

SPECIAL RELIGION EDITION

SOUTHEASTERN

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2017



BARNETT COLLEGE OF MINISTRY & THEOLOGY
RENAMED IN HONOR OF SOUTHEASTERN'S CHANCELLOR TOMMY BARNETT

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ON THE COVER

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**General Council 2017
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
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Anaheim, CA

All alumni are welcome to attend the free event.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH
9 pm - 11:30 pm

Marriott Hotel
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Anaheim, CA 92802

All alumni will receive gifts for attending, and we will have a drawing for an opportunity to win:
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*(Must be present to win.
Drawing will be held at 10:30 pm.)*



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KENT J. INGLE, D.MIN.

I am excited to share with you the Summer 2017 issue of the Southeastern alumni magazine. We are in the middle of an incredible season of growth and success for our university – a season which would not have been possible without the legacy you, as an alum, have left for us to build upon. It is my hope that you would be inspired by the amazing stories of what God is doing on the campus of your alma mater and in the lives of your fellow alumni.

While we have so much to celebrate from this past year, there are a few highlights that I wanted to personally share with you.


First, we have renamed our College of Christian Ministries and Religion to honor the legacy of our chancellor, Pastor Tommy Barnett. The college is now known as the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. This renaming is the first step in a complete redesign of our ministerial training process and will feature the launch of four distinct schools within the college – the school of ministry, school of theology, school of worship and our school of graduate studies. Renovations to our chapel and ministerial classroom facilities will allow us to create a cutting-edge church leadership training center so that we can empower and equip our students with all of the tools they need to do ministry in the 21st century.

Training students for ministry has been the foundation of this institution since

its founding in 1935. You will find that same commitment on our campus today. As a matter of fact, students preparing for ministry are a part of the largest and fastest growing programs at SEU. Total enrollment in these programs has increased by 337 percent in the past four years from 406 in the Fall of 2012 to 1,776 in the Fall of 2016.

This issue of the alumni magazine will feature just a few of the thousands upon thousands of stories there are of our ministry graduates. I wish we had space to share every single story because each and every one is significant. The impact of this college extends around the globe and is shaping destinies for eternity. It is my hope that you will enjoy reading these stories and know that there are so many more beyond what we have represented here in these pages.

At the heart of what we do is serve our students as a Christ-centered, student-focused institution. This commitment to our mission compels us to continue to innovate ways to provide high-quality education that is both affordable and accessible. As our students discover and develop their divine design, they are embarking on their life adventure full of passion and purpose. My prayer is that God writes an incredible story through the lives of our community as we are committed to our calling.

May God continue to bless you and open doors as you continue to lead exactly where He has you. 



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LETTER FROM **ALUMNI DIRECTOR**



ED MANER '96, '13 MBA

As a ministry major at Southeastern, I vividly remember one class in which we were studying the scripture found in James 1:27 (NIV), *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

This is one of those life-verses that I chose to latch onto. It clearly defines individuals that God desires we take special effort to reach. Recently, I was honored to chaperone a senior trip for my daughter’s class to Ica, Peru. We ministered in a boys’ compound to young men whose own country declared them destitute and homeless – orphans.

Along with the local missionary, several of these boys went with us to deliver water to a squatters’ village known as “The Promised Land.” These families prop lean-to walls on the hot, sandy desert floor. While there is irony in this next statement, many had power being delivered on primitive poles, but no one had the basic life necessity – water. While the water truck backed down the


dusty “road,” families began bringing out buckets so their makeshift cisterns could be filled for the week.

I was struck especially to see two young girls who touched my heart. They didn’t have much in terms of the world, but they had smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts. I couldn’t help but remember what Mother Teresa once noted when referring to the children she reached out to, “Each one of them is Jesus in disguise.” One look into the eyes of a child in need and you can immediately feel the heart of the Father being moved.

All of our students who went to deliver water commented on the extreme effort the boys from the compound worked to rush water to each family. The boys had each come from situations just like this and had firsthand knowledge of what it meant to see that water truck come to help offset that critical need for the week.

While spending time in Ica and also in Chanchajalla, a small community devastated by recent mudslides in Peru, God was able to use a small group of individuals to touch lives around

the world. Whether we were sharing presentations of the gospel, giving hugs, playing soccer, or delivering water, we became Jesus – with skin on.

In this issue, you will read about the exciting changes that the leadership at Southeastern is making in our newly renamed Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. With a revamp of programs, addition of degrees, refocusing of efforts, Southeastern is committed to preparing students, especially those called to vocational ministry, to be fully equipped and ready to serve in their God-appointed tasks. 



LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



It's hard to imagine any greater momentum than what we are experiencing at Southeastern! Just when you thought things couldn't get any better, the leadership, responding to the needs of pastors and churches all across America, start a new program of study at our alma mater specifically for training worship leaders and future pastors in 21st century ministry! The apostle John said that *"the hour is coming and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,"* and he went on to say that God is literally seeking out these types of worshipers. I believe to start this type of program of study and training taps right into the heart of God.

With such a dynamic undertaking, branding is important, as Southeastern is known across America as a leader in training and equipping the body of Christ for real ministry. It is for this reason that the College of Christian Ministries and Religion was renamed the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology after our Chancellor Tommy Barnett. While attending the renaming ceremony in honor of a man who encourages us to *"find a need and fill it and find a hurt and heal it,"* I got chills on a hot summer day, thinking about the impact that the School of Worship alone will have on this next generation of leaders. As he spoke, he asked the question which has epitomized his ministry: *"Who will be the next miracle in this*

house?" all the while reminding us that we are all miracles in seed form. The unveiling was just another memorial that resounds at how blessed we all are to be a part of such a wonderful university that seems to be in step and synchronized with the moving of the Holy Spirit.

Chancellor Barnett's statements reminded me that all of us are miracles in some way. If not for the grace of God, there would be a rippling effect of changes that would dramatically alter our lives forever. If not for the grace of God, miracles would never happen. It reminded me that whenever we make life happen for someone else, we are used as an instrument of God's grace – an instrument that creates the next miracle, the next *"miracle in the house."* So, my challenge to each of you fellow alumni, students and friends, is not *"will you be the next miracle in the house"* but will you help create the next miracle in the house? One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is Ephesians 6:8; *"Knowing that whatever good thing anyone does, the same will he receive of the Lord."* In other words, miracles beget miracles.

It's always a pleasure to share with you the excitement of being a part of the "Fire" at Southeastern. I pray blessings on each of you and your families!

Go Fire!



ON CAMPUS





Left to right: Patricia Adams and Megan Wagner



STUDENT CHRISTIAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Student Christian Medical and Dental Association (SCMDA) was first established on campus in 2006 after **PATRICIA ADAMS '08** and **MEGAN (VENDLINKSKI) WAGNER '08** returned to Southeastern's campus inspired from attending the annual Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) in Louisville, Ky. The goal of the conference is to encourage, inspire, educate and connect health care professionals and students into opportunities to serve through ministry. Many leaders in missions and other organizations attend GMHC to recruit doctors, nurses and students to engage in ministry around the world.

The passion the students brought back to campus in 2006 fueled excitement in the department as many students had an opportunity to practice science and engage theology. The organization on campus, now known as SCMDA, was the first student chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association to exist. "The SCMDA is a way of integrating the classroom to real life experiences for the students," said Megan, who now holds the position of assistant professor of biology at Southeastern.

Since SCMDA was organized on campus, it has had 10 different presidents and has engaged countless members of the community in discussion and learning through biweekly meetings and community ministry opportunities. Each November, SCMDA continues to sponsor trips for students to attend and be inspired by the conference in Kentucky.

"The ability to use your knowledge and passions for Christ is true to our higher calling."

This year SCMDA established a relationship with the Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH), a local faith-based organization that provides shelter to children who have been removed from their family due to abuse or neglect. Unlike many other emergency shelter agencies, FBCH can offer on-site housing for these children. Their property is comprised of six cottages that can house an average of 12 children each.

"At Southeastern we believe these two disciplines intersect more than imagined, and the ability to use your knowledge and passions for Christ is true to our higher calling," said Megan.

SCMDA has adopted two cottages and visits them monthly. As a part of these visits, students build rapport, and provide encouragement and friendships to children through play and active listening. The group also aims to provide relief for the house parents who are responsible for nightly meals for the family of 14.

SCMDA typically sponsors dinner and dessert, whether it's a pizza party or cookie decorating night.

"Many of the boys onsite long for male role models. SCMDA is humbled by the amount of men that have volunteered to use their Friday night to pour into the lives of others through sports, games and encouragement. As an organization, the SCMDA is proud to work diligently to integrate faith and academics. The fields of Natural and Health Sciences can be a challenge to profess your faith in," said Megan.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Southeastern's campus is ever changing with the ongoing construction. In March of 2017, Southeastern cut the ribbon on a food court, including Papa John's Pizza, Backyard Burgers and Einstein Bros. Bagels. The food court, located on the bottom floor of the Buena Vida Building, houses the only Backyard Burgers and Einstein Bros. Bagels in Lakeland, Fla., and is open to the public. Students can use their Fire Funds (meal dollars) for this food option.

In January of 2018, Southeastern will break ground on a new administration building, adjacent to the Addison building. The new facility will include executive and administrative offices, along with a banquet room. The building will connect to the Addison building and overlook Lake Bonny.



President Ingle and Mayor Wiggs cut the ribbon to the Food Court.



Students enjoy the new Food Court.



An outdoor eating area provides views of Lake Holloway.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS ON CAMPUS

On May 4, the Southeastern University Board of Trustees approved the appointment of **DR. CHRIS OWEN '93, '06 MAML** as the next executive vice president of the university. Chris has served previously as the vice president of student development.

"I am confident in Dr. Owen's ability to collaborate with our team and move our university forward in this next phase of growth," said Dr. Kent Ingle, president.

Several additional changes were also announced as part of a restructuring of the university's administration.

Bethany Thomas has joined the leadership team as the new vice president for student development. Bethany brings a broad range of experiences in higher education to this role. She has held leadership positions with Cedarville University and the University of Miami in addition to the more than seven years that she has worked at Southeastern in a variety of roles in the student development department.

With the unprecedented growth in the area of unrestricted education (online, certificate and extension site platforms), a new vice president role has been added.

NICK WALLSTEADT '16 MAML will be serving as the vice president of unrestricted education. Under Nick's leadership, the university will further develop opportunities to offer affordable and accessible education for students. Nick previously served as the executive director in the office of the president.

Additionally, there are also several new positions coming out of the office of the president. **EUNICE HUTTO '16 MAHS** has been named the chief advancement officer, Dana Davis the chief communications officer and **MICHAEL STEINER '14, '15 MBA** the chief of staff.



Bailey Hooker drives to the basket against Northwestern (Iowa) in the Sweet 16.



Giovanni Bonilla takes on top-ranked Cam Tessari during a dual meet at Reinhardt.

ATHLETICS UPDATE



Jeremy Oppenheimer sets up an offensive set against Keiser.



The Fire celebrate their second Sun Conference Tournament championship after defeating Keiser.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Fire enjoyed unprecedented success this season, setting multiple program records during a 28-1 season that ended in the NAIA Division II Quarterfinals. Following their second consecutive Sun Conference regular season and tournament titles, the Fire became the first conference team to ever win a game at the national tournament, defeating Valley City State 87-58. A loss to defending and eventual national champion Marian in the Elite Eight ended the year. Senior Bailey Hooker became the first player in program history named First-Team

All-American by the NAIA, and joined classmate Christin Strawbridge to become the first two CoSIDA First-Team Academic All-Americans in program history.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Despite securing four wins against ranked or receiving votes teams, the Fire missed out on the conference tournament with three straight losses to close the season. Southeastern had eventual regular season champion Florida Memorial on the ropes, but ended up dropping a 106-104 triple overtime game. CJ Reese was a major

catalyst, averaging nearly 22 points per game in 19 contests. Jeremy Oppenheimer was named The Sun Conference Freshman of the Year, averaging 13.8 points and 4.7 rebounds per game.

WRESTLING

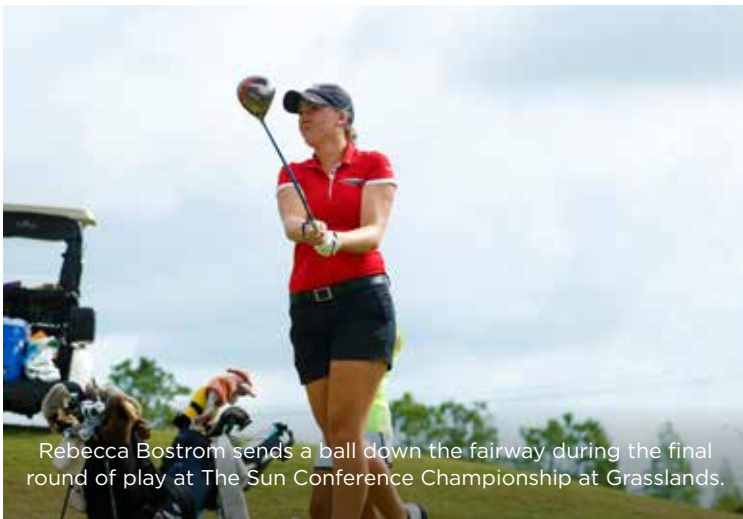
The second season for Florida's only intercollegiate program saw the opening of its new wrestling arena, seven dual match victories, and three wrestlers competing at the NAIA National Championship. Sophomores Tim Dinsdale and Olson Delisca along with freshman Giovanni Bonilla all



Coach Anna Welsh talks strategy with her team during the conference championship game in Clermont.



Carlos Ardila takes a shot during the second round of play at The Sun Conference Championship at Fripp Island.



Rebecca Bostrom sends a ball down the fairway during the final round of play at The Sun Conference Championship at Grasslands.



David Veliz returns a shot during doubles play against Warner.

qualified for the national tournament in Topeka, Kan. Each won at least one match, with Delisca narrowly missing out on All-American status. Bonilla and Dinsdale each posted a team-best 25 wins this season.

BASEBALL

Southeastern secured its second Sun Conference Tournament championship, defeating regular season champion Keiser 11-3 in the final game of the tournament. The Fire became the first team in the NAIA to reach the 30-win mark this season, and with one more win, will set the program record for victories in a season. For the second time in program history, SEU is home to The Sun Conference Player of the Year in Luis Diaz, who led the league in multiple offensive categories, sporting a

.406 batting average this season. Diaz was also named an NAIA First-Team All-American for his efforts. Southeastern made its third appearance in the NAIA National Tournament Opening Round, going 2-2 in the Hattiesburg (Miss.) bracket.

SOFTBALL

For the third straight year, the Fire softball program earned an at-large bid to the NAIA National Tournament Opening Round. During The Sun Conference Tournament, the Fire held off elimination three times, advancing to the championship game, and securing a third straight 40-win season. Like baseball, the Fire softball team headed to Hattiesburg, Miss., for the NAIA Opening Round, going 2-2.

MEN'S GOLF

The Fire are making their third trip to the NAIA National Championship following a strong showing during the regular season. Following a fourth-place finish at The Sun Conference Championship, the Fire were awarded one of eight at-large berths to the championship held at TPC Deere Run. Heading into the championship, the Fire hold their highest NAIA Top 25 ranking in program history at ninth. For the second time in program history, the Fire were still alive after the 36-hole cut as one of just 17 teams to compete for the title over the final two days.

WOMEN'S GOLF

In its fourth season of competition, the SEU women's golf team earned a



Melanie Dodd sends a shot back to her opponent during a match against SCAD Savannah.

trip to the national championship for the first time. The Fire finished fourth at The Sun Conference Championship, which SEU hosted at Grasslands Country Club. In the final Coaches' Top 25 Poll, the Fire received their highest ranking in program history at 14th. At nationals, the Fire finished eighth with senior Rebecca Bostrom earning All-Tournament honors, finishing ninth. She also became the program's first All-American, garnering Second-Team honors.

MEN'S TENNIS

For the first time in program history, The Sun Conference Player of the Year in men's tennis went to a member of the Fire. David Veliz was given this honor after going unbeaten at No. 1 singles in conference play, dropping just one match that was not stopped due to injury or weather during his career at SEU. The Fire came up just one win shy of a return trip to The Sun Conference Tournament, falling in its home finale 6-3.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Fire returned to The Sun Conference Championship for the third consecutive season, falling in the semifinal round to regular season champion SCAD Savannah, concluding the career of coach Bill May, who retired after 19 years in collegiate tennis. The Fire finished the season 8-7. For the eighth consecutive season, The Sun Conference Champion of Character Award went to a member of the Southeastern women's tennis team. Morgan Logue was selected for her selfless giving and off-court accomplishments.

**FIRE
POWER**

Fall 2017 Game Schedule

Aug 26	@ Union College
Sep 2	Bethel University
Sep 9	@ Georgetown College
Sep 16	Bluefield College
Sep 23	@ Lindsey Wilson College
Oct 7	Warner University
Oct 14	@ Faulkner University
Oct 21	Webber International
Nov 4	@ Edward Waters
Nov 11	Ave Maria University

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SEU **BARNETT**
College of Ministry
& Theology

Since its inception in 1935, Southeastern has been training servant leaders in ministry. This issue of the magazine features alumni from the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. In this special section, we will share a brief history of the college, future plans, and new programs, along with some stories of our alumni from the college who have pursued a lifetime in ministry.

History of the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology

1935

Ministry training started with founding of the Alabama Shield of Faith Institute (which eventually came to be named Southeastern University). Two years of training was offered in Bible, ministry, and missions.

1937

The degrees were changed to a three-year curriculum. The main Bible classes focused on Doctrine, Prophecy, Dispensational Truth and Typology.

1948

A language section with courses in Greek, Hebrew and even Arabic was created for those who felt called to minister to Muslims.

1957

A four-year degree was offered for the majors of Theology, Bible, Missions and Christian Education.

1967

A bachelor's degree was offered in Pre-Seminary and Ministerial Training.

1986

A bachelor's degree in Pastoral Ministries was added.

1990s

The Youth Ministries, Children's Ministry, Church Business Administration, Church Office Administration and Preaching bachelor degrees were added.

1992

The Bolin building was dedicated. Degrees in Pastoral Counseling and Pastoral Ministry were added.

2000

Bachelor's degrees in Church Ministries and Interdisciplinary Studies were added.

2002

Church Ministries degree concentrations in Bible, Ministry Arts, Missions, Pastoral and Youth were added.

2004

Church Ministries degree concentrations were added in Leadership and Children's Ministry.

2005

First master's degree offered in Ministerial Leadership.

2008

A degree in Practical Theology was added.

2012

Church-based extension sites were implemented, which led to significant growth in the college.

2015

The Master of Divinity degree was introduced.

2016

The Doctor of Ministry program launched its first cohort.

2017

The college was named in the honor of Pastor Tommy Barnett.



Southeastern Renames College in Honor of **TOMMY BARNETT**

Left to right: Chris Owen, Luke Barnett, Tommy Barnett, Kent Ingle, Justin Lathrop, and Terry Raburn

On May 4, Southeastern University unveiled the renaming of the College of Christian Ministries and Religion in honor of the chancellor of the university, Tommy Barnett. The newly named college is known as the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. This is the first of several changes that will be incorporated in the college. One such change includes the launching of the School of Worship in the fall of 2017.

“No one has embodied a commitment to innovation and empowering the next generation like Pastor Tommy Barnett. One of our objectives in restructuring

the college is to honor his legacy,” said Dr. Kent Ingle, president of Southeastern.

Barnett serves alongside his son, Luke, as the co-pastor of one of the fastest growing churches in America, Dream City Church in Phoenix, Ariz. The church is known as *The Church with a Heart*, because of its 260-outreach ministries. In 1994, Barnett and his son, Matthew, launched the first Dream Center in Los Angeles to serve the needs of those in poverty and life-controlling situations, giving rise to dozens of Dream Centers across the country. Beginning with a church averaging 48 people on a Sunday

morning, the ministry is now reaching over 50,000 per month. Barnett has served as the chancellor of Southeastern since 2011.

“Since the inception of Southeastern in 1935, one of our passions has been to train students for positions of leadership within the local church. This passion continues to push us forward as an institution to seek out new and innovative ways to bring the very best in education to our students,” said Ingle.

The restructuring of the college includes an advisory board of significant church



Tommy Barnett



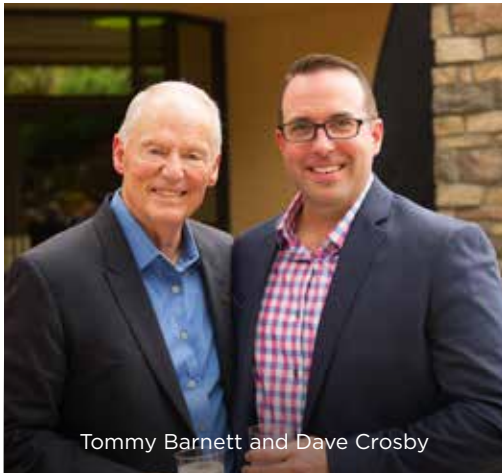
Scott Jones and Tommy Barnett



Dr. Alan Ehler, Tommy Barnett and Keira Ehler



Left to right: Dino Rizzo, Tommy Barnett, and Greg Surratt



Tommy Barnett and Dave Crosby



Tommy Barnett and Steve Smothermon



Tommy, Aubrey and Luke Barnett

leaders to provide practical feedback on ministerial trends and to promote the college. There will also be four distinct schools within the college, with a focus on worship, ministerial leadership, theological studies, and graduate studies. The restructuring also includes certificate programs, faculty-at-large, a placement program and an upgrade to the facilities. The planned capital improvements include the expansion

of the campus chapel to seat close to 2,500 students, a recording studio and additional classrooms for the college.

“Our Barnett College of Ministry & Theology is the largest and one of the most prestigious colleges within SEU. As the very foundation of our university, it’s led by faculty who succeed in ministry and in academics, and challenge each student with academic rigor and practical

experience,” said Dr. Bill Hackett, provost of Southeastern.

