

WINTER 2019

# SWN

SouthwesternNews

LIGHTING THE WORLD

*from*

SEMINARY HILL



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## MARCH

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10-13	<b>Revive This Nation</b>	swbts.edu/rtn
11-15	<b>Spring Break</b>	Offices open/classes dismissed
21-22	<b>Experience Southwestern</b>	
22-23	<b>Stand Firm Apologetics Conference</b>	swbts.edu/standfirm
26-27	<b>North American Church Planting Week</b>	
29-30	<b>Youth Ministry Lab</b>	youthministrylab.com

# SouthwesternNews

WINTER 2019 Volume 76 Issue 4  
swnews.org

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To comment on articles in *Southwestern News* or to suggest story ideas, write to [communications@swbts.edu](mailto:communications@swbts.edu).

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

To make mailing address changes, email [friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu](mailto:friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu), or write to the address below.

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

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a letter from THE PRESIDENT

EVER HAD A CONFIDENCE BROKEN? SOME PEOPLE WILL NOT KEEP SECRETS, AND THEY leave a wake of broken promises behind them. They find secrets too delightful not to pass on, sometimes even their own. George Orwell, in his novel *1984*, notes that this is the case even more so when one's own survival is at stake. His character, Winston, "perceived that if you want to keep a secret you must also hide it from yourself." Secrets have a tendency to bleed through. Benjamin Franklin believed that "if you would keep your secret from an enemy, tell it not to a friend."

Some things are clearly better left unspoken—they are not meant to be shared in public. Passwords, for instance. Just stop and think for a moment what would be lost if an untrustworthy person gained access to the information stored on your laptop, tablet, or smart phone. The thought terrifies me. Passwords need to remain secret. So does information shared with you in confidence. Consider the disappointment, embarrassment, and pain that your spouse, child, or friend would feel if you made public something whispered and entrusted to you. He or she, in the agony of betrayal, would turn to you in utter disbelief. "You were supposed to keep it just between us. How can I ever trust you again?"

Some things once shared are not to be spoken again. Ever.

But not all things. Some things are meant to be broadcast.

That is the way we here at Southwestern feel about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe (Rom 1:17). We believe it should be proclaimed to the whole world. This powerful Gospel provides for the forgiveness of sins, sanctification, resurrection, and glorification. By it believers are reconciled to God and are transformed to love God and their neighbors. By it we make disciples from the nations for the nations. At Southwestern, we eagerly receive students from all across the world so that we might train them as disciples and servant-leaders for the ministry of discipleship throughout the world. With the sovereign, ever-present Lord Jesus Christ empowering our faculty through the indwelling Holy Spirit, our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for evangelizing and equipping others (Matt 28:18-20). Our graduates cannot remain silent about this Gospel.

Paul did tell the Ephesians and Colossians that prior to his ministry and the revelation he received, the inclusion of the Gentiles into the gracious, unfathomable blessings of Christ had been hidden by God as a mystery (Eph 3:1-13; Col 1:24-29). But, in his comments, Paul was saying *that was then, but this is now!* No longer is that good news hidden. No longer is it a mystery. It has now been brought to light. Believing Gentiles can be blessed through Christ along with believing Jews.

To the Corinthians, Paul spoke of Gentile salvation in this way: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" (1 Cor 2:9-10). The beautiful, inconceivable treasures available to the Gentiles in Christ are no longer kept deep inside God the Father in silence as they once were. No! God the Holy Spirit revealed them to the apostles, and we now see them in the sacred writings of the Bible, as the New Testament shines light upon the Old. In the teaching of the apostles, God has flung open the door on the good news; He has turned on all the lights and raised all the blinds. The blessings are no longer secret. They are for the world to know. As Moses wrote so long ago, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law" (Deut 29:29).

This issue of Southwestern News highlights how this is precisely what Southwestern students prepare to do and what our alumni do throughout the nations every day. They follow the words of the Lord, evangelizing, baptizing, and instructing their disciples in all the teachings of the Lord. They are unable to keep silent. They will not keep the good news hidden. It has been revealed by God. It is because our alumni have seen a great light and because upon them a light has dawned that they are now brightly lit lamps upon a hill or within a house (Isa 9:2; Matt 4:16). And, by God's grace, they refuse to be hidden or covered in the darkness of the world's night. Instead, in the brightness of their words and deeds, as lanterns and lighthouses, they illuminate the Gospel and glorify their Father in heaven (Matt 5:14-16). After all, they are Southwesterners.

Sincerely,



D. Jeffrey Bingham  
*Interim President*





Lucas Fernandez Paz translates for Southwestern's annual Text-Driven Preaching Conference. His efforts allow Spanish-speaking ministers to benefit from the teaching of Southwestern's professors and other guest speakers.



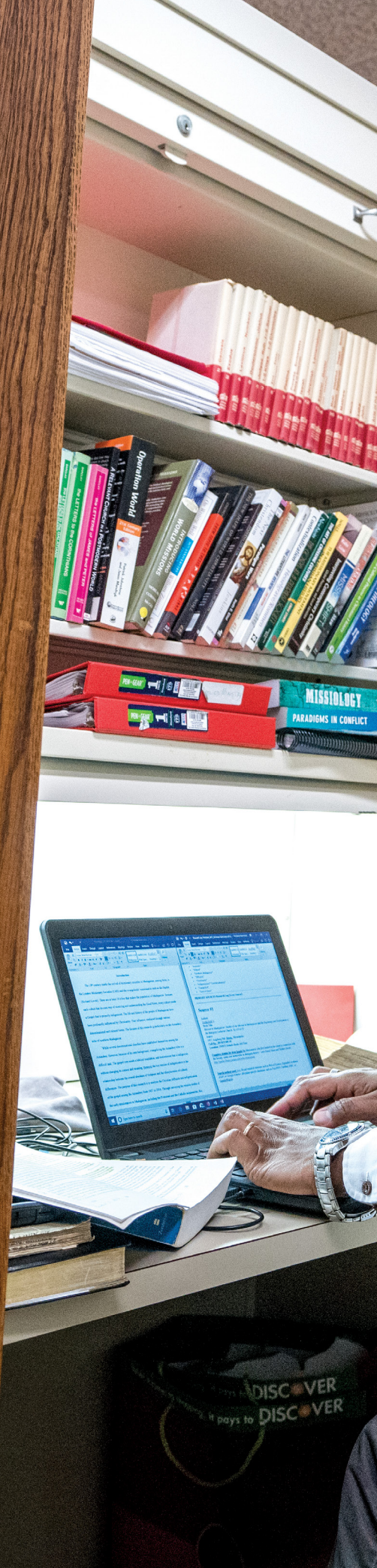
SPANISH







With open books on his desk and in his lap, Niritsoa Mamitiana writes his latest doctoral research paper in a study carrel in Roberts Library. Mamitiana plans to use his theological training here at Southwestern to one day open and lead a seminary in his native Madagascar.











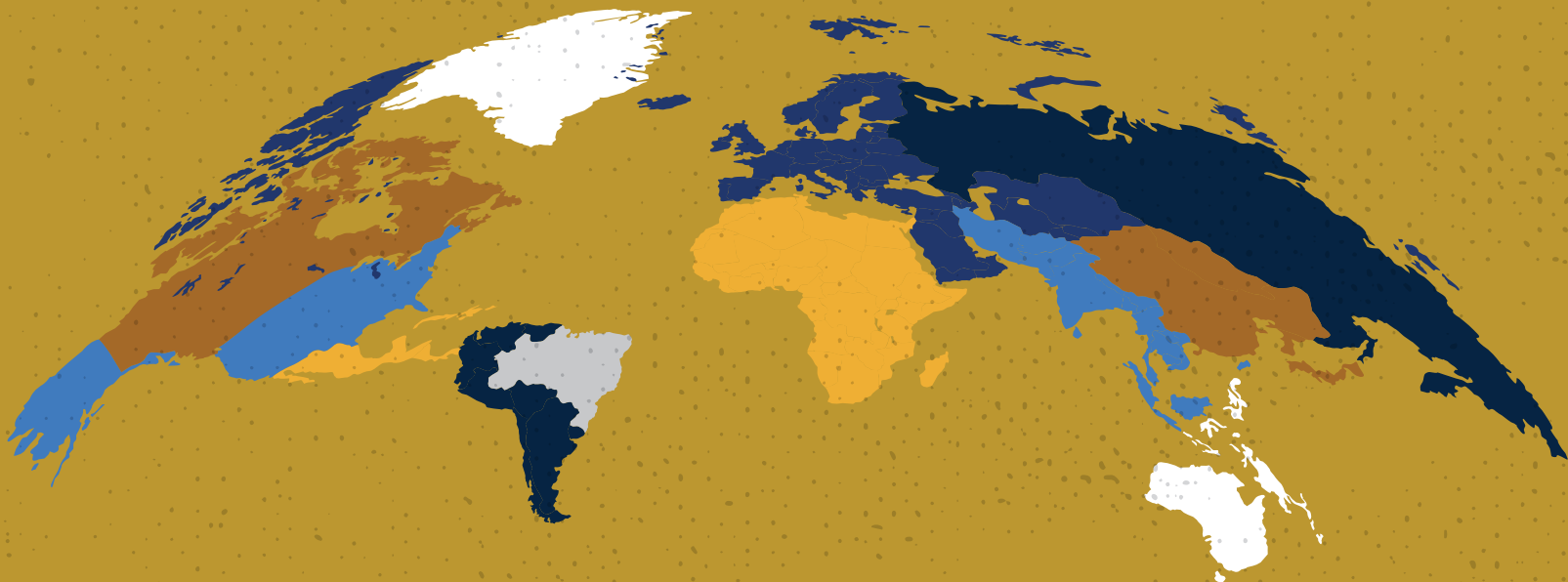
# LIGHTING THE WORLD *from* SEMINARY HILL

*By Alex Sibley*

*“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10).*







In Revelation 7, the Apostle John describes a vision of men and women from every nation, every ethnicity, and every language gathering before the Lamb of God to worship and adore Him. This picture affirms that Jesus died for all, and the Gospel of salvation is for all who believe in Him. Race, ethnicity, nationality, language—none of these qualify or disqualify one from receiving the grace of God.

As the Apostle Paul states in his letter to the Colossians, in Christ, “there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all” (Colossians 3:11). Thus, in heaven, faithful believers from every corner of the world will assemble in worship of our great God and glorious Savior.

Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham says that this image of the throne room in heaven provides a model for the student body at Southwestern Seminary. Presently, the institution has students from 45 different countries around the world. These students—representing numerous nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues—assemble on the Fort Worth campus in order to bring praise and glory to the Lamb of God. Through challenging coursework, personal discipleship with professors, and Spirit-filled worship in chapel and other services, these students grow together in their walks with the Lord and join their voices in praise of the One who sits on the throne of heaven.

But as encouraging as this picture of the unity of the body of Christ may be, these students do not come to Southwestern in order to stay. Rather, they come to get equipped for the ministries to which God has called them, and many return to their native lands in order to spread the Gospel among their own people. In short, they come in order that they may go.

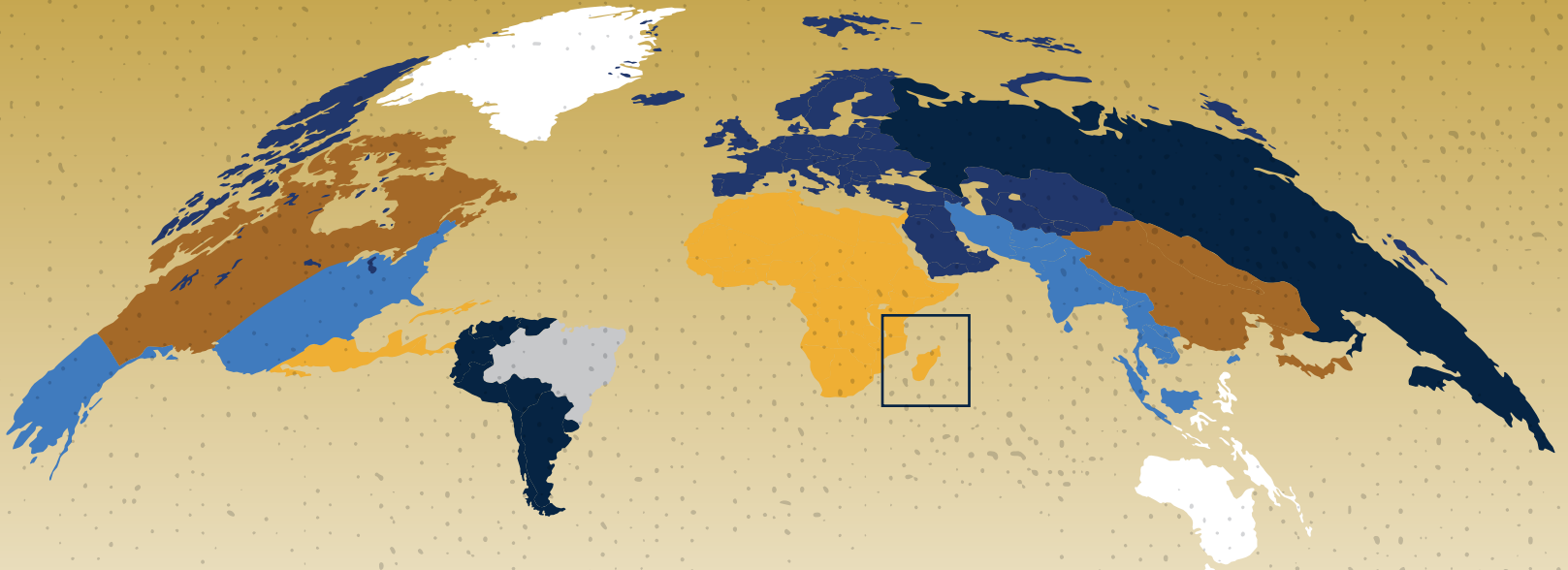
In this way, Southwestern reaches the world with the light of the Gospel—by training ministers on the Fort Worth campus to bring the Good News of Christ to the ends of the earth. This is why they come, and this is why they go.

