

THE ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HERALD

Vol. 128 no. 2 Fall 2016



Faithfulness



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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to
The Asbury Herald, Asbury Theological
Seminary 204 N. Lexington Ave.
Wilmore, KY 40390-1199.

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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.

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Cover photo of Estes Chapel stained glass window on the Kentucky Campus, by Kyle Post.

FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS



If you ever have the opportunity to visit the Holy Land, you must make sure that you visit Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of the tiny first-century village, which Jesus used as His home base during His earthly ministry. You can actually walk along the narrow paths where Jesus once walked.

In 2011 I visited Capernaum and wondered what it must have been like for the Centurion to approach Jesus in this very town and ask Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant (Matt. 8:5-13). It was here in Capernaum that Jesus said of that Centurion, “I have not seen such faith in all of Israel.” The synagogue has been discovered and you can walk onto the very synagogue floor where Jesus would have attended worship.

However, the most dramatic spot in Capernaum is Peter’s mother-in-law’s home where Jesus once taught a very large crowd. Four friends brought their paralytic friend to Jesus and had to make a hole in the roof to let their friend down into the presence of Jesus (Mark 2:1-12). When Jesus looked up and saw these men who had brought their friend and even went so far as to carry him up on the roof and let him down, the text says that Jesus “saw their faith...” He saw their faith. We often think about faith as something unseen. Faith, for us, is something you believe in your heart. But the word *faith* (*pistis* in the Greek) occurs 243 times in the New Testament. Did you know that the word *faith* can be translated into English as either *faith* or *faithfulness*? Jesus saw their faithfulness as well as their faith. In other words, He not only sees what we believe in our hearts, but He sees how what we believe connects to our life and living. Faith and faithfulness are linked in Christianity.

This issue of the *Herald* is about the relationship between faith and faithfulness. We are men and women of faith. But

that faith causes us to act and embody holiness in many practical ways. One of my prayers for Asbury Seminary is that we will exhibit faithfulness. Indeed, faithfulness is the only true fruit of faith.

In Capernaum today a church has been built on steel girders above the ruins of the house where those four friends let their friend through the roof into the presence of Jesus. If you go into the church and walk into the sanctuary, there is a glass floor overlooking the very place where those men once made a hole in the roof. When you stand in the church, you are standing in the very place where those men once stood. This is our call today. You may never get to Capernaum, but I hope that you will stand, as those men did, in the place of faithfulness. It was their faith that caused them to carry their friend on a mat to the house. It was faith that was acting in the fingers of those men as they clawed their way through the mud and tiles to make a hole. It was faith that gently lowered their friend into the presence of Jesus. What a great reminder to us! May our faith always bear the wonderful fruit of faithfulness!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy C. Tennent".

Dr. Timothy C. Tennent
President, Professor of World Christianity



Peter's mother-in-law's home, Capernaum

Living in Light of the Faithfulness of God

BY: DR. CHRISTINE D. POHL

As followers of Jesus, our lives are built on the promises of God. We are people of the covenant, children of God's promises. The reliability of those promises is rooted in the very character of our God who is faithful and true. As a result, with Paul we can say boldly that, in Christ, "every one of God's promises is a 'Yes'" (2 Cor. 1:18-20*).

God asks from us a corresponding faithfulness or fidelity. David wrote in Psalm 25:10, “All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.” Jesus challenged the early church at Smyrna, a congregation facing affliction and slander, to “be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10b). Covenant faithfulness involves mutuality.

But “mutuality” in faithfulness between human beings and God is complex and unequal. We are not always faithful, and we do not always keep our promises. Nevertheless, by the grace and sacrifice of Christ, God has kept our side of the promise as well. In Christ, God’s deepest faithfulness has already been made known. Thus, we can live faithfully—if often also incompletely—in response to God’s faithfulness, through the good and the difficult, through the beauty and the ashes. Only if we understand the bigger picture of God’s unfailing faithfulness and its cost can we begin to understand why our faithfulness matters and how we can possibly hope to be found faithful.

So what does it mean for us as the people of God to be faithful? First, it means that when we walk through dark places where the faithfulness of God is hard to see, we bring to mind Jesus’ faithfulness as he walked through difficult times. We remember God’s promises and goodness, and trust the Lord for the bigger picture. With Jeremiah, a prophet who understood deep disappointment and heart-wrenching despair, we can proclaim, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22-23).

Second, living in response to God’s faithfulness means that we will seek to do God’s work in God’s way. The character and practices of God will shape our efforts to minister in the world. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Paul wrote that “servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries” must be found “trustworthy, faithful,” or true. Among other things, this reminds us that how we accomplish our work for the Kingdom matters.

Third, we can turn fidelity into a form of “works-righteousness” that is dependent on our own grit and determination to keep our promises and to come through on our commitments. Our capacity for faithfulness, however, is always dependent on the grace of God; we can never be truly faithful in our own strength.

Fourth, it is possible, as one friend put it, to allow “mediocrity to masquerade as faithfulness.” When our efforts are little more than treading water or marking time, we can sometimes use the notion of “being faithful” as an excuse or cover for sloth and laziness. Repeating the same unproductive or misguided

behaviors for years because we are weary or wary of change is not the same as faithfulness.

Fifth, both Amy Carmichael and Mother Teresa observed that “God has not called us to success but faithfulness.” While we frequently repeat and depend on that insight, we might also need to remember that sometimes success is easier than faithfulness. When we continually look for quick victories and flashy successes, we may be overlooking the importance of grace-filled patience, steady obedience and sacrificial love.

And finally, being faithful does not guarantee that we will be spared the heartache of betrayal. Even when we keep our promises and commitments, we can still be hurt by the infidelity of others. In human relationships, there is no guarantee that faithfulness will result in faithfulness.

In Jesus’ faithful journey to the cross, he experienced the betrayal of friends and fans, as well as the betrayal of those with political and religious authority. He bore those betrayals on the cross. His resurrection stands as a life-giving, disappointment-bearing promise for each of us when we face difficulties and discouragement. May our response to his grace-filled faithfulness be deep gratitude, faithful service and steadfast love.

**Scripture quotations from NRSV*



Dr. Christine Pohl is the Associate Provost and Professor of Church in Society. She has taught at Asbury Theological Seminary since 1989. Dr. Pohl worked in various ministries for 11 years before attending seminary. She owned a Christian bookstore for six years and later worked in advocacy and refugee resettlement. She currently serves as an occasional advisor for homeless shelters and refugee programs. She has also helped plant four churches and has authored several books including “Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition” and “Living into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us.”

Building a Faithful Community



From left to right: Dr. Timothy C. Tennent, Mrs. Janet Kalas, Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Mrs. Carol Latimer, Mr. Bill Latimer

Bill and Carol Latimer had no connections to Asbury Theological Seminary until eight years ago when their lives crossed paths with Asbury Seminary alumnus Art McClellan.

