

THE ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HERALD

Vol. 136 no. 2 Fall 2020

A photograph of three people sitting in a living room, engaged in conversation. On the left, a woman with glasses and a patterned jacket sits in a floral-patterned chair, smiling. In the center, a man in a purple checkered shirt sits on a white ottoman, looking towards the woman on the right. On the right, a woman in a blue top and jeans sits on a grey sofa, gesturing with her hands as if speaking. The background features a wooden coffee table, a lamp with a white shade, and various indoor plants.

**EMBODYING
DISCIPLESHIP**



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

3. **Letter from the President**
The Life of Discipleship
4. **Counting the Cost of Discipleship**
Professor Emeritus of Christian Doctrine,
Dr. Stephen Seamands on the commitment we
make when we decide to follow Jesus.
6. **Reading Diversely in the New Testament**
Dr. Ruth Anne Reese writes about our need to
learn from diverse voices when studying the New
Testament.
8. **Faculty Spotlight:**
Dr. Winfield Bevins
Director of Church Planting, Affiliate Professor of
Worship and Mission
9. **About the Church Planting Initiative**
Learn about the mission of the Asbury Seminary
Church Planting Initiative.
11. **Alumni Highlight:**
Dr. Guenson Charlot
President, Emmaus University, Haiti
Doctor of Ministry (2019)
12. **Alumni Highlight:**
Dr. James Paton
Lead Pastor of FAC Calgary
Doctor of Ministry (2005)
14. **Alumni Highlight:**
Adam Weber
Lead Pastor at Embrace Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Master of Divinity (2007)
17. **Hundredfold Initiative**
Campaign update
18. **From the Archives:**
Days of Profit
An article from Dr. Ellsworth Kalas written in 2015
for the Alumni Link.
20. **News and Events**
21. **Tennent Tour Date**
22. **Thrive with Asbury Seminary**
Podcast

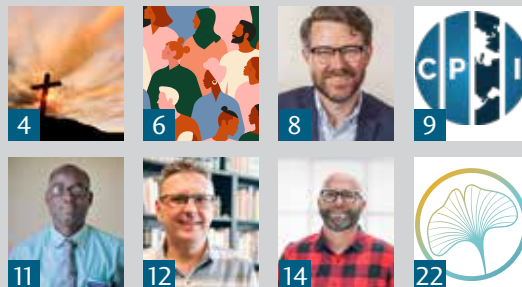
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Publisher

DR. TIMOTHY C. TENNENT
Editor in Chief

DEB ADAMS
Managing Editor

WES WILCOX
Graphic Design

HEIDI E. WILCOX
Staff Writer



Go green! TRY OUR E-EDITION

The *Asbury Herald* is published in electronic format (asbury.to/herald) to reduce paper consumption and increase access. Please visit this site to learn how to access the electronic version on your Apple or Kindle device.

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

800.2ASBURY asburyseminary.edu

Asbury Theological Seminary is a religious, not-for-profit, educational institution, which has long enjoyed the benefit of estate stewardship of many friends.

If you are considering a bequest, please use our full legal name and address:

Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Avenue Wilmore, KY 40390-1199 or call 800.2ASBURY for specific information.

Find this 2020 Fall Herald, previous editions of *The Asbury Herald*, and other Asbury Seminary resources online at asburyseminary.edu or e-mail communications.office@asburyseminary.edu.

THE LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP



For the last several years, we have been centering all of our formation work at Asbury Seminary on certain Seminary-wide themes. In 2018 our theme was, “The Spirit-Filled Life.” We labored and prayed hard to help every student understand what it means to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” and to be empowered for a life of service in the

Kingdom. In 2019, our theme was “The Grace-Filled Life.” We focused on each of the means of grace (baptism, the Lord’s Supper, reading God’s Word, prayer, etc.) to make sure that our students fully understood all the ways God has given to convey his grace and transforming power into our lives. Our 2020 theme is the “Life of Discipleship.” We are looking at how God transforms our hearts, minds and bodies through the glorious gospel.

As a part of this theme, I have preached a series of sermons on what it means for our “bodies” to be disciplined. This is not just about exercising and watching what we eat, though that is a noble endeavor. We are actually looking at the deeper ways God has designed our bodies to communicate deep spiritual truths about himself and his purposes in the world. For example, the fact that God created the world and called it “good” (by Genesis 1:31 he has already called his creation “good” seven times!) means that our bodies are good and that God designed them in anticipation that someday he would send his son into the world as the incarnate Son of God. It is quite amazing to think that at Christmas when we celebrate God coming to us in human flesh that the preparation for that redemptive work goes all the way back to the dawn of creation. Our bodies point to the mystery of the incarnation. In fact, without a trustworthy “body” there can be no incarnation of Jesus Christ, no death of Jesus on the cross, no bodily resurrection of Jesus, no bodily ascension of our Lord, and no bodily return of Christ at the end of time. Paul goes on to remind us that if Christ has not been bodily raised, then we ourselves have no hope of a future bodily resurrection. In short, matter really matters! Our bodies are “windows” or “pointers” to deep spiritual truths.

In the Fall of 2020, Asbury Seminary hit a huge, historic landmark with our largest student enrollment in our 97-year history. We have over 1,800 students now at Asbury Seminary. However, at a deeper level, our mission at the Seminary is not really about preparing students at all. It is

actually so much more than that. That may seem shocking, but if you look at the Seminary’s mission statement it states that we are called to equip Spirit-filled men and women to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. At its heart, we are not just teaching students, we are making disciples! If a seminary is only focused on teaching students, it risks graduating only religious services providers. If, on the other hand, a seminary is focused on making disciples, we have the opportunity to truly sow for a great awakening!