This issue of Southwestern News provides a small sample of the international reach of Southwestern, showcasing students who have come from different parts of the world to get equipped for ministry and then return to their home countries to use what they have learned in order to seek and save the lost among their people. As these stories prove, obtaining theological education presents many challenges, but an obedient heart for the Lord and a burning passion for reaching the lost inspire perseverance in the task.

So as you read these stories, we pray you will be encouraged that as these students go forth from here to reach the world for Christ, more and more people will be added to the multitude in heaven, crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”







## NIRINTSOA MAMITIANA

• MADAGASCAR •



*“If I don’t have anything but I have the Word of God in my ministry in Madagascar, I think that is the way to start the ministry, and so that is what I’m going to do.”*



# A SUITCASE AND A VISION

## *being part of what God wants to do*

*By Alex Sibley | Photos by Neil Williams and Kathleen Murray*

**T**he Mamitiana family arrived on the Southwestern Seminary campus with nothing but a suitcase. They had sold almost everything they owned—their car, their house, nearly all of their possessions—in order to purchase tickets for the 10,000-mile trek from Madagascar to Fort Worth. Nirintsoa Mamitiana, the family’s patriarch, carried the suitcase—and a vision.

Years earlier, during a personal Bible study, Mamitiana envisioned thousands of people standing before him as he preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Discerning this as a vision from God, Mamitiana surrendered his life to full-time ministry. He proceeded to serve in various capacities, doing some international mission work and teaching life and leadership skills in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar. But Mamitiana’s heart continued to burn for the lost in his nation, and he realized that God intended bigger things for him.

Mamitiana determined that the greatest impact he could have for the spiritual life of his people was to begin a school in Madagascar that trained, equipped, and deployed students to plant churches, teach the Word of God, and raise up new leaders who could then plant churches of their own. In this way, he could reach the nation of Madagascar.

“Madagascar is a very unique place,” Mamitiana says. “People are receptive and hungry for God, but they don’t know yet what to do, because the cultures and traditions still serve as the filter that they use instead of letting those cultures and traditions be filtered through the Bible.

“We need to go and make disciples as our Lord commissioned us, to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to observe and obey all that Jesus has commanded, because Jesus said that He is with us to the ends of the earth.”

With this particular vision of reaching the nation in mind, Mamitiana and his family gave up nearly everything

they owned in order to come to Southwestern so he could be trained in theology, equipped for ministry, and then deployed back to Madagascar to plant a church, start a Bible school, and spread the Gospel. Though starting this ministry from the ground up requires “inventing the wheel” in some ways due to the cultural context, Mamitiana rests in the assurance that God will see it through.

“This is God’s vision, and I am humbled to be part of what He wants me to do,” Mamitiana says. “God opened a door for me, and I want to open doors for others.”

Mamitiana began his studies at Southwestern in the fall of 2013, and he says that from the beginning, God confirmed His calling by “miraculously” blessing his family and providing for them such that they never lacked anything they needed. People from the area donated them furniture, for example, and scholarships significantly reduced the cost of education. “We are grateful and we are thankful for what we have received here,” Mamitiana says.

Mamitiana completed his Master of Divinity in 2018 and then entered the World Christian Studies Ph.D. program in order to become even more equipped for his future ministry. Throughout his studies, Mamitiana says that more than anything else, he has appreciated the emphasis Southwestern places on the Word of God.

“Here, I learned to value and to treasure and to stand on the Word of God,” he says. “I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, and I believe that every faith and practice of my Christian walk should be based on the Scripture.

“Here, I learned to teach the Word of God, live the Word of God, walk with the Word of God, check with the Word of God, and run with the Word of God. If I don’t have anything but I have the Word of God in my ministry in Madagascar, I think that is the way to start the ministry, and so that is what I’m going to do.”





Mamitiana's wife, Tokinirina, is also enrolled in the seminary, studying toward a master's in Christian education so that she can start a Christian school in Madagascar for pre-K through 12th grade. The family will return to Madagascar following her graduation in 2019.

Until then, however, God has already provided Mamitiana opportunities to reach his people. Since 2012, when Southwestern accepted the challenge of former International Mission Board president Tom Elliff to embrace an unreached, unengaged people group, the seminary has sent teams annually to minister among the Antandroy people of Madagascar, the tribe to which Mamitiana belongs. Mamitiana himself has participated in these annual endeavors, evangelizing alongside the mission teams and translating for professors during their training of local church leaders. Mamitiana says he has been consistently encouraged by the work God is doing in Madagascar.

During one mission trip, Mamitiana observed a local believer stand up against persecution from her community. The woman's father was ill, and the local witch doctor told her family that in order for him to recover, each of his children must sacrifice a cow. The woman declared that she would take no part in such a sacrifice, but rather volunteered to provide

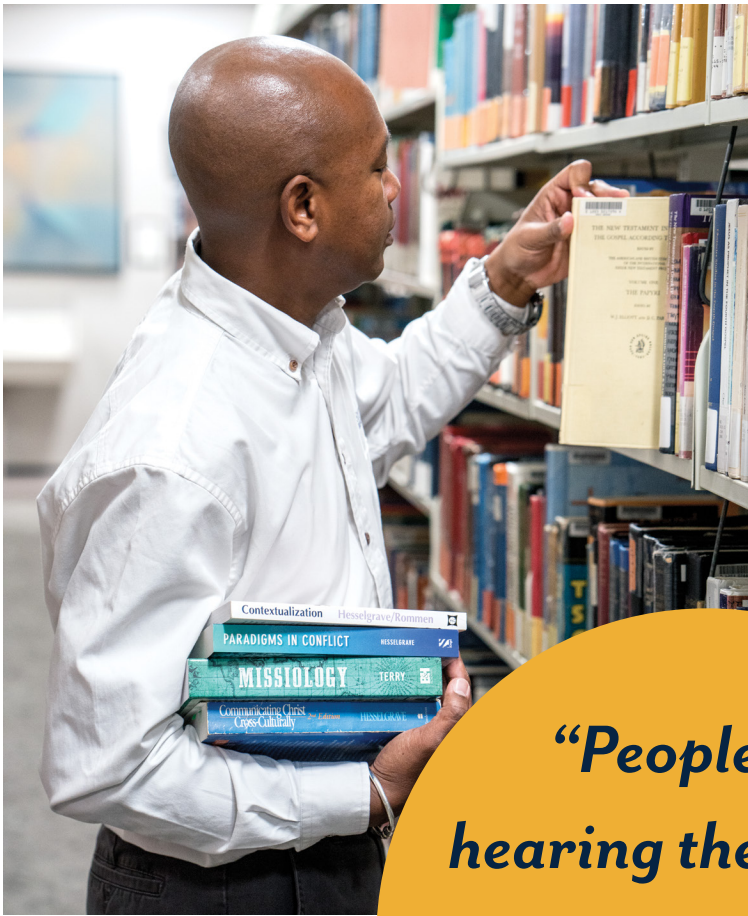
rice, coffee, and sugar for the people of the community as a simple act of kindness, as well as invite fellow believers to pray over her father.

"The fact that she stood her ground, not wanting to bow down to tradition anymore, really was amazing," Mamitiana reflects. "She faced persecution from her other siblings and parents, but she expressed her love and the love of God to them and shared the Gospel with her family. She witnessed that her father was healed, and her family started to seek for the truth as well."

"God is at work in Madagascar," Mamitiana said following another of these mission trips. "It is so challenging to see how hungry they are for the Gospel, how they love to worship, and how they have welcomed us. ... People are hearing the Gospel and desiring for Jesus to save them."

In addition to these annual efforts, Mamitiana has also already purchased the land on which his school will be built. A portion of the funds were provided by North Las Vegas Baptist Church, and the rest were contributed by a single donor from Hulen Street Church, which the Mamitianas attend. Mamitiana did not specifically request this latter donation, but after hearing about the need, the donor wrote a check for \$12,000 right in Mamitiana's living room.





***“People are hearing the Gospel and desiring for Jesus to save them.”***









Mamitiana recalls, “I asked my 5-year-old, ‘How many times did we pray for this land?’ He said, ‘So many times, Daddy!’”

Provision of this kind gives Mamitiana confidence about the future of his ministry. “God provided that land in a miraculous way that I didn’t expect, and why worry about how is that building going to be built or where is the money going to come from for that? It’s God’s will—God’s going to do that.”

“My challenge is to continue to walk by faith and look up to God. Step by step is how we’re going to get there. I want to be found faithful in the steps that God is ordering for us.”

When he returns to Madagascar, Mamitiana intends to plant and lead the first Baptist church in Fort Dauphin, as well as launch the school.

“The school is going to start in a way that’s totally different from Southwestern, where you have students in a building,” Mamitiana explains. “Our school will start—in a way that we get these church leaders every once in a while and give them training for three weeks—intensive training—and then they go back to the church and start to share that and to use that, and then come back again in modules.”

“At the end of two or three years,” he says, “they can achieve what they need for a bachelor’s degree. The training multipurpose house that we want to build is a venue to receive that. From there, we will move forward into making that a more formal seminary.”

Mamitiana’s vision for the school is to train, equip, and deploy evangelical leaders throughout Madagascar. “Right now, there is a lot of prosperity Gospel; there is a lot of watered-down faith springing up like mushrooms in Madagascar and destroying the church,” he says. “My goal is in every corner of Madagascar that we see a man of peace who has been trained, has been equipped, and has adopted the idea of the inerrancy of Scripture and is living with that and running with that. [The school] is going to bring more leaders who will go out and plant churches.”

For Mamitiana, this school represents the multiplication of leaders, the multiplication of churches, and the expansion of the Kingdom of God in a way consistent with Scripture. “I keep going back to that [the Word of God] because that is the treasure that I received at Southwestern—‘What does the Word of God say about this practice or these things?’ That’s what I want to see happening in Madagascar,” he says.

Mamitiana will begin these efforts in earnest next year, and though much remains uncertain about how exactly the ministry will be executed, he trusts that the Lord will bring His vision to fulfillment. In short, Mamitiana trusts the Lord to take care of the ministry, just as He has taken care of Mamitiana and his family thus far.

“We have peace,” Mamitiana says. “That is what God has called us to do, and that is what we are going to do. . . . We are going back, and we are excited.”