At the time, Art was senior pastor of First UMC of Sarasota, which the Latimers attended three months of the year.

The Latimers developed a friendship with Art and his wife, Faith. Despite the Latimers' short stay in Florida, they sought to help wherever they saw a need.

As a successful businessman, Bill draws inspiration from a favorite John Wesley quotation: "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

One night at dinner, the Latimers asked the McClellans to talk about God's call on their lives for ministry. That conversation planted the seeds that eventually grew into plans for Kalas Village, a new family housing complex at Asbury Seminary.

"Being led by God to the pastoral ministry, we chose Asbury because we wanted a seminary experience that would best prepare me to be a pastor and our family for the life of ministry," Art,

who completed his master of divinity degree in 2000, said. "In Asbury, God led well."

When McClellan was enrolled at the Seminary, approximately 70 percent of his peers were second-career students, many with spouses and children. The McClellans relocated to Wilmore with three young children and few housing options.

"While we found the extended campus life community very nurturing to our family, we did not easily find housing for our family," Art said. "Campus housing for families with children was exceedingly limited and off-campus housing caused us to recalculate the affordability of attending seminary."

During the dinner conversation, Bill asked Art: "What would you do if you could help the seminary financially?"

"I reiterated the limitations of campus family housing and the fact that while we were blessed with generous financial support, many seminarians begin their ministry careers with great financial debt," Art said. "I said I would build homes for families and seek to underwrite financial needs scholarships."

Later, Art invited the Latimers to visit Asbury, which they did for the first time in June 2007.

“I attended a Thursday morning chapel and was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the students,” Bill said. “Asbury is a very Biblically-based seminary that is doing a good job of teaching its students.”

The Latimers also attended a President’s Retreat and their interest in helping the Seminary began to grow. The Latimers proposed a matching grant for a new housing development.

As a result of the Latimers’ generosity and faithfulness to God’s mission, Kalas Village, a new family-housing complex, was built in 2011. These residences allow Asbury Seminary families to live and learn alongside international neighbors in a multi-cultural community.

Kalas Village is a pedestrian-friendly, sustainable community, featuring low-maintenance, high-quality and highly efficient construction on 32 acres, immediately to the north of the main campus. The development provides 150 living units, consisting of row houses and townhouses.

“I believe God introduced Asbury to Bill and Carol through our crossed paths and my willingness to share my story,” Art said. “I encouraged them to be introduced and enlightened to the rest of the Asbury story with a campus visit. The staff and the faculty of the Seminary took over from that point and the amazing story continues.”

Generosity is a cornerstone of the Latimers’ lives. The Bill and Carol Latimer Charitable Foundation impacts thousands of people through its efforts. The foundation was the major contributor to a 32,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art library in Union City. They offer financial assistance to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Their College Opportunity Fund provides no-interest loans to hundreds of students.



Art McClellan is currently the Lead Pastor at Ortega UMC. He thrives on connecting others with Jesus, His love and His mission. He also enjoys cooking, bike-riding, exploring hidden treasures in the community, making new friendships and celebrating the gifts of God’s grace, love and life with family, friends and neighbors.

By Melissa Nipper, originally published in the Fall 2008 Herald. Updated with current information for this issue.



Kalas Village



Kalas Village



Bob and Ellen Stamps Community House Dedication

A Conversation with Ken & Barbara Larson: *Saying Yes to God*

Asbury Theological Seminary dedicated an Ashkenazi Torah scroll donated by Ken and Barbara Larson on September 6, 2016, in McKenna Chapel. Counting Asbury Seminary's scroll, the Larsons have gifted 27 Torah Scrolls to seminaries around the world.

The Ashkenazi Torah originated from the central-eastern European regions and survived the Holocaust. This Torah scroll is 17 inches tall and 10 inches in diameter. Fully unrolled, it stretches approximately 100 feet.

The Larsons graciously answered questions regarding the beginning of their ministry and the ways they've seen God's faithfulness abound through a simple yes.

A 50th anniversary is traditionally called the golden anniversary. What prompted you to mark the celebration of your 50th by beginning the tradition of donating Torah scrolls to colleges and universities?

We were invited to attend a premiere showing of the film featuring Josh McDowell and his life story, which is called *Undaunted*. During that, he outlined what his ministry was going to be doing over the next 60-90 days. He described how he was going to be in South America speaking more than once every day and was asking people to pray for him. Then he said that he was going to spend a week in Tajikistan showing the film that had just premiered. He said he would need a couple to go with him to help and asked the audience to pray about it.

We looked at each other and said without words, "Maybe it's us." We volunteered. We were to go in September and in August, they called us and said the trip was cancelled because the translation hadn't happened. Josh invited us to South Korea with him in June of 2013 instead.

During the trip to South Korea, Josh told us that he had recently purchased an old Polish Torah with the help of Dr. Scott Carroll. He said that this Torah is the most impactful tool he's had in more than 50 years of ministry.

This all melded together for our 50th wedding anniversary. We had decided that we were going to take our kids and grandkids to Israel because we love Israel, we've talked to them about Israel, and we wanted them to experience it. Our goal was to go to Israel with all of them, and we did not want to give ourselves a gift. We also took the president of



Bethel Seminary and, since we didn't want to give a gift to ourselves, we decided to give a Torah to Bethel Seminary.

That's the genesis of it!

Bethel did an event in March of 2014, and Dr. Carroll came to that. After the presentation, Dr. Carroll was explaining how to take care of the Torah, and we asked the Hebrew professors who were standing there if they'd ever read from a Torah. Surprisingly, they said no. We asked Dr. Carroll how many seminaries have a Torah in the U.S. He couldn't think of one.

I asked, "Why?" He didn't know. My wife and I looked at each other again and knew what the other was thinking. We ended up buying a collection of Torahs. Since March of 2014, this will be the 27th Torah that we've gifted.

What does attempting something big for God mean to you?

We said yes to God in going to Tajikistan, and we never got there. That wasn't the whole purpose of God's plan. The plan was that we were going to give Torahs. It was so much bigger than just taking a trip to Tajikistan. We feel that that initial yes has led to so many different opportunities and yeses along the way that weren't in the original plan, but God just keeps opening up doors to us.

Why did you select Asbury Seminary to receive this gift?

We want to give Torahs to schools who have a very high view of Scripture. Inerrancy is important to us and accuracy is important. The view of Scripture needs to be at a high level. That's as basic a requirement as we have.

WITH
ASBURY SEMINARY
ALUMS

JOHN & KATHERYN HEINZ



The Psalmist says: “O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day!” (Ps. 119:97) What is the significance of the Torah to the Christian faith?

