



Church sees record attendance with drive-in services

COVID-19 canceled services. Then one alum found a way to reach more people than ever.

The charge every pastor needs to hear

Professor Richard Ross on how student ministry can spark renewal in churches, the SBC, and beyond.

The hands and feet of Christ in a pandemic

In the COVID-19 crisis, a Fort Worth church reaches out with a drive-thru pantry and prayer tent.

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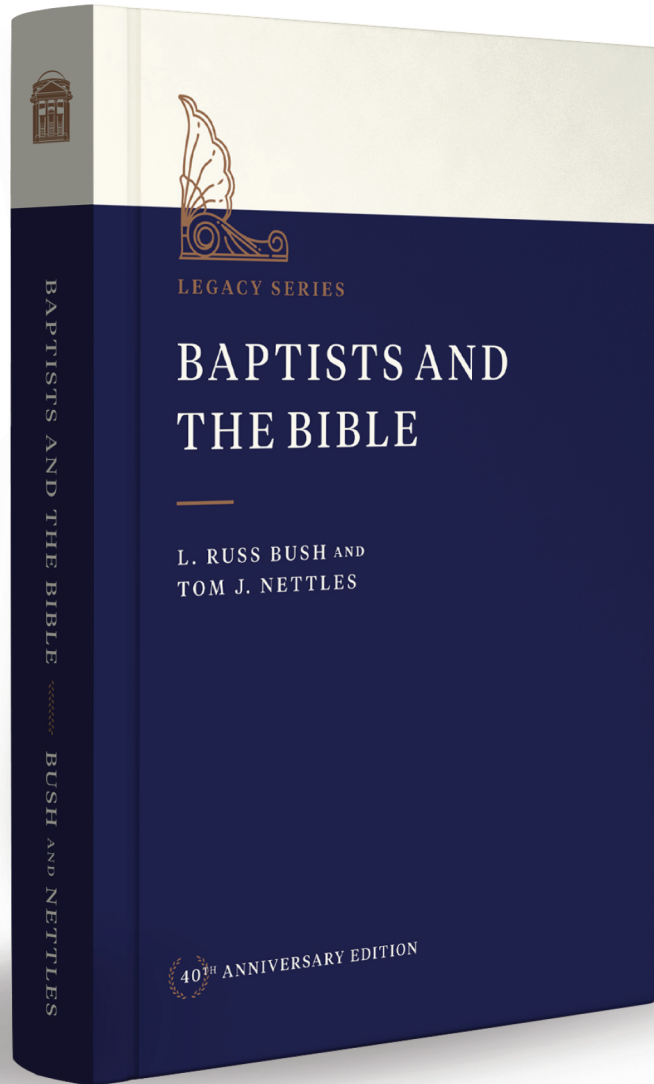
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MAYHILL, NEW MEXICO

CHURCH SEES RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE AMIDST COVID-19-PROMPTED DRIVE-IN SERVICES

BY ALEX SIBLEY

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Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, one Fort Worth church, including Southwestern Seminary students and staff, reaches its community by setting up a drive-thru food pantry and prayer tent in the church parking lot.

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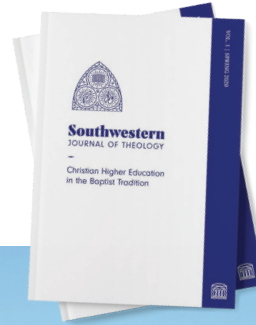
When precautions required moving all on-campus courses to online delivery, the "forward thinking" SWBTS allowed faculty and students to adapt quickly to a new normal.

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Southwestern

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'Very hopeful about the future'



"Our seminary has endured hardships and trials throughout its 112-year history, and with God's blessings we will persevere and thrive during these days just as we have in the past."

HAVING NOW COMMENCED MY FIRST full calendar year as president of Southern Baptists' "crown jewel" seminary, it is my deep joy to witness the dawning of a new day at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as we seek to be faithful in training the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At the heart of this administration's vision for Southwestern Seminary is a reanimation and reinvigoration of the original vision of our founder and first president, the great Baptist pastor-theologian and denominational statesman Benajah Harvey (B.H.) Carroll. Our "big-tent vision" is grounded in four non-negotiable institutional commitments about Scripture, confessionalism, the Great Commission, and cooperation.


The spring 2020 semester was historic—both in ways we would have never sought and in ways that have demonstrated once again the truly special nature of Southwestern Seminary. I have never been prouder to be a Southwesterner as our extraordinary faculty and staff seamlessly moved our entire educational program online in the span of a couple of weeks to best serve our students during a time of great difficulty for them, for our churches, and for this nation. In God's providence, our new 8-week online courses were in the final planning stages before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we were positioned to offer these new courses when they will be meaningful to our students.

We instituted budgetary reductions of approximately 25 percent campus-wide through a combination of faculty and staff position deletions, furloughs, and discontinuation of certain academic programs. These actions realigned expenditures with reduced revenue projections while undergirding mission-critical

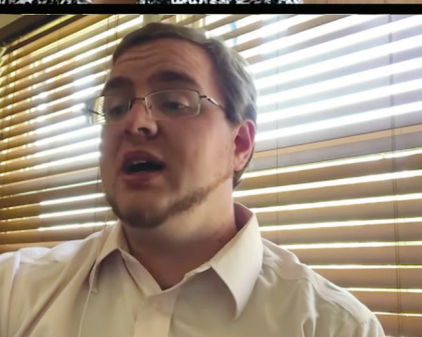
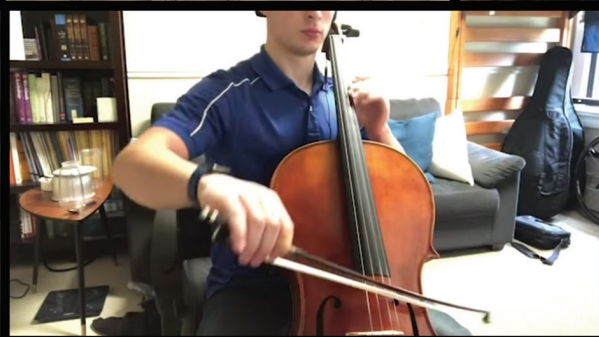
academic programs and continuing the institution's renewal. Recently, our Board of Trustees adopted a 2020-2021 budget that continues to maximize our mission while being financially prudent.

Despite these challenges, I remain very hopeful about the future of Southwestern Seminary. We are committed to offering the very best in theological education to God-called men and women in service to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our seminary has endured hardships and trials throughout its 112-year history, and with God's blessings we will persevere and thrive during these days just as we have in the past. God is at work on Seminary Hill, and the best days are in our windshield rather than our rearview mirror.

Beyond the pandemic, we find ourselves in a time too often characterized by division. I believe there is no more urgent time than now for Southern Baptists to come together. The challenges in today's culture demand more cooperation among us, not less. We desperately need leadership committed to helping equip the people of God not only to evangelize the lost and disciple new believers, but also to teach Christians how to live out a Christian worldview that makes a difference for Christ in our culture, especially while secular voices increasingly demand capitulation and compromise from God's standards.

Our sanctified commitment at Southwestern Seminary is to be a school that produces Gospel-driven men and women who are able to minister effectively in these urgent and chaotic times. It is because of our relationships and partnerships with local churches, state conventions, and fellow SBC entities that we are able to meet this challenge. Please pray for us that God would find us faithful and make us fruitful in His service. 

ADAM W. GREENWAY
President





Nearly 70 students and faculty from Southwestern Seminary collaborated as a "virtual choir" to record a legacy hymn, "Be Thou My Vision," uniting an array of Christian voices and musicians to inspire the body of Christ during this time of separation caused by COVID-19. The video was released online, May 4, and over the next few months accumulated more than 60,000 views across Facebook and YouTube.

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Southwestern Seminary responds to COVID-19

Greenway: May Southern Baptists find 'ultimate hope' in Jesus Christ

IN MARCH 2020, THE WORLD HEALTH Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Extreme precautions were taken by businesses and institutions around the world, and The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was no exception. In order to limit any potential harm to the seminary community, the school's administration, in consultation with the officers of the seminary's Board of Trustees, decided to close the campus and move all

ity to do everything within capacity to protect students and the seminary community; and the duty of the seminary to continue to be a good neighbor to the Fort Worth community.

The news release further announced that dormitories would be vacated and on-campus events cancelled through April 4. As COVID-19 restrictions continued to tighten throughout the nation, a March 20 news release announced that all events, including spring commencement, would be canceled.

In the March 12 release, President Adam W. Greenway ('02) called the seminary community "to pray earnestly for government officials in our community, state, nation, and the world as they work to protect their citizens. I also urge prayers for Southern Baptist churches and workers around the world who are ministering the eternal hope of the Gospel in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. May the Great Physi-

"I am prayerful that God is using the coronavirus pandemic in a way that will make us more faithful ministers."

- GREENWAY ('02)

cian grant to all physical safety and may all find their ultimate hope in Jesus Christ."

On April 29, Greenway announced that the campus would re-open for the fall semester. He said the seminary's common spaces would undergo a "deep cleaning" in the months preceding the beginning of the semester, noting adjustments would be made to class sizes and the use of classrooms "to ensure all public health recommendations relevant upon re-opening are strictly and faithfully observed, with a heightened cleaning regimen upon resumption of classroom instruction."

"I am prayerful that God is using the coronavirus pandemic in a way that will make us more faithful ministers of the Gospel and that will see the advancement of the Gospel across the world," Greenway said. "As Robert E. Naylor, our fifth president, frequently said, 'The sun never sets on Southwestern.' That truism remains undiminished in our time, and it is our prayerful ambition that because of the training they receive here, our students will continue to be a part of fulfilling the Great Commission across Texas, throughout the United States, and around the world." 📖—Staff



courses to online platforms effective March 23 through the spring and summer semesters.

A March 12 news release announcing these changes listed several factors affecting the decision, including: the World Health Organization's declaration that COVID-19 is now a pandemic; a March 11 announcement that a Fort Worth resident tested positive for COVID-19; consultation with local government officials and higher education leaders; the responsibil-

The seminary will move forward 'stronger than ever before,' Greenway tells trustees

Trustees elect faculty, add new degrees, and amend bylaws.

In what President Adam W. Greenway ('02) called a "history-making moment," the Southwestern Seminary Board of Trustees met for the first time via video conference due to the coronavirus pandemic for their spring meeting, April 7. During the meeting, trustees elected three new faculty members, approved nine new degrees and revisions to four existing degrees, and deferred action on the 2020-2021 budget until July.

During a called meeting on July 14, which also met via video conference, trustees approved a \$29.7 million budget for 2020-2021, a six percent decrease from the prior year.

"This budget represents a conservative approach in projecting revenue, a commitment to holding the line on institutional expenses, but yet is bathed in prayerful optimism that the Lord will help us to overachieve and see positive results in stewardship of the institution and its resources," said Greenway, reflecting on the trustee action.

"We want to be in the position to navigate throughout this academic and fiscal year in a way that continues to keep students and faculty at the heart of all that we do at Southwestern Seminary," he added. "And the commitment of our trustees and our administration is to continue to provide essential funding for us to carry out our assignment and our responsibilities."

During the July meeting, trustees also approved a new strategic plan as a part of the institution's decennial accreditation process.

Trustee chairman Philip Levant ('02), pastor of Iglesia Bautista La Vid in Hurst, Texas, said the board and administration are united in the seminary's mission.

"There's a lot of uncertainty because of COVID-19, but our mission has not changed," he said. "The will of the president and his cabinet and the will of the board is to continue to fulfill the

ELECTED FACULTY



JONATHAN W. ARNOLD



CHRIS S. OSBORNE ('77, '19)



CARL J. BRADFORD ('11, '18)

mission God has given us as an institution. As long as God allows us to do that, we're going to continue training men and women for the Gospel ministry."

The April meeting began with a report from Greenway, who assured trustees that "when challenges come to Southwestern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary always stands ready to meet the challenge." Greenway added: "We're going to come through this. We're going to come through this stronger than ever before. We're going to come through this in a way that I believe is only going to glorify God."

FACULTY ELECTED, NEW DEGREES APPROVED

Trustees elected the following faculty, effective immediately: Jonathan W. Arnold was elected associate professor of church history and historical theology; Chris S. Osborne ('77, '19) was elected professor of preaching and pastoral ministry; and Carl J. Bradford ('11, '18) was elected assistant professor of evangelism.

Nine new degrees were approved by trustees: in Scarborough College, the Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy, Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, and the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. In the Jack D. Terry School of Educational Ministries, the Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Education; and in the School of Church Music and Worship, the Master of Theology.

In addition, trustees voted to revise certain degrees within the Terry School, including the Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, and Doctor of Educational Ministry. Also, the Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics in the Roy J. Fish School of Evangelism and Missions has been revised and renamed the Master of Arts in Great Commission Apologetics.

