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APRIL

6-7	Youth Ministry Lab	youthministrylab.com
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MAY

4	Graduation	Fort Worth Campus
5	Graduation	Houston Campus
7	Graduation	Darrington Extension
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May 23 – June 11	South Asia Mission Trip	
28	Memorial Day	Offices closed/classes dismissed

JUNE

4-8	Music Camp	swbts.edu/musiccamp
4-10	SBC Crossover	Dallas, TX
10-11	SBC Pastors' Conference	Dallas, TX
11	Tea at 3	Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Ballroom A
12-13	SBC Annual Meeting	sbcannualmeeting.net
13	Southwestern Alumni and Friends Luncheon	Omni Hotel in Dallas, TX
13	Conversations with Living Legends and BBQ Dinner	Southwestern Seminary
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SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

a letter from **THE PRESIDENT**

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT—including its army—are almost universally negative. When evangelicals speak, this is unfortunate, since a reading of both testaments reveals that God profoundly uses people in positions of secular authority, sometimes even against their will. A willing Roman officer sent Paul to Caesarea by night with a large guard and therefore protected his life from those who vowed they would not eat until he was dead (by then, they must have been hungry). Also consider the fact that the Roman authority allowed Paul to stay in his own house in Rome and use it as a church. These are just passing examples. The testimony of the centurion at the foot of the cross about the nature of Jesus' death is another indication of God's intervention in the secular world.

Who can read the book of Daniel without seeing the effects of faith in God through the lives of Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael? And so it goes through the whole Old Testament.

This issue focuses on some of the remarkable people who have made a difference in the world. U.S. Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma brings a dignity as well as a high view of moral commitment as he gives leadership in the United States Senate. Mike Huckabee—the 44th governor of Arkansas—has served not only as a pastor and governor but now is one of the most perceptive of television show hosts, with always a clear moral compass. Allen McWhite is current professor from North Greenville University, a former IMB missionary, and a part-time law enforcement officer in South Carolina. Shea Hicks is an online M.Div. student serving in the U.S. Air Force, currently stationed in Idaho. Angel Padilla is a current M.A. Biblical Counseling student who works as a local firefighter in the firefighter training school. And who can forget the remarkable service of our students last fall as they aided disaster relief efforts in South Texas following Hurricane Harvey? Their work—public service of a different kind—is also presented in this magazine as yet another testimony of how God is using Southwestern students to touch the world for Christ.

Some of our Anabaptist forefathers did not believe that a Christian should work in the “magistrate.” In some ways, that position is understandable, since almost inevitably the magistrates treated Anabaptists badly. But other Anabaptists, such as Dr. Balthazar Hubmaier, knew that God was at work in the secular establishment also. And those who have accepted an assignment to work in that area are worthy of our encouragement and prayer in every way. We hope you enjoy this issue of Southwestern News and that you will join us in thanking God for the remarkable contribution that these are making. God's blessings upon you.

Until He Comes,



Paige Patterson, President







NASHVILLE

On the set of his current talk show “Huckabee,” former governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee interviews actor Jim Caviezel, there promoting his new film, “Paul, Apostle of Christ.” Huckabee’s show airs on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, the world’s largest Christian television network. Huckabee says of the show, “This program is a place where we talk to newsmakers and celebrities in a civil and respectful manner, as well as introduce America to some not-so-famous people whose stories remind us that the greatness of our nation is about the people who love God, raise their families, and serve their neighbors.”

TABLE ROCK

Southeast of downtown Boise in Idaho, Table Rock is a mountain pillar in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. At its summit stands a 60-foot cross, which serves as a prominent local landmark and a destination for hikers. Here, a man plays "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes over the Boise Range. Southwestern student Shea Hicks is currently stationed in Idaho, and she seeks opportunities to share the Gospel of God's grace with those living in the shadow of the cross.



A man with light brown hair, wearing a dark grey suit, a light blue shirt, and a red patterned tie, is speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a blurred figure of another person in the lower right. The text "CALLED" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

CALLED

TO THE

CAPITOL



A missionary congressman in Washington, D.C.

BY ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY NEIL WILLIAMS

James Lankford worked in student ministry for 22 years, eventually serving as director of the Falls Creek Youth Camp in Oklahoma, the largest youth camp in the United States. Working with the 51,000 students who attended each summer and seeing many of them come to Christ, he could not envision a better way to impact the Kingdom. But by the end of this period, he and his wife Cindy began to hear one clear message from God: “Get ready.”

Each time they sat down for Bible study or attended church, the Lankfords heard this same charge from the Lord. Initially, such a message was exciting, but before long, it simply became nerve-racking. They asked, “God, what are we getting ready for?”

In the summer of 2008, they finally received their answer: God was calling Lankford to run for Congress. With zero political experience (he did not even run for student council in school), Lankford interpreted this as something of a non sequitur. Running for Congress was not a life goal for him, he explains; it was a life interruption.

After prayerfully struggling with this decision for several months, the Lankfords realized that obedience to God meant following His call. So, Lankford ran for political office and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (2011-2015), then to the U.S. Senate (2015-present).

Though being a congressman differs significantly from serving in youth ministry, Lankford says transitioning from Falls Creek to Congress did not signify leaving ministry, but rather following God’s calling to a different one. “I have always said to students, ‘God doesn’t call you to a vocation; He calls you to Himself,’” Lankford says. “So if your passion is your vocation, you’re missing it. He says, ‘Come follow me.’ He then directs us to the vocation.”



Neither Lankford's focus nor his responsibilities have changed, he says. On the contrary, he still has the responsibility to get up every day and follow the Lord. "That's my calling now; that was my calling in youth ministry 10 years ago. So my calling and my ministry in Congress remain."

Lankford first felt called to ministry in high school, and he got equipped for his call through involvement in the Baptist Student Union at the University of Texas at Austin, and then through the Master of Divinity program at Southwestern Seminary. In retrospect, he appreciates Southwestern for "raising people up for all kinds of ministry."

"Sitting in class at Southwestern, I would have never thought that [Congress] is where God would have taken me and the ministry He would have set me in front of, but it is," Lankford says. "And I'm grateful for the preparation that I had there for the ministry that I didn't know was coming, but God did."

Lankford graduated from Southwestern in 1994. Having served in youth ministry since college, he proceeded to work for the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma and the Falls Creek Youth Camp. His ministry then changed venues in 2009 when he stepped down to run for Congress.

Being a Christian in the Capitol is akin to being the only minister in one's family at Thanksgiving, Lankford says, because in such gatherings, the family always calls on the minister to pray over

the meal. Similarly, in Congress, people often come to Lankford with spiritual needs.

As a result, Lankford has had multiple opportunities to lead other congressmen and lobbyists to Christ. In one instance, a congressman shared with Lankford that he often visits churches in order to meet people and interact with voters. However, he said, "I don't understand what they're talking about. I go, but I don't get it."

Lankford spoke to him about what it means to know Christ and be in a relationship with Him as Lord and Savior. The man responded by placing his faith in Jesus.

Roughly six months later, the congressman returned to Lankford and said, "You know what? I went to a church, and for the first time ever, I understood what was happening. I get it now."

He then asked, "What made the difference? What was different now than it was then?"

Lankford answered, "What was dead inside of you is now alive. And what you couldn't understand before, now you do because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life interpreting and making sense of what is happening."

The two continue to have good conversations, and the man reaches out to Lankford every Christmas to say, "Christmas is different for me, because now I get it. I understand now what I've been missing all these years."



★ ★ ★

"GOD
DOESN'T
CALL
YOU TO A
VOCATION;
HE CALLS
YOU TO
HIMSELF."



Lankford has had numerous other opportunities to provide counsel and prayer and to encourage people in their walks with the Lord. He also co-hosts a Bible study with a fellow senator and leads quarterly late-night prayer-walks through the Capitol in which he and other believers pray for those in the government.

Beyond these direct opportunities for ministry, Lankford also functions as a missionary in the Capitol by viewing his work from a Christian worldview. “That means I see people, even people I disagree with, as people created in the image of God, and they have value and worth,” Lankford says.

“And though [we disagree on an issue], I’m going to treat them with respect in the dialogue and try to bring facts to the argument and try to be able to work to convince them of where I’m coming from on it. But I’m also going to listen to where they are on it to make sure that I’m hearing it.”

Furthermore, Lankford approaches legislation with the perspective that God cares about what Congress does. Lankford points out, for example, that multiple books in the Old Testament were written to, by, or for a political leader. “We lose track of that—how God was very interested in what was happening in the nation of Israel and was speaking to political leaders, challenging them,” Lankford says.

“When you go to the New Testament, a third of the New Testament—the book of Acts and the book of Luke—was written to a political leader. The calling for Paul, when he was struck blind on the road to Damascus, was to be a representative to the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Gentile kings. And then you see in the rest of the book of Acts, over and over and over again, he is trying to get to political leaders.

“So I start with this perspective: God does care about this; He is passionate about this. So in what way do you apply that?”

The answer for Lankford is to make decisions about legislation based on related biblical principles. Scripture directly speaks, for example, to a wide range of relevant issues, from the sanctity of life to debt management. While other issues may not be explicitly addressed in the Bible, God nevertheless provides counsel for how to understand them.

“I try to repeat back to a lot of my colleagues that we should live and breathe in the book of Proverbs,” Lankford says. “Proverbs is great for anybody, but especially for political leaders, because it was written by a political leader, passing [wisdom] on to the next generation of political leaders, saying, ‘If you want to be a good leader and pass on a godly heritage to the nation, live these principles.’ So there are some basic principles for wisdom that are



“Proverbs is great for anybody, but especially for political leaders, because it was written by a political leader, passing [wisdom] on to the next generation of political leaders...”

in there that I think we should be able to apply to a lot of the decisions that we have to make.”

Regarding Christian engagement with the government, Lankford encourages the church to remember 1 Peter 2. After exhorting believers to “keep [their] behavior excellent among the Gentiles” so that nonbelievers may “glorify God in the day of visitation” (verse 12), Peter immediately tells them to submit to authority. Lankford summarizes, “If you want to stick out and be able to present God to a culture that doesn’t know God, do something no one else does: honor authority.”

For this reason, Lankford says, the church must be careful not to sound like the world when relating to politics, nor to turn its back on the government. “When the church steps out and writes off what’s happening in government, they’re doing what God has not done,” Lankford says. “He has not written all of that off. So I encourage people to lean in, stay engaged, and understand that God has not written this off. We most certainly should not write it off. ... We should relate how God views these issues and bring some additional light to the culture.”

Lankford himself strives to do just that—bring light to the darkness. So, in living out his ministry calling to be a congressman, he always asks himself, “Am I using the influence God has given me in the best possible way for the Kingdom’s use? Am I engaging with people? Has there been a moment for me to share my faith lately?”