It’s at the core of Jewish life. It’s at the roots of our faith. The first reference to Christ or a messianic being is in Genesis 3:15 when God promises to bring a Messiah. Our foundation of law and order and the 10 commandments, all of that is based in the Torah. The plan of redemption, the future of Israel, how God selected this group of people to end up in Egypt where they could grow to several million and bring them back to the land that he had promised-is all centered in the Torah.

The Torah is the centerpiece of Jewish history, but it has also been meticulously preserved over the years. If one little jot or tittle falls off, the Torah can’t be used for worship. They are constantly making sure that every word is correct. When they copy it, they go over it and look for errors and correct them. It’s an amazing piece of history that has been preserved. If you look at the Dead Sea Scrolls, the fragments are exactly the same writings as what your Torah will have. God has preserved His word.

What have you learned from God’s faithfulness in your journey?

We had a prayer meeting at our home about six years ago. Ken and I have always had ministry. He’s had his with boards, leadership and Bible studies, and I’ve taught Bible studies for 40 or 50 years now and mentored women. Our ministries have not melded. The specific prayer that evening over us was that we would have ministry together in these latter years. God just opened the door through these Torahs. Now, we are traveling all over the world gifting Torahs and speaking and doing interviews like this together. We’re actually figuring out how to work and speak together. All that has been because of the faithfulness to the one yes that we gave.



John and Katheryn founded Centerform to answer the question: “If the Good News really is the Good News, what does it look like in the real world?” Centerform is a networking community of Christians, non-Christians, entrepreneurs and leaders that leverages the changes in society, such as gentrification, immigration and addiction, to promote the welfare of the city.

After moving to Atlanta with The Mission Society in 2013, they worked, prayed and researched for two years before opening Centerform. To do that, they needed an attractive space to host events and entrepreneurial ventures. With little money and no leads on rental spaces, they wondered if they were being faithful to God’s call or just crazy.

In desperation, Katheryn began researching buildings within the downtown area. On their first visit to the M. Rich Center for Creative Arts, Media, and Technology they met Linda, who founded Alaydi’s Café. Linda listened to their story, prayed and called the building’s leasing agent. He showed them a space that was everything they’d dreamed, but was already in a lease negotiation with another tenant.

However, the woman who had re-designed the M. Rich Building had stipulated that the building be used for Kingdom purposes. John and Katheryn were invited to make an offer. Katheryn sent a Hail Mary email to past supporters explaining the opportunity and the need. Ironically, one of the foundations had received an email from their accountant the same day stating that they needed to donate the exact amount of money John and Katheryn needed before year’s end.

For John and Katheryn, the work of Centerform tests their theology and seminary education in the real world. Yet, as they live out their faith, they see the power of the Gospel redeem their lives and their city.

ASBURY SEMINARY **voices**

Visit asbury.to/voices to see more of John and Katheryn’s story.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. ANGEL SANTIAGO-VENDRELL

Professor of Church History and Theology

Angel Santiago-Vendrell teaches students to love with their lives, not just their words. Growing up in a Puerto Rican ghetto, Dr. Santiago-Vendrell has a heart for those struggling with addictions and reconciling others to Christ and each other. As Associate Professor of Evangelism at Asbury Seminary, he acquaints students with the need, equipping them to love, understand and engage those often unnoticed and considered unlovable.

“It’s an issue of love,” Dr. Santiago-Vendrell said. “If you cannot love other people, there is no hope. We must love those often seen as unlovable, or Christianity is just another religion. We accept people as they are with the hope and knowledge that God can intervene.”

Dr. Santiago-Vendrell teaches Introduction to Mission Studies, Introduction to Evangelism, and World Religions on the Florida Dunnam Campus. Through these classes, he gently challenges his students’ pre-suppositions through questions, assigned readings and thoughtful conversations.

“God is so big, we really cannot limit Him to Western theology,” he said. “We must study other contexts and see how we complement each other, especially if we are going to serve in those contexts.”

Living in Orlando, Dr. Santiago-Vendrell is surrounded by diversity of cultures, religions, doctrines and ethnicities. He seeks to take the “ism” out of the conversation, and helps his students see the people within those groups. For example, his students have learned about Buddhism from a Buddhist nun and engaged with the Muslim community to learn what it means to be a Muslim in America.

“These experiences are transformational in many ways,” Dr. Santiago-Vendrell said. “Students let their guard down and instead of approaching these topics as a subject, they approach

“I try to re-focus how the Gospel can be re-incarnated in many different places. It’s important to have a broader picture of theology than just your culture.”

them as human beings. They come to understand that it’s not Buddhism. It’s Buddhist people.”

Through these interactions, students learn to see people as people, rather than an object of evangelization. They learn to faithfully present their beliefs in attractive, non-threatening, but challenging ways to those from other religions.

In the beginning, students are often hesitant to engage with those completely other. One student was afraid that learning about other faiths and traditions would undermine his own beliefs. However, he found just the opposite. As he read, researched and engaged those from other religions, his own faith became clearer and more significant to him.

“I try to re-focus how the Gospel can be re-incarnated in many different places,” Dr. Santiago-Vendrell said. “It’s important to have a broader picture of theology than just your culture. Then, it’s not narrow.”

Dr. Santiago-Vendrell is the Associate Professor of Evangelism at Asbury Seminary’s Florida Dunnam Campus. Dr. Santiago-Vendrell is passionate about helping those struggling with addictions and volunteers at Teen Challenge in Orlando. He has served as a pastor for 12 years in Puerto Rico and New England. He has also authored many books and articles. Currently, he is working on his second book, “Walking in the Spirit: Towards a Latino/a Missiology of Social and Religious Engagement in North America.”



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. STEPHEN A. SEAMANDS

Professor of Christian Doctrine

“I find my joy, not in what I do in my ministry or in anything else good, but in Him.”

In Ephesians 4, Paul commands us to equip or prepare the saints for the work of ministry. However, *equip* also means *to mend*. With the heart of a pastor, Dr. Steve Seamands equips students for ministry using healing prayer and a heart for worship.

“A lot of mending needs to happen in people’s lives, and I really believe this is one of the main reasons why God brings students to Asbury Seminary,” Dr. Seamands, Professor of Christian Doctrine, said. “They need to learn how to preach from a sound theological foundation, exegete Greek, and gain leadership and preaching skills, but they also need mending from the brokenness in their own lives.”

Both in and outside of class, Dr. Seamands helps students put on the whole armor of God. Each piece indicates the process or action needed in order to wear it. For example, to wear the belt of truth, you must confront areas of denial. To don the shoes of peace, you must face the anxieties that rob you of peace.

Although prayer isn’t listed as part of the armor, for Dr. Seamands, prayer undergirds his entire ministry. Each morning, he begins his day with prayer and Bible reading.