PREACHING ASSIGNED TO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Trustees voted to rescind, effective immediately, the motion adopted by the Board of Trustees in its fall 2015 meeting to establish the School of Preaching as a separate school of the seminary. All areas of responsibility assigned to the School of Preaching—including faculty, curricula, degrees, centers, and programs—were re-assigned to the School of Theology, with full administrative implementation accomplished by Aug. 1, 2020. David L. Allen, who served as dean of the School of Preaching, will continue

"We're going to come through this in a way that I believe is only going to glorify God."

- GREENWAY ('02)



ABOVE: Adam W. Greenway ('02) and Jamie Dew converse on "Not Another Baptist Podcast," May 28.

in his faculty role as distinguished professor of preaching and as director of the Southwestern Center for Text-Driven Preaching, overseeing the seminary's Preaching Source online resources, as well as conferencing and events related to preaching and preachers.

Trustees also voted to authorize the administration to "execute special endowment distributions as needed on or before Dec. 31, 2021, up to the total amount of the unrestricted portion of the seminary's endowment."

ADOPTED 'EXPECTATIONS OF BELIEF'

The board adopted the Nashville Statement and reaffirmed the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy and Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood "as official guiding documents" of the seminary's "convictional standards, expectations, and beliefs," and functioning as "proper interpretations" of the seminary's Confession of Faith signed by faculty, the Baptist Faith and Message.

Amendments to the seminary's bylaws also were approved.

The meeting concluded with the election of board officers: Philip Levant was reelected as chairman; Danny Roberts ('79), executive pastor of North Richland Hills Baptist Church in North Richland Hills, Texas, was reelected as vice chairman; and Jamie Green, retired speech-language pathologist in Katy, Texas, was reelected as secretary. 📧—A.S.

GREENWAY AND DEW DISCUSS LEADING IN AND BEYOND COVID-19

NOBTS' Dew: 'We need each other missiologically.'

THE PRESIDENTS OF TWO SOUTHERN Baptist Convention seminaries—Adam W. Greenway ('02) of Southwestern Seminary and Jamie Dew of New Orleans Seminary—participated in a live Zoom chat on "leading in/beyond COVID-19" with hosts Matt Henslee ('17) and Kyle Bueermann of "Not Another Baptist Podcast," May 28.

Concerning what the transition to fully online classes this semester due to COVID-19 precautions has taught him, Greenway said, "There are some things that we can do in person or we can do online, and it's just as good online. There are other things that we can do in person or online, but it's clearly better in person. COVID-19, I think, is giving us a deeper appreciation for real, in-person community."

Dew agreed, "If COVID-19 has done anything, it has given us a scenario that reminds us of just how much we need each other. We need each other relationally, we need each other psychologically, we need each other spiritually, we need each other missiologically. And so it's given us a context now that should forever change the way we celebrate and embrace public gathering." 📧—*SWBTS/NOBTS Staff*

'CONTINUE GOING FORTH,' GREENWAY CHARGES GRADUATES IN VIDEO ADDRESS

Graduation ceremonies were held in a non-in-person format for the first time in 112 years.



WITH COVID-19 PREVENTING Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College from having an in-person commencement ceremony for the first time in the institution's 112-year history, the school's administration and faculty still congratulated and celebrated the 336 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students graduating in the spring 2020 semester, including the largest-ever graduating class from Scarborough College.

President Adam W. Greenway ('02) delivered a charge to the graduates through a recorded video, May 8—the day on which commencement ceremonies were originally scheduled to take place—and numerous faculty similarly shared prayers and congratulations through digital, rather than in-person, means.

Speaking from the historic George

**“Our charge ... to you is
to continue going forth
proclaiming the good news of
salvation in Jesus Christ.”**

— GREENWAY ('02)

Campus clinic now offers telemedicine visits


In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in which residents of the Fort Worth community were encouraged to stay home, Southwestern Seminary's campus clinic made efforts to continue serving students and families through “Telemedicine Visits”—live, online, video “visits” conducted through smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers. —A.S.



W. Truett Auditorium on the Fort Worth campus, Greenway said, “In this moment where we are scattered, our charge and commission to you is to continue going forth proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ; continuing to work to connect all people to Jesus Christ; continuing to do what you do wherever you may be and wherever God may deploy you.” 📖—A.S.

Prospective students learn about seminary through Virtual Preview sessions

The initiative led to a three-year high in preview-generated applications.

FOLLOWING THE CANCELLATION of Spring Preview Days due to COVID-19, Southwestern Seminary announced the “Virtual Preview” initiative, which allowed prospective students to hear from and dialogue with faculty, administration, and admissions staff through live video-conferencing. These preview sessions, spanning March through April, resulted in more first-time student applications than any of the in-person Preview Days from the last three years.  —Staff

THE NUMBERS

Despite pivoting to a virtual format, SWBTS enjoyed one its most effective Preview Days.

165%
more attendees than spring 2019



more applications than two previous spring previews combined



Student Emergency Assistance Fund supports Southwesterners affected by COVID-19

The Student Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF) at Southwestern Seminary provides support for students adversely affected by crisis or emergency. The fund existed prior to the coronavirus pandemic, but recent events caused the school’s administrators and Office of Institutional Advancement to place special emphasis upon it in order to meet the needs of seminary and college students adversely affected by the current crisis. These needs include housing costs, medical bills, educational costs, groceries, and other emergency matters. “At Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College, students are the most important constituency of our institution,” says President Adam W. Greenway. “It is my firm commitment that our institution will do everything in our power to assist students who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. I urge all Southwesterners to contribute generously to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.” —A.S.

School of Church Music and Worship offers worship resources in response to COVID-19

‘Artistic Theologian’ website helps lead worship in and from homes.

AS CHURCHES NAVIGATE THE UNCHARTED territory of ministering in an age of social distancing, Southwestern Seminary’s School of Church Music and Worship is providing resources through its “Artistic Theologian” website to help Christians lead worship in and from their homes while COVID-19 precautions prevent church members from corporate gatherings.

In addition, the school has hosted webinars throughout the latter part of the spring semester, featuring such speakers as Ken Myers, host and producer of the Mars Hill Audio Journal, and state worship leaders to discuss such matters as leading worship during the pandemic and strategies for reopening. —K.C.



LEFT: Karen Kennemur speaks at a children's conference with more than 1,000 participants held at Southwestern Seminary.

Center for Church Revitalization resources encourage, equip churches in need

During the coronavirus pandemic, Southwestern Seminary's Center for Church Revitalization remained hard at work to encourage and equip churches in need. The center hosted two fully online conferences—the Church Revitalization Conference and the “Evangelism Engagement” conference—and also launched the online “Sermon and Worship Resource Collection,” featuring sermon videos and packages of worship songs available to churches unable to offer their members full Sunday morning services. —A.S.

Kennemur connects with children's ministers nationwide through regular Zoom calls

The professor led an effort by the SBTC.

DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, Karen Kennemur ('03, '08), associate professor of children's ministry, has connected digitally with preschool and children's ministers across the nation in order to discuss ministry amidst COVID-19.

When the pandemic began, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention launched a COVID-19 resources

team that included Kennemur, who also serves as children's ministry associate for the convention. Among the resources offered are weekly Zoom meetings with different demographics, including pastors, youth leaders, and women's ministers. Kennemur has hosted meetings for preschool and children's ministers and special-needs ministers. 📖 —A.S.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY OFFERS 8-WEEK ONLINE COURSES

After months of planning, Southwestern Seminary announced March 16 the launch of eight-week courses for online students, with the first term beginning April 27.

“Long before the novel coronavirus altered our spring semester, Southwestern Seminary academic administration was diligently developing this new, eight-week online course structure to assist students in expediting their theological education,” said President Adam W. Greenway ('02). “In God's providence, we're now positioned to offer these new courses at a time when they will be especially meaningful to our students.” — *Staff*

“In God's providence, we're now positioned to offer these new courses at a time when they will be especially meaningful to our students.”



In Juneteenth message to seminary community, Greenway calls for 'justice and righteousness'

The president released a campus-wide communication.

IN A CAMPUS-WIDE LETTER ON JUNE 18, President Adam W. Greenway “repudiated” racism and called on The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary community to model “what it looks like for followers of Christ to live and learn alongside each other in a spirit of unity.”

“To our Black brothers and sisters, we affirm that Black lives do indeed matter,” Greenway wrote. “But this statement is simply the bare minimum affirmation, for Black lives do not just matter – Black lives are made in the image of God, Black lives are loved, and Black lives are worthy of being treated with the inherent dignity bestowed by God Himself.”

Coming on the annual celebration marking the ending of slavery in the United States, Greenway concluded, “On this Juneteenth in the year of our Lord 2020, I stand alongside all my Black brothers and sisters in calling for justice and righteousness to flow like a mighty flood, and as we move forward together as a seminary and college community, I pray you will join me in this stand.”

The entire letter follows:

Dear Southwestern Seminary Family,

The last few weeks have been a tumultuous and deeply painful time in the life of our country. Since the tragic killing of George Floyd on May 25th, a national conversation has intensified around the issues of racism and justice. As a community focused on training God-called men and women for more faithful service in the local church, we must be a part of this conversation and seek to bring solutions that we know must be grounded in the truth of God’s Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These recent events have brought to the forefront the realities of injustice and inequality that impact countless lives across our nation. Let me be unequivocally clear, racism is sin and is repudiated on the campus of Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College. This evil is antithetical to the truths we find in Scripture. From the opening chapters of Genesis, where we are told that all men and women are created in the image of God, to the book of Acts and Paul’s epistles where we see the Gospel breaking down ethnic barriers in the early church, rejection of racial superiority/inferiority claims is essential to what it means

(continued)

to be a faithful disciple of Christ.

On May 30, I joined with my fellow Southern Baptist Convention entity heads in issuing a joint statement responding to the death of George Floyd. Here is that statement in its entirety:

“As a convention of churches committed to the equality and dignity of all people, Southern Baptists grieve the death of George Floyd, who was killed May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“While all must grieve, we understand that in the hearts of our fellow citizens of color, incidents like these connect to a long history of unequal justice in our country, going back to the grievous Jim Crow and slavery eras. The images and information we have available to us in this case are horrific and remind us that there is much more work to be done to ensure that there is not even a hint of racial inequity in the distribution of justice in our country. We grieve to see examples of the misuse of force, and call for

“Therefore, we pray for our local, state, and national leaders as they seek justice, and call on them to act quickly and diligently to ensure that these situations are brought to an end. As a people, Southern Baptists stand ready to help towards that end. May God give us His favor, help and strength in this effort.”

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, we have seen protests grip our nation. While most of these protests have been peaceful demonstrations, some have turned violent, further damaging communities. As believers, it is incumbent upon us to commit ourselves to the conversations that must happen in order to see substantive change in our churches and communities. At the same time, we must reject violence that leads to disorder and chaos rather than justice and peace. We also must affirm the God-ordained work of law enforcement, which is part of His design for just societies to restrain evil and lawlessness.

To our Black brothers and sisters, we affirm that Black lives do

“Our community must be a model for those seeking to know what it looks like for followers of Christ to live and learn alongside each other in a spirit of unity. This effort will require ... us to walk in charity as well as in humility.”

- GREENWAY ('02)

these issues to be addressed with speed and justice.

“While we thank God for our law enforcement officers that bravely risk their lives for the sake of others and uphold justice with dignity and integrity, we also lament when some law enforcement officers misuse their authority and bring unnecessary harm on the people they are called to protect. We further grieve with our minority brothers and sisters in the wake of George Floyd’s death, pray for his family and friends and greatly desire to see the misuse of force and any inequitable distributions of justice come to an end.

“Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the Bible speaks to matters of justice and human dignity. We are taught by Scripture that human beings are distinct among the rest of creation as those beings which bear the divine image. From the beginning of life to the end, all human beings, both male and female—of all ethnicities, colors and ages—are sacred beings that God values and loves.

“Throughout the Law, the Prophets, the Gospels and the entire canon of Scripture, murder is condemned and God’s people are called to protect the vulnerable. The Bible further condemns injustice and the misuse of authority and force. And in the example of Jesus Christ, God’s people are called to love others, care for their needs, grieve with them in brokenness and labor for the well-being of our neighbor. To follow Christ is to follow in these examples He puts before us.

“Therefore, as a matter of Christian obedience and devotion, followers of Jesus Christ cannot remain silent when our brothers and sisters, friends and/or people we seek to win for Christ are mistreated, abused or killed unnecessarily.

indeed matter. But this statement is simply the bare minimum affirmation, for Black lives do not just matter—Black lives are made in the image of God, Black lives are loved, and Black lives are worthy of being treated with the inherent dignity bestowed by God Himself. I want you to know that we are resolved in our commitment to Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College being a place where our Black brothers and sisters in Christ are empowered to pursue training for the ministry to which God has called you. Our community must be a model for those seeking to know what it looks like for followers of Christ to live and learn alongside each other in a spirit of unity. This effort will require each of us to walk in charity as well as in humility.