In the Great Commission in Matthew’s gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), the only command in the text is to “make disciples.” In other words, discipleship is at the heart of what we are called to reproduce around the world. The reason for this is because converts don’t reproduce, but disciples always will. In the Great Commission, Jesus is unleashing nothing less than a movement of multiplication that will transform the world and win to himself adopted daughters and sons beyond number. This is why John, in that great end-time vision, sees “a multitude that no one could count, from every nation, every tribe, and every tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” They will all declare in a loud voice, “salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne!” This, beloved, is the end goal of all discipleship. We are all moving closer every day to that glorious Day! Thanks be to God.

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

Counting the Cost of Discipleship

By Dr. Stephen Seamands



According to Luke 14:25, “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus.” Early in his ministry, he had become so popular that people from all over Galilee were following him around from place to place.

So, Jesus turns to them and says, “Listen, if you are going to be a disciple of mine, before we go any further you need to understand what you’re signing up for.” Then, in no uncertain terms, he proceeds to spell it out.

Luke records for us what he said (Lk 14:26-33) including a couple of his parables. “If you want to build a tower,” Jesus says, “You don’t start construction until you first sit down and estimate the cost. And if you’re a king, you don’t declare war on another king until you’ve first determined whether it’s a war you can win. Otherwise, whether you’re a builder or a king, you won’t be able to succeed at what you’ve started, and you’ll end up looking like a fool.”

Some of Jesus’ parables are subtle and complex, but it’s hard to miss the point he’s making here. To be my disciple, he is telling the crowds, you need to count the cost at the front end--before you commit. That way, there will be no surprises along the way.

“So, let me be clear,” Jesus insists, “I require--up front--a commitment to the highest possible cost. If you are unwilling to make a total commitment, you cannot be my disciple. And there is no room for negotiation here. You cannot sign on at 50% or 70%. You’re either all in, at 100%, or you’re not in at all.

“Understand, then, I’ll never ask anything more of you in the future than I’m asking of you right now.”

What then does Jesus demand of those who want to be his disciples? He tells us explicitly that we must give up certain things. And rather than sugarcoating them or trying to be diplomatic, he uses the most extreme language possible. In this passage, he mentions three.

First, all human relationships. “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters...cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). Hate is a strong word. Jesus uses it here, in accordance with one of its meanings in his day, to convey the possibility of total detachment even from our closest family members, those who are nearest and dearest to us.

Second, all possessions. “None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions” (Luke 14:33). All your money, your resources—don’t be surprised if I ask you to give it all up.

Third, all of life. Jesus says, you must hate “even life itself” (Luke 14:26). If you are going to be my disciple, you must be willing to die for me if necessary. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer

said, “When Jesus calls us, he bids us come and die.” Someday that may involve martyrdom

“So, count the cost,” Jesus insists. “To be my disciple, you must be willing to say an emphatic no to all those things—all relationships, all possessions, all life. But understand: Saying no to those things is so you can wholeheartedly say yes to some other things.”

Jesus mentions two: “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27).

First, so you can “carry the cross,” which means saying yes to suffering on account of Jesus and suffering in a way that will involve the rejection of others.

Second, so you can “follow me.” Wherever Jesus leads, you must follow—and at times that will surely mean being led where you do not want to go (John 21:18).

Well, in a nutshell, there you have it. Jesus clearly spells out the upfront cost of discipleship. From the beginning, he insists, you must be all in or not in at all.

Yet if the cost is so high, you may be wondering two things: What makes it worth it? And what makes it possible? The answer to both is the person of Jesus. Notice he says, “Follow me.”

Discipleship is about commitment, not to a program or a pattern, but to a person. He is the pearl of great price, the one who is altogether lovely. He’s the reason why, with Paul, we can gladly say, “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ” (Phil. 3:8).

He’s also why discipleship is possible. Again, as Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ in me” (Gal 2:20). Jesus himself dwells in us and lives his life through us. That’s why it’s possible. Discipleship is not based on our ability, but our availability to Jesus. Through his indwelling presence in us, we can do all things (Phil. 4:13).

Is he calling you to be his disciple? Count the cost. Give him your all--and then take His all.

Discipleship is about commitment, not to a program or a pattern but to a person.



Dr. Stephen Seamands is Professor Emeritus of Christian Doctrine at Asbury Seminary where he has taught since 1983. He leads seminars and retreats and has a particular interest in theological and spiritual renewal within the United Methodist Church, as well as the larger body of Christ. His book, Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service received the 2006 Christianity Today Award of Merit for books in the area of church and pastoral leadership.



READING DIVERSELY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

By Dr. Ruth Anne Reese

The church is made up of many different people from a wide variety of backgrounds. There are many languages, many ethnic and social groups, and many races represented among the family of God. This is perhaps best seen in the vision that Revelation describes of a numberless multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language worshipping before God's throne (Rev. 7:9-10).

Despite this vision of worship before God's throne, there is a tendency among humans to remain within our own groups and with the people and places where we feel most comfortable. One of our challenges in seminary education is to introduce students to a wide variety of voices within both the academic and the Christian tradition.