Dr. Seamands challenges students to find a routine that works to connect with God each day. He believes that since most of us figure out a way to eat three meals and take a bath every day, both he and his students can connect with God in meaningful ways daily.

“My ministry flows out of my intimacy with Jesus,” he said. “That’s the

key to fruitfulness in ministry. Jesus said if you abide in me, I’ll abide in you. If He abides in me, that overflows into ministry.”

Before Dr. Seamands could help others heal from painful events in their past, he had to confront his own grief. He grew up in India, the son of missionary parents, and attended school at a missionary boarding school. The time away from his parents, although not traumatic, was filled with great loneliness. Early in his teaching career, he brought that pain to the feet of Jesus.

“I got connected to that pain of isolation from my parents in my early years as a professor,” Dr. Seamands said. “I got set free from that, and as a result it set me free to connect to the pain of other people.”

As a reminder of the freedom and healing he experienced in Christ, he keeps a sketch of a boathouse from the boarding school’s campus on the wall in his office. This image marks God’s faithful hope in his own life, as he shares that message with others.

Dr. Seamands pastored for 11 years while he earned a master of theology degree from Princeton and a doctor of philosophy degree from Drew University. Throughout his ministry, he’s sought to live his life according to Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (NKJV).

“God has been faithful as I’ve sought to live my life according to that verse,” Dr. Seamands said. “I find my joy, not in what I do in my ministry or in anything else good, but in Him. He’s the real delight and all other things become more delightful, too.”

Dr. Seamands has taught at Asbury Seminary 34 years. In 2006, he received the Excellence in Teaching and Learning award. Before coming to Asbury Seminary, Dr. Seamands pastored United Methodist churches in New Jersey for 11 years. He also pastored Hebron United Methodist Church in Kentucky from 1984 to 1986 and is an ordained elder in the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is passionate about theological and spiritual renewal for pastors and Christian leaders.

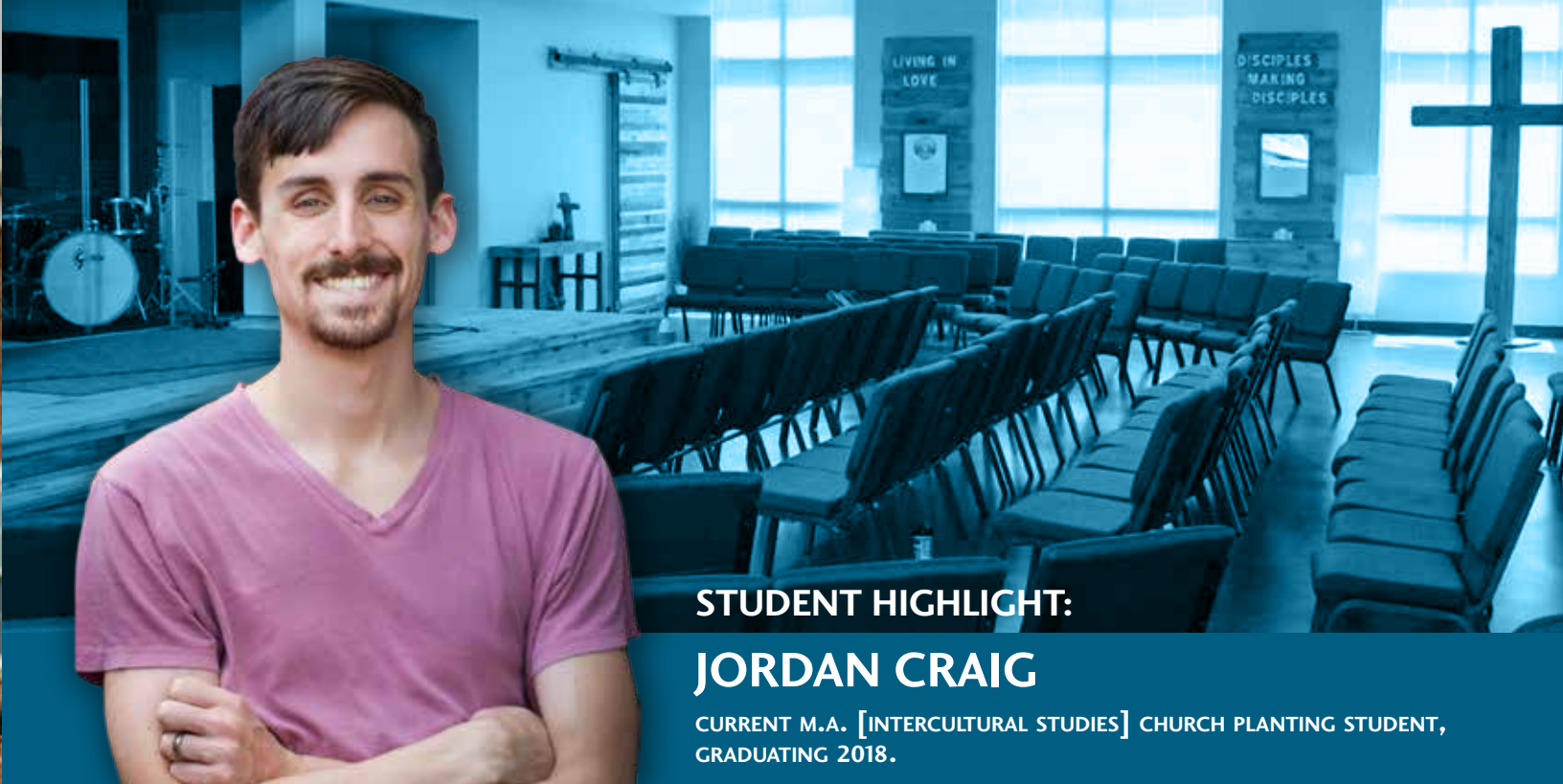
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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT:

JORDAN CRAIG

CURRENT M.A. [INTERCULTURAL STUDIES] CHURCH PLANTING STUDENT, GRADUATING 2018.

Not only does the heart of River City Church beat for the community, but its location on a roundabout in the middle of Atlanta Road positions it in the city center. While the road divides Smyrna, Ga., based on socioeconomic status and ethnicity, River City Church bridges those gaps, welcoming all.

“All streets converge right where we are,” Jordan Craig, Connections Pastor at River City Church, said. “We’re set up for diversity.”

Jordan first experienced his call to ministry and church planting as a teen. A few years later, he and his wife realized the time to plant was now. They partnered with several other pastors to plant River City Church as a team.

The church started with about 40 people and has now grown to 150-160 each Sunday. From the beginning, the church focused on organic growth from the inside out.

“We want to grow through engagement and mission,” Jordan said. “We are asking God what are the ways to do that and allowing him to lead us.”

