

# herald

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The second R of Asbury  
Seminary's vision:

*Renewing  
our vision*

BY ENGAGING THE  
GLOBAL CHURCH



*Asbury*  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



**a community called** to prepare *theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled* men and women to **evangelize** and to spread **scriptural holiness** *throughout the world* through the *love* of Jesus Christ, in the *power* of the Holy Spirit and to the *glory* of God the Father.

# It takes *vision* to transform the world.

## The four R's of Asbury Seminary's vision

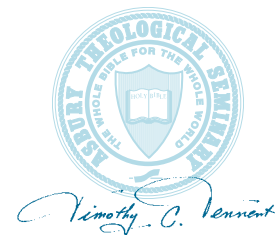
Dr. Timothy C. Tennent, President



### 2 *Asbury renews our vision* by engaging the global Church!

*This is the second in a series that makes a practical application of each of the four planks of the presidential vision for Asbury Theological Seminary, which were expressed by President Tennent in his inaugural address and published in the Spring 2010 edition of The Herald.*

The official seal of Asbury Theological Seminary is a picture of an open Bible with the following words, which encircle the Bible: The whole Bible for the whole world. This testifies that our founder, H.C. Morrison, had a heart for the whole world. This is part of what I call the seminal DNA of Asbury. It is also reflected in our founding mission statement, which says, in part, that we are called to “spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.”  
(Continued on page 9.)



### 3 *Asbury restores hope* through Spirit-filled evangelism and church planting!

### 4 *Asbury revitalizes the Church* through faithfulness to God's Word!

### 1 *Asbury reflects the glory* of the Triune God through worship!

Dr. Tennent comes to Asbury Seminary from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he served as Professor of World Missions for 11 years. He also has taught annually in India for 21 years. He is ordained in the United Methodist Church and is the author of several books, including *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*.



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The *Asbury Herald* (including annual report) is published four times per year and is mailed to more than 17,000 households. This quarterly magazine is the official magazine of Asbury Theological Seminary and provides information on a variety of topics. It is also published in electronic format ([asburyseminary.edu/publications](http://asburyseminary.edu/publications)) to reduce paper consumption and increase access.

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# A pathway to renewal

WHY DO WE SPEND SO MUCH MONEY SENDING SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS OVERSEAS? COULDN'T THE RECEIVING CHURCHES DO MORE, IF WE JUST SENT THEM A CHECK? THESE QUESTIONS EMERGE



Dr. Stephen G. Gober  
Director of Operations and  
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ASBURY SEMINARY

from time to time from church members with good intentions, but they miss the mark. The cross-cultural mission endeavor holds the potential for unparalleled personal and congregational renewal. Women, men and youth often share testimonies of how a mission venture ignited their passion for God. They tell stories of how they returned to their local congregations to serve and

share their faith in new ways. The journeys described often produce transformation of local churches through their global engagement. New priorities, revitalized ministries and strategic partnerships emerge because they realize that the world is their parish. Ultimately, both the sending and the receiving church experience greater blessing than a check alone could ever generate.

In December 2008, while studying in the Beeson Pastor program, I participated in a mission trip to Tanzania. In the midst of an intense year of study, this excursion afforded the cohort an opportunity to serve and minister in a different culture. In Tanzania, my passion for the Lord was refreshed. During our team's stay, we offered two leadership conferences and preached in local churches.

In the first conference, pastors and leaders filled a small village church to capacity. Many had ridden bicycles or walked for hours in the heat to attend the conference. They came anticipating what we would teach them. However, some of the greatest lessons flowed from their lives and witness to edify our leadership team.

In our presence, they offered gifts of passionate worship and dedicated service to the Lord. They sang and danced before the Lord with their whole being. They demonstrated great hunger to learn and grow in their leadership, attentively receiving the teachings of each day. Even though I had spent the previous fifteen years as a missionary, God utilized this brief exposure to another culture to stretch me further. The times of worship with the people of Tanzania provided a means for my faith to be enlarged and invigorated. Once again, I was reminded of God's greatness.

Last January, God afforded me another opportunity to behold the transforming potential of a short-term mission experience.

Dr. Steve Martyn traveled with a group of 22 Seminary students to Costa Rica for a course on servant leadership. The students from Asbury Theological Seminary joined over 40 pastors and leaders from the Methodist Church of Costa Rica for this time of learning. During the week, Asburians joined with Costa Ricans for small-group reflection times. These gatherings provided a unique opportunity for cross-cultural engagement. The Asbury students positively influenced the Costa Rican leaders by modeling relationships of trust and vulnerability. The Costa Ricans challenged the visiting students with their deep faith and passionate pursuit of God. Testimonies shared by the Asbury students revealed dynamic conversations, heartfelt prayers, and significant bonding occurring across cultural boundaries within the small groups. These elements dynamically influenced the personal transformation experienced by many of the participants in the week of studies.

Worship provided an additional highlight for the week. Rodrigo, a Costa Rican pastor, and Alex, a student from Asbury, led the group in worship. Months after the trip, Alex shared that one of his most memorable experiences was the time spent leading worship with Rodrigo. He said, "We led worship in both Spanish and English, sometimes alternating, sometimes singing in

tandem, and it was one of the most exhilarating worship experiences of my life." Rodrigo expressed to the group that the shared worship was a unique and powerfully uniting experience for him. The implications of this event were particularly important for Alex. He shared, "I work with inner-city youth and have a heart for racially diverse churches, so seeing that kind of complication

bring such worship was such an encouragement to me." Truly, our worship transcended cultures and languages, giving us a glimpse of Heaven.

Other Asbury Seminary students shared their story as well. Karla wrote, "My whole life was changed. ... I tasted Heaven in a way that I have never experienced before. I will spend the rest of my life working to create environments wherever God places me that will enable the Kingdom of God to manifest itself like it did last week." Reflecting on his experience in Costa Rica, Paul penned these words:

"Costa Rica helped me remove boundaries in my life and see all people as God's children. ... I have become a person who is

**"The cross-cultural mission endeavor holds the potential for unparalleled personal and congregational renewal."**

—Stephen Gober



ABOVE: Seminary students, faculty and staff participate in Communion during chapel at the Florida Dunnam campus.

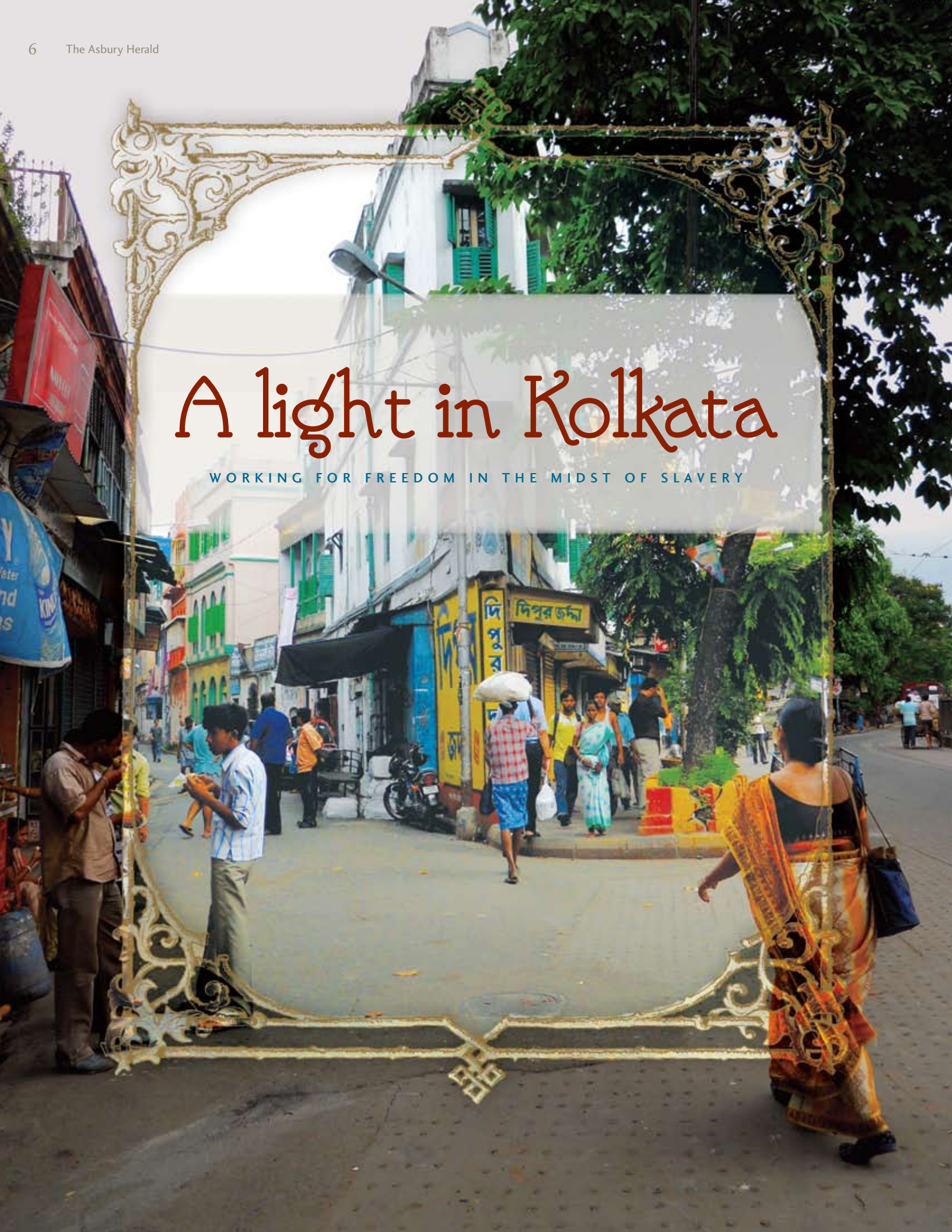
more able to open my heart to others and have become more compassionate. ... I have come to realize that some of the things I thought were so important in life and must be done are no longer that important.”