“All of those things are exceptionally important to me,” Lankford says, “to be able to make sure that I’m not only doing the task, but I’m seeing the fruit of what’s happening. For me, the greatest joy is always seeing the fruit of the ministry and having the greatest influence for the Kingdom long-term.”





PASTORAL
POLITICS



Servant leadership in both church and public office

BY ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY ADAM COVINGTON

“If you’re a pastor, then you really have no business getting involved in politics and government, because there’s no correlation.” This sentiment is often leveled against Christian politicians, but Mike Huckabee vehemently disagrees with it. In fact, the former Arkansas governor, presidential candidate, and political commentator says he does not know of any vocation that better prepares individuals for a life in politics than that of the pastorate.

“Name anything that exists in our culture today, and a pastor will know a person who is either there or has been there,” Huckabee says. Hot-button political issues such as abortion, homosexuality, and euthanasia—the pastor, Huckabee says, can put a name and a face on each of them.

In discussions about these and other topics, Huckabee tells his associates in the political sphere, “You may talk about poverty and people who are hungry; I’ve been in their homes. I’m the one who took sacks of groceries to them. You talk about people who are deciding whether they can afford to eat or take medicine; I’ve been in their homes. I know their names.”

Ministry experience can, therefore, give politicians perspective that proves crucial to their success, Huckabee says. In fact, he connects his own success in politics to the time he spent serving in churches, and everything he encounters in the political world—whether campaigning for office, commenting on issues, or coordinating responses to natural disasters—is informed by his time in the pastorate.

“[The pastorate] was like graduate school to be prepared to hold public office,” he says. “And nothing could have prepared me better than that.”



“Southwestern has been faithful to the Word, and if there is anything for which I am grateful, it is that there has been that faithfulness to the Scripture and that its faculty has always taught with passion, enthusiasm, and a sense of mission. It’s an extraordinary place because of that.”

Before becoming a pastor, Huckabee’s education strongly influenced his ministerial outlook and Christian worldview. Saved at Vacation Bible School at age 10 and called to ministry as a teenager, Huckabee earned his bachelor’s degree in religion at Ouachita Baptist University (graduating in 1975) and then went to Southwestern Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity. Considering the theological liberalism that pervaded many other institutions at the time, Huckabee says Southwestern was especially impactful because of its “revival spirit.”

“Southwestern was such a wonderful atmosphere in which the Bible was held with reverence and awe,” he says. “We were not taught to discount the Bible; we were taught to embrace it.

“And these [professors] were people who were scholarly, who were academically prepared, but they did not doubt the tenacity of God’s Word. And that was so refreshing to me—to see people who all had terminal degrees, were extraordinarily respected within the theological world, and yet they did not flinch at commitment both to biblical truth as well as to a spirit of missions and evangelism.”

Greatly influenced by such individuals as evangelism professor Roy Fish and then-president of the seminary Robert Naylor, after just one year’s time, Huckabee nevertheless left Southwestern in order to work full-time in Christian broadcasting—something he had desired to do since his teen years, and the very ministry for which he was preparing at Southwestern. Not long after, however, Huckabee began serving as interim pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., which later called him to be their full-time pastor. With some degree of reluctance due to his broadcasting work, he accepted.

“So I went to the church, and I did what I knew to do, which was not conventional church pastoring, but I used all the means of media that I knew,” Huckabee says, noting that he employed his passion for broadcasting through the pastorate. “We did daily radio commentaries and drive-time on the secular stations. We put bus benches out. We kind of reinvented [Immanuel Baptist Church] and its image. We got very involved in the community, and the church grew. We started a 24-hour-a-day television channel at the church that served the community and had an incredible impact. I had six of the best years of my life there.”

After serving the church from 1980-1986, Huckabee received and accepted another call to pastor, this time in Texarkana, Ark. He proceeded to serve at Beech Street First Baptist Church from 1986-1992.

“Again, they understood that I was not necessarily a conventional pastor in the sense of doing the predicted things,” Huckabee says. “I started a television channel in Texarkana. We again used media. The church grew. It was very similar [to Immanuel Baptist Church] in that it was an older church and had seen a decline.” During Huckabee’s time there, the church had rapid growth and experienced an “extraordinary rebirth.”

Given his lack of ministry experience prior to accepting these positions, as well as his unconventional use of media for ministerial purposes, Huckabee acknowledges, “The congregations were very patient with me. They wanted and





they were willing to do things that were not necessarily typical for a Southern Baptist church to do. I think God blessed [those churches] as much because of their incredible sense of vision as anything that I did.”

By the end of his tenure at Beech Street, Huckabee had decided to run for public office. He was subsequently elected lieutenant governor of Arkansas (serving from 1993-1996), then governor (serving from 1996-2007). Despite the apparent change in trajectory, Huckabee maintains that many similarities exist between pastors and politicians.

Specifically, he says there are four things “you live or die by as both a pastor and a politician.” First, “you have to have a message. If you don’t have something that drives you, that compels you, that burns inside of you, you really have no business being a pastor, and you really have no business running for office.”

Second, “you’re dealing with people who don’t have to do what you’re asking them to do,” meaning one must wield the power of persuasion. Third, “you have to use all forms of media to get your message out, whether it’s the printed word, the spoken word, the amplified word through television, radio, billboards, print—every possible way of getting your message out is part of the way of your success.” Finally, both positions require one to raise money—pastors in order to fund the church’s ministries, and politicians to fund their campaigns.

“So I found that there are extraordinary similarities,” Huckabee says. “And ultimately, I think you’re successful [as both a pastor and a politician] as you understand servant leadership and as you realize that the way to succeed is to help other people see their potential and to challenge them to experience it.”

Beyond this broad overview of the overlap between the pastorate and public office, Huckabee’s pastoral experience informed his governorship in several concrete ways. One particularly significant avenue was dealing with natural disasters. “The role that a governor—or any kind of chief executive—plays in the midst of human tragedy is really more of a pastoral role than it is a political role,” he explains.

“You can’t go in and just fix everything. The people want you to identify with their hurt, their pain; to put your arms around them both figuratively and literally and to give them comfort, to show empathy, to express on behalf of all the people that sense of oneness. I think I was probably more at home in that role than most people would have been, because I had already been in that role before.”

This truth became greatly important in 2005, when Arkansas received 75,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Huckabee set up a command center in his office to coordinate shelter and other relief efforts. One crucial idea he had was to assemble all the denominational leaders and heads of major church organizations in the governor’s mansion and make a simple request: “I want your camps.”





"THE ROLE THAT A GOVERNOR...PLAYS IN THE MIDST OF HUMAN TRAGEDY IS REALLY MORE OF A PASTORAL ROLE THAN IT IS A POLITICAL ROLE."



The majority of those assembled had church camps, which had just closed for the summer. In order to prevent housing large numbers of evacuees in gymnasiums or arenas (which is “asking for trouble”), Huckabee desired to rent church camps—the state assuming all costs and liabilities—and utilize these facilities that were specifically designed to comfortably house and serve large numbers of people.

The church leaders bought into the idea and agreed to staff the camps with volunteers from their local communities, churches, and denominations. The ensuing effort was later lauded as a great success.

“I didn’t learn that at a school for governors,” Huckabee says. “That idea came to me because I understood what church camps are. I knew what the facilities are like; I had been to a bunch of them. And I knew that this was exactly what we needed.

“So instead of having 75,000 people all concentrated in Little Rock and maybe one other major city—which would overwhelm our school districts, our human services, our hospitals—they were spread out all over the state, and there was not any one particular concentration; they were everywhere. That way, we could manage them. And it was really a model, I think, of how to do it.”

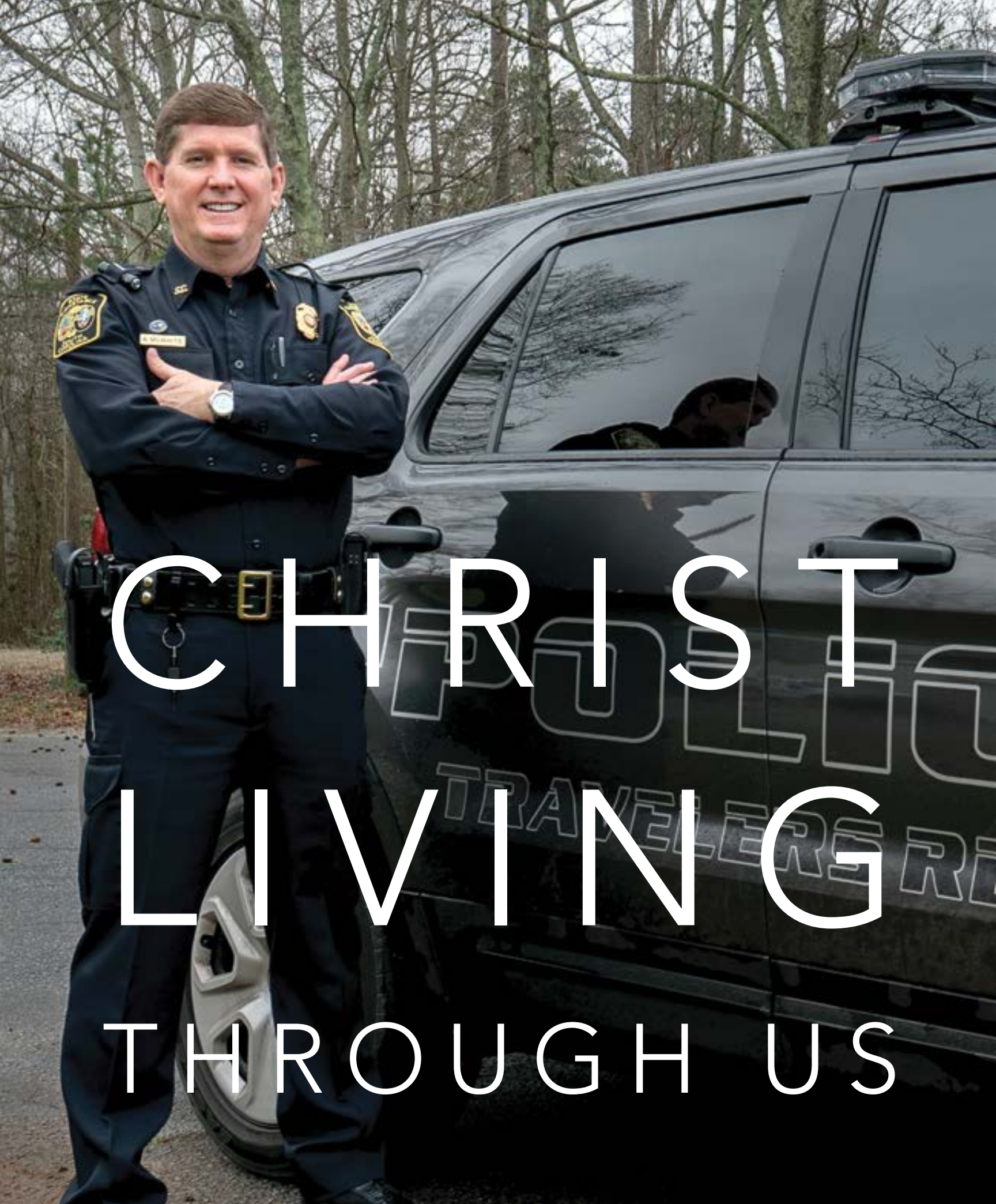
Following his final term as governor, Huckabee sought the Republican nomination for president in the 2008 election (and

again in 2016). Though he did not win the nomination, he did come to be recognized as an authoritative Christian voice within the political sphere. Again employing his passion for broadcasting, Huckabee went on to host television and radio shows, as well as author a dozen books.

