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SouthwesternNews

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY Working to Advance the Gospel

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9-10	Board of Visitors	
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12	Women's Auxiliary Tea	Fort Worth
14	Good Friday	Offices closed/classes dismissed
20	The College Spring Finale	
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MAY		
5	Graduation	Fort Worth Campus
5	Graduation Graduation	Fort Worth Campus Houston Campus
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6	Graduation	Houston Campus
6	Graduation Graduation	Houston Campus
6 8 13-31 May 15	Graduation Graduation Japan Mission Trip	Houston Campus
6 8 13-31 May 15 – June 12 May 24	Graduation Graduation Japan Mission Trip Gezer Excavation Project	Houston Campus Darrington Extension
6 8 13-31 May 15 – June 12 May 24 – June 12 May 26	Graduation Graduation Japan Mission Trip Gezer Excavation Project Republic of Georgia Mission Trip	Houston Campus Darrington Extension

JUNE

Music Camp	
SBC Crossover Evangelism Trip	Phoenix, AZ
SBC Pastors' Conference	Phoenix, AZ
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SBC Annual Meeting	sbcannualmeeting.net
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	SBC Crossover Evangelism Trip SBC Pastors' Conference Tea at 3 SBC Annual Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

 July 1-8	Reformation Study Tour
July 5-23	Thailand Mission Trip
July 10-26	Oxford Study Program
October 18	Mathena Hall Dedication

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V FRE I TO BE GRANTED A SECOND LIFETIME AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT I WOULD MOST LIKE

to do, I believe that I would most like to be a bivocational church planter. I find very challenging the words of the Apostle Paul that He worked with his own hands and depended upon no church but gave his ministry freely to the Lord. This present issue of Southwestern News alerts you to the fact that the important task of church planting by bivocational pastors remains one of the most substantive enterprises in the United States.

A man may choose to plant a church and simply stay with it until the church reaches a size at which he might be supported by the church; or else, if he prefers, he may begin a church, bring it to the point where it will be able to support a pastor, and move on to a new church plant. This latter endeavor speaks to my own heart!

Of course, to accomplish this challenge, one must have a marketable skill. The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker. I am not sure that I could learn such a task, and I am pretty certain that there may not be much of a market for tentmaking today. But I can think of a thousand other surface responsibilities that go together in almost perfect harmony with serving as a bivocational pastor. For example, one might become an emergency medical specialist and respond to the physical needs of men and women. Oftentimes, they, in turn, out of gratitude, may listen to the message of the Gospel. Or one could become a professional fisherman and teach the art of tying flies and fly fishing to eager learners. Once again, that would yield itself to the task of leading people to Christ and beginning churches.

With a little imagination, the list of what could be done is almost endless. And in the midst of doing these various services for humanity, a bivocational pastor has a unique opportunity to take the good news of salvation in Jesus. The men whose lives you will find displayed in this issue of Southwestern News are men who have chosen in most cases to go to tough places, and they know that it will take them years to grow a successful church. But that effort will be crowned with the commendation of the Savior Himself.

Finally, I hope the day will come when Southwestern Seminary can actually offer some vocational training that would assist our preachers in making great bivocational ministers. Until then, we provide the theological training, and the skills needed for bivocational training are learned elsewhere.

Not for one moment do I believe that the days of revival and evangelism are over. I also believe that a man can give himself, for all practical purposes, eight to ten hours a day in witnessing and thereby be blessed of God. But I do believe that while those old approaches still work and always will work, we have come to a new day when a service ministry of some kind is the best way to go.

Today, I can just imagine the Apostle Paul sitting in the Agora carefully crafting together the elements of a tent. Several people squat in a circle around him and watch his skillful hands as they prepare the tent. One of them is interested in purchasing a tent and eventually does so. The others are just curious about how it is done. But all of them in the process hear the Gospel as it arises right out of the tentmaking enterprise. What a wonderful day to have the opportunity to so direct people to Christ! Read this issue and pray for these men and others like them.

Until He Comes,

atters

Paige Patterson



WYOMING

A state where the Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains, Wyoming is an ideal place for spending time outdoors. Against this idyllic backdrop, Mark and David Largent run a family-owned cattle ranch. As bivocational pastors, they have found that this manual labor allows them to relate better to their congregations, as fellow blue-collar workers appreciate the fact that they have callouses on their hands.



ARLINGTON, TEXAS Home of both the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Cowboys, the city of Arlington has a unique draw for Texas sports fans land perhaps those from other states as well who appreciate good sports teams). In this unique context, Francis Calimbahin planted Caprock Church as a place where all ethnicities and cultures-and sports fans—would feel welcome.

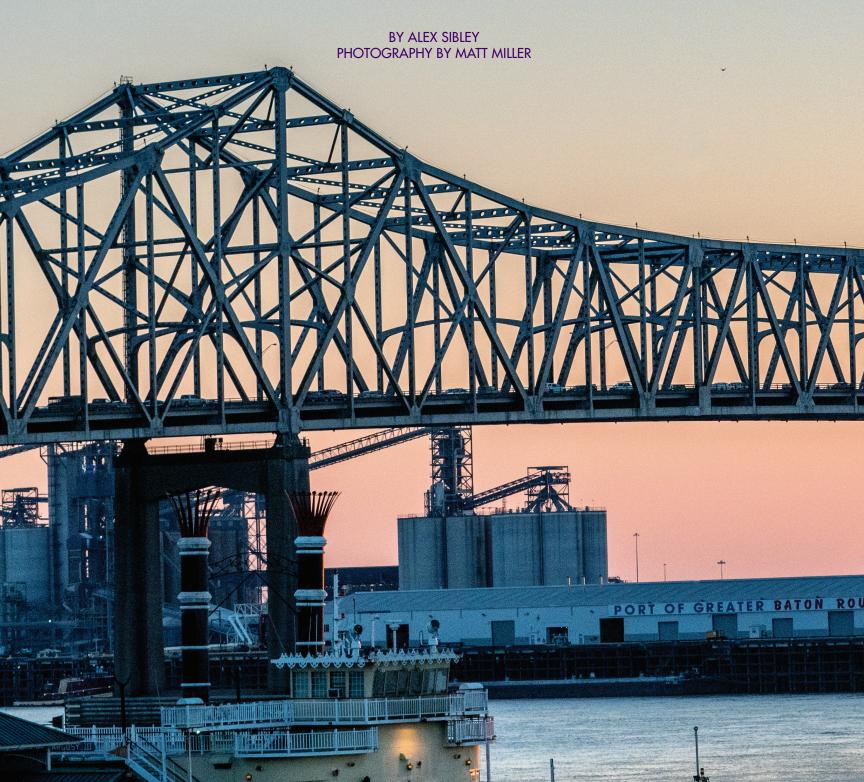
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BE



BRINGING CHURCH TO PEOPLE

pastoring both inside and outside the church walls



BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY



s both a crew member at Trader Joe's and a minister at Progression Church in Baton Rouge, La., Joe Handy essentially gets to pastor two locations—his "Progression Church campus" and his "Trader Joe's campus." The only difference is that one of these locations consists of people who are predominantly nonreligious and nonbelieving. "I'll let you guess which one that is," he says.

At Trader Joe's, a grocery store chain, Handy rubs shoulders with close to 85 coworkers representing a wide range of social, cultural, political, and spiritual backgrounds. The majority of them have little to no interest in visiting a church. "So I try to pastor them right where they are," Handy says. "I'm the only pastor some of them have. I love that I have opportunity to bring church to them."

"As they get to know me," he continues, "trust builds, and I get to play the role of friend and pastor in their lives (sometimes without them even realizing it). It's fun seeing the worlds of Progression Church and Trader Joe's collide like that."

ROUGE

GE

Handy is one of four bivocational ministers on Progression Church's fiveperson pastoral team. (Lead Pastor Brian Crain is Progression's only full-time staff member, though he did begin as a bivocational minister.) Needless to say, bivocational ministry is an important part of Progression's DNA, as it has paved the way for avenues of ministry that would have otherwise been unavailable, and God has used the ministers to further His Kingdom both inside and outside the church.





A COMMON VISION

Progression Church was planted in January 2014, but discussions for the formation of the church began at Southwestern Seminary years earlier. Brian Crain, Joe Handy, and Joe Ashley—who now serve as Progression's lead pastor, teaching pastor, and pastor of children and family ministries, respectively—were students at the Fort Worth campus and often spoke about planting a church together. After much discussion and prayer, they felt the Lord leading them to plant a church in their home state of Louisiana and specifically reach out to millennials in the region.

"When I was in a youth ministry class taught by Dr. Johnny Derouen, he mentioned some stats about the millennial generation," Crain explains. "He taught us that the millennial generation was the largest in American history and the most lost. That was one of the moments that clicked with me as to what God wanted me to do with my life; I wanted to plant a church that would reach my generation and the generations to come."

Crain and Ashley graduated from Southwestern with Master of Divinity degrees in 2013. Along with Handy, who continues to pursue his Master of Theology, they and their respective families formed half of Progression Church's six-family launch team in the city of Baton Rouge.

Regarding the context in which they now serve, Ashley says, "It's pretty fun when, on any given Sunday, you may see a Southern Baptist blue blood, a liberal from the Northeast, a recovering hardcore drug addict, a classic prodigal child, some dude with a dog, and a Catholic school prodigy growing in Christ and worshiping Him together." Each of the Southwesterners credits his time at the seminary with preparing him to face the challenges of doing ministry in this context.

"Southwestern has laid a sound theological foundation for me," Handy says. "At Southwestern, I began to understand the value of the Scriptures, how to correctly handle them, and how to help others understand them. This has served me well in a culture that has a faulty sense of direction and little regard for truth." Crain adds, "Southwestern helped me feel confident to pastor and teach the Bible because I was taught the answers to the questions I had or where to find them."

AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR MINISTRY

Three years after its launch, Progression Church, which meets in Louisiana State University's BCM (Baptist Collegiate Ministry) building, now has two worship services, 10 small groups, and an average attendance of 125. Despite this growth, however, the church can only support one full-time minister. For this reason, an essential element of Progression Church's ongoing existence and outreach is bivocational ministry, as the other four ministers on staff must work inside as well as outside the church in order to support their families. (After Ashley and Handy, the remaining ministers are the two-person worship team of Ryan Andress and Michael Young.) Though this does present challenges, the ministers have found that it also presents several blessings, not







the least being that it allows Progression Church to continue to operate with a full pastoral staff.

Ashley, who does maintenance and repair for a property management company, has identified at least two of these blessings. First, it allows pastors and members of the congregation to better relate to one another. "Many pastors would be surprised to find out that their congregation is having trouble relating to them," he says. "It is a different world to work with unbelievers for a company whose main purpose is to make money."