As an educator, one of the ways that I have tried to do this is by requiring my students, especially in my introductory New Testament class, to read materials written by a variety of people. In addition to our regular textbooks this semester, we are also reading works by a feminist scholar, two Latino scholars, and an African American. Each one of these essays approaches the biblical text from a different angle than the textbook we are using. By having students read these essays and engage in discussion around them, it is my hope that they will realize that our embodied experience contrib-

“When we listen to our brothers and sisters who come from different experiences from our own, we have the opportunity to encounter the biblical text afresh through our attention to them.”

utes to the way that we experience, hear, and read the biblical text. And, when we listen to our brothers and sisters who come from different experiences from our own, we have the opportunity to encounter the biblical text afresh through our attention to them.

These readings are an opportunity to introduce students to the bi-cultural reading of Dr. Justo Gonzalez who introduces us to the bi-cultural apostle Paul—a man able to navigate between the Jewish and Gentile worlds of the first century. This is an opportunity to let students read along with Dr. Brian Blount as he explores the work of Martin Luther King Jr in conversation with the Book of Revelation. Students see the longing for justice and for the defeat of evil in both works and are introduced to the political reality that informs Revelation. We won’t agree with every article that we read or with every approach that someone takes to the biblical text, but before we disagree, it’s important to understand. And understanding takes time and attention and care.

Since we belong to a worldwide Christian family, it is important to take time to listen and know the many perspectives within that family. And, when we disagree with those who are members of the family, it is important that we do so in ways that are befitting

of membership in the family of God—with love that listens, humility that respects, and care for one another. It is my hope that this is modeled through a diversity of readings in my class.

If you are wanting to explore readings of the Bible from some different perspectives within the body of Christ, let me recommend a couple books for you. There are, of course, many more, so this is just a beginning:

Esau McCaulley, *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, IVP, 2020.

Justo L Gonzalez, *Santa Biblia: The Bible Through Hispanic Eyes*, Abingdon Press.



Dr. Ruth Anne Reese is Professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary. She serves as the Chair of the New Testament Department at Asbury Seminary and is on the board of the Institute for Biblical Research. Dr. Reese has written several books, including 2 Peter and Jude and is involved as a layperson at Apostle’s Anglican Church in Lexington, Ky.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. WINFIELD BEVINS

*Director of Church Planting,
Affiliate Professor of Worship and Mission*

Dr. Winfield Bevins refers to himself as an accidental church planter. In fact, Winfield planned to be a professor, but God changed his direction with a phone call. A friend called and asked if he'd be interested in starting a church in Outer Banks, N.C. In faith and prayer, Winfield and his wife answered the call.

"This wasn't part of my dream, but God planted me in the Outer Banks," Winfield, Director of Asbury Seminary's Church Planting Initiative, said. "Fifteen years ago I wanted to be a seminary professor, but through God's providence I'm at a seminary, but as a practitioner instead of a professor."

Winfield's mission is to live out the Great Commission and to help others do likewise. He started the Church of the Outer Banks, N.C., with five people. In a few months, the church grew

"We are living in challenging and uncertain times where leaders need support and encouragement to help them learn to navigate the world we are in."

to several hundred and began meeting in a YMCA. Winfield and his congregation explored new ways of expressing an age-old truth. They considered themselves a "fresh expression of an ancient faith." The church took Christ's command in Matthew 28:20 seriously, starting with local outreaches and then expanding to a global mission. These outreaches included adopting local beach accesses, sponsoring children, organizing surf camps, sending cows to Rwanda, opening an art gallery, sending Christmas shoeboxes and hosting a songwriter's workshop.

The church experienced exponential growth.

Soon other church planters started coming to learn best practices from the Church of the Outer Banks. As a result of

this interest, Winfield started a church planting network in North Carolina that ended up planting about 40 churches across the state.

But for Winfield, church planting isn't just a movement. It's discipling others and preparing, equipping and training them to do the same. In 2015, Winfield joined Asbury Seminary as the director of the Church Planting Initiative. Through his hands-on experience and relationships with students and global church planters, he seeks to train and equip others to live out God's mission.

"We live in a truly global and multicultural world where we must be missionally minded and globally engaged Christians," Winfield said. "As we look at the world around us, there is a tremendous need for learning from global church planting movements."

During his time at the Seminary, Winfield has developed relationships with dozens of church planting networks, including Exponential, Fresh Expressions, Disciple 21, Transformation Network, The Orchard, The Gregory Centre and others.

Winfield has found that when it comes to church planting one size does not fit all and has worked with the faculty to create both academic and non-academic methods of training church planters at Asbury Seminary.

"It will take all kinds of new churches to reach all types of people for Christ," Winfield said. "The church is like a mosaic or tapestry that is made up of many colors. Each piece is a beautiful masterpiece."

In addition to the Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy programs that focus on church planting at Asbury Seminary, Winfield has also helped to create the Church Planting Institute.

He has written several books, including *Marks of a Movement*; *Church Planting Revolution*; *Grow at Home: A Beginner's Guide to*

About the



CHURCH
PLANTING
INITIATIVE

Family Discipleship; Our Common Prayer: A Field Guide to the Book of Common Prayer; Creed: Connect to the Essentials of Historic Christian Faith; and Grow: Reproducing Through Organic Discipleship; and Plant: A Sower's Guide to Church Planting. His latest book *Ever Ancient, Ever New* published with Zondervan tells the story of a generation of younger Christians from different backgrounds and traditions who are finding a home and a deep connection in the church by embracing a liturgical expression of the faith.