Despite his Christian worldview, Huckabee says working within the political sphere is made easier, not harder, by his faith. “Not that people immediately respect my position; in fact, they often scorn it, scoff at it, ridicule it—I get all of that,” he says.

“But on my side of it, I never wake up and say, ‘Let me look at the latest polls to see what I need to believe today.’ I have a real peace and confidence that my convictions are well thought through, I know what they are, I know where they come from, and I feel comfortable in defending them.”

Articulating a sentiment encompassing his service in both the church and political world, and that could easily be echoed by those in the pastorate, Huckabee concludes, “If I’m standing on what I truly believe, and it’s not just a political position but a position of moral conviction, and the results are negative, well, so be it. I can live with that, because I’m not required to be successful or to persuade everybody; just to do my very best, follow the Lord, and be true to what’s right.”



CHRIST

LIVING

THROUGH US



Taking the Gospel where it needs to shine most brightly

BY ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY ADAM COVINGTON

During his first pastorate in the low country of South Carolina, Allen McWhite served as a volunteer firefighter and as the chaplain of the Clarendon County Fire Department. His first experience in any kind of public service, McWhite found this to be an ideal venue for doing ministry outside the “Christian bubble.”

“I saw some terrible things as a firefighter, but I also had the opportunity as a chaplain to pray with, counsel, and share the Gospel with a lot of hurting people,” McWhite says. “I officiated the funeral services of some of their family members. It was also my joy to see two of the county firefighters I served with come to know Christ. I even had the privilege of baptizing one of them and his family as they joined the church I was serving.”

McWhite says these experiences “set the stage” for his desire to continue in public service everywhere he subsequently lived. So, across three pastorates, two terms as an international missionary, and a faculty/staff position at North Greenville University in South Carolina, he has always intentionally sought opportunities to play the role of a chaplain—officially or unofficially—to public servicemen.

“Jesus did not say that I am to be the light of the church,” McWhite says. “He said I am to be the light of the world. It is in those places of greatest spiritual darkness where the light of the Gospel needs to shine most brightly.”

Though he admits he does not shine that light perfectly, nor does he do it to the full extent that he should, McWhite says that in striving to live as God has called His children to live, “there is no reward greater than having someone ask you what it is that makes the difference in your life and then having the opportunity to talk about the Difference-Maker, the Lord Jesus Christ.” He explains, “That opportunity doesn’t happen too frequently in the church or on a Christian university campus (although there are certainly non-believers in both of these settings). It happens all the time, though, when we actually go into those places of spiritual darkness and allow Christ to live out His life through us.”



Seeing a difference in Christians and wanting what they have in Christ had already proven significant in McWhite's own life prior to his first stint in public service. Throughout middle school, high school, and college, McWhite served in various roles at a Baptist camp in Marietta, S.C. At the camp each week, camp pastors spoke every morning, and camp missionaries spoke every evening. Over the years, McWhite determined that the pastors and missionaries whose messages had the greatest impact on him—and the speakers who always seemed to take the most interest in him—always seemed to be graduates of Southwestern Seminary.

"[So] when it came time for me to apply to a seminary, there was no question in my mind about where I wanted to go," McWhite says. "I wanted to go to Southwestern Seminary. I wanted what I saw in those folks. There were seminaries a lot closer to me here in South Carolina, but I knew Southwestern was where I was supposed to go. I never really considered going anywhere else."

McWhite subsequently earned his Master of Divinity (1984) and Doctor of Ministry (1994) at Southwestern. He says the seminary laid the foundation for him in every area of ministry in which he has since been involved.

"Most of all," he says, "I gained an appreciation for the authority and veracity of God's Word. I took every preaching class I could possibly take ... and that forever impacted the way I approach the study and proclamation of the Word."

After graduating, McWhite served in multiple ministry roles, ultimately ending up at North Greenville University, where

he has served for 16 years as director of the Center for Cross-Cultural Engagement and Global Leadership. Across these roles, he has also kept an eye open for opportunities to serve the Lord in "places of spiritual darkness" outside the church.

Most recently, this has manifested in his position as a part-time South Carolina state constable, working primarily with the police department in Travelers Rest, S.C. In this role, McWhite supplements the police force by putting another patrol vehicle on the road and serving as a backup officer to the full-time officers who work every day. He also serves in a reserve capacity as a chaplain with the South Carolina State Guard.

One of the most vivid experiences he had in this latter role was when a 5-year-old child disappeared and had been missing for more than 24 hours. The Guard was called in to assist with search and rescue operations, and McWhite became the liaison between the Tactical Operations Center and the family.

McWhite kept the family up-to-date with what was happening with search operations on the ground and in the air, and he also prayed regularly with the family throughout the ordeal as they went through phases of both hope and despair. "Thankfully, the child was located after an all-night search," McWhite says, "and I was able to rejoice with the family, lead in a prayer of thanksgiving, and share the Good News of our Lord, who proclaimed that He, too, came to seek and to save those who are lost."

In a similar way, McWhite's role as a law enforcement officer enables him, for example, to counsel runaways, encourage those



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"NO MATTER WHERE I HAVE SERVED OR IN WHAT CAPACITY, THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE THERE WHO NEED JESUS OR WHO NEED TO EXPERIENCE A DEEPER WALK WITH JESUS."

who have been arrested, and pray with families who have been the victims of crime. Even so, McWhite says his primary ministry in this role is to the men and women of law enforcement.

"This is an incredibly stressful and, in many instances, thankless profession," he explains. "I have felt angry stares directed toward me when I have been in uniform on the street, in a restaurant, or in a place of business. This is what these officers have to live with every day."

"They not only have to enforce the laws of the land," McWhite continues, "but they also—in so many instances—have to step into the role of counselors, social workers, parents, and teachers, and they are expected to do it all without making a single mistake or offending a single person—and they do it all for very little pay. It is a very tough job, and it takes its toll on the officers and their families."

McWhite says he, therefore, tries to do all he can to help these officers, not only by serving alongside them, but also by providing drinks and snacks for them during shifts, delivering meals to the police department during holidays, and making himself available when these men and women have personal needs or struggles of any kind. This kind of attention, coupled with McWhite's actually serving alongside them in the line of duty, has earned him the "right and opportunity" to speak into this community.

"I have been able to experience some of the things that they experience, and I have been able to enter their world in a way I never could have if I had not become one of them," he says. "It seems to me Jesus did something very much like this through the incarnation, and it seems to me that this might be a model worth taking seriously in a lot of different venues."

Through police officers' dealing with family and financial challenges, not to mention occurrences such as the shooting death of a fellow officer in the line of duty, McWhite has been called upon to speak into the lives and circumstances of those in law enforcement from a Christian perspective. In these circumstances, McWhite says, his faith "absolutely" informs what he does and how he shares with these officers.

"If my ministry ever gets away from investing in relationships and devolves into just doing 'stuff,' then it is no longer ministry at all, in my opinion," McWhite says. "So, I always need to be on the lookout for those people I can pour into in some way. This is common—and critical—in every ministry role I have ever been part of."

Seeking the lost, investing in relationships, and modeling Christlikeness have thus all been integral to McWhite's ministry over the years. So, despite differences among his roles as pastor, firefighter, missionary, military chaplain, university faculty member, and law enforcement officer, he has observed at least one crucial thread of commonality. "No matter where I have served or in what capacity, there are always people there who need Jesus or who need to experience a deeper walk with Jesus," he says.

Expounding on the need to be a Christ-exalting light amidst spiritual darkness, he continues, "There are always those who are hurting. There are always those who need encouragement. There are always those who need a friend. There are always those who, for a variety of reasons, feel rejected, alone, unworthy, or unnoticed. There are always those who need prayer."

A woman in a military uniform, wearing a camouflage cap and jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is looking towards the right. The background is a stylized American flag with a blue field of stars on the left and red and white vertical stripes on the right. The text "GOD'S" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the top of her head and cap.

GOD'S

TRUSTED

WORD



Overcoming the battle with doubt

BY KATIE COLEMAN | PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN MURRAY

Raised on the stories of her military family, Shea Hicks was well-acquainted from a young age with the concept of service to one's country. She recalls her dad's experience in the Army National Guard, deploying to Saudi Arabia when Hicks was a girl. Additionally, uncles, both of her grandfathers, and some cousins have served in the military.

With such a legacy, Hicks had developed a respect for military members, but she did not necessarily envision herself in the military until it was time to plan for college. At her mother's advice, she entertained the idea of a military career. Hicks enjoyed a structured lifestyle. In addition to her strong personality and gift of leadership, she had many qualities that would help her thrive in the United States Air Force.

Hicks attended the University of South Alabama on a military scholarship, becoming active-duty Air Force after her 2010 graduation. In the time since, she has been stationed in Georgia, New Mexico, Florida, and Idaho, where she currently serves as an air battle manager alongside her husband, whom she met during college.

"I find the military to be a means by which I can be a part of an honorable organization," Hicks says, "working alongside men and women focused on a singular cause: the United States, its citizens, and our global interests."

Although a rewarding job, her service in the Air Force is not without its challenges on many fronts. The biggest challenge, she says, is the loneliness one can experience when being away from home during deployment for long stretches of time. The uncertainty of the job can be unsettling, and there are inevitably difficulties when raising a daughter while Hicks and her husband both serve in the same demanding job. But through all of these frustrations and difficulties, Hicks says she has been challenged in her faith, grown closer to the Lord, and has even found a surprising "mission field" opportunity within a job she loves.



Hicks was raised in a Christian home and says she was especially influenced by many godly women in her life who exemplified a faith rooted in the Word of God. “These women taught me what it meant to love, trust, and obey God in the midst of any circumstance,” Hicks says.