Handy agrees, saying that working in both spheres grants him credibility and insight. "I see both sides of the story," he explains. "I know what it is like to be a pastor; I also know what it is like to walk in the shoes of a layman. I understand some of the unique struggles that come with a secular work environment. Seeing both sides of the picture influences the way I teach and interact with my people in the church."

The second benefit of bivocational ministry is that it allows for greater opportunity to meet and interact with lost people. "The person who only works for the church can have a hard time being evangelistic outside of the pulpit, not because of apathy but because he does not know many lost people unless they come to church," Ashley explains.

"At the job I have now," he continues, "I got to explicitly share the Gospel with a man in my very first week. The person who is solely employed by the church can certainly overcome these disadvantages if he works at it, but the bivocational minister typically finds these issues resolved naturally."

Being able to do ministry inside the work environment has proven to be among the greatest advantages of working bivocationally. "Over the years, it's been cool to see the progress of some of my coworkers," says Handy. "For some, it's exploring the Scriptures for themselves or attending church for the first time in years. Some have trusted Jesus for the first time; others have been baptized or joined our church."

Crain says that Handy "constantly" has people from Trader Joe's coming to church with him and has already baptized two of his coworkers. The first of these two was also the first person ever baptized at Progression Church.

This person, whose name is Kyle, was already a believer when he met Handy, but he had never been baptized and had fallen away from church. But, at Handy's invitation, he attended Progression's launch service, became involved with the church immediately thereafter, and was then baptized by Handy.

Handy was later privileged to baptize another of his coworkers, Craig. He and Handy had had a conversation about grace one day at work. Handy then bought Craig a Bible and brought him to



A FEW PRACTICAL TIPS FROM PROGRESSION CHURCH

FOR MAKING AN IMPACT IN YOUR SECULAR WORK ENVIRONMENT:

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU WORK. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS IN YOUR SECULAR JOB.

ASK THEM HOW YOU CAN BE PRAYING FOR THEM. THIS NEARLY ALWAYS OPENS DOORS FOR SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION.

MAKE YOURSELF

APPROACHABLE AND AVAILABLE TO OTHERS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN GOD WILL SEND SOMEONE TO YOU FOR SOME SORT OF COUNSEL OR HELP. STAY THE COURSE. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TAKES TIME AND STEADY INVESTMENT.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN ONE OF THE SEEDS YOU HAVE **PLANTED** WILL SPROUT.





Progression Church. This led to multiple conversations about what it means to follow Jesus, and after a few months, Craig gave

his life to Christ on the park bench in front of the store. Following his public profession of faith through baptism, Craig has since become one of the most faithful members at Progression Church.

"It's always a surreal moment for me," Handy says of baptizing his fellow Trader Joe's employees. "It's just a snapshot of what God is doing in that store as a whole."

Ashley has also been intentional in sharing the Gospel with his coworkers. "I didn't become a church planter to play it safe," he says. "So I figure if your boss has a talk with you about how you are overtly sharing the Gospel with your coworkers, you are doing something right."

"Thankfully for me," Ashley continues, "he was a believer and

told me to keep going. I did not tell him this, but I was going to continue anyway. I already had permission from my other Boss."

Even in light of the many blessings of bivocational ministry, there are still several challenges, as well. Fatigue, the sense

"It's pretty fun when, on any given Sunday, you may see a Southern Baptist blue blood, a liberal from the Northeast, a recovering hardcore drug addict, a classic prodigal child, some dude with a dog, and a Catholic school prodigy growing in Christ and worshiping Him together."

that there is not enough time in the week, and the need to be a good employee on two separate fronts can easily lead to

> exhaustion if one is not careful. Given that Progression Church has four bivocational ministers, these challenges are especially pertinent.

> "It is rare that we have a meeting where everyone is there," Ashley says about Progression's staff. "You have to give people space to miss stuff to go provide for their families. This means we have to work harder at staying unified as a staff." Solutions include texting one another often (or, in Ashley's words, "a lot ... a whole lot") and having lunch together regularly.

> Despite the challenges, Crain maintains a positive outlook on his team's Kingdom-building inside as well as outside the church, noting that lives have been changed, people have fallen more in love with Jesus,

and believers in the workforce have come to see how their workplaces can be mission fields. "We have been faithful to make disciples of Jesus in Baton Rouge, and we have reached millennials as we felt led to do," he says. "So yes, so far so good."

THE PILLAR OF INTENTIONALITY

utilizing every sphere of influence for Gospel-centered service

> BY ALEX SIBLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM COVINGTON

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY



cott Tafoya says being a bivocational minister is much like being a so-called "regular" Christian—that is, one not on staff at a church. "Jesus taught us to make disciples as we traveled through this life," he explains. "Therefore, the unique opportunities for me [as a bivocational pastor] are, in some ways, no different than for any other Christian."

Driven by this biblical truth, while serving as pastor of Indian Nations Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., as well as a bus driver, professor, and certified professional coach, Tafoya strives to make disciples in whichever sphere he finds himself. In other words, he does as any other Christian would do—he looks for opportunities to share his faith, utilizing each of his vocations as a mission field. The key, he has found, is intentionality.

"Ministry is tied to life as a whole and really cannot be seen as completely separate," Tafoya says. "Though we need to 'leave our work at the office' at times, this is really more prioritizing our time and energy. The reality is that if our work is tied to God's purpose for our lives, our work will be intertwined with all aspects of our life, as appropriate."

"Inside and outside the church," he continues, "He has led me to the pillar of being intentional in my life. I am learning to be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This includes the promptings of the moment as well as the







promptings of His life purpose and work for me as an individual. This is a tremendous blessing when I am true to follow Him."

Tafoya was raised on the Santa Clara Pueblo Indian Reservation in New Mexico. There, as a result of seeing and hearing the Gospel presented by two influential missionary couples, Tafoya gave his life to Christ in the Santa Clara Baptist Indian Mission.

"I had heard the Gospel message and, just as importantly, I had seen the difference Christ was making in their lives—the joy, the 'answers' to life's questions, their love—and I knew I needed to place my faith in Christ," Tafoya says. "Even today, I remember my fear to make my decision for Christ, but I confessed my fear to Him while still in my pew, and I soon found myself in the center aisle walking to my pastor."

In the years that followed, Tafoya attended church regularly and did missionary work through his church when opportunities arose. By his fourth year of college, he had begun to wonder what to do with his life. The answer came during a Sunday morning worship service.

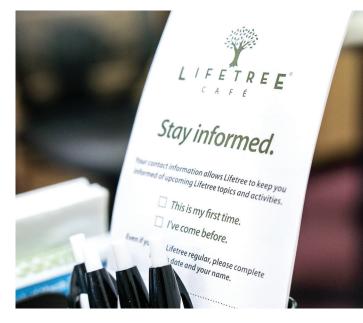
"A foreign missionary was sharing a testimony and the Scripture from Isaiah 52:7, 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,' and I couldn't think of anything else I would rather do with my life than serve the Lord in full-time vocational service," Tafoya recalls. "I wondered how I could be sure. I determined I had to just step out in faith, and I said to Him, 'As long as you keep confirming I have made the right choice, I will continue serving you.'

"And indeed He has. Though the hard times have come, there continue to be assurances from people along the way and from my own heart, as well."

Tafoya prepared for his calling by attending Southwestern Seminary, completing his Master of Divinity in 1988. In retrospect, he says his classes there were "mountaintop experiences."

"Sitting in class with professors who were both educated in fields such as biblical archaeology, Greek, Hebrew, and worship as well as in love with God, about whom we were studying, strengthened and grounded my faith," Tafoya says. "The course work gave me some practical learning in areas like preaching and evangelism that prepared me for ministry. The experiences during my years there helped to inform and shape my faith in subtle ways that only extensive education like our seminaries can provide."

Tafoya has since pastored multiple churches, but despite his stated desire to do nothing more with his life than serve the Lord in full-time vocational ministry, the Lord has used him, instead, in a bivocational capacity. As a result, beyond currently serving as pastor of Indian Nations Baptist Church and aiming to reach the significant Native American population living in the urban









setting of Albuquerque, Tafoya also works as a bus driver for the Albuquerque Public School system, an adjunct professor at Wayland Baptist University's Albuquerque campus, and a certified professional coach of his own coaching company, Truth Dancer Coaching.

Though the idea of being fully supported by the church carries a certain appeal, Tafoya has found that being bivocational (or "quad"-vocational, as it were) still allows him to minister "full-time." His work as a bus driver, for example, enables him to be a Christian witness through character and action to students, faculty, and co-workers in the Albuquerque public schools.

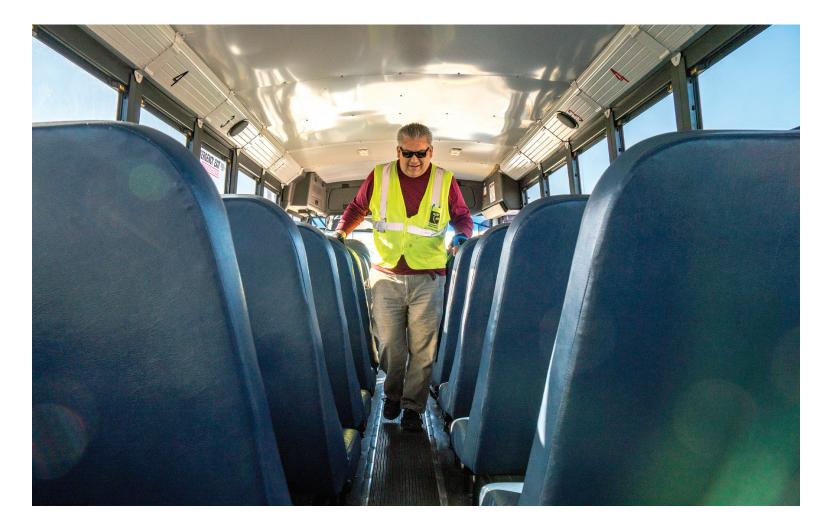
In his role as professor, he helps students with various educational goals learn about how God has revealed Himself in the Old and New Testaments. (Tafoya alternates terms teaching Introduction to Old Testament and Introduction to New Testament.) Finally, as a professional coach, he can explicitly appeal to Jesus as the ultimate ideal for leadership.

Truth Dancer Coaching provides spiritual and leadership training of Native American and indigenous peoples around the world. Development takes place primarily through professional coaching coupled with teaching and speaking when requested. These services are utilized by leaders both inside and outside the church and present a unique avenue by which to communicate God's truth.