In addition to being a church planter, Winfield is the co-founder of Missional Formation Coaching, which is designed to help leaders thrive by promoting healthy rhythms that connect spiritual and missional practices.

"We are living in challenging and uncertain times where leaders need support and encouragement to help them learn to navigate the world we are in," he said. "Leadership is hard, don't do it alone. That is why coaching matters."

You can find out more about him at www.winfieldbevins.com or on social media @winfieldbevins.

Winfield Bevins is a "liturgical missiologist" whose passion is to help others connect to the roots of the Christian faith for discipleship and mission. He currently serves as the Director of Church Planting at Asbury Theological Seminary. He frequently speaks at conferences on a variety of topics and as both an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at various seminaries and universities in the United States and England. He has authored several books and his writings explore the convergence of tradition and mission. His latest Zondervan book, Ever Ancient, Ever New, examines young adults who have embraced Christian liturgy and how it has impacted their lives.

The Church Planting Initiative is born out of Asbury Theological Seminary's heart to serve and equip church leaders in an increasingly multicultural, secular, and global context. Their vision is to equip church leaders for planting new churches and ReMissioning existing congregations so they can become reproducing, disciple-making movements. The Church Planting Initiative offers a variety of training, assessments, and resources to equip church leaders to fulfill the Great Commission as they live out the Missio Dei in their local context of ministry.

Church Planting Institutes are affordable, non-residential training so that participants can be equipped to learn while within the context of their ministry. The Institutes usually consist of five modules that are offered in one-to-two-day intensive formats at a regional site and can be completed in one to two years. After completing the program, participants receive a non-academic certificate in Church Planting from Asbury Seminary.

The Asbury Seminary Church Planting Initiative has also developed relationships with dozens of networks, including Fresh Expressions, Exponential, Disciple 21 Church Planting Network and Church of God in Christ to plant churches and train leaders around the world.

The Disciple 21 Church Planting Network, led by Rev. Dr. Iosmar Alvarez, Asbury Seminary alum, UMC District Superintendent, Lexington, Ky., and Global Executive Director of Disciple 21, is a movement that focuses on planting disciple-making churches that reproduce and mobilize quickly. The Disciple 21 Church Planting Network is active in seven nations and 28 cities, with 45 team leaders, and 307 house churches. One hundred students have graduated from the Asbury Seminary/Disciple 21 Institutes, with 30 students enrolled in the Latino Ministry Formation Program, a 60-credit diploma that is recognized by seminaries as a bachelor's equivalent, thus opening a pathway to graduate school for the Latino community.

In 2018, Asbury Seminary Church Planting offered a Church Planting Institute designed specifically for Church of God in Christ pastors, leaders and spouses. This Institute took place over three weekends around the topics of church planting, discipleship, marriage and family relationships, and church revitalization. These institutes graduated 102 people with full-completion certification in Kansas City and Los Angeles.

"The Church Planting Initiative is so grateful for these relationships and the opportunity to work with these networks and denominations to train future leaders to reach others with the gospel message," Dr. Winfield Bevins, Director of the Church Planting Initiative, said. "These church planting networks robustly reflect the diversity within the body of Christ as we disciple women and men, so that they in turn can disciple others."

If you're interested in church planting, know someone who is, or simply want resources to help you share the Gospel, we invite you to join the new Asbury Seminary Church Planting Connection. Here you'll receive exclusive access to free digital articles, e-books, videos, podcasts, audio lessons and more! In addition to these online elements, you will be among the first to know about new training institutes in cities near you and fellowship opportunities that can help make your vision of a church plant into a reality.

Sign up at churchplantinginitiative.com. You can also follow @asburycpi on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH STUDENTS, YOU RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF THEIR MINISTRIES. MAKE A GIFT TODAY ONLINE.

TOGETHER, WE ARE CARRYING GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

WESLEY FUND

JOIN ASBURY SEMINARY STUDENTS IN THEIR JOURNEYS

859.858.2305 | asbury.to/wesleyfund



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: ADAM WEBER

*Lead Pastor at Embrace Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Master of Divinity, Asbury Seminary, 2007.*

Adam Weber, lead pastor at Embrace Church in Sioux Falls, S.D., loves God, and like most humans, has sometimes struggled to love those who are different or difficult. After going through an incredibly hard season, Adam learned to love others with abandon. In Adam's newest book, *Love Has a Name* that released August 25, he takes a look at how we can love others with the grace and truth of Jesus. Every chapter is titled with the name of a specific person who has helped him learn more about love, coupled with a similar character in the Bible. In chapter 19, Adam says that love pulls up a chair, offering a listening ear to someone who is different from you.

Adam didn't just talk about pulling up a chair; he ordered a pop-up desk, and after keeping it in a closet for eight or nine months, he made a deal with God. If one of two parking places with shade in downtown Sioux Falls were available, he would set up there with the desk and two chairs. The second spot was open, and Adam set up his desk, chairs, a bobble head, plant, picture of his wife, and a sign that said, "Need to talk, grab a seat."

Gerald, a well-dressed man in his 50s, sat down first. He shared about his job, the awards he had received and the stress he felt. All of a sudden, he started sobbing, sharing his anxiety and panic attacks. As Gerald talked and Adam listened, Adam asked if he would like to invite God into this. They prayed together and as Gerald left, he told Adam, "If for nobody else, you are here for me." Since then, Adam has set up his talking table more times than he can count, discovering each time that listening is a simple way to love someone else.

