms are a biblical metric to measure evangelistic ministry. Every person who was saved in the Book of Acts was immediately baptized. I believe the major reason for our decline in baptisms is simple: we no longer emphasize soul-winning.

What can be done?

First, we must develop soul-winning training methods for pastors to use in instructing their members. That is one of the primary responsibilities of our North American Mission Board (NAMB). I am grateful that NAMB is beginning to offer new soul-winning materials for our churches.

Second, pastors must teach their church members to pray for lost people. We need to analyze our various spheres of influence—immediate family members, extended family members, neighbors, coworkers, fellow students, and people with whom we regularly come in contact—and start praying for them. Pray for God’s Spirit to convict them (John 16:8). Pray for God to convert them (Romans 10:1). And pray for God to send them a contact (Romans 10:14). We must be willing to be that contact that shares the Gospel with that lost soul.

Third, we should begin offering soul-winning training in our churches. Pastors and staff must lead in this. When the church leaders begin to win souls, everyone in the church will recognize that soul-winning is a priority.

In our text above, Philip went to a total stranger, shared the Gospel with him, and led him to Christ. He then baptized him. In order to



win him to Jesus, Philip had to open his mouth.

Roy Fish, the late professor of evangelism at Southwestern, used to tell us, “Men, you can’t share the Gospel with a zipped lip. You must open your mouth!” Philip opened his mouth and shared with that man what the Scripture says about Jesus. That verse (Acts 8:35) provides an excellent description of soul-winning!

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers five times that his goal was to “win” lost people to Jesus (1 Corinthians 9:19-22). Then, in verse 24, he said to them, “Run in such a way that you may win.” I exhort you to become a soul-winner as well. I especially exhort all of our denominational leaders and pastors in the SBC to become soul-winners. It is our duty and our privilege.

In his classic book on evangelism, *The Soul Winner*, Pastor Charles Spurgeon said, “Soul winning is the chief business of the Christian minister; indeed, it should be the main pursuit of every true believer.”¹ Amen, Mr. Spurgeon.

May God once again bless the SBC with a revival of soul-winning!

STEVE GAINES serves as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn. He earned both his Master of Divinity (1984) and Doctor of Philosophy (1991) from Southwestern Seminary.

¹Spurgeon, C.H., *The Soul Winner: How to Lead Sinners to the Saviour* (Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985), 15.

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