"I am equipped to help people respond to God's work in their life as a coach, rather than as a 'preacher," Tafoya says, noting that this opens doors that may otherwise be closed. "If I am explaining







"I did not begin ministry intending to be bivocational. ... But if we will be intentional regarding God's plan and work for our lives, including the practical aspects of providing for our families, it can work." my philosophy of leadership in the context of a workshop or speaking, I can give testimony that Jesus is the primary leader I try to follow."

Having ministered within so many different spheres, Tafoya has been used by God to touch many lives. "Inside and outside [the church], I am aware of the numerous people I have and continue to influence for Christ," he says. "Having lived some 56 years now, I am aware of many lives I have touched. One is a grown man from Laguna and Acoma pueblos with a family now. He was a camper in my cabin when I was a young man at our New Mexico Baptist Indian Family Camp. He is now an active leader at Laguna-Acoma Baptist Church as well as our New Mexico Native American Southern Baptist Partnership of churches."

In light of his experience, Tafoya recommends that seminary students consider bivocational ministry, provided they seek to be intentional along the way. "I realize we don't always know what our life will look like," he says. "I did not begin ministry intending to be bivocational.... But if we will be intentional regarding God's plan and work for our lives, including the practical aspects of providing for our families, it can work."

"Another reason I would recommend it," he adds, "is because it is a great model for other Christians in the churches we pastor. There is no reason, really, for a pastor to be 'overworked' by the church when other believers are bivocationally being ministers of the Gospel in the local church too, co-laborers with Christ and each other."

TWO VOCATIONS, ONE CALLING:

living a missional model for discipleship

BY KATIE COLEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHLEEN MURRAY

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY



rancis Calimbahin's schedule reflects the numerous responsibilities of life, ministry, and a career as a licensed physical therapist. Managing his schedule is oftentimes complicated, but his calling is simple: serve the Lord and make disciples.

Calimbahin embraces life as a bivocational pastor of Caprock Church in Arlington, Texas. Like many pastors, his non-ministry job is a second source of income and relieves the financial burden of a small church. However, Calimbahin says being bivocational is a choice rather than a last resort and affords him numerous opportunities to model a "missional" life in a job he loves.

Originally from the Philippines, Calimbahin moved to the United States and began work as a physical therapist in 1991. Contract work took him to Colorado, Texas, and Iowa before he settled in Texas with his wife, Aireen, in 1992.

His line of work stems from a passion for helping people. "I get to see people go from not being able to get out of bed to being able to walk," he says.

Calimbahin accepted Christ in 1984 as a high school junior, but he later became rebellious against God. This continued until he heard a lifechanging sermon at a Promise Keepers men's conference in 1997. He rededicated his life to the Lord and in the following year began to study Scripture more and devoted Sunday afternoons to evangelism, often









driving to the outermost parts of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex to share his faith with his friends.

"For the next several months, I was just enamored by the Word," Calimbahin says. "But I was also convicted that I needed to tell my friends about my faith."

Taking notice of Calimbahin's evangelistic fervor, his pastor suggested that God might be calling him to ministry. After consideration and prayer, Calimbahin enrolled in Dallas Theological Seminary in 1998 and later transferred to Southwestern Seminary, where he completed his Master of Divinity degree in 2003.

When he started classes, Calimbahin did not yet know what God had for him after seminary, but he knew that he needed to be ready. He was eventually introduced to the concept of church planting by a Seattle pastor who visited one of his classes. The pastor recommended that Calimbahin consider church planting in the Northwest, so he signed up for a "vision trip" to Washington. During the trip, he did not discern a call to Washington, but he was certain that God was leading him to plant a church somewhere.

From that moment on, the remainder of his seminary training at Southwestern was devoted to taking advantage of as many church planting classes as he could, talking with Southwestern professors, and attending church planting conferences. Calimbahin eventually partnered with the North American Mission Board's "Nehemiah Church Planting Project" (a program that connected church







planters with academic preparation and practical experience on Southern Baptist seminary campuses) before planting Caprock Church in 2005.

He was already familiar with the area, and Arlington's diverse population was a perfect context in which to start a church. Through already-established relationships in his physical therapy career, many of Caprock's members have been members of the medical field.

Since its inception, Caprock's vision has been one of diversity, disciple-making, and church planting. Calimbahin says it is his goal to make all ethnicities and cultures feel welcome in his church because it is difficult to reach people and make disciples if they feel unwelcome or uncomfortable. Through intentional execution of their vision, Caprock has come to reflect the diverse area "The truth is that when you are a pastor, there is no such thing as part time. You are a full-time pastor even though you are bivocational."

in which they live and have gone on to assist five new church plants. "Even though we are small, we are committed to making

disciples of all nations and starting churches," Calimbahin says. Disciple-making, he continues, is a goal not just for his

> church members, but for himself. In December 2016, Calimbahin was convicted of his need to "practice what he preaches." He had long viewed his physical therapy job as his "mission field." With the amount of time he spends with patients, he says there is a lot of time to talk about various topics including culture, politics, family, and sports.

> As he develops relationships and trust with patients, opportunities for spiritual conversations oftentimes arise and lead to Gospel presentations and even salvations. However, he realized last December that there was one overlooked opportunity to share with a colleague whom he knew needed Christ.

"As we are doing this discipleship training in my church, I am also getting convicted," Calimbahin recalls. "I am the pastor. I need to set the example here."





Extending an invitation for lunch, Calimbahin used the time to share his testimony with his colleague. His story prompted further discussion and a Gospel presentation. Before their lunchtime ended, his colleague prayed to receive Christ.

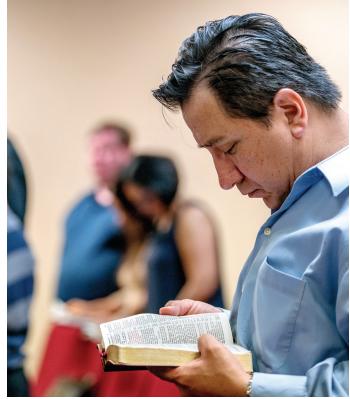
Seizing every opportunity, Calimbahin says, is one of the primary lessons he has learned as a bivocational pastor. With the demands of church, work, family, and now his pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry degree at Southwestern, time is a commodity that he must steward well.

Structure and organization are vital to success in bivocational ministry, particularly with his sermon preparations. One of the most significant lessons he learned about one's use of time was from a preaching professor at Southwestern who warned him about the dangers of waiting until the last minute or not giving sermon preparation the time and attention it deserves.

"He told us to not waste our time or the people's time," Calimbahin says. "Pastors must go into Sunday mornings prepared. People are hungry for the Word."

Calimbahin has learned to "steal time" wherever he can, whether that be through a conversation with a patient, an opportunity to minister to the needs of church members, or just using any extra time for study.

"The truth is that when you are a pastor, there is no such thing as part time," Calimbahin says. "You are a full-time pastor even though you are bivocational."



CALLOUSES, COWS, AND CHRIST:

pastor-ranchers in the pioneer mission

field of Wyoming

BY ALEX SIBLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT MILLER



BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY



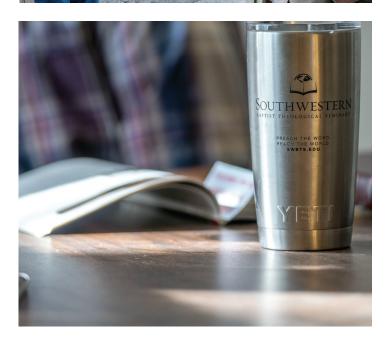
ark and David Largent are fourth- and fifth-generation ranchers, respectively, in a cattle-ranching dynasty that began with C.M. Largent Sr.'s first purchase of purebred registered Hereford cattle in 1902. The fact that they are both also bivocational pastors would likely come as a surprise to their ranching forebears.

"To end up in ministry—bivocational or full-time—is not something that any of my ancestors would have probably predicted or really wanted from an agricultural standpoint," David says. "My grandfather believed you work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, and if you can get up to 22 or 23 hours in, that's even better. Toward the end of his life, I think he understood the spiritual side of things a little more as my dad was moving in that direction and called to it, but his life was wrapped up in the cattle, in the land, and he couldn't understand putting that aside for anything."

Nevertheless, David and his father Mark have each followed God's calling into the ministry, with David serving as pastor of First Southern Baptist Chapel in Kaycee, Wyo., and Mark serving as pastor of Faith Community Church in Gillette, Wyo. They have not turned their backs on their ranching ancestry, however. In fact, their ongoing work on the ranch, seven days a week, has enabled them to connect with their people in a unique way.









"Most everybody is in agriculture or touched by agriculture," David explains. "The ones who aren't are in mining—coal mining, minerals, oil—those are big things here in Wyoming, big things in our community. And I think they appreciate the fact that they know we can relate. They know that we get out and do some of the things that they do every day."

Mark has been pastoring for nearly 20 years, beginning as a lay preacher before Faith Community Church—a two-hour drive from the ranch—officially called him as their pastor. David similarly began as a supply preacher before being ordained as First Southern Baptist Chapel's pastor in 2010.

After three years in this position, David, who did undergraduate work at Wayland Baptist University, decided he needed further theological training. He sought it at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I felt like I needed to be better prepared at preparing and delivering sermons," David says. "I didn't really feel like I had a big problem speaking in front of people, but I wanted more idea on how to do a sermon."

Since he began his studies for a Master of Divinity in 2013, David says the seminary has been "really good" in better equipping him to preach. Additionally, the classes have proven to be a blessing in his personal walk with the Lord. Regarding his Baptist Heritage class, for example, which he took during the most recent January term, he says, "It was very good for me to see where we as Baptists came from and why we matriculated to where we are today and what people really believed and what it meant to stand up for their beliefs."

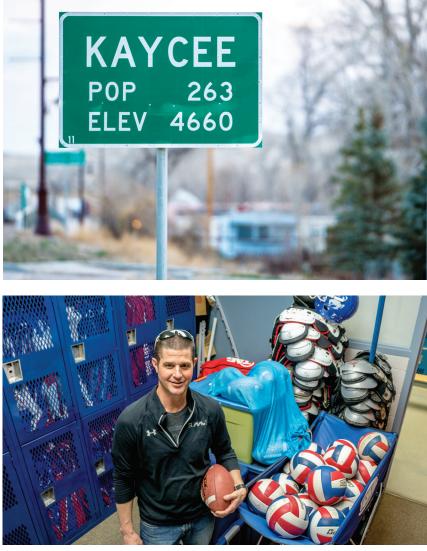
Unfortunately, sharing this kind of knowledge with his congregation has proven difficult, for as David once heard in college and has now confirmed by experience, Wyoming is essentially a





"I the reward of my ministry] is seeing God doing things and grow the church and grow the people spiritually and numerically over the years in spite of me. I've seen the people pick up a lot of the ministry tasks that I think a lot of full-time pastors would be expected to do." -Mark Largent





pioneer mission field. "We have an invitation every Sunday," David explains, "but we'll go eight, nine months or more and not see a person come forward during the invitation. One reason is because half the congregation or more is family or related to me, and the few that aren't... it's a small community and an independent community; they're reluctant to let people in on what their problems are, and they don't really want you to know."