Janet revealed the unique place the mission field played in allowing her to find herself living out God’s purpose for her life. She wrote, “I feel that I am most in God’s will when I am working, in concert with Him, to be with someone when they come to the ‘end’ of his/her self and are transformed by Christ who awaits them. And this so often happens when on the mission field.” All these experiences demonstrate how the cross-cultural mission opportunity provides the space for renewal and transformation. An Asbury friend once shared with me his need to connect yearly with the body of Christ outside the United States to keep his faith fresh and alive.

In the book of Revelation as the biblical canon draws to a close, the apostle John offers a glimpse of a great multitude from every nation gathered to worship the Lord. This image of God’s people from distinct backgrounds and cultures worshipping together provides a theological framework to better understand the power of the students’ stories. Through their worship and personal engagement with the people of Costa Rica at least for a moment, they glimpsed the Kingdom of God here on earth. The natural result of their experience was the renewal of faith and the birth of a new vision for life and ministry. As we move forward in our Christian journey, may we avail ourselves to this pathway for renewal by moving outside of our comfort zones and encountering people different from ourselves who also form part of the great Kingdom of God. ✨

# A light in Kolkata

WORKING FOR FREEDOM IN THE MIDST OF SLAVERY



**THERE ARE 27 MILLION SLAVES IN THE WORLD TODAY.** MORE PEOPLE ARE ENSLAVED TODAY THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY. THIS PROBLEM IS OVERWHELMING, BUT THE CHURCH CANNOT IGNORE IT. ALTHOUGH WE OFTEN STRUGGLE TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS THE BODY OF CHRIST TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE CAPTIVES, GOD HAS GIVEN US

a clear calling to walk as people of justice, mercy and compassion. So, where do we begin? Well, my husband and I recently spent six weeks exploring this very question as we visited Christians in India who have all joined the fight against modern-day slavery. The one thing that all of the Christians fighting against human trafficking in India understood was that human trafficking is not merely an issue—human trafficking is about humans, made in the image of God, who are deserving of dignity and freedom. So rather than give you facts and figures, I'll tell you a story of a group of humans, working for light in darkness and freedom in the midst of slavery.

Somewhere, in a little building halfway around the world in the city of Kolkata, a small group of girls, boys and loving staff are working together to build a new kind of life. The mothers of these young people are victims of sex trafficking in the red-light district of Kolkata, but these children no longer face the same hopeless future as their mothers. They have been offered a new chance at life.

We arrived for our visit on a Thursday afternoon. Nora\* met us at a busy crossroads. "Follow me, this way," Nora said as she led us into an unassuming neighborhood tucked secretly behind Kolkata's busy streets. "There it is, the blue building." We entered the building to find two bright-eyed young women making parts for water filters. When the girls had taken the job, they were able to earn enough money not only to prevent them from being forced to work in the line, but also to allow their mothers to come off the line. Both girls had a sense of pride as they showed us the products they were making with their own hands, products for which they were being paid fairly and that didn't steal their dignity or innocence. We left the room and made our way up a narrow stairway. We reached the second floor to find a shabby curtain waving in the doorway. "That's the brothel," Nora said. One more flight of



ABOVE: Children sing together at a house church meeting while curious onlookers observe from above.

stairs, and we'd reached our destination—a workshop. At this workshop, the workers were hired not based on their skill level or intelligence, but solely on the fact that they were at-risk for being trafficked into the sex slave trade. The girls were making beautiful journals, cards, cloth goods, and other products. They beamed as they showed us their work.

Nora and her husband Jack\* moved to Kolkata a decade ago. After moving, they quickly realized that Kolkata had a huge

*Continued from page 7**ABOVE: Celebrating dignity and innocence in Kolkata.*

red-light district. Well over 10,000 women are working in their neighborhood alone. The women are forced into sexual slavery because of abject poverty. As Christians, Jack and Nora knew that they could not ignore the injustice around them, so they began a small business with the intent of hiring young women at risk for being trafficked. The economic stability provided by their new jobs freed the women from the risk of being trafficked, and in many cases freed their mothers, sisters or other family members from working in the line. As time went on, Jack and Nora began to feel a heavy burden for the men in their community. So, now, they also offer jobs to young boys in the community who are at risk of becoming pimps, drug addicts or alcoholics. While the business offers economic freedom to this Kolkata community, Jack and Nora also share the gospel with their employees. So not only are they experiencing economic freedom, but the freedom of Christ. Their greatest hope is to see God bring emotional healing, economic well-being and spiritual wholeness to the deeply wounded young people of Kolkata's red-light district. Here, God is at work, restoring life and rebuilding hope.

Like Jack and Nora, many Christians all over India and other nations have joined in the fight against human trafficking. However, most of the Church remains unaware of or unprepared to fight against human trafficking. Twenty-seven million people remain in bondage as you read this. Yet we are called to be light and salt in this world. So, where do we begin?

First, we must become aware. Search online, read books, ask questions and start praying for God's heart to end human trafficking. Once we are educated, then we must act. Everything, from our purchases, entertainment and job skills, to our financial resources, prayers and spiritual gifts can be used to fight against human trafficking. We must encourage our nation to create and implement human trafficking laws. This is an international issue that needs international cooperation and the ability to trust that each country will seek and convict perpetrators. We have to educate those around us, so that they know the truth about slavery today and are mobilized for action. Also, continued work to eliminate extreme poverty is absolutely essential and will help decrease the number of vulnerable victims. Perhaps most importantly, we must realize that Satan has a tight grip on the entire system of human trafficking. So, we must battle in prayer for freedom. We can find and support ministries working with victims of human trafficking. We can begin to make fair trade choices when we shop. The list of "where-to-begins" is endless. As it turns out, beginning is the easy part. There are numerous ways to join in the fight. The difficulty lies in our own hearts—are we willing to care and act for the humans, made in the image of God, deserving of dignity and freedom, who are enslaved today? ✨

*\*Names have been changed or withheld to protect the individuals.*

## Who is my neighbor?

Ryan M. Kocak, M.Div.

I currently live in a modest, three-bedroom, two-bath house on the outskirts of Wilmore, Ky. Only two months prior to purchasing this house, I was living in a small, crowded, wooden hut in Afghanistan as a medic with the U.S. Air Force. In response to what I understood to be God's calling, I transitioned off active duty with the Air Force to attend Asbury Theological Seminary. As I moved into my home, I began to consider the question posed to Jesus in Luke 10:29, "Who is my neighbor?"