Last year, the church started an outreach for those who play under the Friday night lights. Five chaplains engaged with the Campbell High Spartans each Thursday night with dinner and a devotional. About 15-20 young men showed up on a regular basis. Many came to know Jesus.

At the end of the season, the church took them on a retreat and created a small group just for the football team. They not only receive biblical training, but also learn life skills.

“What warms my heart more than anything is when we reach marginalized people,” Jordan said. “Our engagement with the community is important to me.”

As the connections pastor, Jordan leads a variety of church events to build relationships through genuine hospitality, friendship and discipleship. Their goal is not only to connect with visitors, but also to love those within the church who may still feel lonely.

“I lead a team of people that focuses on the physical needs of the poor, needy and marginalized,” Jordan said. “Whether they’re financially in need

or homeless, we discuss those needs, pray for a direction to meet those needs, and then put action behind those prayers.”

Jordan balances his role in the church with his studies via Asbury Seminary’s distance learning program. As a lifelong learner, he wanted to engage in a learning community and build lasting relationships, but stay on mission with River City Church.

“I never wanted seminary to pull me out of my context to teach me and then throw me back,” Jordan said. “Asbury Seminary’s program allows me to learn while I’m doing ministry and that makes a world of difference.”

Learning and practicing simultaneously creates a harmony that allows Jordan to implement and preach what he’s learning immediately. In the degree’s cohort model, Jordan studies alongside 17 others online and during on-campus intensives over the course of three years.

Jordan is pursuing a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies with a church planting specialization. Because of the Seminary’s Advanced Standing program, Jordan earned 12 hours toward his master’s degree while completing his undergraduate degree in Bible at Liberty University. Jordan expects to graduate in 2018 and is open to the Lord’s leading for the future.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:

LISA AUSLEY

Deacon in Residence,
Crosspoint, South Crestview Campus

M.A. RELIGION (1980)
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



ATTEMPT
SOMETHING
BIG

Lisa Ausley thought God had picked her to be put on a shelf for Him. However, looking back over her life, she realized God was using, nurturing and teaching her to serve Him, even when she didn't realize it. She's homeschooled her three children, works on a church staff, serves on the One Mission Society (OMS) Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, and has mentored more than 40 missionaries.

"I would call my life a follow-your-nose-ministry," Lisa said. "Whatever God put in front of me, I did it. If that meant being put on a shelf, I struggled with that, but submitted. When you don't care if anyone notices, or if anyone ever applauds and you just want to serve Him, wow! He will bring opportunity after opportunity."

Lisa was the first person to be appointed to the permanent order of Deacon in the United Methodist Church, has participated in many mission trips, both short and long term, and co-authored *Life Changing Bible Study* with her brother, Matt Friedeman. However, Lisa says her calling stems from her whole-hearted yes to Jesus at 14.

"I didn't know what calling meant, but I became more and more passionate about missions," Lisa said. "I wanted to become a career missionary, but more than anything, I just wanted to serve God."

After graduating from Asbury College, Lisa spent a year teaching in Costa Rica before attending Asbury Seminary. Lisa admits that she loved the mission field so much that she didn't want to return for school. Yet, she obeyed. There, God refined her calling to love others.

While at the Seminary, she fasted and prayed for a week to discern God's call upon her life. At the end of the week, the Lord appeared to her in a dream. Together, they traveled around the world, walking into various, desperate situations. Lisa noticed that He didn't fix everything, but He always loved people.

"Every time He did that, He'd look at me and say, 'Lisa, love my people,'" she said.

The dream solidified her call, even if she didn't know all the details.

While at Asbury Seminary, Lisa met her husband Ruel. He encouraged her leadership abilities with this phrase: "You just have to be one step ahead of somebody to lead them."

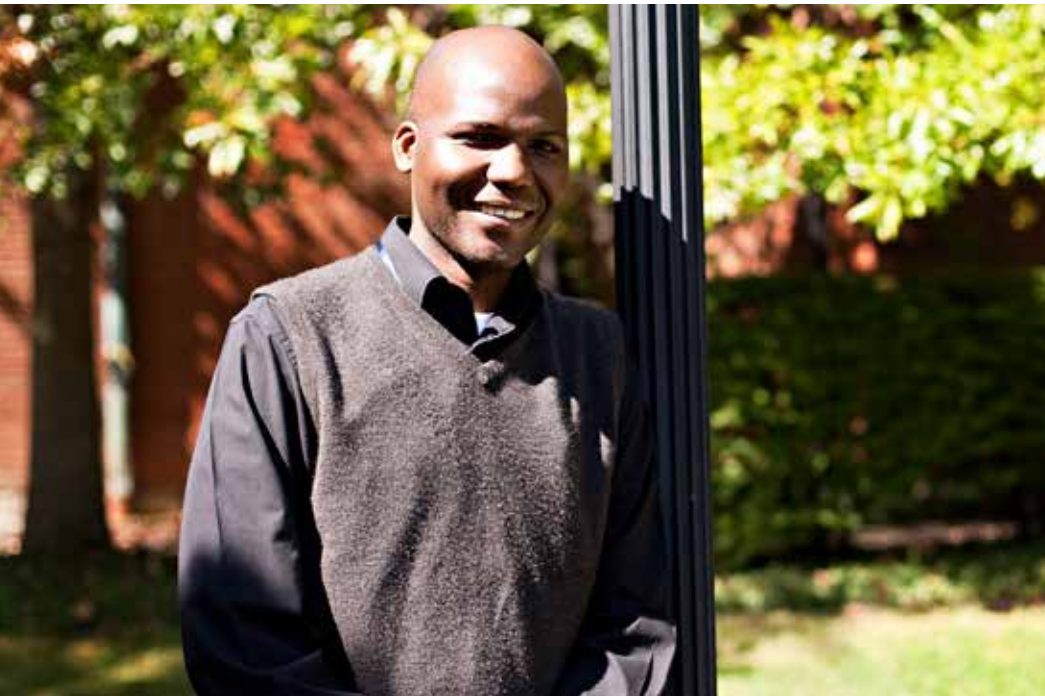
This simple sentence has guided Lisa throughout her life as a leader. She started a Bible study in seminary and has continued to serve alongside her husband in each of their church appointments.

"It's so easy to be intimidated by the task God gives to us rather than become a leader with vision," she said.

She and her husband serve at Crosspoint United Methodist Church, Niceville, Fla. Currently, they have three campuses, but plan to launch a fourth within the year. Ruel is lead pastor, and she is the Deacon in Residence, now serving at the Crosspoint, South Crestview Campus.