"So often we think it's got to be this grand thing, and sometimes it is a grand thing," Adam said. "We think we have got to give money, and sometimes we need to give money; we need to serve somebody. And sometimes, we do need to serve somebody, but sometimes it's as simple as just listening to another person and hearing their story."

Adam's love for others isn't singular. He equips and empowers his congregation at Embrace to love others with abandon, too. The COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged the Embrace congregation to exit the building and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Anyone connected to Embrace can apply for a Run Project grant up to \$2,000 to do something awesome for someone outside of themselves or their family. The church has found this is a great way to partner with what is already happening in their community.

"We want to come alongside of what God's doing in you out in the world, and we just want to help you run even faster," Adam said.

Adam has helped flip a teacher's lounge, done yard cleanup, and participated in a nursing home parade. A couple of current projects include painting a mural in downtown Sioux Falls and offering root beer floats and prayer to people. The heartbeat of this outreach is to challenge people to really obey Jesus and serve others.

"If you see an opportunity that you can help, that you can serve somebody, go do it," Adam said. "And there's not the, 'Hey, put Embrace's name all over it.' It's like, 'If it comes up, sure, you can mention it.' But the heartbeat is just to obey Jesus, so really challenging people to do that."

Adam knew since high school that he was called to tell others about Jesus, but thought he would do that through business and marketing. His mentor presented the idea of Embrace, and Adam reluctantly filled in as pastor on Labor Day weekend in 2006. Thirty-two people attended and Embrace was born. In 2013, Outreach Magazine named it the 40th fastest-growing U.S. church and the only United Methodist church to be mentioned. Adam speaks at national conferences, has a blog, hosts *The Conversation with Adam Weber* podcast, and wrote the best-selling book, *Talking With God*. He and his wife Becky have four kids: Hudson, Wilson, Grayson, and Anderson.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: DR. JAMES PATON

Lead Pastor of FAC Calgary

Doctor of Ministry, Asbury Seminary, 2005.

First Alliance Church (FAC) in Calgary, Alberta, takes loving their neighbor seriously. They chose to shut their doors to the 4,000+ people who gathered each weekend one week before the government's COVID-19 mandate. But their ministry didn't stop. Instead, James Paton, lead pastor of FAC Calgary, and his innovative team developed a rallying cry for this season: "Thriving Today and Shaping Tomorrow." In two weeks, they successfully transitioned to online services, opened their church as a homeless shelter, started delivering lunches to food-insecure children and became the South Calgary Food Hub.

"We have been blessed with very creative leaders, who saw the opportunity to do something different, and rather than try to figure it all out, ran full steam into the future, believing that God could use us if we'd say yes to it," James said.

The team at FAC is more afraid of missing an opportunity than of making mistakes. They realized

they had other ways to deliver ministry and worked creatively to cover the gaps the congregation is experiencing because of the pandemic. They encouraged all groups currently meeting in person to transition to online to continue to provide the necessary emotional and prayerful support for each other.

FAC offers daily digital content on social media and offers experiences, such as Zoom and Coffee following services to provide an online version of visiting friends in the foyer. For those who struggle with technology, FAC has helped provide the needed support to help those individuals learn to navigate Zoom and FaceTime to stay connected with family and friends.

"One of the great things about serving others is that it often helps us take our preoccupation off ourselves," James said. "Sometimes when we see others in their needs, we begin to realize that our problems aren't as bad as they seem to be."

In just two weeks, FAC turned their largest campus,

We have been blessed with very creative leaders, who saw the opportunity to do something different, and rather than try to figure it all out, ran full steam into the future, believing that God could use us if we'd say yes to it.

about 150,000 square feet, into a branch of the Mustard Seed, a Christ-centered homeless shelter in Calgary. With COVID-19 regulations, the shelter needed additional space to house guests experiencing homelessness. FAC offers space for an average of 110 guests per evening, providing meals and shelter, while following all the guidelines for sanitization and social distancing. FAC has had no outbreaks of COVID-19 and none of their guests have tested positive.

"The government gave us regulations, but one of the joys we have in our church family is that one of the ladies in our church is the Head of Emergency Services for Alberta Health Services," James said. "She was able to provide us with fantastic direction very quickly about what would be the right way to go about this, and relying upon her has helped us move swiftly and make all the right moves."

Before the pandemic, FAC had partnered with local schools to help maintain them, repaint, ensure that every child received a Christmas gift, and provide the children with a hot breakfast. Since the schools have closed, church members are now providing lunches to food-insecure children, feeding between 1500-2000 children per week. The church delivers these balanced, nutritious meals by bus daily to families in need.

At first the Canadian government promised allocated funding to help the church continue to feed the children. For quite some time, all applications for funding were denied, leaving the entire cost of the program in the church's budget. But FAC believed

that God was calling them to continue this ministry, and that allowed space for God to work.

"We were just saying, 'Lord, if you don't show up, what are we going to do?'" James said. "And about four weeks ago, as we were agonizing over this, a donor came in, who doesn't yet know Jesus, and gave us a quarter of a million dollars."

Volunteers at FAC continued to see other needs and take action to meet them. As a result, FAC has become the South Calgary food hub. The lobby has been transformed into a food hosting and delivery site, where clients can receive food hampers through contactless pickup. Each week, the food bank feeds hundreds of families and uses this as a discipleship pathway to meet practical needs to demonstrate the love of Jesus.