Hicks carried this foundation of faith throughout her life. It became especially important in her years of service, she says, recalling a particularly difficult deployment during which she felt alone. “Selfishly, the battle in my mind seemed to surpass the difficulty I knew the soldiers were facing on the front lines,” Hicks says.

But she ultimately got through those dark moments, she says. She persevered, not by her own strength or determination, but by the Word of God. She knew the One who, alone, could truly bring comfort.

Many hours were spent reading and studying Scripture, occasionally watching sermons on the internet. “I have found the grace of God to be sufficient in these times, and His help makes it bearable,” Hicks says. “The Holy Spirit comforted me in ways I cannot comprehend or explain.”

Hicks recently learned another important lesson in her walk with the Lord when she evaluated her priorities after reading God’s command, “You shall have no other gods before me.” Hicks was convicted. She knew this also meant her job.

Serving in a career she loved and in which she was successful, Hicks knew her work was important and good. But even the best things in her life given to her by God can become an idol when

they become more important than God Himself. She needed to reevaluate how she viewed her career. In a prayer, she told God to remove any idols from her life, even if that meant her job.

Over time, Hicks developed a desire to learn more about God, theology, and the Bible. As she sought out formal theological education, God eventually led her to Southwestern Seminary’s online program.

Since she began her studies for a Master of Divinity in 2014, Hicks says she has grown even more in her relationship with Christ and developed a deeper faith as her understanding of God grows through the study of Scripture. But as she began her studies, she also discovered an unforeseen benefit of seminary work.

Her status as a seminary student unexpectedly transformed her ability to demonstrate and share her faith with the airmen with whom she works. “I feel bold to discuss my faith in casual conversations,” Hicks says. “I do not feel ashamed of what I believe. The military has invariably become my mission field.”

When her fellow U.S. airmen learn about her studies at a seminary, many conversations frequently start with the question, “What is seminary?” or “Why study at seminary?” After she explains her study of theology, she usually follows up with a question like, “Have you ever thought about anything like that?” Essentially, Hicks explains, her pursuit of a Master of Divinity degree has not only better equipped her in her study of the Bible, but it has also provided a conversation starter and evangelism tool.



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Hicks says it is a misconception that most people will be hostile and resistant to someone who is a devoted Christian. In fact, she says many people are very responsive to someone who is kind and willing to listen to their difficult questions.

“Because the Air Force is such a big melting pot of people, you get people from all kinds of backgrounds, religions, and all kinds of things you can imagine,” Hicks says. “People are just curious, and they are looking for somebody who will sit and field their questions and be honest when you don’t have an answer.”

People’s questions are wide-ranging and reflective of their curious minds. Hicks does not allow these questions to intimidate her. Rather, she is patient, listens, and does her best to point to the answers Scripture offers.

Hicks also engages with people from a place of understanding of their doubts and fears. She reflects on the doubts she has had in her own life, particularly during her later high school years when the weight of her doubt and hopelessness seemed too much to bear. There was never but one solution, she says—the Word of God.

“The only thing that has been able to combat [doubts and fears] is spending time in the Word and spending time in prayer,” Hicks says. In expressing her doubts to God and seeking who He is as told in Scripture, she says she inevitably finds comfort and peace. “It really works. The Bible is doing exactly what God said it would. It is His revelation of Himself to me, and it works every single time.”





THE MISSING
PIECE



Finding hope and peace in Christ

BY KATIE COLEMAN | PHOTOS BY NEIL WILLIAMS

Angel Padilla never planned to pursue a career as a firefighter. In fact, his sights were always set on a successful engineering career. Padilla's goal was to use his talents to earn a significant living, retire early, and fulfill all the dreams that accompany a lucrative career. For Padilla, money was his god.

After college, Padilla was well on his way to achieving these dreams. He had earned a degree in mechanical engineering and was earning a large salary and frequently traveling for his job. He had everything he thought he would want from a career.

But after some time, Padilla no longer enjoyed the job and found it to be unfulfilling. Something was missing; he just did not know what it was.

Padilla had mostly turned his back on religion, and it was not until God put two Christian friends in his life that things began to change. Padilla recalls being in awe of a type of "peace" his friends seemed to have. He wanted that same peace but could not figure out what it was or how to get it.

He eventually sat with them and pressed them with questions. He asked, "Why do you have peace?" Their answer surprised him. "I came to realize that they had a relationship with God," Padilla says. "That was foreign to me."

Padilla characterizes these conversations as a turning point in his life, and they led him to turn back to a genuine relationship with the Lord and not just a formal religion. This "return to the Lord" gave him the courage to step out in faith, he says, and leave the lucrative job he had so long aspired to achieve. He followed God's leading to a new career, but most importantly, he learned that peace and security are found not in his job, but in Christ. Now a firefighter and seminary student, Padilla is helping men understand how they, too, can find that missing piece—a relationship with Jesus Christ.



After Padilla left his high-paying job, he became a student again, studying for a period of time in France. Later, back in the United States, Padilla went to a barber for a haircut. It turned out his barber was a part-time firefighter who cut hair on his days off. As they discussed his job, Padilla became more and more curious about this line of service.

A seed was planted in Padilla. So, when he returned home that day, he began to research a career in firefighting. After prayer and fasting, Padilla ultimately realized that this was what God had for him next.

Following study and training, Padilla graduated from the fire academy in November 2006. He spent his first few years on “swing” assignments in north Texas, filling in wherever a vacancy existed at various fire stations. He eventually went on to serve permanently at several stations in Denton and Tarrant counties for more than six years before accepting a promotion at the fire training academy in Fort Worth, located about two miles from Southwestern Seminary’s campus. In the time he prepared for his promotional exam, Padilla needed somewhere quiet to study.

A friend and Southwestern student suggested Southwestern’s campus. Looking back on this time, Padilla now realizes that his accepting the new job was God’s way of drawing him to eventually enroll in Southwestern.

“I fell in love with the campus from the beginning,” Padilla says. “I started to make connections here, and little by little, the Lord was pulling me into the biblical counseling program.”

Padilla has continued working at the training academy, teaching new recruits and veterans who want to serve as firefighters. But while doing this, he has sensed God’s calling to pursue another degree, specifically one that will better equip him to minister to others.

In 2015, Padilla enrolled in Southwestern Seminary. Since then, he says he has learned a lot in his biblical counseling program, confident that his spiritual gifts make the program a great fit. “I know this is what God wants me to do,” Padilla says.

Although certain that God wants him to study at Southwestern while working at the fire training academy, Padilla says he does not know where God will lead him in the future. Wherever God calls him, he is willing and ready. In the meantime, Padilla says he is utilizing what he has learned to minister to men in his life, including those in his work, church, and community.

Looking for simple ways to encourage and motivate men, Padilla decided to keep small cards in his wallet containing two verses he thought might resonate with them and challenge them. On one side, the card reads, “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). The



He followed God's leading to a new career, but most important, he learned that peace and security are found not in his job, but in Christ. Now a firefighter and seminary student, Padilla is helping men understand how they, too, can find that missing piece—a relationship with Jesus Christ.



“ I STARTED TO MAKE CONNECTIONS HERE, AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE LORD WAS PULLING ME INTO THE BIBLICAL COUNSELING PROGRAM . ”

other side reads, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier” (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

Padilla found this tool to be a helpful reminder throughout his own day, and he decided the small gesture of gifting these cards to other men would benefit them. He explains that the men with whom he works (like all people) are not immune to trials and temptations in life. Padilla hopes that even the small tool of two Bible verses printed on reverse sides of a card can pique their interest in the Bible and in God, confident that they, too, can find hope and peace through the Word of God.

“I am a firm believer that the answers are in the Bible,” Padilla says. “I have experienced it in my own life. I have been confused and didn’t know what to do or how to deal with life or difficulties. Just by simply reading the Bible, I have found a lot of peace and stability.”





A BEACON OF
COMMITMENT TO



CHRIST



Disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Harvey

BY JULIE OWENS | PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER AND ADAM COVINGTON

The squall started as a powerful wave over the Lesser Antilles. Texans watched and waited, hoping that Tropical Storm Harvey would dissipate.

But a week later, its growing strength was evident. The clouds over southeast Texas were dark, and the air was thick with humidity and apprehension.

On Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall at peak force near Rockport, a shrimping town southwest of Houston. Over the next four days, Harvey stalled on the coast, dumping 27 trillion gallons of rain. Houston was in over its head as a world of water trapped tens of thousands of people.

Just as the flooding overburdened resources, people started to arrive from far and wide, by truck and boat and jet ski, to bring aid—neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers. Two teams of 53 student, faculty, and staff volunteers from Southwestern Seminary were among these helpers, arriving in Rockport two weeks after the storm hit, working in conjunction with Coastal Oaks Baptist Church to clear debris and remove mud, insulation, and drywall.

“These students came from all walks of life,” says Kyle Walker, vice president for student services at Southwestern. “Some were college students and others were retired missionaries. Some were American citizens and others were from Mexico, Peru, Korea, Myanmar, and Nigeria. All of them worked 10- to 12-hour days in temperatures that soared into the upper 90s, with not a single complaint that I heard. At every stop along the way, we shared the Gospel with everyone we could.”

The work ethic and compassion that the Southwestern teams brought to the task were a beacon of their commitment to Christ. As they put their muscles and compassion to work, the effect of the Gospel on people’s lives was evident at the end of every day.



BECOMING 'THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST'

Samuel Sudolcan, a bachelor's student in Scarborough College, says he felt "a strong push to help the people in South Texas in some way." This was his first disaster relief trip, and he says he was instantly eager to serve the people of Rockport.

"I was excited—not to mention that I love all types of construction work and physical labor, so that was an added bonus," he says. "I knew before we left that we were going to be able to meet the people's immediate need of recovering from the winds and flood waters; but also I knew that our testimonies, our work, and the conversations we had would potentially meet the people's eternal need for salvation. The Lord has worked in my life and heart mightily this last year, but being able to help those who desperately need it and be a light at the same time showed me God's love in action."

Mitovieiye Asita's heart broke when she saw the damage the storm had inflicted on Rockwall. "A city that was once so beautiful and peaceful was in ruins," says Asita, a master's in biblical counseling student.

"In one of the homes we worked on, the woman had lost every material thing," Asita recalls. "She had raised her four children, now adults, there." As the woman shared her story and some memories of that house, Asita could not help but tear up.

The woman originally wanted to go and stay in her neighbor's house while the Southwestern team worked. But due to the presence of the Holy Spirit there, Asita says, the woman decided to stay and even assist them.

"I look forward to doing things like this more," says Asita, who grew up in church but had never served in such a hands-on fashion. "There is no dictionary definition on how to serve God. Just look for where He is working and plug in."