# MADAGASCAR

## Language

Malagasy, French

## Population

24,894,551

Total Area 226,658 square miles

Distance from Southwestern roughly 10,000 miles

## Spiritual breakdown

45.8%

Protestantism

6.6%

Unaffiliated

38.1%

Roman Catholicism

5.4%

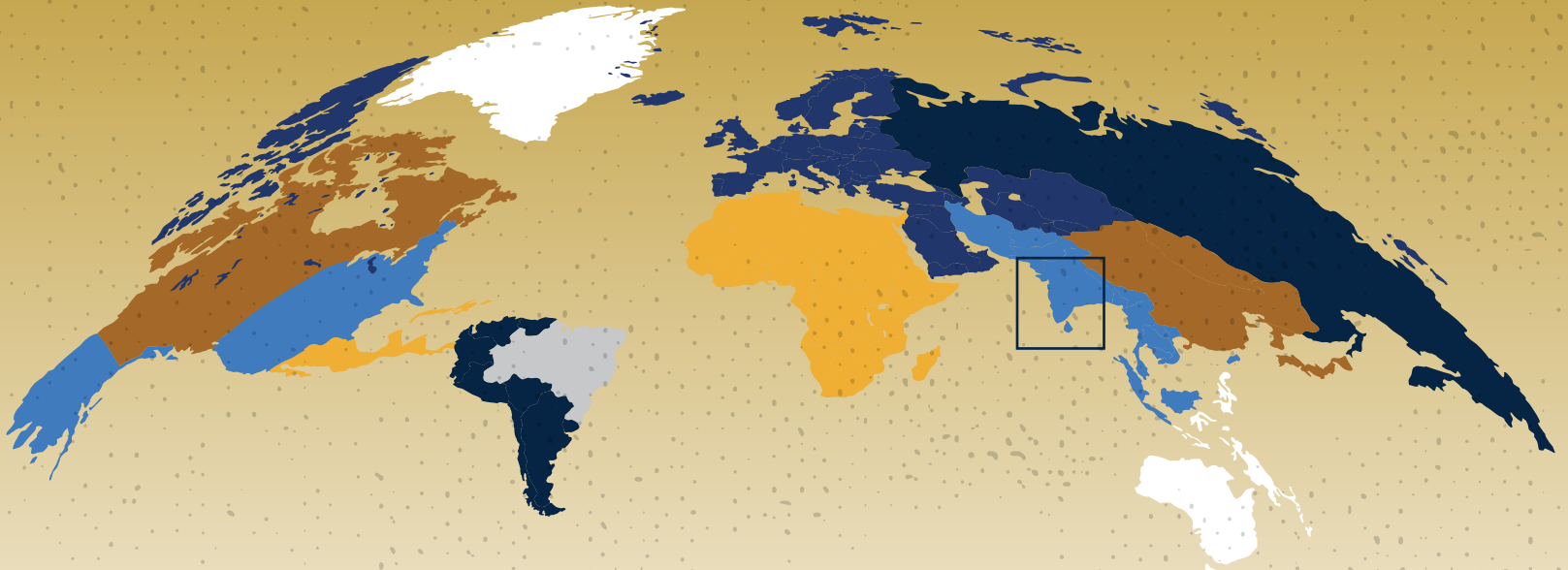
Folk Religions

3% Islam

1.1%

Other Christian



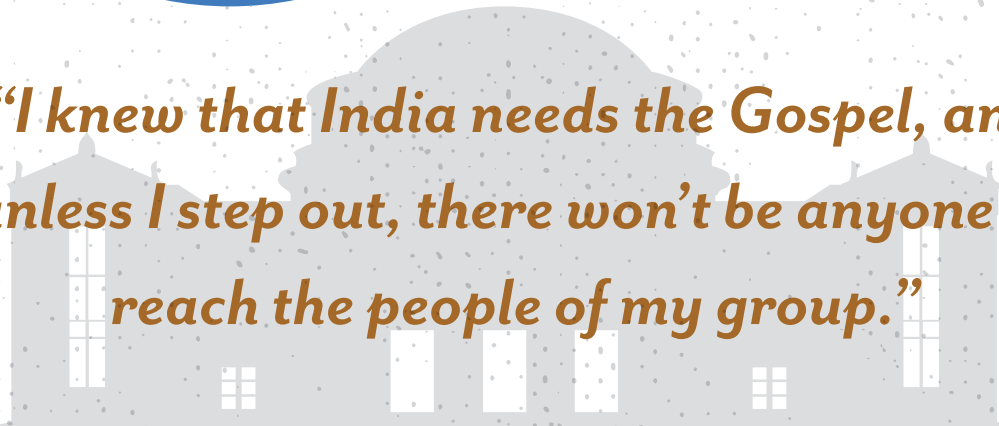


**BINU PAUL**

• INDIA •



*“I knew that India needs the Gospel, and unless I step out, there won’t be anyone to reach the people of my group.”*





# FOR GOD'S GLORY ALONE

## *serving as salt and light in the mission field of India*

*By Alex Sibley | Photos by Chinsop Chong and Neil Williams*

**B**inu Paul wanted to be a civil engineer. But seeing him now as a Ph.D. student in systematic theology at Southwestern Seminary affirms that God had different plans for his life.

Paul grew up in Kerala, India, which, according to tradition, is where the Apostle Thomas ministered following the persecution of the early church in Jerusalem. As such, the area has a sizeable Christian population relative to other states in India, with Paul himself being a third-generation believer. In fact, for many years, his home served as the meeting place for the first Baptist church in his town.

Despite this rich Christian heritage, however, Paul, though involved in church activities, had no intention of living a life of ministry. Like many Indian youth, he dreamed of becoming an engineer. That is, until he attended an evangelistic crusade during his sophomore year in high school.

The evangelist of the crusade concluded his message with a challenge and invitation to serve in missions. Convicted of the great spiritual needs of the people in his country, Paul responded by giving his life to full-time ministry.

"I knew that India needs the Gospel, and unless I step out, there won't be anyone to reach the people of my group," he says.

"India has a caste-based structure," he explains, "so the majority of the Indian population comes from the lower strata of the society, and I'm part of that. I knew that if I didn't go, there wouldn't be any people to share the Gospel with those people. And I felt that the Lord was calling me for that ministry."

This walk down the aisle at the evangelistic crusade set Paul on a path that has most recently led him to study at Southwestern Seminary, his ultimate aim being to return to India to teach, write, and plant churches. Though he once dreamed of working in the field of engineering, he now dreams of being salt and light in the mission field of

India—evangelizing unbelievers, equipping those called to ministry, and serving the Lord for His glory alone.

Toward this end, Paul realized after his surrender to full-time ministry that he needed ministerial training, so he studied toward a Bachelor of Theology and later a Master of Theology in India. He then became both a theological educator and a church planter in Kerala, teaching at multiple Bible schools and pastoring three churches over the course of a decade.

During his ministry in India, Paul observed that while many churches were being planted, many of them lacked a solid theological basis. "Their preaching and theology were not in line with the Bible," he says. "Many pastors in those churches did not know theology or the Bible. The possibilities of heresy getting into the church were very high. ... There was no stability as far as theology or theological convictions were concerned."

Paul desired to produce literature for these pastors, as well as other believers, to help guide them toward proper, biblical theology. He acknowledged, however, that he needed further training in this field in order to produce the strongest resources possible. He, therefore, decided to pursue doctoral studies in an international context.

A simple Google search led Paul to Southwestern Seminary's website, and after some investigation, he decided to apply. He was accepted, so he moved to Fort Worth and began his studies in the field of systematic theology in the fall of 2013.

Early in his first semester, Paul had lunch with his Ph.D. supervisor, professor Malcolm Yarnell. Yarnell told him about the books that Paul needed to read in the field of systematic theology and provided some general instruction on the doctoral program.

But at the end of the discussion, Yarnell shared something that Paul found especially significant. He said,





“Theology is ultimately learned from God and His Word. So as you read all these books, make sure that you spend time with the Bible and time with God.”

“I think that was a perspectival change for me,” Paul says, “because I thought it was by reading books that you gain knowledge and become a theologian, but I understood that day that it’s not merely just books, but it’s God and His Word.”

In the years since then, Paul says his ongoing relationship with Yarnell has been “more than an academic exercise; in fact, a theological discipleship.” He has also been heavily influenced by the other professors at Southwestern, who he says emphasize both academics and practical ministry—“not just head knowledge, but also heart attitude.”

“Southwestern Seminary’s commitment to God’s Word and emphasis on personal purity is beyond words,” Paul says. “During these years of my stay here, I have been enjoying with my family some of the best years in my spiritual life. The Spirit of the Lord is at work in Southwestern’s campus.”

Paul cites the international make-up of the campus community as another key influencer on his family (he and his wife have four children), particularly with regard to their future ministry in India. “All these kids from different ethnic backgrounds come together, they play and they enjoy that time,” Paul explains. “I think that’s

a very meaningful thing for people, especially kids from India, because most of the kids grew up in a caste-based structure and class-based structure, where people are discriminated or classified according to their caste or color. But I think this [the diversity of the Southwestern community] gives a kind of heavenly atmosphere where everyone is together.”

Paul is currently in the dissertation phase of his doctoral studies, and he hopes to graduate in 2019. Following his graduation, he plans to return to India and continue in his roles of theological educator and church planter.

“I see a strong connection between theological education and church planting,” he says. “It’s the responsibility of the church to educate people theologically. And theological education should be focused on training men and women to serve the church. This concept made me to have a ‘both/and’ perspective in ministry.”

Upon his return, in addition to teaching classes at the undergraduate and master’s levels, Paul will oversee a new Master of Theology program at Kerala Baptist Bible College and Seminary, which will equip students to serve in theological education.

“We have been successful in placing many men for church planting in India, but we cannot train many for teaching in Bible schools,” Paul says. “As a result, graduates from liberal institutions get into conservative schools and teach their stuff there. So this





*“Southwestern  
Seminary’s commitment to  
God’s Word and emphasis  
on personal purity is  
beyond words.”*









Since Paul arrived in Fort Worth, five of his students from India have followed him to Southwestern, and applications from others are currently in progress. Like Paul, they are coming here to get equipped for ministry, then return to India to serve the Lord more effectively. Paul jokes, “I am very happy that I was a pioneer to Southwestern from India.”

Th.M. program will be for men who have been called for theological education—we’ll train them and help them to be teachers in Bible schools.”

In addition, Paul will work alongside his students in beginning a church planting ministry throughout India. “In the context of India, I have never seen a better evangelistic method than church planting,” Paul says.

“I hope to focus on urban and rural church planting. My vision is to plant 100 churches—10 urban and 90 rural churches—in 10 years. I trust in the Lord to see the fulfillment of this vision by 2030.”

Finally, Paul will be involved in producing literature to help pastors, Bible students, and other believers in learning the Scriptures, theology, and discipleship.

Paul says his time at Southwestern has been instrumental in preparing him for these various ministry tasks in India. “Southwestern trained me to live theology,” he says. “The practical dimension of theology that needs to be seen in my life and ministry is sharpened by the training I received from here.”

As Paul and his family look forward to returning to the mission field of India, Paul prays that he would finish his studies well, that he and his family would have a smooth transition after six years in the U.S., and that the Lord would provide for their needs. Above all, though, as he anticipates the continuation of his lifelong ministry of being salt and light to his people, Paul prays that God would “use us for His glory alone.”

# INDIA

**Language**  
Hindi, English

**Population**  
1,324,171,354

**Total Area** 1,269,219 square miles

**Distance from Southwestern** roughly 8,700 miles

## Spiritual breakdown

**14.2%**  
**Islam**

**1.7%**  
**Sikhism**

**2.3%** **Christianity**

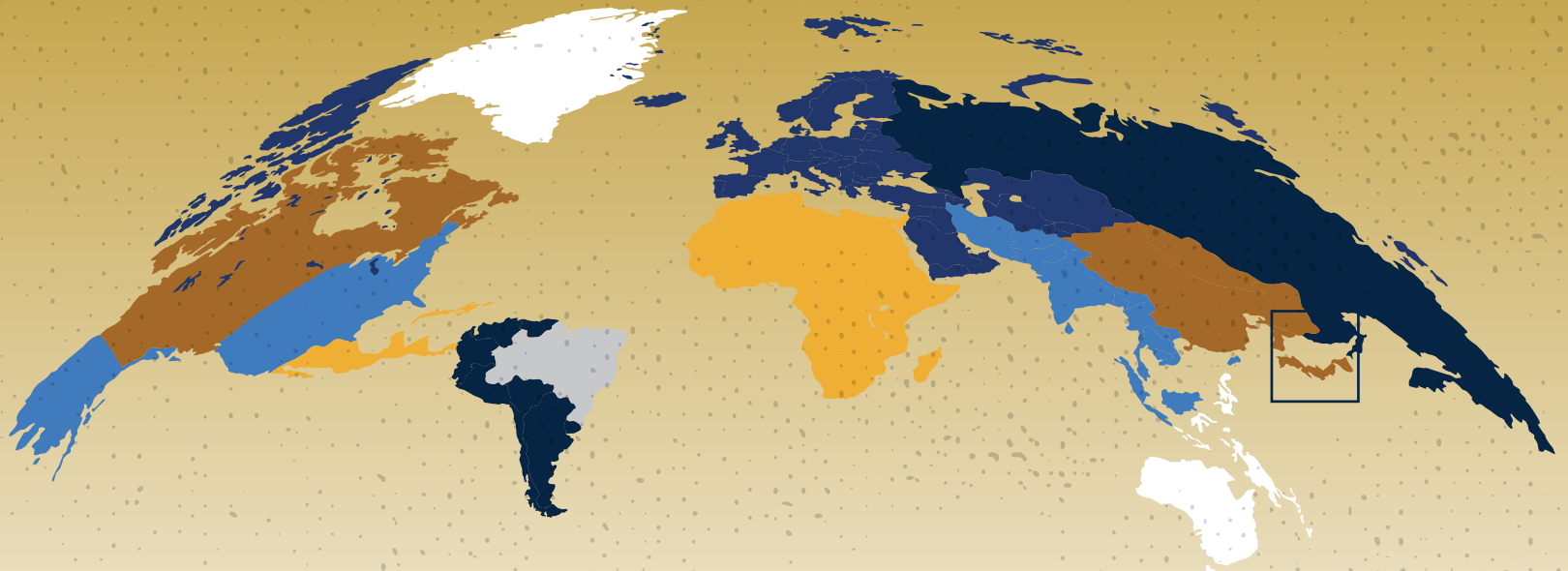
**0.7%**  
**Buddhism**

**0.4%**  
**Jainism**

**79.8%** **Hinduism**

**0.9%**  
**Other**





**YURI MATSUURA**

• JAPAN •



*“Music allows me to express and communicate in a way I could not when I talk. I also like to sing because I know it brings glory to the Creator!”*



# GLORY TO GOD

## *proclaiming the Gospel through performance and song*

*By Katie Coleman | Photos by Neil Williams*

**E**ven as a 5-year-old, Yuri Matsuura could be found most Sundays in the company of the adult choir at her home church in Saitama, Japan. Matsuura's passion for music and performance has sustained her ever since, and she continues to use her vocal talents to sing of the glory of God.