"We're not taking unnecessary risks and are following all of the COVID-19 precautions and guidelines, but our volunteers have loved what they're doing," James said. "They've risen to the challenge. And I think they find great joy in serving people, because they know when they serve somebody, they're serving Jesus. It's His face they look into when they see a poor person."

James received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Asbury Seminary in 2005. He joined the FAC team as Lead Pastor in 2015, where he participates in shaping the creative culture of the weekend gatherings. He and his wife, Gillian, have three adult children.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:
DR. GUENSON CHARLOT

President, Emmaus University, Haiti
Doctor of Ministry Asbury Seminary, 2019

God called Dr. Guenson Charlot to train the next generation of Haitian leaders one student at a time. Since its founding in 1967, Emmaus University has always been led by foreign missionaries, but this year they transitioned to Haitian leadership. Prior to his appointment as president of Emmaus University, Dr. Charlot served as a professor there for 12 years, training leaders to be Christ-like disciples, church planters, and redemptive leaders to transform Haiti, the Caribbean and beyond for Christ. Using the discipleship practices of teaching, reflection and personal application, Dr. Charlot challenges students to live culturally-transformed lives as Romans 12:1-2 commands.

“I am truly humbled and honored that God has chosen me to be the next President of Emmaus University and to continue the work of His Kingdom in Haiti,” Dr. Charlot said. “Emmaus University is one of the few establishments with a strong, unwavering commitment to see sustainable change in Haiti by equipping Christ-like redemptive leaders to serve at every level in Haitian society.”

In Haiti, 95 percent of the population are nominal

Christians, Catholic or Haitian Voodoo worshippers. Many Haitians are raised with superstitious practices that have their roots in Haitian Voodoo. As such, even among professing Christians, Voodoo practices are so ingrained in everyday life that they are hard to recognize.

For example, Haitian Voodoo teaches that part of your soul remains in the bottle you drink from. Therefore, after drinking a soda, you should not close the bottle, but discard it in one place and the cap in the other so that your soul remains free. If you close the container, part of your soul is trapped inside, and if someone wishes to harm you, that person can use the bottle to access your soul.

“Many people, even myself growing up, would drink a soda and discard the bottle in one place and the cover in another place without even knowing what it means,” Dr. Charlot said. “For many people it is a way of life but it’s purely superstitious.”

Because of his church’s emphasis on small group Bible studies, Dr. Charlot helps people uncover the roots of these practices so they can live transformed, renewed lives. As the group studies biblical passages

ASBURY SEMINARY

VOICES



together, Dr. Charlot invites them to share their thoughts on its meaning. As he sees their level of understanding, he guides them to a new understanding of God's truth in a way that is relevant for them.

The population of Haiti is descended almost entirely from slaves and was a French colony until the country won its independence in 1804. During that time, a colonial view of Christianity spread rampantly. As a result, many Haitians believe that Christianity is a colonial religion that exploits, enslaves, and destroys Afro-Haitian identity, dignity and culture.

In order to change these beliefs and offer a robust, orthodox, culturally relevant Christianity, Dr. Charlot believes it is important to acknowledge the deep hurt colonial Christianity caused, admitting its errors and inaccurate views. Dr. Charlot also points to later Christians who have and still are working tirelessly to correct the errors of colonial religion and teach the Gospel of Christ in a culturally relevant way.

Dr. Charlot earned his Diploma in Theology from Caribbean Wesleyan College in Jamaica, his B.A. in Pastoral Ministry from Bethany Bible College (now Kingswood University) in Canada, his M.Div. from Wesley Biblical Seminary in Mississippi, and his D.Min. in 2019 from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

He is married to Mrs. Claudia Charlot of Jamaica. In 2012, they planted and currently minister at Discipleship Evangelical Church in Cap-Haitian, a vibrant congregation of new and life-long believers. He has also taught courses such as Biblical Preaching, Theology, and New Testament Studies at Caribbean Wesleyan College (Jamaica) and at Emmaus University. In addition, Dr. Charlot is the National Coordinator for Langham Preaching in Haiti, the Haiti Field Director for International Fellowship of Bible Churches, and also contributed to translating and recording the Jesus Film in Haitian Creole.

ATTEMPT SOMETHING BIG

See how students, faculty and alumni attempt something big for God all over the world.



Asbury Seminary Voices is a collection of stories designed to GLORIFY GOD and inspire YOU. Visit [ASBURY.TO/VOICES](https://www.asbury.edu/voices)

Certainty in times of uncertainty.

Asbury Theological Seminary continues to move forward with our mission 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. In the midst of everything that is happening in the world, Congress enacted several tax law changes that we want to highlight here.

CARES Act and Your Giving

This law includes several charitable tax provisions that you might want to take advantage of as you plan your year-end giving. These include:

- *An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts. This means that you will be able to deduct 40% more this year.*
- *A new deduction for people who do not itemize when filling out their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction up to \$300.*



SECURE Act and Your Giving

In December, Congress passed the SECURE Act, limiting stretch payments for IRA beneficiaries to 10 years.

What does this mean?

If you planned to benefit your children using your IRA, they will now pay higher taxes on the inheritance that they receive from you. You might want to consider revisiting your estate plan and use the IRA balance to fund a bequest and/or income for your family through a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust.