As it turns out my neighbors were Kenyan. Not only did a Kenyan family live behind me and a Kenyan medical missionary family live adjacent to me, but I met a Kenyan man one afternoon at a local coffee shop who changed my life. Michael approached me with a large smile and introduced himself. Michael was about twenty years my senior and a Ph.D. candidate at Asbury Seminary. Within one minute into our conversation, Michael looked at me seriously, and told me in a Kenyan accent, "You are going to come to Kenya with me." I could only smile in agreement and continue our conversation. I didn't think much about this proposition from my friend Michael until a few months later.

A chaplain friend of mine, Spence, one day called me and asked if I would be interested in helping him lead a group from the base chapel on a short-term missionary trip to either Jamaica or Kenya. I quickly agreed and waited to hear back from him about the destination. A few weeks later, I ran into Michael on campus. Michael again approached me with a smile and said he needed my help with something. Michael said, "You were in the military ... uh, the Air Force, right? Well, I was just contacted by a missionary organization wanting to bring a team from the Air Force to my community. I want to know if you want to come and help me." As it turns out, my friends Spence and Michael had a mutual relationship with a small mission organization, and Michael's prophetic proposition to join him in Kenya had come true.

I spent that summer helping with the mission team for two weeks and then stayed by myself with Michael's community after they left. I lived where they lived, ate what they ate, and drank (mostly) what they drank. I worshiped, prayed, preached, taught, learned, danced, and experienced community with the Samburu people. I returned from that summer a changed person, but my relationship with Michael continues to this day. Michael has been home with me to northern Ohio, he has visited with my family, he has been a missionary to them, and he was even in my wedding. In my experience, engaging the global Church is as much something that engages *you*, as it is something you engage.



THE SECOND *R* OF THE ASBURY SEMINARY VISION:

Asbury *renews our vision* by engaging the global Church!

# Renewing our vision

“Asbury Seminary can no longer afford to see itself as a training center for one or two particular denominations or for this region of the country. We must lift our eyes and see the glorious harvest that God is calling forth from around the world.” —*Timothy C. Tennent*



Dr. Timothy C. Tennent  
President and Professor of  
World Christianity  
ASBURY SEMINARY

*Continued from page 2*

One of the most important challenges we face as a seminary is learning how to responsibly engage the world. The global Church is growing rapidly. The majority of Christians are no longer located in North America and Western Europe. The typical or representative Christian 100 years ago was a 47-year-old European male. Today it is a 27-year-old African woman. The church in Africa is growing by over 20,000 new believers every day! The church in Africa began the 20th century with just over 11 million members (9 percent of the total population). Today the African church has 494,668,000 Christians representing 48 percent of the population! Christianity in Asia has grown from 25 million Christians in 1910 to 352 million Christians in 2010! Latin America, long a Roman Catholic stronghold, is dramatically shifting to more Pentecostal, Protestant and Independent expressions of Christianity. In 1910, for example, Latin America had only 34,000 independent Christians. Today they have over 41 million! North America is experiencing a sunrise of fresh church planting. The immigrant communities in the United States represent the fastest-growing churches in the country.

If you really take time to think about these statistics, then you must recognize the overwhelming need for pastoral leadership here and around the world. Asbury Seminary can no longer afford to see itself as a training center for one or two particular denominations or for this region of the country. We must lift our eyes and see the glorious harvest that God is calling forth from around the world. The great end-time vision of John where he sees men and women from every nation, and every tribe, and every people-group, and every language standing before the throne and before our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9) is coming true before our very eyes!

What is our response to this? Asbury must rise up and responsibly engage the global Church. How do we do this? We do not responsibly engage the world by sending students out on the sort of short-term mission trips that can sometimes translate into little more than exotic vacations masquerading as authentic global engagement. We do not responsibly engage the world by cherry picking the best scholars from their service in their home countries and hiring them to come and teach at Asbury. We do not responsibly engage the world by any kind of superficial nod to the global Church while we go about with a business-as-usual approach. We can do better than this. We will do better than this.

Asbury will engage the world by forming real global partners, which allows for a meaningful exchange of students, teachers, ideas and resources. Asbury will engage the world by equipping men and women to teach and to preach from a more global perspective. Our students must become more aware of the scope and scale of what God is doing in our world. Our ministry must increasingly become aligned with the greater story of what He is doing, not just in our own denominations, but also what He is doing in groups we have not yet even heard about, but who fully resonate with our commitment to the authority of Scripture, the centrality of Jesus Christ and the ongoing power of the Christian gospel.

In 1923 H.C. Morrison declared that Asbury Theological Seminary would be committed to the “whole Bible for the whole world.” He would have rejoiced to see this day. He is probably cheering us on from Heaven! We are living in an exciting harvest time that is exceeding the wildest imaginations of those faithful Christians who first founded this Seminary. May we be found faithful! ✨

# Re-imagining community

**ASBURY NEED NOT SEARCH FAR TO FIND THE WORLD CHURCH. THE WORLD'S CHURCH ARRIVES FRESHLY IN WILMORE EVERY YEAR. AND LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE, THE LOCAL DYNAMICS OF GLOBALIZATION PRESS US EVER ONWARD TO RE-IMAGINE OUR MISSION IN LIGHT OF THE EMERGING GLOBAL PARADIGM. WE SENSE THAT THE SPIRIT WORKS OVERTIME THESE DAYS TO FORM THE DIVERSITY OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION INTO A VIBRANT GLOBAL COMMUNITY.**

Of course, the Bluegrass too, like any other place, enjoys the fruits of a growing global Church. All around us, surrounding cities and countries watch Asian, African, Hispanic, African American, Asian American and multicultural churches grow. Many of our community attend and are helping form these churches. And as Asbury Seminary reaches out to them, we hope to ever-increasingly support their movements while remaining faithful to our mission: preparing God's future ministers, leaders and teachers. We seek to engage the global Church locally though these support chains and partnerships.

But, I want to focus here on another way we engage the global Church locally. We not only seek a mutual embrace with the global Church in the Bluegrass. We also want to engage the local community with our global community of students, faculty, staff and administration.

Much of this work is championed by the newly forming ministry for Global Community Development, a wing of our Office of Community Life. As we prepare our students to remain faithful to their calling, we want them to practice now what it means to lead in a globalized setting. This includes both the education of theologically trained minds and the formation of compassionate hearts that reverentially and intentionally cross the boundaries and barriers veined through any global community.

We agree with missiologist Samuel Escobar, who notes that "God is forming a new global people from races, cultures, and languages spread over the whole earth, a people who cannot do less than have a global vision but who live their vision in the local situation God has placed them."<sup>1</sup> So, along with classroom education, the ministry for Global Community Development seeks to embody God's vision for global community on earth as it is in Heaven (Revelation 7:9). We do so by offering experiential, hands-on, real-life and formational opportunities now.

We believe that when Jesus commissioned His disciples to heal the sick and tell them that the Kingdom of God was

near them (Luke 10:9), He sanctioned a ministry marked by a harmony of word and deed. We also believe that in His mind was the great Jewish command to "Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow" (Isaiah 1:17). This is the type of leader needed for our challenging global situation. Furthermore, we believe that as God shapes his global Church into "fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19), a long faithfulness to shared local missions provides the best context to spark deep inter-ethnic love.

On one Monday, after our recent graduation, 27 Asbury Seminary community members showed up to a dilapidated auto garage owned by the Seminary. It had previously been used to store items given to needy students. Our mission this summer was to transform the garage into a prototype called the "Global Community Development Center." Its vision is to partner with local churches and organizations to network our global community in shared local missions. The ministry will also take the responsibility of ensuring an appropriate context of reflection and curriculum for its participants.

On this particular Monday, I was pleased to see the international makeup of our shared missions with diverse representation from Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Europe and North America. It was truly a global gathering. In particular, we were able to pack up and move all but a few linens, dishes and cookware over to another storage unit. These items simply needed a better shelter.

One conversation stood out to me the most. A European American, Kenyan, and an African American were standing together, helping oversee a portion of the work. Their conversation started in small talk but led to a robust discussion on initiation rites and manhood. The two North American men lamented about the lack of initiation rites in the United States. In response, the Kenyan man reflected on his two-month wilderness passage and how it clearly laid out the expectations for manhood. He jokingly invited them

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Escobar, *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone* (Downer's Grove: IVP Press, 1993), 63.



