

# GOLDEN GATE

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A magazine for alumni and friends | Spring 2013

## THE CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY





Pastors are my heroes. They are the front line leaders charged with shepherding the church, God's primary means of advancing his kingdom on earth. Pastors are crucial leaders because healthy churches are vital to evangelism efforts, discipleship strategies, missions support, new missionaries being commissioned, seminaries being funded, new seminary students being sent, and a host of other reasons. We need more pastors and more effective pastoral leaders.

God has used Golden Gate to shape thousands of men for pastoral leadership. In the next few pages, you will read about a few of them. They are leading effectively in various settings, in different cultures, and with diverse methodologies. In every case, they are reaching new people with the gospel, making disciples, and sending missionaries to expand God's kingdom. You will be inspired by their stories.

# THE CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

Every one of you either is a pastor or has a pastor. If you are a pastor, be encouraged. Your seminary stands with you and applauds your work. If you have a pastor, go out of your way to encourage him this week. Let your pastor know you appreciate him, the service he provides, and the sacrifices he is making.

One of God's gifts to the church is pastors. Let's train and support them as the treasured resource they are!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff P. Iorg  
President



Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary is owned by the Southern Baptist Convention and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Association of Theological Schools. The Seminary operates campuses in Northern California, Southern California, the Pacific Northwest, Arizona, and Colorado.

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**Seminary Mission Statement**  
Shaping leaders who expand  
God's kingdom around the world.

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gateway



# THE CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

Excerpted from the President's Convocation  
Presented by Jeff Iorg, February 7, 2013

There is a coming crisis related to pastoral ministry in the church.

The crisis isn't internet pornography, misuse of funds, authoritarian leadership styles, or doctrinal error. The coming crisis is we soon won't have enough pastors.

Over the past decade there have been a consistently declining number of students who have enrolled at Golden Gate Seminary who checked "pastor" on the entrance survey as their ultimate ministry objective.

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, the call to pastoral ministry is described as the highest **leadership** role in the kingdom of God. The pastoral office is a significant calling, a noble task, a worthy goal, and a lofty office. Men can desire, aspire, aim for, or even be ambitious about becoming a pastor. Doing so isn't demonstrating pride. It's longing to serve in the most effective role possible.

A pastoral call is a **character** calling. The pastorate requires men of character, and this calling will test and develop character. Pastors live in community, demonstrating Christian growth, modeling Christian family, standing against sin, and teaching true doctrine.

A pastoral calling is a **family** calling. When a man is married, the pastorate requires a mutual call to ministry. The call to pastoral ministry is a partnership, which may involve different ministry marriage models, but always includes two people working together appropriately to provide pastoral ministry. There are also advantages of children being reared in a pastoral family. The pastor's family gets to go to work with him. Most importantly, his family gets to see God at work in ways other children simply don't experience.

The pastoral calling is a **community** calling. A pastor must have a good reputation with his community. It is a public responsibility. African-American community activist pastors, as well as others who have served on school boards and other leadership roles, have employed the pastorate as an opportunity to influence an entire community.

The call to pastoral ministry is a significant calling. It's also a character calling, a family calling, and a community calling. The future health of mission boards, seminaries, and other ministries depends on strong churches. The quality of pastoral leadership will largely determine the future health of churches.

The articles in this section focus on four pastors, all Golden Gate grads, who exemplify the characteristics of pastoral ministry.



## LEADERSHIP Joe Chan

By Dale "Geno" Robinson, Director of Adult Discipleship and Small Groups, First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks, CA

Pastor Joe Chan (MDiv 2004) portrays himself as a humble servant of God, seeking only to do God's will. His life verifies that but also seems to paraphrase a famous movie hero: "A leader is as a leader does." What he does illustrates how he leads better than any description of leadership traits.

Others first identified him as a leader when he was a successful real estate financier who began to serve on the board of directors for a number of philanthropic and religious organizations. His 21-year tenure as a trustee of the Arizona Baptist Children's Services identifies him as an advocate for the needs of broken families and needy children. He chaired the committee that was instrumental in expanding the ministries of ABCS in Tucson. As the Arizona representative on the Board of Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, he has given direction to that institution and is one of its best advocates in Arizona.

It is not difficult for other people to identify Chan's leadership skills. They see him as a natural leader. His friend, David Johnson, current director of Golden Gate's Arizona campus and executive-director elect of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, put it this way: "Joe rises to the top as a leader everywhere he goes. It just seems natural for others to come to him for guidance, direction, and leadership. He is unassuming, quietly doing his work, and involving others in that work."

For his fellow believers, this 61-year-old Hong Kong native's leadership skills were also obvious. In 1985, when Chan was working in real estate development in Tucson, he was also a leading layman in the Tucson Chinese Baptist Church. When they needed a new pastor, they wanted to call and ordain him in that role. It was a case of the people of God seeing God's hand in a man's life even before the man himself sees it.

"After an entire year of prayer, Bible study, and education, I agreed that God was indeed calling me," Joe said. "The church ordained me to the ministry in February 2001 and called me as pastor the very next month." His church recognized that Joe Chan was God's leader for them.


Obedience to the Great Commission is a mark of Chan's leadership. In 1992, a group of Chinese Baptist Churches recognized that Navajo, White Mountain Apache, and the Tohono-O'odham Christians could benefit from ministry partnerships with Chinese-American Christians. While still a layman, Chan began working to make that happen. Groups from Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles, First Chinese Baptist Church of Phoenix, and the Tucson Chinese Baptist

Church began regular mission projects to assist their brother Baptists on the reservations. Over the years, groups have served in Vacation Bible Schools, construction projects, and revivals. Chan insists that the Chinese Churches have ongoing relationships with the pastors and churches, rather than doing just one-time events. There is a strong affinity between the two groups. Some of the Native Americans have even mistaken a few of their Chinese guests for relatives!