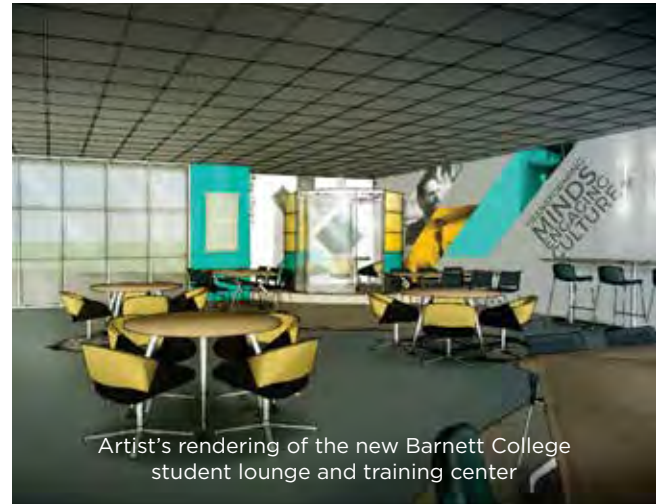
There are currently 1,776 students pursuing a ministry degree through the university. The college offers one doctoral degree, three master’s degrees, nine bachelor’s degrees, and one associate degree.

BARNETT COLLEGE OF MINISTRY & THEOLOGY VISION FOR EXPANSION

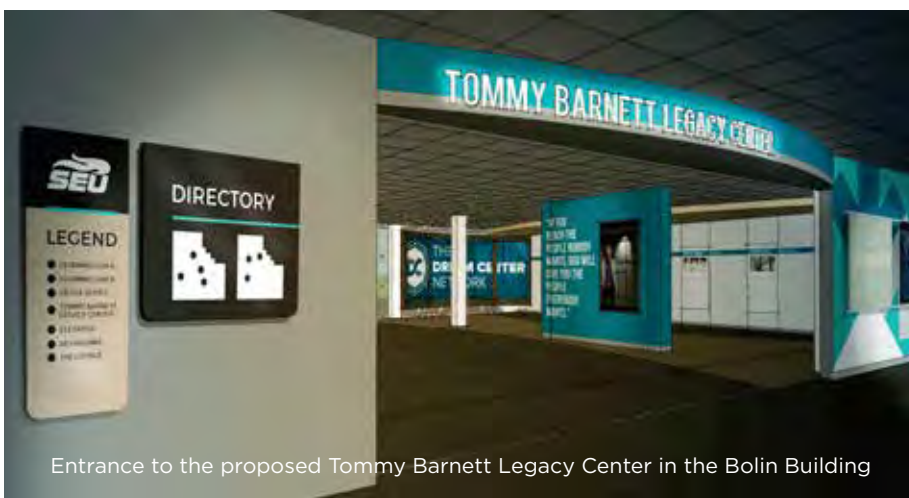
The restructuring of the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology will include new programs within four distinct schools, as well as an upgrade to the current facilities in the Bolin Building. In addition to new academic programs, certificate programs and a placement program, the renovation of the Bolin Building will add a student lounge and training center, more classroom and lab space, as well as the addition of the Tommy Barnett Legacy Center. Shown below are artistic renderings of some of these upgrades.



Entrance to the Jerome Bolin Building and the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology



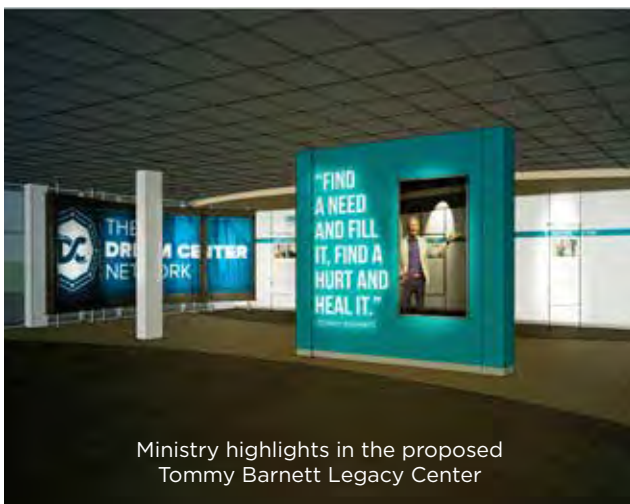
Artist's rendering of the new Barnett College student lounge and training center



Entrance to the proposed Tommy Barnett Legacy Center in the Bolin Building



A global look at the 260+ outreaches of Tommy Barnett's ministry



Ministry highlights in the proposed Tommy Barnett Legacy Center



Proposed Tommy Barnett Legacy Center ministry highlights



INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS

NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES HONOR THE LEGACY OF A LOVED ONE.

The word “legacy” is a word that often comes to mind when we think of the impact someone has after years of faithful service. Certainly, the word has often been used to describe the impact that Pastor Tommy Barnett has had on hundreds of thousands of people during his 64 years of ministry – through his preaching, his cutting-edge vision for ministries like the Dream Center, and through the ongoing ministry of his grown children. The “Tommy Barnett Legacy Center” is one of the proposed designs and capital projects highlighted through the artist’s renderings of the expanded Barnett College of Ministry & Theology.

Of course, there are many ways to leave a legacy. Some people leave a legacy through their success in a business that bears their name. Others may be known for some significant discovery or perhaps an act of heroism. Some people’s legacy

One way to help complete this work and impact the lives of our future ministry leaders – while also honoring a family member or loved one – is through a naming gift opportunity or legacy gift.

is in the inheritance they leave for others when they die. Although most of us may never achieve great success in business or make a huge discovery, we can still leave a legacy. We do so by the impact we have in others’ lives – by raising our children to serve God, by serving others, or by giving in such a way that it makes a difference in someone’s life long after the gift is made.

Members of the newly formed Pastoral Advisory Board and a few other friends

of Southeastern have done just that – given to the Barnett College in order to make a difference in the lives of the next generation of pastors, worship leaders, and ministry leaders. The Pastoral Advisory Board members were given the opportunity to invest in the expansion of the Barnett College prior to the May 4 renaming, and many of them, and their churches, have responded with generous gifts and commitments to support this expansion project.

As of June 30, nearly 20 churches have pledged to give \$955,500 over the next three years in support of the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. With these commitments, plus Barnett College gifts from a few other donors, nearly \$1.1 million has already been given to expand the programs and facilities of the Barnett College.



Although these gifts are a great start to meeting the university's goals for expanding the Barnett College facilities and programs, there is still much more needed to complete the work. The Southeastern leadership team and Board of Trustees have approved a number of other projects and new training opportunities for the Barnett College.

One way to help complete this work and impact the lives of our future ministry leaders – while also honoring a family member or loved one – is through a naming gift opportunity or legacy gift. A number of these naming gift opportunities were presented at the dedication of the Barnett College in May.

Some are “brick and mortar” projects, such as the renovation of the Bolin Building and the addition of more classroom space. Another major building project is the expansion of Bush Chapel to house the new School of Worship and accommodate close to 2,500 students. Other naming gift opportunities include new programs and training centers within the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology.

Naming Opportunities

Some of these giving opportunities for a family, a church, or an individual to consider include:

- Center for Family Ministries – a training and research center with facilities and faculty to train current and future generations of children's, youth, and family pastors

- Children's themed theater-style classroom
- Ministry lab for video production
- Student lounge and training center
- Center for Spiritual Formation – a center to train and equip life, ministry and executive coaches
- Center for Women in Leadership, designed to mentor and equip young female leaders, influence the broader church with a solid biblical foundation for women's leadership, and host an annual conference for Christian female leaders
- Center for Church Planting and Health Research – a partnership between SEU ministry faculty and church planting organizations
- School of Worship recording studio
- Center for Global Pentecostalism annual lecture series
- Bolin Building renovation, including classrooms and offices

Southeastern University must continue to grow and develop training centers here on our Lakeland campus and around the country to help meet the need for young pastors, missionaries, worship leaders and others in the future. Naming opportunities exist for as little as \$10,000 for some of the smaller projects. Other naming opportunities may require gifts of several hundred thousand dollars for training centers, or \$1 million or more for the naming of a building. Gifts may be made as a lump sum, or given over a two- to three-year period.



President Ingle presents Rev. Lyle Hadler with classroom plaque.




REV. LYLE HADLER CLASSROOM DEDICATION

How do you honor a man who faithfully served his alma mater, his students, and his calling for decades? If that man is **REV. LYLE HADLER '51**, you do so by naming a classroom after him.

The *Rev. Lyle Hadler Classroom* was dedicated on May 2, 2017, by President Kent Ingle, with members of the Southeastern leadership team and dozens of family members, friends, and former faculty members in attendance. Lyle was a professor of history, geography, and sociology at Southeastern from 1965–1990. He also led the drama department and speech labs. The Bolin Building classroom, with its beautiful second-story view of Lake Bonny, was named for Lyle thanks to a gift given to the university to commemorate his years of service to Southeastern.

Lyle was first a Southeastern student who attended college from 1948–51 when South-Eastern Bible Institute was housed at Lodwick Air Base in Lakeland. After completing his B.A. in Ministerial Studies, he met and married the love of his life, **HELEN (HAYMOND) '69**. The Hadlers raised two daughters, Paula and Sonja, and were married for 63 years before Helen's passing in 2015.

In the 1950s and early 60s, the Hadlers pioneered and pastored churches in Tennessee and South Carolina before Dr. Tom Wilson offered Lyle an opportunity to return to Southeastern and join the faculty in 1965. In his comments at the dedication, Ingle shared how Lyle's students loved his humor, his anecdotes, and his style of dress – but not necessarily his tough exams!

Although Lyle taught history (and one of his two master's degrees was an M.A. in World History), his calling was first and foremost to ministry. Even after retiring from Southeastern in 1990 at the age of 67, Lyle continued to serve on staff at a church in Lakeland for years and has also led chapel services at the retirement community where he still lives today. 



Daniel Rivera

SCHOOL OF WORSHIP



David Cook



This fall, Southeastern will launch a School of Worship, housed in the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. This one-of-a-kind program will train students to not only lead worship, but will also equip them to lead as pastors and creative directors in churches.

“There has been a shift in culture for worship leaders to do more than music, through having more of a pastoral awareness. Worship pastors and creative pastors are becoming more synonymous,” said **DANIEL RIVERA ’13**, the director of the school.

DAVID COOK, the campus worship pastor, and Daniel are working together to create a cutting-edge worship training experience. The School of Worship will combine instrumental and vocal development academics with theological and ministerial courses. The School will also focus on developing hands-on experience in worship leading, song writing and service producing.


“We believe in creating a school where an above-industry-standard level of excellence is combined with a heart for leading believers in authentic worship,” said David.

David, who attended Southeastern from 2009 to 2010, spent several years as a worship pastor and songwriter at Hillsong Church in Sydney, Australia.

Prior to returning to Southeastern, Daniel served as a worship pastor for National Community Church (NCC) in Washington, D.C., under the pastoral leadership of best-selling author and national speaker Mark Batterson. Daniel led worship services and wrote worship music for NCC’s eight campuses in the D.C. metro area. Daniel has also worked with Grammy and Dove Award-winning artists.

“Our ultimate goal is to develop students who have a deep love for the local church, who can inspire, encourage and equip future church congregations with authentic worship experiences. I’m excited to help shape the next generation of leaders,” said Daniel.

The degree will include classes in Bible, Theology and Practices of Ministry. It includes 13 hours of credits in Worship Music and a minor in Church Music. The Worship Music classes include Songwriting, Creative Directing/Production for the church and Worship Leading and Audio Technology. The students will also need to complete two music proficiency exams in piano/keyboard and guitar.

Students will have the opportunity to be exposed to worship leaders in the industry today. Daniel is planning seminars in the fall where guest worship leaders will be invited onto campus. 



ONE MISSION OUTREACH

SEU STUDENT MINISTRY TEAM SHARES THE GOSPEL LOCALLY.

For Southeastern students, ministry is more than a major. Students from a variety of majors spend their weekdays and weekends sharing the gospel locally and nationally. A group of 40 students are a part of a student ministry team known as One Mission Outreach (OMO), which is housed in the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology. The students minister locally at the Boys and Girls Club, Anchor House, The Porch Light and RV parks.

“Overall, One Mission Outreach touches the lives of all ages – from the very young to those who have been retired for years. Our heart is to share the gospel, in both word and deed, to those who need it most in our community,” said **LAUREN RALEY ’15 MAML**, the coordinator of One Mission Outreach.

Boys and Girls Club works with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. In the Lakeland and Mulberry area, Boys and Girls Club serves more than 2,000 young people. Southeastern students help in Bartow, Fla., on Wednesday afternoons – teaching youth Bible stories, games, songs, and social skills.


Anchor House ministries is a faith-based residential group home dedicated to caring for, discipling, and empowering young men from disadvantaged situations. A team of students serves at Anchor House in Auburndale, Fla., where they lead devotions, play basketball, and mentor the middle and high school boys. The boys come out of the juvenile detention system, foster care system, or other life challenges.

“We play sports with the boys. They love playing basketball and soccer. Then, we do a Bible study with them and try to focus on group discussion questions. Since I have joined OMO, I have developed a deep passion for kids ministry,” said Sean Nelson, a senior children, youth and family ministries major.

The Porch Light ministers to child victims of sex trafficking through their safe home program, along with prevention efforts across the U.S. A team of female students from Southeastern works with the community to raise awareness of human trafficking at different community events. Second-year students are able to tutor young women who have been taken out of human trafficking situations and live in The Porch Light home.

A branch of The Porch Light, Brave Moms, provides stability, support and encouragement for single moms. A team of female students works with the children of the single mothers who are housed on or around the Florida Baptist Children’s Homes campus. They share Bible stories, songs, arts and crafts, and social skills. They also serve them dinner.

An additional team of students preach at the RV parks in Zephyrhills, Fla., and minister to retirees at their weekly Sunday community service.

“As we minister to others, we find ourselves to be more kind, more gracious, and much more compassionate and understanding of people who are in our own backyard. Students can carry on this type of ministry or tell their stories while they are in their areas of influence after they graduate, which can effectively change structures of injustice and touch the lives of others,” said Lauren. 

Ephesians 4:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...

The following pages feature just a few of our many alumni who serve around the world and in the United States as evangelists, missionaries, pastors, teachers and ministry leaders.

Excellerate: EMPOWERING FOSTER TEENS TO MOVE FORWARD



Excellerate founder, evangelist, and SEU alumnus
Allen Griffin with his wife, Hashmareen

Having grown up in a home with 26 foster siblings in total, evangelist **ALLEN GRIFFIN '94, '15 (MAML)** saw firsthand the needs of young people in the foster care system.

Far too many foster children get shuffled from home to home, suffer physical and emotional abuses, and “age out” of the system without the basic life skills needed to survive as they transition into adulthood.

In fact, one in five former foster children end up homeless, and one in four become involved in criminal activity within two years of leaving foster care. Also, compared to the national average of nearly 90 percent, only about 60 percent of foster children graduate from high

school by age 19, with less than 2 percent earning a college degree by age 25.

Allen and his wife, Hashmareen, dedicated themselves to connecting foster children in their church to their forever homes and families. And while Allen felt confident he was fulfilling the call on his life to serve this population, God had another plan, which was revealed to him one night in a dream.

“The Lord spoke to me and told me He wanted me to serve orphans. I foolishly tried to reason with Him: ‘Hashmareen and I have been helping foster kids find their forever homes.’ God’s response was life-altering: ‘Once a child is adopted, they are no longer orphans. There is a generation of students that will not

be adopted and will never receive a forever home.’

“Shamefully, I finally asked the *right* question: ‘God what would you like me to do?’” With the answer Allen received, the vision for Excellerate was born.

Based on Florida’s east coast, Excellerate is a 16-week program designed to introduce orphans and foster teens to God’s love and equip them with the skills needed to become successful and productive adults.

The Excellerate team’s first objective in the program is to build relationships with the students, who are often hesitant to trust others.



Allen Griffin speaking at a National Youth Convention for the International Pentecostal Holiness Church

“We must inject ourselves and the love of God into their world constantly – they will not invite us in,” said Allen. “We must invade their space with patience and kindness for weeks, months, and even years to gain their trust. Once they trust us, they can trust the Jesus in us, and supernatural shifts come to their lives.”

Then, through a mix of instruction, mentoring, and practical experiences, the students are guided through lessons centering on each of Excellerate’s five pillars: life skills, professionalism, financial responsibility, social skills, and spiritual growth.

At the end of the program, each successful graduate is presented with a car – a gift that Allen believes “inspires and brings a greater sense of normalcy to the student.” Since its beginning in 2012, the Excellerate team has gifted more than 80 donated vehicles to its graduates.

With their newly acquired skills, knowledge, and mobility, Excellerate

graduates have gone on to live transformed lives. Students that were once disrespectful and abusive have been reported to have prayed and cared for their caseworkers. Foster teens that required prescription psychotropic drugs to function are relieved of their medication needs. And many that were failing or had dropped out of school turned their academics around, several even earning honors and continuing on to college.

The change is so dramatic, in fact, that the vice president of the Department of Children and Families visited Excellerate’s offices in Ormond Beach and asked, “To what do you attribute your amazing success?”

Allen’s response? “Jesus!” The Excellerate graduates are not the only ones to have learned some important lessons through the program. According to Allen, the most important one he has learned is to never give up on a child.

“Many social workers are overworked and underprepared for the task of serving an immense need. It is easy to walk away, and the rate of resignation is staggering. The victories we have witnessed in the lives of these students prove to us each student’s potential is unlocked only by persistent pursuit,” he said.

For Allen the promise in Joshua 1:9 (NIV) is what has helped him step out in faith and continue pushing forward in his ministry: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

“I believe there are many powerful compassion ministries brewing in the hearts of young and not-so-young men and women of God in our world,” he said. “Launching requires great courage. To step in the center of the tumult of uncertainty to accomplish these visions is the very definition of faith.”



Allen Griffin with a former student, Shaquille, who is currently competing for a chance in the Olympics



The Excellerate team, students, volunteers, and donors at their annual golf tournament fundraiser



Allen and his team have required faith particularly in the area of fundraising, which he cites as their greatest struggle. It costs approximately \$7,400 per student who progresses through the entire Excellerate program.

“We spend a large portion of our time sharing our mission and encouraging churches to extend their hearts to the needs in the foster care community.”

As an evangelist, Allen travels 46 weeks out of the year sharing the gospel and his heart for orphans and foster teens at churches, conferences, and forums. He also serves as a motivational speaker to approximately 250,000 students a year in public schools across the country. In total, he and his team have logged well over 2 million air

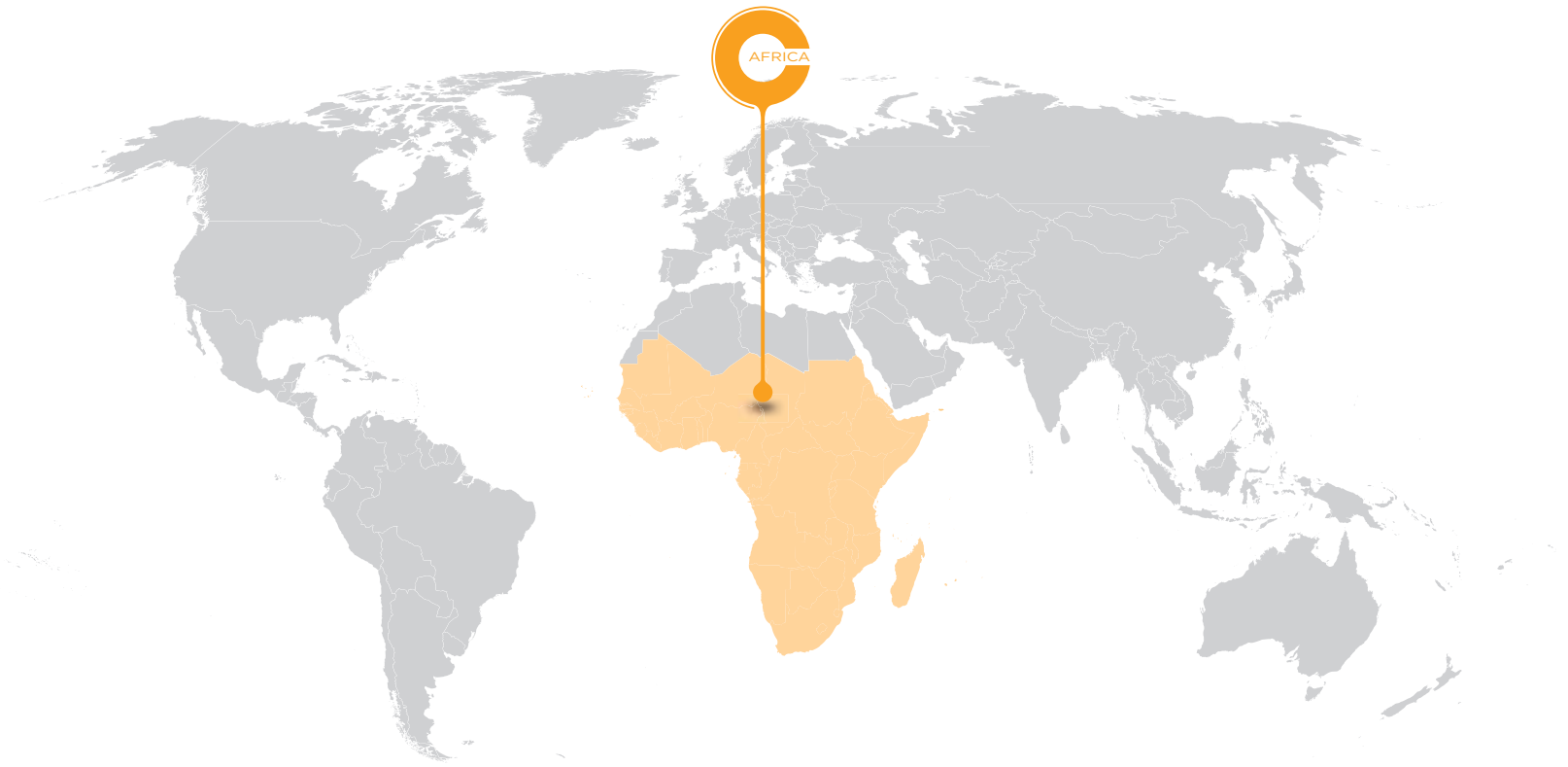
miles over the past two decades, having been heard in nearly 40 nations and on five continents.