ABOVE: *The Asbury Seminary community is a vibrant, growing part of the world Church.*

to visit his village and experience the two-month wilderness ordeal. Though it was just one conversation, it represents hundreds of conversations I have heard over the course of five years. While we can have these conversations over lunch or as we walk together, I have witnessed these intercultural interchanges as a usual circumstance when our global community finds herself in shared local missions.

Our next phase in the transformation of the garage included a garage sale to get rid of a number of items that we could no longer use, and to make a few dollars in the meantime to go toward the refurbishing of the garage's broken infrastructure and roof.

We started with an all-day preparation Friday. Ten volunteers showed up throughout the day, and one intercultural moment particularly caught my eye. We had rented a dumpster (now just about full) for the weekend. At one point, four men carried a monster of an air conditioner long dead to the dumpster. Two hands belonged to a Kenyan, two to a Zimbabwean, two to a Ugandan, and two to an African American. As we continue to search for beloved community, I saw a sparkle in that moment. The camaraderie, the laughter, and the physical challenge grew these men closer as they participated in something as profoundly simple as a shared mission to clean up a garage. It was visible.

The next day brought about 40 community members to the garage in search for the treasures and furniture we were selling. We made, in total, a humble \$111. Though not our goal of \$200, there were a few simply priceless elements of the day. The sale itself brought together our local community and our global Asbury community. Not only were the patrons given a chance to mingle with folks from Korea, Kenya and Singapore, but the event allowed for peoples from all social classes to connect. We ate lunch with the volunteers (about eight in total), and again every social class was present. As I will continue to testify, the energy at the garage has the power to divide our community and the power to bring us together. It also contains among the most intercultural potential I have seen on campus.

The next week, we found ourselves pulling nails out of one of the garage's downed walls. We will recycle them to rebuild.

This time we had two Koreans, two Taiwanese, one Indian, two European Americans, one Nigerian, and one Tanzanian. Our conversations ranged from learning what degrees people were in, at what stages, to a conversation about glasses and what age is too early to have bad eyesight. I cannot describe the potency of shared missions experiments for vibrant global community. It is almost impossible to measure this without experiencing it.

Not only will this upcoming year see Asbury's global community reaching out together to our local community, but we will also engage the global community to serve the incoming class of students. Our Transition Support Team organizes volunteers into five areas: Furniture Setups, Household Setups, Hospitality Baskets, Airport Pickups and Transition Details. So far, we have 36 volunteers from 12 countries. We have also raised a total of \$1,700 for the baskets. The hospitality baskets (each worth an average of \$50) include the first week's worth of food, cleaning supplies and household items. We have also compiled an official culturally sensitive guide that we are now using for the setups.

Our setup team—consisting of one Ugandan man, a Kenyan woman, four European American women, one European American man, a continental Indian, a student from Malaysia, and two European American boys—poured out in full force recently as we prepared for a Singaporean family of five to arrive. We packed their house full of the essentials: sheets, blankets, cookware, dishes, towels, shower curtains, bath mats and more. We collected some of these items and purchased others with the budget for Household Setups. If the gospel is from everyone to everyone, so must global hospitality emerge from the same paradigm.

As the years unfold here at Asbury Seminary, we will continue to engage the global Church locally, through our partnerships with area churches. And we believe that God is using Asbury to support His global Church by preparing theologically trained, Spirit-filled, sanctified men and women for the new world paradigm. Such a world invites us to engage the best of our global imagination in whatever local situation we find ourselves. ✨



ABOVE: Asbury Theological Seminary alumna Janine Roberts holds Anotida, one of the children at Fairfield Children’s Home in Zimbabwe, as an orphanage worker looks on.

# ANSWERING A DARE

Seeing for the first time an infant infected by HIV, Janine Roberts was halted by a sudden sense of fear that she could not explain.



Mr. Sam Wyckoff  
Staff Writer  
ASBURY SEMINARY

A visitor to Fairfield orphanage in Zimbabwe on her first short-term mission, Roberts had been picking up and playing with the infant orphans. But when she turned toward a corner crib to pick up a baby named Grace, an orphanage worker intervened to offer medical gloves. Grace was the only infant at Fairfield with the human immunodeficiency virus, and as Roberts drew closer she noticed Grace was covered with sores, an effect of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome at HIV’s

last stage of attack on her immune system.

Roberts, at that time in 1998 an upcoming senior in college, knew that holding Grace would not present a risk of contracting HIV. She also knew that the orphanage’s babies rarely had anyone to give a caring touch except briefly at three-hour intervals when nurses came. But, at this chance to hold Grace, Roberts silently turned away.

“I was not ready to face the reality of what it would mean to hold Grace, to perhaps chance falling in love with this child who had



ABOVE: Children of Hartzell Primary School at Fairfield orphanage share their smiles.

# TO *love*

already begun the process of dying,” Roberts said in her memoirs of her early mission experiences, *Dare to Love Completely* (Xulon, 2009). “God was beside me in that moment, willing me to see this child through His eyes. He loved her so much.”

That day Roberts resolved to overcome her fears. Several days later she returned and cradled Grace, swaying her while singing “Amazing Grace.”

“In that moment ... God took hold of my heart and transformed it forever. Grace had AIDS, but suddenly there was nothing scary about her. She was only a tiny baby in need of as much love as I could offer her,” she said. “God used Grace to take the fear away and replace it with something far more powerful: unconditional love that so overpowered fear that it completely wiped it away.”

Roberts said that during the Fairfield visits God put into her heart His love for the children of Zimbabwe. “God spoke to me through the children I met at Fairfield Children’s Homes, and somehow I knew I would be returning to live there,” she said.

## *Answering the dare to love*

Roberts later yielded to God’s urging and moved her residence six time zones eastward to share Christ’s love with the Shona people of southeast Africa. But initially there were obstacles to be cleared from her full vision of the call.

After earning her undergraduate degree at West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1999, Roberts continued with earlier plans to be a teacher, and soon she was leading a classroom of first-graders in North Carolina. Roberts loved her students, but within two months she was miserable in her work. She had a deep sense she was not where she was supposed to be.

Through the help of her pastor, an Asbury Theological Seminary graduate, Roberts remembered the moment at Fairfield orphanage when God spoke to her of a call to Zimbabwe. Her pastor, she said, “explained that when we are called of God for

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from page 13*

a special purpose, He gives us a joy and desire to do things that most others do not want to do. I realized there was nothing on earth I would rather do than be with the children in Zimbabwe.”

Roberts decided that Asbury Seminary’s E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism was where she wanted to be trained for mission. She continued teaching until the end of the academic year, and the day her job ended she started packing to move to Wilmore, Ky. “That first step of faith was the very best decision I ever made,” she said.

While earning her degree, Roberts served two months at Fairfield Children’s Homes, near east Zimbabwe’s city of Mutare. After receiving the Master of Arts in World Mission and Evangelism in 2004, Roberts sought to return immediately to Mutare, but reports of political instability in Zimbabwe caused mission agencies to turn her down. With a firm conviction about where God wanted her to be, she persevered. Soon she found support for her calling from Wilmore-based CornerStone International, and for most of the last six years Roberts has been ministering near Mutare.

### *Restoring hope in tragic times*

Roberts’ work comes at a time of extreme needs in Zimbabwe. About 1 million of the country’s 12 million people are children who have lost either their mother or father or both to AIDS, according to World Health Organization 2007 estimates. In that year about 140,000 Zimbabweans died of AIDS, and there were about 1.2 million adults and 120,000 children with HIV. Most children became infected with HIV at birth or through abuse, Roberts said. The number of orphans in Zimbabwe has increased from more than 700,000 in 2001 to more than 1 million in 2007.

Roberts, the only full-time missionary where she is serving, conducts her mission working with Shona Christians. At least one-fourth of Zimbabweans are Christian, and The United Methodist Church has particular strength and activity in east Zimbabwe. Roberts serves with Shona workers at the Fairfield mission to care for about 80 orphans.

Also, Roberts in recent years has found growing opportunities for ministry in surrounding farm communities where there are many orphans living with relatives who lack means for proper care. Often relatives who take in orphans are strained by the costs of caring for other family members with HIV. The caregivers may then be forced to try to earn money instead of care for children. Or sometimes the caregivers themselves have HIV, and sickness causes them to lose their jobs and ability to care for children.