HUNDREDFOLD INITIATIVES

FUNDRAISING UPDATE*



CAMPAIGN FUND: Supporting strategic impact where needed most

Goal: \$15,400,000

Raised: \$14,777,170



CHURCH PLANTING: Equipping 1,000 church planters

Goal: \$5,000,000

Raised: \$5,910,127



ENHANCING ESTES CHAPEL: Improving the heart of our Wilmore campus

Goal: \$1,500,000

Raised: \$1,561,928



ENDOWING CHAIR OF THEOLOGY: Confirming our commitment to biblical training

Goal: \$2,500,000

Raised: \$365,772



ENRICHING HISPANIC AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS: Developing concentrated master's programs to serve growing populations

Goal: \$1,000,000

Raised: \$1,383,050



GROWING SCHOLARSHIPS: Liberating students from debt to sow where God leads

Goal: \$40,000,000

Raised: \$35,689,402



SUPPORTING SEEDBED: Resourcing clergy and laity around the world

Goal: \$2,000,000

Raised: \$3,977,033



DEFERRED GIFTS: Providing gifts in the future through estate planning and life income plans

Goal: \$32,600,000

Raised: \$37,045,292

*As of 10/21/20

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Taken from the Alumni Link, March 16, 2015

Days of Profit

By Dr. Ellsworth Kalas

President Emeritus, Asbury Theological Seminary



Long ago someone taught me the value of time. Perhaps it was my parents. They weren't people committed to success or achievement, but they had this innate sense of the value of time. Perhaps some high school teacher did it: it could well have been my debate coach, F. O. Racker. I'm sure it's a conviction that is woven all through life for me, because I came early to believe that life and time are gifts from God, and that eternity begins now, not after we die, so each day is significant in my calendar. Thus each morning when I write a brief summary of the previous day, I tend to be hard on myself. What did I do the previous day that mattered?

On one such day a year-and-a-half ago, I looked back on the day before with self-reproach. What had I really done? I had written several hundred words on a coming book, had taught a class, and had been part of several thoughtful conversations. Just then, a sentence came to my soul. I wrote it down. More than that I put it in the back cover of my Daily Suggester, the little appointment book that has been my annual companion for nearly sixty years.

It's now there for the third year. It's the only phrase from my own life; the others are from the Bible, John Wesley, Blaise Pascal, and Samuel Johnson. There's nothing profound about my sentence, nothing that merits the company it now keeps except that it came at one of those special moments in life: No day is lost in which I grow in Christ.

The only question at day's end is this: am I more like our Lord at day's end than I was at that day's beginning?

That day that simple fact came to full conviction in my life. I suspect I had long known this in some inchoate fashion, but that morning it took lodging. What does my life amount to? What is there about me that matters? I teach a class, sometimes I preach a sermon, I write some letters (and now, some email), I try to treat everyone with grace, and almost always I'm working on a book, a privilege that still astonishes me even though roughly fifty such books are now in circulation. But so what? Which of these matters, really matters?

Then it struck me with full force. The purpose of my life is that I should know Christ, that in some way each day I should come to know Jesus better and to reflect Him more distinctly in my own life and person. The only question at day's end is this: am I more like our Lord at day's end than I was at that day's beginning?

If so, it has been a day of holy achievement, because all the rest depends on this, that I grow in Him.

Our Lord said that it's possible we would come to the end of our journey testifying that we cast out demons in his name, but he will answer, "I never knew you." I want to know Him, in the power of His resurrection and in the fellowship of His sufferings. If I am more like Him tonight when I retire than I was this morning when I awakened, it has been a day of supreme, eternal significance. All else will flow from that.

I cherish such a day today for you, and for me. Amen.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP, WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE WORLD.

Watch Asbury Seminary Chapel LIVE online every week during the semester!



The livestream can be viewed at
[ASBURY.TO/LIVE](https://www.asbury.edu/to/live)



MISS A CHAPEL OR WANT TO REWATCH A MESSAGE?

Visit [asbury.to/chapel](https://www.asbury.edu/to/chapel)
for our chapel message
archive.

News & Events

Asbury Seminary Alum Dr. Guenson Charlot Named President of Emmaus University



Asbury Seminary congratulates Dr. Guenson Charlot (D.Min. 2019) on his recent appointment as president of Emmaus University in Haiti. Dr. Charlot has worked at Emmaus for 12 years prior to being appointed president. Emmaus University prepares Christ-like disciples, church planters, and redemptive leaders to transform Haiti, the Caribbean and beyond through higher education that is rooted in Christian orthodoxy.

Asbury Seminary Launches New Location in Colorado Springs



Asbury Theological Seminary announces the opening of its newest extension site in Colorado Springs, Colo., as part of the Asbury Seminary Global Initiative. Asbury Seminary has designed this new global-learning site to make its high-quality Seminary education more accessible to co-vocational

students and post-traditional learners who want some face-to-face interaction with professors and students without needing to relocate.

Dr. Donald Joy, Former Professor at Asbury Seminary Passes Away



Asbury Seminary extends condolences to the family of Dr. Donald Marvin Joy, Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Studies at Asbury Seminary, who passed away June 6, 2020.

Dr. David Thompson, Former Professor at Asbury Seminary Passes Away



Asbury Seminary extends condolences to the family of Dr. David Loren Thompson, Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Asbury Seminary, who passed away July 4, 2020. The family received friends July 9 from 5-7 p.m. at Joyner's Funeral Home in Wilson, N.C.