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visit asbury.to/voices
to see more of Lisa's story



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: ANDERSON MOYO

Senior pastor, Sheffield Community Church in the United Kingdom.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (2014)
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Anderson Moyo follows in the footsteps of William Carey, often called the father of modern missions. As senior pastor of Sheffield Community Church in the United Kingdom, Anderson re-introduces discipleship, leadership development and mission into the life and culture of the church, rather than simply creating another program.

“Whilst the church must be applauded for doing many good things under very pessimistic conditions particularly in the Western hemisphere where Christianity is declining, it is imperative that re-missioning takes place now to turn the tide and get the church back to what it is for – making disciples and not merely converts!” Anderson said.

He currently provides apostolic oversight for Faith Ministries in the United Kingdom, which is a family of churches joined together by their DNA of discipleship, gospel centeredness, servant leadership and diversity. This network uses the LIFE Track Discipleship Model as a way to help new Christians become established in their faith and learn to evangelize others.

Anderson refined the LIFE Discipleship process as part of his Doctor of Ministry project at Asbury Theological Seminary. The discipleship track is made up of four parts and each is progressively tiered as one grows in faith with “spiritual checks” at every level.

The first track forms the spiritual foundation of salvation and forgiveness. The second distinguishes between disciple and convert and develops the core spiritual habits of prayer, evangelism and Bible reading. The third track explores each person’s God-given gifts in preparation for ministry. And the fourth track emphasizes how each is to be a transformation agent in God’s mission.

“The ethos and foundational DNA of the LIFE Track Disciple-

ship process is to make disciples that make disciples,” Anderson said. “We celebrate fruitfulness in mission and place a high premium on not only being discipled, but becoming a disciple maker.”

Anderson has witnessed many who have been far from God, but through witnessing and relationships, they became disciple-making disciples. One day a young man visited Anderson’s office. Frustrated and at wits-end corner, he sought Anderson because Anderson had helped one of the man’s friends. Over time, Anderson led that man to Jesus. Six years later, he completed the discipleship program and is leading others to the same transformation he found.

“Indeed, God is in the life transforming business,” Anderson said. “We just need to join Him in His mission and the results will astound us.”

Originally from Zimbabwe, Anderson has a heart for the people of Africa. The LIFE Track Discipleship Process has been introduced, applied and contextualized to the African context in order to equip the global church. Anderson seeks to influence the African Diaspora, so that they in turn can affect the rest of the world.

“We hope to train not only Africans, but emerging leaders from across the world as our denomination expands to new frontiers beyond the Western hemisphere,” he said. “This is where the idea of partnerships with those that have gone ahead of us is essential in creating a ‘global learning space’ for the sake of God’s mission.”

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visit asbury.to/voices
to see more of Anderson’s story

Certainty in an uncertain world.

Today more than ever, people need reliability, certainty, and accountability when planning for their financial future. We are all looking for ways to invest that are stable, solid, and firm. For many of us, it means a return to classic financial values and enduring ideals. One of these values is the **charitable gift annuity (CGA)**.*

*A CGA is a simple agreement between you and Asbury Theological Seminary, where you agree to donate a sum of money to the Seminary. In return, we agree to pay you a fixed dollar amount every year for as long as you live.

To learn more about charitable gift annuities
visit asbury.to/leavealegacy.

leavealegacy@asburyseminary.edu | 859.858.2305

IRA Rollover

If you are 70½ or older you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals while helping Asbury Seminary. Some benefits of an IRA rollover:

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of the Kingdom

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

This article from November 1967 reminds us to be thankful for God's faithfulness as creator, savior and provider.

First, I Thank My God...

By J.C. McPheeters
Former president, Asbury Theological Seminary
(1942-1962)



The spirit of Thanksgiving was constantly in evidence in the life of the Apostle Paul and in all of his epistles. We find a characteristic expression of this spirit in Romans 1:8 where he says, "First, I thank my God..."

The sin of ingratitude highly dishonors God. Paul lists it in his catalog of the sins of the pagan world, enumerated in the first chapter of Romans.

Thus we read, "...because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful..." (Romans 1:21).

Thanksgiving is the recognition of God, with deep gratitude and wholesome praise, as the sovereign creator and ruler of the universe, and as one with such infinite love that He gave His only begotten son that men might be saved from the death of sin. The sin of ingratitude bypasses God. Life is lived very much as though God did not exist. Anything can happen in a life that is lived without gratitude to God, for ingratitude conditions the human heart as the host for sin.

Spiritual Therapy

Thanksgiving is a spiritual therapy of the first magnitude. Paul had in mind that the therapy of thanksgiving is effective under all the conditions and circumstances of life, when he said: "In everything give thanks" (I Thess. 5:18). The Christian has cause for thanksgiving even amid life's severe reverses and disappointments. He has the assurance of God's presence while handling the thorn of life. It was this that turned the inner dungeon of the Philippian jail into the scene of a song and praise service. Thanksgiving makes rifts in the storm clouds through which the heavenly sunlight floods the soul.

Thanksgiving will intercept the devil's nuclear bombs of doubt and discouragement and explode them before they ever

reach us. However, when Satan's weapons do get through to the child of God, a thankful, singing heart produces an unfavorable atmosphere for the devil to operate in.

Thanksgiving exalts God above the egocentricity that may dominate our lives. Thanksgiving is a formidable weapon for the banishment of fear, for the development of courage, and for turning defeat into victory. Thanksgiving is a fortification against pessimism, super-sensitiveness and suicide. No suicide ever wrote out the 103rd Psalm of praise and gratitude and left it behind as his testimony and as a reason for committing suicide. The virtue of thanksgiving is not in ceremony or ritual, but in rendering praise and glory to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, unto whom we are indebted for all the material and spiritual benefits which we enjoy.

National Thanksgiving

The Psalmist said: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). Thanksgiving is the recognition of God as the sovereign ruler over the ultimate destiny of nations, both in the administration of the bounty of His blessings and His judgments against sin.

America has a rich heritage as a background for her national day of thanksgiving. It represents an expression of the gratitude of our forefathers for the benefits of the overruling providence of God in their lives. Hence, the day should be more than an historical symbol for us. It should be a living reality in expressions of praise and thanksgiving, as it was for the pilgrim fathers.

As a nation we have been blessed with material resources beyond any other nation in history. Yet, with all of these blessings, we have sinned grievously against God with our trespasses against His holy commandments. Our blessings should humble us with gratitude to God rather than elevate us with pride. Along with our thanksgiving there should be repentance and a turning from our wicked ways.





ASBURY SEMINARY

Foundation

FAITHFULLY SERVING GENERATIONS.

What is the purpose of the Asbury Foundation?

The purpose of the Asbury Foundation, created in 1988, is to raise awareness with our alumni and donors about current tax and estate planning strategies that assist individuals in planning well for their children and grandchildren, while supporting the mission of Asbury Seminary.