Kelsey,¹ a Master of Arts in Missiology student, talked with a retired woman while her team moved debris. Kelsey says the woman had volunteered at church before, but God was not a priority to her.

"I shared a short version of the Gospel, the whole time praying for wisdom and for God to open her heart," Kelsey says. "Then her husband came out and showed us a keepsake from a church that had visited them—a cutout from a tree. It had a cross naturally in there. They said it was a sign. I asked if one of the men would pray for them."

Many times at seminary, Kelsey says, "we think that we are doing the work of God by giving this time in our lives to develop ministry skills, but our degrees mean nothing if we do not love our brother or sister in need. We are to be the hands and feet of Christ."

Bachelor's student Natalie Hernandez agrees. "That's why we're here—us prayer warriors," she says.

Hernandez recalls a woman who was reluctant to talk about God but wanted to pray for her family. "She was really hurting, and we also gave her a Bible. At the end, she was tearing up," says Hernandez. "The Lord touched her heart."

Hernandez hoped that each person she met would hear the voice of God in their conversation. "To let them know, 'You can leave it at the cross,'" she says. "'You're still here, and God's not done with you.'"

'WHO ELSE WILL SERVE IF YOU WILL NOT?'

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, Nathaniel Varghese, a master's in biblical counseling student, recalled his feelings after a tsunami struck India several years earlier. "I could remember those faces that needed help," he says. "I did not end up going to help them because I was too busy working." This time, he says, when Southwestern

¹Full name withheld to protect future mission work.



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President Paige Patterson asked students to volunteer in the disaster relief teams during a chapel service, the thought of generating an excuse again came into Varghese's mind.

"[But] during the day, I could not get those hurting faces off my mind," he says. "The question of 'Who else will serve if you will not?' kept coming to my mind."

Ultimately, Varghese did volunteer to serve. "As we got closer to Rockport, everyone became quiet, gazing at the view of houses flipped upside down, electric wires exposed to the ground, farm fields filled with water and debris," Varghese says. "I felt heartbroken."

At home after home, "I could hear people crying as I prayed for them," he says. "The service never ended. The work got harder, and the debris smelled worse. The energy for helping and sharing Jesus kept all of us going."

John Lucero, a lead support technician in Southwestern's I.T. department, also initially hesitated to volunteer, "but God reminded me of the need to go," he says. "Dr. Patterson sent down a lot of Bibles, and we used them to share the Gospel. There was a lot of despair. [Biblical Counseling Professor John] Babler had told us, 'Spend as much time talking with people as you spend working.'"

Like his fellow team members, Lucero experienced the immense joy of sharing the Word of God with people who needed its healing power. At each home they visited, as Southwestern responders shared the love of God, they felt it returned to them. As the message of salvation filled the hearts of storm victims with hope, sharing that message filled the team members with love and brought light to their own hearts.

Lucero remembers a woman who asked to take several of the female team members to lunch. "She had lost family members, and she was very bitter toward God," he says. "The tears and the love those girls showed for her did as much for her as anything."

Time after time, the hearts of Southwestern's teams were touched by the strength of the people they assisted, he says. "They ministered to me as much as I ministered to them. I think maybe God does things like this to show us what He wants to show us. He makes us work. He makes us love Him."



WATCH A VIDEO FROM THIS TRIP AT SWBTS.EDU/HARVEYRELIEF



Land Center nurtures Christ-focused thinking



BY JULIE OWENS & ALEX SIBLEY | PHOTOS BY STAFF



One Sunday morning, an openly agnostic man visited Hulen Street Church in Fort Worth. As he later explained to the pastor, this visit was prompted by a recent trip to Steel City Pops, a dessert shop with multiple locations across the country.

“He said he had visited Steel City Pops one day and just noticed something different about how the managers and employees treated one another,” explains Ryan Childress, general manager of Steel City Pops’ Fort Worth location. “The young man knew that some of the team members there were believers, and he recognized that they had something that he didn’t have. So randomly enough, he ended up at [Hulen Street Church] to check this ‘Jesus thing’ out.”

Childress shared this story at a Land Center luncheon at Southwestern Seminary in fall 2016. Hosted by the seminary’s Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement, these luncheons are a mainstay of campus life, inviting students, faculty, and other guests to hear scholars, missionaries, businessmen, and others on how such topics as work, family, liberty, and culture relate to the Christian faith.

During his September 2016 presentation, Childress spoke on the topic of “Seeing the Big Kingdom Impact of Small Business,” using his own experience at Steel City Pops as an illustration of how God uses ordinary things and ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Concluding his story about the agnostic man, Childress said, “I don’t know if this man found the truth, but he saw Christ through our business, and we had no idea that that was even happening.”

Since October 2007, the Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement has advanced the study of ethics and public policy with a Christ-centered view of the world. Named for Richard Land, former president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and current president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., the Land Center inspires thoughtful discussion and encourages students to evaluate current issues through the lens of Christianity.

The Land Center’s mission is “to equip the church to respond to the moral demands of the Christian life with biblical fidelity, cultural awareness, theological precision, and a Christ-like concern for the world.” By providing a venue for scholarly presentations and focused research through luncheons, panels, and conferences, the Land Center educates future Christian ethicists and nurtures faith-based insight into the issues facing American families.

Evan Lenow, associate professor of ethics at Southwestern, serves as director of the Land Center. He says, “The Land Center programs bring a lot of what [Southwestern’s] theology students get on a daily basis to real-life conversations. I love seeing our students take what they’ve learned and then be able to apply it.”

Lenow says he is also encouraged by the seminary staff and faculty’s response to the Land Center luncheons. “I’ve had inquiries as to what our schedule will be for the coming semester so they can put it on their calendars,” he says.



The Land Center’s unique role also raises Southwestern’s profile on the stage of ethical discussion. “It gives us the opportunity to be a voice in the public square,” Lenow says.

Following the 2016 presidential election, for example, the Land Center hosted an event featuring a panel of pastors and scholars who spoke on the topic of religious freedom in the nation. Ryan Anderson, senior research fellow for the Heritage Foundation, noted that the traditional concept of religious liberty had been greatly challenged within the last several years, leading florists, bakers, and even Catholic adoption agencies to come under attack.

After citing the reasons he believed were responsible for such a change—including the rise of secularism, the growth of the government, and the change in sexual values—Anderson focused the discussion on the Gospel. “It’s not the arguments of the intellectuals that win converts; it’s the lives of the saints,” he said. “It’s an encounter with holiness that actually spreads the Gospel.”

“That’s our best apologetic in the public square,” Anderson continued. “... No matter what happens in law, in public policy, or in culture, the ability for holiness is always within our grasp.”

Year after year, the Land Center has provided opportunities for research into an array of issues through the lens of Scripture. These include the aforementioned matter of religious liberty as well as topics such as business as missions and a biblical theology of work. From arts, literature, and music to ethics, economics, and entrepreneurship, the Land Center provides faith-based insight on every issue facing family, liberty, work, and culture today.

To learn more, visit thelandcenter.org.



LAND CENTER

THE RICHARD LAND CENTER FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



FAITH + FAMILY

“...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife...” Genesis 2:24



FAITH + LIBERTY

“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8



FAITH + WORK

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men...It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” Colossians 3:23, 24b



FAITH + CULTURE

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16



SECOND ANNUAL PREACHING CONFERENCE MODELS TEXT-DRIVEN PREACHING

By Katie Coleman, Julie Owens, and Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's second annual Text-Driven Preaching Conference, March 5-7, provided helpful instruction in the what, how, and why of text-driven preaching. Eight plenary sessions, their choice among 30 breakout sessions, and a pre-conference workshop—all led by renowned preachers and scholars in the field of preaching—equipped attendees to allow the structure, substance, and spirit of a given biblical text to drive the structure, substance, and spirit of their sermons.

Each of the plenary sessions featured a text-driven preacher modeling how to preach a text-driven sermon. Speakers included Dante Wright, H.B. Charles, Tony Merida, Robby Gallaty, and Alistair Begg, as well as Southwestern professors David Allen, Barry McCarty, and President Paige Patterson.



TIME AND SPACE NO LONGER SEPARATE STUDENTS FROM ACCESS TO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

By Alex Sibley

Marilyn Maddox desired to “shore up” her theological studies, but being a wife, mother, and full-time staff member at a large Baptist church in Houston, she was unable to relocate to Fort Worth in order to attend Southwestern Seminary in person. Fortunately, Southwestern provides an option other than the residential program that fits her particular circumstances: a “flexible access” master’s degree.

Flexible, or “flex,” access means that access to seminary courses is flexible between physical presence in the classroom or real-time virtual presence. For students like Maddox, this means live participation in classes is possible through video web conferencing software (such as Zoom or Adobe Connect).

Maddox, therefore, was able to enroll in Southwestern’s 36-credit-hour Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree without relocating from Houston and yet participate *live* in classes as they occurred on campus. The “flex access” component of the courses means she has the option of being virtually present while the classes are in session in Fort Worth through what is essentially a video conference call. Her professors, then, have physical and virtual students “sitting” in the classroom during lectures.

“I enjoy ‘participating’ in class online with the live link because I can ask

questions in real time and feel more of a part of the class,” Maddox says. “I have, thus far, always felt like the professors were both aware of and inclusive of the online students viewing the course via Zoom or Adobe Connect.”

Maddox is one of over a thousand students currently benefitting from Southwestern’s flex access program. The program encompasses several areas, including master’s-level courses that students must attend synchronously (that is, while the class is in session), master’s courses that can be attended live or viewed online later, and Southwestern’s entire Ph.D. program, which allows students from across the country and even around the globe access to the seminary’s prestigious doctoral program in a synchronous, participatory manner.

Though Executive Vice President and Provost Craig Blaising says the residential program is still the best way to pursue theological education, he also says the flex access program is the best way to incorporate students who simply cannot relocate to Fort Worth. Echoing the sentiments of her many fellow flex access students, Maddox says, “It would be nearly impossible for me, with my work and family situation, to be working on my MTS if it were not for the flex access program.”



THE POWER OF PRAYER CANNOT BE DENIED, MISSION LEADERS SAY

By Julie Owens

Prayer is a powerful tool to help persecuted congregations worldwide, an array of speakers agreed during the Persecuted Church Conference, sponsored by the World Missions Center, Feb. 13-15. During five sessions of discussion and an evening of prayer, the presenters, who have led churches in areas of the

world where Christians are persecuted, related how prayer is making a significant difference.

Presenter Sam McVay, who, along with his wife Amy, co-founded Disciple Nations, a ministry dedicated to spreading the supremacy of Christ and dependence on the Holy Spirit through prayer, emphasized that the need for prayer

is urgent. “To pray for the persecuted church is to pray for the advancement of Jesus Christ everywhere,” he said, adding that this prayer must be targeted and focused to be effective.