It was on this day, June 19th, in 1865 that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the U.S. Civil War had ended, and that those who had been slaves were now free men and women. Students of history will know the date of this arrival was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This two-and-a-half-year gap is a reminder of the delayed justice still disproportionately felt too often by the Black community to this day. On this Juneteenth in the year of our Lord 2020, I stand alongside all my Black brothers and sisters in calling for justice and righteousness to flow like a mighty flood, and as we move forward together as a seminary and college community, I pray you will join me in this stand. 🙏

Adam W. Greenway, President
The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Newly revised professional doctoral program ‘prioritizes formation of the whole student’

→ A revised program structure along with new and re-freshed concentrations have poised the professional doctoral program at Southwestern Seminary to be “the premiere program among evangelical institutions of higher learning,” says Coleman Ford, director of professional doctoral studies. Both the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.) have been “uniquely designed” to “accommodate vocational pressures most students experience while simultaneously prioritizing the ‘residential experience,’” he says. —A.S.



LEFT: IMB president Paul Chitwood stands with SWBTS president Adam W. Greenway.

‘God is still saving people,’ Scarborough College student declares

Before states began to implement various travel restrictions, two dozen students participated in Revive This Nation (RTN), Southwestern Seminary’s annual effort to deploy preachers across the country to lead revivals during spring break. This year, March 6-15, these preachers collectively saw numerous decisions made, including more than a dozen professions of faith.

“God is still saving people,” reflects bachelor’s student and first-time RTN participant David Lawm, who preached at a Burmese church in Kansas City, Kansas. “God is still saving sinners, and He could use people like me also, who is not very good at words, if we humble ourselves and follow Jesus, follow what He commanded us.” —A.S.

GREENWAY AFFIRMS RENEWED SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG ‘GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS’

“IF THE GREAT COMMISSION IS EVER going to have any chance of being fulfilled in our lifetime, it will not happen apart from Gospel-driven cooperation,” said Southwestern Seminary President Adam W. Greenway (‘02) during an International Mission Board (IMB) luncheon on the seminary campus, Feb. 27. The luncheon welcomed representatives from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Woman’s Missionary Union of Texas, Texas Baptist Men, the Tarrant Baptist Association, and other Southern Baptist Convention partners, as well

“The task has fallen to our generation, and I am grateful for the way Southern Baptists are rising to the occasion.”

— PAUL CHITWOOD

as numerous missions-giving and missions-sending churches from across the state.

IMB President Paul Chitwood, who also preached in the seminary’s chapel that morning, shared his vision for IMB’s future at the luncheon.

“For 175 years, Southern Baptists have worked together in the fulfillment of the Revelation 7:9 vision,” Chitwood said. “Now, the task has fallen to our generation, and I am grateful for the way Southern Baptists are rising to the occasion, but there is so much more to be done.” —A.S.

New video series helps ministers live their calling in midst of COVID-19

The program features interviews with SWBTS faculty and staff

“MINISTRY NOW” IS A NEW VIDEO SERIES featuring interviews with Southwestern Seminary faculty designed to help ministers live their calling “in an ever-changing ministry landscape,” especially due to COVID-19, said host Katie McCoy (’11, ’16), assistant professor of theology in women’s studies at Scarborough College, in the series’ premiere. New episodes of the series air every Thursday at 1 p.m. CT on Facebook and YouTube, with the first episode premiering on May 14. Featured speakers have included Dean of Women Terri Stovall (’91, ’01), Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry Chris Osborne (’77, ’19), Adjunct Faculty and former missionary Rebekah Naylor, and Distinguished Professor of Theology David S. Dockery (’85). —A.S.

Highlights from ‘Ministry Now’

“As you do whatever it is that you do, your identity as a Christ-follower should be evident, and your verbal witness should be present.”

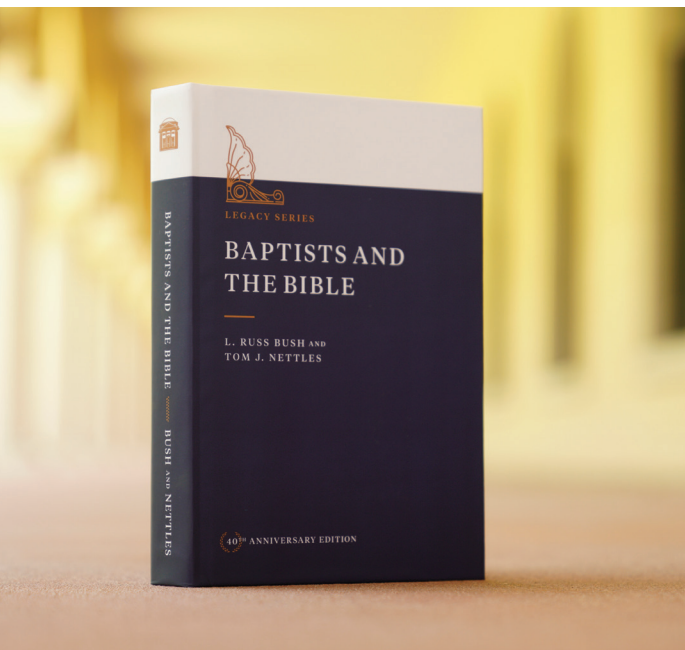
— REBEKAH NAYLOR,
on how medical strategies can support spiritual conversations

“[COVID-19] is a global pandemic, but our eyes, I think, unfortunately, have been very focused on our own country during this time. And we need, once again, to look more broadly and see what God is doing in the world.”

— DAVID S. DOCKERY (’85),
distinguished professor of theology, on leadership during crisis

“Music is a wonderful servant, but it’s a horrible master.”

— JOSEPH R. CRIDER,
dean of the School of Church Music and Worship, on the relationship between music and worship



ABOVE: The 40th anniversary edition of *Baptists and the Bible*, published by Seminary Hill Press.

Seminary Hill Press releases 40th anniversary edition of ‘Baptists and the Bible’

A 40th anniversary edition of *Baptists and the Bible*, a scholarly work that proved Baptists’ historical commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture as Southern Baptists passionately debated the issue, has been published by Seminary Hill Press, the publishing arm of Southwestern Seminary. The book was authored by Southwestern alumni and then-faculty L. Russ Bush (’70, ’75) and Tom J. Nettles (’71, ’76).

“Few books stand the test of time,” says President Adam W. Greenway (’02) in the book’s new foreword. “*Baptists and the Bible* is that rare kind of work that has not only stood the test of time, but is as relevant today as the day it first appeared in 1980.” —A.S.



SOUTHWESTERN'S MET NOW AVAILABLE TO PASTORS WITHOUT BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Pastors without bachelor's degrees may now enroll in Southwestern Seminary's Spanish-language Master of Theological Studies degree (*Maestría en Estudios Teológicos*, or MET) due to revised accreditation standards approved June 25 by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools, which accredits the seminary and approves postbaccalaureate professional and academic degree programs.

The MET is a 36-hour degree, available fully online, that provides basic theological education in Bible, history, and theology. — A.S.

Pastors urged to 'truly impact eternity' at annual preaching conference

Text-Driven Preaching Conference included 66 breakout sessions

HOSTED BY SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY'S School of Preaching, the fourth annual Text-Driven Preaching Conference featured six plenary sessions, 66 breakout sessions (including tracks in Korean and Spanish), a pre-conference, a lunch sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, and a late-night panel discussion—all focused on equipping pastors and church leaders in the art of text-driven preaching.

During the closing session, President Adam W. Greenway ('02) charged, "Dear pastor, preach the Word. Dear pastor, live the Word. Allow God to use you to make a difference that will not only touch your world, but will truly impact eternity." 📖 — K.C., J.O., A.S.

**"Dear pastor, preach the Word.
Dear pastor, live the Word.
Allow God to use you to make
a difference that will not only
touch your world, but will truly
impact eternity."**

— GREENWAY ('02)



The newly redesigned Southwestern Journal of Theology.

Dockery named editor of Southwestern Journal of Theology

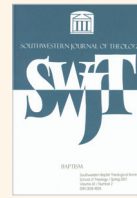
In addition to a new editor, the journal received a full resize and redesign.

David S. Dockery ('85)—“a universally respected theologian and Southern Baptist statesman of Christian higher education”—has been named editor of the Southwestern

Journal of Theology, the academic journal of Southwestern Seminary and “one of the premier and historic publications in theological education,” President Adam W. Greenway ('02) announced May 7.

The spring 2020 issue, with the theme “Christian Higher Education in the Baptist Tradition,” will be available soon, Dockery said.—*J.A.S.*

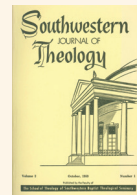
A LOOK AT PAST SOUTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY DESIGNS



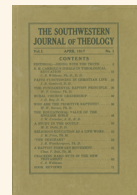
2001



1987



1959



1917

Greenway brings ‘word of hope’ in ministry update to SBC

EVEN IN THIS MOMENT OF “UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE” brought about by COVID-19, President Adam W. Greenway ('02) assured the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) that “God is still doing an extraordinary work” at Southwestern Seminary.

In a pre-recorded report during the June 2 SBC Advance, a two-hour online event providing ministry updates from SBC entities, Greenway shared that, in the 2019-2020 academic year, more than 500 men and

women graduated from Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College, which he noted is two times the average enrollment of an accredited seminary in North America.

Furthermore, in light of the institution’s April 29 announcement that it will resume on-campus instruction in the fall, Greenway shared that upgrades are presently being made to the campus’ dormitories and “some strategic moves” across the campus are planned, all of which will “welcome back students” in the new semester and aid the institution in fulfilling “the assignment Southern Baptists have given to us in operating an on-campus residential program of theological education right here in Fort Worth, Texas.” —*A.S.*

FORT WORTH HALL, BARNARD HALL UNDERGO MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Students will enjoy a ‘cleaner, more comfortable environment.’

THE OLDEST BUILDINGS ON THE

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary campus—Fort Worth Hall and Barnard Hall, which now serve as the men’s and women’s dormitories, respectively—are undergoing a major renovation this summer.

With the aim of enhancing the student experience, the institution is repainting and re-flooring bedrooms, replacing room and common area furniture, and updating bathrooms. Additionally, areas in each hall have been designated for study and prayer.

R. Clark Logan, vice president for business administration, notes that such renovations are long overdue, and he says the result will be a “cleaner, more comfortable environment for study and socialization.”

Construction of Fort Worth Hall began in 1910 and was already in use later that year when Southwestern Seminary relocated from its original home in Waco, despite the building not being totally completed until three years later. The building was named in honor of the city that raised \$100,000 in support of the seminary and provided it a permanent home. Prior to the construction of the B.H. Carroll Memorial Building with its iconic dome, Fort Worth Hall was the face of the institution.

President Adam W. Greenway has noted that Fort Worth Hall is the oldest building in Southern Baptist theological education still in continuous use.

Barnard Hall was built from 1914-15 as the second building on campus, and it originally housed the Women’s Missionary Training School. It was named for Floy Barnard in 1960 upon the retirement of this longtime faculty member. Barnard had worked at the seminary since 1933, and her service included 18 years as dean of women.

The renovations are a significant stride in an overall initiative to provide more holistic



ABOVE: Renovation of Fort Worth Hall, the oldest building in Southern Baptist theological education still in use, will be completed in time for the fall semester.

“Our goal is to reflect the character of the Lord in everything we do and rebuild a culture of excellence.”

— CAFFEY

student services and enrich the student experience, says Kevin Caffey, associate vice president for enrollment management. The seminary as a whole is focused on equipping students with a clean, safe, and healthy living space, he says.

“Our goal is to reflect the character of the Lord in everything we do and rebuild a culture of excellence for students to do the same as they pursue their calling here,” Caffey says. “We are actively working to foster intentional community on campus and provide these men and women with opportunities for discipleship, fellowship, and life transformation.

“We believe the students are the priority, and they deserve this. Our focus in this project is to create space for students to grow and be successful.” —A.S.

Dockery ‘celebrates’ inaugural meeting of Society for Women in Scholarship

Society dedicated to excellence in scholarship.

THE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN Scholarship (SWS), a newly formed student-led group of female seminarians dedicated to academic excellence and scholarly discussion, held its first meeting Feb. 27, with Distinguished Professor of Theology David S. Dockery ('85) as its first guest speaker.

Dockery celebrated the launch of the new society, offering his strong affirmation and encouragement. “I want to celebrate women, every one of you, and I want you to use the gifts you have for the good of others and God’s glory,” he said. —*J.O.*

“I want to celebrate women, every one of you, and I want you to use the gifts you have for the good of others and God’s glory,”



Southwestern to utilize new food service provider

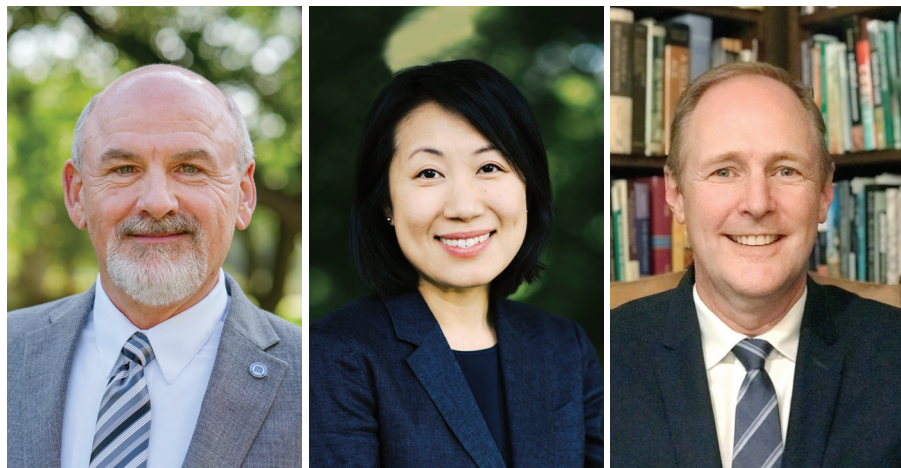
Beginning in the fall 2020 semester, Southwestern Seminary will utilize a new food service provider for all on-campus meals: Provider Contract Food Service.