Estate planning really is a final act of stewardship. Most people don't realize that it's not a zero sum game, thinking that if I take from my family and give to ministry, my family loses and vice versa. The reality is that tax laws and strategies have been created to allow people to do both.

Our culture seeks reliability, security and accountability when planning for the future. How will my gift be used to benefit those who come after me?

Asbury Seminary views every gift, whether current or deferred as a sacred trust. We take that very seriously and have carefully invested donor gifts for almost 100 years with the highest integrity.

Our donors worked hard for the resources with which God has blessed them. We covenant to ensure that their gifts are stewarded wisely and invested for greatest Kingdom impact. Our donors must account to God for the ways they invested His resources. We must do the same, both to them and to God!

How can I help my family understand why I want to leave my legacy with an institution?

This is a little different take, but it's not as much about creating a "legacy for you," but a final testimony that reflects the values important to you during your life. It's really our donors saying this isn't about me. This is about using my final act of stewardship to signal to my family and those closest to me that this institution with its mission, vision and values is important to me.

What giving options are available?

We offer many giving options to best assist our alumni and donors in their financial and estate planning. The first step in the giving process is

a conversation. Our goal is to help you create a unique plan to achieve your financial goals that blesses your family and ministry.

Many friends take the simplest step and include the Seminary in their estate planning through specific language in their estate documents.

Donors may also enter a Life Income Agreement. With this plan, you give the Seminary a certain amount of cash or property. In return, we supply you with a monthly fixed income until no longer needed. At the time of your death, whatever is left from that donation goes to Asbury Seminary.

I'm ready to talk with someone to learn more about giving. How do I set up an appointment?

Contact the Office of Advancement by email at advancement@asburyseminary.edu or call **859.858.2305** or **800.227.2879 ext. 2305** and ask for Tammy Hogan, Executive Director of Development.

You may also visit our website asburyseminary.edu/give to learn more.

How do you know if you've made a good estate plan?

Your final testimony and act of stewardship is also a final act of love to help your family navigate your passing more easily.

Estate planning is a difficult conversation to have. It's the most financially intimate conversation you'll ever have because you're talking about who gets what after you die and that is a big deal. People don't realize the emotional attachment that their children or grandchildren have to certain things. One way to know you've had a good estate plan is if three years after your death, the family is still getting together for family reunions, just as if you were there.

Faculty Publications

ASBURY SEMINARY HAS A WORLD-RENOWNED FACULTY. FIND THEIR PICTURES, BIOS, AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AT ASBURY.TO/FACULTY.

BOOKS

Arnold, Bill. *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*, edited with Brent A. Strawn. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

Bevins, Winfield. *A Sower's Guide to Church Planting*. Seedbed Publishing, 2016.

Keener, Craig. *Spirit Hermeneutics: Reading Scripture in Light of Pentecost*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. (Dedicated to SBI colleagues).

Keener, Craig. *The Mind of the Spirit: Paul's Approach to Transformed Thinking*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Long, Fred. Co-edited with Isaiah Allen, *In their Own Words: The Greek New Testament for Pastors and Teachers* (Mark, Romans, and 1 John). Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2015.

Offutt, Stephen, F. David Bronkema, Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, Robb Davis, and Gregg Okesson. *Advocating for Justice: An Evangelical Vision for Transforming Systems and Structures*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

Okello, Joseph B. Onyango. *History and Critique of Methodological Naturalism: The Philosophical Case for God's Design of Nature*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2016.

Okello, Joseph B. Onyango. *Wilderness Moments: And How To Overcome Them*. CreateSpace, 2016.

Peterson, Michael and Michael Ruse. *Science, Evolution, and Religion: A Debate about Atheism and Theism*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

CHAPTERS OR ARTICLES IN BOOK

Arnold, Bill. "Wordplay on 'Hammurapi' in CH iv 54," *NABU: Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2016/2 (June), 72.

Bounds, Christopher. "A Theology of Leadership for Wesleyans." In *Leadership the Wesleyan Way. An Anthology for Forming Leaders in Wesleyan Thought and Practice*, edited by Aaron Perry and Bryan Easley, 57-69. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2016.

Gray, Richard. "Leading in an Urban Context." In *Leadership the Wesleyan Way. An Anthology for Forming Leaders in Wesleyan Thought and Practice*, edited by Aaron Perry and Bryan Easley, 341-353. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2016.

Gutenson, Charles. "A Wesleyan Critique of Political Leadership." In *Leadership the Wesleyan Way. An Anthology for Forming Leaders in Wesleyan Thought and Practice*, edited by Aaron Perry and Bryan Easley, 217-224. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2016.

LaGrone, Jessica. "Lenten Series: God on the Move." Pages 192-203, "Easter Series: Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God." Pages 204-215. *A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series, Thematic Plans for Years A, B, and C*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.

Moon, Jay. "Orality in America – When Literates Stop Reading," in *Orality in America*. Mark Snowden & Jerry Wiles, eds. Mission American Coalition, 2016.

Offutt, Stephen & Grant Miller. "Transnationalism." In *Handbook of Religion and Social Institutions*. Second Edition. Edited by David Yamane, 525-546. New York & Switzerland: Springer Publishing Company, 2016.

Pachauu, Lalsangkima. "'Assistants' or 'Leaders'? The Contributions of Early Christian Converts in North-East India." In *Christianity in Indian History: Issues of Culture, Power and Knowledge*. Edited by Pius Malekandathil, Joy L. K. Pachauu, and Tanika Sarkar, p. 102-118. Delhi: Ratna Sagar, 2016.

Sims, Bryan. Chapter Twenty-five: "Adaptive Wesleyan Spiritual Leadership." Pages 317-330 in *Leadership the Wesleyan Way. An Anthology for Forming Leaders in Wesleyan Thought and Practice*, edited by Aaron Perry and Bryan Easley. Emeth Press 2016.



Share your memories of
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“One of my favorite speakers in
chapel was President Stanger. He
always had a relevant topic for fellow
preachers and he had a clear voice
and a commanding presence.”

John T. “Tim” Shumaker
M.Div. Class of ‘66



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News & Events

Asbury Theological Seminary announces passing of Dr. David Rambo

Dr. David Rambo, former Director of the Beeson International Leaders program and Adjunct Professor of Preaching at Asbury Seminary, passed away March 11, 2016.

His two great passions were preaching and the development of high-level leaders for the international church. In addition to his time at Asbury Seminary, he also served as president of Nyack College (1982–1987); vice president of U.S. C&MA Overseas Ministries (1979–1982); president of Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary (1972–1978), where he had previously served as professor of world missions; and, with his beloved wife, Ruth, as a missionary in the Philippines (1961–1970).