Fortunately, both David and Mark have found that their being bivocational—that is, their still doing manual labor in addition to their ministry—grants them an "in" with the people of the area. A member of Mark's congregation once told him, "I really appreciate the fact that, when I shake your hand, you have some callouses." Mark explains, "I think the door that might be open by being bivocational is the fact that they know that David and I know the amount of work and the amount of stress and strain that come from providing for families without a higher earning income potential."

"We've had the financial struggles, the blizzards, all the market fluctuations," he continues. "We've had everything that they've gone through as far as just everyday life. We're not insulated from any of their issues, and I think they like that."

A missionary in Wyoming once encouraged David that smalltown preachers like him and his father could serve in the church of a bigger-name preacher, but the bigger-name preacher would likely be unable to serve as effectively in their small-town churches. "I'm sure [the bigger-name preachers] could adapt over time," David says, "but coming from this background, from this community, it presents an opportunity to minister to the people because they know you, you know what they're going through at least to some extent, and they know what you're going through, as well."

One thing that people have particularly appreciated about Mark are his "cow stories." Having worked on a ranch his whole life, he is able to relate some of the parables in the Bible as well as concepts like unconditional love between parents and their children (or God the Father and His people) to what he has observed among cows on the ranch.

"I see cows many, many times being a practical example of protecting their calves and being able to pick their calves out of hundreds, literally, of calves just by smell and sight, and then cows that have gotten lost and finding those cows—just all of the day-today things that you do on a ranch," Mark says. "They [the people in my congregation] really relate to those things when you tie it to Scripture and vice versa. It makes Scripture, I believe, in a way, come alive for them, because it's not ancient Israel; it's today, and it's real-life situations."

David's work with the local school has also proven beneficial for ministry. First as a substitute teacher and later as a football coach, David has utilized this vocation to reach out to youth in the community. Through this work as well as through his four





children, he has been able to form relationships with young people such that his church boasts more youth than adults (the ratio, on an average Sunday, is roughly 30 to 12). "Any of the conferences we'd go to in the last few years, we would take as many youth as any church in the state," David says. "And for our size, that would always blow people away."

Though David acknowledges the many challenges he has faced in trying to do effective youth ministry over the years, he nevertheless identifies his work with the school as one of the more rewarding aspects of his ministry. "It's knowing that the school, when it's not necessarily OK in other places, feels comfortable calling me and asking me to come in a ministry-type situation," he explains. When a teenage girl was killed in a car accident last Christmas, for example, he was called into the school in order to provide counsel for grieving students specifically because of his pastoral relationship with them.

David says he is also encouraged by the fact "that we get to touch so many kids with the Gospel message." He continues, "I can't say that it always sticks, at least right away. But one of the things that I know is, year-in and year-out, how many kids have heard the Gospel message."

Regarding how his ministry is rewarding, Mark says, "It's seeing God doing things and grow the church and grow the people spiritually and numerically over the years in spite of me. I've seen the people pick up a lot of the ministry tasks that I think a lot of full-time pastors would be expected to do."

Mark explains that, because he lives and works two hours away, the members of his congregation have stepped up in order to visit people in the hospital, bring food to those in need, etc. "They want me there, and they want my presence in their lives as a pastor, but they're not as dependent [on me] as they would be, in some ways, on a full-time pastor with some of the day-to-day ministry that's involved," he says.

For all of its blessings, David says bivocational ministry—or any ministry in a small town, for that matter—is still "incredibly difficult and challenging." Preaching on Sunday, teaching on Wednesday, leading a Bible study on Monday, cleaning the church building, leading youth and children's camps—David, with help from his wife and kids, essentially does it all for First Southern Baptist Chapel. And all the while, he must be a husband and father and work on the family ranch seven days a week. Not without reason does he say one must be specially called by God to bivocational ministry.

Even so, in the midst of serving in the pioneer mission field of Wyoming, this fifth-generation rancher has seen God at work in and through all he and his father do. "God's really blessed us as a family, even through the hardships and trials," he says, "and He has used a lot of that to help in ministry and help us connect to people."

SWBTS FUN FACTS

THE TRAFFIC LIGHT AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FORT WORTH TO THE FORT WORTH TO THE FORT WORTH CAMPUS WAS NOT INSTALLED UNTIL 1978, SO FOR 20 YEARS, STUDENT VILLAGE DRIVERS AD TO DASH ACROSS SEMINARY DRIVE. WHEN THE TRAFFIC LIGHT WAS FINALLY INSTALLED, THE SEMINARY HAD TO PAY \$7,000 TO GET A THE J.K. AND LILY R. WINSTON DRIVE IS USED DAILY BY CAMPUS DRIVERS, YET FEW KNOW WHERE IT IS, OR WHO THE WINSTONS WERE. IN 1910, THE WINSTONS DONATED THE 30 ACRES THAT MAKE UP A LARGE BLOCK OF THE CAMPUS. IN 1997, PRESIDENT KENNETH HEMPHILL DEDICATED THE HORSESHOE DRIVE IN FRONT OF THE MEMORIAL BUILDING IN THEIR HONOR. THE DEDICATION PLAQUE IS FOUND AT THE FLAGPOLE.

IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, YOU MIGHT SEE A MONK PARAKEET, AN ACCIDENTALLY INTRODUCED SPECIES OF BRIGHT GREEN PARROT NATIVE TO SOUTH AMERICA. THEY ONLY LIVE IN A FEW PLACES IN THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES, AND SOUTHWESTERN'S FORT WORTH CAMPUS IS ONE SUCH AREA. THEY HAVE A COMMUNITY NEST A FEW BLOCKS EAST

OF THE CAMPUS.

IN 1912, BEFORE AUTOMOBILES WERE COMMON, PRESIDENT L.R. SCARBOROUGH AND TWO OTHER INVESTORS ESTABLISHED A STREETCAR LINE AS A WAY TO GET SEMINARY STUDENTS FROM THE CAMPUS TO HEMPHILL STREET AND BACK. THE 35-PASSENGER TROLLEY WAS NICKNAMED THE "DINKIE" OR "TOONEYVILLE TROLLEY."

A. WEBB ROBERTS (FOR WHOM ROBERTS LIBRARY IS NAMED) HELPED ESTABLISH 70 SCULPTURES AND 458 HISTORICAL MARKERS ACROSS TEXAS DURING THE 1936 TEXAS CENTENNIAL.

THERE ARE **32 NAMES** OF MUSICIANS AND **COMPOSERS CAST** IN STONE AROUND THE **PERIMETER** OF THE **SECOND FLOOR** OF COWDEN HALL. THOSE ON THE WEST WING OF THE BUILDING ARE **NAMES** OF BIBLICAL CHARACTERS.



one of **southwestern's 1960**

BACHELOR OF DIVINITY GRADUATES IS IN THE HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH OF LYNDON JOHNSON BEING SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT ON AIR FORCE ONE AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. HE LATER BECAME JOHNSON'S PRESS SECRETARY. HIS NAME IS BILL MOYERS.

THE FORT WORTH CAMPUS' CLINIC, BUILT IN 1928, WAS ORIGINALLY THE HOME OF J.M. PRICE, FOR WHOM PRICE HALL IS NAMED.

*THANKS TO DAN HAASE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES FOR ADMINISTRATION, FOR COMPILING THESE TRIVIA.



CONFERENCE PROVIDES INSTRUCTION FOR TEXT-DRIVEN PREACHING

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary hosted its first annual Text-Driven Preaching Conference, March 6-8. Pastors, preachers, and students from across the country and even around the world were welcomed to the three-day conference, which featured eight plenary sessions, 18 breakout sessions, and a pre-conference workshop, all of which aimed to encourage attendees and bring a sense of renewed hope and refreshment for their respective ministries.

Each of the plenary sessions featured a seasoned preacher presenting a text-driven sermon, wherein the structure, substance, and spirit of the text drove the structure, substance, and spirit of the sermon. Plenary speakers

included President of the Southern Baptist Convention Steve Gaines; Pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., H.B. Charles; and Southwestern's own Paige Patterson and David Allen.

Between sessions, conference participants had the opportunity to browse through the exhibit hall in MacGorman Chapel, which featured such exhibitors as LifeWay Christian Resources, Logos Bible Software, Accordance Bible Software, B&H Academic Digital & WORDsearch Bible, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and Seminary Hill Press. Also during the conference, Master of Divinity student Adam Mathew was presented with the 2017 LifeWay Pastoral Leadership Award.



PH.D. STUDENTS USE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

By Alex Sibley



On his way back from lunch to a seminary in Southeast Asia, Anthony Svajda sat in the front seat of the car next to his Uber driver, Wilson. From there, Svajda, a Ph.D. student at Southwestern Seminary, noticed a small wooden cross hanging from Wilson's rear view mirror. Svajda and the other Southwestern students with him asked Wilson if he was a Christian. He informed them that he had been attending a Methodist church but had not yet been baptized.

Sensing that Wilson did not fully understand the Gospel message, Svajda clarified that, according to Scripture, baptism does not save; only Jesus saves. "I took him through a few Scriptures to show him that the Bible calls us to call out to Jesus for salvation, and he was immediately convicted," Svajda says.

"As we were then pulling into the seminary," he continues, "I asked if he believed this truth and if he would like to pray to receive salvation from Jesus. He enthusiastically said that he was ready. So he called out to the Lord right then in the car. I am sure that was an Uber drive that he will never forget!"

This Gospel encounter was one of many experienced by 12 Southwestern Ph.D. students during a visit to a Southeast Asian seminary, Jan. 5-15. The purpose of the trip was to provide the students an opportunity to teach in a context outside the West where Christianity is beginning to flourish, which further strengthened Southwestern's ties with the Southeast Asian seminary. But beyond teaching a class at the seminary on a rotation basis throughout each day, the students were intentional in devoting their evenings to sharing the Gospel with those whom they encountered.