Roberts has responded to this crisis by working with indigenous leaders to operate Project HOPE, or “Helping Orphans Providing Empowerment.” Project HOPE assists about 100 orphans as well as their relatives by providing many essentials such as nutritious foods, clothing and medicines. The project also raises funds for children’s schooling, which is not free in Zimbabwe.

Currently, HOPE’s nutrition program distributes foods such as peanut butter, eggs and fruit weekly to nearly 40 children, who are monitored for progress toward health. Though new cases of malnourishment have been decreasing, the number of children testing positive for HIV has been on the rise, Roberts said. The



ABOVE: Roberts has ministered near Mutare, Zimbabwe, for six years.

cost for education went up markedly this year, but HOPE is still able to cover educational expenses of close to 70 children through donors’ sponsorships, she said.

Daily tasks for Roberts vary with the needs. At times she is in line by 6 a.m. at the Mutare hospital in order to begin a lengthy registration process that will enable children with HIV to receive antiretroviral drugs that slow the advance of HIV. On another day she has given vigorous house cleaning for a person with HIV who was not only bedridden but also alone because neighbors and relatives did not want to be seen with someone infected by HIV. An example of a constant part of Roberts’ schedule is her communication with health-care workers in the farm communities so she can have direction for best use of HOPE’s resources.

### *Keeping the heart of mission*

Roberts said the mission has its greatest enduring impact for Zimbabweans by showing love in the outreach. She takes time to build relationships, listening to the people and praying for them.

“When it comes to the very end, and someone who has AIDS is wasting away, that person will remember that you held their hand, that you took away a little of the burden of care of their family members,” Roberts said. “They remember that you promised to look after their children when they are gone. That look of peace on a mother’s face—I guess that is what global evangelism looks like to me. That’s the moment when Christ enters in and looks back at you through their eyes, and you know your part is done. He’ll do the rest.”

*Continued on page 19*

# The Wesley Fund

## What does it take to transform lives?

Transformation begins with a calling from God. In 1923, Henry Clay Morrison heard that call, and he answered it by starting Asbury Theological Seminary with a mission to transform the world through academic excellence and spiritual formation.

Each student who joins our Asbury community has answered that call. Each faculty and staff member who invests in the training and formation of those students has answered that call.

For more than 86 years, people just like you have heard the call to join our community in this effort. In doing so, you make it possible for our students to be transformed both intellectually and spiritually. They, in turn, go out and transform thousands of lives around the globe. Our alumni are found on six continents, in 66 countries and in 22 time zones. That is global transformation and global impact!

When you answer the call by making a gift to the Wesley Fund, you are part of that global impact by:

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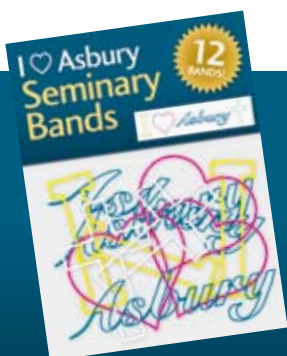
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*Will you answer the call and join us in transforming lives around the globe?*

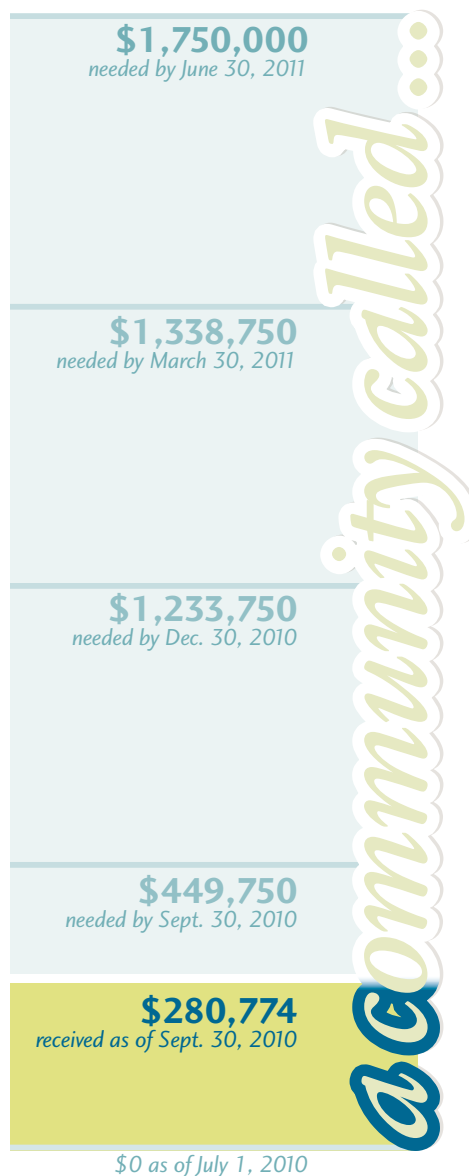


For every \$5 you give to the Wesley Fund, you'll receive a pack of Asbury Seminary Silly Bands! Please make your check payable to Asbury Theological Seminary. To receive Silly Bands, you must include **Wesley Fund-SB** on the memo line.

For more information, contact 859.858.2305.



### Wesley Fund Quarterly Goals



# Shepherding Haiti



ABOVE: Haitian tent community, March 2010.

IT WAS OUR FIRST DAY ON THE GROUND, DAY 60 FOR THE HAITIAN PASTORS WHO WERE THEN ESTABLISHING THEIR “NEW NORMAL.” A 7.0 EARTHQUAKE HAD RECENTLY DEVASTATED THIS ALREADY STRUGGLING PEOPLE, AND THESE WERE THE SHEPHERDS CHOSEN TO LEAD THEIR FLOCKS AMIDST CATASTROPHE. YET, HERE THEY WERE LIFTING THEIR HEARTS TO GOD IN RADICAL ABANDON.



Mr. Keith Jagger  
Director of Global  
Community  
Development  
ASBURY SEMINARY

Of course the trauma and answerless questions hung within their bellowing praise, questions that both haunted them and brought them strangely close to their Creator. Yet, as with many who suffer great loss, the brilliance of their determined humility unleashed deeper levels of worship and dependence upon the Father. Now, looking back on Asbury Seminary’s response to this disaster, it was their faith that caught my attention on day one. It was their faith that won the day.

The story of Asbury Seminary’s response, in the end, was not really about Asbury. The conference itself represented a multi-party ecumenical effort. The Response Team included participants from the Wesleyan and Free Methodist Churches in both the United States and Haiti. Each playing their part, the Response Team (both the Wilmore- and Haiti-based portions) organized the accommodations and planned and structured the conference. The workshops themselves equipped pastors to administer trauma relief as they role-played on one another. In the end 102 pastors showed up (given only eight days’ notice) and experienced three days of training on recognizing PTSD, signs of trauma in children, and the best methods for

theological debriefing, with the help of three faculty members from Asbury Seminary.

As a meta-theme, the professors “Walked with Job.” The conference represented a unique theological reflection that captured the common “why” questions and gave chance for the pastors to reflect in community on possible answers. In particular, they were interested in why disaster and misfortune fall on even righteous people. In the end, each pastor received 1.5 CEU credits for 15 hours of training in psycho-social and theological response in the face of disaster. Each session began in worship. “Amazing Love,” “It is Well with My Soul,” “As the Deer” and songs unknown to my ear filled the conference room with vitality and symphony. The pastors expressed their worship in singing that emanated from the souls of a people whose faith may have been shaken for a time but who stood strong and resilient.

The following reflections represent our interpretation of a variety of perspectives offered by the pastors and how they envision the way forward. They answered these questions in groups about what they have witnessed in the short days after the earthquake and its growing impact on society. The questions themselves probed both the critical needs of the populace and explored human life, self-worth and our world.