Despite his busy schedule, Allen is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Southeastern.

As for the future of Excellerate, Allen aims to see it in every city across the United States.

“Its true power lies in the connection with the local church. We will not stop presenting and influencing leaders to reach the forgotten in our country. These kids are invisible to so many, but our God sees them! It’s time we open our eyes to the need and, as the church united, heal God’s orphans.”

Left: Excellerate graduates receiving their vehicles after successfully completing the 16-week program



POPULATION

946,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST

748,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

1,344



AGWM MISSIONARIES

378

Source: AGWM



MARK and KIM GARDNER

Serving in Namibia

When **MARK '91** and **KIM (MORRISON) GARDNER** moved to Angola, the country was on the brink of a civil war. Soldiers and tanks were in the streets, with land mines littered throughout the countryside. The local people suffered physically from oppressive heat, malaria, and bacteria-laden water. In the midst of great suffering, fear and darkness laid the opportunity for miracles.

“The ministry itself was under harsh physical and spiritual conditions, but the results were amazing,” said Mark. “Heat, diseases, and all sorts of mess did abound there, but so did the grace of God with miracles, manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and angelic ministrations.”

He shared how when they would give altar calls or show the *Jesus* film people would respond in great numbers.

“Sometimes the best fishing is in the most difficult places,” Mark said.

The Gardners served in Angola for eight years and were involved in children’s ministry training and outreaches. They encountered hardships as they ministered during the civil war. During that time, they helped form a non-governmental organization to help children with polio.

“When you pray for someone and they are not healed, you can’t just walk away.

Christ’s love compels us to act, and even though we had no experience or training to work with disabled children, we followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and learned from those around us. We impacted the lives of hundreds of disabled throughout the country,” said Mark.

The Gardners have served as missionaries to several different countries in Africa for 22 years, all with a focus on children’s ministry. According to the Assemblies of God’s Africa website, in the continent of Africa around 40 percent of the population is under the age of 15.

Mark felt called into missions two years prior to attending Southeastern. He met his wife, Kim, at Southeastern. Together, they have a daughter, Breanna.

“I found my wife at Southeastern. If there was nothing else, that would have been worth it. She is definitely a woman of character and has stuck with me through wars, the heat, sicknesses, and all sorts of mess. I am the most blessed man on the face of this planet,” he said.


After graduating, he took a youth pastor position in New Jersey, as the doors to serve overseas had not opened for them yet. “My call was my Isaac. I gave it to God and followed Him in obedience to New Jersey. He resurrected that call

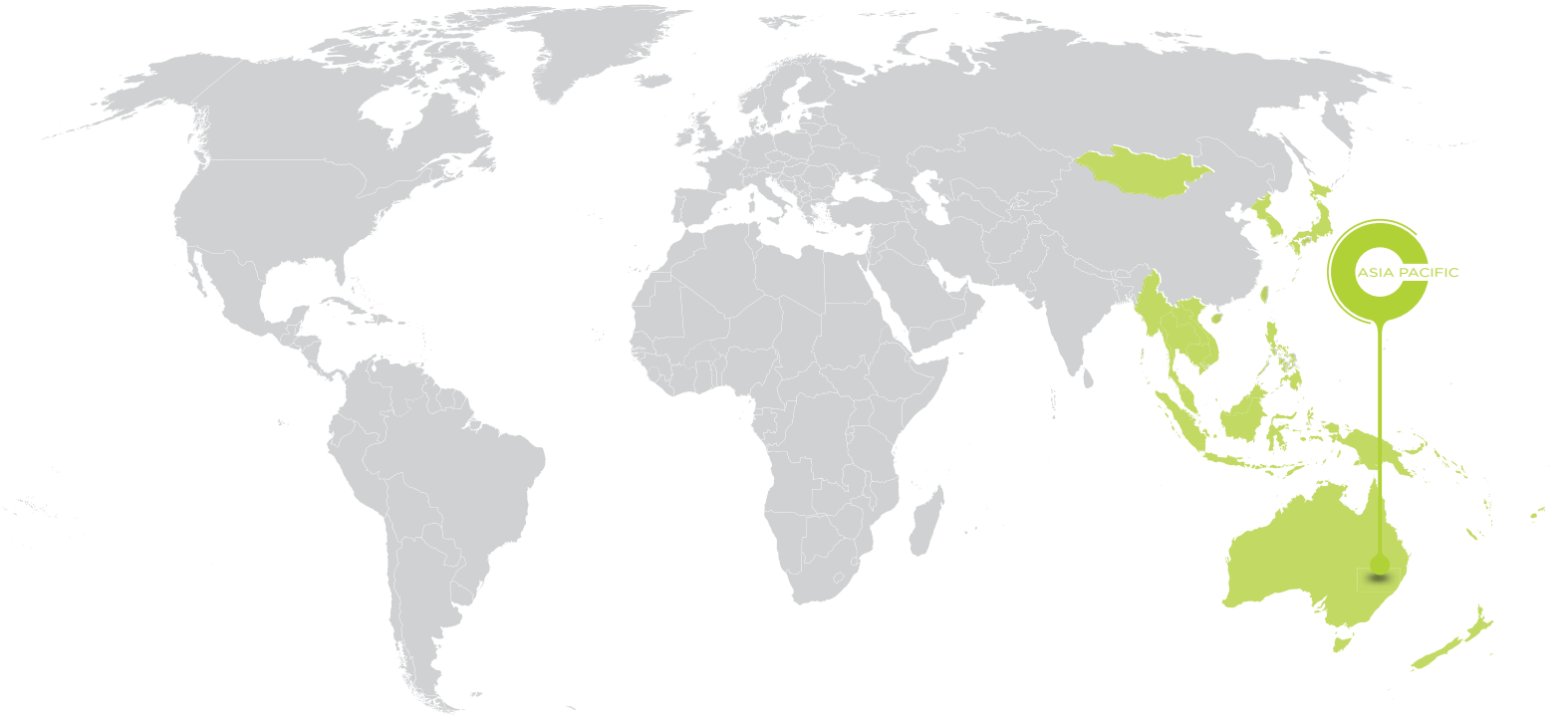
while I was serving as a youth pastor,” said Mark.

Mark and Kim moved to Portugal in 1995 to learn the language and partnered with the Assembleias de Deus to help the Church of God form the National Children’s Ministries Department of Portugal. From there they moved to Angola and lived there from 1998 to 2006.

In 2006, they felt called to Namibia – a country of unique landscapes from oceans to sand dunes to plains. Mark and Kim lead various children’s ministry initiatives in Namibia. The government-run schools have permitted the Gardners to share the gospel through children’s programs and the Bible during the school assemblies.

They train churches to minister to children through camps, outreaches, school assemblies, and discipleship. They are also involved in resource development, translating and printing children’s church and Bible school materials into the local language.

“Our vision is to bring kids and their caregivers into an encounter with the Holy Spirit so that they can know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and be transformed and empowered to go and minister to others,” said Mark. 



POPULATION

895,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST

845,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

1,095



AGWM MISSIONARIES

373

Source: AGWM



ALEX and KATHRYN HUMPHREYS

Serving in Japan

ALEXANDER “ALEX” and KATHRYN (FOLLETT) HUMPHREYS ’01 serve in the heart of Tokyo, a sprawling metropolis infused with ultramodern skyscrapers and traditional temples and shrines. Tokyo is a city full of noise, bright neon lights, and public gardens, where the black business suit meets the colorful kimono. The interwoven city is one of the largest metropolises in the world with a population of 37.8 million. Tokyo is one of the many cities nestled within Japan – a country where less than one percent of the population is Christian.

The Humphreys moved to Japan in 2006 to serve in full-time missions. The burden for Japan developed in Alex when he was in middle school. While living in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the age of 12, Alex met a Japanese boy in school whose family had just moved to America. Alex became friends with him and soon learned that his friend had never seen a church in Japan or heard the name of Jesus.

“Most Japanese people have never met another Christian before and have no concept of who Jesus Christ is. Spending time with non-believing Japanese people is the most effective way to tell them about Jesus. This is what frontline ministry looks like,” said Kathryn.

Alex and Kathryn met while attending Southeastern and were married a year after graduation. For the next three years,

Alex worked on receiving his licensing credentials with the Assemblies of God and Kathryn taught middle school history. In 2004, they were approved by the Assemblies of God World Missions to serve in Japan.

The Humphreys’ ministry focus is being site pastors at Tokyo City Church, which resides in the heart of Tokyo. They work with a Japanese pastor who planted the church 23 years ago. Nine years ago, the pastor moved three hours south to his hometown, Shimizu, where he planted a second campus. Both churches are under the pastor’s leadership. The churches stay connected by interacting every Sunday through YouTube Live.

“We are one church in two locations,” said Alex.

Twice a month, Alex preaches in Japanese and translates his message into English. When the Japanese pastor preaches, Alex translates the message into English. Alex is also involved in church administrative work, church member care, and various committee meetings. He currently sits on the board of a local Bible college, the missionary field committee and the Tokyo district youth committee.

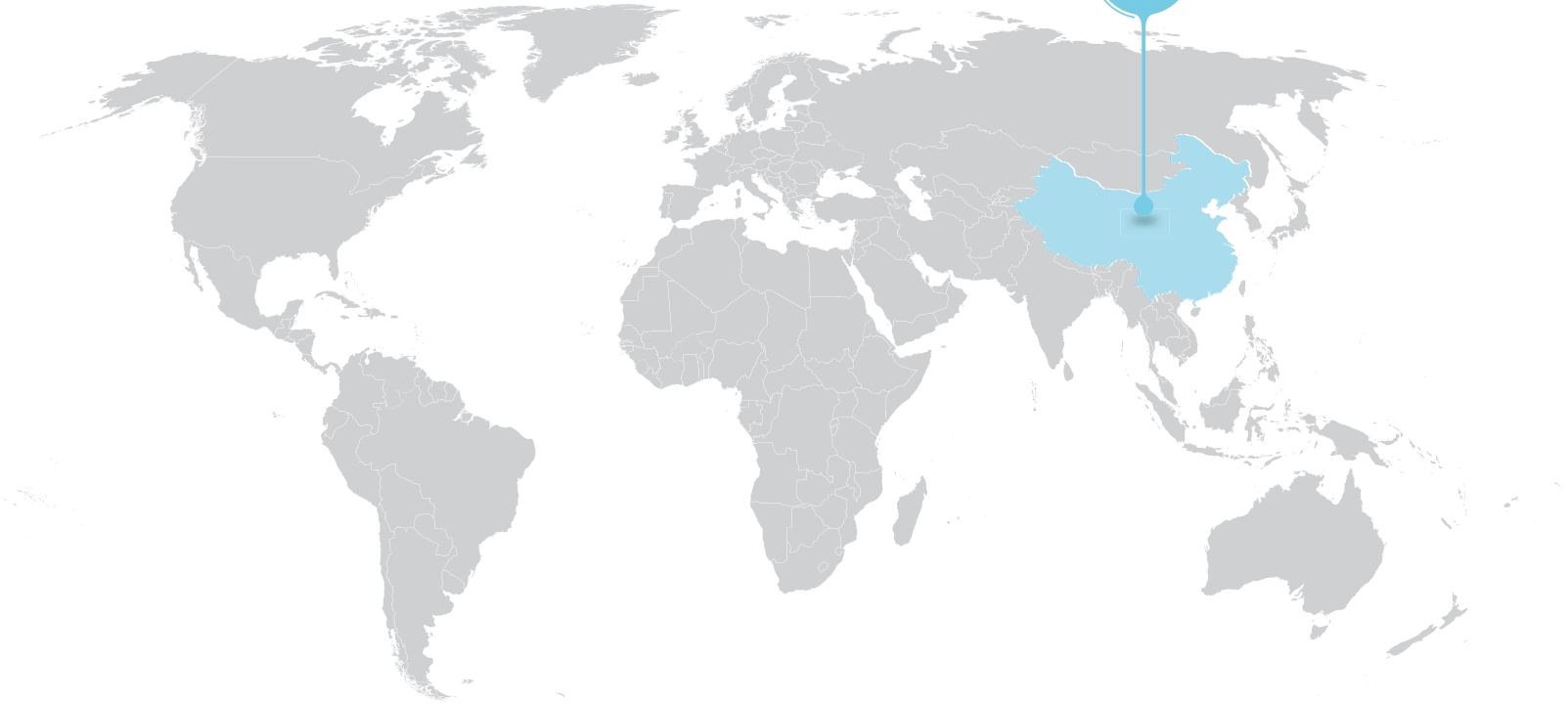
Kathryn’s primary ministry focus is friendship evangelism through developing and cultivating relationships based around the school activities of their

daughters, Isabella (7) and Gabriella (5). In Japan, the Humphreys are able to share their faith openly.

“In order to have an impact, you must have a relationship first. If they can trust you with little things, then eventually they will trust you with the more important, personal things,” said Kathryn.

Although Tokyo is a large and well-known city, it is not international in regard to speaking English, which becomes a barrier to those ministering in the country. “To speak into the hearts of the Japanese people, you must speak Japanese because most people cannot speak English beyond a basic level. It takes years to become able to speak at a conversational level in Japanese and even still there will be limitations. That being said, there can be valuable ministry in English or using English, but your target audience will be much smaller,” said Kathryn.

“The most challenging aspect of ministering in Japan is the general apathy towards religion. It takes years of one-on-one ministry to see one person come to Christ,” said Alex. “The rewarding part is seeing someone who has no understanding or awareness of God move from that darkness into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.”



POPULATION
1,396,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST
1,316,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
474



TEAM MEMBERS
230

Source: AGWM

RON and PENNY MADDUX

Serving in Northern Asia

“After graduation, I served as an evangelist for a while – and then accepted the pastorate of a small church in northwest Florida. I say small church – we had 11 – on Easter!” said **H. RONALD “RON” MADDUX ’73**. “I wondered, ‘Lord, how will I ever lead all of these people?’ I never dreamed that one day I would have spiritual responsibility for 1.4 billion people as the regional director for Northern Asia.”

Ron and his wife, **PENNY (TARANTINO) ’71**, felt called to be missionaries to Asia during a missions convention while they were pastors. This year, they celebrated their 40th anniversary of being approved by the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM). They serve as the regional directors of Northern Asia, a position they have held since 2000.

At the time that Ron and Penny wanted to apply to be missionaries, it was a requirement from AGWM for missionaries to have pastored for two years, be at least 25 years old and be ordained. They continued to pastor in Florida until they met the qualification. They were appointed missionaries in 1977 and spent a year raising funds.

On Ron’s 27th birthday, they arrived in Hong Kong. They served in Hong Kong for more than three years in evangelism and traveling in and out of the mainland of China ministering to the church. Penny also taught at Ecclesia Bible College. In 1981, they were asked to move to Thailand to oversee an evangelism and church-planting ministry.

In Thailand, Ron performed open-air evangelism ministry and planted numerous churches – particularly in the northeast part of the country. Penny



oversaw the youth and children’s ministry at a church they planted in Bangkok.

Ron’s evangelistic campaigns would take him near the borders of neighboring communist countries – Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Missionary residency and ministry were restricted in these countries.

“God seized my heart for these countries. I felt that we must find a way to open these countries to AG ministries. In the spring of 1990, by a series of miracles, God enabled us to enter each of these countries and establish a presence,” said Ron. It was soon after this that Ron was appointed the first area director of Peninsular Asia – which was comprised of Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

In December 2000, Ron was appointed the regional director of Northern Asia. In this role, Ron provides leadership to 230 team members and to the various ministries they are involved with in the region. Ron and Penny serve their teams by providing pastoral counsel, strategizing new ministries, casting vision, helping sort out challenges and finding funding

resources for each team’s ministry. Penny ministers primarily to the missionary wives and single lady missionaries.

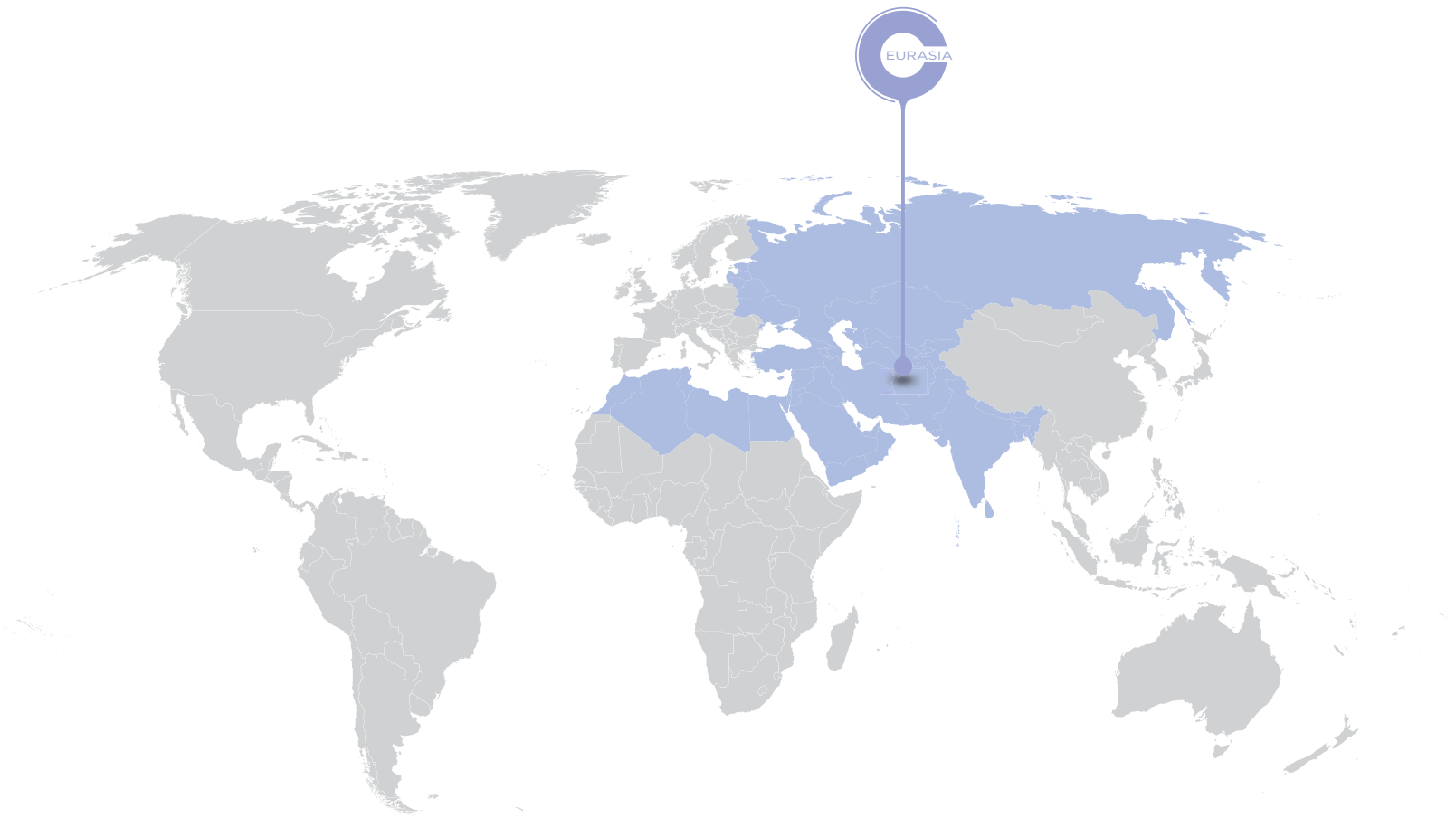
“She has great insight for missionary wives and mothers, having raised three children on the mission field. Penny and I agree that our greatest legacy is not the things we have personally accomplished – but that each of our three children, and their families, are serving as missionaries,” said Ron.

In Northern Asia, they have a major focus on reaching the unreached people groups, an initiative called Priority 31. Among the thirty-one people groups are Muslims, Buddhists, animists and secularists.

“This is an effort to engage with thirty-one people groups in the region that have few, if any, believers or churches among them – and among whom the gospel is not being communicated. Our goal is to continue to place teams among them and to establish ‘communities of faith’ – which are Acts 2 style churches,” said Ron.

While in missions, Ron and Penny continued to pursue degrees in higher education. Ron earned a master’s degree in intercultural studies and a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in organizational leadership, both from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS). Penny earned a master’s degree in intercultural studies from AGTS.

Ron’s advice to people planning to commit a lifetime to missions is to “Dream big and follow that dream. Trust God to partner with you to make your dream come true. Also, commit yourself to life-long learning.”



POPULATION
2,534,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST
2,488,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
4,909



AGWM MISSIONARIES
541

Source: AGWM



SHARON MCCAMMON

Serving in Lithuania

At the young age of 12, **SHARON MCCAMMON** sat in the pew of her church listening attentively to the guest missionary speaker. Near the conclusion of the service, the missionary challenged the audience with a question. She asked if God was speaking to anyone who would be willing to go and share the gospel with children around the world. Sharon knew she was called to do just that.

To pursue her calling, Sharon attended Southeastern from 1991 to 1993, focusing her studies on Christian education and children's ministry. After completing her studies at Southeastern, she joined the staff at Venice Assembly of God in Florida, as their children's pastor and interim senior pastor. While serving at Venice, she had the opportunity to be involved in witnessing the creation of the first national children's network. "Some key national leaders blessed me by allowing me to take notes," said Sharon.

In 1995, she was given the opportunity to create and develop a strong children's ministry at a church in Kalamazoo, Mich. "Pastor Oliver Dalaba, my pastor while growing up, gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to create and develop a strong children's ministry under his leadership. Serving under Dalaba solidified even further God's call in my life," said Sharon.