“It helps if you have a vision for prayer,” he said. “Prayer is going to get you across the finish line.”

ARTISAN'S WORK IS A WINDOW TO THE SOUL, AUTHOR SAYS

By Julie Owens

Working at a craft reflects the crafter's spirituality and worldview, Craig G. Bartholomew told students and faculty at Southwestern Seminary's first Land Center luncheon of the semester, Jan. 25. Bartholomew is director of the Kirby Laing Centre for Christian Ethics at Tyndale House, Cambridge, England, and an author whose work reflects on modern thought and the complexities of our time. In his most recent book, *Beyond the Modern Age* (with Bob Goudzwaard), he explores modern society's challenges to spirituality.

During the luncheon, Bartholomew addressed what he calls "the theology of craft—why people are drawn to craftsmanship, and what it reveals about their view of God." Working at a craft, he said, fosters a sense of one's self and abilities and provides a spiritual interlude in modern life.

"The whole of life is a response to God," Bartholomew said. "It's taken me years to realize that all that we are and all that we have come from God. An appreciation of the materiality of the world is an appreciation of creation."



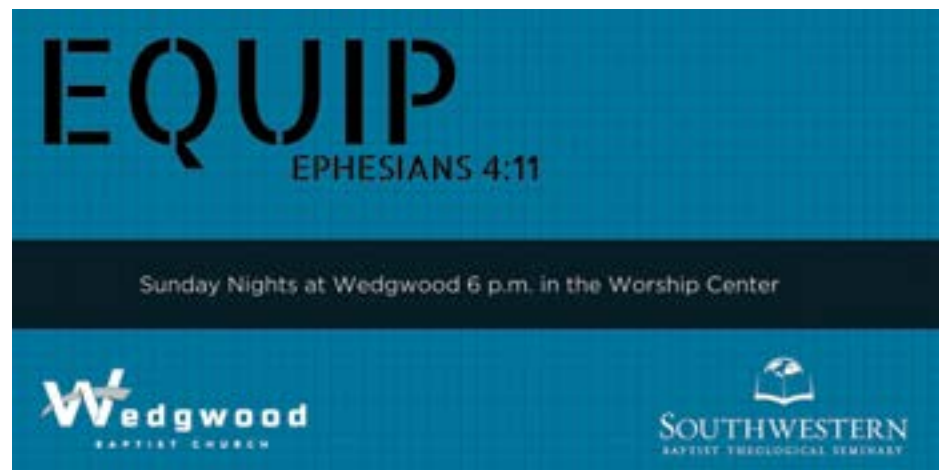
STUDENTS BRING NEW LIFE TO WEDGWOOD EVENING SERVICES

By Julie Owens

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, Southwestern Seminary students have given Wedgwood Baptist Church a gift of lasting value—the gift of their ministry skills—bringing a new focus to Wedgwood's Sunday night services. "For many churches, Sunday night services have gone the way of flip phones and CDs," says Wedgwood senior pastor Dale Braswell. "At Wedgwood, we too were facing the question of whether or not we should continue this particular aspect of our ministry.

"When the idea was presented to have Southwestern students lead in the worship and preaching, our leadership sensed this would allow us to meet two key desires: one, the continued equipping and discipleship of our church members; and two, the equipping and training of future pastors and worship leaders."

Brandon Kiesling, assistant professor of evangelism, contacted Braswell last fall about the possibility of partnering with Southwestern to conduct Sunday night services at Wedgwood. The church's leadership welcomed the idea, and



the partnership began in September 2017 and has continued into the spring 2018 semester. Through this partnership, Southwestern students and faculty lead both preaching and worship at Wedgwood on Sunday nights.

"This partnership has exceeded our expectations," Braswell says. "The most obvious result is that our Sunday evening attendance has more than doubled since

beginning the partnership. The increased attendance also means that more of our people are hearing God's Word and are encouraged to grow in their faith as well."

Furthermore, Braswell says, seeing seminary students preach and lead worship "helps our congregation know that God is truly raising up many more men and women to advance the Gospel."

SOUTHWESTERN REPORTS HISTORIC SPRING ENROLLMENT

By Julie Owens

Southwestern Seminary's sterling reputation, nurturing environment, and supportive faculty have combined to call 343 new students to enroll for the spring 2018 semester. This is the largest incoming spring class in over 10 years.

Over the last several years, an average of roughly 250 new students have entered each spring semester, and roughly 500 new students have entered each fall semester, says Kyle Walker, vice president for student services. "We were confident that our innovation and the hard work of the Admissions office would pay off this spring semester with a large incoming class," he says. "However, we did not know it was going to be this big."

An array of life experiences brought new incoming students to Southwestern. Perry Garrett, a Ph.D. student in church history, says he chose Southwestern "because of the increasingly astute Ph.D. program in early Christian studies under the oversight of Dr. D. Jeffrey Bingham and Dr. Stephen Presley, as well as the faithful theological heritage of the institution within the Southern Baptist Convention." When he began the application process, Garrett continues, "I was received with Christian hospitality and grace, and I continued experiencing this welcoming spirit while on campus recently for seminars and events."

"It thrills me more than I can say to see God calling out men and women and directing them our way to be equipped to fulfill the call on their lives," Walker says. "By coming to Southwestern, these men and women will be grounded in God's Word and prepared to reach the world."



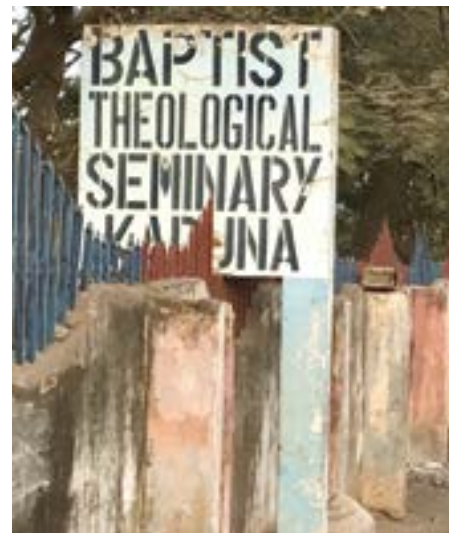
PH.D. STUDENT INSPIRED BY ZEAL OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS

By Katie Coleman

Seven Southwestern Seminary Ph.D. students and three faculty members recently had the opportunity to teach courses at the Baptist theological seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria. Understanding how Southwestern's resources have benefited his academic career and ministry, Ph.D. student Russell Bryan imagined what might be possible for the Nigerian students if they only had more resources, newer technology, and a better classroom environment. But after witnessing their passion to impact northern Nigeria with the Gospel, he realized it was students back in Fort Worth who might have something to learn.

Although the Nigerian students face the threat of persecution for their Christian faith, they remain persistent in their theological education. Bryan asked himself, "What would happen if we (the students at Southwestern Seminary) had the zeal of those believers being trained in Kaduna?"

"These believers seal their faith with difficulty, persecution, and for some, their own blood," Bryan says. "Yet for many of us as believers in the United States, we struggle to seal our faith by simply stepping over the infinitesimal barrier of perceived awkwardness in sharing the Gospel."



STUDENTS GLEAN WISDOM FROM PROFESSORS THROUGH NEW DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

By Katie Coleman

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, students in Southwestern Seminary's undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs have had the unique opportunity to learn from the experience and wisdom of their professors outside the traditional academic context. In the new program called the Legacy Leadership Track, students meet with a group once a month to discuss life, ministry, and leadership as professors guide them to further cultivate spiritual growth and leadership development.

Katie McCoy, assistant professor of theology in women's studies and one of the small group leaders in the Legacy Leadership Track,

says these small group meetings have created a unique space for Southwesterners to build new friendships, but also to challenge one another in their pursuit of Christ in the midst of a busy academic schedule. Master of Arts student Jennifer Cowlshaw says the monthly gatherings with McCoy and other students are encouraging amidst the pressures of school and life.

"I hope to one day become a professor, so talking with someone who recently accomplished that was encouraging," she says. "It was beneficial in all aspects because I was comforted that my goals can be accomplished."

NEW KEYBOARDS CLASSROOM UNVEILED IN COWDEN HALL

By Alex Sibley

In the words of Leo Day, dean of the School of Church Music at Southwestern Seminary, he and his faculty strive to "train all skillfully to perform masterfully so that we worship passionately." This goal is now even more attainable thanks to the Oneta and Curtis Tally Collaborative Keyboards Classroom, which was unveiled during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, Jan. 18.

The classroom in Cowden Hall features 13 keyboards, music-inspired art, a special screen allowing for unique interaction between students and professors, and a portrait of the room's generous donors. The room had previously been in need of renovation, and when Oneta and Curtis Tally, long-time friends of the seminary, learned of the

need, they volunteered to provide funds to renovate and restore the space. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was the climax of such an effort.

"After much prayer about this classroom, in which the old pianos were failing on many levels, God has brought much peace," Day says. "The result of God's answer to prayer through Oneta and Curtis Tally means that our students will be educated in the finest facility by our dedicated professional music faculty. Students will graduate from Southwestern, gain employment, and begin to train others as they pursue music studies on the highest level. We do all of this for the sake of sharing the Gospel through music."



EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM DIES AT 99

By Alex Sibley

Billy Graham, one of the most prolific and well-known evangelists of the 20th and 21st centuries, died Feb. 21 at his home. He was 99.

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, says, “Billy Graham lived what he preached and preached what he lived. His allegiance to sacred Scripture was legendary. Never did he allow doubt to shake his confidence in God’s Word. Today, we all stand on the shoulders of this great prophet to the nations. I join with millions around the globe in expressing gratitude to God for the life of this man of God.”

Graham preached the Gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in recorded history—nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories—through various preaching opportunities and evangelistic crusades over the course of his seven-decades-long ministry. Hundreds of millions more were reached through television, video, film, and webcasts. As a result of being exposed to the Good News of Jesus Christ, hundreds of thousands of individuals responded to Graham’s invitation to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Graham visited Southwestern Seminary multiple times since the 1950s, encouraging students to remain diligent in their walks with the Lord and to be wary of attacks from the enemy. During an “Emphasis on Evangelism”



in December 1961, Graham said he owed a great deal to Southwestern alumni who had been an inspiration and challenge to him as he traveled all over the world. “The balance of evangelism and academic at Southwestern is unmatched in the whole world,” he said.

Mathena Hall, the newest building on Southwestern’s campus, features a Billy

Graham classroom, which was funded by Don Haley and Letitia Haley Baker of Haley-Greer, Inc. The room highlights the worldwide reach of Graham’s ministry through photographs, articles, books, awards, and personal letters.

Graham was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 2007. He is survived by their children, Virginia, Anne, Ruth, Franklin, and Nelson.