*What sort of issues are arising as you work with those impacted by the earthquake? What has been the impact of the earthquake on persons in terms of the emotional, physical and spiritual?*

The pastors' answers varied as they reflected on changes they have observed among their people, negative and positive. For the most part, they reflected on emotional trauma, physical consequences, societal impact and spiritual aftershocks. First, they noted a rise in emotional trauma. They have witnessed psychological shock that has turned normal people into those who are now afraid and angry all the time. The levels of mental disease have risen drastically. They also noted the physical consequences. There are many who have lost their appetite or are unable to sleep. Some have constant headaches. On the other hand, the pastors have noticed that people in general have detached themselves from material things. So, while the physical manifestations of a disaster wreak havoc on the general population, the lessened reliance on material goods was seen as a positive and potentially transformative element.

The pastors also noted the societal impact. Simply, there has been a dramatic loss of humans and houses. The stories of familial loss and shocking sight of building damage will leave any outside witness in awe of what the Haitian people have experienced. Such a void has sparked an increase in gangs and bandits, and in general the pastors noted a rise in poverty, trauma, joblessness, new handicaps and some juvenile delinquency. Yet, at the same time, pastors have witnessed people coming to quicker resolution over problems, a profoundly fresh relationship between children and parents, and a general spirit of willingness to share with one another. A further striking societal impact has been the apparent leveling, for a time, of the social classes. People in the upper segments have been willing to talk with strangers of the lower segments of society even in passing on the street. Ultimately, while the earthquake has devastated the society, God's shepherds in Haiti have noticed rays of hope shining on the pathway for a better Haiti.

Finally, the pastors discussed the spiritual aftershocks of the earthquake. While they have seen some turn spiritually cold, they have also seen a dramatic decrease in the public manifestations of voodoo. And, in general, the pastors have noted how the disaster has caused many to spiritually draw near to God. They have seen a lot of people give their lives to Jesus. People are starting to read the Bible, and the Christian church has never been more spirited, they observe. They even note how spiritually, the earthquake has led them to pray even more.

*What causes natural disasters? How can we control or influence natural disasters?*

A second series of questions centered on worldview and how people are interpreting the disaster. The pastors were asked to reflect on the meanings they had heard given to the earthquake. Here are a list of their responses: 1. We have cut down too many trees; people are building their buildings unethically, not following codes. 2. Some foreign superpower was testing nuclear arms. 3. The Haitian people sinned too much. 4. It

“When I first heard them worship,  
I was fresh on the ground. But, I  
could not hold back tears inspired  
by their faith and fervor.”

—Keith Jagger

is the rapture. 5. It is God's wrath. For any onlooker, these reflections will demonstrate the theological complexity in a world hoping to offer cheap answers. The pastoral task in Haiti will test and try the brilliance of leaders young and old in this country for years to come. Therefore, the world Church would do well to listen.

The theology and missiology arising from Haiti in the next generation may well lead the church in its road forward in this disaster-filled urban and global age.

*What types of questions are being raised by these persons?*

A third series of reflections focused on the questions that people are asking post-earthquake. These reflections wove along two lines: introspective personal questions and theological questions impacting the future. Many, noted the pastors, are wondering if they are the invincible group. Why would they survive yet small children and infants be taken? Were they guiltier than the survivor? Or, some have wondered if they were the ones who have searched after God, while those taken failed to know God in their deepest of hearts. The pastors also noted the theological questions that will impact their way forward: Are earthquakes biblical? Is God so evil to bring a terrible act? Is this the end of the earth? Are we paying for wickedness? Will we continue to pay? Is there hope for Haiti? Who will take care of us? How long will it take to be reborn?

Ultimately, the road ahead stretches long for the people of Haiti. When I first heard them worship, I was fresh on the ground. But, I could not hold back tears inspired by their faith and fervor. As the days unfolded, I began to understand just how blessedly complex their situation had become. There is no doubt that this disaster has wrought immeasurable loss and pain on this people. Yet, there are rays of hope that sing of potential transformation. The pastoral implications are unimaginable as the body of Christ in Haiti strives to embody afresh the in-breaking of the New Creation in that land. And about the global Church, Asbury's President has noted:

We become heralds who embody the in-breaking of the New Creation. The triumphalism of human agency and ingenuity are replaced by deep humility and awe that God would use us, alongside Christians from all over the world, in the accomplishment of His unfolding plan of redemption in the world.

We believe that God is calling Asbury Seminary to partner with the global Church in creative ways just as he is calling you to play your role. How creative can your church or organization get in joining God's ongoing work in Haiti? The need is there, and so are God's people.

For Asbury Seminary, we joined with the Free Methodists and the Wesleyans in March to provide psycho-social and theological pastoral training. The way forward is uncertain. But we have committed to fidelity to our calling as it intersects with the global movement of God's people. We will continue to equip leaders who have, are now, and will lead the Church in fidelity to the ever-unfolding mission of God. ✨

June–August 2010

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Continued from page 14

Roberts said sharing Christ's love in cross-cultural ministry was emphasized in her courses at Asbury Seminary. "Jesus was born into a specific culture. He ate what they ate, lived as they lived. If we are called to a specific place and people group, we should follow Jesus' example," she said. "We have to enter the culture as a learner; we have to work alongside people already involved in what the Lord is doing at that time. I think that saved me a lot of worry that I didn't have all the right answers. Our job is to go filled with the love of Christ and find out where He is already working and join Him."

### *Growing in faith together*

Roberts speaks of the noble character of the orphans, who are quick to give smiles to others despite their suffering and to act instinctively with demonstrations of love. She said Zimbabweans have been inspirations to her faith. "Those who are suffering from illness and poverty here and have a relationship with Jesus have an amazing amount of faith, and truly have to rely on God for their daily bread. It has been an honor to learn from these great men and women of faith," she said.

Roberts' mission in turn has been an inspiration to supporters in the States. She has often hosted people from America for short-term missions. Professor of Anthropology Michael Rynkiewicz, who taught Roberts courses at Asbury Seminary, has mentored her across the years. And from the positions of leadership that Rynkiewicz and his wife, Teresa, have in missions at First United Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon, Ind., they are helping to organize a short-term mission in summer 2011 to assist the Fairfield orphanage and Project HOPE. The Mt. Vernon church is one among many Roberts has visited and that respond in various ways to help Roberts' mission.

Asbury Seminary alumna Melissa Maher, who as pastor of serving ministry at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, equips members for mission, has made trips to Mutare to work with Roberts about two months on two occasions. Maher said the experience of assisting Roberts' mission helped to expand her understanding of God's heart. "What I read about in seminary regarding the Church, hospital visits, hospice care, the importance of empowering people in their callings, and relying on God to lead your path—all these things came to life while living in Mutare, Zimbabwe," she said. "Janine has been a great friend, teacher and fellow missionary."

### *Finding power in unity of prayer*

When asked how people can support the mission, Roberts said people's prayers are vital. "I need people committed to being prayer warriors, who will pray often, even daily, for Zimbabwe," she said. She asked that people pray for the orphans' and caregivers' protection.

"Pray for restored spirits in the little ones who watched their mom and dad die in a very painful way, that God will comfort them and heal their hearts so that they can continue on in life," she said. "Pray that we will know which areas to concentrate on that will help the children the most." ❄

To learn more, visit [www.hopeofzim.blogspot.com](http://www.hopeofzim.blogspot.com) or write to CornerStone International; P.O. Box 192; Wilmore, KY 40390. Contributions should be designated with the memo "HOPE of Zim." To inquire about sponsoring a child, write to [hopeofzim@gmail.com](mailto:hopeofzim@gmail.com). Roberts' book, *Dare to Love Completely: A Memoir from Zimbabwe*, is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

## H.C. Morrison: Envisioning evangelism across centuries

Tammy Cessna, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Henry Clay Morrison, who founded Asbury Theological Seminary in 1923, had a world vision. God had taken him from being a poor farm boy in Barren County, Ky., who received salvation at age 11, to being an itinerant preacher at age 19. After years of being a credentialed, successful pastor in the Kentucky conference, Henry Clay had "times of sore heart-hunger, impetuous temper, and a lack of peace and abiding power. At times there was in Henry Morrison a soul-reach, a cry, of which he barely, if at all knew the meaning."<sup>1</sup>

After seeking and searching, Henry Clay experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience gave him an even greater passion and zeal to see the lost come to salvation through Christ and those saved to move into entire sanctification. He left the full-time pastorate and launched into full-time evangelism to reach a wider audience with the message of Christ. Invitations to preach revivals came in from around the United States, and eventually came from other countries.