L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism Matt Queen, who supervised the students alongside Southwestern professors Keith Eitel and Dean Sieberhagen, says, "The mission of Southwestern is to preach the Word and reach the world. And as our former president Robert Naylor used to say, "the sun never sets on Southwestern." So while Southwestern students were in Southeast Asia, we wanted to make sure that the sun didn't set without Southwesterners preaching the Word and reaching the world."

APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE HOSTS CHRISTIAN, ATHEIST DEBATE

By Katie Coleman

Is faith reasonable? Is faith good? These questions were the center of a special "Christian/Atheist dialogue," March 3, hosted by Southwestern Seminary in connection with the annual Stand Firm Apologetics Conference. The event featured Michael Shermer, founding publisher of Skeptic Magazine, and John Mark Reynolds, president of the Saint Constantine School in Houston.

Shermer and Reynolds each opened with prepared speeches before a Q&A time with each other. Although ultimately holding two distinctly different views and opinions on the topic of faith, both agreed that the evening resulted in a fruitful dialogue that allowed them to better understand each other.

"My point is, let's all just talk. Stop calling each other names," Reynolds said. "I think philosophy is important. I think I should be guided by evidence. I think Christians should love science and practice it. I think we should follow the rules. I don't think we should pretend we have evidence when we don't have evidence. It's time for us to lay down our arms and unite in the cause of reason."

The Stand Firm conference continued on March 4 and featured Reynolds and Timothy McGrew, professor of philosophy at W. Michigan University, as plenary speakers. In addition, breakout sessions offered conference attendees workshops in more focused tracks in evangelism, cultural apologetics, and advanced apologetics.







GALA EXHIBITS DISTINGUISHED MUSICAL SKILLS AND PERFORMANCES

By Katie Coleman

In celebration of musical excellence at Southwestern Seminary, the School of Church Music hosted its 14th annual Gala concert, Feb. 25. The evening featured a variety of musical styles performed by the Southwestern Master Chorale, the Southwestern Singers, the Chapel Choir, and the Southwestern Jazz Combo. The concert also highlighted special performances from the Southwestern International Children's Choir, Southwestern International Singers, and individual student solo performances.



KYLE WALKER NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES

By Alex Sibley

Kyle Walker has been named Southwestern Seminary's new vice president for student services. Walker was recommended for this position by Southwestern President Paige Patterson and unanimously approved by the executive committee of the board of trustees. Walker previously served as dean of students and director of the office of admissions, and he will continue to serve as assistant professor of preaching in Southwestern's School of Preaching.

"In many ways, the position of vice president for student services will be an opportunity to continue along the path the Lord has ordered for me over the last nine years," Walker says. "He has allowed me to serve the school as a recruiting coordinator, director of admissions, and most recently as the dean of students. This new role will expand the area I've been entrusted to lead and serve, while continuing to fulfill the calling of presenting Southwestern to prospective students and partners. What excites me most about this role is the ability to serve Southwestern and its students in a more comprehensive way."

Walker first came to Southwestern as a student in 2007. He completed his Master of Divinity in 2010 and then enrolled in the Ph.D. program, studying preaching and systematic theology. He completed this latter degree in 2015 and was subsequently appointed to the preaching faculty.



Walker is married to Lauren, and they have three children. Beyond spending time with his family, Walker has a passion for text-driven preaching, and his research interests include the history of exposition, ecclesiology, and the Trinity. He also preaches often in local churches, revivals, and student camps.

MINISTRY VETERANS RELATE WISDOM ON SERVING LONG-TERM

By Alex Sibley

Nearly 200 years of ministry experience were represented on stage during Southwestern Seminary's first Grindstone of the spring semester, Feb. 7. The featured participants in the panel discussion were Tommy French, founder and pastor emeritus of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La.; and John Morgan, founder and pastor of Sagemont Church in Houston. The discussion was moderated by Southwestern President Paige Patterson.

French founded Jefferson Baptist Church as a mission of the First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge in 1959, and he served as senior pastor for the next 50 years. Similarly, Sagemont Church was planted by the First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas, and Morgan has served as pastor

there since its first service in 1966. These two men—both graduates of Southwestern—were thus invited to the seminary campus in order to share with students and aspiring church leaders how to persevere in long-term ministry.

"Stick with the job," French said, noting that Jefferson's difficult early years eventually gave way to blessed years of fruitful, thriving ministry. "It doesn't matter how discouraging it might be. You stay with it until the Lord's time, and He always opens the doors and helps you along the way."





GRINDSTONE PANELISTS DISCUSS WOMEN'S MINISTRY AND CULTURAL ISSUES

By Katie Coleman

During a Grindstone discussion, Feb. 21, three panelists discussed women's ministry and the numerous cultural issues facing women in the church. In light of such topics, panelist Chris Adams implored women to make the Word of God paramount in addressing any topic a woman in the church might face.

"Our responsibility in the church is to take the women back to where we know there is a standard," said Adams, senior lead women's ministry specialist at LifeWay. "There is a truth, and it is for all times and it is for all of us."

Adams was joined by Kelly King, women's ministry specialist at LifeWay, and Candi Finch, assistant professor of theology in women's studies at Southwestern Seminary. As women try to discern through the "cultural noise," Finch said, women must look to what the Word of God says, but also be women who understand the time and culture in which they live. In order to have an impact on one's culture, she explained, Christian women must understand what is happening regarding such subjects as feminism and gender and identity roles.









MARDI GRAS PROVES TO BE FERTILE GROUND FOR EVANGELISM

By Alex Sibley

Mardi Gras is a safe place for sinners, says Master of Divinity student Calvin Summers, "because they can be rude, they can be obnoxious, they can be above the law, and no one says anything. The drawback to that is, at the end of the day, they have to go back to reality and take the mask off. And that's the sad part. [After the two-week celebration,] two things happen: people become broken or people become even more hardened because they realize that the party has to end."

Bearing this truth in mind, a team of Southwestern evangelists went to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, La., Feb. 23-26, in order to share the Gospel with unbelievers in the area. The team of evangelists, led by Instructor of Evangelism Brandon Kiesling, comprised the 10 students from Kiesling's "Event Evangelism" class—among them Calvin Summers. This provided the students the opportunity to participate in an "evangelistic event"—in this case, intentional evangelism among the revelry and carousing of this annual tradition.

The team's efforts ultimately yielded six professions of faith. So, as Summers says, despite all the sinful activity usually associated with Mardi Gras, "I can truly say that, on our trip, we saw Jesus working in the French Quarter."

SOUTHWESTERN MINISTRY PARTNERS HONORED WITH CARROLL, SCARBOROUGH AWARDS

By Katie Coleman

Southwestern Seminary recognized three ministry partners as recipients of the L.R. Scarborough and B.H. Carroll awards at a special luncheon, March 8. Each couple was recognized for their legacy of faith and for graciously giving of their time, gifts, and talents.

Receiving the L.R. Scarborough award, the Honorable Paul Pressler III and Nancy Pressler are longtime friends and supporters of Southwestern Seminary. Their connection with Southwestern President Paige Patterson and First Lady Dorothy Patterson spans decades, as Judge Pressler was one of the key figures in the Southern Baptist Convention Conservative Resurgence. The movement, of which Pressler was an architect along with Paige Patterson, was integral to the convention's return to a high view of Scripture.

Judge Pressler served as a member of the Texas legislature for 12 years before becoming a judge on the 133rd district court in 1970. He served as Justice for the 14th Court of Appeals until his retirement in 1993.

Together, Paul and Nancy have taught and discipled many of their church's young people, including the youth, college students, and young adults. They also taught Sunday School for several decades, led home Bible studies, and Paul has served as a deacon since they were married in 1959.

Since 1995, the Presslers have faithfully partnered with Southwestern Seminary and have sacrificially supported the institution and its students in numerous ways, including student scholarships, Southwestern's Havard campus in Houston, Women's Auxiliary and Dressed for Service in Houston, and Southwestern's extension campus in Bonn, Germany.

Upon receiving the L.R. Scarborough award, Judge Pressler expressed his gratitude for the seminary and the work of Paige and Dorothy Patterson. He said, "I am honored, I am blessed, I am grateful for the faculty, and I am grateful for the leadership of Southwestern Seminary."

Curtis and Oneta Tally received the B.H. Carroll award. They are long-time residents of Justin, Texas, and active members of First Baptist Church in Justin. Because of their church's 30-mile proximity to Southwestern Seminary, the influence of Southwestern has been present in their church for many years. In addition to the professors and students who





have served as interim pastor for their church, they have had students and alumni serve in various positions including senior pastor and leader

worship director. As they became more acquainted with the quality work and ministry of Southwestern's students, they developed a particular appreciation for the School of Church Music. Recognizing the unique opportunity Southwestern offers students to be equipped for music ministry, the Tallys began supporting Southwestern in 1975 and have established the E.C. and Faye Tally Endowed Scholarship and the Oneta and Curtis Tally Steinway Piano Maintenance Endowment Fund to offset maintenance costs for Southwestern's Steinway pianos.

"Oneta and I are very honored to receive the B.H. Carroll award," Curtis told luncheon attendees. "It is our prayer that Southwestern Seminary would continue to educate and train workers for the harvest long after these Steinway pianos have worn out."

Elizabeth Griffin of Germantown, Tenn., also received the B.H. Carroll award. She and her late husband, Neil, were long-time supporters of Southwestern Seminary and the Southern Baptist Convention, regularly attending convention meetings and even assisting key leaders with hospitality and travel needs.

Following Neil's death in 2007, First Lady of Southwestern Dorothy Patterson asked Elizabeth to contribute to the monthly Widows' Might prayer ministry newsletter. Recognizing the importance of prayer, she was eager to join these prayer efforts and even founded a Memphis chapter, which now has more than 50 participants.

Her sacrificial support of Southwestern is reflected in many areas: Women's Auxiliary, Dressed for Service, and student scholarships. She was one of the patrons who contributed to the installation of the Adrian Rogers Preaching Library, and she has encouraged many young, aspiring ministers to attend Southwestern. Moreover, Elizabeth, along with Mr. Roy Baxley (2013's B.H. Carroll Award recipient), provided the original vision for the forthcoming Baptist Heritage Center, opening in 2018.

"I am extremely humbled to be recognized with this award and I pray that Southwestern will continue to stay firm and true to the Word of God," Griffin says.

PATTERSON LAUNCHES SPRING SERMON SERIES ON TITUS

By Katie Coleman



"The doctrine of election is the glue that holds the soteriology of the New Testament together," said Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson during a sermon on Titus 1:1-4 entitled "Why Election is a Critical Doctrine." This Jan. 25 message was the first in Patterson's spring sermon series, from the book of Titus, which he has titled "The Witness of Christ in a Depraved Culture."