Dr. Albin Whitworth Receives Asbury University A Award



Dr. Albin C. Whitworth, Organist of the Chapel and visiting professor of Music at Asbury Seminary, received the A Award from Asbury University during their Virtual Reunion Weekend, June 24-27. For 74 years, the A Award has been Asbury University's highest alumni honor of distinction and is given to Asbury University graduates who have made significant impact in their area of

influence and calling. The Seminary congratulates Dr. Whitworth on receiving this honor.

Asbury Seminary Team Makes 827 Masks



Seven members of the Asbury Seminary community, led by Paula Hisel, Assistant to the Department of Advancement, joined together to make 827 masks for the Seminary community. Staff, faculty and students have the option to receive two masks free of charge. The masks meet all Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) guidelines and consist of three layers of cotton, including a filter pocket and nosepiece.

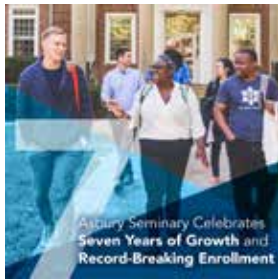
Follow us on social media for the latest news, events, and content from Asbury Seminary.



Asbury Seminary Launches Asbury Seminary Global, Plans Expansion in Florida

Asbury Theological Seminary is delighted to announce the launch of a new initiative, known as *Asbury Seminary Global*. This initiative creatively combines online and short, targeted, residential experiences at convenient, church-based locations into a new hybrid educational platform. The Seminary has enjoyed seven years of record-breaking Fall enrollment and now currently serves more students than at any other time in its nearly 100-year history.

Asbury Seminary Celebrates Seven Years of Growth and Record-Breaking Enrollment



Asbury Theological Seminary announces seven consecutive years of enrollment growth with students from around the world seeking to become “theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women.” Asbury Seminary officially welcomed 515 new students for the fall semester of 2020 for a total

enrollment of 1,806 students. The Seminary not only increased its new student enrollment for the seventh straight year, but also surpassed the previous enrollment record of 1,741 total students in 2004.

Asbury Seminary Trains Global Church Planting Leaders



Asbury Seminary’s Church Planting Initiative partners with Disciple 21 Church Planting Network and Church of God in Christ to plant churches and train leaders around the world with church planting institutes, conferences, training modules and certificate programs.

Day of Prayer for Racial Reconciliation on October 8

On Thursday, October 8 from my 7 a.m.-7 p.m., the Asbury Seminary community joined together for a day of prayer and fasting to continue the journey toward racial reconciliation within our hearts, our communities, our country and the world.

Asbury Theological Seminary Welcomes New Trustees

Asbury Theological Seminary welcomes five new members to the Board of Trustees: Bishop Linda Adams and Rev. Stephanie M. Raglin, Dr. Cynthia James, Rev. Kyle Ray and Rev. Charles Savage. The Board of Trustees ensures that all Seminary policies and procedures align with the Seminary’s mission to “prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.”

Please join President Timothy C. Tennent as he shares the Asbury Seminary vision in your area. At each of his stops, Dr. Tennent is honored to be speaking at Sunday morning services.

March 20-21, 2021
Riverchase UMC
Birmingham, AL



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



Thrive

WITH ASBURY SEMINARY

This fall we have had several great guests, including Rev. Donna Covington, V.P. of Formation at Asbury Seminary. She joined us for episode 33 to talk about racism, justice and reconciliation. She shares her personal story of her son Daniel who was killed in a racially motivated incident on September 16, 2010. We talk about the hope and healing that she has found and some steps that we can take to bring justice and reconciliation to the communities in which we live.

Listen and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts or by going to asbury.to/thrive

“Jesus commands us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, so I want to see us personally start to speak out for justice and what’s right.”
Rev. Donna Covington

New Podcast Episodes Release Every Other Tuesday

Thrive with Asbury Seminary brings you interview-style conversations to help you thrive where your passions meet the world’s needs. Join us every other week to hear stories from people just like you and be inspired by world-renowned scholars, thought-leaders, and authors. Thrive seeks to help you learn about the variety of ways you can serve God, actively grow your relationship with God, take the next step in your faith and calling, and learn some practical next steps for growth.

What is one thing you’re doing that is helping you thrive in your life right now?



More than any time in my life, I’ve just been praying, “God, can you just help me to see one person today that I can go out of my way to love.” Adam Weber, Ep. 31



So I could give the basic, “I spend time with Jesus every morning.” I feel like that’s already taken, so let me just give another one: exercising consistently. I’ve got a date with an elliptical machine tonight, and I cannot stand it up. Dr. Brian Taylor, Ep. 13

**Traditionally Wesleyan.
Multi-denominational.
Globally engaged.
Spiritually formative.
Missionally focused.**



Since 1923 we have remained committed to teaching and training leaders to carry the gospel around the world.



ASBURY
theological
SEMINARY

*Give online today at
asbury.to/give*

asburyseminary.edu



204 North Lexington Avenue
 Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
 asburyseminary.edu 800.2ASBURY

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



asbury.to/inquire

The foundational new book from Timothy Tennent

*Offering a robust framework for
 discipling people in a Christian theology
 of the body, across a variety of topics:*

- THE "DIGITAL SELF" • MARRIAGE •
- PORNOGRAPHY • SINGLENES •
- GENDER • SEXUALITY •

Available now at Seedbed.com

COMPANION VIDEO STUDY COMING IN 2021