"Music allows me to express and communicate in a way I could not when I talk," Matsuura says. "I also like to sing because I know it brings glory to the Creator!"

A lifelong learner, Matsuura's curiosity about the nature of God began in those early days of church as she sang about Him and served alongside her family. When she was 7 years old, her father moved their family to the United States so that he could pursue a seminary degree. During that time, Matsuura made her profession of faith in Christ and occasionally joined her father in his seminary classes. She was captivated by their robust discussions of theology. She thought to herself, "I want to do this someday."

Matsuura knew then that she would one day study theology and return to Japan for ministry. Although unclear about where God would call her to study and how such a task could be accomplished, she trusted God's timing and prayed for His guidance and provision in her life.

In 2015, God answered those faithful prayers and provided for her to attend Southwestern Seminary. Now halfway through her Master of Music degree with a concentration in voice, Matsuura is an accomplished student musician with a heart eager to honor God in all she does. Following the completion of her studies, she hopes to return to Japan and be a minister of the Gospel to her people through music, proclaiming the glory of God to a people who need to hear the truth.

Before coming to Southwestern, Matsuura worked in a hospital in Japan as an occupational therapist. After five years

in this position, she sensed God calling her to leave her job to look for seminaries. Though consistent with her childhood dream of pursuing theological education like her father, the timing at first seemed inconvenient, and she feared it would be difficult to financially support a move and schooling. Nevertheless, she left her job, and on a spring 2015 visit to Southwestern Seminary, she met a voice faculty member who shared with her about degree options.

Matsuura had never planned on pursuing a music degree, but after that meeting, she realized she was drawn to the idea and determined to pray about that option. The degree would require undergraduate music courses in addition to her master's-level music and theology courses.

Matsuura returned to Japan with anxiety over the decision to change her plans. She was engulfed by worry of an uncertain future and the faith required of her. "I felt like I was sinking," Matsuura says. "I felt like I was not adequate. I had never written a paper in English. I was in elementary school when I was here [during my childhood], so I could communicate, but I couldn't do academic [writing] and didn't know theological terms."

During a church service, Matsuura listened to a sermon on faith and trust in God. "[The preacher] said you have to sometimes go out of your comfort zone and make a step of faith," she recalls. Overcome by peace that God was in control of her circumstances, she said "yes" to God's calling her to Southwestern. "Give me faith," she prayed.

That decision was followed by a move to Fort Worth that fall, and she started classes. Matsuura says God made the transition smooth, providing for every financial and practical need. Her family and church were supportive, documents were processed with ease, and God provided her the community and resources she needed to succeed in her studies.





“Ever since I came here, God has been teaching me that He is faithful even though I am not faithful,” Matsuura says. “Just by His grace, I am here. The fact that I wake up every morning is because He gives me life. He always graciously wakes me up in the morning. And I say, “Thank you, Father. Let me live today for you.”

“God is worthy,” she says. “He is the One to take all the glory.”

Matsuura strives to maintain humility and a God-focused perspective in her studies and especially in her performing. Since 2015, she has delivered many solo performances at concerts, including the annual Gala Concert of Sacred Music and many ensemble performances with the Southwestern Singers and the Master Chorale.

God is the giver of all gifts and talents, Matsuura says, and is therefore the One who must ultimately be honored with her work. Maintaining that focus requires intentionality, so before each performance, Matsuura offers up a version of the musician’s prayer:

“God, please bless my music, that it might glorify your name. May using it to serve you always be my aim. Let it be a witness to your majesty and love, and remind me that you are watching from your throne above. Oh Lord, I ask for guidance in everything I do, and I pray you’ll make my music an instrument.”

During her training, Matsuura has honed her musical skills

and achieved many recognitions. She was featured at both the 2016 and 2017 Honors Recital alongside other top students in each performance department, and recognized with the 2017 Lester E. Harrell Memorial Award, which is given to an outstanding music student selected by the faculty of the School of Church Music.

Most recently, Matsuura was accepted into a prestigious summer opera program for young artists and performers. The summer-long program took her first to Taos, N.M., where she studied with 28 other artists about operas in the French, German, Italian, and English languages. She then joined the “Opera Viva!” program in Verona, Italy, where she studied under international teachers about the history and works of Italian operas, and delivered solo and ensemble pieces for audiences each weekend.

This is an experience reserved for only a select number of artists, Matsuura says, so she is mindful of the honor to develop her talents and the unique opportunities to share her faith that such programs present. “God is giving me many opportunities to share His love through music,” Matsuura says. “That gives me the confidence to sing.”

Whether abroad, home in Japan, or working on her master’s degree in Fort Worth, Matsuura says she makes the most of every opportunity to serve God, including opportunities to evangelize





*“Oh Lord, I ask for guidance in everything I do, and I pray you’ll make my music an instrument.”*











and disciple new believers at the Japanese Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where she serves as minister of music.

Matsuura is eager to return to Japan, where less than 1 percent of the population is evangelical Christian, and much of the rest of the population only culturally identifies with Buddhism and Shintoism. She is excited to go back and use what she has learned to grow and edify the church, but she recognizes the need to not waste the gift of the time that she has to study at Southwestern.

“Doing the best now is the best preparation for the future,” Matsuura says. “I cannot come back to this later and say, ‘I should have done this or that in the seminary.’ So I want to do the best and ask for His wisdom and discernment.”

A self-proclaimed planner, trusting God with an unknown future is often easier said than done. But evidence of God’s faithfulness has made it easier for her to humble herself and trust in God’s plan for her life.

“My heart’s desire is that God will use me,” Matsuura says. “Whatever it is, I just want to give my life to share what God has been doing and what God has already done.”

# JAPAN

**Language**  
Japanese

**Population**  
126,440,000

**Total Area** 145,936 square miles

**Distance from Southwestern** roughly 6,400 miles

## Spiritual breakdown

**34.9%** Buddhism

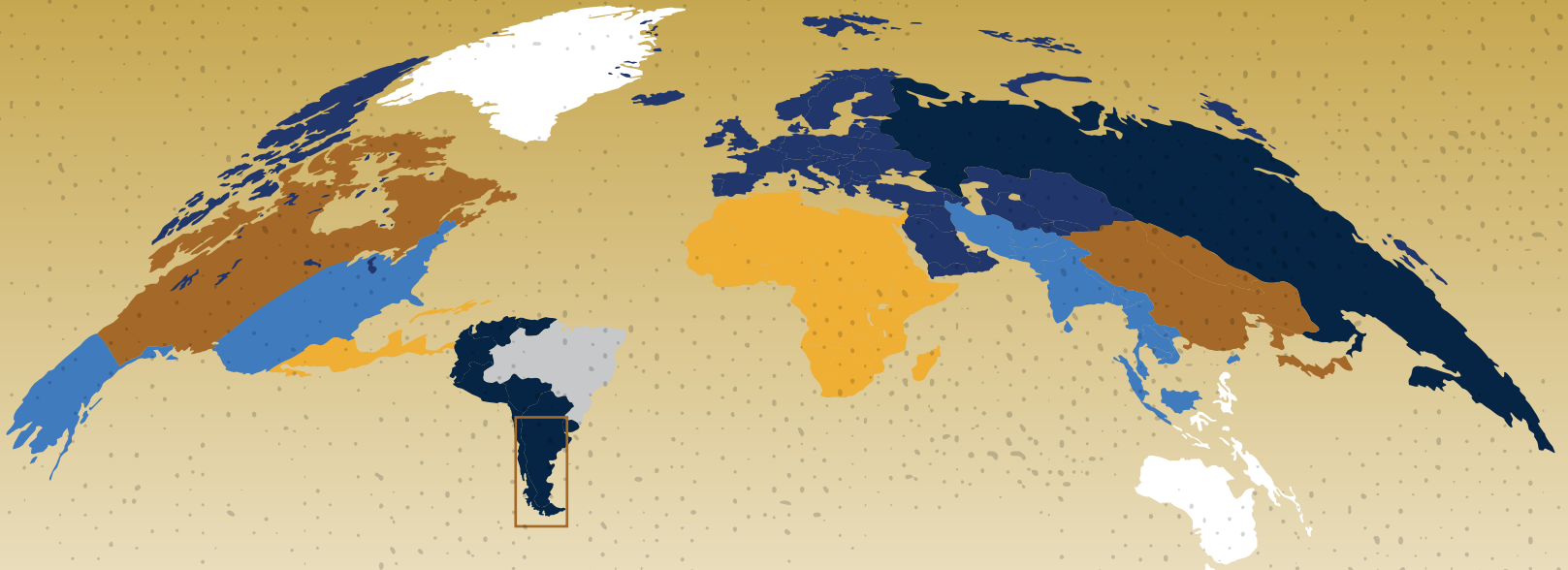
**51.8%** Folk Shinto

**4%** Shinto sects

**2.3%** Christianity

**7%** Unaffiliated





**LUCAS FERNANDEZ PAZ**

• ARGENTINA •



*“I’ve been learning how to use the Word of God,  
learning how to read the Word of God, and  
learning how to love the Word of God.”*



## REVISION OF VISION

### *immersion in seminary life reveals new possibilities for ministry*

*By Julie Owens | Photos by Neil Williams*

**L**ucas Fernandez Paz was a young man with his eye on the ministry. By his mid-20s, he had already been preaching for 10 years and had visited more than 25 nations on mission trips. “When you travel to that many countries,” he says, “you begin to see the need for God.”

Fernandez Paz thought his goals, and his path as a minister in his native Argentina, were clear. But after enrolling at Southwestern Seminary to take courses that would sharpen his ministry skills, he began to see his future through a different lens, and his goals began to come more sharply into focus.

Once wedded to a single career track—returning to Argentina to preach—Fernandez Paz’s time at Southwestern has broadened his view of how best to serve the Lord, and he has become flexible regarding his future ministry possibilities. “I’ve learned to be open to different callings,” he says.

Fernandez Paz was 27 years old in 2009 when he arrived in the United States to intern at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., with pastor Johnny Hunt. “He challenged me to prepare for ministry and showed me the importance of spending time with the Lord in such a season of life,” Fernandez Paz says.

During his internship, he visited Fort Worth, where he met Andy and Joan Horner. The Horners had been integral partners of Southwestern Seminary through their extensive service and support, and Joan Horner, an ardent supporter of women’s programs at the seminary, was deeply committed to all of Southwestern’s students—their success, opportunities, and growth.

After talking with Fernandez Paz extensively and hearing his zeal for preaching the Word, Horner encouraged him to enroll at Southwestern. “I told her, ‘I’ll think about it.’ She said, ‘No, you’ll pray about it.’ Ten

months later, she passed away,” he says. “And that was when I sent my application.”

After his internship ended and he returned to Argentina, Fernandez Paz began to consider where his ministry track might take him next. He told his future wife, Ebelyn, that he wanted to enroll at Southwestern, initially through online classes.

“I had been in the ministry for years, but I had the feeling that I had to be better equipped,” he says. “After working in the ministry that long, you see what the needs are. I researched it, and it seemed that you could take about half the courses online, and later I could come to Texas.” In 2012, he visited the campus and then was accepted, “but the timing and finances were not working out,” he says.

Two years later, former Southwestern President Paige Patterson was in Argentina to preach in the missions conference of Word of Life, and a mutual friend set up a meeting between them. Fernandez Paz told Patterson about meeting the Horners and how he hoped to enroll at Southwestern and study online, working toward a master’s degree and eventually coming to Fort Worth to complete his studies.

Patterson listened as Fernandez Paz outlined his objectives. “The conversation shifted to how the online experience is beneficial but never replaces the residential or on-campus experience, especially getting to know professors,” Fernandez Paz says. “I said I was too busy, but he pointed out that ministry will always be there, while a time of preparation was important. I was so busy in ministry that I knew I needed a time away of preparation, time with the Lord.

“He told me that I must move to Texas and complete my studies on campus, rather than enrolling online. And I told my wife, ‘I think we’ve got to move to Texas.’ Well,





then, after that, all the pieces started to fall in place.” By 2015, the family was in Fort Worth.