Regarding the challenging nature of the oft-debated doctrine of election, Patterson urged pastors not to neglect preaching it. "The doctrine of election is in the Bible," he said. "And he who does not preach the whole counsel of God is guilty before God."

Though Patterson acknowledged that the doctrine of election is a mystery "known and understood only in the heart of God," he said what can be certain is that it offers a promise. This promise is that one's relationship with Christ cannot be broken.

ALUMNUS, FORMER TRUSTEE RALPH SMITH DIES

By Alex Sibley

Ralph Smith, pastor, active member of the Southern Baptist Convention, and alumnus and former trustee of Southwestern Seminary, died March 11. He was 85.

Born on March 19, 1931, Smith grew up in Hot Springs, Ark. After receiving a Doctor of Theology degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1956, he pastored the First Baptist Church of Rosenberg, Texas, and later Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, which at one time was the fastest growing Baptist church in the country.

When Smith began preaching at Hyde Park Baptist, the church's membership comprised roughly 1,000 members. Smith grew the congregation through outreach and his televised sermons. When health problems forced Smith to retire in 1996, the church had grown to more than 12,000 members.

During his 36 years there, he also oversaw the construction of several buildings; planted new congregations throughout the city; acquired the Quarries, a recreational facility in north Austin; and established the Hyde Park Baptist Foundation, a financial endowment for church ministries. "He was a builder, not a divider," says Smith's son, Peyton. "He never got into politics in Austin ... it didn't matter if you were a Republican or a Democrat, a Jew or a Christian or Buddhist, Dad was a friend of yours. And he was an encourager, and always an eternal optimist. He made people feel better about themselves. Every relationship he had, whether for five minutes or for a lifetime, he made it count. He knew your name, your kid's name, your wife's name. He was a pastor's pastor—he'd be there to marry you, to bury you."

Within the larger Baptist world, Smith was a regent at Baylor University, chairman of the building committee for the North American Mission Board, chairman of the board of trustees at Southwestern Seminary, Home Mission Board chairman, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference. He also served for a time as chaplain of the Texas House of Representatives. Finally, he helped establish 16 churches from 1952 through 2015 and built numerous buildings for Baptist organizations.



Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Bess. He is survived by his three children, Diane, Wallace, and Peyton, as well as seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

DONOR, ALUMNA MICHELLE CRONK DIES AT 63

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern donor and alumna Michelle Garner Dixon Cronk died on Jan. 27 in Memphis, Tenn., following a lengthy illness. She was 63.

Born on March 31, 1953, in Big Springs, Texas, Cronk received Jesus as her Lord and Savior at the age of 5. She went on to earn degrees from both Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. From the latter, she graduated with a doctorate in music in 1982, and she later established a scholarship for students in the School of Church Music, the Michelle Dixon Cronk Keyboard Scholarship.

Cronk served as a college professor, first at Missouri Baptist

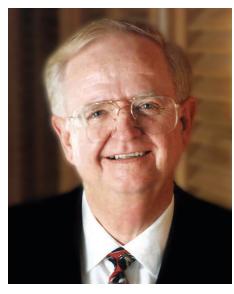
University in Saint Louis, Mo., and later at Creighton College in Memphis, Tenn. However, Cronk's greatest teaching experiences came from homeschooling her two daughters for more than 15 years.

Cronk also served in multiple churches as a church organist or pianist. Over the last 26 years, she played the organ at the First Baptist Church of Memphis.

Cronk is survived by her husband of 24 years, Jim; her daughters, Lydia and Margot; her sister, Licia Albert; and many extended family and close friends.

FORMER SEMINARY PRESIDENT, SOUTHWESTERN ALUMNUS DIES

By Alex Sibley



William O. (Bill) Crews, Southwestern alumnus, president emeritus of Gateway Seminary, and former president of the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Northwest Baptist Convention, died March 1 after a brief illness in Vancouver, Wash. He was 81.

"Bill Crews was a lovable and greatly loved

Baptist leader," says Southwestern President Paige Patterson. "He endured more hardship and sorrow in life than most people ever contemplate. His trust in the Lord and his perpetually smiling face brought assurance to all around him. Now he has an incredible inheritance and leaves behind an enviable legacy."

Born in Houston, Texas, Crews preached his first sermon at the age of 15. He went on to pastor eight churches over the span of 32 years, including the 2,300-member Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif., as well as others in Washington, Oregon, and Texas.

Crews earned his Bachelor of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1964. He also held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hardin-Simmons and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gateway Seminary. He received Southwestern's distinguished alumnus award in 1994.

In the Southern Baptist world, Crews served as president of both the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Northwest Baptist Convention. In 1985, he was part of the 22-member Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee to study theological strife in the convention. Crews also served as a trustee for Gateway and the International Mission Board and was chairman of the executive boards for both the Northwest and California conventions.

Crews became the sixth president of Gateway Seminary (formerly Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary) in 1986. He transitioned into the role of chancellor in 2003. During his 18-year tenure, the seminary established new campuses in Phoenix and Denver; achieved accreditation approval to offer full master's degrees at all five of its campuses; and saw enrollment increase from 865 students in 1986 to 1,600 students in 2004.

Following his retirement in 2005, Crews continued to teach courses at Gateway's Pacific Northwest campus in Vancouver, Wash., until his death. He was also elected by the Northwest Baptist Convention as executive directortreasurer in 2007, serving until his second retirement at the end of 2012.

Crews is survived by his wife, Jo Ann. He was preceded in death by a son, Ronald, and a daughter, Rhonda.

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



IN PRAISE OF A GOD WHO SAVES:

ruminations on 50 everyday evangelism stories

By Alex Sibley

SATISFIED

he face-numbingly cold wind probably made Gavin regret his decision to skip school that day. Though intentional in his decision to do so, when the near-freezing temperature proved it would only continue on its downward trajectory, even at midday, Gavin likely reconsidered his choice of abandoning the well-heated schoolhouse in favor of the open-air railroad tracks where he set up camp. Indeed, the weather drove him to make a less-than-wise decision: he set a tire on fire to keep himself warm.

Though this undoubtedly provided temporary relief, the resultant smoke alerted Southwestern Seminary's campus security to his position, and three officers quickly discovered him near the seminary's physical plant. The fire was swiftly extinguished, and Gavin received some no-doubt-unsolicited counsel on the importance of staying in school.

Officer Jackie Boyd, not wanting to waste the opportunity, then did as many Southwesterners do in their everyday interactions—he steered the discussion toward spiritual matters. This piqued Gavin's interest, so Boyd, a master's student at the seminary, proceeded to share the Gospel, telling Gavin of Jesus' death and resurrection, as well as His offer of freedom from sin to those who put their faith in Him.

Boyd asked if Gavin would like to experience this freedom, and with the Holy Spirit tugging at his heart, Gavin said "yes." Boyd led him in prayer, and at that moment, this young truant was forgiven of his sins, freed from the power of sin and death, adopted into the family of God, and spiritually reborn into everlasting life.

This event took place on Feb.

5, 2015. I bring it up for two reasons. First, it serves as a good illustration of a profound truth, the weight of which I pray will never be lost on us: Our God is a God who saves. Gavin was dead, but now he is alive. He wandered aimlessly in darkness, but now he walks in light. He was lost but now is found. He was broken but now is restored. He was empty but now is filled. He was enslaved but now is free.

May we never miss how utterly mind-boggling it is that salvation has been offered to us; that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Let us praise God for who He is and what He has done for us.

The second reason I call Gavin's story to mind is for the sake of nostalgia, as it served as the basis for the pilot article of what has now become the "Everyday Evangelism" section of our website. Allow me to explain...

"The truth of the matter is that God, through the evangelistic efforts of Southwestern Seminary students and faculty, has saved more souls in the past two years alone than can even be counted..."

Southwesterners—be they students, faculty or staff; on-campus or off—in obedience to God's Word, share the Gospel with nonbelievers as often as they can. Opportunities abound near campus, through local churches, in workplaces, and perhaps even within their own households. Regardless of the circumstances, the Gospel is shared, and oftentimes people respond.

A small portion of these evangelists, out of excitement for how God has used them, write brief accounts of their experiences and email them to Matt Queen, Southwestern's L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism ("the Chair of Fire"). The evangelists do this not to exalt themselves but rather to share how objectively awesome God is. Dr. Queen, with the evangelists' permission, then forwards these emails to others on campus—faculty, administrators, and pretty much anyone else who wants them—so that they, too, may

> get a taste of what God is doing. We in the Communications office are on that mailing list, and by February of 2015, we had determined that perhaps these stories are worth sharing with a broader audience.

> The article on Gavin's salvation, based on an email from Officer Boyd about the experience, was our first attempt at doing so, running under the "Quick Takes" banner online. Quality and reception of the article aside, the subject matter nevertheless proved appealing and, indeed, seemed God-honoring, and so we decided to launch the "Everyday Evangelism" beat on our website.

> So, I call Gavin's story to mind in order to provide some perspective on the good news I am about to share.... Roughly two years after that article was first published, you are now reading the 50th "Everyday

Evangelism" story. That means we have now been privileged to tell 50 different stories of husbands and wives; mothers and fathers; sons and daughters; and friends and strangers coming to know the Lord by His glorious grace.

But allow me to explain why this is actually even better news than it seems....

There have been a lot more than 50 stories that could have been told over the last two years; 50 is just the number of stories that we actually had time to tell. Not every evangelistic experience results in an email to Dr. Queen, and not every email gets turned into an article.

So, when I share with you that we now have 50 articles detailing the salvation of 636 people, I hope you realize that that is actually a small number compared to how many salvation stories have gone untold. Isn't that an interesting thought? Don't we serve an amazing God?



The truth of the matter is that God, through the evangelistic efforts of Southwestern Seminary students and faculty, has saved more souls in the past two years alone than can even be counted (that, of course, is not even considering how many He has saved in the 108 years since the seminary's founding). When I say that the number cannot be counted, I am obviously saying that *human beings* are incapable of determining the number, for certainly God knows how many souls He has saved. But from our perspective, we have seen so many lives saved—so many people receive the Gospel message and surrender their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ in order to be born again unto eternal life—that we have quite simply lost count. That is a good problem to have.

To clarify, I am not, by any means, attempting to exalt Southwestern or the evangelists who go forth from it. Certainly, their efforts are commendable, but no story written for this seminary is ever intended to draw attention to it as an end in itself; rather, the intention is to exalt the God who has chosen to use us lowly, sinful human beings—to accomplish His purposes, impacting lives for eternity. That is a great privilege and, indeed, another truth whose weight I pray will never be lost on us, for what an honor it is to be instruments in God's hands, the tools by which He ushers souls into His Kingdom. What a glorious and humbling notion.