“After a careful evaluation of impressive options to offer the best in food service for our campus, we found Provider to be the best of the best,” says Randy L. Stinson, provost and vice president for academic administration at Southwestern. “We are thrilled to begin this new collaboration that will well serve our institution—and especially our students.”

Provider, known for its chef-driven culinary programs, will introduce its “Small Plates” concept to The Grill in an “All-You-Care-To-Eat” format. Modeled after Spanish tapas, Provider’s signature presentation of restaurant-quality small-plates encourages guests to explore and experience a variety of foods, but in smaller, healthier portions. A variety of meal plan options will be available for students, residents, and commuters, as well as faculty and staff.

Provider also has plans to expand food offerings, including hot food options, to the adjacent Café. They will also be overseeing the planning for a brand new food venue in the seminary’s Recreation and Aerobics Center (the RAC). —*Staff*





LEFT TO RIGHT: Ted J. Cabal, Lilly H. Park, Kenneth T. Magnuson

also served three churches as a pastor and has been an evangelist and church planter.

Cabal has published numerous scholarly articles, has edited several volumes—including serving as general editor of *The Apologetics Study Bible*—and co-authored *Controversy of the Ages: Why Christians Should not Divide over the Age of the Earth*.

Cabal earned the Ph.D. from SWBTS in 1995, where he also earned the Master of Divinity. He is also a two-time graduate of DBU.

Since 2011, Park has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels at various schools, including Southern Seminary, Cedarville University, and Crossroads Bible College.

Park received her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, her Master of Arts from the Master's College, and her Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Southern Seminary, where she later served as assistant professor of biblical counseling and book review editor for *The Journal of Discipleship and Family Ministry*.

Magnuson previously served on the faculties of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Seminary, where he taught for over two decades as professor of Christian ethics, chaired the Department of Worldview and Culture, and served as director of the Commonwealth Project.

He earned the Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Ethics from the University of Cambridge and the M.Div. and B.A. degrees from Bethel Seminary and Bethel University, respectively. Published widely, his textbook *Invitation to Christian Ethics* (Kregel) is scheduled for release this year. —J.A.S. & A.S.

THREE SCHOLARS APPOINTED TO 'KEY VACANCIES'

Philosopher, biblical counselor, ETS director join faculty

A VETERAN CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHER, a biblical counselor, and the new executive director of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) have been appointed to the faculty of Southwestern Seminary, President Adam W. Greenway announced July 15.

Ted J. Cabal, a two-time SWBTS graduate and former faculty member, will serve as professor of philosophy of religion in the School of Theology. Lilly H. Park, a biblical counselor with teaching and ministry experience in church, parachurch, and academic settings, has been appointed associate professor of biblical counseling in the Terry School of Educational Ministries. Kenneth T. Magnuson, elected in May as ETS executive director, has been appointed

professor of Christian ethics in the School of Theology to teach part-time and supervise students in the Doctor of Philosophy program.

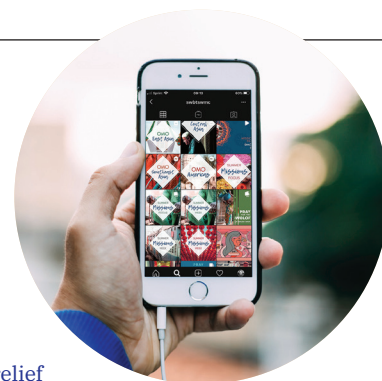
"It is another sign of God's favor that these scholars are joining the faculty of Southwestern Seminary, filling key vacancies in core academic disciplines," said Greenway. "Our students' seminary experiences will be immeasurably enhanced by the contributions Drs. Cabal, Park, and Magnuson will make to our outstanding faculty."

Cabal previously served on the faculties of Dallas Baptist University, SWBTS, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also served as the first dean of Boyce College, the institution's undergraduate school. He has

Summer Missions Focus invites students to pray for the nations

During its Summer Missions Focus, June 23-25, the World Missions Center at Southwestern Seminary led students in times of focused prayer for the nations and shared some of the opportunities for students to continue fulfilling the Great Commission, even while travel is restricted. Prayer times were facilitated by videos and prayer guides supplied by the International Mission Board, which provided overviews of each affinity group, its culture, unique challenges for reaching them with the Gospel, and specific ways to pray for the people and for those who serve among them.

Students also had the opportunity to register and participate in disaster relief training with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Participants were trained and equipped to meet pressing needs and to share the hope of the Gospel with those impacted by disaster. Students who participated and completed the training became credentialed volunteers who will now be able to deploy with the SBTC Disaster Relief Ministry. —K.C.



FACULTY SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Highlighting Southwestern faculty ministering via social media

WHETHER IT'S TWITTER, FACEBOOK, OR INSTAGRAM, following Southwestern Seminary faculty social media accounts provides a wealth of pithy thoughts about ministry, their academic disciplines, and how they are helping students and alumni. Here's a sampling of their insights.

Also, follow @SWBTS and @ScarboroughLion to stay updated on Seminary Hill.

Adam W. Greenway >
Instagram



malcolmyarnell

55 likes

malcolmyarnell Such a blessing to find one of my former students busy planting a church and leading many to faith in Christ and faithful church membership. @regankbing, Angel Church, London

View all 2 comments
May 31, 2019

Malcolm Yarnell Instagram

David L. Allen
@DrDavidLAllen

Congratulations, SWBTS Class of Spring 2020!
youtu.be/0jZK-6hv0ig via @YouTube

David L. Allen
Twitter

Richard Ross
@richardaross

11:01 AM · May 7, 2020

2 Likes

Congratulations, Class of Spring 2020!
To the Class of Spring 2020: Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College has never had a graduating class like ...
youtube.com

Richard Ross
Twitter

Richard Ross
@richardaross

11:01 AM · May 7, 2020

2 Likes

Question for Staff Meeting: Since the simplest challenges are the most likely to be acted on, what will be our simple challenges to parents this fall? How do we join Christ in visibly moving the needle in homes?

6:45 AM · Jun 2, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.

Chris Osborne
@swbtsDocOs

10:34 AM · Jun 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

24 Likes

Zoom is adequate but not preferable for me. I can't wait to be in a classroom with students again!! Love these young men and women that are a part of SWBTS!

Chris Osborne
Twitter

Scott Aniol
@ScottAniol

7:22 AM · Jun 3, 2020 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 23 Likes

The first time "Hallelujah" appears in the Psalter is Psalm 104. 103 songs of lament, confession, doctrine, thanksgiving, and trust before getting to praise.

Scott Aniol >
Twitter

John Massey [Twitter](#)

John Massey @jvmassey2

Thrilled beyond words to be a part of a @IMB_SBC @NAMB_SBC initiated consortium to reach diaspora and displaced peoples in North America! @SWBTS is an institutional partner in this Great Commission ministry through the Roy J. Fish School of Evangelism and Missions and @SWBTSwmc.

8:59 AM · Jun 3, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

11 Retweets 23 Likes

blondeorthodoxy

58 likes

blondeorthodoxy @mojadeaintjokun and I have one question for you, @swbts_women : Where will YOU be tomorrow?

Society for Women and Scholarship meets TOMORROW at 6:30 in the Women's Center. .
Let us know you're coming in the comments! 🎉👩🏻

[View all 3 comments](#)

Joe Crider [Twitter](#)

Joe Crider @JosephCrider

Our @SWBTS @SWBTSMusic webinar- Ministry During a Pandemic - Artistic Theologian, was recorded so you be encouraged by incredibly articulate SBC State Worship Consultants who offer thoughtful, biblical wisdom about shepherding thru adversity.

Worship Ministry During a Pandemic - Artistic Theologian
Visit this page each week over the next few months as we provide resources for your church families and small groups...
[artistictheologian.com](#)

5:24 PM · May 29, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

5 Retweets 9 Likes

Katie J. McCoy [Instagram](#)

wmadisongrace
Wedgwood Baptist Church

40 likes

wmadisongrace Always great to visit with Mark Leeds. Here he is giving the devotional at @upwardsports at @wedgwoodbaptist. He also is one of the many great leaders and teachers @southwesternseminary

[View 1 comment](#)

February 1

David Dockery
May 29 at 6:14 PM · 🌐

Heartiest **congratulations** to DL Frugé and Katie Monroe Frugé! What a praiseworthy accomplishment! Each one of them earning a PhD in the same year. Both of them writing engaging dissertations on significant thinkers. I have been privileged to watch their development since their undergrad days. I knew Katie's grandfather well. He would be so grateful for their work. Now they begin new opportunities of service. I wish the best for them and their family. We pray for God's blessings for each one of them and for their lives together. May the Lord bless them and keep them; May the Lord make his face shine upon them and be gracious to them; May the Lord turn his face toward them and give them peace. Every blessing for the days ahead.

Adam W. Greenway, Katie Monroe Frugé and 88 others 1 Comment

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

David Dockery [Facebook](#)

Adam W. Greenway @AdamGreenway

"We apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime; and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously."
—1995 SBC Res. on Racial Reconc.
[sbc.net/resolutions/89...](#)

8:30 AM · Jun 10, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

17 Retweets 41 Likes

Adam W. Greenway [Twitter](#)

Church sees record-high attendance amidst COVID-19-prompted drive-in services

The pandemic canceled services around the U.S. This Southwesterner found a way to reach more people than ever.

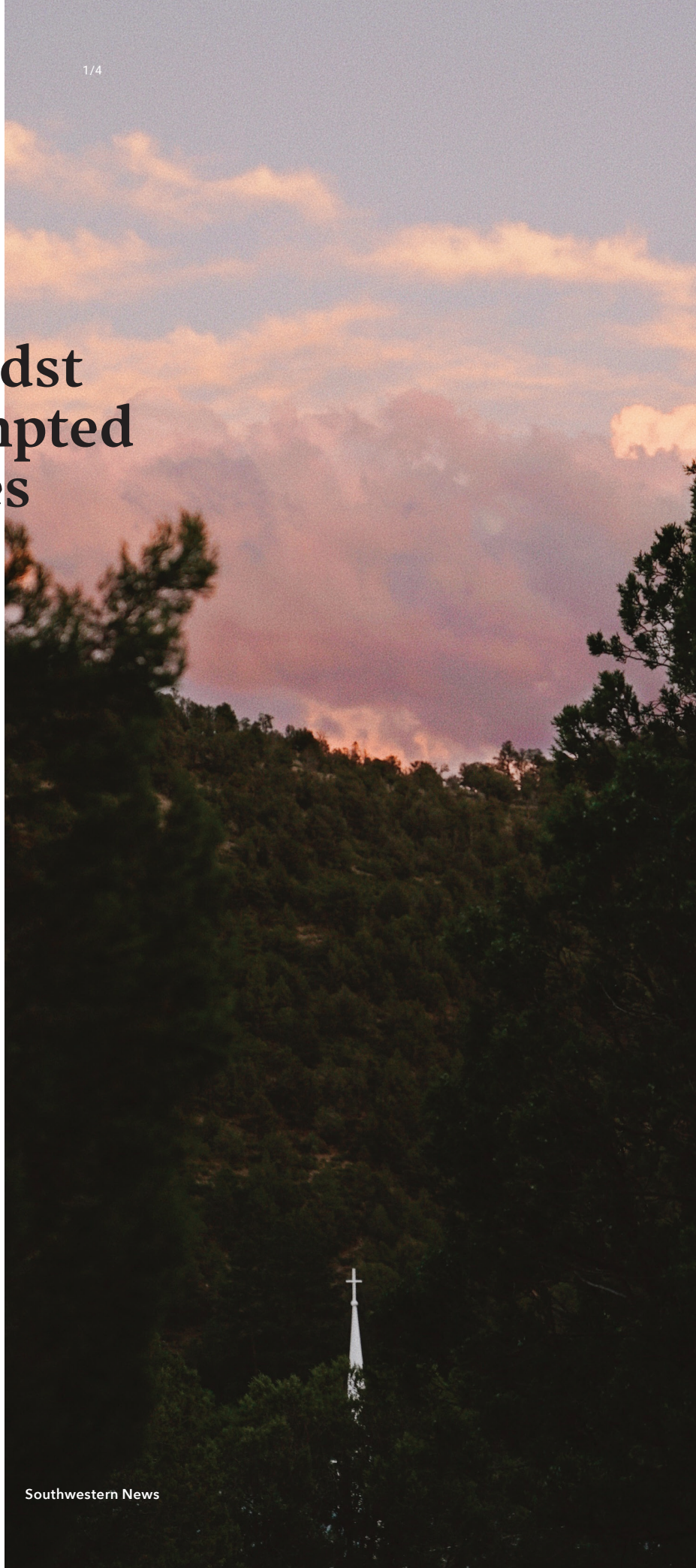
**WORDS BY
ALEX SIBLEY**

**PHOTOS BY
ADAM COVINGTON**

MAYHILL, NEW MEXICO — As the threat of COVID-19 escalated in mid-March, Pastor Matt Henslee ('17) crafted a message to his congregation, outlining how the church would adapt to the state-wide limitation of all gatherings to 50 people.