FORMER NEW TESTAMENT PROFESSOR DIES AT 76

By Staff

Siegfried Schatzmann, former professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary, died Feb. 20 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He was 76.

Schatzmann was born on Aug. 8, 1941, in Switzerland. He was a New Testament scholar with a teaching career spanning more than 30 years. In addition to Southwestern, he taught at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla.; Regents Theological College in England; and as a guest professor in Germany. Prior to teaching, he served as a pastor in Switzerland and as a missionary in Lesotho, Africa.

Schatzmann was an avid reader, gardener, and philatelist (stamp collector). He authored *A Pauline Theology of Charismata*, and he enjoyed translating German theological

books into English, including *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (by Hubertus R. Drobner), *Colossians: A Commentary* (by Petr Pokorny), and *Romans: The Righteousness of God* (by Adolf Schlatter). Schatzmann traveled frequently to his home country to see family and friends.

Southwestern President Paige Patterson says, “Dr. Schatzmann was a treasure here at Southwestern, and I remember him with great fondness.” Charles Johnson, one of Schatzmann’s former students, says Schatzmann was one of his favorite professors at Southwestern. “I enjoyed every class I took with him,” Johnson says. “He was a brilliant and Christlike man and scholar, always firm but kind with instruction and guidance.”



Schatzmann is survived by his wife of 55 years, Madi; children, Myriam, David, and Marcel; and 10 grandchildren.

FAITHFUL PRAYER WARRIORS ASSEMBLE AT WIDOWS' MIGHT LUNCHEON

By Katie Coleman

Southwestern Seminary's Widows' Might ministry comprises widowed women from across the United States who are devoted to praying for the seminary and Scarborough College. Gatherings are hosted twice a year for widows to fellowship with each other, receive encouragement, and participate in a time of devoted prayer.

Karen Collett, Women's Auxiliary liaison, describes this as what the

ministry is all about: women who pray for Southwestern daily with joy and gladness. "Our Widows' Might prayer warrior ministry continues to grow. What a blessing to see so many at this event, and a delight to welcome over 25 new women to this group," Collett said at the most recent luncheon, March 9. "Their prayers provide the foundation as Southwestern Seminary trains men and women for Kingdom work."



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



SOUTHWESTERN
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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.



Death is not a Blessing

By D. Jeffrey Bingham / Dean, School of Theology

Death is not a blessing; it is a calamity. It collaborates with the other tyrants—sin and the devil—to bring us misery. Death is not good.

Life is good. God, its Giver, is good. God in Christ, even though we are condemned to die, gives us consolation by gifting us again with life (John 10:10; Romans 6:23). Death provides no solace, no relief from our distress. In itself, it yields only a different type of torment. Only in life—our fellowship with Christ and our sharing in the benefits of His resurrection and return—do we find rest: “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son” (1 John 5:11).



6 Hard Lessons from Parenting in Crisis

By Justin Buchanan / Assistant Professor of Student Ministry

Earthly problems remind us this world is not as God intended. God promised one

day there will be a new heaven and a new earth where “there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain” (Revelation 21:4a). This world, with all its pain and suffering, is not our permanent home. We have hope through our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that one day all the storms and sorrow of this world will be left behind. Parents must keep their hearts and minds firmly fixed on this glorious truth and lead their children to know and embrace this hope.



Some Observations about a Prisoned Bible

By Stephen Presley / Associate Professor of Church History

In the free world, as the world outside of prison is often called, we love to read books about the Bible like commentaries, study guides, or Bible backgrounds. We devour Christian living books and read everything about “biblical” love, marriage, sex, parenting, preaching, teaching, small groups, and church growth models. All good things, but not the sacred words of divine revelation. If we are honest, I wonder how much time we spend reading and studying everything about the Bible, rather than the Bible itself.



Christianity and the Alluring Beauty of the Divine Dance

By Ross Inman / Assistant Professor of Philosophy

You and I were created in the image of this beautiful God (Genesis 1:27) to experience and to enjoy deep and alluring beauty (Psalm 27:4). We were made to behold and to manifest divine beauty, ultimately the beauty of God revealed in Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). It is precisely by becoming like the triune God that we glorify God to the full, by living lives that reflect the proper order and beauty of the triune dance, the supreme harmony of all.



To Meditate or Not to Meditate

By Waylan Owens / Dean, Terry School of Church and Family Ministries

When God Himself, His Word, and His commands become our every moment, a continuous deep groan within, and our never-ceasing concern, that is biblical meditation. And such meditation is strong medicine, good for whatever ails you ... and so much more.

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

Everyday Evangelism Stories

Southwestern Seminary students and faculty strive to “Preach the Word, Reach the World,” and this often manifests through everyday evangelism encounters. Below are excerpts from articles about some of these encounters, detailing Southwesterners’ heart for evangelism and God’s sovereign grace in saving sinners.

‘Iron sharpens iron’ during Cowtown marathon

By Alex Sibley



Many thoughts pass through runners’ minds as they progress through 13-mile half-marathons. “You can do it,” “Just put one foot in front of the other,” “Your ankle is not broken; keep going,” etc. While such sentiments were not foreign to the

mind of Trey Holmes in the midst of running the Cowtown half-marathon this past weekend, his primary focus was elsewhere. Before the race began on that early Sunday morning, Holmes prayed that God would give him the opportunity to share the Gospel with his fellow runners. Before Holmes reached mile 12, God did.

Student challenged to make evangelism a family effort

By Katie Coleman



Master of Divinity student John Mark Jarrett is a frequent evangelist, regularly participating in door-to-door evangelism efforts with Southwestern and his church. But during a recent partnership between Southwestern Seminary

and Wedgwood Baptist Church to intentionally evangelize a local neighborhood, he brought his family with him for the first time. What resulted was not just many Gospel seeds planted, but a transformation in the life of his family.

“If I am called to lead my wife and children as a husband and father,” Jarrett says, “should I not lead them in evangelism also? I think this is something that many families miss out on, even in our Southern Baptist culture today.”

Gift of God enlightens new believer

By Julie Owens and Alex Sibley



... Since that night, Anna and Luz have continued to meet for discipleship, and Luz has confirmed through both word and action that she is now a believer. “She has shared how much peace she has had ever since,” Anna says. Luz revealed

that as the reason she first came to the Wednesday night Bible study—to find peace.

Evangelist rejoices over answered prayers, God-orchestrated encounter

By Alex Sibley



When the Southwesterners asked the women if they would like to pray to receive Christ and have assurance of forgiveness and eternal life, Rose and Samara both responded with an eager “yes.” Then Rose said, “Before I pray, can I tell you something?” The Southwesterners answered “yes.”

“Two days ago,” Rose told them, “I asked God to send someone to my house to tell me about Jesus and how I could know Him. Now I know that He sent you.”

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

SOUTHWESTERN PROVIDES WORTHWHILE WAYS TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

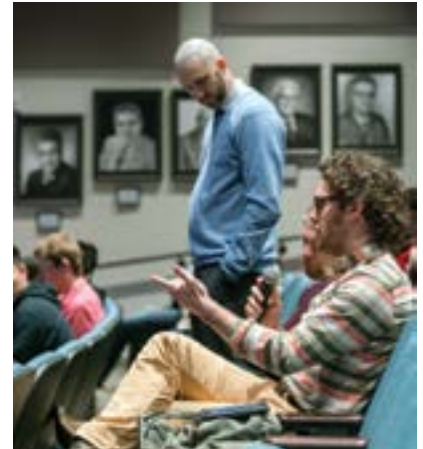
By Alex Sibley



Students' friends and families can be forgiven for thinking that Southwesterners appear a bit tired this semester. Beyond taking classes, writing papers, and reading lots and lots of books, Southwestern students have had a busy spring semester with such campus events as a college worship night, weekly prayer meetings, lecture series (including one by the "Tolkien Professor," Corey Olsen), coffee talks, multiple hangouts for women, a student talent show, and the Metochai Valentine's Banquet. Plus, a number of students and faculty participated in Fort Worth's Cowtown 40th Anniversary. But lest anyone interpret this busy schedule in a negative light, understand that the Southwestern family wouldn't have it any other way. Events like these allow students to grow in their walks with God, strengthen relationships with fellow believers, and even band together to bring the Gospel to the lost. Few would disagree that these are worthwhile ways to spend one's time outside the classroom.









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



CARROLL, SCARBOROUGH AWARDS HONOR GENEROUS PARTNERS

By Julie Owens

Four couples were recognized for their legacy of faith and generosity to Southwestern Seminary at a festive luncheon, March 7. Southwestern President Paige Patterson praised Patricia and Harold Mathena, Pam and Fred Gough, Julie and Hance Dilbeck, and Barbara and Dean Hancock for their deep commitment and contributions to the seminary. The Mathenas and Goughs are the 2018 recipients of the B.H. Carroll Award, named for the seminary's founder; and the Dilbecks and Hancocks are the 2018 recipients of the L.R. Scarborough Award, named for the seminary's second president.

Patricia and Harold Mathena are the namesake for Southwestern's newest building, Mathena Hall. The couple announced in 2014 that they would provide the lead gift of \$12 million to cover roughly half the cost of construction of this building. After much prayer, the Mathenas said that they believed the Lord wanted a new facility to prepare men and women to take the Gospel to the ends of the world, and they wanted to be part of that. Mathena Hall officially opened in 2017.

Now a full-time evangelist, Harold Mathena formerly owned a manufacturing company for the oil industry, which he sold for more than \$200 million. He subsequently gave a check for \$20 million to his church, Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, as his tithe. Since then, he has continued to invest in ministry efforts to further the Kingdom of God at multiple institutions, including Southwestern Seminary.

"God has blessed us, blessed us, blessed us," Patricia Mathena said. "All the glory to God."

Pam and Fred Gough were both influenced by the piano when growing up, and the Steinway Piano Project at Southwestern attracted their interest and support. In 2016, thanks in part to the Goughs' contributions, Southwestern Seminary earned the designation of being an "All-Steinway



School," a title held by only 187 institutions worldwide. "Because of their generosity, current and future students can learn to play on the best of instruments," Patterson said.

The Goughs have also supported Dressed for Service, scholarships, and other projects and needs. Furthermore, they have taken a great interest in Scarborough College. The Goughs love country life and flying, and Fred Gough is a licensed pilot. In January 2018, Fred, a former star linebacker at the University of Texas at Arlington, was inducted into UTA's Hall of Honor.

Julie and Hance Dilbeck, recipients of the L.R. Scarborough Award, are acutely aware of Southwestern's needs—they lived in seminary housing with their firstborn child. Hance Dilbeck, former pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church and executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, is a two-time Southwestern graduate (Master of Divinity, 1992; Doctor of Ministry, 2002).