While there, Sharon helped coordinate efforts of networking children's ministry leaders, which provided her the opportunity to serve in Lithuania. Her involvement in Lithuania began in 1998, when a missionary couple made a request

to the Michigan district of the Assemblies of God for help with children's ministry and evangelism within the country.

"I remember Pastor Philip McElhenny approved me taking team members of our discipleship group, ages 10 to 13, on this international adventure and it changed spiritual destinies for Lithuania, those young girls who served and myself," said Sharon.

In 2002, Sharon became a fully appointed missionary with the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM), and in May of 2003 she moved to Lithuania. Since moving to Lithuania, her main focus of ministry has been evangelism and discipleship of children. She also trains and empowers the local church leaders to invest personally and intently into the lives of children.

"My compassion and purpose have come alive in what we call 'Kidz Lithuania.' We evangelize and disciple children and youth ages 10 to 19. We recruit from our missional sites, friends from school and, of course, believers. Our sole purpose is to equip the saints," said Sharon.


Kidz Lithuania also offers an intensive program where individuals are personally mentored, disciplined and trained to serve in ministry. The individuals live with Sharon as she offers them daily training. They spend their weekends involved in intentional discipleship and evangelism of children and youth.

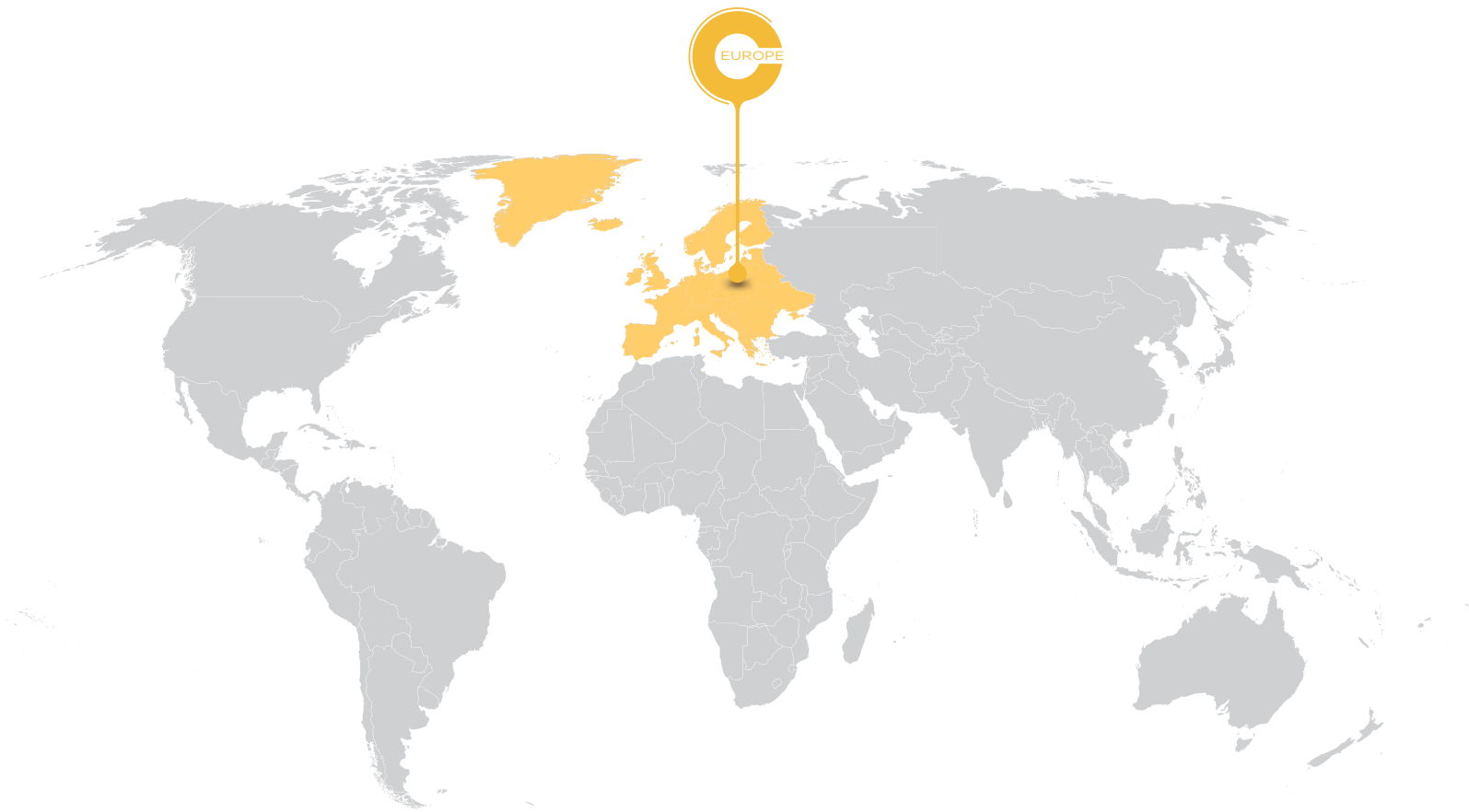
"It's rewarding when the young person gets it and they move on into greater opportunities with vision and an undying passion to fulfill their calling," said Sharon. "This has been the fruit that has blessed me when I see them excel in the call to reach children with the gospel and challenge them to rise up in making greater standards."

During the summer months, Kidz Lithuania's young adults are involved in travel ministry. They host summer camps and city-wide outreaches in smaller cities and villages around Lithuania.

"It is our hope that they will hear the gospel and be set free. Then, by the grace of God, we hope that they come back for discipleship on different levels. We truly believe in being discipleship makers," said Sharon.

Sharon also serves on a committee representing the Eurasian Region with AGWM called Global Children's Ministry Network. "It is so important to continue to fan the flame in the hearts of those serving internationally with helping one another connect and keeping fresh with the never-ending changes taking place worldwide with children," said Sharon.

In discipling and ministering to children, Sharon understands the sacrificial commitment to serving others. "Worldwide, people have become more protective with their personal time; sometimes it is at the detriment of fulfilling our purpose here on Earth," she said. 



POPULATION
529,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST
515,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
991



AGWM MISSIONARIES
489

Source: AGWM

JEFF and AILEEN STAUDTE

Serving in Belgium



Left to right: Mia, Aileen, Jeff and Alaina

JEFF '95 and AILEEN (VELEZ) '96, '12 (MAML) STAUDTE have a passion for reaching the unreached youth of Europe – a continent with as little as 0.3 percent evangelicals and even fewer Pentecostals. Many countries within Europe have experienced the rapid growth of Islam and Atheism, with a decrease in Christianity. Yet, in their youth ministry, Jeff and Aileen have seen a genuine hunger for the supernatural.

“I believe we are seeing young people who don’t want religiosity, but an encounter with God,” said Jeff. “What I have witnessed is a shift; where once young people were not interested in altar calls, now there is a hunger for the presence of God, both in and outside of the church.”

The Staudtes serve in Brussels, Belgium, working with the National Youth Ministries of Europe. Jeff is the vice chairman of the Pentecostal European Forum for Youth Ministries (PEFY), working with all of the national youth directors of Europe. Aileen serves as a worship leader, event planner and executive admin of PEFY.

“It is challenging to get people to understand the validity and importance of investing in youth ministry. This is hard

to understand, considering that close to 80 percent of believers get saved, water baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, and called into ministry all before 18 years of age,” said Jeff.

It was while in college that Jeff recommitted his life to Christ in Bauer Hall and later served in youth ministry as a student. Jeff shares that he had backslidden from his faith and had become a very angry, bitter person. “I poured all my emotion into heavy rock music, which fueled my hatred and low self worth,” he said.

“My rage was no match for the love Christ had shown to me. I chose to give my heart to Jesus. It was the story of the prodigal son coming home. It changed my life forever,” said Jeff.

He committed his life to Christ and started serving in ministry. Jeff met Aileen while he was a part of a traveling music band at Southeastern called New Covenant. They have been married for 20 years and have two daughters, Alaina and Mia.

During his senior year, he served part time as a youth pastor at Oxford First Assembly. After graduating, he served full time in Bluefield, Va., and then later in Palm Coast, Fla. It was while he was

in Palm Coast that the Lord called him and Aileen to full-time missions. He had previously felt called to ministry at the age of 15. Aileen felt called when she attended a summer camp held by the PenFlorida District, when she was 13 years old.

“Every individual truly has a unique calling and divine potential in Christ. When we yield ourselves to Him, the rest is like an adventurous roller coaster of blind faith. The challenge is not focusing on the end result but finding joy in the journey, in the process,” said Aileen.

Jeff and Aileen have been missionaries since 2003. They served in Austria for two terms before moving to Belgium. They are helping to develop youth ministry and leaders throughout Europe. Their future ministry plans include the launching of their new program called Activator – a youth ministry development partnership network.

“The harvest is ripe and there are so many opportunities. I don’t think we have an excuse not to go. If you feel called, that is a gift. Regardless of doubts and fears, there is nothing like the complete satisfaction of knowing you are living out God’s will for your life,” said Aileen. ➔



David and Jimmie Ruth Lee with PenFlorida District Superintendent Terry Raburn

DAVID and JIMMIE RUTH LEE

With the growth and development of media in the early 1980s, the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) Board recognized a need to develop a ministry that would respond to the needs of the missionaries and national churches. The World Missions Board approved the concept in May of 1981, and the World Missions Committee appointed **DAVID LEE '59** and his wife, Jimmie Ruth, as the founding directors of what became known as International Media Ministry (IMM).

“IMM exists to train missionaries and nationals and help them use the electronic media, internet, radio and television to help them produce radio and television programs in their language and their culture to reach their people with the gospel,” said David.

David and Jimmie Ruth started IMM in their garage in Lakeland, Fla. After a series of moves to bigger facilities, they finally moved to Brussels, Belgium, in 1985. David and Jimmie Ruth were joined by Richard and Sherry Dunn who helped to grow the ministry to include 67 workers, including 18 appointed missionary couples and one single. IMM helped national churches produce as many as 300 original television programs a year. IMM has

trained, produced programs and helped build television and radio stations in close to 100 countries over the years. Some of the programs produced by IMM have been translated, using subtitles or voice-overs, into as many as 33 different languages. IMM worked with national churches to help them produce their programs in their language and culture. Some programs were aired in countries where missionaries were not able to enter.

David and Jimmie Ruth served with IMM for almost 18 years before being asked in 1998 to move back to Springfield, Mo., to direct the Cardone Media Center for the Assemblies of God headquarters. In this new role, David directed the production of media programs for the U.S.

In 2001, he was asked by AGWM to become the director of U.S. Relations for World Missions. He served in this position until August of 2012. David was responsible to assist all itinerating missionaries, oversee the production of all the missions materials, direct relations with all the Assemblies of God district offices, the Fly-Ins, the AGWM website and to serve on the Executive Committee of the World Missions.

David also served as the chairman of the AGWM Media Commission. In this capacity, he helped found Unision Television in Cuenca, Ecuador, a city of 500,000, in 2003. He still serves on the board of the television station. The station broadcasts family value programs in Spanish on antennae, satellite and by internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They include programs on health, beauty, news, cooking, sports and offer “Buen Consejo,” “Good Advice,” every hour. Unision has recorded the names of over 140,000 people who have called to commit their lives to Christ. **BILL MCDONALD '78** is the founder and president of Unision.

David has worked with **DR. DAVID LEE, JR., '83** and **GERALD JACKSON** to construct, equip and train workers for the Media Center in Havana, Cuba.

In 2010, the Liberian government called the Assemblies of God superintendent of Liberia, Jimmy Kuoh, stating that the country needed a moral Christian voice to help heal the wounds of war and offered the church a license to build a Christian radio FM station. **DEVANE and MARY (JARMAN) MCGEE '86** were packing their container to go to Liberia where there



Past Superintendent of Cuba, Hector Hunter, and David Lee



Radio station in Liberia

had not been a missionary presence for seven years. The superintendent told DeVane the story and requested that he bring him a radio station. DeVane called David and said he needed help with a radio station.

“God helped put all the pieces together and on February 12, 2013, Voice of Hope Radio logged on to a potential audience of over a million people. The government used the station to give lifesaving information to people during the Ebola outbreak. It is a lighthouse in the midst of great darkness,” said David.

David got his start in television while teaching at Lakeland Senior High School. In 1965 the school, the county, state and federal government asked him to participate in a federal study of education television. They set up a studio, wired classrooms and learned a lot about television. David and Jimmie Ruth were also pioneering a church that is now Calvary Assembly in Winter Haven, Fla. As the church continued to grow, David resigned from teaching to pastor full time.

In 1970 David and Jimmie Ruth were elected to serve as the D-CAP or district youth director for the Peninsular Florida Assemblies of God. They served the youth of PenFlorida until 1976. It was during this time that he took the youth of the district on AIM (Ambassadors in Mission) trips to various parts of

the world including the Olympics in Munich, Germany, the Virgin Islands and Colombia, South America. During a Speed the Light rally he felt God calling him to Colombia. God confirmed that call on a missions trip to Colombia that year.

“I prayed, ‘Lord, I will go but you have to tell my wife, so it’s her desire as well,’” said David. Jimmie Ruth confirmed her calling shortly after. In August of 1977 they headed to Costa Rica for language training before moving to Colombia for three years, with their three children, David, Cindy and Steve.

While in Colombia, they held crusades, planted churches, directed the Bible school and produced a daily radio program. Toward the end of their time in Colombia, David helped produce sound tracks for the television series, “Lugar Secreto,” produced by (STAR) Spanish Television and Radio that was directed by **JOE ’60** and **MARGARET (ARNOLD) ’89 REGISTER**.

David and Jimmie Ruth helped to plant six new churches in the Medellin area. “We returned to Colombia in 2009 and the six churches plus the three that were in existence had planted 91 churches – and the Bible school graduation class was bigger than the whole school when we were there,” said David.


In December of 1980, they were asked by the World Missions committee to return to Lakeland, Fla., to help STAR. A few months later, they were appointed as the founding directors of IMM.

David and Jimmie Ruth retired from full-time missions in March of 2016. Although they are retired, David is still active with television and radio station projects in Cuba, Ecuador, Liberia and IMM.

In order for one to pursue a similar career, David encourages, “Establish yourself in ministry before you become a missionary or pastor. Start at the bottom and learn everything you can and grow into ministry.”

“In order for David to succeed in ministry, he didn’t try to do it by himself. He always wanted people to be involved,” said Jimmie Ruth.

As David reflected on this article, he realized that many Southeastern alumni have been an integral part of their lives and ministry.

“Many of the friends I met at SEU have helped to make our ministry possible. In addition to education and spiritual formation, the relationships we built during our college days have lasted a lifetime,” said David. 



POPULATION
628,000,000



SPIRITUALLY LOST
525,000,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
646



AGWM MISSIONARIES
536

Source: AGWM



TOMMY and SHARON HARRIS

Serving in Aruba

“Missions is a calling, not a career choice. When you are called, God opens the doors, provides what you need and equips you to do the task He has called you to do. It will require total dependence on Him,” said Sharon.

In November, **TOMMY '84** and **SHARON (MADDOX) '75 HARRIS** will celebrate 32 years of serving as Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) missionaries. In the span of those years, they have served in Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Tommy and Sharon both grew up in the Assemblies of God. Sharon felt called to missions at the age of 16 while attending a youth camp in Hartford City, Ind., in 1970. She went to Southeastern to prepare to be a missionary. Tommy was called into ministry at the age of 16 and later was called to missions while in an Introduction to Missions class at Southeastern. Tommy and Sharon met the following semester and were married three years later in 1975.

“We both believe that Brother Homer and the professors and teachers we had during our years at Southeastern had the greatest impact in preparing us, and our classmates, for what we are doing today. They sacrificed everything to impart to each of us students a vision and heart for God and encouraged us to seek Him and follow Him in faith and then they poured themselves into us. They were our pastors,

our counselors, our motivators and our biggest cheerleaders,” said Sharon.

After college, Tommy and Sharon served for ten years as youth and associate pastors at Calvary Assembly in Winter Haven, Fla., and Bethel Assembly of God in Martinsburg, W.Va. In 1988, they moved to Costa Rica for language school before moving to Uruguay. In Uruguay they planted churches and taught in the Bible schools in Montevideo.

“When we first arrived in Uruguay as church planters, we knew our future pastors of the new churches we started would come from the Bible school. We immediately began teaching at least one class per cycle in the Bible school in order to become better acquainted with the students and to begin relationships with those God would be using in ministry,” said Tommy.

They ministered in Uruguay until 1999, when they moved to the Dominican Republic. In the Dominican Republic, they taught in various Bible schools. They were Bible school directors and started a new Bible school located in Puerto Plata in the northern part of the country.

“It has been very exciting being a part in the preparation of pastors, missionaries and lay workers and watching as they are thrust into the kingdom harvest. It is a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in other areas of the world,” said Sharon.

Tommy and Sharon returned to the United States in 2007, when Sharon was diagnosed with breast cancer. They stayed stateside for the next seven years as Sharon was treated and recovering. In the meantime, Tommy worked with Inter-America Bible Media Ministries preparing and recording Bible school classes in Spanish that were streamed online. In 2014, with Sharon cancer free, they started preparing to minister in Aruba, a country that does not have any AG missionaries, churches or pastors. While preparing, they encountered various difficulties, including the burning of their stateside home.

While awaiting the approval of their visas to Aruba, they are currently serving in Nevis and St. Kitts where they are teaching Bible school classes on both islands and helping to start a new church in Nevis. Tommy and Sharon teach from Tuesday to Friday, taking boats back and forth from each island.

“It’s rewarding for us to see the youth from our church plants and students we have taught in Bible schools grow and assume leadership in the various areas of ministry,” said Tommy.

In Aruba, Tommy and Sharon will plant an AG church and will lay the groundwork for the training and credentialing of AG pastors and workers in the country. 🙌



POPULATION
325,276,700



SPIRITUALLY LOST
10,788,000



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
84



AG MISSIONARIES
984

Source: AG US Missions and Joshua Project

JIM and LINDA SCHULZ

Serving in Alaska

In 1967, just a few weeks after graduating from Southeastern, **JIM SCHULZ '67** began pastoring a small church in Punta Gorda, Fla. Six months into the pastorate he married his wife, Linda. During that time, Jim visited a missionary from Alaska, Carroll Burton, and sensed the call to serve in Alaska.

“At the close of the visit he asked me, ‘Jim why don’t you come to Alaska?’ That question started the work of the Holy Spirit in Linda and me. God later confirmed the call,” said Jim.

Their calling was to reach the native people of Alaska. Jim and Linda were first approved to itinerate in November of 1968, and they moved to Alaska in September of 1969. For the next two decades, they ministered in the cities of Minto, Nenana, Kotlik, Kotzebue and Anchorage. Their ministry focused on pioneering churches and holding tent crusades in remote villages.

In 1996, they began a remote outreach ministry in western Alaska through camp evangelism, known as Camp Agaiutim Nune (AN). The name in Yupik Eskimo means “The Place of God.” The camp’s vision is to provide an evangelism tool to minister to children, teens and families. The camps take place in the summer months.

“In the years since the beginning of Camp Agaiutim Nune, God has provided many miracles. We often say, ‘God truly does love Camp AN and the people it reaches,’” said Jim.



The camp is held in a remote area, near the village of Emmonak. Tents are used for the campers’ lodging and larger tents are utilized for the kitchen, dining and chapel. Their first camp had 42 attendees.

“When property was made available, we began with a large tent we had been using for crusade evangelism and a few old army tents for dorms, a Coleman camp cookstove and some willing workers and the hand of God,” said Jim.

Every summer, nearly 70 workers pay their way to travel to the camp and volunteer their time. Jim adds that many volunteer to minister at the camps because of what the Holy Spirit did for them at the camp.


“Camp AN is completely an evangelism outreach. The thrust is salvation and spiritual development. We take the kind of ministry that a camping program can

offer to them in an environment that is comfortable for them, and we can see that God is changing lives. God has used the camp to speak to many of these workers about ministry and missions,” said Jim.

Southeastern professors and students have had the opportunity to be involved in the camps. This past summer, Jim and Linda hosted their 22nd camp.

“Through my years at Southeastern, I deepened my walk with God, learning determination to follow God’s call and made many valuable contacts that have benefited the camp through the years. Southeastern has been a great help in sending teams of students to help staff the camp. Dr. Plastow and his wife are priceless to Camp AN,” said Jim.

When they are not hosting the camps, Jim and Linda base their ministry out of Anchorage, which currently has the largest population of Alaska Natives of any place in the state. Jim and Linda also offer Bible study lessons to students in many other towns in Alaska. There are 28 different lessons and 18 books that are offered free of charge to the correspondence students.

“We came with a focus on Alaska Native peoples and that remains. In the area of Anchorage where we are working, they have identified over 100 ethnic groups and the camps we direct in western Alaska reach the Yupik Eskimo of that area. The Bible correspondence ministry reaches many Alaska Native villages over the state,” said Jim. 

Access Church: A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS



JASON and **ELISABETH “LIS” (MUNIZZI) BURNS ’03** started Access Church in 2007 with a heart for building a community of believers. The church emerged out of a challenging circumstance the couple encountered just six months into their marriage. Lis had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, a cancer that starts in the lymphatic system, and underwent her treatments in Lakeland. Jason and Lis recall how people in the Lakeland community brought them meals and took care of them, until she was cancer free.

“It was a turning point in our story. We had been presented amazing job opportunities, but we felt God put on our heart to start a church. We fell in love with Lakeland,” said Jason.

The pair met at Southeastern in 2003. They both graduated top of their major and Lis was crowned the Homecoming queen her senior year. Following graduation, Jason worked full time as a graphic designer, while pursuing his master’s degree through a partnership between Southeastern and AGTS. Lis worked in the admission department at Southeastern. The two married in December of 2004.

“We met at Southeastern and fell in love there. It was very important to us. We cherish that time we had there. The cool thing about Southeastern was that we were all training for ministry. We all understood that we would be hands and feet for Christ. It was multi-dimensional,” said Lis.



Jason and Lis are the lead pastors at Access Church in Lakeland, Fla. The church started as a Bible study with just a few college students in the Burns' living room, and it grew from there.