Attendance at Mayhill Baptist Church in Mayhill, New Mexico, had been hovering around 100 people, so Henslee swiftly made plans to begin offering two services at the church so that all members could attend on Sunday morning while still meeting the limited-size requirement.

On Friday night, Henslee typed away at his computer, explaining to his church members by email the logistics of how they could "spread out" across two services, with 40-50 people in one, and 40-50 in the other. But just as he was about to hit "send," the governor of New Mexico announced that, as an extra



precaution, gatherings would now be limited to just 10 people.

So, “just kind of on the fly,” Henslee says, despite having no idea how they would pull it off, Henslee decided the church would have a drive-in service instead. Discarding the first email, he wrote a second, explaining the new plan to his congregation and committing himself to the idea, hoping that he could figure out the details over the next two days.

On Sunday morning, Henslee preached from a lectern set up on the church’s front porch, with the worship team standing beneath him, all of them amplified by loud speakers projecting to the roughly 80 people who attended that morning, listening and worshipping from their vehicles.

The following week, attendance increased to 100. The next, 120. Finally, on Easter Sunday, Mayhill Baptist Church saw its highest attendance ever at 140 people spread out

across two parking lots.

Henslee admits he did not expect such a high turnout for these drive-in services.

“I just thought it would be some of our ‘Sunday night’ folks,” he says, referring to those members “who would come even if a tornado was tearing through.”

“That’s what I expected our drive-in to be, was kind of for the real committed folks,” Henslee says. “Instead, it’s found a lot of the fringe members who maybe haven’t been that active, and then just people from the community coming.”

“To me, that has made all the extra work and the sunburn worth it,” he says, clarifying that he has, in fact, been sunburned “just about every week” from preaching outdoors. “That, to me, has been the biggest win from all of it.”

Henslee, a Master of Divinity graduate of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Semi-

Drive-in services allowed church members to have “some measure of community,” Henslee says.

“[Drive-in services have] found a lot of the fringe members who maybe haven’t been that active.”



nary and a current Doctor of Ministry student in the church revitalization program, says his time at the seminary has helped him appreciate that, while every church will face challenges, “the Word that we faithfully proclaim is still the same.”

“So we adapt to whatever context we’re in and give that unchanging Word to our people in the best way they can hear it,” he says. “Southwestern really taught me the importance of that.”

A number of Mayhill’s members do not have internet access, so Henslee says these drive-in services, as opposed to pre-recorded or live-streamed services (which the church also offers), “allowed those who wouldn’t be able to worship otherwise to be able to come and be encouraged, hear the Gospel, get out of the house safely, and have some measure of community with their brothers and sisters in Christ.”

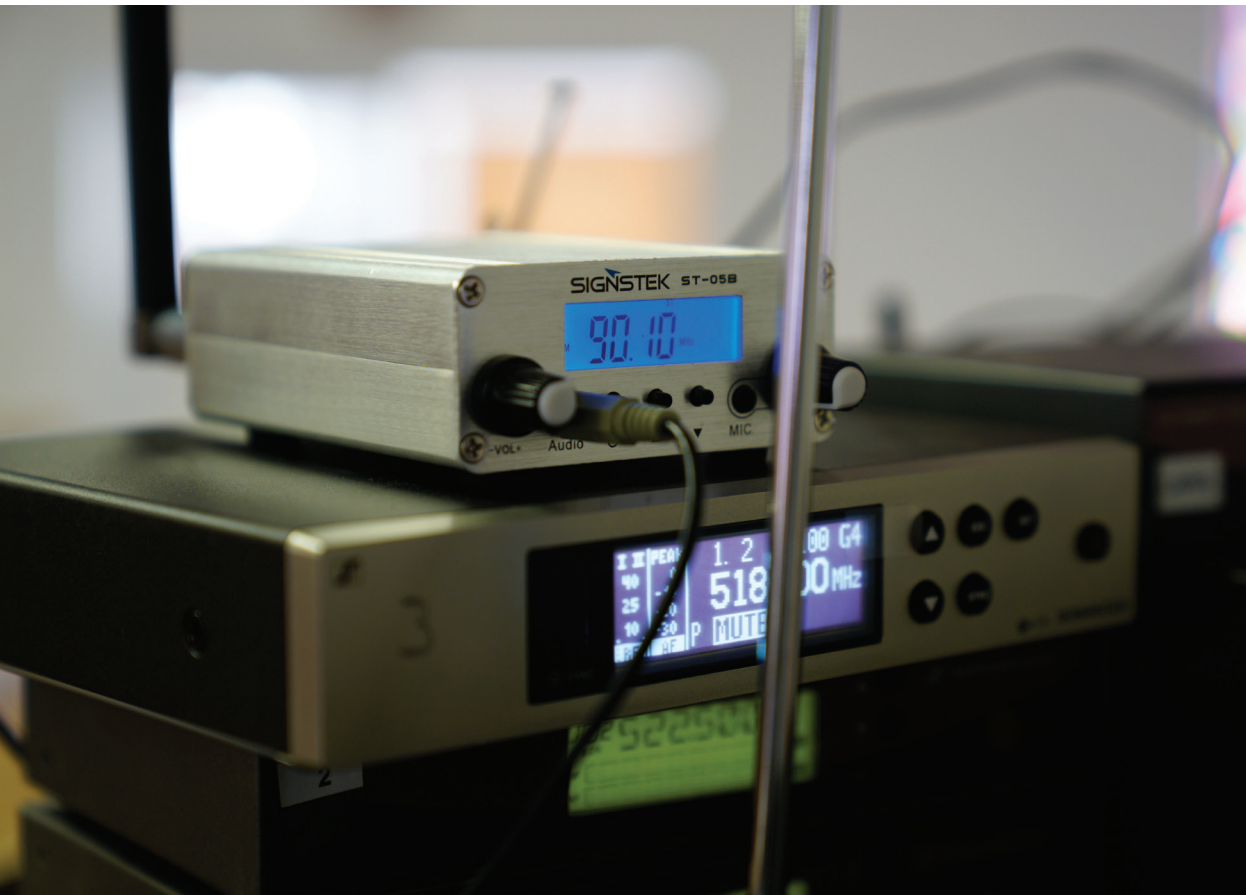
Preaching the Word through a drive-in for-

mat was a learning process, he says. The church began using two parking attendants to direct traffic, for example, because the church’s parking lot lacks actual parking spaces, meaning that “it only takes one car to mess everything up,” Henslee says. Also, due to the increased attendance, church members had to begin parking in front of Henslee’s house across the street from the church as well.

Another development in the process was the use of an FM radio transmitter for those parked too far away to hear the loud speakers, which allowed them to simply listen through their radios with their windows rolled up. The spreading out of church members also impacted how the worship leaders arranged themselves. “They space out so the people on any side of the parking lot can see at least somebody as they’re leading,” Henslee explains.

One “comical” aspect of the drive-in ser-

“We adapt to whatever context we’re in and give that unchanging Word to our people.”



Since not everyone could hear from their vehicles, Henslee began broadcasting church services over the radio.



Henslee arrives at Mayhill Baptist Church to prepare for a Sunday morning service.

VICES Henslee noticed was that just as people tend to sit in the same pews, so they tended to park in the same spaces. “And, like, a family might park together, with grandparents and the kids in one area, and maybe some of their friends or neighbors will be in one section of the parking lot,” Henslee says. “So they’re waving and encouraging one another from their cars.”

One person who had already been visiting the church decided to become a member during this season of drive-in services. “He said he didn’t want to wait until we were back in the building,” Henslee says, recalling the man’s thought that “now is the time to be a part of this family.”

Furthermore, on Easter Sunday, a young girl gave her life to Christ.

Beyond these specific encouragements from the Lord, Henslee says among the greatest blessings of the drive-in format was the “overwhelming community-wide excitement about it.”

“I think just the community excitement about ‘here’s a safe way to get some fresh air, be encouraged, and see your community at

work’ has probably been the greatest encouragement for me,” he says. “Obviously, knowing that the Gospel is being heard by more than normally would has been an encouragement. But the fact that the whole town has rallied behind it is something I didn’t expect.”

Among the new faces (and vehicles) the church saw are those of the town sheriff and a state representative, plus “a bunch of visitors who don’t go to church,” who asked “a lot of questions about faith” and what they heard, Henslee says.


Some of Henslee’s neighbors, who had not previously expressed interest in church, listened to the services from their front porches. Another neighbor, a Methodist preacher, was unable to view his own church’s live-streamed services since he does not have internet, and so he attended Mayhill’s drive-in services instead.

“So just on a personal level, that’s been an encouragement for me, that even across denominational lines, there’s been some encouragement for folks to be able to come and be a part of,” Henslee says.

Reflecting on this season in which minis-

ters had to be creative in how they reached their communities, Henslee speculates that with drive-in services and online sermons from across the nation, “we probably had more Gospel presentations on this Easter Sunday perhaps than ever in history.”

“And there’s no way to really calculate,” he says, “but my prayer is that God is going to bless those efforts of pastors thinking outside of the box, or outside of the building, to get the Gospel out to those who need to hear it. And that’s obviously everybody. So, without the walls around the church, so to speak, that’s opened up maybe more Gospel presentations than we’ve ever had.

“So that’s something I’ve been encouraging pastors—to just keep pressing on and keep doing what they can in their context to continue to get the Word out and see that, maybe, on the other side of this could be revival or revitalized churches. ... So that’s been something I’ve steadily encouraged pastors, is just to not waste this opportunity.” 

ALEX SIBLEY ('16) is the managing editor of *Southwestern News* and associate director of news and information at *Southwestern Seminary*.

Amidst COVID-19 crisis, one Fort Worth church reaches community through drive-thru food pantry and prayer tent.

The hands and feet of Christ in a pandemic

BY
KATIE COLEMAN

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people struggled to find reliable means of feeding their families. Upon seeing this need in their own Fort Worth community, Southcliff Baptist Church, with volunteer help from The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, responded by partnering with the Tarrant Area Food Bank to establish a drive-thru food pantry in the church's parking lot.

Beginning March 10 and continuing through the summer, Southcliff hosted a free drive-thru pantry every Tuesday night from

5-7 p.m. (or while supplies lasted). Individuals remained in their cars while volunteers (wearing gloves and masks) placed a box of food in the backseats or trunks of their vehicles.

This effort was an entirely volunteer-run operation, and many of these volunteers were current students and alumni of Southwestern Seminary.

Two-time graduate of Southwestern Seminary Emmanuel Escareno ('17, '19) from San Jose, California, served as often as he could. He explains that he saw an opportunity to bring some relief to

a community in need.

"I wanted to support our church leadership's commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in our community," Escareno says. "I get to come face-to-face, from a distance and with a mask, with those coming to our church to receive assistance. I get to meet people in our community who may not come to our church otherwise."

Stu Cocanougher, share strategy pastor at Southcliff who oversaw operations, says they were able to serve thousands of people every week. During their April 28

food pantry, the church distributed 30,000 pounds of food to more than 500 families.

Master of Arts student Paige Lister from Shamrock, Texas, is a missions intern at Southcliff Baptist and served at the majority of the food pantries, primarily during the registration process. She says that, through this role, she heard people's stories of need and desperation.

"It is obvious even as we just ask a few questions to register them that there is a heavy weight they are bearing," Lister says. "Our prayer and hope is that the com-



Both physical and spiritual needs were met at this drive-thru food pantry during COVID-19.

munity ultimately does not see our efforts, but rather comes to have a clearer understanding of Christ through receiving food and seeing Christians serve others.”

As a separate component, the church also set up a drive-thru prayer tent each week for anyone who desired to receive prayer. Cocanougher explains that this was not an obligation or “prerequisite” to receiving the food, for although it took place at the same time, the prayer tent was a separate function from the food bank. However, he adds, they wanted to provide people the opportunity to receive

prayer and hear the message of the Gospel, even while maintaining safety protocols.