After enrolling, Fernandez Paz determined that the Master of Divinity degree best suited his goals. As his studies commenced, the lens through which he saw his goals continued to sharpen its focus of his ministry path.

Fernandez Paz had arrived at Southwestern with the plan of completing a degree quickly and then returning to Argentina to preach. “But as I continued to study,” he says, “I was growing to love people. I saw that God had more planned for me—more conversations, more friendships. By showing me that, God began growing me in my walk with Him.”

Fernandez Paz became eager to study languages. He grew in his faith through attending chapel services, and he learned to savor each course as it enriched his skill set. “The text-driven preaching classes give me the skills to deliver the message,” he says.

“Also, the personal ministry of the faculty has been a blessing to me,” he continues. “Not only the lectures, but the conversations with them. I’ve been so blessed by personal time with a few of them. I will forever be grateful for their ministry. That makes Southwestern such a special place to me.”

Furthermore, by spending more time at Southwestern than

he originally intended, Fernandez Paz says he has been able to spend more time with the Lord. “The last two semesters have been a real journey of faith, for seeing God’s plan for my life. Now, the whole package of my experience here is shaping my discipling. I’ve been learning how to use the Word of God, learning how to read the Word of God, and learning how to love the Word of God.”

“Now I’m glad that the M.Div. program is very long,” he says. “If I had rushed through to complete a degree, it would not have been the same process and the same experience.”

Though Fernandez Paz remains open to what the Lord has for him after his May 2019 graduation, he plans to shine his light through mission work. He recently learned of one opportunity to do just that—the possibility that after completing his degree, before returning to Argentina, he may first be called to develop a mission team in another country, “to serve God because of the need we’ve seen. We’re very excited.”

“We know that eventually, wherever we go, we’ll return to Argentina. That’s where our hearts are,” Fernandez Paz says. “But we’re so grateful for this reinvention of life. We’ve learned to be open to a different calling; to ask, ‘OK, God, where is it that you want us to serve?’”





*“We know that eventually, wherever we go, we’ll return to Argentina. That’s where our hearts are.”*









"The personal ministry of the faculty has been a blessing to me. Not only the lectures, but the conversations with them. I've been so blessed by personal time with a few of them. I will forever be grateful for their ministry. That makes Southwestern such a special place to me."



# ARGENTINA

**Language**  
Spanish

**Population**  
43,847,430

**Total Area** 1,073,500 square miles

**Distance from Southwestern** roughly 5,400 miles

## Spiritual breakdown

**21%**  
**Irreligion**

**1%**  
**Judaism**

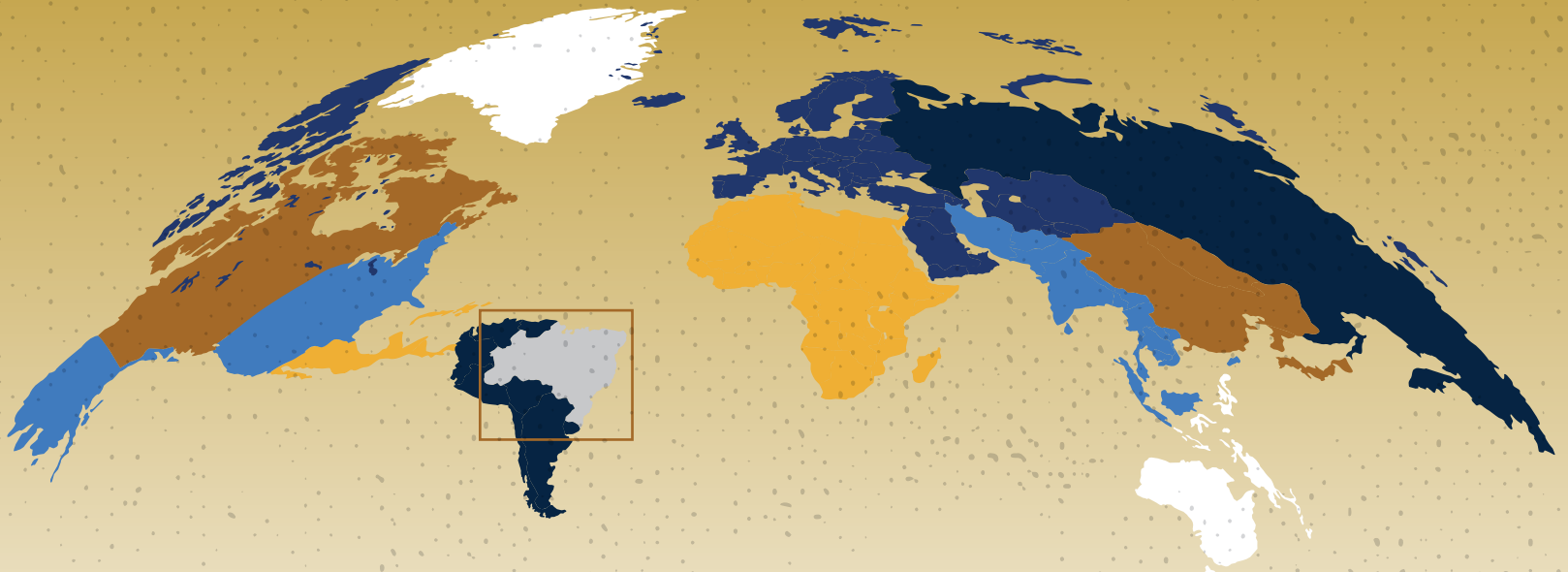
**66%** **Roman Catholicism**

**1%**  
**Islam**

**1%**  
**Other**

**10%** **Protestantism**



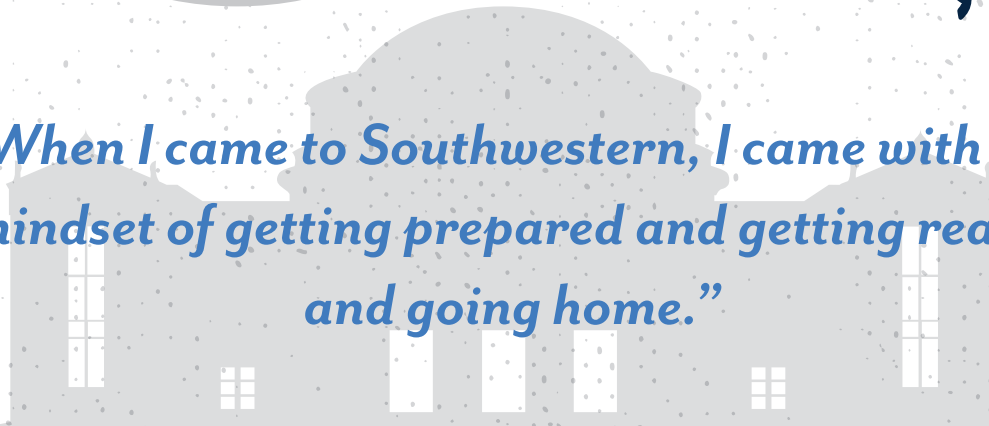


**SARA OLIVEIRA**

• BRAZIL •



*“When I came to Southwestern, I came with the mindset of getting prepared and getting ready and going home.”*





# READY TO SERVE

## *building a solid foundation for any ministry*

*By Katie Coleman | Photos by Kathleen Murray*

**S**ituated in the middle of the Amazon rainforest is one of Brazil's largest cities, Manaus. Here, Sara Oliveira was raised in a Christian home under the teachings of her parents and the church, who lived out their faith in their city and developed Gospel-focused relationships with small rainforest villages.

However, it was not until the age of 13 that Oliveira committed her life to Christ during a summer mission trip. Previously, Oliveira says, "I had a really rebellious heart. I was very selfish and did not know where my value was."

But after her commitment to Christ, Oliveira says her life changed. She developed the desire to study God's Word, and she experienced true joy and peace for the first time. Her teenage years were especially formative as she lived in Christian community and was discipled by her pastor's wife, who gave her the basic tools for Bible study and emphasized the importance of prayer.

This sparked in Oliveira an eagerness to study Scripture and to pass on that act of discipleship by first building a solid biblical foundation. Now nearing her fifth semester in Scarborough College at Southwestern Seminary, she is getting equipped with the essential tools for her future ministry, whatever that might be.

Oliveira's path to seminary, however, was not direct. She planned to pursue a law degree after high school to ensure future financial security for her and her family. But during an opportunity that summer to work on staff at a summer camp in Philadelphia, Oliveira says God worked in her heart to reveal that she was only in pursuit of her own will and an idol of security.

Oliveira returned to Brazil ready to pursue ministry, but she still felt unsettled by the uncertainty of what that calling actually was. What would ministry look like for her, she wondered. What could she even do?

Oliveira had long served with her Brazilian home church through evangelism, missions, and translating for American church partners visiting Brazil for mission trips. In February 2015, Oliveira translated for Jeremy White, pastor of StoneWater Church in Granbury, Texas. She told him her testimony and of God's calling upon her life to serve in ministry. She added that she was currently studying at a university in Brazil but struggling with confidence in her beliefs among the many worldviews found in secular academia.

Before the StoneWater Church mission team left, White offered Oliveira an internship. "God had really stirred in his heart for the church to invest in me and prepare me in ministry," Oliveira says.

Oliveira joined the StoneWater Church later that year, and there, she grew in her faith and learned about women's ministry, discipleship, and biblical counseling. "It was very nice to see the church investing so much in reaching out to women and see that there was a special place for women to minister to others full-time and see how they had an organized platform for women to be active in ministry," Oliveira says. "This gave me the desire to implement something very similar in my home church."

But even in the course of that year, she knew she would return to Brazil, possibly with some of the same questions about her future—"Am I continuing my degree? What can I study that can prepare me for ministry?"

In the meantime, she prayed and trusted that God would reveal His plan for her in His own timing.

During her internship, Oliveira had learned about Southwestern Seminary, from which White earned his Master of Divinity. Then one day in the spring of 2016, Oliveira and a friend were driving back from Dallas when she saw a sign off the highway indicating the exit for Southwestern Seminary.





Oliveira mentioned to her friend that she was eager to visit that campus someday because White had told her about his experience and training. The friend replied, “Do you want to go now?”

They took the exit and made their way to campus. Arriving at Southwestern, Oliveira said she immediately felt at home.

She connected with an Admissions staff member who guided her through the undergraduate degree program information. “I got to hear about the school and heard from a few people about how the humanities degree was shaping their views and beliefs,” Oliveira says. “I knew that I really wanted to do that!”

Less than a year later, in January 2017, Oliveira enrolled in Scarborough College and began her Bachelor of Arts degree. She hit the ground running, and has thrived on academic life.

While previously studying at a secular university in Brazil, Oliveira says she always felt unequipped to defend her Christian worldview against those who viewed Christianity as an intolerant organization. But now, as she continues with her studies, Oliveira says she feels more empowered to engage with other worldviews with confidence.

“My classes and professors here are teaching me that faith and reason are to walk hand in hand. We do not just accept something blindly,” Oliveira says. “God gifted us with the ability to think, and we can use that in a way that just makes our relationship with Him even deeper. I can learn and I can grow, and it does not necessarily take me to the opposite from faith—it strengthens my faith.”

Following her anticipated spring 2021 graduation, Oliveira says she would love to return to Brazil and implement much of what she has learned regarding women’s ministry and discipleship. However, she acknowledges that God may have a different plan for her.

“When I came to Southwestern, I came with the mindset of getting prepared and getting ready and going home,” she says. “But even if I don’t, I would still like to have some sort of connection and influence back home.”

Regardless, Oliveira knows she will be ready for whatever God calls her to do. Whether she stays in the United States or returns to Brazil, she will be confident in her beliefs and rooted in truth, a truth applicable to all contexts.





***“My classes and professors here are teaching me that faith and reason are to walk hand in hand.”***









“God gifted us with the ability to think, and we can use that in a way that just makes our relationship with Him even deeper. I can learn and I can grow, and it does not necessarily take me to the opposite from faith—it strengthens my faith.”