So no, I do not write this to the praise of Southwestern. I write this to the praise of God, for He is the one who has so blessed our efforts; He is the one who saves.



Gavin's testimony is just one example (of at least 50) of what God can do when His people are obedient to share His Word. With that in mind, I invite you to join me in celebrating that, as these stories of everyday evangelism indicate, our God is a God who saves.

Thank you, God, for your grace and your mercy and your love. Thank you that you sent your Son to die in our place so that we may live. Thank you that though we are more unworthy than we can even fathom, you choose to have a personal relationship with each and every one of us. Thank you for adopting us into your family and making us coheirs alongside Jesus Himself. Thank you for saving us; you are good.

Everyday Evangelism Stories

The preceding article was first published in December 2016, and since then, even more stories of everyday evangelism have been reported, as Southwestern students and faculty continue to faithfully share God's Word with unbelievers. Below are excerpts from just a few of these stories, detailing Southwesterners' heart for evangelism and God's sovereign grace in saving sinners.

Students' parents turn to Jesus following years of prayer

By Katie Coleman



On the Friday evening following her acceptance into Southwestern Seminary's doctoral program, Sarah

Moore went to bed excited and grateful for the opportunity to further her studies, and it seemed as though nothing could exceed her present elation. But the following morning, she received news that greatly overshadowed the joy and excitement of any potential academic achievements. A friend visiting Moore's parents in East Asia called her in order to share that after years of fervent prayers, her parents had given their lives to Christ.

Energy employee experiences life-changing power of the Gospel

By Alex Sibley

The Reliant Energy company boasts "the power to change lives"

and "the energy to make it happen." While that may be true in a physical sense, prospective customers likely find the company's ability to bring about eternal life-transformation somewhat lacking. One Reliant employee, during a witnessing encounter with Southwestern Seminary students, was confronted with this truth, and after hearing the life-altering message of the Gospel, he realized that while electricity may be important for comfortable living, only Jesus has the power to bring about real change.

Testimonies reflect Southwesterners' passion to evangelize the lost

By Katie Coleman

"I have realized that people

are more willing to listen than Christians are willing to share," says Southwestern student Jenny Kim. "God has given us both the command and the power to go out and share the Gospel; so we should." Kim's conviction to share the Gospel with nonbelievers as often as she can is a reflection of Southwestern's passion to evangelize the lost. Kim is one of the many students who have taken advantage of Southwestern's numerous opportunities to partner with fellow students and professors to reach local neighborhoods, grow in their own evangelism efforts, and prepare for a lifelong commitment to reach the world with the Gospel.

Students witness fruit of Frank Page's evangelism efforts 35 years later



When Master of Divinity

students Sharon Ngai and Christian Stringer told Jackie they were from Southwestern, Jackie informed them that he had given his life to Christ more than 35 years ago as a result of Southwestern students doing door-to-door evangelism back then. The student who led him to Christ was Frank Page, who now serves as president and chief executive officer of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. At the time, Page was leading a group of students in evangelism when his team met Jackie.

"It is encouraging to see that people in this school have been doing evangelism and have been faithful all this time," Ngai says. "All it took was someone showing up on their lawn. It is encouraging to see the fruit after all this time."

Evangelism encounters stir up 'joy in the presence of the angels'

By Alex Sibley

As a result of their simultaneous encounters with Southwestern



students, Rocio and her four children—an entire household—were saved that day. "We do not often see entire households profess faith in Christ at the same time," says Associate Professor of Missions Mike Morris, who leads "Second Mile" evangelism teams each Friday. "When such a thing occurs, we should have the same excitement as the Philippian jailer, who 'rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household' (Acts 16:34)." In so rejoicing, people join with the angels in praising God for drawing even one sinner—let alone five—to repentance.

Continue reading these articles and many more at: swbts.edu/news/everyday-evangelism



Southwestern has made its home in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1910, and the institution is proud to be part of the community. As such, community involvement is an important aspect of student life on campus. This semester, two particular events provided special opportunity for Southwesterners to rub shoulders with fellow Fort Worth residents and enjoy the local culture. First up was the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, which allowed Southwesterners to break out their jeans and cowboy boots and experience this staple of the Fort Worth community—a family favorite since 1896. Second, 80 of the seminary's finest athletes participated in the annual Cowtown Marathon, another Fort Worth staple. The Southwesterners were easily spotted in their "Preach the Word, Reach the World" t-shirts, enabling them to explicitly represent Christ and the seminary well.







STUDENT LIFE















Student life has been active at Southwestern Seminary this semester. A ladies painting night, a Church Fair, a talent show, and Bubble Soccer and Capture the Flag tournaments all provided ample opportunity for students to get away from schoolwork and relieve some stress.













To see additional photos as well as videos from Student Life and other campus activities, visit Facebook.com/swbts













THEOLOGICAL



TheologicalMatters.com provides a range of helpful articles written by Southwestern faculty addressing topics such as preaching, ethics, apologetics, current events, church history, marriage, family, ministry, and more. Below, you will find excerpts from some of our most popular articles. Visit the blog to read the full articles and share them with friends, family, and church members.

Words to Live by

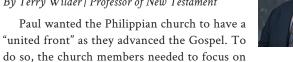
By D. Jeffrey Bingham | Dean, School of Theology

When Bible critics deny the Bible's credibility in matters of history or science, or insist that its perspective is inconsistent, contradictory, or obsolete, they attribute creaturely traits to that

which has not been created. Creatures (human beings) have been used of God to speak and write down His Word in different human languages and in diverse human cultures, so the Bible certainly has a human dimension. However, the Bible testifies of itself that even though its human authors unquestionably composed it within time and space and it remains a collection of ancient and culturally bound human words, the Creator so acted as to ensure that, miraculously, it remained, dependably, God's Word.

A Prayer for Partners in the Advance of the Gospel

By Terry Wilder | Professor of New Testament



having a selfless mindset (found only in Christ) that produced unity.

The Lord desires unity amongst His people. He does not want believers to be in one accord "at all costs" in which they compromise or sacrifice the faith or their convictions, but He does want them to have a unified front as they partner together in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in this unbelieving, and sometimes hostile, world.

Do You Need and Desire Revival?

By Tommy Kiker | Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry

We are living in a time of spiritual and political unrest. As believers, we should be comforted by



the reality that we serve a sovereign God and resurrected Savior. It seems that there are many even within the church who are in a continual state of fear and anxiousness or anger and bitterness. I am convinced that we should be crying out passionately for revival, but it often seems we care more about trying to win arguments on Twitter.

Dear Pastor: Apologetics is a standard operating feature of Gospel-centered ministry

By Ross Inman | Assistant Professor of Philosophy

I am convinced that the consistent New Testament witness is that pastoral ministry minimally involves both the engagement with and the refutation of ideas and patterns of thinking that are contrary to the Gospel. While a fully orbed, New Testament portrait of pastoral ministry



involves much more than apologetic ministry, it most certainly involves nothing less.

Martin Luther King Jr., Black Lives Matter, & The Church

By Joshua Clayton | Managing Editor, Theological Matters

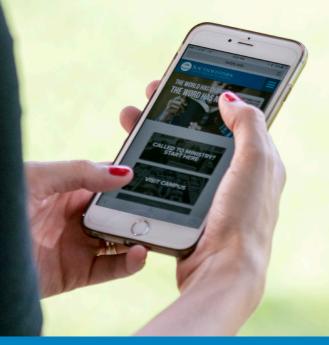
It is my fear that we, as a body of believers, have gravely misunderstood the historical narrative of not only Martin Luther King's era, but also the current Black Lives Matter movement and our role in properly responding as Christians. Why do I have this fear? Because often, our response to modern riots, protests, and civil disturbances has been to isolate the incident instead of taking into



account its historical context. This has led to a misinterpretation of modern incidents within our country that entail highly charged racial tensions that further drive and validate division among us.

Let us, as a body of believers, objectively examine what has transpired over our country's history and how we can better respond to the current climate.

Continue reading these articles and many more at: TheologicalMatters.com





Southwestern Seminary is well-represented on social media, engaging students, alumni, and ministry partners through such online platforms as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Beyond keeping the masses informed about on-campus events, chapel schedules, and news releases, Southwestern's social media presence allows for some unique interaction with its many followers.

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SEMESTER REGARDING HOW THE SEMINARY HAS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH ITS NUMEROUS FRIENDS...

ASK THE EXPERT

How do you fight fair in a relationship? What does it look like to pursue a mate in a Christ-like manner? How can pastors who are untrained in counseling effectively counsel members of their congregation? All of these questions and more were answered in our "Ask the Expert" series, biweekly Facebook Live events wherein Southwestern professors answer questions live on-camera as they are posted by curious viewers. Past participants have included T. Dale Johnson Jr., Barry McCarty, and Matt Queen. Each of the "Ask the Expert" videos is available on our Facebook page.

GIVEAWAYS

It's no secret that everyone likes free stuff. Bearing this in mind, Southwestern's social media team often hosts giveaways on Facebook. By simply "liking" and "sharing" a post, users have been able to win Rangers tickets, textbooks, Southwestern apparel, and even such Cowtown favorites as barbeque sauce and Dr. Pepper. The "Christmas Countdown Giveaway"—a multi-day opportunity to win a wide range of prizes—has happened two years in a row now, and it may well become an annual tradition.

#WAYBACKWEDNESDAY

Now in its 109th year of existence, Southwestern has a rich history. Our archives have plenty of photographic evidence of years gone by, and every Wednesday, one of these photographs is posted online, allowing users to reflect on what has changed over the years (ex. the campus has grown and hairstyles have changed) and what has not (ex. Southwestern's ongoing commitment to preach the Word and reach the world).

MATHENA HALL COVERAGE

Construction for Mathena Hall, the new home of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions and the College at Southwestern, began in 2016, and since then, our social media channels have provided photographic and even video updates on the building's progress. From its groundbreaking to the raising of its structural beams and to its dedication (projected for October 2017), users have been and continue to be able to see it all unfold.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sometimes, social media is just a good way to keep people informed about cool things that God is doing in and through the seminary. A Feb. 16 post, for example, provided photos and details of a volleyball game between a team of Southwestern students and professors and a team of inmates at Darrington Prison Unit in Huntsville. The game, which took place at the prison, opened the door for the Southwesterners to preach the Gospel to the inmates. Social media has also proven to be a fruitful avenue by which to share videos of students and alumni testifying to God's grace in their lives, the impact of Southwestern upon their ministries, and how God has used them to further His Kingdom in their fields of service.