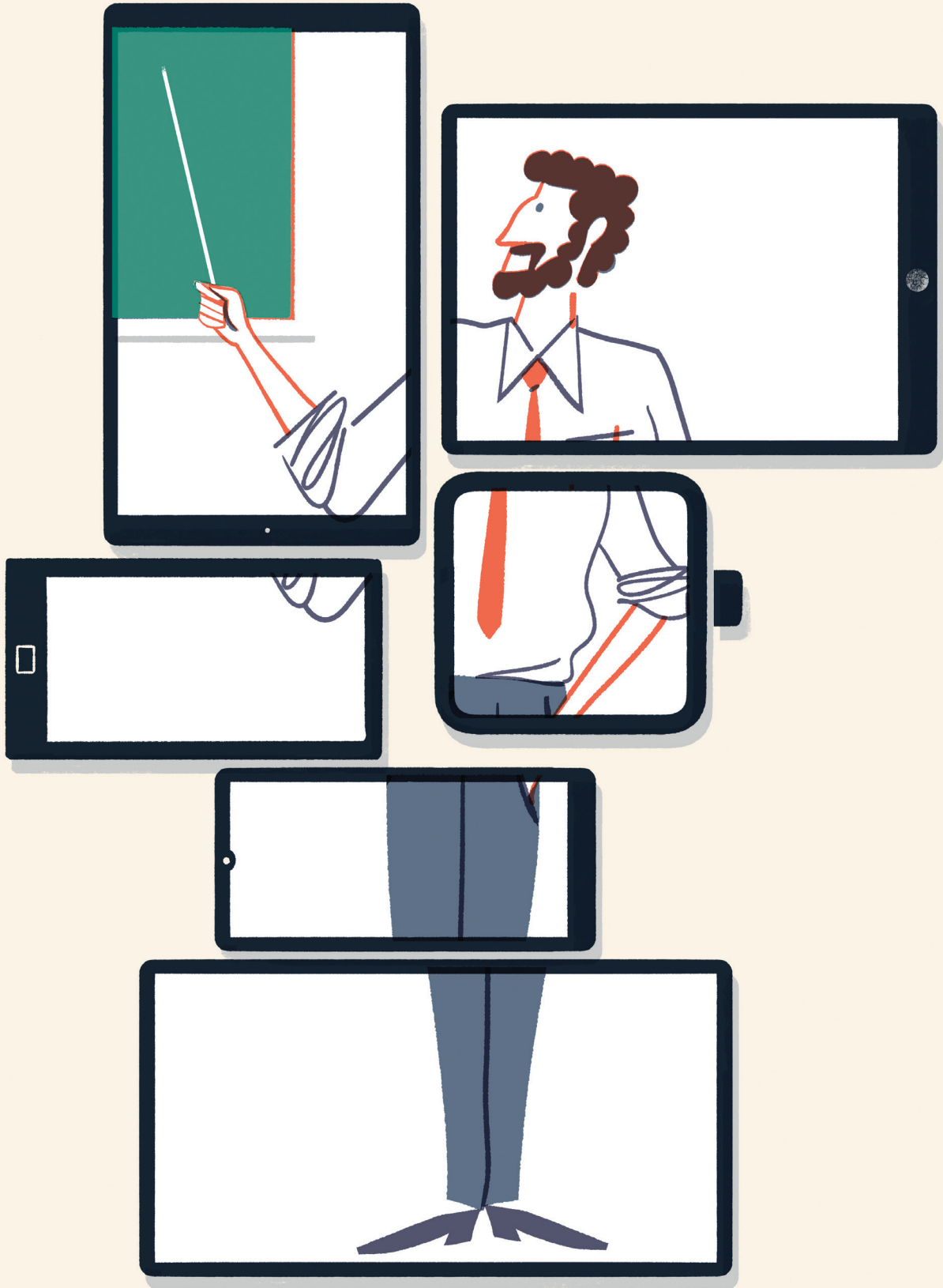
“While they were waiting in line,” Cocanougher says, “we had some folks who handed out hundreds of Jesus films on DVD in multiple languages, Gospels of John, as well as materials on preventing COVID-19 and where else they could find food pantries.”

“Before they left,” Cocanougher explains, “they could go straight to exit or they could turn right into a prayer tent where we had people who could pray for folks in English, Spanish, and Arabic.”

Escareno, who served in both the food distribution and prayer ministry components, says both offered an opportunity to see the people of his community and a tangible example of the great needs that exist.

“Surprisingly, many people took us up on the offer and allowed us to pray for them in the name of Jesus,” Escareno says. “I really enjoyed this aspect of our ministry as we met physical needs but were praying for these people and sharing the Gospel with them in the process.” 📖

KATIE COLEMAN
is a news writer at
Southwestern Seminary.



'FORWARD THINKING'

Southwestern eases mid-semester shift to online-only courses, say students and professors.

WORDS BY
KATIE COLEMAN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
SIMONE MASSONI

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — When COVID-19 precautions required the moving of all on-campus courses to online delivery, the “forward thinking” of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary allowed faculty and students to adapt quickly to a new normal. Classes that formerly took place on campus now consisted of pre-recorded materials, logging in to online video conferences for live lectures and class discussions, and conducting all communication from home.

The adjustment to this new entirely virtual experience was reflective of an unprecedented moment in time for all, but students and faculty acknowledged that although the context of their classes changed, their commitment to their work remained.

“I have never been prouder to be a Southwesterner as our incredible faculty and staff efficiently moved our entire educational program online in the span of a few weeks to best serve our students during this season of extraordinary disruption for our students, churches, and nation,” said President Adam W. Greenway ('02). “The coronavirus pandemic has not lessened the urgency of theological education; indeed, it has only heightened that urgency.

“Ever since our founding in 1908 and continuing through our storied history up to this very moment, Southwestern Seminary has remained committed to providing biblically and theologically faithful and academically rigorous comprehensive theological education with a strong practical focus on equipping God-called servants of Jesus Christ.”

Despite the challenges of mid-semester changes, Master of Arts student Jessika Sams from Tampa, Florida, said the transition happened more smoothly than she expected.

“In most of my classes, I feel like I am getting the same experience I would have while I was in class,” Sams said, explaining that her professors provided both recorded materials and live interactions on Zoom.

“Because of Zoom,” she said, “very little about how class

is conducted or how professors interact with students has changed. We’ve been able to maintain class community and interaction with professors during live sessions on Zoom or through discussion boards on Blackboard.”

The online course experience is routine to many students who had already been utilizing the seminary’s online and flex-access degree programs. Despite the need to quickly get every student and every course into an online context, Southwestern Seminary was already equipped to help its students, members of the faculty say.

L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism Matt Queen said that because Southwestern Seminary has had a strong online and distance-learning presence for many years, the changes were minimal.

“Adam Dodd and our Campus Technology team have been our faculty’s greatest advocates in terms of digital education experience,” Queen said. “Whenever I have had a question or problem, they have responded to me promptly and provided solutions to any need I have had. They do not only ensure we can offer an online education at Southwestern Seminary; they have built a state-of-the-art online educational experience!”

For students like Laramie Minga, who benefited from such online programs as the flex-access Doctor of Philosophy program, this time of transition essentially meant “business as usual.”

“It’s still not completely the same experience one would have in a residential program,” Minga said, “but Southwestern Seminary has done a great job of limiting the deficiencies of an online program by providing us with resources.”

Minga, a student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was in one of Associate Professor of Church Music and Worship Scott Aniol’s three Ph.D. seminars, each already set up with Zoom for distance students, so the transition was fairly seamless.

Aniol ('13) said, “This speaks to the strength of our flexible



Kerns on teaching from home:

"The way I conduct class has not changed. I love having interactive classes and always encourage students to interrupt me with questions or comments. I have continued that trend and will continue it."

"The school was very quick to get everything up and running so that we could seamlessly transition."

- REDFIELD

access programs and the fact that we already had technology in place, ready for when we needed it. I am very thankful that our administration has already been forward-thinking with regard to technological options for our students such that, in many cases, this transition, though certainly unprecedented and challenging, was made far smoother since we already had robust distance-learning options and the technological infrastructure to support it."

Unlike some of the master's and doctoral programs, Scarborough College is an entirely residential program. This transition thus required greater adjustment for everyone in the college, but Sarah Spring, associate dean for student success, said that all adapted well, and the faculty worked to ensure a positive student experience.

Acknowledging the challenges many students may have been facing during this time, Spring offered this encouragement to all of her online students:

"Don't give up! Reach out if you are discouraged or having trouble with your classes, and remember your professors are here to help."

Students and professors both missed the unique advantages of an in-person, interactive class experience, but professors like Travis Kerns, associate professor of apologetics and world religions, said they tried to ensure a positive professor-student relationship despite the physical distance.

"I know this is a trying time for everyone, but I want my students to feel that the only change that has taken place is the change from in-class meetings to online meetings," Kerns said. "The way I conduct class has not changed. I love having interactive classes and always encourage students to interrupt me with questions or comments. I have continued that trend and will continue it."

Master of Divinity student Brit Redfield from Mansfield, Texas, admitted she was also missing the "person-to-person" interaction. But although nothing truly replaces that type of classroom experience, she said, the seminary and professors made the fully-online experience a positive one.

"The school was very quick to get everything up and running so that we could seamlessly transition into our completely online portion of the semester," Redfield said. "It almost feels like the same class environment. It's the next best thing."

Although some courses transitioned more naturally, others required creativity. Associate Professor of Voice Ben Caston, for example, had to reconsider his methods for teaching vocal lessons.

A typical lesson, Caston said, would begin at the piano playing scales and doing warm-ups for the student. In an online session, he said, that is not possible. Caston explained that he and his students made the most of various technologies that aid a virtual vocal lesson, including the practice and learning of voice literature.

"The experience of teaching online voice lessons has instantly changed how I listen to singers," Caston said, adding that his students also rose to the challenge. "My students appear to be resilient in their work. They want to succeed, and they are eager to learn."

Students and professors recognized the unusual nature of their sudden shift to online-only courses, but said they were all resolved to press on in their academic study and work.

Professors continued to cover the same course material and discussions and were willing to do what it took to maintain some of the positive elements typically unique to an in-person classroom experience.

Malcolm B. Yarnell III ('90), research professor of systematic theology, said, "The best way to create a positive student experience is to be positive in your own spirit. The good online professor is the same as a good on-campus professor. He or she knows the context of the students, identifies their needs, and does everything possible to minister the grace of theological education to them.

"Our context and our methods may change, but our divine calling and positive spirit may not." 📖

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The Charge Every Senior Pastor and Student Pastor Need to Hear

Richard Ross' vision for a new day
for student ministry



WORDS BY RICHARD ROSS ILLUSTRATIONS BY JANNE IIVONEN

What if a billionaire believer approached me and said, “Ross, something has to be done about unbelieving young people who are heading toward a life of spiritual ruin and eternity without Christ. I’m going to pay to fly every SBC senior pastor and student pastor to Cowboy Stadium. That should just about fill up the place. Then I’m going to give you a microphone and let you say whatever you want to say to those folk.”

If I were given such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I would give prayerful thought to every sentence—indeed, every word—I was going to say. After 50 years of pouring over Scripture, serving as a student pastor, teaching student pastors, observing student ministries, and digesting research, I know what I would say. My brief presentation to a packed stadium would go like this:

Pastors, welcome to this historic gathering. I know you did not come here just to get more discouraged about the future of the church. Instead, I'm praying we will leave here encouraged and optimistic about what the future may bring. But very briefly, we must take a look at our current situation.

In the May 24, 2019, issue, *Christianity Today* reported that the biggest factor in the Southern Baptist Convention's decline is not gaining new converts—"it's keeping their own. ... Nearly half of Southern Baptist kids leave and never come back." The latest Annual Church Profile found the SBC had the largest drop in more than a century, according to Baptist Press.

I strongly believe in Ronnie Floyd's Vision 2025 for the SBC. I especially embrace Strategic Action Four offered by Floyd ('80, '83), president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee. Between now and 2025, I fully believe we can "turn around the ongoing decline in the SBC in reaching, baptizing, and discipling 12- to 17-year-olds."

In the power of the Spirit, we can see the declining graph of student baptisms begin to move upward. We can see far more students graduate from high school with a deep love for Jesus, the local church, and a passion for the Great Commission.

All of that can happen. But it won't happen unless we make some significant changes in how we do ministry. Teenagers can accelerate the decline of the SBC. Or, in the power of the Spirit, they can spark renewal in our churches and Kingdom impact in the culture.

Here are the five factors most likely to make the difference.

1. WE MUST INTRODUCE MANY MORE STUDENTS TO JESUS.

Since student baptisms decline every year, things must change. We need strategies to take the Gospel outside the church. We need students, leaders, and parents trained to have Gospel conversations. We need student ministry events planned specifically to present the Gospel.



However, church programs make a lasting difference only if the senior pastor and the student pastor model evangelistic lifestyles. Maybe both of you do. If not, for accountability, perhaps the two of you need to go out together to share the Gospel weekly. Then, when it becomes second nature, each of you can take out others—until it permeates the DNA of your church and student ministry.

2. WE MUST INVOLVE EVERY STUDENT IN MISSIONS.

Rich missions experiences while young lead to adults who pray, give, and go for a lifetime. The

absence of such experiences usually leads to adults who don't.

Every student needs multiple missions experiences locally each year. Every student needs a major missions experience in a challenging location in the U.S. each year. At least once during high school, every student needs an international missions experience.