# BRAZIL

*Language*  
**Portuguese**

*Population*  
**210,147,125**

*Total Area* **3,287,956 square miles**

*Distance from Southwestern* **roughly 5,000 miles**

## Spiritual breakdown

**8%**  
*Irreligion*

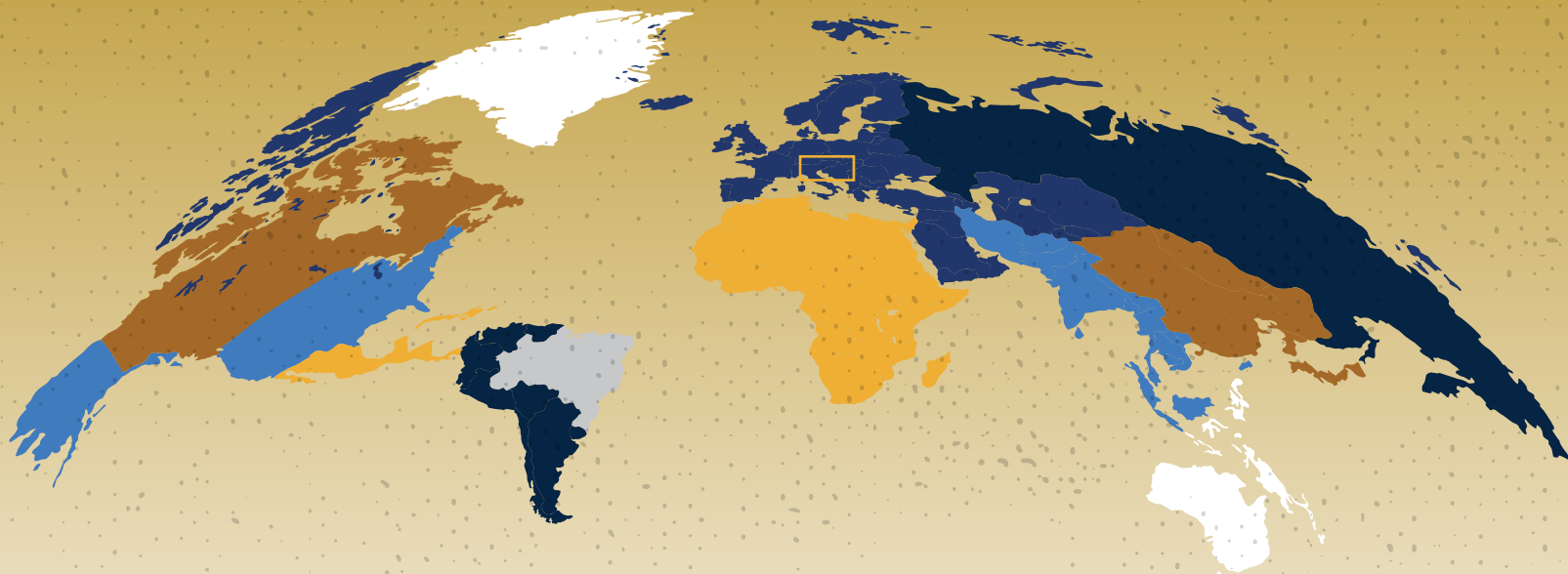
**2%**  
*Spiritism*

**64.6%** *Roman Catholicism*

**3.2%** *Other*

**22.2%** *Protestantism*



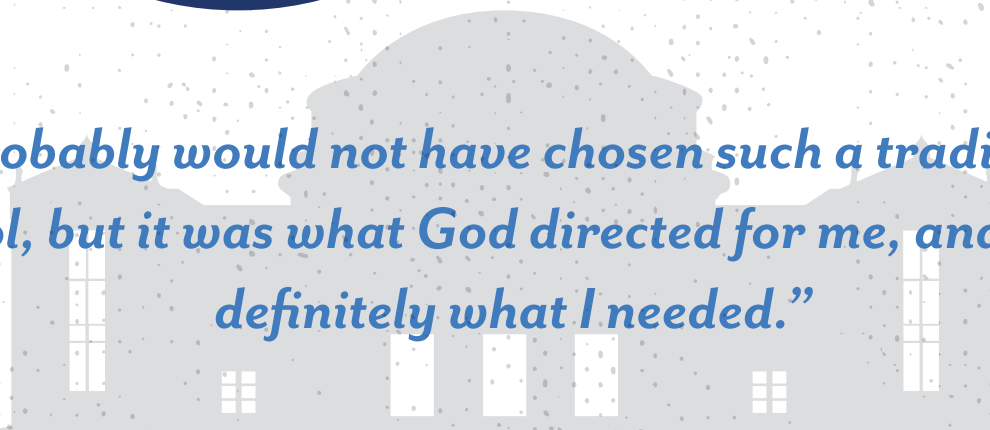


**MARKO JURICEK**

• CROATIA •



*“I probably would not have chosen such a traditional school, but it was what God directed for me, and it was definitely what I needed.”*





# FORWARD WITHOUT FEAR

## *moving full speed ahead toward international church planting*

*By Julie Owens | Photos by Chinsop Chong and Neil Williams*

**W**hen arriving at a fork in the road, Marko Juricek believes the solution is to listen to God, make a bold move, and then light the way for Christ. Each time life presented Juricek with a choice, he turned toward God and moved forward with his preparations to plant churches as a way to honor Him.

Raised in Catholicism in Croatia, Juricek embarked on a quest years ago to know biblical truth. He was drawn to a diverse array of faiths and views—various Eastern religions, then meditation. He and his wife, Stela, had just completed a charismatic workshop when they were led to a Baptist church associated with Southwestern Seminary. There, Juricek heard Christianity calling.

After being confronted with the reality of his sin and the beauty of the Savior, “I was ready to admit that I’m a sinner,” he says.

And so Juricek began to follow God’s directive. “God opened doors for me, and He called me to the ministry,” he says. There were questions going in, but there was also the growing desire to study theology.

“For three years, we did nothing,” he says. “We had our life there. We had stable jobs, which is a big thing in Croatia, and then a baby.” Then, when Juricek, who holds a master’s degree as a forest engineer, was laid off, a pastor asked him, “Would you like to study theology in the United States?”

It was time for a bold move. At that point, Juricek had the opportunity to speak with former Southwestern president Paige Patterson when Patterson was visiting Croatia, “and that was it. We talked about my plans to study theology, and he encouraged me to come to

Southwestern. Well, there was no other option. We were coming to Southwestern.”

“I probably would not have chosen such a traditional school,” Juricek says, “but it was what God directed for me, and it was definitely what I needed.”

Juricek knew that he wanted a future in church planting, and he decided that obtaining a Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern would best strengthen his skills as he moved forward.

“We came here with support from our church,” he says. “It was quite challenging, but God furnished the help that we needed—through so many donors that we have not yet met all of them. There was so much support to enable us to be here.”

Then, another bold move—trusting God for day-to-day provision. “I am the only believer in my family,” Juricek says. “We came here with so much support, yet we were worried at first that we would have to return if we could not get the backing that we needed to stay here, and we would look like fools. ‘Ha, ha! You came back! You failed!’ But at Southwestern, I learned to rely on God, to let God provide what we needed, which He has done. But it was crazy stressful.”

When they first arrived, Juricek did not know how he would support his family, but he eventually found a part-time job on the seminary’s landscaping crew. “Now, we are starting to have a base of support,” he says.

With that challenge evidently resolved, the Juriceks are now earnestly seeking funding for their future church planting endeavors, as they plan to return to Croatia to plant churches after Juricek completes his degree. This is the next bold move on Juricek’s radar.





“Again, we will see what God has,” he says.

Juricek knows that the undertaking is likely to be a significant challenge. “In Croatia, there are maybe two or three thousand Baptists in the whole country—older folks, mostly,” he says. “Baptist churches are dying in Croatia.”

Croatia has no official religion, but freedom of religion is guaranteed under the country’s constitution. Its most recent census indicates that 91.06 percent of Croatians identify as Christian, but Roman Catholics make up the largest group, accounting for 86.28 percent of that population. Only 0.34 percent of its people claim any kind of Protestant leaning; and 3.81 percent of the population describe themselves as non-religious.

The Croatian context presents other challenges, as well. A Eurostat Eurobarometer poll, which measures public opinion in face-to-face interviews, indicates that 67 percent of the population of Croatia “believe there is a God.” But that same poll indicates that only 24 percent of Croatians attend religious services regularly.

Both of the Juriceks have counseling skills that they believe will be helpful tools as they establish new congregations in Croatia, and Juricek is certain that his studies at Southwestern are preparing him well for the difficult work ahead. “Most important, I believe now that the Bible is sufficient,” he says. “That’s the biggest thing for me. You don’t have to look outside of it to find answers.”

Between the fall and spring semesters in the 2018-19 academic year, the Juriceks returned to Croatia to begin to lay the framework for church planting. They spoke with potential support partners, established the necessary connections, and considered potential church locations.

It was the next bold step down a long but rewarding path. “We want to teach in Croatia,” he says, “but first, there need to be churches.”





*“We want to teach in Croatia, but first, there need to be churches.”*









“I am the only believer in my family. We came here with so much support, yet we were worried at first that we would have to return if we could not get the backing that we needed to stay here, and we would look like fools. ‘Ha, ha! You came back! You failed!’ But at Southwestern, I learned to rely on God, to let God provide what we needed, which He has done.”



# CROATIA

*Language*  
**Croatian**

*Population*  
**4,154,200**

*Total Area* **21,851 square miles**

*Distance from Southwestern* **roughly 5,700 miles**

## Spiritual breakdown

**86.28%**  
*Catholicism*

**3.81%**  
*Irreligion*

**4.44%** *Eastern Orthodoxy*

**1.47%**  
*Islam*

**3.66%**  
*Other*

**0.34%** *Protestantism*





## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE APPROVED, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS RATIFIED DURING FALL TRUSTEE MEETING

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's board of trustees affirmed the presidential search committee, ratified the actions of the executive committee, and conducted other business during their fall meeting, Oct. 15-17. In addition to their meeting, the trustees enjoyed multiple opportunities for personal interaction with Southwestern students and faculty. Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham characterized this time as "three days of renewal, three days of refreshment, three days of amazing, God-given unity."

The general session of the trustee meeting began with a report from Bingham, who cited Philippians 3:13-14 as inspiration for this period in Southwestern's history. Focusing especially on Paul's notion of "pressing on," Bingham said that, with the past behind, Southwestern now presses on with a fresh commitment to the institution's core mission: "to train God-called men and women for service to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention and to the unreached world, all to the glory and praise of the one true God."

"This is our mission, this is our purpose, this is our core understanding for why Southwestern Seminary exists," Bingham said. "Everything we do now focuses around this core."

Bingham declared that Southwestern remains "the best place to come" in order to learn to preach, to do personal evangelism, to do personal discipleship, to do theological scholarship, to plant churches, to assist a church with its educational program, and to bless the people of God with sacred music. "Southwestern Seminary is the best place to come to be trained as a Gospel servant to fulfill the needs of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention and to meet the needs of the lost throughout the world," he said.

Bingham concluded, "And so, ... with a refreshed orientation toward the goal that is at the core of everything we do at Southwestern Seminary, once again I say, with the Lord Jesus Christ ascended above us, with the Holy Spirit of God within us, and with the Kingdom of

God before us, Southwestern Seminary moves forward to a new day, a bright day, in regular, eager anticipation of that day in which the Lord Jesus Christ returns."

Following Bingham's report, the board of trustees voted to ratify the actions of the executive committee since the board's last full meeting.

The board then voted to affirm the presidential search committee, appointed by chairman Kevin Ueckert this past August. Prior to hearing an update from committee chairman Danny Roberts, all the trustees gathered around the committee for a time of focused prayer.

Roberts then shared about the progress of the committee, which has formally met twice; received "dozens of recommendations" for presidential candidates; and appointed a faculty/student advisory committee that has since organized four town hall meetings, three prayer sessions, and conducted a survey of students, faculty, and staff. All of these elements will aid the search committee in building a "presidential profile," Roberts said, which will be "an important part of what we use to discern God's man for this position."

Roberts concluded, "We have made great progress, we feel very encouraged, and we are firmly convinced that the Lord is going to lead us directly to the man whom He has already called."

In other business, the trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic Administration Committee for said committee to meet with the administration between now and the spring board meeting to "review urgent proposed changes to the seminary's curricula and present a recommendation to the executive committee for final adoption of those changes."

Furthermore, Craig Blaising was promoted to distinguished research professor of theology and Jesse Hendley Chair of Biblical Theology, effective immediately.



# THIRST CONFERENCE INSPIRES HUMILITY BEFORE GOD

By Alex Sibley

Led by Southwestern alumnus and Life Action Ministries president John Avant, the “Thirst Conference” revival, Oct. 23-25, comprised six sessions over three days on the Southwestern campus that encouraged humility, repentance, and simply saying “yes” to God in every part of life.

In the buildup to the revival, Southwestern students, faculty, and administration eagerly anticipated a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit on the seminary campus. Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham concluded every chapel service of the semester with a prayer for revival among the Southwestern family.

“Every seminary’s most fundamental needs are spiritual in nature,” Bingham said prior to the Thirst Conference. “We need the Spirit of God to touch us, to empower us, to refresh us, and to sanctify us for global Gospel service out of love for God and neighbors. We need the

Spirit to bear His fruit in our lives. I can’t wait for Life Action’s ministry at Southwestern.”

Across the morning and evening services—as well as men’s and women’s lunches between sessions—students, faculty, and staff were invited to humble themselves before the Lord, confess their sins to Him, ask forgiveness from those whom they had wronged, and above all, worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.