"The hardest part was the startup of the church. We had no money. We found that it had become a church for people. People give life to the church. We celebrate and mourn with them – it is beautiful and messy," said Jason.

"We started a church that we wanted to attend. We keep our hearts empathetic towards others. We want them to know that they don't have to suffer or mourn alone," said Lis.

The goal of Access is to create a life-giving environment for their members and attendees. In 2013, taking a leap of faith, Access planted a new location in Brandon, Fla.

"A couple of thousand people call Access home. People watch our services from all over," said Jason.

This year, Access celebrated their tenth anniversary at the Polk Theatre, where Jason and Lis were presented a key to the city of Lakeland from the mayor. "We have been here in Lakeland and tried to invest in the community through being a steady presence," said Jason.

Access has four different avenues of ministry – weekend services, small groups, growth track (discipleship classes) and serving with the church. They hold services on Sundays in both Lakeland and Brandon. The Lakeland campus meets at George Jenkins High School and the Brandon campus meets at Campo Family YMCA. Access has employed several Southeastern graduates. They currently have 15 staff members, eight of whom are graduates of Southeastern.

In May, Access hosted Serve Day – one day the church serves to make a difference in the local community. For their serve days and other local outreach opportunities, Access has helped numerous local ministries, including Parker Street Ministries, Lighthouse, Grace Manor, and the Salvation Army. The church also serves the local community throughout the year.

For the fourth year in a row, the church hosted a day to support Feeding Children Everywhere, a non-profit that packages and sends food to hungry people in the U.S. and around the world. This year, the two campuses came together to package around 30,000 meals with a few hundred volunteers, to donate to Feeding Children Everywhere.

During the summer months, when schools are out, Access hosts Vacation Bible School for free. "It's a great



opportunity for the community and the whole family to be involved,” said Lis.


“We are playing a small part of what God is doing in Lakeland. We want to continue what God is doing and multiply it,” said Jason.

Access’s ministry also reaches overseas. They have sent missions trips to Mexico, Honduras and Kenya, where they have helped build churches. They recently built a church in southern Kenya, near Narok, for a community that had been meeting for church under a tree for years.

Outside of the church, Jason started Radiant Printing to help churches and church planters with their printing needs and costs. The company helps from the design phase to the final printing of banners, cards, pamphlets and many other materials a church may need. In the four years since it started, they have helped thousands of churches.

In October of 2016, Lis had her first book published, *Lessons My Kids Taught Me*. With the recent publication of her book, she has been speaking to moms and involved in women’s ministry. Jason and Lis have three children: Joe (10), Gavin (7) and Ella (3).

When asked about their recommendation for people interested in pastoring, Jason and Lis share their advice as having a love for the church and people. “There is no other motivation but a love for people,” said Lis.

“It’s more important to have a love for the church and be taught the skills. If you have the skills and learn to love the church, it can cause you to burn out. I love the church. I love to see it thrive and survive,” said Jason. 





Left to right: Spencer and Adrienne (Archer) Nakamura; Tina, Roger, Ashley (Centioli), Jake and Britney Archer

ROGER ARCHER '15 MAML is not your average senior pastor. In his early 50s, Roger dresses like the generation he is trying to reach – with distressed jeans and boots. He prefers to be known on a first-name basis, without the title of pastor. He drives into the church parking lot, with his windows rolled down, playing music the 18- to 25-year-old generation would know. Roger is the senior pastor at Puyallup Foursquare Church in Puyallup, Wash.

“I get on their turf and invite them to our turf – our church,” said Roger. “We started to notice the preponderance of youth that would attend our church. Our target audience is young (18- to 25-year-olds). Our music is bumpin’ and there is a lot of vitality in our church.”

The church’s vision is to reach the college-aged generation. Although their target audience is young, Roger says their church is very multigenerational. He adds that the older generations are “youthful oriented” and “just wear earplugs.”

Growing up in a family where his father was a nightclub owner, Roger didn’t become a Christian until he was 18 years old. He went to Northwest University in Kirkland, Wash., where he pursued a dual degree in psychology and theology. After he graduated in 1988, he went to serve at a church in Seattle, Wash. He led youth and music ministry for four years before he became the lead pastor. He led that church for five years, and then felt God calling him and his wife, Tina, to start their own church.

They moved their three children (Adrienne, Britney and Jacob), all under the age of five at the time, to Puyallup, Wash., a town where they knew no one. From there, Roger and Tina went on a door-to-door campaign knocking on more than 3,800 doors to start the church. Puyallup Foursquare Church was started in their home on February 15, 1998. To help support his family while planting the church, Roger would perform weddings and funerals.

Now, in their 19th year, the church has more than 5,500 people that attend on the weekends, with a membership of more than 6,000 people. They have also planted three other churches and stream their services online. Between the four campuses, they hold four services on Sundays and two on Saturdays. Roger and Tina are co-pastors at Puyallup Foursquare Church. Roger serves as the senior pastor and Tina leads the ladies ministry.

As the senior pastor of the church, Roger understood the advantage of continuing his education to grow as a leader. “Without equivocation, leaders are learners. Keep learning,” he said.

Roger ended up attending Southeastern for his master’s degree in ministerial leadership after relationships he had built with Southeastern University President Kent Ingle and Roy Rowland, vice president of enrollment and marketing. Two of Roger’s children also graduated



with their bachelor's degrees from Southeastern.

"Southeastern challenged me and expanded my reading genre – I got brain bullied," said Roger. He shares how it exposed him to different literature. Roger is currently in the process of reading three books: *Know the Truth*, *Christ in Culture*, and *Team of Rivals*.

Through his relationship with Southeastern, four years ago, the university partnered with Puyallup Foursquare to form an extension site on the church's campus. Ten years prior to that, the church had developed a ministry institute to help disciple young adults (ages 18 to 25). The institute focused on education, helped students discover their gifts and included "invasive discipleship." The Southeastern extension site afforded them the opportunity to offer accredited programs for their students.

"Discipleship is a huge thrust of ours," said Roger. He shares how Jesus commanded Christians to "go and make disciples."

The Southeastern extension site provides accredited bachelor degree programs for students, with a broad range of 16 degrees in anything from religion to pre-med to business. The classes are provided in person and online, with adjunct and in-person faculty members.

The church has developed its own university campus with a student union building. They purchased 19 homes around the property for students to live in. In the upcoming 2017-18 academic year, they will have more than 100 students in attendance. This year they had 12 students graduate from Southeastern during the spring ceremony.

"The students have the benefit of being discipled by world-class leaders," said Roger.


In addition to their extension site, the church is involved in other various ministry outreaches. God's Food for Life is held once a month throughout the year, where the church provides food supplies for more than 1,200 families on

a weekend. In the fall, when school is starting back up, the church packs 2,000 backpacks for local students in need of school supplies. During Christmas time, the church puts on a production of the Grinch for the community and they incorporate the gospel.

"It's rewarding to see people in our church go on to be productive members of society through letting their light shine," said Roger.

Roger shares that the most challenging aspect of pastoring is battling discouragement.

"Battling discouragement is the greatest challenge. There's one start and finish. Keep motivated when things are disappointing. There is a long middle. Stay sound and focused," said Roger.

In the years he has pastored, he has learned to honor the Sabbath to help from burning out and to "develop good friends to do life with." 



Hellen Raburn COMMITTED TO THE CALL

HELLEN RABURN '47 was fourteen years old when she was called to be a preacher. She was in the middle of a field hoeing in Hillsborough County, Fla., when she heard God clearly speak to her. "I thought it was my brother or sister calling to tell me something. I said, 'What you want?'" she said.

When she realized it was not her siblings, Hellen asked the Lord, "Well, is that you who called me again?" I threw my hoe down and went to the swamp for a prayer session with the Lord. The Lord said, "Go and preach the gospel everywhere."

Now, at the age of 91, Hellen is still living out that calling. Hellen serves as the pastor of First Assembly of Sydney in Dover, Fla., a position she has held for more than 27 years.

At 91 years old, Hellen Raburn is the pastor of First Assembly of Sydney in Dover, Fla., and has no plans of retiring anytime soon.

Hellen started in ministry at a young age. Her father was a farmer and a part-time preacher. He would often bring her with him on church visits. She started learning how to minister as a teenager and decided to go to Bible school.

When Hellen went to Southeastern, it was the last year they accepted applicants who did not have a high school degree. The oldest of seven children, Hellen had dropped out of high school to help take

care of her family, when her mother was sick.

Hellen's final year of college was Southeastern's first year at the Lodwick School of Aeronautics in Lakeland, Fla. She had spent the previous two years at the campus in Atlanta, Ga. She pursued a three-year diploma in Bible.

"It prepared me and taught me many things, including how to seek the Lord and how to minister. I am grateful for my time there," said Hellen.

After receiving her diploma, Hellen went with her father to preach revivals and plant a church in Pelham, Ga. They helped open a church back up that had been closed for five years in Pine Hill,

**“I know God called me and I am not on my own.
The Lord promised me, if I stay in His will, He would
take care of me. So, I have taken Him at His word.”**

Ga., and then went to Savannah to help a church with only a few members get back on its feet.

Hellen moved back to Florida in the 60s to help with Camp Alafia in Polk County and also served as an assistant cook at Southeastern. In 1956, she was ordained with the Assemblies of God. She had received her first ministerial license ten years earlier.

Early into pastoring, Hellen encountered difficulties as a female preacher. “It wasn’t easy,” she said. Hellen shared how there were times when God would open the door for her to pastor a church and the congregation would be accepting of her, but deacons or leaders of the church told her she couldn’t pastor because she was a woman.

“I told them, ‘I’m not going to listen to you. You didn’t call me, so I have to answer the God that called me,’” said Hellen.

The door later opened for Hellen to serve as an associate pastor at Glad Tidings Assembly in Tampa, Fla. In 1989, she was asked to pastor First Assembly of Sydney. It was a church that the district had planned to close and sell.

“I said I would do it if God was in it. I came and gave it a try,” said Hellen. She moved to the church with her co-worker, **ROSALYN “ROSE” HUGHIE ’58**. Rose was in charge of the music and Hellen preached. The first Sunday they had five people. Hellen has remained at the church since then, even after Rose passed away in 2001. The two ministered together for more than 40 years.

The church has three weekly services – two on Sunday, a morning and evening, and one on Wednesday night. The congregation averages more than 20 people.

Most of Hellen’s days are spent at the church. She starts her days at 6:30 a.m., with studying the Bible and prayer. She lives right next door to the church and arrives early every day and makes phone calls. She also records DVDs of their church services and mails them out to people who can’t make it to the services. Although she has given up her driver’s license, she makes it a priority to make hospital visits, with the help of a lady in her church.

For more than 77 years, Hellen has remained faithful to her calling, even during difficult times when she felt like quitting. She credits her commitment


to her ministry as “Knowing God called me and I am not on my own. The Lord promised me, if I stay in His will, He would take care of me. So, I have taken Him at His word.”

At her 90th birthday, more than 20 people that she had ministered to when they were youths in her church came to celebrate with her. “It’s rewarding to see how God changed their lives and to have been an example to them,” she said.

**“I am doing all I can
do until the Lord
says I should quit.”**

A year later, at her birthday celebration, she thought about starting to retire, but heard the Lord say, “There’s plenty of work to do, so get to it.”

When asked about retiring, Hellen said, “I am doing all I can do until the Lord says I should quit.”

Hellen is one of many in her family that serves in ministry. She also had a brother and cousins that were preachers. Hellen is a second cousin to **TERRY RABURN ’08 MAML**, the district superintendent of PenFlorida. 



CHARLOTTE'S RACIAL DIVIDE HOW TWO CHURCHES ARE CLOSING THE GAP

Jay Stewart

When Keith Lamont Scott was fatally shot by a police officer in the late summer of 2016, the city of Charlotte, N.C., was already a simmering hotbed of social unrest.

Known as a southern hub for the prosperous banking industry, Charlotte is largely divided economically and racially, with pockets of poverty among minorities riddling the city.

Its median household income among whites in 2015 was over \$70,000 but only approximately \$36,000 among blacks. A similar disparity is seen in the unemployment rate, as white workers averaged 5.3 percent while black workers averaged 11.6 percent in 2016.

And the outlook for low-income minorities in Charlotte? A 2014 Harvard University study paints a grim picture: Of all the people living in the nation's 50 largest cities, the poor in Charlotte are the least likely to escape poverty.

Further driving in the stake on Charlotte's racial disunity, Scott's was also the most recent in a string of fatal police shootings of African-Americans across the U.S., including the 2013 killing of an unarmed Charlotte black man, Jonathan Ferrell, by a white officer.

A QUIET PULPIT

In general, the topic of race relations is the elephant in the church building, with only a fraction of pastors ever addressing it with their congregations.

In fact, according to a 2015 Lifeway study, about 29 percent never bring up the issue in their sermons, and 43 percent say they speak on it once a year or less.

Churchgoers tend to also be content with leaving race out of the faith experience. The same study cites that about 67 percent believe their church has done enough to become racially diverse. As a result, more than 80 percent of congregations are made up of predominantly one racial

group, making Sunday morning one of the most segregated hours for Americans.

Two Charlotte churches, however, are the exception rather than the norm in their approach to the topic of race. They're making it their mission to change these statistics and bring light to the issue.

THE REFUGE

Long before Scott's death and the violent protests that resulted, Pastor **JAY STEWART '85**, along with his wife **MELANIE (DEAN) STEWART '87**, of The Refuge, a congregation based in the Charlotte metropolitan area, had been seeking a way to bring healing to race relations.

Their answer? The local church.

"I believe a healthy local church is the hope for America and that the church house, not the White House, holds the answer for racial division," Jay said. "Unity was a priority to Jesus. It was the



David Docusen



Center City Church

last thing He prayed before going to the cross. It has to be a priority to us as well, but it cannot just be something we talk about. It requires action and risks.”

He put his words into action through a partnership with Derrick Hawkins, the pastor of an African-American church called House of Refuge in nearby Greensboro, N.C. Just two days before the Scott incident, the churches announced a merger of their congregations, with House of Refuge becoming a campus under The Refuge umbrella.

“So I made the announcement of the merger September 2016 to our church here. Less than 48 hours later, Charlotte unraveled, and all of the riots broke,” Jay recounted during a CBN interview. “I knew when I was sitting in my home watching the news coverage of what was happening with Charlotte that God wanted to write a better story, that God set the timing for this merger.”

Despite some opposition initially hoping the merger would fail, the two pastors believed the challenges in joining the two congregations would be worth it. The churches have held combined services and other events to unify their congregations, such as a recent seven-week discussion and study on racial division and unity.

“Our church as a whole has become more diverse over the past six months, and God has given us more opportunities to impact our communities and have a voice.”

CENTER CITY CHURCH

Situated about 25 miles southwest of The Refuge, Center City Church is another congregation committed to racial unity in Charlotte.

Center City launched in 2009 with 18 people gathered in a living room and spent six years ministering in one of Charlotte’s wealthiest neighborhoods,

eventually reaching a membership of over 200 at its peak. However, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit last fall, **DAVID DOCUSEN ’01 ’15 MAML**, lead pastor and founder of Center City, and his wife, Dara, moved their mostly white congregation to a leased space at the Movement Center in West Charlotte, a strategic position on the divide between the affluent uptown neighborhoods and the mostly black, low-income west side. During the transition, the church lost about 30 percent of its members.

“Center City Church aims to carry out both sides of the greatest commandment in Mark 12:28–34 that directs us to love God with all of our heart and passion but also to love and care for our neighbor in the same way that we would care for ourselves,” said David. “I believe that the western church has done a wonderful job at constructing services that heavily focus on the first part of this commandment while largely ignoring love to neighbors that may come from a different socioeconomic or racial background.”

Caring for their low-income neighbors is a primary focus at Center City. To this aim, Center City's facility, a renovated 40,000-square-foot warehouse, functions as a faith-based nonprofit hub for the West Charlotte community, with ministries like The Harvest Center of Charlotte and UrbanPromise also calling this place home. Services offered include a day shelter for the homeless, community meals served several days a week, an after-school mentoring program for students, and more.

"We have created a nonprofit organization that engages business leaders in our community to partner with residents of the historically high-poverty, high-crime community of West Charlotte," said David.

Another focus of the church is awareness, particularly regarding the *why* behind Charlotte's racial disunity. Its recent series "Imagine the Neighborhood" explored the historical reasons that have led to tensions across racial and socioeconomic lines.

"We partnered with longtime residents, a leading voice on the history of Charlotte, and nonprofit organizations to help people better understand underlying issues that have created division in our community."

In addition to giving churchgoers an enriched perspective, the series challenged them to take action.

"The final week of the series ended with several nonprofit organizations that are doing great work in our neighborhood coming together to show how people can get involved."

Hoping to gain a better understanding himself of how to serve his community, David is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in ministry from Southeastern, an experience he credits with having completely changed his life and ministry.

"This level of learning has propelled me into new areas of ministry for the rich and the poor in a way I could have never imagined even two years ago."

David plans to focus his dissertation on the history and consequences of generational poverty and the power of biblically based ministry to dispel it. ➡



The Refuge



Pictured left to right: Pastor Derrick Hawkins, 700 Club reporter Charlene Aaron, and Pastor Jay Stewart



Center City Church



Center City Church



Left to right: Pope Benedict XVI and Russ Spittler

DR. RUSS SPITTLER A CALLING TO TEACH

Meeting Pope Benedict XVI is one memory **DR. RUSSELL “RUSS” SPITTLER ’53** will never forget. In 2005, Russ was asked to attend an invitation-only conference at the Vatican in Rome titled “Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church.” At the conference, the participants were invited to the Pope’s summer palace and each one had the opportunity to greet him personally. Two things stood out to Russ about the Pope – his vivid crimson-colored shoes and the fact that the Roman Catholic Church would choose a university theologian as its top leader.

Although now retired, Russ spent over 45 years as a professor at various Christian institutions, including Fuller Theological Seminary, Vanguard University (the new name for Southern California College since 2000), and Central Bible College. Russ flourished in the academic world. He was one of the original members of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, and has published seven books and more than 75 articles. He focused most of his study on the New Testament.

Russ began his spiritual journey at a young age. Although Russ was saved at the age of five and baptized in the Holy Spirit at 15, he went through a year which

he spent “finding himself.” Right after graduating from high school in 1949, he decided to hitchhike around the country.

As he would run out of money along the way, Russ would work. He reached a turnaround experience while in California. “It was an experience of repentance and rededication,” he said. Within a few months after he set out, he returned home, took a temporary job in a radio repair shop, and decided to go to Bible school.

He asked his pastor if there was a school called Southeastern. “I knew there was an Eastern Bible Institute, a Central, North Central and Southwestern,” he said. His pastor had not heard of a Southeastern. A few weeks later, Russ came across an issue of *The Pentecostal Evangel*, the weekly publication of the Assemblies of God (AG), with photos of the graduating classes of all AG schools. Southeastern was one of the schools listed.

Russ was accepted to Southeastern in the fall of 1950. At the time, his diploma in Bible marked completion of the as-yet-unaccredited three-year program, with tuition only costing \$175 a year. Students were also given certain chores on campus. Russ remembers preparing

breakfast early in the morning for other students. He would wake up at 4 a.m. to put bacon on the trays and make the hot chocolate.

“Southeastern is the last education I would give up. It provided a spiritual foundation and helped develop a powerful commitment to the Lord. There was a firmness of biblical and lifelong spiritual stabilizing commitment that is important to me,” said Russ.

From there, Russ went to Florida Southern to earn a four-year degree in religion and then went off to graduate school at Wheaton College and then to seminary at Gordon Divinity School (now Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary).

Fresh out of seminary, Russ accepted a position at Central Bible College in Springfield, Mo. Russ taught at Central Bible College from 1958 until 1962. While he was there, he was ordained as a minister with the AG. “I enjoyed the freedom I had as a teacher. I could pick my own textbooks. It was a marvelous first ministry. It confirmed I was called to be a teacher and should pursue a doctorate,” said Russ.



With a calling to teach, Russ went to Harvard in 1962 and earned a Ph.D. with a focus in New Testament. While completing his Harvard dissertation, Russ taught at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, Calif., as an associate, then full professor of religion. He graduated with his degree in 1972 and went on to serve as the chair of the division of religion and academic dean at Vanguard.

In 1976, Russ accepted a position to teach at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., until 2003. His roles at Fuller included professor of New Testament as well as provost/vice president for academic affairs. From 2003 to 2007, he returned to Vanguard to serve as the interim provost/vice president for academic affairs and then, for some critical months, as acting chair of the board of trustees. Since retiring, Russ has carried the title of provost emeritus and professor of New Testament emeritus at Fuller. Alongside his teaching, Russ completed a career as a chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, retiring in 1991 at the rank of Navy Captain (O-6).

Russ' favorite subject to teach was 1 Corinthians. In his home office, he

has a bookcase with eight shelves filled with books on the subject. He taught the subject at Vanguard and Fuller. He was prompted to study 1 Corinthians after reading a piece by Wilbur Smith – one of the founding professors at Fuller – urging people to focus on one subject, “because you can’t read everything.”

“The most rewarding aspect of teaching is dealing with students...sharing with them things I have been able to see. It is rewarding when students outpace and outrank their teacher, and educate their teacher in the classroom,” said Russ.

In the numerous years that Russ has taught, he has seen several of his students go on to become successful in various fields. When asked about previous students' careers, Russ named a few – Miroslav Volf, who holds an endowed chair at Yale University; Anthea Butler, an associate professor of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and Peter Kuzmic, an AG missionary who holds a faculty post at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Wenham, Mass.

As a professor for more than 45 years, Russ also encountered difficulties. “The early

Pentecostals were often anti-intellectual, and the role of a teacher or professor was not highly regarded. This perception is diminishing now, as the value for learning is increasing,” said Russ.

Although Russ encountered difficulties as a teacher, he encourages those who hope to pursue a similar career.

“Reach for the highest quality of education that you can get. If you plan to teach in higher education, think Ph.D. If you aim to be a teacher, you are going to change lives and won't be a celebrity. When I would hire faculty, I would tell them, ‘You can stay where you are and *add*, or you can come here to be a teacher and *multiply*. Students you teach are going to go out due to your contribution to their life,’” said Russ.