Every missions experience should be strategic. Whether local or global, the ultimate goal should be to lead people to Jesus and then baptize them into churches. Compassionate service is Christlike, but such ministry should always lift eyes to Jesus and

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE STUDENT PASTOR

A complete job description for a student pastor might include Title, Rationale, Qualifications, Character, and Supervision. The following statements might then appear under Essential Job Functions.

Churchwide Ministry

- Support the senior pastor in the accomplishment of the church's mission for the glory of God.
- Serve as a pastor aligned with the other pastors to that same end.
- Provide caring pastoral ministry and biblical counsel with students, their parents, their leaders, and the full congregation.
- Preach and teach the Word of God.
- Partner with pastors to lead significant adults in the lives of students to

“It won’t happen unless we make some significant changes in how we do ministry. Teenagers can accelerate the decline of the SBC. Or, in the power of the Spirit, they can spark renewal in our churches.”

multiply the number of worshipers around the throne for eternity.

3. WE MUST BRING STUDENTS INTO THE FULL CHURCH FAMILY.

Students are the church today, as well as the future. Pastors should lead students to function as full church members and to fill church leadership roles. Students should be part of men’s ministry and women’s ministry. Students should be on adult ministry teams and participate in community outreach.

When teenagers spend almost all their time in a student ministry silo, we create students

who love the youth group but not the church. Once they outgrow the youth group, where will they focus their loyalty and energy?

I strongly believe in weekly ministries and special events just for teenagers and their leaders. I also believe in those times when students function with the full congregation. We choose between those two approaches by asking: With this specific ministry event, are we most likely to achieve our mission through an age-specific or an intergenerational approach?

4. WE MUST AWAKEN PARENTS SO THEY CAN LEAD THEIR CHILDREN.

Church parents are going to support teen sports on Sunday mornings until their hearts change. And they’re going to outsource to the church the spiritual leadership for their children until their hearts change.

Church teenagers are full of moral therapeutic deism because church parents are full of moral therapeutic deism (i.e., me-centered faith). Pastors may try to prod parents to change, but that will not happen until their hearts change.

Corporate worship and open-group Bible study are central to the mission of the church. We need to give our best to both of those hours. But what’s missing is intensive, small-group discipleship modeled after Jesus’ investment in Peter, James, and John. We need disciplers who adore King Jesus to massage Scripture into the hearts of three or four others. As that tiny group also begins to grasp the enthroned glory of His Majesty, they will welcome His reign over their lives.

Parents awakened to the greatness of Jesus will talk about Him at home, with their eyes sparkling. They will honor the King on Sundays. They will prioritize the youth mission trip over sports camp. They will want to attend your parenting seminars. And most of their children will walk in faith all their lives.

5. WE MUST THOROUGHLY DISCIPLE SPECIFIC TEENAGERS.

We want every student to attend corporate worship, open-group Bible study, and student worship. After those three hours, students may only give us one additional session.

embrace the kingship of Jesus and to be transformed into His image.

- Partner with pastors to lead parents, leaders, and members of the congregation to build warm heart connections with students.
- Partner with pastors to lead parents of students to be effective, biblical parents and primary spiritual leaders in their homes.

Evangelism and Missions

- Share the Gospel weekly with lost students

and lost parents of students, individually and corporately.

- Coordinate a strategy for evangelizing and baptizing lost students and parents, including frequent training for students and leaders in having Gospel conversations.
- Equip students to share the Gospel, especially at school, in coordination with other churches and campus ministries.
- Lead students to be directly involved in missions—locally, nationally, and globally—with families, the student group, and the full body of Christ.

Worship and Fellowship

- Coordinate planning to ensure students experience authentic worship personally, with their families, with the full church body, and with the student group.
- Coordinate planning to ensure students experience true fellowship and bonding with their families, the full body of Christ, and the student group.

Discipleship

- Coordinate weekly Bible study open to all students.

“Turning the big ship of the church will not happen overnight. ... Bring stakeholders to the table and invite them to dream with you. Early on, plan for small wins that will build motivation for more significant changes.”

How do we construct that fourth hour to create thoroughly disciplined high school graduates who

- adore Christ and live out of gratitude for the Gospel,
- take responsibility for their own spiritual growth,
- articulate what they believe and why,
- know how to disciple others,
- live to take the good news to the nations and the hard places in the U.S., and
- impact churches, business, entertainment, and government?

Teenagers can spend part of student worship answering questions about the student pastor’s talk. But that’s seldom intensive discipleship. For those students who are motivated and want to be disciples of Jesus, we need to saturate them with core doctrines, apologetics, biblical interpretation, worldview, evangelism, ethics, spiritual disciplines, etc. And, just as with adults, they are most likely to be transformed by such content in tiny, gender-specific

groups that feature grace-filled accountability and a life-on-life relationship with the discipler.

THE VALUE OF STUDENT PASTORS

Student pastors, few realize how valuable you are to the Kingdom today. Only in eternity will we know all King Jesus has done through you in the lives of teenagers. And here is some excellent news. As the church makes the changes we are discussing today, your current value is going to increase dramatically.

Who will mobilize the student group and the entire church to introduce many more teenagers to Jesus? Who will ensure every teenager is involved in missions locally and even globally? Who will build around every teenager a rich web of relationships with the congregation? Who will guide every teenager to find places of service with the adults? Who will be the most passionate to see parents spiritually awakened and then leading at home? Who will create a new discipleship strategy for those teenagers who want to follow Jesus?

Student pastors, most of the time, the answer will be you. Those of us who teach student ministry stand ready to help you quickly retool for new and wonderful ways to express your calling. Senior pastors, I pray you will help your congregation celebrate and express gratitude for new directions your student pastor is taking.

Turning the big ship of the church will not happen overnight. But always keep focused on where you are going. Bring stakeholders to the table and invite them to dream with you. Early on, plan for small wins that will build motivation for more significant changes.

FINAL CHALLENGE

In many ways, the future of our churches depends on our reaching, discipling, and mobilizing a young generation. I am not despondent. If pastors and churches make some Spirit-directed and Spirit-empowered changes, we are going to see the graphs move in new directions. In 2025, I believe we will hear Ronnie Floyd say, “By God’s grace and power, we did it! We turned around the ongoing decline in the SBC in reaching, baptizing, and discipling 12- to 17-year-olds.” All for the glory of the King. [📖](#)

RICHARD ROSS (’74, ’80)

is professor of student ministry in the Jack D. Terry School of Educational Ministries at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is online at richardaross.com.

- Coordinate weekly discipleship groups open to students who have made a firm decision to be disciples of Jesus, who welcome accountability, and who have made commitments to attendance and preparation.
- Coordinate an overall curriculum plan, leading to properly sequenced, balanced, and comprehensive discipleship for students.
- Lead in the permeating of student ministry with prayer.

Ministry

- Coordinate the mentoring of students sensing a call to ministry vocations.
- Lead students to function as full church members, to fill church leadership roles, and to participate in the ministries of the full church.
- Coordinate the enlisting, discipling, equipping, and motivating of leaders to serve in student ministry.

Administration

- Lead a core planning team in annual,


prayer-filled, strategic planning.

- Coordinate weekly ministries and special events that accomplish the vision of the church and student ministry.
- Coordinate the creation of the annual student ministry budget, and wisely administer that budget.
- Coordinate protocols that protect the physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of students.
- Fine-tune skills through formal and informal education.

—Richard Ross

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**LEADING FROM
THE SECOND CHAIR**
with Terri Stovall



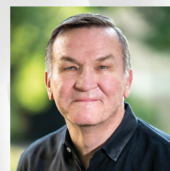
CHURCH REOPENINGS
with Chris Osborne



MEDICAL MINISTRY
with Dr. Rebekah Naylor



LEADING THROUGH CHANGE
with David S. Dockery



**HOW COVID COULD
TRIGGER A RADICAL YOUTH
MINISTRY SHIFT**
with Richard Ross



**SEMINARIAN, YOUR
WORK IS ESSENTIAL**
with Adam W. Greenway



**WHEN GLOBAL CRISES
BRING MARITAL CONFLICTS**
with Steve and Donna Gaines



**HOUSE CHURCH: THE
CHURCH OF THE COVID ERA?**
with Madison Grace



**HOW TO DO WORSHIP
MINISTRY DURING COVID-19**
with Joseph Crider

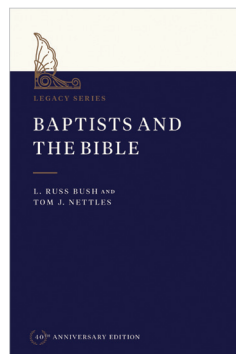


**CHURCH, THIS IS NOT
OUR FIRST PANDEMIC**
with Gregory Wills
and Robert Caldwell

Communion with God isn't mystical or mysterious.

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “communion with God”? Sitting cross-legged, eyes closed, arms outstretched, humming? Emptying your mind, hearing audible voices from God?

Through a series of meditations on several biblical passages, Scott Aniol ('13) demonstrates that communion with God is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, clearly communicated throughout the Scriptures, and absolutely vital for a fruitful Christian life that brings God ultimate glory. Joseph R. Crider, dean of Southwestern Seminary's School of Church Music and Worship, says of this work, “In a pastoral, conversational, and compelling way, Scott Aniol calls believers to consider more intentionally the soul-nourishing, life-giving realities of daily communion with God. Scripture permeates the pages of this book, and Aniol's carefully crafted word pictures bring to life well-loved biblical scenes that encourage believers to truly draw near.”



BAPTISTS AND THE BIBLE: 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

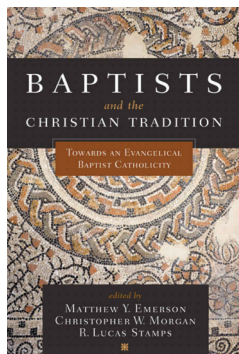
Seminary Hill Press (2020)

**L. RUSS BUSH ('70, '75)
AND TOM J. NETTLES ('71, '76);
FOREWORD BY ADAM W. GREENWAY ('02)**

Originally published in 1980, *Baptists and the Bible* is a scholarly work that proved Baptists' historical commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture as Southern Baptists passionately debated the issue. This new edition features a new foreword, a new preface by Nettles, and tributes to both of the authors, as well as updated material by Nettles concerning the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

“In a pastoral, conversational, and compelling way, Scott Aniol calls believers to consider more intentionally the soul-nourishing, life-giving realities of daily communion with God. ... As I read this beautifully written work, I was deeply encouraged.”

— **JOSEPH R. CRIDER**, dean, School of Church Music and Worship, The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

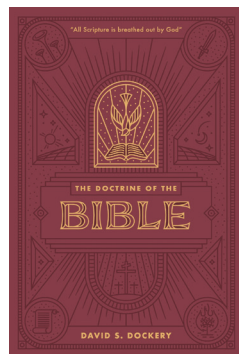


BAPTISTS AND THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

B&H Publishing (2020)

CONTRIBUTORS: DAVID S. DOCKERY ('85), W. MADISON GRACE II ('06, '12), MALCOLM B. YARNELL III ('90)

A series of essays advocating “Baptist catholicity,” taking an approach that presupposes a critical but charitable engagement with the whole church, both past and present, along with the desire to move beyond the polarities of Enlightenment-based individualism on the one hand and a pastiche of postmodern relativism on the other.

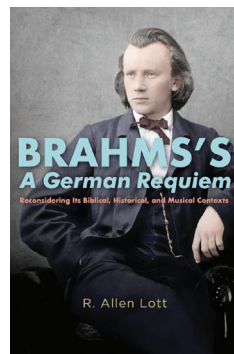


THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

Seminary Hill Press (2020)

DAVID S. DOCKERY ('85)

Originally published in 1991 as the official doctrinal study for the Southern Baptist Convention, this new edition features the original preface, a new preface, an updated bibliography, and original and new endorsements. “Perhaps in God’s good providence, this little book may provide encouragement for some to reexamine the message of Scripture and there re-discover the drama of the redemptive message found only in Jesus Christ,” Dockery says.



BRAHMS'S A GERMAN REQUIEM

University of Rochester Press (2020)

R. ALLEN LOTT

Despite its entirely biblical text, Brahms’ long-beloved “A German Requiem” is now widely considered a work in which the composer espoused a theologically universal view. R. Allen Lott’s comprehensive reconsideration of the work’s various contexts challenges that prevailing interpretation and demonstrates that in its early years the “Requiem” was regarded as a traditional Christian work.

BYLINES

The Theology of Elizabeth I: Politique or Believer?

Malcolm B. Yarnell III ('90)

Research professor of systematic theology

“Religion, and a contested religious position at that, was of unsurpassed importance to Elizabeth.”

(in the Southwestern Journal of Theology)

Does Leviticus Punish Women for Having a Girl?

Katie McCoy ('11, '16)

Assistant professor of theology in women's studies

“If the Law is good and reflects the character of God (and it is), and if God values women equally to men (and He does), then perhaps we need to dig a little deeper to find what this law meant for women of the Old Testament—and what it tells us about the Lawgiver.”