“Our mission at Life Action is simply to inspire your next ‘yes’ to God,” Avant said. “When God speaks, the most important thing in our lives is to hear Him and say ‘yes.’ If we will do that at Southwestern and across this country, I believe God in His grace and mercy will revive us again.”







## PREACHING WORKSHOP ILLUMINATES BOOK OF JOB

By Katie Coleman and Alex Sibley

While Christians often appeal to the book of Job for wisdom in the midst of suffering, David Allen, dean of the School of Preaching, asserted that this Old Testament wisdom literature is not actually about suffering.

“It is, but it’s not,” Allen said. “In fact, Job is a book about God.”

“Job focuses primarily on the sovereignty of God,” he continued. “If ever there was a book in the Bible that uplifts the sovereignty of God, it is the book of Job.”

Job was the focus of this fall’s Text-Driven Preaching Workshop at Southwestern Seminary. Throughout this daylong workshop, Oct. 8, Southwestern’s School of Preaching faculty provided insight on this Old Testament book as well as guidance for how to share the riches of the text with their congregations. Recordings of all six sessions may be found at [preachingsource.com/conferences](http://preachingsource.com/conferences).

## WOMEN’S AUXILIARY LUNCHEON FEATURES TESTIMONIES OF WOMEN OF FAITH

By Katie Coleman

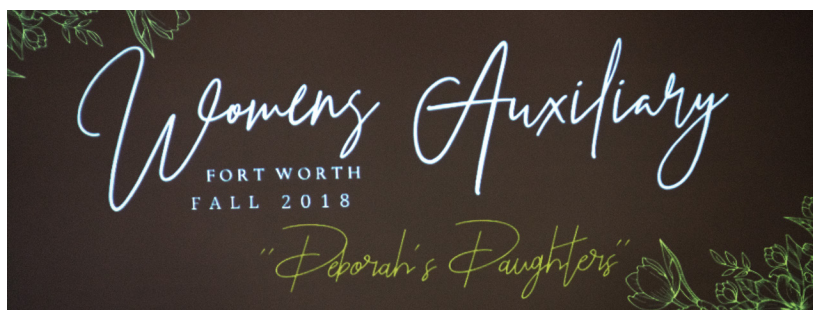
Southwestern Seminary comprises many women committed to prepare for the call God has placed on each of their lives. This call is evident from their studies and the ways in which they lead, teach, and encourage others in their ministry work. At the recent Women’s Auxiliary Luncheon on the Fort Worth campus, Oct. 24, Southwestern ministry partners had the opportunity to hear from four of these women about their testimonies, calls to ministry, and student experiences.

Speakers included Master of Divinity student Kim Whitten,

Director of the Horner House Melissa Meredith, Assistant Professor of Theology in Women’s Studies Katie McCoy, and Women’s Auxiliary liaison Karen Collett.

“In my journey to Southwestern, I felt anything but brave,” Whitten said. “But isn’t that just like God to correct a story that only He could write?”

“We are all called by God to do mighty things for Him, but we just have to follow Him,” said Collett. “I am thankful He brought me to Southwestern.”





# CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FEATURES SKILLFUL PERFORMANCES FROM SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

By Katie Coleman

The School of Church Music’s annual “Carols at Christmas Celebration” is one of Southwestern’s favorite Christmas traditions and is attended by hundreds each year. Musicians deliver songs from a variety of musical styles, from “Jingle Bells” to “Carol of the Bells” and “Joy to the World.” The tradition brings together people from the Fort Worth community as well as students, faculty, Southwestern supporters, and Southwestern alumni from decades past, including this year a couple who graduated 70 years ago.

This year’s concert, Dec. 6, featured performances from many familiar ensembles (the Master Chorale, the Southwestern Music Academy, the

Southwestern International Children’s Choir, and Steinway pianists), but also featured many new performances. New to this year’s program were more vocal and instrumental soloists, the student worship band, the newly formed chamber orchestra, the Southwestern brass players, and a newly formed guitar quartet.

“Everyone who appears on this stage tonight are all Southwestern students or Southwestern faculty,” said Dean of the School of Church Music Leo Day. “We are very blessed, and all glory to heaven for what He is doing in this place called Southwestern.”







## PROFESSOR ADDRESSES WHAT'S MISSING FROM #METOO MOVEMENT

By Alex Sibley

"It is impossible to contend for the full equality and value of women apart from a theistic worldview," said Southwestern professor Katie McCoy during an Elliott Coffee Talk in Roberts Library, Oct. 19. There, McCoy addressed what is missing from the #MeToo movement. She noted that while the broader culture instinctively recognizes abuse as objectively immoral, they bypass the unspoken assumption of an absolute right and wrong. This, McCoy said, is what is missing from #MeToo.

"Unless you have a God, you don't have a being to whom people are accountable," said McCoy, assistant professor of theology in women's studies. "And if you don't have a being to whom people are

accountable, you don't have an absolute right and wrong. And if you don't have an absolute right and wrong, you have no moral basis for saying that Harvey Weinstein and Charlie Rose and all the rest of them are wrong."

McCoy said that God must be put back in the social consciousness of our culture if people are ever going to do anything besides exposing what is wrong and talking about the problem.

"The #MeToo movement may have brought to light our nation's moral sickness," McCoy said, "but only Christ can cure the spiritual disease of sin, and only His church, us, can bring the disinfecting medicine of His presence."

## STUDENT PREACHER ENCOURAGES PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT

By Alex Sibley

Southwestern Seminary's penultimate chapel service for the fall 2018 semester featured student preacher Andre Kirkland. A Ph.D. student in the School of Preaching, Kirkland serves as associate pastor at Concord Church in Dallas. Kirkland preached on Ephesians 1:15-23 in a sermon entitled "Somebody Prayed for Me," a reference to Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus within this Scripture.

"Here in this passage, he lifts up a prayer that the believers in the church in Ephesus would be enlightened in their inner being, that they may come to know God fully for who He is, that they may come to understand His purpose and His Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," Kirkland said. "And I want to tell you today, Southwestern, that the understanding of your purpose, the possession you are to God, and your power are all predicated on your knowledge of Him."

Therefore, Kirkland said, prayers should go beyond one's present circumstances, and instead, believers should follow Paul's example and pray for enlightenment. "We can't leap in praise and limp in prayer," Kirkland said. "Prayer, sisters and brothers, is how you tap into what God is commanding for your life."



"Christ has what you need," Kirkland concluded. "What are you looking for? He has it. The power, the fidelity, the inspiration, the hope—it is found in Christ."



## CHURCH PLANTING WEEK EXPLORES ‘AMAZING PRIVILEGE’ OF MISSIONARY WORK

By Alex Sibley

“One-hundred and fifty years ago, many Southern Baptist men and women loaded their belongings into caskets and set sail for the continent of Africa. They went knowing that the majority of them would live, minister, and die in obscurity—their lives, in the eyes of the world, wasted in a foolish and fruitless task.

“And yet, because of their faithfulness, the seeds they planted have continued to grow. And they have continued to grow until today, when Africa stands at the heart of the next great wave of missionary advance to the world.”

Mark Phillips, a cluster leader in Sub-Saharan Africa for the International Mission Board, began his testimony this way in

Southwestern Seminary’s chapel service, Sept. 20. The testimony was part of the seminary’s International Church Planting Week, Sept. 17-21, which provided students the opportunity to learn about missions opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The week also featured a chapel testimony from Daren Davis, a Southwestern graduate (Master of Divinity, 1992) who now serves as the Affinity Group leader for Sub-Saharan Africa; a missions information night; an evening of prayer; and “Tastes of the Nations,” an international potluck celebrating the unity and diversity of the worldwide body of Christ found at Southwestern.



## WORKERS CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF SOCIETY’S VALUES

By Julie Owens

Work has intrinsic value that is often overlooked or misunderstood, but as Christians, we are called to be overseers of humanity’s ethics, J. Daryl Charles told attendants at Southwestern Seminary’s Land Center luncheon, Oct. 10. His lecture topic, “The Church’s Calling to Public Life: Theological Reflections on Virtue, Stewardship and Vocation,” emphasized that, as workers, people become active stewards of the social culture.

“The Master gives different gifts to those of different talents,” Charles told the luncheon attendees. “Yet what matters is not the gift but how the steward uses it. . . . Our work and our works are exceedingly valuable. They count.”





## ALUMNI, FRIENDS LEARN OF ‘BRIGHT, SUNNY’ DAYS AT SOUTHWESTERN

By Alex Sibley

D. Jeffrey Bingham declared that, since this summer and throughout the fall semester, he has been a spectator. Addressing those gathered for the Alumni and Friends Breakfast at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Nov. 13, Bingham, interim president of Southwestern Seminary, explained that he has been watching God work, “and He has been doing some marvelous things.”

Bingham noted that, despite this being a time of transition at the seminary, fall enrollment was up 14 percent from the previous

fall semester, the faculty and staff have remained steadfast in their duties, and the seminary’s weekly chapel services have taken on “new spiritual life.”

“We are looking at bright, sunny days from our perspective on Seminary Hill in Fort Worth,” Bingham said. “The Lord is doing wonderful, mighty things. And we are just so very fortunate every day to be spectators of His grace and of His power and of His mercy.”



## DONORS’ GENEROSITY ALLOWS SOUTHWESTERN TO REACH THE WORLD

By Julie Owens

Southwestern Seminary’s vast reach is possible only as God’s generosity reaches us through the generosity of God’s people, Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham told friends of the seminary at the annual President’s Club dinner, Dec. 6.

On his many trips to Italy, Bingham has admired the noted sculpture Michelangelo’s David, which depicts David preparing to take on Goliath, his right hand powerful and larger than life. The hand of the sculpture sends a message, Bingham said.

“It’s saying, ‘Look at my hands. Do you see what I am able to do with them, what humanity is capable of?’” Unlike Michelangelo, our faith as

Southwesterners is not ultimately in humanity, Bingham said, nor is our confidence fundamentally humanistic. Rather, our faith is in God’s provision, in God’s hands, as He generously provides our needs through donors’ hands.

“Every lecture, every book assigned, is devoted to one thing—we are devoted to making disciples,” Bingham said. “But we cannot do it alone. . . . Would you join us in this divine calling to make disciples? We ask you to join us on this journey where we are only spectators of the things God is doing here on earth.”







## FALL GRADUATES ENCOURAGED TO BE ‘COAST-BUSTERS’

By Alex Sibley

Alluding to the 1984 film “Ghostbusters,” during Southwestern Seminary’s fall commencement service, Dec. 14, Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham challenged the graduating bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral students to be “coast-busters.” Preaching on the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20, Bingham explained that he wants the graduates to “break the coast of North America.”

“And from North America, from this place on Seminary Hill in Fort Worth, Texas, go into all the nations ... and fulfill the Great Commission,” he said.

Representing 31 states, 15 nations, and 8 languages, this fall’s graduating class comprised nearly 300 students. Bingham utilized the

commencement service to preach one final message to the graduates, highlighting not only Jesus’ call to make disciples, but especially the foundations Jesus laid for that call.

“Because Jesus Christ has all authority,” Bingham said, “because Jesus Christ will be with you always, you are to go into and make disciples from all nations, and you are to teach all your disciples all the things that the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded and taught. It is not in our own power that we are able to do this, but only because of the eternal, blessed presence and the all-encompassing authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise His name forever.”





THEOLOGICAL



TheologicalMatters.com provides a range of helpful articles written by Southwestern faculty addressing topics such as preaching, ethics, apologetics, current events, church history, marriage, family, ministry, and more. Below are 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.



### The Gospel as Meta-Narrative

By Carl Bradford | Instructor in Evangelism

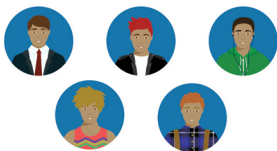
Theological liberalism was birthed when scholars started focusing on the reliability of history over the supposed mythology of Jesus' story. While those who utilize a meta-narrative Gospel over the concise Gospel should not be charged with theological liberalism, my fear is that they are adopting a similar method with a different application. In this construct, His story gets lost in history. Therefore, let meta-narrative proclaimers remind us proclaimers of the simple Gospel that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," along with the history that these elements contain. But may they also be reminded of the old hymn that says, in telling the "old, old story," we must focus on "Jesus and His love."



### Forging Intergenerational Relationships

By Justin Buchanan | Assistant Professor of Student Ministry

We cannot say that the singular cause of young people dropping out of church is the lack of significant relationships with adults. Yet, we cannot deny for those who remained in the church that these relationships were crucial in their continued engagement in the faith community of the local church. . . . Of all people, places, and organizations in this world, the church ought to be a family of people who live in reconciled communion with God that makes possible the intergenerational relationships with one another forged by the cross of Jesus Christ.