In 1909, when 90 percent of Protestant Christianity lived in the Western world, H.C. Morrison conducted a global tour of evangelism to engage the unreached world. He preached in India, Korea, Burma, China, Hong Kong, Japan, etc., where he witnessed firsthand the plentiful harvest. In his writings from that trip, you can hear his burden and love for the lost. A few years later, in *The Pentecostal Herald* (for which this magazine is named), Morrison wrote on the front page of the January 1911 edition:

The fields are white to harvest. ... The time has fully come to evangelize the world, and if the work is not done now, conditions may and in all probability will soon arise, that will make the world's evangelization far more difficult than at the present time. Let every heart that loves the Christ and those for whom he died give a helping hand to the great work of sending the gospel to all the world.

I believe Dr. Morrison would be pleased to know that a century later, Asbury Seminary continues to have a world focus. This year, joining the ranks of our alumni were 261 graduates from 19 countries. These spiritually formed students are being sent forth with a sound theological education. The 2010 commencement propelled our alumni count to nearly 10,000 found in 22 time zones and 66 countries.

I recently received an email from an alumnus from India who exemplifies what is happening around the world through our Asbury alumni:

*I thank God for the training I had at Asbury, which taught me to be transparent, accountable and a person to please the Lord in all that I do. The D.Min. dissertation is a helping tool for me to train lay pastors and go along with them to the villages to plant churches wherever possible. We, at times, struggle for our daily needs, but the Lord has placed a deep peace in us. Praise the Lord. I am so thankful to Asbury Theological Seminary, which has helped me to put my deeper trust in the Lord.*

*Sister Tammy, we have started ministry as per the guidance of the Lord, where we are taking care of 20 orphan children and two elderly women. God has blessed us with 2 acres of land. We want to build a small English medium school by which we can become self-supportive, build a home for the orphans and also a home for the old aged. We also have started a small church in a rented place for the poor and neglected and we are sure in the days to come it will grow in numbers. Please uphold us in your prayers.*

Many of you can't go, but you can pray. Please pray for the many alumni of Asbury Seminary who are reaching the world for Christ.

<sup>1</sup>C.F. Wimberly, *A Biographical Sketch of Henry Clay Morrison, D.D.: The Man and His Ministry* (New York: Revell, 1922), 94.



ABOVE: Figure 1.

# Asbury Seminary global network

WHAT MIGHT IT MEAN IF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PARTNERED WITH SIX MAJOR INSTITUTIONS IN A GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION NETWORK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE BUILDING OF HIS CHURCH HERE ON EARTH? WHAT IF THESE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS ASSUMED LEADERSHIP FOR CULTIVATING THEOLOGICAL NETWORKS WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES?



Dr. Leslie A. Andrews  
Vice President for Academic  
Affairs and Provost  
ASBURY SEMINARY

What might it mean if partner institutions exchanged students and faculty for cross-cultural teaching and learning immersion experiences in an increasingly diverse multi-faith world?

What might it mean if partner institutions shared a common database for theological research, or if Asbury Seminary helped to develop both “hard libraries” and “digital libraries” including the gifting of course libraries?

What might it mean if a full collaborative suite were used to foster face-to-face conversations about theological education among leading theological educators throughout the world? What if Asbury Theological Seminary and its partners sponsored biennial conferences focused on church revitalization and church planting in different regions of the world (e.g., Africa, Asia, South Asia, Latin America, etc.)? Or what if corresponding

administrators in partner institutions collaborated in the development of their respective areas? What might it mean if lay friends of Asbury Seminary joined hand-in-hand with the Seminary in helping to bring this about?

Consider Figure 1. The Church is growing fastest in the majority world. Just imagine the way in which Asbury Seminary’s mission might be advanced “... to prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world...” if it developed its educational ministries in tandem with seven institutions fully committed to increasing their investment in equipping men and women, not by addition but by multiplication? The question is not “What if?” but “When?” The Board of Trustees has officially approved the formation of a global partnership network, which promises to be Asbury Seminary’s next major missional outreach, “through the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of God.” ✨

# EVENTS

## 2011 Admissions Preview Weekends

Mar. 11–12 Florida Dunnam campus

Apr. 15–16 Kentucky campus

Encourage a prospective student to try out the Asbury Seminary experience by visiting a campus in 2011. In one weekend, they'll meet with faculty, financial aid consultants, academic advisors and current students as they preview campus. They'll worship, share meals and attend class as our guest. One weekend could change everything!

Prospective students can register for a Preview Weekend at [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu) or by calling 800.2ASBURY.

## Kingdom Conference: Cultivating communities that transform

Oct. 19–21, 2010

Asbury Seminary Kentucky campus

Join us as we look at practices of transformation in settings around the world. Keynote speakers include Viv Grigg, founder of Servants to Asia's Urban Poor and the international director of the Urban Leadership Foundation, and Keith Wasserman, founder and executive director of Good Works, Inc., a "community of hope for those struggling with poverty in rural Appalachia." This event is free.

## Holy Land pilgrimage with Dr. and Mrs. Tennent

Jan. 2–15, 2011

Walk where Jesus walked and experience the long-ago events recorded in the Bible coming alive in ways you never dreamed possible. Join Dr. and Mrs. Tennent and Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Martyn in the wonderful fellowship that a pilgrimage affords and soak in the devotional content and biblical applications as you travel over the sacred ground of Israel and Jordan. This trip is limited to the first 40 passengers. To reserve your spot today, please contact Omega Travel at 800.363.0012 or email [bev@omegatravelusa.com](mailto:bev@omegatravelusa.com).

## Kingdom Encounter 2011: Reactivating a missional form of discipleship

Jan. 31–Feb. 2, 2011

Asbury Seminary Florida Dunnam campus

Mark your calendars now for this three-day conference, featuring keynote speakers Alan and Debra Hirsch. Known for his innovative approach to mission, Alan Hirsch is a teacher and key mission strategist for churches across the Western world. Debra Hirsch is a conference speaker, church leader and writer. To learn more about Kingdom Encounter 2011, contact Director of Community Life Kandace Brooks at [kandace.brooks@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:kandace.brooks@asburyseminary.edu).

Join Seminary President Timothy C. Tennent as he shares the Asbury Seminary vision with these congregations:

Nov. 14, 2010

Woodlands United Methodist Church  
The Woodlands, Texas

Feb. 27, 2011

Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church  
Spring Arbor, Michigan

March 6, 2011

Christ United Methodist Church  
Jackson, Mississippi



## Being human: created in God's image

March 8–10, 2011

Asbury Seminary Kentucky campus

**Q3** The Q3 conference series tackles three big questions at the intersection of faith and science. Join us for year two as we dig into faith and anthropology questions with the help of top scientists, pastors and theologians.

Contact: Ginny Proctor, 888.5BEESON. Funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation's Science for Ministry Initiative.

*The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality.*

## Ministry Conference 2011: Ministry in the image of God

March 21–24, 2011

Asbury Seminary Kentucky campus

We serve at the intersection of culture and incarnational ministry. "The ministry we have entered is the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son, to the Father, through the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the church and the world" (*Ministry in the Image of God*, Steve Seamands). Trinitarian ministry; in His image; open to His will; following in His footsteps. Stay tuned for more information soon to be released on the Lifelong Learning page of [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu). Contact: Ginny Proctor, 888.5BEESON.

## YouNique in Christ! Discovering yourself in God's will

May 9–12, 2011

Ladies, do you wonder if God has something more for you? Come and bring your friends to this time of inspiration, motivation and challenge by women whose lives got even better when they stepped out of their comfort zones and deeper into God's will. Contact: Ginny Proctor, 888.5BEESON.

# NEWS

## Asbury Theological Seminary announces new Director of Admissions



Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services Kevin Bish announces the appointment of Carolyn Clayton as the Director of Admissions effective immediately.

Clayton will provide leadership for all strategic initiatives related to admissions on both the Kentucky and Florida Dunnam campuses. She will also oversee the development, management and evaluation of all staff within the Admissions Department.

Carolyn has most recently been the Program Coordinator for the Master of Real Estate Development program at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C. Carolyn has over nine years of experience working inside educational institutions. Prior to joining Clemson University, Carolyn held positions in student affairs, advancement and admissions.