Dilbeck expressed gratitude to Southwestern for helping him to begin a life of ministry. "I feel the benefits of my theological education more and more," he said.

"You have always been very committed to evangelism," Patterson said. "You have been very generous to us."

Dean and Barbara Hancock, also recipients of the L.R. Scarborough Award, have spent decades serving In Touch Ministries, the broadcast and teaching ministry of Charles Stanley, where Dean serves on the board. In 2010, Hancock presented Southwestern with the first of five \$100,000 checks on behalf of In Touch to be used to fund student scholarships at the seminary.

The Hancocks have also supported Dressed for Service, Women's Auxiliary, the School of Church Music's annual Gala and Christmas service, and the construction of Mathena Hall. They have a shared lifelong interest and passion for Southern Gospel music, and so they have also supported the Southern Gospel Concert at Southwestern.

"These are some of the sweetest people we know," Patterson said of the Hancocks. "As long as you look at your award, you will always remember that through your gifts, you've made this an evangelistic institution again."

Alumni Updates

1960

Ronald Beams (BDIV 1969) to Cottonwood Baptist Church, Glen Rose, Texas, as pastor, with wife Carrol (Simmons) Beams.

1970

E. Dale Hill (MDIV 1978) to Burnet Llano Baptist Association, Marble Falls, Texas, as executive director, with wife Karen Hill.

1980

Steve Russell (MDIV 1980) to Montalba Christian Church, Montalba, Texas, as pastor.

Robert Ellis (MDIV 1981, PHD 1988) to Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, as dean of the Logsdon School of Theology, with wife Teresa (Cardin) Ellis.

Jackie E. Hayes (MDIV 1983, DMIN 1987) to Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Jacksonville, Fla., as staff chaplain, with wife Kathy (Maki) Hayes.

Mike Talley (MRE 1985) to First Baptist Church, Perry, Ga., as associate pastor in charge of pastoral care, with wife Pamela (Lowrey) Talley.

Gordon E. Moore (MARE 1986) to Westwood Baptist Church, Palestine, Texas, as worship and administration pastor, with wife Amy (Wilhelm) Moore.

Mike Kessler (MDIV 1988) to First Baptist Church Gilmer, Texas, as pastor, with wife Amy (Amerson) Kessler.

1990

Tom Starling (MDIV 1993) to Mental Health America, Alexandria, Va., as board chair.

Ronny Cooksey (MDIV 1994) to Sandia Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M., as senior pastor, with wife Kathy (Faus) Cooksey.

2000

Nate Young (MDIV 2003) to North River Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., as executive pastor, with wife Carrie Young.

Mike Cunningham (MACE 2006, MAMISS 2007) to First Baptist Church, North Augusta, S.C., as discipleship pastor, with wife Sharon (Bohn) Cunningham.

David B. Couch (MAMFC 2007) to First Baptist Church, Burleson, Texas, as counselor and pastor of connections and life groups, with wife Carrie A. (Lamb) Couch.

Ben Reams (MDIV 2007) to South Aiken Baptist Church, Aiken, S.C., as pastor, with wife Crissy Reams.

2010

Charleen Burghardt (MACE 2010) to Baptist Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas, as chaplain.

Chris McCluskey (MDIV 2017) to Ingomar Church, New Albany, Miss., as minister of students.

Retirement

Eddy Hallock (MDIV 1971) retired with wife, Brenda Hallock, living in Houston, Texas.

Milo Jurik (MDIV 1973) retired with wife, Barbara Jurik, living in Centerton, Ark.

Larry L. Futral (MCM/MRE 1974) retired with wife, Rita Futral, living in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Danny R. Bidy (MDIV 1975) retired with wife, Dana Bidy, living in Liberty, Texas.

William H. Few (MDIV 1975) retired with wife, Joan Few, living in Irving, Texas.

Jim Butler (MDIV 1976) retired with wife, Lawanda Butler, living in Newcastle, Okla.

Gary Cardwell (MARE 1983) retired with wife, Carol Cardwell, living in Gadsden, Ala.

Oran Coggins (MRE 1984, MACSS 1988) retired, living in Roebuck, S.C.

David E. Lanier (MDIV 1984, PHD 1988) retired with wife, Sarah (Simms) Lanier, living in Wake Forest, N.C.

John W. "JW" Glidewell (MDIV 1987) retired with wife, JaNelle Glidewell, living in Colby, Kan.

Anniversaries

Jack MacGorman (BDIV 1948, THD 1956) and Ruth (Stephens) MacGorman, 70th wedding anniversary (August).

Mike Talley (MRE 1985) and Pamela (Lowrey) Talley, 38th wedding anniversary (November).

Martin Gallardo (MTS 2016) and Yolanda Gallardo, 27th wedding anniversary (November).

Memorials

1940

Gladys Best (MRE 1947)

Evelyn M. Cofer (MRE 1947)

William "Bill" O. Poe (BDIV 1947)

Harris D. Shinn (MSM 1949)

Gayle Toland (MRE 1949)

1950

Edward L. White (MDIV 1951)

Floyd D. McCoy (MSM 1952)

Thomas Ezell Adams (BDIV 1953)

Fred A. McDowell (DSM 1953, BRE 1956)

Thomas Z. Parrish (BDIV 1953)

James E. Bass (BDIV 1954, DMIN 1977)

Gerald B. Lepere (MRE 1954)

W.L. "Bill" Trice, Jr. (BDIV 1954)

James A. Shillings (MRE 1956)

Leonard Roten (MRE 1957)

Melvin Dwain Steinkuehler (BDIV 1957, MDIV 1973)

Jack Whyburn (BDIV 1958)

1960

Vernon L. Fash (MDIV 1960)

Bill E. Roe (BDIV 1961)

Royce O. Denton (BDIV 1962)

Lenore T. Stringer (MRE 1962)

Jimmy L. Hallcom (MRE 1963)

Benton Thomas "Tommy" Walden (BRE 1963)

Bob L. Eklund (MRE 1964)

Robert T. Heard (MDIV 1964)

Lloyd H. Henderson (MRE 1964)

Laprade S. Jones (ARE 1964)

Lake B. Stovall (MRE 1964)

John P. Dawes (MDIV 1968)

Phillip Copeland (MDIV 1969)

William Simpson (MDIV 1969)

1970

John V. Rainwater, Jr. (MACM 1970)

Charles Edward Nestor (MDIV 1972, DMIN 1974)

Neil Thompson (MDIV 1977)

Susan C. Luttrell (MACM, MRE 1978)

1980

Harald E. Aadahl (MARE 1983)

Bill Dodson (MDIV 1988)

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“RENDER TO ALL WHAT IS DUE THEM ... HONOR TO WHOM HONOR”

By *Evan Lenow*

The early church was born into a world of persecution. Few of those first-generation believers would have ever imagined the possibility of Christians participating in the public administration of cities and nations. In fact, some early church fathers advised their congregations to steer clear of public service vocations, such as government and the military, in order to avoid the temptations of idolatry and service to a pagan authority. Such concerns are valid even in our contemporary society as we contemplate the place of Christians in public service.

On the other hand, we see clear examples in Scripture of God’s servants functioning in roles as public servants. After interpreting Pharaoh’s dream, Joseph becomes second-in-command behind Pharaoh in the administration of the government of Egypt (Genesis 41). Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, are promoted to positions of authority in Nebuchadnezzar’s court in Babylon. Daniel himself becomes ruler over the province of Babylon and chief prefect over the wise men of Babylon (Daniel 2). Nehemiah served in a position of trust as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1-2).

While we do not see any New Testament apostles pursuing vocations of public service, we see that the Gospel is offered freely to such individuals. Peter and John were arrested and brought before the rulers and elders in Jerusalem. Rather than shrinking before these men of authority, they responded, “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Paul boldly proclaimed the Gospel before kings and governors. In Acts 26, Paul makes his defense before King Agrippa and shares why

he has traversed the world telling people about Jesus. His words are so compelling that Agrippa understands Paul’s ultimate desire. We read, “Agrippa replied to Paul, ‘In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.’ And Paul said, ‘I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains’” (Acts 26:28-29).

Public service is a worthy vocation to which some believers are called. Whether these are government officials, keepers of the peace, first responders, or other public servants, we can esteem their roles to provide for the proper functioning of society. They have a very unique place to fulfill in one of the institutions that God ordained.

Romans 13 tells us that God established governing authorities and that such authorities receive their mandate for ruling from Him. Those who resist the authority of government also resist the ordinance of God. As a result, fellow believers who function in roles of governing authority over their fellow citizens serve as an extension of God’s authority on the earth. When these servants of God fulfill their responsibilities as God intended, then we are to find comfort in the fact that they are keeping the peace—rewarding good and punishing evil—just as God designed. Paul gives us a very specific illustration of our relationship to these governing authorities as he writes,

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger

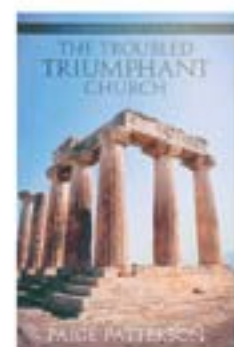
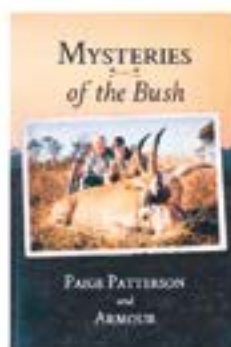
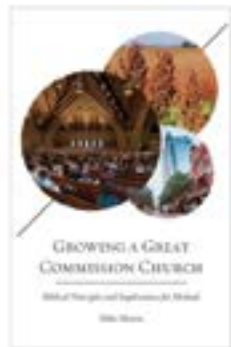
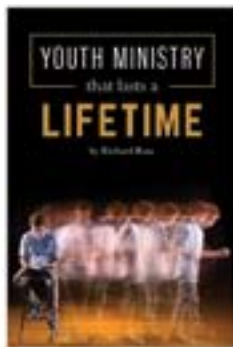


who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. (Romans 13:3-4)

What is amazing is that Paul wrote these words to believers in Rome suffering under the persecution and corruption of Nero’s reign. If even a corrupt government is ordained by God, then how much more could a government infused with believers function to fulfill God’s purposes? This is all the more reason why we should encourage faithful believers to fill these roles of public service so that the administration of civil society may be accomplished with integrity and grace.

It is with this in mind that we affirm Paul’s conclusion in Romans 13:7, “Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.” We give honor to those who faithfully pursue the vocation of public service and sacrifice their own desires and wishes to ensure that our society functions as God designed.

EVAN LENOW serves as associate professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary, where he occupies the Bobby L. and Janis Eklund Chair of Stewardship. He also serves as director of the Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement and the Center for Biblical Stewardship.



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