Russ currently resides in Santa Ana, Calif., with his wife, Bobbie, of 62 years. They enjoy life with three children – a psychologist, a pre-school director, and an attorney – along with seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. ➔



GOSPEL INC.
**LIVING AMONG
THE HOMELESS**

Brian and Kari Seeley



Peering from the outside, Parker Street in Lakeland, Fla., can be seen as a place of destitution – engulfed with homelessness, drugs, and prostitution. For **BRIAN '10, '13 (MSPC)** and **KARI (RASMUSSEN) '13, '14 (METS)** **SL)** **SEELEY**, Parker Street is a community filled with opportunity.

“There are disasters, but there is a beautiful community of life. There is an authenticity and intentionality of living together and caring for each other in a Christian community. Once you get to know people there, it is not dangerous to you,” said Brian.

The Parker Street neighborhood has seen development since the start of Parker Street Ministries over the past twenty years. Brian and Kari chose to live in

the Parker Street neighborhood and start Gospel Inc. ministry. Kari teaches adult classes in Polk County as well as college courses. Each day is intentional for Brian to build relationships and trust with the people in the neighborhood.

Although he grew up in a Christian household, Brian did not commit his life to Christ until he was 19 years old. A trip to New Zealand with Youth With a Mission changed his life and developed a desire in him to minister to the homeless.

“The takeaway of my journey there was how I identified with the homeless. Becoming a Christian, I recognized my sinfulness and the need I have for God. I can relate to them through being human and broken,” said Brian.

The first time that Brian lived among the homeless was in the summer of 2008, while he was attending Southeastern as a student. He started Gospel Inc. a year after he graduated from Southeastern and chose to continue to remain living in the area. Gospel Inc. is a community of believers ministering to the homeless.

“Jesus calls us to care for the poor and to a life of pursuing people who are marginalized. Jesus chose to be among the poor. This aspect of His life appealed to me and I chose to continue to live there,” said Brian.

A quote Gospel Inc. is built on is by Fyoder Dostoyevsky. The quote says, “Every one is really responsible to all men, for all men, and for everything.” Brian shares how the people are often



Men's Bible study

marginalized because of their decisions. “Because we are human, it makes us involved in it all. We are responsible for one another,” said Brian.

Gospel Inc. has different avenues of ministry including outreach, a men’s home and Repurpose Art Studio. The ministry has one full-time staff member and four part-time staff members. Brian oversees the ministry, but he does not take a salary from it.

In order to fund Gospel Inc., Brian manages three different businesses. One of them, Neighbors of Lakeland, is an apartment building with 12 apartments. He encourages people to move into the apartments who are willing to make a positive impact in the community around them. His second business, Looks

Great Enterprises, consists of property management and holiday lighting all over Lakeland.

The ministry has one house, which provides six men with lodging and stability as they continue on the path to recovery. The men come from programs or treatment centers, such as Lighthouse Ministries, and have to be serious about pursuing a healthy lifestyle. They host weekly devotions with the men, in which Southeastern professors have helped teach some of the Bible studies.

Every Friday at 6 p.m., Gospel Inc. leads outreaches in the neighborhood, where they walk the streets and spend time with the people in the community. “The point is to stay connected with the people in the neighborhood. Our goal is to stay

connected so that they trust us and we can show that we are there for them,” said Brian.

In 2013, Brian and Jessica Felix Jager, assistant professor of social work at Southeastern, with the help of Rebecca Medina, Regina Brown and Sara Nance (early contributors), launched Repurpose Art Studio. Repurpose started with a vision that Jessica had for reaching homeless women, after she had been volunteering regularly with Gospel Inc. Through connections, Brian provided an attic of a church as the first studio site and continued to work in partnership with Jessica and co-founders.

The studio provides workshops that teach women trade skills in order to earn an income. The women learn many skills,



Repurpose Art Studio




including painting cards, sewing, making jewelry and cooking. The products they make are then sold at local markets. As the women continue to grow in their skills, Repurpose Art Studio prepares them to work with local businesses. One of their goals is to train women to work as seamstresses for local businesses.

“The Lord used me and others to get it to where it is today. This is the Lord’s ministry and we all just played our part. I had the vision to start it up and left it in the hands of someone else,” said Jessica. In

January of 2017, Repurpose Art Studio hired its first director.

Outside of Lakeland, Brian and Kari have had the opportunity to minister overseas. In the summer, the two spend their time teaching English in Tanzania. Kari grew up as a missionary kid to Tanzania; her parents and brother, **TORI RASMUSSEN** ’11, still serve there. Every summer, Kari teaches English and trains students at a Bible college in Kigoma, Tanzania. “Our future goal is to

train English teachers and send them to unreached areas to teach,” said Brian.

Brian admits that ministry is challenging and can lead to discouragement. “Know your call because it can be discouraging at times. You should do it because it is the call from God, not because of results. The call is recognizing sinfulness and weakness within ourselves. God pursues me despite how I fail Him – which motivates me to not give up on people that I work with,” said Brian. 



Left to right: Bradley Mattrisch and Robyn Stawski

SPECIAL TOUCH MINISTRY IMPACTING THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

All it took was twenty-six minutes to change **BRADLEY MATTRISCH'S** '98 life. After he was born, it took twenty-six minutes before he could breathe, leading to a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. Doctors gave his parents little hope that he would survive. Despite doctors' predictions, Bradley did more than survive – he has used his testimony to minister to those with similar circumstances to his own.

In high school, Bradley felt God lay on his heart the desire to pursue degrees in computers and Bible. Bradley was not going to let his physical disabilities get in the way of what God had planned for his life. With accommodating services for individuals with disabilities, Bradley attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he earned a degree in management computer systems. After completing this degree, he felt God calling him to pursue a Bible degree, so he enrolled at Southeastern.

“At Southeastern, I learned how to use my disability to illustrate theological principles. My professors encouraged me that I could minister effectively despite my disability whereas some in my church told me that I needed to get physically

healed first. My professors encouraged me to go after God and His calling with all my might regardless of cerebral palsy,” said Bradley.

Since graduating from Southeastern, Bradley has fervently followed God's call on his life. In 2003, he became a U.S. missionary associate with the Assemblies of God serving Special Touch Ministry (STM), then was ordained in 2006. He also went on to work for a large computer consulting company, Compuware Corporation, as a program analyst.

Bradley started working at the STM National Office in 2007. The mission of STM is to ease and enrich the lives of people impacted by a disability, with a vision of providing faith-based support to the needs that arise in the disability community.

He got involved with the ministry when he was 12 years old. He attended one of their camps and has been involved ever since.

Serving on the executive ministry leadership team, Bradley helps develop computer programs, writes biblically

based curriculum for chapters across the U.S., and travels to speak at churches and other STM events. During his time at STM, Bradley has written articles, served in pastoral care, started a local chapter of STM and baptized an individual.

Due to his cerebral palsy, his speech is affected. When he preaches, he writes a manuscript and creates a PowerPoint for the congregation to follow. A common topic for him to speak on is trusting God in the midst of challenges. When Bradley ministers to others, he conveys the message that with God people can overcome their challenges.

Bradley is one of several alumni working with STM. **ROBYN STAWSKI '05** serves as a missionary associate with STM and the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. She graduated from Southeastern with a bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in public relations and journalism.

“During my time at Southeastern, I realized the calling on my life to missions. My time at Southeastern, through the mentorship I received from staff and fellow students, I grew in my personal

relationship with Christ. All these things combined helped equip me and lay a platform/foundation to where and who I am today,” said Robyn.

Similar to Bradley, Robyn was diagnosed with cerebral palsy shortly after birth. She was later diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury due to a childhood vaccine. Growing up, Robyn didn't let her physical disabilities get in the way of her love for athletics. Robyn is a U.S. and international Paralympics medalist. Three years after graduating from Southeastern, she competed in her first Paralympic event in Beijing. She competed in the women's javelin, discus and shot put.

Robyn works with the local STM chapter in Jacksonville, Fla., where she has held numerous outreaches in group homes, as



Left to right: Robyn Stawski, Bradley Mattrisch and Matt Espina


well as meeting with local pastors about the ministry.

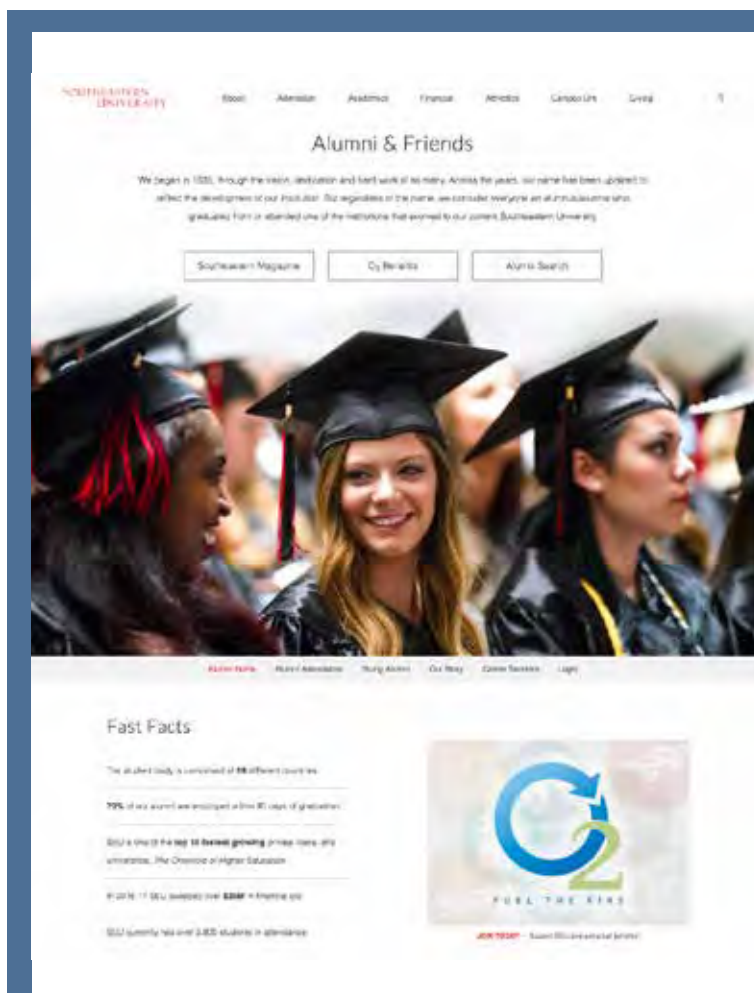
“Our goal is always to ease and enrich the lives of those with disabilities and their families as well as to let them know that

they are loved and accepted for who they are, and God has an awesome purpose and plan for their lives,” said Robyn.

Bradley and Robyn expressed the need for ministering to people with disabilities. “There are 60 million Americans who have a disability. We need you,” said Bradley.

Bradley suggests one of the best ways to get involved with ministering to people with disabilities is through volunteering at a local Special Touch Chapter or through certifying your church as a Disability Friendly Church (specialtouch.org).

“At times it is not an easy task, as the harvest is ready, but the workers are few! Together, there is strength in number,” said Robyn. 



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REACHING TEENS FOR CHRIST

A Q&A with Youth Ministry Leaders

As the future of the church, young people are a critical area of ministry.

They are visionaries. They are idealists. And they have the potential to do great things, even at a young age. (David, Esther, and Jeremiah are just a few we hear about in the Bible.)

But just as seeds need nurturing and care to grow and thrive, so do young people. Teenagers need strong Christian role models who are committed to walking alongside them in the everyday and mentoring them during challenging times.

The Assemblies of God's answer is a web of youth ministry leaders across the globe, all focused on supporting the spiritual growth of young people. Broken down geographically by district, each area is overseen by a District Youth Director (DYD), who is responsible for providing strategic oversight, training, and support to his or her youth pastors and other personnel on the front lines.

We checked in with several of our undergraduate alumni district youth directors for their thoughts on the current state of youth ministry and how best to reach and serve this generation of teens. Here's what they had to say.

Describe the critical role of youth pastor in the local church.

STEVE MASON: Youth ministry is crucial to the local church. It is the lifeline to the development of the next generation of believers and future leadership in the church. Being a parent, I know firsthand how beneficial it is to have someone in my kids' lives who is reinforcing what I am teaching them at home. We are seeing less traditional families in the church, and we are ministering to students who only have one parent. These youth pastors are becoming more and more of a critical role in the student's life, more than was needed 20 years ago. When Jesus was baptized, a voice from Heaven said, "This is my son whom I love, in whom I am well pleased." This statement exemplifies

the internal need of a student to have a voice like a youth pastor in their life. Every student wants *identity* (this is my son) – their identity is found as sons and daughters of God; *affection* (I love) – every student needs to know they are loved; and *affirmation* (I am well pleased) – every student has a need to know we are pleased with them, that they have value and a purpose.

PARKER DICKERSON: Statistics tell us that more than 80 percent of people will begin their relationship with Jesus before they turn 18. It is crucial that youth pastors are equipped and ready to reach young people where they are so that we do not lose them.

What advice do you share with your youth pastors to help guide them in their "boots on the ground" ministries?

BOB SANDLER: Preaching is a very small part of youth ministry. Students are not interested in listening to sermons –

they want to be one. A youth pastor is to help students discover their God-given purpose in their journey. They do not need a buddy. They need an example. Students do not need advice. They need to be heard. They need a challenge. They need a cause. Youth need to understand that they cannot earn heaven (grace). They need unconditional love. Learn their language. It's about relationships.

CASEY CASAL: NEVER. GIVE. UP! Youth pastors are on the front lines, and the enemy wants nothing more than to take them down, but I encourage them to keep focused on their call, never doubt their abilities, stay in the Word, stay on their knees, pray continuously, and keep their hands lifted. I also encourage them to be sure their family never falls in the cracks. A healthy family is a healthy ministry.

STEVE MASON: I always ask our youth pastors, "If I give you my own kids for a year, what will they look like in four years?" Have a plan of action! I'll never forget an exercise Dr. Hackett asked us to do in one of our youth ministry classes at SEU, which has stuck with me. He asked us to write down five messages that changed our life. It took a few minutes, and I couldn't find five (Sad, I know!). He said, "Now write down five people who have helped change your life." (It was much easier!) Our lives impact students more than our messages ever will!

What trends are you seeing among youth that energize you to keep doing what you are doing?

JOHN MAY: With the evolution of social media, I think students today are so consumed with what their friends think,

positively or negatively. It's something that they can never escape. I recently watched the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why* and was saddened to believe that the series depicts what many students deal with on a daily basis. I know the series is very controversial and am not endorsing it; however, I do feel that many of the scenarios depicted in the series are realistic to what students face. The hope is that any and every student has a relationship with Jesus. It motivates me more than ever before to not look at this generation negatively but understand that youth pastors provide a strategic, life-changing experience for students every week.

HEATH MCCOY: Youth today desire the spiritual. I encourage our leaders that it is not about hype – it is about authenticity. You can challenge them in their relationship with Christ. Youth today are outreach-minded. Social justice and the needs of others move this generation. Youth today are highly relational. This is a must-have if churches are to keep this generation engaged. We have to provide a relational church where they can come and meet and be with friends. Youth today desire diversity. More than any other generation, this current generation celebrates diversity. As the father of a teen, it brings me great joy to see that diversity in her generation is the norm. In other words, diversity is normal versus abnormal. Churches that embrace diversity are churches that will attract this generation.

How do we prepare this generation for reaching the next generation for Christ?

PARKER DICKERSON: In his upcoming book *Marching Off the Map*,

Tim Elmore gives some major shifts that are coming with Generation Z. As he spoke to us regarding our communication with students, he gave us four ideas that must be implemented to reach this generation. 1) **Experiential:** Students don't need a sage on a stage but a guide on the side to help them experience Christ. 2) **Participatory:** Students are more likely to engage if they have ownership of ministry. 3) **Image-rich:** Images are the language of the 21st century. Engage students with more than text. 4) **Connected:** Students are connected socially and technologically – use that and meet them where they are.

CASEY CASAL: We prepare them by not trying to follow the "trends" of church and by staying focused on the foundation of the gospel. In the world of social media, blogs, podcasts, and so much more, I believe the face of Jesus has turned into a mosaic. What I mean by that is that while we can look at Jesus and all see the same Jesus from a distance, if we look closer, it is a hodgepodge of different viewpoints from what is heard on a podcast from one preacher, or in a blog from another person, or on a post, or a meme. **THIS** is what is forming Christianity today ... not the Word of God. There are things that are acceptable now that have **NEVER** been acceptable, all for the sake of "relevance." Don't get me wrong. Relevance is good if it doesn't compromise revival. So in order to prepare this generation, we must, without hesitation, never stop preaching and teaching the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit that will give wisdom, knowledge, and direction. The greatest legacy we can leave the **NEXT** generation is to be desperate for and seek the Holy Spirit in **THIS** generation.



CASEY CASAL '02
PenFlorida District

Years served as DYD: 1
Spouse: Lenore Casal

Favorite quote: “Victory belongs to those who believe in it the most.” I remember hearing this once, and it has stuck with me and is what I’ve focused on in some of the most difficult times in ministry.

Reflections on SEU experience: There isn’t much that can prepare someone for the DYD position, but what SEU did is lay a foundation for me as a Spirit-filled believer. It taught me leadership and much of the practicals of ministry, which in turn I have been able to use while I was a youth pastor and to teach as a district youth director.



PARKER DICKERSON '02
West Texas District

Years served as DYD: 1½
Spouse: **AMY (SEAGRAVES) DICKERSON**

Favorite verse: “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18–20). Jesus lived His life on mission, spent three years pouring into a group of misfits, and released them to continue the mission of reaching every person with the gospel. That mission is the driving force behind what I do – to make disciples of all nations. And the best part: He will be with us to the end!

Reflections on SEU experience: As a ministry major at SEU, we were required to serve in a church or ministry locally, and that was invaluable. Theory is important to know, but if you do not engage students with what you’re learning, you’re wasting valuable time. Some of the most important things I took with me from SEU were the things I learned in the classroom that I was able to incorporate in my life and ministry right away. Don’t wait until you graduate to start; God can and will use you right now to reach a community with the hope of the gospel.



STEVE MASON '96, '14 MAML
Alabama District

Years served as DYD: 10
Spouse: **CRYSTAL (LAMBERT) MASON '96**

Favorite verse: “However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’— the things God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). I am the least deserving person to lead, but God has shown me that He wants me to walk humbly and be His trophy of God’s grace. I want students and youth pastors to believe, “When God is your partner, make your plans big!”

Reflections on SEU experience: I find it incredible that after all these years, when I step on the campus, my former professors still remember me and know my name and take a personal interest in my life. The chapel services were so important to me. It’s where I remember hearing great orators like Dr. Mark Rutland and Vaudie Lambert. I remember spending time in the small chapel above the café, at the time, and asking God about my future and spending my personal devotional times there before my classes. It’s an honor to now be on the board of trustees and watch SEU grow to new levels.



JOHN MAY '92

Potomac District

Years served as DYD: 12
Spouse: **DENISE (MCCARTY)**
MAY '93

Favorite verse: *“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future”* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Reflections on SEU experience: I grew both spiritually and emotionally at Southeastern. In simple terms, I learned to grow up. My theology was challenged in a positive way, and I was encouraged to dream bigger than just my limited perspective at the time.



HEATH MCCOY '99

Southern New England District

Years served as DYD: 3½
Spouse: Kimberly McCoy

Favorite quote/verse: “You grow daily or you die gradually” (Troy Jones).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Reflections on SEU experience: When I began at SEU, I had no idea of what type of ministry I wanted to do. All I knew was that I was called to be in the ministry. So, my time at SEU was a great amount of firsts. The depth of learning as it related to Scripture and ministry was new. Living in a Christian campus community was also new, yet all these things contributed to who I am today. The relationships and the education are instrumental to who I am both personally and professionally. In fact, I would venture to say that probably not a day goes by where my experience at SEU does not have a factor.



BOB SANDLER '87

South Carolina District

Years served as DYD: 22
Spouse: Michelle Sandler

Favorite verse: The Lord’s Prayer. *“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’”* (Matthew 6:9-13).

Reflections on SEU experience: My time at SEU helped shape my worldview and exposed me to critical thinking. ➡



Tom and Mandy Groot, with their family at the AG Centennial Celebration

When **TOM GROOT '01** attended Southeastern in the late '90s, it didn't take him long to realize that as a new Christian and ministry major, he had some catching up to do.

"In the first week of Old Testament Survey class, we were told about a test where we needed to write the Old Testament books in order and spell them correctly. Most students in the class were smiling, laughing, and singing Sunday school songs, while I was horrified. As a new Christian, this was the moment when I realized I had to work really hard if I was going to graduate!"

With the support of mentors along the way, Tom dedicated himself to growing in his knowledge of the Word and preparing for his future career.

"My time at Southeastern pushed me to grow spiritually in an encouraging environment. I remember so many professors who God used to have an impact on my development. Looking back now, I enjoyed the entire experience knowing it was exactly what God had for me in that season."

His ministry today is a testament to his commitment to God's call on his life, particularly the command in 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV), which is Tom's favorite verse: *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."*

Just as God used professors at Southeastern to support his faith journey, Tom has committed his career and ministry to helping others become all that Jesus died on the cross for them to be.

Now, as the director of student discipleship for the Assemblies of God National Youth Department, Tom – along with his wife of 20 years, **AMANDA "MANDY" (HISSER)**, the AG's National Girls Ministry director, who also attended SEU – has the opportunity to impact an entire culture on a national scale with the gospel.

"Our goal is to equip the Church until all students know Jesus," Tom said.


In both their roles, the couple oversees the development and resourcing of tools for reaching young people in churches and ministries across the U.S. They enjoy being able to empower their team

members to best use their gifts to advance the gospel.