Asbury Theological Seminary hosts The Asbury Project in Orlando

Asbury Theological Seminary co-hosted The Asbury Project on the Florida Dunnam Campus, April 19-20, 2016, with Asbury University. The Asbury Project is sponsored by the Office of Faith, Work, and Economics and unites students, pastors, business and community leaders, and academicians to discuss the interaction of faith, work, economics and the marketplace.

Day of Prayer, April 25, 2016

President Timothy Tennent called the Asbury Seminary community (trustees, friends, alumni, students, faculty and staff) to humble ourselves in prayer before God on April 25. In humility and grati-

tude, we recognized how much God has blessed us and sustained our founding vision for nearly 100 years, with over 10,000 graduates around the world. We prayed specifically for our financial need of \$600,000, for faithfulness to the vision God has called us to in our strategic plan, and for a spiritual renewal and awakening of our community and nation.

Announcement of McKenna Scholars Program

Asbury Theological Seminary announced the establishment of the McKenna Scholars Program for Christian Leadership in the Free Methodist Church. This restricted scholarship fund, established by David L. and Janet R. McKenna, is a testimony to their love for both the Free Methodist Church and Asbury Seminary.

Asbury Seminary joins the U.S. Fresh Expressions Movement

Asbury Theological Seminary announced its partnership with the U.S. Fresh Expressions team on March 3. The new partnership encourages and enables members of the Seminary faculty, staff and student body to engage in research, training and strategy that will impact the Church domestically and internationally.

Asbury Theological Seminary community welcomed Syrian refugee family

Asbury Theological Seminary welcomed and sponsored a Syrian refugee family in partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries. The family, who emigrated from Jordan, arrived on April 26.





THE HUB

CONNECT WITH 10,200 ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS AND EVENTS

Announcing New Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management & Operations on the Florida Dunnam Campus

Eric Currie rejoined the Asbury Theological Seminary family as the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Operations on the Florida Dunnam Campus. After serving as the Vice President of Enrollment Management at Houghton College for the past three-and one-half years, Eric holds more than a decade of experience within higher education. Prior to serving at Houghton, Eric served as the Director of Enrollment and Student Services on the Florida Dunnam Campus. His new position reports directly to the Vice President of Enrollment Management and plays a critical role in working across the institution to ensure enrollment goals are met and connections with key constituents are made.

Dr. Mark Abbott Director of Hispanic Distributed Learning

Asbury Theological Seminary announced Dr. Mark Abbott as the Director of Hispanic Distributed Learning. In his new position, Dr. Abbott will coordinate bilingual course design and development to help Hispanic students and faculty embrace the tools needed for successful online learning. Dr. Abbott joins Dr. Danny Roman-Gloro, recently promoted Director of the Hispanic Initiative, and Rev. Lizette Acosta, Director of the Latino/Latina Studies Program (LLSP), to form the Asbury Hispanic Initiative team.

Asbury Seminary grads elected UM conference bishops

Two of the recently elected United Methodist bishops in the USA are graduates of the Seminary. Bishop Frank Beard and Bishop James Nunn were elected to the North Central Jurisdictional

Conference and the South Central Jurisdictional Conference respectively. Bishop Beard and Bishop Nunn join the ranks of other Asbury Seminary graduates currently serving as bishops in the USA. These include Bishop Peggy A. Olver Johnson, Bishop Mark James Webb, and Bishop Debra Kaye Wallace-Padgett.

Asbury Seminary's Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling accredited

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CaCREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), has granted accreditation to the following program in the Counseling Department at Asbury Theological Seminary: M.A. in Mental Health Counseling.

Asbury Seminary announces new online degree options

Asbury Theological Seminary prepares both men and women to answer the call to ministry with new online degree options. These degrees include the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Leadership, Master of Arts [T.S.] Philosophy and Apologetics, and Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation.

Asbury Seminary dedicates Archaeology and Israel Studies Learning Lab

Asbury Theological Seminary dedicated the G. Herbert Livingston Archaeology and Israel Studies Learning Lab, September 26. The Livingston Lab houses a collection of authentic archaeological artifacts from Bible lands dating from over 5000 years ago through the St. Augustine period around A.D. 400.

For a complete list of news and events, visit asburyseminary.edu/news



A Tribute to Jay Dargan (1941-2016)

Former employee, alumnus and friend of Asbury Seminary, Javan (Jay) Earl Dargan, passed away on April 21, 2016. He served as Director of Development from June 1988 – August 2000; Vice President for Advancement from September 2000 – July 2002; Vice President of the Asbury Foundation from August 2002 – April 2005. He then left to serve the Free Methodist Foundation based in Spring Arbor, Mich., and retired December 31, 2008. Asbury Theological Seminary asked him back part time for one year in 2010 to train others in Advancement. He permanently retired in January of 2011.

Jay was born on April 15, 1941, in Charteris, Quebec, Canada. He was the son of the late Rev. Robert and Edna Dargan, who pastored in the Free Methodist Church in the East Ontario Conference in Canada. Jay was married to Myrtle Margaret (Smith) Dargan on December 21, 1962, in Dallas, Texas. From this union were born Sherilyn Kay (McPherson) in 1965, and Deborah Sue (Anderson) in 1967. He earned a Master of Religious Education degree (M.R.E.) from Asbury Theological Seminary.

The viewing was held at the Wilmore Free Methodist Church in Wilmore, Ky., on Monday, April 25, from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. and on Tuesday, 9:30-10:30 A.M. with the funeral following at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, April 26.

The family requests love gifts to the “Jay and Margaret Dargan Endowed Scholarship Fund” at Oakdale Christian Academy, 5801 Bettyville Rd., Jackson, Ky. 41339, or to the “Jay and Margaret Dargan Endowed Scholarship Fund” at Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, Ky. 40390, or the building fund for the Wilmore Free Methodist Church, 1200 N. Lexington Rd., Wilmore, Ky. 40390.



Please join President Timothy C. Tennent as he shares the Asbury Seminary vision in your area. Tennent Tours are well under way, so mark your calendar now! At each of his stops, Dr. Tennent is honored to be speaking at various Saturday evening and Sunday morning services.

2017 Dates:

February 24-26, 2017
Marietta, GA

March 17-19, 2017
Tulsa, OK

September 15-17, 2017
Columbus, GA

For event schedule, reservations, and information, please contact Major Events by phone, 877.PRAY.ATS (772.9287) or email, major.events@asburyseminary.edu.



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NEW ROOM GATHERING

Orlando, FL
January 12

Houston, TX
February 9

Atlanta, GA
March 9

Tulsa, OK
March 30



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Starnes

Jessica
LaGrone

Jason
Vickers

Adam
Weber



Words cannot express the blessings, confirmation, and wisdom I received from this well-organized and well-attended movement! I was allowed to experience God's love and I sincerely thank you.

ANDREA CAMPBELL