### Solution to Culture's Identity Crisis

By Charles Patrick | Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Communications

Our identity does not depend on us or material things of this world, but

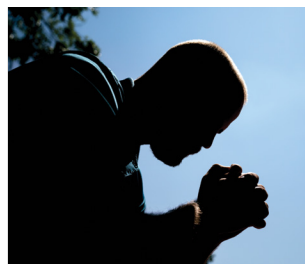
solely on Christ. In Christ alone. We are united with Christ and are His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). So, the next time someone asks who you are, answer them with "in Christ." When they look at you strangely, begin a Gospel proclamation.



### Do You Want to Grow Spiritually?

By Terry Wilder | Professor of New Testament

You can grow spiritually when you build on the foundation of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul compared his visit to Corinth with a wise master builder who laid a foundation while others built on it (1 Corinthians 3:10). We must be very careful about how we build upon the foundation that has been laid down, that of Jesus Christ and Him crucified (3:11; cf. 2:2). We should do so out of pure motives (3:12)—selfless service that is valuable and will stand ("gold, silver, precious stones") rather than self-seeking efforts that are worthless ("wood, hay, straw"). Know for sure that at the judgment on the Last Day, our work done in God's name will be revealed and tested for what it actually was (3:13–15).



### What is Real Biblical Manhood?

By Malcolm Yarnell | Research Professor of Systematic Theology

If you want to see what a real man, the perfect man, looks like, don't look to fallen men. Don't gaze at the screen or the pulpit or the podium. Instead, look toward the Man of perfection—look to where He is. The real Man is there, on the cross, providing for and protecting others, and preaching and practicing love. Christ Jesus on the cross provides us not only with our salvation but with our definition of real biblical manhood.

Continue reading these articles and many more at: [TheologicalMatters.com](http://TheologicalMatters.com)



# Everyday Evangelism Stories

Southwestern Seminary students and faculty strive to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and this means actively participating in everyday evangelism efforts. Below are excerpts from articles about some of these efforts, detailing Southwesterners' heart for evangelism and God's sovereign grace in saving sinners.



## Youth ministry leaders joyfully witness disciples multiply

By Alex Sibley

A recent fruitful evangelism experience by students from her youth group led master's student

Rochelle Crow to reflect, "Honestly, I used to think the biggest joy was leading someone to Christ. Now, I think the biggest joy is watching someone you helped lead to Christ lead others to Christ!"



## Church training builds strong warriors for Christ

By Julie Owens

God is answering prayers for the youth ministry staff at North Richland Hills Baptist Church, where young soldiers for Christ are being trained, with much success, to evangelize in their

community. Earlier this fall, 60 participants—about 40 students and 20 adults—attended a day-long training session, then took their message to nearby neighborhoods. By the end of the day, they had collectively knocked on 249 doors, prayed with 41 people, and spoken with eight individuals who indicated that they wanted to know more about the Gospel.



## Commitment to truth of the Gospel yields four salvations

By Katie Coleman

"The biggest lesson I have learned in going out recently is how desperate people are to

hear the truth," says master's student Ricardo Devine. "Many people have heard bits and pieces of the Gospel, but no one has ever walked through Scripture with them. We, as evangelists and lay people in the church, need to take the Word of God seriously, because if we just teach half-truths, people will be led astray."



## Horsewoman finds true joy in Jesus

By Alex Sibley

Upon hearing of the void that had once existed in Sorenson's life and how that void had been filled by Jesus, Jennifer realized that a void existed in her, as well.

Though her dream of owning a horse had been fulfilled, she herself remained unfulfilled, and after hearing the Gospel message, she knew that she would remain so until she surrendered her life to Jesus. "I asked her if I could pray for her, and she said 'yes,'" says master's student Sam Sorenson. "She prayed with me to accept Jesus."



## Pursuing the lost with Christ

By Alex Ng

I made sure he understood the decision he was making and led him in a prayer to repent and receive God's forgiveness through Jesus. After the prayer, he let go of

my hands, sat back, and simply said, "Wow!"

... I returned the next day to make sure Bob understood what happened. He told me, "It's like a weight has been lifted off my back! It was like I apologized to God for the first time yesterday. I've never done that before."

Continue reading these articles and many more at: [swbts.edu/news/everyday-evangelism](http://swbts.edu/news/everyday-evangelism)



# CAMPUS EXPERIENCES 'NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE' THROUGHOUT FALL SEMESTER

By Alex Sibley



Throughout this time of transition at the seminary, God has been at work among the students and faculty, and as Interim President D. Jeffrey Bingham has said, the campus has experienced “new spiritual” life throughout the fall semester. From a renewed zeal in weekly chapel services to campus-wide community events like the Fall Festival, Chili Cook-Off, and Open Mic Night—not to mention the various women’s events, music programs, and informal student hangouts—Southwestern Seminary has proven itself to be a persevering, thriving institution.















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





# RESPECTED SCHOLAR, FORMER INTERIM PRESIDENT WILLIAM B. TOLAR DIES

*By Julie Owens and Alex Sibley*

**W**illiam B. Tolar, former professor, dean, vice president, provost, and acting president at Southwestern Seminary, died on Dec. 29 at the age of 90. Tolar was a world-renowned Bible scholar with an academic and ministry career spanning more than half a century.

“Dr. Tolar set an example of how to combine academic theological education with practical ministry in the churches,” says Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern from 1978-1994. “He was a preacher-minister, but he also was a scholarly professor, balancing the intellectual with practical service in the churches. And it was that balance of intellectual scholarship with practical application as a practicing minister—not just theoretical knowledge, but knowledge lived out in Christian service—that endeared him to students and to fellow academics, church ministers, and lay leaders alike.

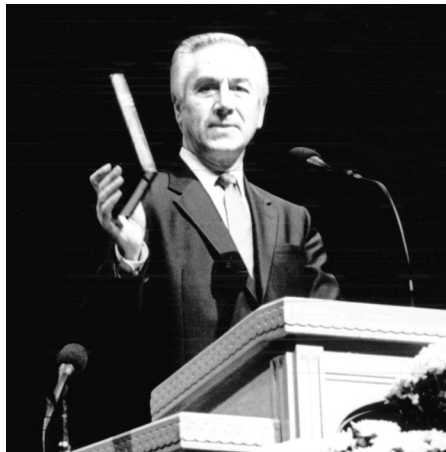
“I think there are few people more widely known and respected in academic and local church life. He will be missed.”

Tolar was born on July 5, 1928, in Jonesboro, La. Thirteen years later, when a teacher challenged him to read the Bible, she had no idea the impact that challenge would have on Tolar.

“I began to realize that if this book was right, then basically my life was wrong, because I was living without any serious regard for the God that the Scriptures were telling me about,” Tolar once said. It set him on a lifetime course of worship, Bible study, and teaching. He made his profession of faith on Easter Sunday in 1942, and a year later, he accepted the call to vocational ministry.

“I had a very profound sense that I wanted my life to really count for God,” he said. “If you were a minister, you would be helping people all the time.”

Tolar graduated from Baylor University in 1950, and he was pastoring a nearby church when an educator would again influence his life. The chairman of Baylor’s religion department asked if he would teach part-time.



Tolar accepted, and a year later, he was offered a full-time position.

After teaching at Baylor for 10 years, Tolar came to Southwestern Seminary in 1965 with his wife, Floye, to teach and complete his Doctor of Theology degree. He was elected to the seminary faculty that same year as a distinguished professor of biblical backgrounds. In his nearly four decades at Southwestern, Tolar equipped thousands of students for ministry around the world.

Tolar went on to serve as dean of Southwestern’s School of Theology and then as vice president for academic affairs and provost. In 1994, Tolar was called to serve as Southwestern’s acting president until Ken Hemphill was hired later that year.

Hemphill, who served as Southwestern’s president from 1994-2003, says Tolar’s impact on the seminary was “immense.”

“I think he was invaluable in that transition time; it was a pretty difficult time in the life of the institution,” Hemphill says. “And I think he was a real peacemaker, scholar, and gentleman.

“When I came, he was very supportive of me being there, and that helped in the transition with existing faculty and students. And he not only helped me to understand some of the dynamics of the school, since I was not a Southwestern graduate myself, but also to know some of the history, some of the

traditions of the school and the institution to be able to connect with its past as well as to look to its future.”

Following his tenure at Southwestern, Tolar taught as an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University and as a distinguished fellow at the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute. Throughout his ministry, Tolar studied and lectured in 53 countries and served as guest lecturer in the Holy Land more than 80 times. He also served as interim pastor at almost 50 churches, including Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

After his retirement, Tolar maintained an active teaching schedule at Dallas Baptist University. He and his wife also established the William B. and Floye Tolar Faculty Assistance Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance to Southwestern faculty and staff.

“Bill Tolar was my student, my faculty colleague, my dean, my vice president, my acting president, and my dear friend,” says James Leo Garrett, distinguished professor emeritus of theology at Southwestern Seminary. “A clear witness to the grace of God, Dr. Tolar masterfully lectured on biblical backgrounds and preached and taught the Bible in scores of Southern Baptist churches. He was, in his generation, the preeminent conductor of tours to the biblical lands.”

Tolar is survived by his wife, Floye; son William and daughter-in-law Laura Tolar of Hurst; daughter Lora Mae and son-in-law Brian O’Riordan of Chicago; and two grandchildren.

“Dr. Tolar’s legacy of distinguished service at Southwestern Seminary is an example to every minister of the Gospel,” says current interim president D. Jeffrey Bingham. “Whether in the classroom, as dean of the School of Theology, as vice president for academic affairs, as provost, or as interim president, Dr. Tolar faithfully served his Lord at his alma mater. The Southwestern family grieves his loss and prays that the peace of Christ will comfort and console the Tolar family.”



## Alumni Updates

### 1980

Paul G. Harwood (ADIV 1988) to Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno, Nev., as director of revitalization and evangelism, with wife Jerry Harwood.

## Retirement

Kerry G. Powell (BD 1963, MDIV 1987) retired with wife, Carolyn (Bickers) Powell, living in Newport, Tenn.

## Anniversaries

Kerry G. Powell (BD 1963, MDIV 1987) and Carolyn (Bickers) Powell, 60th wedding anniversary (July).

Dwight Reagan (MDIV 1963) and Lila (Langwell) Reagan, 62nd wedding anniversary (June).

## Memorials

### 1950

Norris Gilliam, Jr. (MRE 1950)

William B. Tolar (MDIV 1955, THD 1966)

Billy H. Fowlkes (MRE 1958)

Charles P. Woods (MRE 1958)

### 1960

Ottis Farrell Blankenship (MRE 1960)

Herbert E. Hodges (MDIV 1961)

Charles W. Sullivan (THD 1961)

Charles D. Brock (BDIV 1966)

Warren W. Brattlof (MRE 1968)

### 1970

Larry L. Futral (MRE, MACM 1974)

Thomas R. Williams (MDIV 1979)

### 1990

Rodney Kovtynovich (MDIVBL 1993)

James B. Slack (DMIN 1995)

## Keep in Touch

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

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2001 W. Seminary Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76115

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### Phone (local):

817.923.1921, ext. 7200

### Email:

friendsofsouthwestern@swbts.edu



# LIGHTING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

By Keith E. Eitel

God knows all things actually or potentially real, He is everywhere present simultaneously, and He has all power on heaven and earth. This is the great God who created all things and works all of history to one single aim, sending a Savior because He wills that all be saved through knowledge of Him (1 Timothy 2:4).

With these premises, we at Southwestern are ever conscious that we have a stewardship, a calling, to invest in our students so that they will in turn further invest their lives in this priority for living and being as well—to continually know Him and make Him known to the glory of God!

Increasingly, we see the world literally coming to study with us. It no longer is primarily students from the Deep South, or even North America. Oh, they do still come, but more and more from everywhere are joining them now. They are those who have been called to do the same but are from many different nations, traveling many different roads. So sitting in our classrooms are those preparing to be pastors, evangelists, missionaries, musicians, and educationalists in every corner of the world.

In a very real sense, here on Southwestern's hill, we light the fires of God-called people, and

we do so *glocally*. That may be a new term to the reader. A description as to what we mean is in order. We, as humans, are limited in seeing things where we are at a given time and not simultaneously seeing all things of all times like God does. He is the only truly *glocal* being that exists since He has the attributes named above. Yet, we are to think and act locally and globally as nearly simultaneously as possible with the empowering presence of His Holy Spirit. Southwestern exists to achieve this.

In this issue of Southwestern News, you have been introduced to some of our students from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe. I know them each and know what God has buried deeply into their hearts, a passion for our common singular aim of broadcasting the Good News of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world so that others will be saved and thereby continually please the heart of God.

Those whom you have read about herein are joining the long line of Southwesterners who have traversed this hill, reaching back to the vision implanted in the hearts of B.H. Carroll and L.R. Scarborough. We literally have heroes in the halls. With them, we join that line too and continue to exist for His purposes.



I have heard it said that there is only one thing we cannot do in heaven, and that is to win souls to Christ. All who will be gathered around that throne of God someday will be gathered from every tribe and language and people and nation. Amen! So let it be, and may you join hands with us at Southwestern to keep on continually lighting the world for Christ!

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