## Faculty member Dr. Michael Pasquarello participates in a consultation on theological education and science



Dr. Michael Pasquarello III, Fisher Professor of Preaching and Director of Q3, Asbury Seminary's Faith and Science program, recently participated in a consultation on theological education and science sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C.

This invitation was extended to Asbury Seminary for being one of seven institutions that have received generous grants from the John Templeton Foundation to be part of its "Science for Ministry" initiative. This initiative is the first by Templeton that is oriented toward pastors, Christian leaders and lay persons who work and teach in the various fields of science. Its goal is to bring the Christian faith and the knowledge of science into a fruitful conversation that benefits the faith and mission of the Church.

## Asbury Seminary staff members recently selected as recipients of a John Wesley Fellowship

Asbury Seminary staff members Christine Johnson, Mathieu Gnonhossou and Brian Yeich were selected as John Wesley Fellows for 2010.

Each year A Foundation for Theological Education (AFTE) awards up to five John Wesley Fellowships to assist gifted United Methodists in their doctoral studies at the finest institutions. Candidates are selected for their commitment to Christ and the Church as well as for their academic excellence.

Fellowships are usually given for four years. At present, the average fellowship grant is \$10,000 per academic year. With approximately 12 Fellows in the program at any one time, AFTE spends nearly \$120,000 each year on direct grants.

## Dr. Geneva Silvernail named Vice President of Asbury Theological Seminary's Florida Dunnam campus



President Timothy C. Tennent announces the appointment of Dr. Geneva Silvernail as Vice President for the Florida Dunnam campus of Asbury Theological Seminary.

Dr. Silvernail currently serves as the President of the Melanesia Nazarene Bible College in Papua New Guinea. Dr. Silvernail has given her life to theological education throughout the world, having held teaching and administrative posts in Guam, South Africa, United States, Trinidad, West Indies, Philippines and the Caribbean, including St. Croix, Santo Domingo and Dominican Republic.

Dr. Silvernail obtained a Ph.D. in Education from Trevecca Nazarene University in 2001, an M.A. in Administration from Olivet Nazarene University in 1975 and a B.S. in Science from Western Michigan University in 1968. She is an ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene in the Michigan District. Dr. Silvernail is the author and contributing writer of several publications.

President Tennent said, "I have not met anyone with more lived experience with theological education in the global Church than Geneva Silvernail. I believe that our transition to understanding how we can use our faculty, staff and resources to equip and train the global Church is one of the most important transitions of our generation. If the Florida Dunnam campus is the gateway to the world for Asbury Seminary, then I can think of no better gatekeeper for Asbury's portal than Dr. Geneva Silvernail. She is a gifted teacher, administrator, linguist and strategic thinker. She brings experience and wisdom along with a deep piety rooted in holiness spirituality."

Dr. Geneva Silvernail is a native of Tennessee and spent four years teaching in Florida. She will complete her work in Papua New Guinea in November and relocate to Florida in early December.

## Asbury Seminary staff member Clinton Graham receives software development award



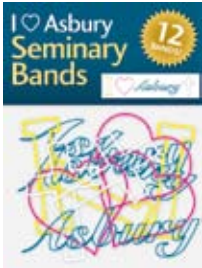
Clinton Graham, System Analyst Associate at Asbury Theological Seminary, was awarded first prize in the Enrollment category for his entry in the National Association of CX Users (NACU) annual software contest.

To promote innovation and collaboration among Jenzabar CX clients, the NACU software contest solicits customized programming from over 70 member institutions. The entries are categorized and judged based on usefulness to the community, completeness of the solution, and documentation of the code.

Graham's winning contribution was recognized at the Jenzabar Annual Meeting in June 2010.

# NEWS

## Asbury Seminary Silly Bands are here!



Here is your chance to get your hands on custom Asbury Seminary silly bands and support the Seminary at the same time! With every \$5 donation you make to the Wesley Fund (see page 15 for details), you will receive a pack of custom silly bands. Give them to your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews or even keep some for yourself!

To receive your Silly Bands, make check payable to Asbury Theological Seminary and include *Wesley Fund-SB* on the memo line. For more information, contact Amanda Stamper at 800.2ASBURY ext.2309. Please mail checks to: Asbury Theological Seminary Office of Advancement, 204 North Lexington Avenue, Wilmore, Kentucky 40390.

## Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements conducts second research consultation

The coordinating committee of the Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements, directed by Asbury Seminary faculty member Dr. Steve O'Malley, conducted its second research consultation, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, May 30–June 2, 2010.

It convened as a preconference unit of the Edinburgh 2010 Centenary Conference. The theme was "Exploring the Dialectic Between Revitalization and Church," and the consultation represented 40 participants from five continents.

## Dr. Steve Seamands teaches course on Spiritual Warfare at Moscow Evangelical Theological Seminary



Asbury Theological Seminary faculty member Dr. Steve Seamands taught a course consisting of 20 Russian students on Spiritual Warfare at Moscow Evangelical Theological Seminary, May 24–June 4, 2010.

Dr. Seamands was able to overcome the language barrier by working through a translator, Sergey Koryakin, a former student of his. Koryakin and his wife, Nina, also translated all PowerPoint slides into Russian, making the communication more effective.

Seamands said, "Whenever I have taught this course, it always seems to impact the personal and spiritual lives of students in a significant way, and this was no exception. Consequently, I found myself engaging in counseling and healing prayer times with a number of students following our class sessions. It was a joy to see the Lord working in their lives during these times, and of course, they enabled me to get to know the students on a much deeper level."

## Dr. Lester Ruth, Asbury Seminary faculty member, presenting at the Calvin Symposium on worship



Dr. Lester Ruth, Asbury Seminary faculty member, will be presenting at the Calvin Symposium on worship on January 27–29, 2011. The theme of the symposium is "Every time I remember you": The Letter to the Philippians.

Dr. Lester Ruth is the Lily May Jarvis Professor of Christian Worship. He began teaching at Asbury Theological Seminary in 2000. He received a B.B.A. from Stephen F. Austin State University, 1981; an M.Div. from Asbury Seminary, 1985; a Th.M. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, 1988; and an M.A. (1994) and a Ph.D. (1996) from the University of Notre Dame.

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship promotes the study of Christian worship and the renewal of worship in worshipping communities worldwide. Founded in 1997, the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) is an interdisciplinary study and ministry center and partners with congregations, organizations, and publishers to further their mission.

## Dr. James Thobaben appointed Dean of School of Theology and Formation



Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Leslie Andrews is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr.

James Thobaben as the next Dean of the School of Theology and Formation at Asbury Theological Seminary, effective July 1, 2010.

Dr. Thobaben has served on the Asbury Theology Seminary faculty for 15 years as professor of church and society in the fields of bioethics, social ethics, and sociology of religion. In addition to his faculty role, he serves as the co-pastor of a small rural church, is a part-time professor in the University of Kentucky College of Public Health, and operates a small farm. Previously, he worked as an institutional ethicist and as vice president of a physical rehabilitation facility. He holds degrees from Oberlin College, Yale University, and Emory University.

Dr. Andrews notes, "Dr. Thobaben is distinctly qualified to serve as the Dean of the School of Theology and Formation. His outstanding record of scholarly research coupled with his extensive administrative, teaching, and pastoral work position him well to provide strong leadership to the School of Theology and Formation faculty in their next season of ministry to Christ, students, and Asbury Seminary."

Dr. Thobaben's special research interests are disability issues (especially traumatic brain injury related), social benefit from and concern with genetically-modified organisms, fictional portrayals of bioethical issues, the interaction of church and society, and rural life.



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# This January, travel to the Holy Land for a life-changing journey

Join President Timothy C. Tennent on a fascinating pilgrimage through the Old and New Testaments! Ride a boat across the Sea of Galilee, walk where Jesus walked, and experience on-site worship, Biblical teaching, and historical explanations that will enrich your Christian faith!

**Holy Land Pilgrimage with Dr. and Mrs. Tennent, January 2-15, 2011**

This trip is limited to the first 40 passengers. To reserve your spot today, please contact Omega Travel at 800.363.0012 or email bev@omegatravelusa.com.



*Timothy C. Tennent*

“This holy pilgrimage promises to be inspirational, educational and transformative. I am looking forward to spending this time with you.”