(in LifeWay Voices)

Show Me the Funny: Using Humorous Pictures in Preaching and Teaching, Part 2

Jim Wicker ('80, '85)

Professor of New Testament

“In Part 2 of this series, Jim Wicker outlines seven types of humorous photos and how they can be used in biblical proclamation and education.”

(in Didaktikos Journal of Theological Education)



New Facebook group connects alumni

And gives a ‘front-row seat’ to what God is doing through Southwesterners

BY
KATIE COLEMAN

THIS SPRING, THE SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST Theological Seminary launched a Facebook group designed to help its alumni connect with the institution as well as with one another. Among the many ways the seminary is connecting with alumni, the Facebook group has become a fun way for people to share memories and hear how God is working in the lives of Southwesterners around the world.

“My hope is that every alumnus stays connected to Southwestern Seminary and fellow Southwesterners through their ministries,” says Trey Holmes, director of alumni and church relations. “For those who have lost touch, there is no better time than now to ‘come home to the Dome.’”

The group is a place for alumni to hear life and ministry updates from other Southwesterners, offer and receive encouragement, share resources, and reminisce about their time on Seminary Hill, Holmes says.

“Through Southwestern Alumni, Southwesterners have a special connection point to each other and the Hill,” Holmes explains. “As alumni stay in touch with each other and gain new relationships through Southwestern Alumni, they find resources for fellowship, encourage-

ment, ministry connections, and continue to strengthen the bonds of the ‘One Southwestern’ family.”

“The sun never sets on Southwestern’ is true, and I believe the SWBTS Alumni group allows you to see that in real-time, every day of the week.”


The Facebook group’s 900 (and growing) members encourage each other, swap old stories, and discuss a variety of ministry topics including sermon preparation, what everyone is reading or studying, and how each of their churches is handling reopening amid COVID-19 restrictions and concerns.

Some of the group’s moderators are themselves Southwestern Seminary alumni, including 2017 Master of Divinity graduate Matt Henslee, pastor of Mayhill Baptist Church in Mayhill, New Mexico.

In addition to hearing from classmates, Henslee says he has enjoyed the opportunity to “meet” other Southwesterners from around the world and says it has been a joy to learn about what God is doing in each of their lives.

“The old cliché, ‘the sun never sets on Southwestern’ is true,” Henslee says, “and I believe the SWBTS Alumni group allows you to see that in real-time, every day of the week.”

Henslee is confident in the “bright” future of Southwestern Seminary and is eager to see how God uses both students and alumni.

“The alumni group seems to be a virtual front-row seat to what God is doing on Seminary Hill and among Southwesterners all over the world,” Henslee says. “I have connected with several former classmates and professors, which has allowed me a sense of rekindling the friendships forged during my first degree at Southwestern, and also served to deepen the ones I am developing now during my Doctor of Ministry journey.” 



Former dean of women Neta Stewart dies at 93

EVELYN "NETA" JUANITA STEWART, who served as dean of women at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1969-1991, died on June 11. She was 93.

Stewart was born on November 15, 1926, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to O.R. and Gladys Stewart. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist

served for 22 years in various capacities, including dean of women and director of student activities.

After retirement, Stewart pursued her love of travel and escorted groups across the world. In 2012, Stewart returned to her hometown of Fort Smith. She spent the last years of her life

Stewart dedicated her life to Christian education, serving the local church as well as the Sunday School Board.

Stewart ('53) served as dean of women from 1969-1991.



University, and then completed her master's degree at Southwestern Seminary in 1953.

Stewart dedicated her life to Christian education, serving local churches as well as the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville, Tennessee. She spent the remainder of her professional life at Southwestern Seminary, where she

involved in activities at Brookfield Assisted Living and Forefront Church. She also stayed connected to SWBTS through the President's Club and Seniors of Southwestern.

Stewart is survived by her sister, Wanda McLellan; two nephews and their wives, Terry and Kay McLellan of Fort Smith and Scott and Cyndi McLellan of Tyler; and a host of extended family.—*Staff*

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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Seminary-based, church-supported food pantry helps students in need



BY
ALEX SIBLEY

An adjunct instructor does what he can to serve others during the pandemic.

AS

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS SHUT down businesses and led to a dramatic rise in unemployment numbers throughout the country, Jonathan Okinaga ('15, '19) recalled the economic crash of 2008 and saw history repeating itself. An adjunct-instructor of biblical counseling at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Okinaga resolved to do what he could to help students in need.

His efforts began with an email to his students, offering simple meals to anyone who

needed food. The first week, one family of five took him up on the offer. In the weeks that followed, progressively more people reached out for help, eventually exceeding 330 individuals, requiring Okinaga to expand his efforts.

Okinaga's first helpers were his biblical counseling students, who sent gift cards or food donations to his house to then distribute to others. By the third week, local churches started pitching in as well. In week five, Okinaga and his team of volunteers moved onto the Southwestern Seminary campus, partnering with the school's Student Emergency Assistance Relief Team.

Thus, what began as an independent effort quickly developed into a Southwestern Seminary-based, local church-supported ministry.

"Seeing the SWBTS community and the local churches all coming together to help those in need was a huge blessing," Okinaga says. "Church affiliations, age, ethnicity, etc.—none of that mattered. The body of Christ was in view, and it was very special."

At its peak during the pandemic, this ministry comprised roughly 40 volunteers who received donations from local churches, then packed and distributed boxes of food to students in need from Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College. These students made requests through online Student Emergency Assistance forms, and these forms were then passed along to the Okinaga-led food pantry.

One week, the team fulfilled 77 individual orders that fed 335 people. In total, Okinaga says, this effort has reached 23 singles, eight couples, and 62 families with children.

"I met new people over the time we have done this whom I can now call close friends," Okinaga reflects. "We spent a lot of time together. It was the only time I would leave the house, so it was refreshing to see new faces."

"This was not done without a ton of help," he adds, specifically thanking First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, South Hills Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Number 2, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Birchman Baptist Church, Wedgwood Baptist Church, Lane Prairie Baptist Church in Joshua, and Daily Bread Food Ministry. "Without their generous donations of food and time, none of this would have been possible."

Okinaga also notes the contributions of various Southwesterners, including several

What began as a simple offer of food for his students ultimately reached 23 singles, eight couples, and 62 families with children.



“Seeing the SWBTS community and the local churches all coming together to help those in need was a huge blessing. Church affiliations, age, ethnicity, etc.—none of that mattered. The body of Christ was in view, and it was very special.”

— OKINAGA ('15, '19)

adjunct faculty (including Cheryl Bell and David Norman), faculty wives, and Randy Beggs, director of student life and retention.

Beggs, who serves on the Student Emergency Assistance Relief Team, says he and the Student Life team “assisted in logistically helping when needed with printouts for the orders, a place for the team to assemble the bags [in the Naylor Student Center], and we would match up the [Student Emergency Assistance] requests with the food pantry list to assure all student needs were being met.”

Beggs says Okinaga and his team “cast an incredible example of what the hands and feet of Jesus look like in such unusual times.” 🙏

Reflections on a
“COVID-19” issue of
Southwestern News

‘If the Lord wills’

BY
JAMES A. SMITH SR.



LONG-LEAD PUBLICATIONS WERE SURELY not what James had in mind when he admonished his audience, “Instead, you should say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that’” (James 4:15). But in the age of coronavirus, the apostle’s instruction to append “Lord willing” to our declared plans is one that certainly applies when publishing Southwestern News.

When COVID-19 interrupted our spring semester—along with the rest of the world’s routines early this year—the spring issue of the magazine was at the printer, although it did not show up in mailboxes until nearly a month later. This is one of the challenges of what are sometimes called “long-lead publications”—print magazines that are in stages of planning, writing, editing, designing, and printing over the course of months. By the time readers were consuming our spring issue, rapidly changing events in the nation and around the world had resulted in dramatic alterations to the seminary’s delivery of theological education and many scheduled events on the seminary’s calendar, which never happened, although promoted in the magazine.

With that reality fresh on our minds, we decided to put a pause on the summer issue of Southwestern News, given the ambiguities of the impact of the virus and the uncertainty of the seminary’s plans. As a team, we discussed a range of options—from not publishing, especially since this is the issue that normally is premiered at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, which we anticipated would not be held, to a typical issue with all the regular departments and features.

What you are holding in your hands is an alternative approach—a somewhat truncated edition, focusing significantly on the seminary’s response to COVID-19, while including other worthy content that helps tell the Southwestern Seminary story apart from the virus—as difficult as it has been to view anything outside the prism of the pandemic.

In our work, we oftentimes request the assistance of the seminary’s capable archivists when seeking information about how the seminary addressed various matters over the course of its rich, 112-year history. And, more often than not, the answers come from past issues of Southwestern News (or its forerunner publications). It was with future stewards

of this “crown jewel” school in mind that we decided to publish this special edition of Southwestern News, believing that one day a seminary leader will ask, how did Southwestern Seminary respond to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020?

Even with that objective in view, this edition of the magazine cannot tell the full story on Southwestern Seminary’s “seamless transition” to a fully online delivery of theological education and the multiplicity of ways the faculty, students, trustees, and staff responded, earning President Adam W. Greenway’s praise, “I’ve never been prouder to be a Southwesterner.” Indeed, even as we move to printing this issue in the first half of July, the full ramifications of COVID-19 are still unfolding and will not be fully known for months or even years into the future.

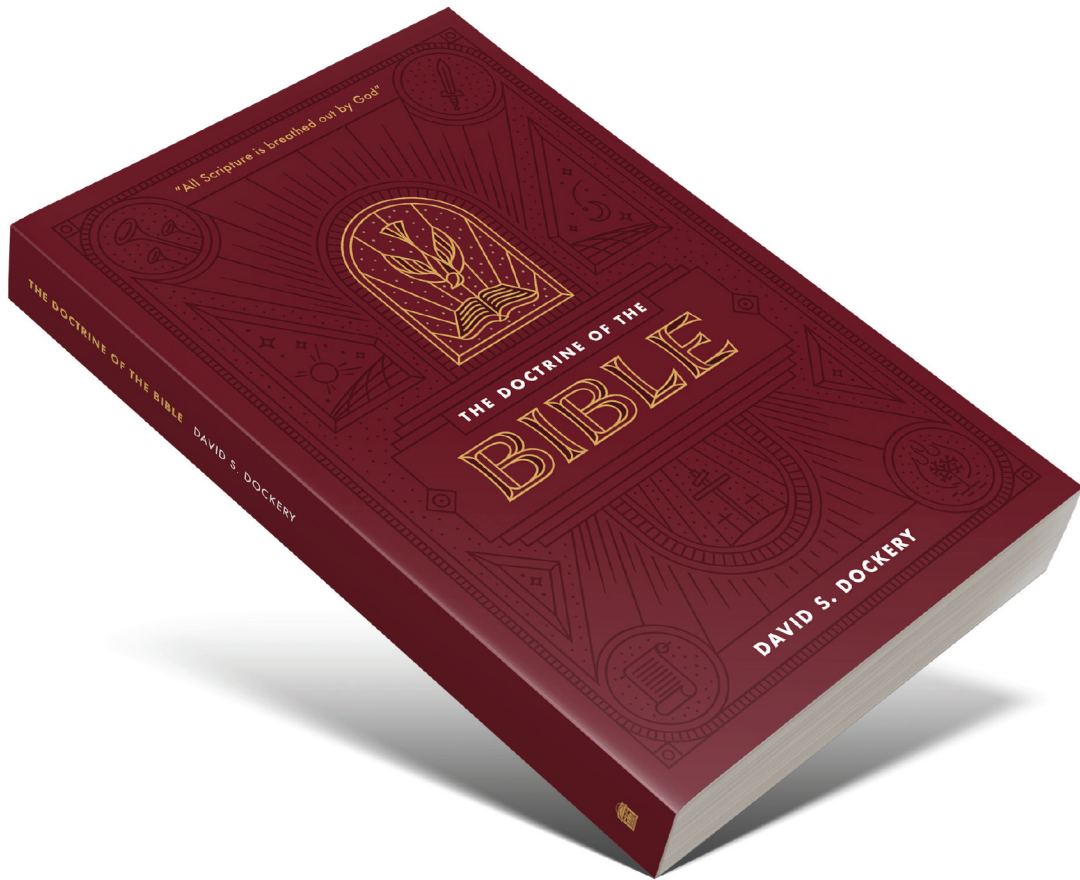
“God is at work in His world, even during times of plague and trials ... and that is so for Southwestern Seminary, too.”

All the more reason to take to heart James’ warning, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.’ Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes” (James 4:13-14).

As difficult as it is to fully understand, we affirm what Scripture makes clear repeatedly: God is at work in His world, even during times of plague and trials—indeed, especially so during those days—and that is so for Southwestern Seminary, too, of course. Lord willing, future editions of Southwestern News will tell the stories of how God has used the COVID-19 pandemic to shape this institution and its graduates to be more faithful to our task as ministers of the Gospel. 📖

JAMES A. SMITH SR. is executive editor of Southwestern News and director of public relations at Southwestern Seminary.

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