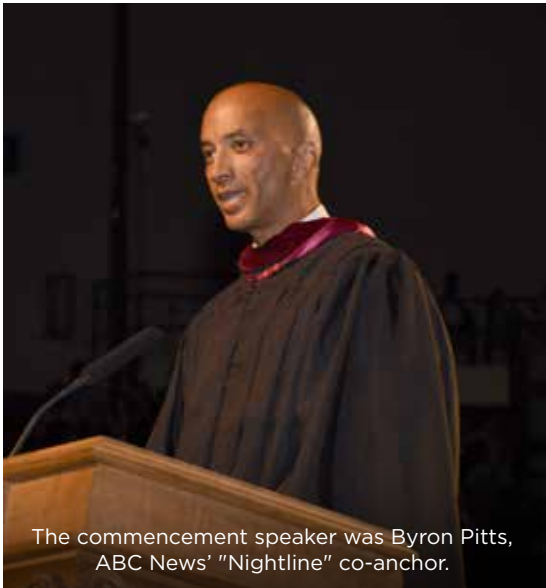
According to Tom, "Discipleship is not linear – it's a personal journey. There's not a 'one size fits all' strategy or resource for discipleship."

In her mentorship of ministry leaders, Mandy gives the following advice: "Young people respond to authenticity. You have to be you! God has created all of us with unique gifts and abilities."

Just a few of the resources they've coordinated include *Until All Know*, a book on equipping and discipling young people; *Navigating Your Life*, a journal for middle and high school girls on the topics of managing stress, time management, fitness, and more; and a live nationwide webcast from a local Girls Ministries event this coming fall.

Prior to their current roles in the AG national office, Tom and Mandy served as youth pastors and then as ministry directors in the Ohio Ministry Network. They now reside in Springfield, Mo., with their three children. 





The commencement speaker was Byron Pitts, ABC News' "Nightline" co-anchor.



COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2017!



The student commencement speaker was **NATALIE GLENN '17**.



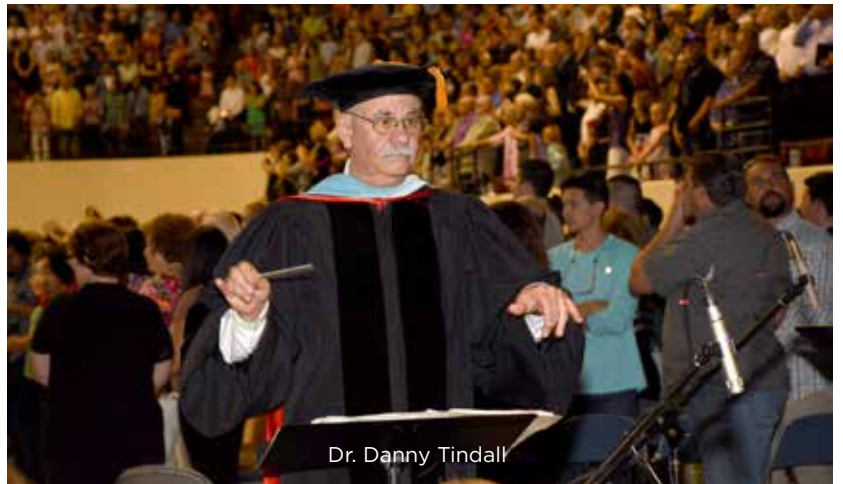
Congratulations to the graduating class of 2017! Southeastern saw another record-breaking graduation with a total of 627 graduates. There were seven doctoral candidates, 111 master's candidates, 458 bachelor's candidates, and 51 associate degree candidates. The graduating class included students from Florida and 33 other states, as well as from nine countries, including Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, and Nigeria.



Dr. Kent Ingle and Dr. Karen Ingle



Dr. Gerry White



Dr. Danny Tindall



Rev. Glenn Pearl, associate professor of religion, was presented with the outstanding faculty award.



The recipients of the President's Award were Bob and Lisa Miller. The Millers were instrumental in the development and success of the Pathways School of Excellence at Southeastern.

FOCUS on FACULTY



1 DR. KENNETH ARCHER, professor of theology and pentecostal studies, along with

2 DR. MELISSA ARCHER, associate professor of biblical studies, wrote and presented a paper, “A Pentecostal Reading of Ephesians 5:21–6:9: Complementarianism and Egalitarianism – Whose side are you leaning on?” at the 46th annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in St. Louis, Mo., in March. Along with peer reviewing articles for the *Journal of Pentecostal Studies* and *Pneuma*, Dr. Kenneth Archer co-edited a compilation of essays called “Constructive Pneumatological Hermeneutics in Pentecostal Christianity.” Included in the compilation was his essay “Afterword: On the Future of Pentecostal Hermeneutics.” His essay “Nourishment for Our Journey: The Pentecostal Via Salutis and Sacramental Ordinances” was published in *Pentecostal Ecclesiology: A Reader*.

3 DR. DAVID BEFUS, associate professor of international business, worked on a Templeton research project in Colombia in the fall of 2016. He recently had a case study he wrote with a professor from Thunderbird (American Graduate School) published by Harvard. He also taught at the Youth With a Mission Business As Mission seminar in Colorado Springs this past summer.

4 DR. MARK BELFAST, assistant professor of music education, had his collaborative research entitled “The

Effect of Listener Expectation on Perception of Music Quality, Enjoyment, and Appropriateness for High School Band” published in the *National Band Association Journal*. His collaborative research entitled “Perceptions of Summer Music Camp Influences on Musical Skills” was presented at the 2017 Desert Skies Symposium on Research in Music Education in Tempe, Ariz.

5 BRIAN BLUME, assistant professor of percussion, performed as a featured clinician at the Percussive Arts Society Mississippi Day of Percussion in Jackson, Miss., in January of 2017. He performed with BluHill Percussion Duo at the Percussive Arts Society Florida Day of Percussion in Orlando in April of 2017. He also adjudicated several indoor percussion competitions for the Indiana Percussion Association and Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit.

6 DR. LINDA BOWLIN, chair of the criminal justice department, co-authored a paper, “Agency, Socialization, and Support: A Critical Review of Doctoral Student Attrition.” The paper was presented at the International Conference on Doctoral Education in Orlando in March of 2017 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla.

7 LISA CIGANEK, assistant professor of reading education, served on the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) General Knowledge Test Reading



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

Form Validation Committee for the Florida Department of Education. For a second consecutive year, she coordinated a Literacy Day event at SEU for 25 fifth-graders from Crystal Lake Elementary School's after-school mentoring program. The purpose of the event is to enlarge the elementary students' visions for their future, reinforce the importance of staying in school, and expose them to the possibilities of college.

8 DR. PAUL CORRIGAN '07, associate professor of English, had his article "Oblivious Interpretation: Teaching Mark Twain's 'The War-Prayer'" published in *Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice*. His poem "Story of the Northern Lights" has appeared in *Saint Katherine Review*. He has four more poems forthcoming in future issues of the same journal.

9 DR. PAM CRISS, professor of social work, presented a two-hour Continuing Education Unit (CEU) training for the Heartland Unit of the Florida National Association of Social Workers entitled "Safety for Social Workers: Implications for Client Violence towards Social Workers" in March of 2017.

10 DR. ROBERT CROSBY '80, professor of practical theology, and his wife, **11 PAMELA (KRIST) '81, '15 MAML**, released a book on marriage, *The Will of a Man & the Way of a Woman: Balancing & Blending Better Together*, in November of 2016. He is also releasing a new book co-authored with Samuel Rodriguez, the president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, a coalition of over 400,000 Hispanic churches across the world. The

book is titled *When Faith Catches Fire: Embracing the Spiritual Passion of the Latino Reformation* and was published in June of 2017.

12 DR. MARGARET ENGLISH DE ALMINANA '14 MAML, associate professor of theology, has been awarded the SEU Excellence in Scholarship Award. She has also been nominated for the Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE) Lifetime Achievement Award.

13 JESSICA FELIX-JAGER, assistant professor of social work, created Repurpose Art Studio in Lakeland to help women experiencing homelessness. She also developed curriculum to train students for work in child welfare. The template was so useful that the University of Central Florida recommended it for use by all universities in the state who will be training Title IV-E participants.

14 DR. THOMAS GOLLERY, professor of education, has co-authored three articles within the last year in *Nurse Educator*, *Journal of Teacher Action Research*, and *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. In March, he presented at the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) International Conference as a research/data analysis consultant in Norfolk, Va., on the topic of "Impact of NILD Therapy upon LD Student Intellect & Academic Achievement." He will be presenting at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 2017 on the topics of "Faculty Awareness of Misophonia" and "Receptivity to Provide Classroom Accommodations" this fall.



15 DR. BILL HACKETT, provost, taught Introduction to Homiletics at the PenFlorida District School of Ministry in Kissimmee, Fla.

16 DR. BILL HAHN, professor of accounting, and **17 DR. BETH LESLIE**, associate professor of management, had their article, “The Comprehensive Business Exam: Usefulness for Assessing Instructional and Student Performance Outcomes,” published in the *Journal of Education for Business*.

18 DR. RICHARD HARRIS, associate professor of communication, served as one of the leaders for the Congressional Gracism Forum on Racial Reconciliation held at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. A private gathering of national thought leaders in the area of racial harmony are working on putting together a positive plan to heal the racial divide in the U.S. that will be presented to President Trump and his White House staff. Following the presidential address, Harris was recognized for his work in building bridges between the races at the National Prayer Breakfast Leadership Caucus. Harris was also a key presenter at the Better Together Roundtable at the United City Conference in Lakeland, Fla. His topic was “Conversity: Moving Beyond Diversity.”

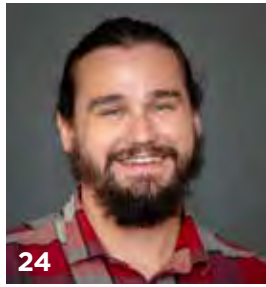
19 DR. BRUCE LILYEA, adjunct professor for business, had an article, “How to Enhance Qualitative Research Appraisal: Development of the Methodological Congruence Instrument,” published in *The Qualitative Report* in December of 2016. In January of 2017, he co-presented a conference presentation on “Caring for Others and Ourselves: When Qualitative Researchers Care” at

The Qualitative Report (TQR) 2017 Conference.

20 DR. PAUL LINZEY, assistant professor of writing, had three of his articles published. A review essay, “Teaching What We Do in Literary Studies,” is forthcoming in *Pedagogy*. A chapter, “Nepantlera as Midwife of Empathy,” is forthcoming in an edited collection, *Bridge Works for Feminist and Womanist Coalition: The Legacy Lives in the Spirit of Love*, being published by University of Illinois Press. He also recently published an advice post, “How to Get Strong Letters of Recommendation from Professors,” at the *Dear English Major* blog.

21 DR. RACHEL LUCKENBILL, assistant professor of English, received a grant from the Conference on Christianity and Literature for travel related to scholarship. She also presented a paper at the March 2017 Native American Literature Symposium. The paper was titled “Teaching Native American Literature to Non-Native Students at a Christian University.”

22 DR. ADRIAN MANLEY, associate professor of counseling, served as the master of ceremonies for the city of Clermont’s largest Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in history. He served as a panelist and leader in a night of worship where 15 church congregations of various races and denominations came together to promote unity and racial reconciliation in January of 2017. He also spoke to student affairs professionals at Valencia College in Orlando in their “Hacking Higher Ed” series about the importance of values in building a career in higher education.



23 JASON OLD, assistant professor of Spanish, had a book review on Charismatic Catholicism in Latin America published in *Pneuma*. He was a speaker at a forum on Cuba travel for U.S. citizens at USF Sarasota-Manatee.

24 AARON ROSS, assistant professor of theology, and **DR. KENNETH ARCHER**, professor of theology and pentecostal studies, are publishing two entries in “Brill’s Encyclopedia of Global Pentecostalism” due out this year. One is entitled “Hermeneutics” and the other is entitled “Scripture.”

25 DR. ERICA SIRRINE, dean of the college of behavioral and social sciences, co-presented a workshop entitled “An Experiential Approach to Teaching Macro-Practice to Undergraduate Students” at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors in New Orleans in March. She presented the keynote address at the Social Work Celebration of the Heartland Unit of the Florida Association of Social Workers in March. She also provided a seven-hour continuing education seminar entitled “Embracing Life after Loss: Therapeutic Tools that Promote Healing and Hope among Children, Adolescents, and Adults” on grief and loss to mental health practitioners in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. She has authored and published a grief book for preschool and elementary age children who are experiencing the serious illness or death of a loved one. The book is entitled *Sammy’s Story*.

26 DR. ALAN SNYDER, professor of history, was interviewed in October by WYLL, Christian Talk Radio, Chicago, about the presidential election on the “Here I Stand” program. The radio and program featured him again

in March on his book, *America Discovers C.S. Lewis: His Profound Impact*. In January of 2017, he was interviewed about his C.S. Lewis book for the “All About Jack” podcast for the Essential C.S. Lewis website.

27 DR. SUSAN STANLEY, associate professor of exceptional student education, and **DR. THOMAS GOLLERY**, professor of education, have been asked by the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) to spearhead a research study on the implementation of Educational Therapy, using data that has been collected by NILD for the past five years from various educational therapists across the country. The goal is to run the data and write a research paper on the results for publication. Stanley presented an education seminar on “What to Do; What Not to Do with Students Who are Gifted.” She taught a webinar on “RtI and NILD Educational Therapy” for the National Institute for Learning Development. She also collaborated with Melissa Bradley, a program specialist for Lake County Schools, Grants and Title I, to provide professional development for incoming tutors working in the private schools in Lake County. She was invited to the Florida Department of Education as a Subject Matter Expert for an FTCE committee.

28 DR. GRACE VEACH, chair of the foundational core of the School of Extended Education, submitted her book entitled *Information Literacy and Writing Studies: Volume 1, First Year Composition* to the Purdue University Press for their Information Literacy handbooks series. It will be published later this year, and she has been approved to begin a second volume.



29



30

29 DR. JIM VIGIL, professor of practical theology, was asked to serve on the board of the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education.

30 DR. KEVIN WEAVER, assistant professor of education, presented his research on “Remedies and Foreseeability in Contract Law” at

New York University (NYU) in August. His research on sport law and globalization was published in the fall edition of the *Global Sports Business Association Journal*. Weaver completed his postdoctoral education this past summer in California at Berkeley Law.



Dr. Danny Tindall

Faculty Retiring

In the spring of 2017, two faculty members who have dedicated more than two decades to Southeastern announced their retirement – Dr. Danny Tindall and Dr. Gerry White. The faculty members were recognized at Commencement.

Assembly of God in Athens, Ga. He also served as an instructor of percussion at the University of Georgia.



Dr. Gerry White

Dr. Danny Tindall, professor of music/conductor in the College of Arts & Media, has served Southeastern for 32 years. He started his career teaching full time at the university in 1985. Prior to serving at Southeastern, he was the associate pastor to youth and college students at First

DR. GERRY WHITE '66, professor of biblical studies in the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology, has served Southeastern for 21 years. She started her career teaching full time at the university in 1996. Prior to working at Southeastern, White served with her husband in the pastorates of two Assemblies of God churches and then received a missionary appointment to southern Africa.





JAMIE FREELAND | '99



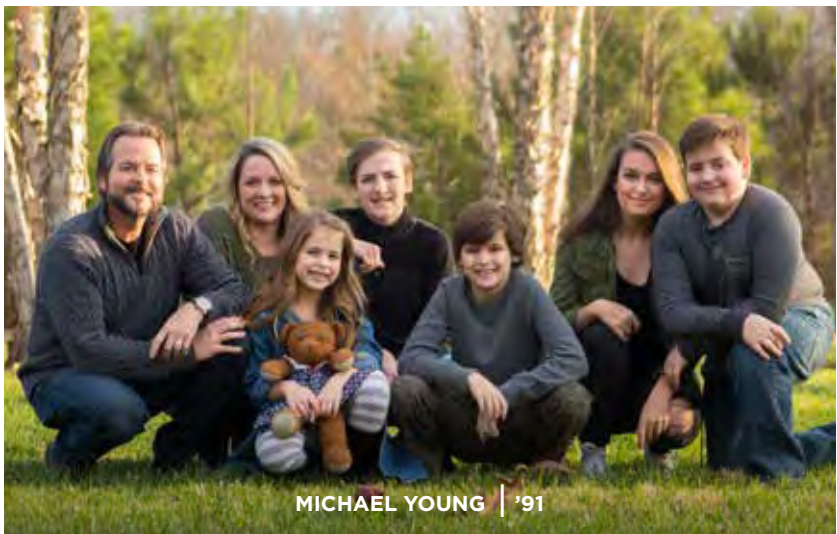
CAMILLE GONZALEZ | '96, '17



MELODY (KREIDER) SILVA | '10

CLASS NOTES

IN THE LIVES OF SEU ALUMNI



MICHAEL YOUNG | '91



JONATHAN TAYLOR | '03

1951

MARVIN BOYCE was a World War II veteran who fought in the Pacific theater of the war for three years. After graduating from Southeastern, he was a full-time pastor for a little over 60 years. He celebrated his 94th birthday in June of 2017.

1960



ELDON and **SUE (GARNER) '57 BROWN** attend Pleasant Grove Assembly of God in Durant, Fla. They are both retired.

1964

ERNIE and **KAYE (TYSON) '68 DELOACH** are pioneering a new church plant on Big Pine Key in the Florida Keys.

1969

LINDA LANIER retired from the Polk County School Board.

1970

FAHED ABUAKEL retired in June of 2012. He recently celebrated 51 years of living in the United States. Prior to retiring, he was elected to

serve as the moderator of the 214th General Assembly of the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) in June of 2002.

1973

JUNE (WALKER) CREWS and her husband, Bill, reside in Jacksonville, Fla. They have two grown children: Ernie Walker, who resides in Los Angeles, Calif.; and Breton Crews, who resides in Jacksonville. Bill is retired from Southeast Toyota and June is retired from teaching. They both are involved in their church, River City Community Church. They enjoy gardening, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

RONALD PRITCHARD retired from 40 years with the Polk County Public School District in 2014. During that time, he served as a social studies teacher, a guidance counselor, dean of students, assistant principal and principal. He served at Lake Wales Junior High School, Lake Wales High School, Mulberry High School and Bartow High School. He and his wife, Holly, have one daughter, Laura Webster, and two grandchildren, Charlotte and Noah.

1975

ALVIN "AL" KLEE retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army in 2004 after 26 years of service. He spent the last eight years stationed in Washington, D.C., and is a survivor of the attack on the Pentagon. He and his wife, Winnie, live in Sparta, Tenn., and have been involved in a number of non-profit organization leadership positions, including a local women's shelter. Al is currently an elected official of White County, Tenn., and serves as a county commissioner.

1979



SHARON (KASPAREK) POOLE and her husband have pastored First Assembly of God in Beaver Falls, Pa., since August of 2000. Sharon has been the PennDel Girls Ministries Director since 2005. Each year she leads or participates in at least one foreign missions trip.

1980

MARILYN (RETTIG) HANDY married her husband, Clarence, on November 8, 2014. They currently live in Largo, Fla.

1982

DONALD CANNON has served as the senior pastor of Church of the King in Morton, Miss., since 2008. After graduation, he served as the senior pastor of Davenport First Assembly of God in Davenport, Fla., the principal of Grace Christian School and youth pastor of Praise World Outreach Church in Johnston, Ill. He also served as senior pastor of Heartland Harvest Church in Johnston City, Ill.

1985

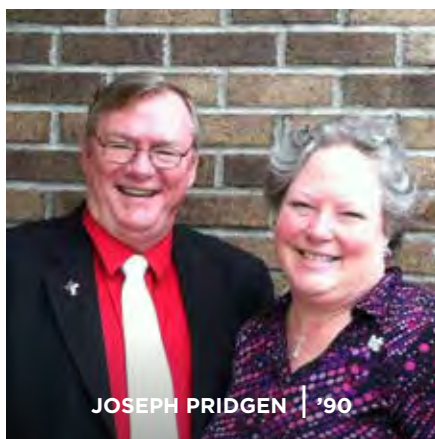
JAY and MELANIE (DEAN) '87 STEWART celebrated 34 years of marriage in May of 2017. They currently have four children and one grandson. Their church, The Refuge, celebrated its 13th anniversary in April. On April 2, The Refuge Church launched Refuge Television, which airs in 25 Middle-Eastern nations to a potential viewing audience of 150 million people weekly.

1986

MARK ROMANO has worked as a charitable estate planning director for The Salvation Army since 2009.

ALBERT and MARIE SKINNER are starting a church, All Tribes (Native American Indian) Assemblies of God, in Midland City, Ala. They are also the directors of the National Christmas Stockings Project of the Native American Indian children.

1990



JOSEPH PRIDGEN and his wife, Denise, moved to Alaska two years ago, when he got a part-time job as chaplain for Providence Medical Center in Seward. He is working to complete a DMin degree from AGTS

and is currently in his project phase, with hopes of graduating in 2018. They have three daughters, Christina, who lives in South Carolina; Angel, who lives in Missouri (with her own business, Angel Wings Design); and Carolyn, who lives in Alabama.

1991

GENE and AMY (DIXON) '93 SOMMERS were married in 1995 and currently live in Doylestown, Ohio. They have three sons, Aaron and Caleb (13 years old) and Luke (10 years old). They attend Crossroads Community Church. Amy is a teacher at Firestone High School (Akron Public Schools) and teaches 10th grade English. She earned her MEd and has a special education certificate. Gene is an intervention specialist for grades K-3 at Robinson Elementary (Akron Public Schools). He earned his bachelor's degree in special education and is working on a master's degree in special education.

MICHAEL YOUNG started teaching in January of 1992 at Faith Christian Academy in Orlando, Fla. He is currently the music teacher at a public school in Dahlonga, Ga., and the sixth grade teacher at Lumpkin County Middle School. He has been married to his wife, Ami, for 19 years and they have five children.

1996

CAMILLE GONZALEZ '17 MEEL graduated with her second master's degree from Southeastern in April of 2017.