In order to see all the unique and different angles of the seminary story, like us on **FACEBOOK** and follow us on **INSTAGRAM** and **TWITTER**. We'd also love for you to share your Southwestern stories with us, and some of them may get featured on our social media channels.

CAM AND MARIANNE ARRENDELL: LOVING SOUTHWESTERN, LOVING THE LORD

By Katie Coleman

The many Southwestern students and faculty whose paths have crossed Cam and Marianne Arrendell remember the couple for their generous hospitality and giving spirit. Their generosity is rooted in their longtime love for Southwestern and their love for the Lord.

"They are among two of the most encouraging people whom the Lord has ever allowed me to meet," says Mike Hughes, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "They have supported Southwestern with their time, talents, encouragement, prayers, and financial resources for many years. Together, they are a wonderful ministry team, and Southwestern is grateful to God for their longtime partnership in the ministry."

Originally from Plumb Grove, Texas, Cam was drafted in 1943 as a cadet in the United States Air Force, and he later served as a chaplain. His military career has taken him across the United States as well as such countries as Germany and Japan.

After two years of military service, he moved to Houston, Texas, where he went on to receive a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1950 from the University of Houston. He then found success as a businessman in various jobs before surrendering to God's call to attend Southwestern Seminary, where he received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1958 and later a Master of Divinity in 1973. A lifelong learner, Cam recently completed a doctorate degree from Newburgh Seminary in Indiana and will graduate in June 2017 at age 92.

Following his first degree at Southwestern, Cam pastored three different churches and later volunteered as an Air Force chaplain in 1960, serving 18 years in this position. The chaplaincy, he says, allowed him to minister to hundreds of people and was a rewarding time that allowed him to use the knowledge he gained from Southwestern.

Marianne was born in 1955 in East Germany to a Christian family who played an active role in their church. Her faith was strengthened as she and her family were able to resist the pressure to join the ruling communist party until the Berlin Wall was torn down in November, 1989.

Marianne moved to San Antonio in 1995 after meeting Cam in Eastern Europe, where they both worked at the time. They married on Sept. 11, 2000, on the campus of Southwestern Seminary. The campus has become a special place for the Arrendells, reminding them of the location of their wedding but also representing the impact of Cam's seminary education.

"It is always a great blessing to come to Southwestern and visit with friends and students," Marianne says, "and to walk the ways that thousands of students, faculty, and staff have walked for more than 100 years."

The Arrendells are faithful partners of Southwestern's San Antonio extension center, supporting its students through gifts and prayer. They have also opened their home to many, often serving as the location of special events, including the 25th anniversary celebration of the extension center in 2002.



Women's Auxiliary liaison for the Southeast U.S. Karen Collett has worked closely with the Arrendells for many years and says they show God's love through their hospitality. "They are a couple who share Christ in all they do and never tire of following God's lead," Collett says. "Both Marianne and Cam bring much joy when they enter a room. They show their love for our students through their support and prayers."

They have also sacrificially given to students through scholarships, including the Cammid O. Arrendell Endowed Scholarship and the Marianne Arrendell Women's Auxiliary Scholarship. In addition to their financial contributions, the Arrendells have served on the President's Advisory Council and the Board of Visitors. They are President's Club members in the J. Howard Williams Society, and they received the B.H. Carroll award in 2004.

Cam says he is grateful for Southwestern's profound impact on his life and is hopeful for what the Lord has for Southwestern's future. "The new beautiful buildings demonstrate the growth of this great institution as they are changing the landscape of Seminary Hill for generations to come," he says. "We are so blessed to be a part of Southwestern's mission."

Alumni Updates

1980

C. Ray Blanton (MM 1988) to Union Hill Baptist Church, Oneonta, Ala., as minister of music and education.

1990

Carl F. Shroyer (DIPTH 1995) to Brookdale Grand Court, Lubbock, Texas, as chaplain.

2000

Wayne Livingston (MDIVBL, 2005) to Hilltop Baptist Church, Berryville, Texas, as pastor, with wife, Mary Livingston, nee Ashby.

Jair F. Santos (MDIV 2014) to First Baptist Church of Serrinha, Bahia, Brazil, as senior pastor.

Retirement

George W. Dixon (MDIV 1964) retired with wife, Mildred A. Dixon, nee Peterson, living in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Betty A. Slaton (MACM 1969) retired, living in Orlando, Fla.

Kenneth D. Lupton (MRE 1978) retired with wife, Denise A. Lupton, nee Bearce, living in Springfield, Mo.

Gary W. Mayfield (MDIV 1974, DMIN 1990) retired, living in Burnet, Texas.

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

Anniversaries

J. Calvin Webb (MDIV 1980, DMIN 1987) and Lynda Webb, 50th wedding anniversary (March).

Memorials

David W. Blalock Albertine K. Epps Sherry K. Rankin, nee Wilson Loren F. Roberts Orvil J. Stephens L. Michael Waites

1940

Virginia Ming (MRE 1946) Ann B. Bingham (MRE 1947, MARE 1983) Ralph H. Langley (BDIV 1948, THD 1957) Benton W. Cain (MRE 1949, BDIV 1954)

1950

Charles T. Russell (DIPTH 1950) Margaret K. Newman (MRE 1951) Marjorie W. Giffin (MARE 1954) Paul D. Brewer (BDIV 1954, THD 1957) Paul Stanley (BDIV 1954) Ralph Smith (BDIV 1955, THD 1960) Raymond E. Belcher (BDIV 1956) Wendall C. Parker (BDIV 1956) Oris H. Baldwin (MSM 1957) Allan R. Cartrite (BDIV 1957) H. Bert Coble (BCHCM 1957, BRE 1957) Gene E. Kingsley (BDIV 1957, MDIV 1973) Jewell E. Vandagriff (MARE 1958) James H. Ennis (DIPCM 1958, ASCRE 1958) Kenneth R. Speer (BDIV 1958) Lester L. Cooper (MRE 1958)

1960

Eucled D. Moore (MDIV 1960) Paul W. Powell (BDIV 1960) Hugh D. Smith (BDIV 1961) James A. Brooks (BDIV 1962) A. Edwina Thedford (MACM 1963, DMA 1979) Nancie J. Wingo (MRE 1963) William O. "Bill" Crews (BDIV 1964) Nehemiah Davis (MDIV 1966, MRE 1968) Carl A. Elder (BDIV 1968, MDIV 1988)

1970

Tommy Lyons (BACM 1970) J. Dan Bates (MDIV 1971) Charles L. "Sonny" Lennon, Jr. (MDIV 1972)

1980

Michelle D. Cronk (DMA 1982) Julie A. Churchwell (MRE 1988)

1990

Karen A. Wester (MDIVBL 1992) Willard A. Overstreet (DIPTH 1992)

2000

Stephen R. Dean (MDIVBL 2002)

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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Phone (toll free): 1.877.GO.SWBTS (1.877.467.9287)

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BOND-SERVANTS OF CHRIST JESUS

By Alex Sibley

"...and because he [Paul] was of the same trade, he stayed with them [Priscilla and Aquila] and they were working, for by trade they were tentmakers. And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks." (Acts 18:3-4)

t least in this stage of the Apostle Paul's ministry, he worked as a tentmaker during the week and ministered (at least more explicitly) on the Sabbath. This schedule sounds very similar to that of the bivocational minister, who holds a job in the "secular" world during the week and then serves the church in a ministerial capacity on Sundays (and perhaps other days as well). Could it be said, then, that Paul was a bivocational minister?

Paul certainly labored within the church; few would argue against that. However, he also emphasized the need to work with his own hands. In 1 Thessalonians 2:9, he writes, "For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God." Paul's point is that he did not want the Thessalonian believers to have to support him financially, and so he worked outside the church setting in order to make a living for himself and be able to preach the Gospel free of charge.¹

In a sense, then, Paul was a bivocational minister, for he evidently labored both inside and outside the church. In fact, despite his work as a tentmaker, he always identified himself first and foremost as "an apostle,"² "a bond-servant of Christ Jesus,"³ or both.⁴ Hence, at least in his view, he essentially had two vocations (though one clearly took precedence over the other).

Beyond establishing a biblical basis for bivocational ministry, Paul's example and

teaching in this regard communicate an important truth: that all Christians are essentially bivocational ministers. Not literally, of course. That is, not in the sense that all Christians are employed both inside and outside the church. But in the sense that we are all Christians first, and laborers in our respective vocations second, we are bivocational.

As Christians, we have all been charged with the Great Commission. That means all of us have been commanded to make disciples, share the Gospel with the lost, and pass along the truths of Scripture and the commands of God to those who need to hear them. So, whether you are an accountant, an engineer, a computer technician, a rancher, or a bus driver, you are first and foremost a Christian, "a bond-servant of Christ Jesus." That is your first job.

While you may officially work as an accountant, for example, you are a Christian first, and so your first priority is to make disciples. And because you are an accountant, you have access to other accountants who need to hear the Gospel but cannot be reached by those on staff at a church (at least not as easily), particularly if these other accountants do not go to church. But you are there! You can share the Gospel with them. And when your accounting work takes a backseat to your primary calling to be an obedient disciple of Christ, you become a minister, right there in the workplace. You become bivocational.



Having this perspective can aid you in maintaining a proper view of your role in this world: Namely, that while making a living is important from a temporal perspective, what matters most is what you do to impact eternity. Indeed, one of the reasons we remain on this earth following our salvation is so that we may do the work God has prepared for us to do, which certainly includes sharing the Gospel with nonbelievers:

> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

So, as those who have been purposed by God to walk in good works that He prepared in advance for us to do, let us utilize every circumstance we encounter, every sphere of influence we have, in order to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfill His Great Commission. Let us minister both inside and outside the church, edifying the body of Christ and striving to see it grow. Like Paul, may we understand and know, deep down in our hearts, that we are bond-servants of Christ before we are anything else; and may our lives clearly demonstrate that truth.

ALEX SIBLEY serves as managing editor of Seminary Hill Press and associate director of news and information at Southwestern Seminary. He graduated from Southwestern with his Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling in 2016.

²1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1. ³Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1.

¹See also Acts 20:34-35 and 2 Thessalonians 3:8.

⁴Titus 1:1.

BE READY

Life on mission is an adventure, and we want to equip you for every hill and valley you will face. So before you set out on the journey, come to Southwestern Seminary to fuel your heart and strengthen your mind for a ministry that is sure to include some bumps and peaks along the way. Let us fill your pack with the gear you need for the long haul. **BE READY.**

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