DAVID THROWER lives in Hagerstown, Md. He is finishing up a Master of Arts in Catechetics and Evangelization (MACE) degree at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is serving as the pastoral assistant,

lay reader/acolyte, adult catechist, and vestryman at St. Michael the Archangel Anglican Catholic Church in Buckeystown, Md. He is preparing for his ordination (Permanent Diaconate) with the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States, Anglican Catholic Church. He also works as a remote assistant with Web4U Corporation and operates three blogs.

1999

JAMIE FREELAND served in the military for 18 years (10 as an Army chaplain). After serving, he went back to teaching middle school mathematics. He teaches American Sign Language at Plant City High School in Plant City, Fla.

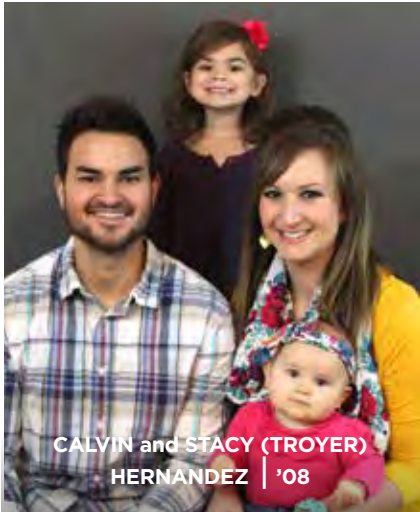
2003

JONATHAN TAYLOR has served in full-time ministry for 13 years. For the last two years, he has been in a pastoral role for a church plant within the Free Methodist denomination. Jonathan and his wife, Jessica, also run two organizations that serve the country of Rwanda. "Copo" is a business that takes handmade products and sells them in the U.S. with 100 percent of profits returned back to the workers and ministry. "Come Away Missions" leads teams from churches and businesses to Rwanda to train in basic medical care, pastoral discipleship, leadership development and youth and children ministries.

2007

AIMEE (VINSON) FRANKLIN and her husband welcomed their second son, Elijah, in May of 2017.

2008



CALVIN “CJ” and **STACY (TROYER) HERNANDEZ** have been married for ten years and have two daughters, ages one and four. CJ is in his fourth year of youth ministry serving at Victory Life Church in Stow, Ohio. Stacy works as a legal assistant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MONICA (ARROYO) SOTOLONGO worked as an at-risk girls’ counselor for a year and a half, and then became a mom. Monica and her husband, Richard, have five biological children. They have gone to Ukraine twice to adopt three older children with special needs. They are also a foster family and have had four children temporarily part of their home. Together, they have been in church ministry as associate pastors of their church.

2009

NAOMIE MADELON is working as a registered nurse in Brevard County, Fla.

2010

MELODY (KREIDER) SILVA has been married to her husband, Santiago, for ten years as of October of 2016. They have two children, Elianna (8) and Elias (5). They have been serving at Family Worship Center in Lakeland, Fla., for the past year. Melody serves on the worship team and Santiago serves on the Spanish translation team.

2011

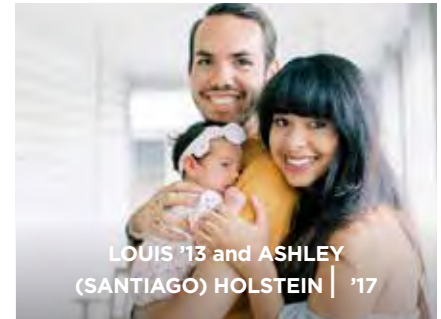
RICHARD CALLAHAN ’14 MAML is the senior pastor at Living Hope Christian Church in Williston, Vt.

2012



MIKELLE LIETTE is getting married to Tony Fennell on September 3, 2017. After they are married, they will continue to live in Ohio while she works as the operation administrator for a construction company. Tony works as a firefighter/EMT. Three of her bridesmaids are friends she met while attending Southeastern.

2013



LOUIS married his wife, **ASHLEY (SANTIAGO) HOLSTEIN ’17**, in 2013. They met at SEU their freshman year in 2009. Louis works for the city of Mulberry in Polk County as a program coordinator. Ashley is a full-time wedding photographer. They welcomed their first child, Alana Grace, on January 17, 2017.

2015

JOSEPH and EMILY (SUMMERS) ’13 GIBSON reside in Oil City, Pa., and have two children. In October of 2016, they launched Cranberry Community Church in Cranberry, Pa.

LUKE SHEMETH ’16 MBA finished his first year at New York Law School and is temporarily living in New York.

AMANDA (HAYES) THOMAS married her husband, Previn, on January 27, 2017. She is a worship leader in Indiana. Previn started a master’s program in May to become a physician assistant. They are serving together at the Caring Place McCordsville in Indiana.

RACHEL WARD recently moved to Tallahassee to pursue a master’s degree in social work at Florida State University (FSU). She also

received a job offer to be the newest and youngest member on FSU's academic advising team. She is also pursuing a Nouthetic counseling certificate through a local church and is very active in her home church, Four Oaks Church. She is training to be a volunteer counselor for women in crisis pregnancies at A Women's Pregnancy Center.

2016



NATE MUNDELL and his wife, Ida, began pursuing their dreams of running their own local businesses in Lakeland, Fla., while Nate was attending Southeastern. Inspired by Access Church's "Dream Year" series by Jason Burns, Nate and Ida opened Lakeland Pallet Company and A Kind Place. Lakeland Pallet Company turns old materials into reclaimed pallet walls, barn doors, tables, and more. A Kind Place is a shop located in Dixieland that offers handmade, fair trade, and vintage products.

JUSTICE REYES is working as the development coordinator at Brooklyn Teen Challenge, which was the very first Teen Challenge.

IN MEMORIAM

1941

CORA (HAZEL) FOWLER passed away on January 13, 2016, and her husband, **JACK '42**, passed away in June of 2006. Cora was the last survivor of the group formerly known as "The Pioneers." They were married on June 26, 1942.

1950

ELEANOR MAURICE passed away on March 5, 2017, in Gainesville, Fla., following an extended time of illness. Eleanor majored in Bible and Greek at Southeastern. After graduating, she returned home to Miami, Fla., to serve as a choir director and to teach Sunday school at her home church, Evangel Temple. In 1952, she was invited to North Highland Assembly of God church in Columbus, Ga., to be the pastor's secretary. When the pastor transferred to Minnesota, she moved also to become a district bookkeeper for the Minnesota District Council. She remained in Minnesota for 20 years serving in different positions. Eleanor retired in High Springs, Fla., and is survived by her sister, Lydia M. Swain, and her brother Daniel Maurice.

1951

WILLIAM "HARRY" BASNIGHT passed away on August 19, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife, **JOYCE**, his parents and six siblings. He was a veteran of WWII and retired from the Norfolk Naval Shipyard after 35 years. He was an active member of Glad Tidings Church/Coastal Virginia Church. He is survived by his two daughters and

their husbands, three grandchildren, four step grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and four step great-grandchildren.

1953

JENNIE GRISOLA passed away on December 23, 2016, in Barberton, Ohio. In addition to attending Southeastern, she also attended the University of Akron. She became a teacher for the Barberton School System and later worked as an employee at the Seiberling Rubber Company. She was a member of Evangel Temple in Akron (now Celebration Church). She is survived by her sister, nephew and nieces.

1959

RALPH LESLIE passed away on March 22, 2017. Ralph was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and spent 18 years as a missionary to Peru. He also spent three years on staff at Southeastern University. He married his wife, **FAITH (NICHOL)**, in 1963. He is survived by his wife, Faith; his children Melinda Garcia Michael, Ralph Leslie Kelly and Victoria Leslie; grandchildren Alyssa, Salit, Nissim, Daniel, Ariel, Josiah and Aman; great-grandchildren Joseph, Branden and Samantha; brothers Donald, Robert and Joseph Leslie.

1966

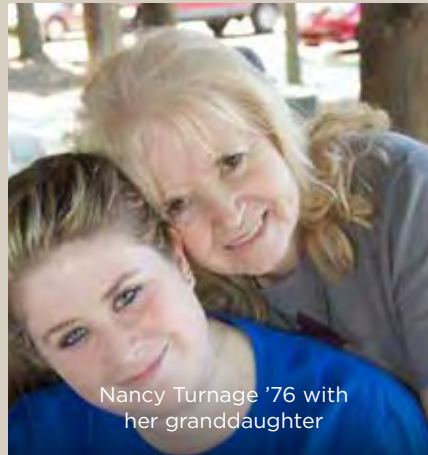
DOUGLAS BAILEY passed away on January 22, 2017. Douglas retired from Polk County Utilities. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, their four daughters, 15 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

1974

HERB BOLEYN passed away on March 3, 2017. Herb majored in missions while attending Southeastern. In 1955, he met his wife, **LANELLE (LASHLEY)**, at Southeastern and they married that same year. Together, they had eight children. Herb worked for the postal service for 30 years and retired as a postmaster. He is survived by Lanelle, six of their children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

1976

NANCY (DAY) TURNAGE passed away on April 4, 2017, after a courageous battle with cancer. Nancy first came to Southeastern in 1969 for a major in elementary education. She met her husband **JOSEPH** (a missions major) at Southeastern in 1971 after he spotted her across the cafeteria. After graduation, Nancy and Joseph were involved in and supported countless ministries during their 45-year marriage, including an



associate pastorship in Springhead, Fla., and a pastorship in Sydney, Fla. She was a passionate teacher for over thirty years in Polk County, advocate

and lover of dogs, and selflessly lived for the happiness and salvation of her family and others. She is survived by her husband Joseph, two children and their spouses, and four grandchildren. She was especially proud of their son Joseph C. Turnage, who is a Polk County Sheriff's Detective, and the fact that her family has carried on her legacy at SEU. Her daughter **FAITH (TURNAGE) HALLOCK '95**, graduated from SEU with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and teaches in Polk County as Nancy did. Her son's wife, **MELLISSA (DEREUS) TURNAGE '15**, received her Master of Business in Criminal Justice at SEU, and Faith's daughter, Hannah Hallock, currently attends SEU pursuing her bachelor's in nursing.

1978

CHARLES WILINSON passed away on October 13, 2016, after a valiant battle with Parkinson's disease. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES

All submissions due by November 17, 2017, for the next issue.

- Email: alumni@seu.edu
- Submit online at SEU.edu/alumni
- Mail to:
Alumni Relations
Southeastern University
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33801





Top left to right: Ruth Lambert; Crystal, Hannah and Steve Mason
Bottom left to right: Lillian and Vaudie Lambert

FAMILY LEGACY: THE LAMBERT FAMILY

For years, hundreds of incoming freshmen gathered around the Divine Servant statue at Lambert Plaza as they were challenged to discover their divine design and become servant leaders while at Southeastern University. Alumni returning to the campus for the first time in years often come to the plaza and comment on the beauty of this spot; younger alumni may recall getting engaged around the statue.

Lambert Plaza was dedicated in January 2006, yet most of those freshmen, and perhaps many of the returning alumni, are unaware of who the plaza was named for or the legacy of the Alabama family that has left its mark on Southeastern

through three generations. **VAUDIE** and **LILLIAN (WEBB) LAMBERT '50** came to South-Eastern Bible Institute when it first moved from Atlanta, Ga., to its temporary location at Lodwick School of Aeronautics in Lakeland in 1947. Nearly 60 years after Vaudie and Lillian first came to Southeastern, Lambert Plaza was dedicated to honor Vaudie's decades of ministry as a pastor, church planter, Alabama district superintendent, and board chairman at Southeastern University.

Just as Southeastern has grown since those early days in Lakeland, so has the Lambert family legacy. Vaudie and Lillian's late son **STEVE '74** and his wife, **RUTH**

(LENN) '03, their granddaughter **CRYSTAL (LAMBERT) MASON '96** and her husband, Alabama district youth director and board member **STEVE '96, '14 MAML**, are all alumni. This fall, their great-granddaughter Hannah begins her freshman year at Southeastern as the fourth generation of Lamberts to attend Southeastern.

When Vaudie Lambert and Lillian Webb came to South-Eastern Bible Institute from Montgomery, Ala., in 1947, they were "unofficially engaged" and part of a class of 59 freshman students who came to the spacious, but sparse, facilities that would be the home of Southeastern until 1952 when the campus moved to



its current location. There was no air conditioning at that time, and metal lockers were used to divide many of the rooms. The rules were also very strict. There was a strict dress code and there was no dating or hand-holding allowed. Men and women could not sit together in chapel or eat together in the cafeteria.

Lillian actually thought she might not return after the first year because of the strict rules. She says they were always being watched by the “all-seeing eye” of the women’s “matron.” The reason she did return for her second year – according to other family members – was because Lillian heard that another female student had her eyes on Vaudie!

Vaudie worked all through school to pay the \$245 cost per semester. Yet paying for school was still difficult and, at one point, he did not have enough money to pay his tuition. He remembers that “the Lord gave my name to a woman in Miami” who

had never met him. God impressed her to pay all of Vaudie’s tuition, and when he graduated, this woman drove from Miami to meet the young man whose name had been given to her. As Vaudie shared this story, he teared up as he said, “I’ll never forget how God met my need.”

Vaudie also remembers how Dr. Arthur Graves, the president of Southeastern from 1948-55, “changed my life.” Dr. Graves not only served as president, but also led worship and often preached in chapel services. Vaudie says the chapel services “created a real experience with God. Dr. Graves would bring students to a confrontation with God” that forever impacted his life.

“I didn’t actually learn how to preach at Southeastern,” Vaudie says, “but Southeastern developed me,” particularly in his early years of ministry. He says he actually learned more from sitting under the ministry of Dr. Graves and other great

preachers than he ever learned in class. “Life is an ever-learning experience,” he says.

Vaudie also traveled with a quartet that accompanied Dr. Graves when he was invited to speak in churches. The group, which included **ED BLOUNT ’49**, **CHARLES COOKMAN ’48**, **NELSON WHITE ’51** and **BILL LOVICK ’75** were like brothers – even to the point of brotherly bickering. Vaudie says they would “bicker and fight all day, but would sing like mockingbirds at night.” These men and their families remained lifelong friends.

They also occasionally got into trouble together. In fact, Vaudie says he almost didn’t graduate because of one of their incidents. While traveling with Dr. Graves, the quartet went out fishing one Saturday. The fish were biting so much that they stayed out fishing all night. The next morning – early Sunday – they were

in the kitchen with their fish – and got caught. They had been fishing on a Sunday, which was not allowed. Only when Dr. Graves broke into a smile did they realize they wouldn't be kicked out of school.

After graduating in 1950, Vaudie and Lillian married and began their ministry together in Alabama. Evangel AG in Montgomery was founded by the Lamberts, where they served as pastors for 20 years. Vaudie also served as Alabama district superintendent for 21 years, and Lillian as director of Women's Ministry. When Vaudie left as district superintendent, the district had \$1 million in the bank for a campground and the District Office facility. As district superintendent, Vaudie was also a member of the board at Southeastern and served as board chairman from 1990-1997.

The Lamberts' son Steve, and his wife Ruth, attended Southeastern Bible College in the early 1970s when Dr. Cy Homer was president. Ruth remembers how she and Steve learned about faithfulness and giving during their years at Southeastern. She recalled one missions convention when Charles Greenaway was speaking. When it was time for the offering, Steve felt impressed to pledge \$300 to the missions project. At the time, they had no extra money and weren't sure how they were going to pay all their bills. But she said that Steve was always known as someone who gave first and trusted God to meet the need. Steve had a job waiting for him after the school year at Montgomery First Assembly, but the door opened for him to start the job three weeks early, so each weekend, he would drive to Montgomery to work at the church, then drive back for classes on Monday. With those three extra paychecks, they were able to pay their

\$300 pledge and have enough extra for their utility bill.

Ruth said that Steve had a tremendous impact on the churches and districts that he served until his passing in 2011, and although he was grateful for the education he received at Southeastern, he treasured the godly model for life, family and ministry exemplified by his parents.

This same legacy continued with Steve and Ruth's daughter Crystal, who attended Southeastern in the mid-90s. She says she saw the faithfulness of God through the years, not only as a student, but as the daughter and granddaughter of ministers. She shared how much she learned from the district superintendents' wives while attending meetings with her family. Crystal remembers Margie Hennesy, whose husband James was the Southeastern president from 1980-98, as the "greatest example of a woman ministering to and leading others." She also recalls how the Women's Ministry of Alabama not only helped with her school bills, but also donated a van to Southeastern College during her time at school as well.


Crystal and her husband Steve were both also involved in student ministry while attending Southeastern. Crystal was on a travel ministry team and recalls being at a church in West Virginia when she was asked to pray for a woman's healing. Normally, the team members would sing and share a brief testimony, but this particular evening she was "forced out of her comfort zone" to pray for this woman's healing. When the woman received an instantaneous and visible healing in her hands, Crystal says it had a tremendous impact on her as a young 19-year-old student and showed her the power of prayer.

Crystal laughed as she and Steve recalled a funny story about praying for someone in the hospital. She would do hospital visitation for student ministry credit and went to pray for a diabetic man who had had both of his feet amputated. After praying, the man shifted on his bed and two feet popped out from under the sheets. Turns out she was praying for the wrong man!

As the Lamberts and Masons shared these and other stories of their time at Southeastern, all of the family members agreed that consistency and faithfulness were the common threads through their many years at Southeastern. "You are in the presence of the Lord there," they all agreed.

Hannah Mason, Crystal and Steve's daughter, says that she wants to experience that same presence and faithfulness in her own life. When considering where Hannah would attend college, the Masons arranged a campus visit to Southeastern.

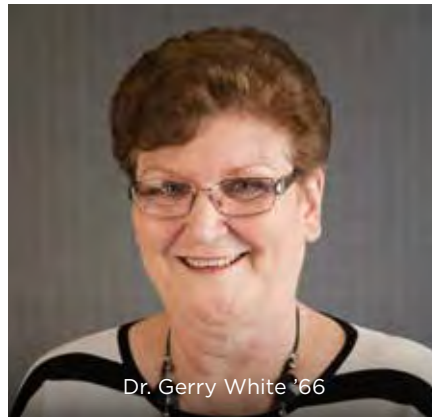
Hannah says that when she and her mom walked out onto the sidewalk outside Addison Hall, she took 20 steps and started crying. In that moment, she says, "I knew that SEU was where I had to be." She says she's not sure yet where God is leading her, or what direction her ministry will take, but she knows that "Southeastern is part of that process."

Lillian said that, to her, "the greatest thing has been watching Hannah mature in the Lord," and she looks forward to watching her mature more during her time at Southeastern. All of the family members agreed that they were thankful to God for Southeastern "never wavering" in its message and they are excited to see how God uses Southeastern to impact Hannah's life, just as it impacted each of theirs. 

Many Years, Same Heart

So much of my life has been influenced by Southeastern. I arrived as a freshman in 1965. It was a year in which Southeastern Bible College experienced a dynamic revival. Classes were suspended for three days as students poured out their hearts to God in the tabernacle and the dormitories. I came in after work one night to find my hallway floor in Bethany Hall almost impassable as girls were laying slain in the Spirit or singing and praying in the Spirit. It was the kind of experience that leaves lives and spiritual expectations forever changed. We had wonderful professors in those days, but it is not their lectures I remember. What I remember is their willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to move whether we were in chapel or the classroom. What I remember is their concern for me and their desire that I made the best life choices possible. It was this concern for students to experience God through the reality of the working of the Holy Spirit in both the spiritual and practical areas of life that earned Southeastern a special place in my heart. It is a concern rooted deep within the very DNA of this school.

Neither my husband nor I had any idea that decades later we would find ourselves again integrated into life at Southeastern. This time, however, we came as faculty. Of course there had been changes in the physical structure of the campus throughout the years. The school had grown and was gradually making more avenues of study available for Christian students. New majors graced the catalogue of the former Southeastern Bible College which in 1977 had become Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God. The question we had was if the heart of the college had changed. Thankfully, the answer was no. The chapel services were still alive and well, student ministry assignments had replaced the outstation assignments of past years, overseas mission trips were being encouraged, and professors were still



Dr. Gerry White '66

interacting with students in caring and mentoring relationships.

Throughout the years many things have impressed me about Southeastern and in particular the Barnett College of Ministry & Theology (BCMT). I found a warm congenial home among its faculty and students from the beginning. For a considerable number of years I was the only female faculty member but I never felt ill at ease, insignificant, or passed-over. I am happy to say that today there are seven full-time female faculty members in the BCMT, and we still enjoy the same sense of care and concern among us that I experienced years ago. The BCMT can rightly be proud of the dedicated and excellent scholars with which it has been blessed. But beyond this, the sense of family that its faculty lives out on a daily basis is a model for doing life together that our students can take with them into their ministries around the world.

The past decade has brought so many changes to Southeastern, including the move in 2005 from our status as a college to a university. What a journey this school has taken. Who would have believed in the 60s that the majors available today would have been possible? Graduate programs and doctoral programs would have only been far-fetched dreams. Today our extended education, including our online and extension site programs,

touch hundreds of students who are unable to sit in our resident classes. And who could have ever, in their wildest dreams, imagined the beautiful buildings and landscaping that grace the campus today? Even in athletics the university has been blessed with Christian athletes and dedicated coaches that bring home victories again and again.

Significantly, all the dynamic growth and development that the university has enjoyed has not caused it to abandon its concern for the spiritual development of its students. Along with the impact of chapel services and mission trips, the Connect groups have opened a new door for mentoring students in an established setting. One hour a week for ten weeks of the semester, faculty and staff members have the opportunity to meet individually with a small group of students. In this setting students are free to ask questions and pray about issues that are important to them concerning their Christian life.

As Southeastern looks to the future, the world presents a plethora of challenges which our students must be prepared to face, challenges which can open new doors for the presentation of the gospel. There is so much to be excited about, so many dreams yet to be dreamed, so many students yet to sit in our classrooms, so many lives yet to be touched by our alumni. Our Lord will continue to be as faithful in the future as He has been in the past. With His help and guidance SEU can and will continue to rise to the challenges of the future. Reflecting on the noble heritage of the BCMT and Southeastern University brings to mind the instructions of Paul to Timothy, *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others”* (2 Tim. 2:2). What a privilege to live out such a calling within the community of Southeastern University and the BCMT.



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20





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