Alan Chan, Pastor of Church Ministry Coordination for Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles, is a long-time friend and colleague. "Since 1992, Joe and I have been serving together at YSMP (Youth Summer Mission Project), a mission project among Chinese Baptist churches both in the U.S. and Canada. Joe has been serving as the project director for the last five to six years. Under his leadership, the project has grown both horizontally and vertically. Joe has not only led us to explore new areas of various needs to serve, but intentionally he also connects Chinese churches and people closely with the Native American churches and people. As an insightful leader, Joe helps churches to build partnering relationships with each other so that the ministries will become long lasting and more personal.

"Joe is also an extremely gifted organizer. As the project director, he must coordinate various ministries for over 200 participants in six to seven locations taking place simultaneously. Joe is also good at planning and preparing everyone involved for things expected and unexpected."

Chan came to the United States in 1971. After attending Arizona State University in Phoenix, he stayed in the U.S., becoming a citizen in 1990. He is married to Susie, and together they have two sons, ages 34 and 31.

"What stands out about Joe is his love for God and his desire to serve," recalled Steve Hanna, President of Arizona Baptist Children's Services. "He loves his church and the people in it. He feels very strongly, which comes through his leadership, that his church members should be active participants. This also carries over as an expectation for the church body as a whole to be involved and serving in some capacity. For that reason, Tucson Chinese Baptist Church supports ministries which they believe make a difference in people's lives. Christian social ministry involvement is important to them, which also comes from Joe's leadership and from his heart in helping those less fortunate." 



# CHARACTER

## Victor Chayasirisobhan

"When I was called to serve as associate pastor at First Southern Baptist Church of Anaheim (California) in 2005, the church was divided, even though there was only a total of eight members. Some were for and some were against the senior pastor and they asked me to take a side." Victor was 28 years old and not yet attending Golden Gate Seminary's Southern California campus. It was his first senior pastorate and he was in a difficult position.

"God taught me to be patient, to stay in prayer and connected to him," Victor recalled. "I prayed and the message was 'don't take a side, just feed my sheep who are hungry.' So I just kept preaching and the church grew. In fact, no one left during this time, but instead these same people became part of the leadership." While there were great challenges during that year, Victor said he learned to be patient, faithful, and love God's people.

Earl Waggoner, Director of Golden Gate's Southern California campus, has known Victor for several years. "What continues to impress me about his pastoral work is how committed he is to his flock.

Not only does he take seriously the responsibility to preach the Word and train others to do so, but he really loves the people – the folks in the pew as well as those in the neighborhood. There's this real sense of protection he displays toward them. That's pastoral character, when a person rises to that level of personal responsibility and care for others."

A hard-hitting challenge to the character of this 31-year California resident began two years after he became senior pastor. "A lawyer representing the elementary school next door to our church came over and offered to buy our property for \$2.4 million so that the school could build a pool," Victor recalled. "How do you sell something that's not yours? Of course I said no."

The next year, the lawyer came back and offered \$4.8 million. He tried to tempt Victor by suggesting he keep a portion of the money for his personal use. "I felt like the church belonged to God. You can't put a price on the legacy of this church, the ministry of this church," Victor said. "We weren't led to sell and buy land somewhere else. This neighborhood is our ministry." The lawyer threatened them with an eminent domain lawsuit, but Victor held firm.

"The third year the lawyer came back and offered \$8 million," Victor recalled. "I told him to go home and pray and if Jesus comes to you and tells you that Victor is supposed to sell the property, then you come back and tell me. Then I'll pray about it, and if Jesus tells me too, then I'll do it." He never heard from the lawyer again.

"The elementary school went ahead with the construction even without our property," said Victor. "We prayed for them, brought water to the construction crew, and offered our parking lot during the construction. We continue to be their neighbor: we help the PTA during fundraisers; we open our parking lot during events, we pray for them, and have developed a tremendous relationship. This is our ministry.

"We continue to do God's work the way he told us to. We believe God is faithful. He built us a pond next door for us to fish in. Do I choose money and a comfortable life, or faith in God and continue doing what I'm doing?"

Victor, who describes himself as Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, French, and American, takes on each new challenge as an opportunity. In addition to serving as senior pastor

of FSBCA, this 35-year-old was asked to become the principal and school board chair of Anaheim Discovery Christian School, a junior and senior high school for international students. "I didn't know how to do it, but I knew that God would be with me so I did the best I could and God blessed it." In addition, Victor was asked to teach science and math after the school moved to the church campus in 2009. "I went to my congregation and they told me to do what I think is best for the kingdom." He took on the teaching assignments and the school has not only survived, but has thrived.

"Our church currently has nine ministries – seven churches and two schools," explained this father of two girls with a baby boy expected after this issue goes to print. "We work together as one. They are not renting space, but all donate what they can as part of the ministry." In addition to Anaheim Discovery Christian School, he is site pastor of Faith Christian Academy (K-12). The other ministries are First Southern Baptist Church of Anaheim (founded in 1951), Joyful Hope Presbyterian Church (Korean), Iglesia Emanuel (Pentecostal Spanish Church), Iglesia Saddleback Anaheim (Spanish Southern Baptist Church), The Thai Church in California (founded in 1994, moved to FSBCA in 2007, Victor's dad is senior pastor), Alliance Christian Fellowship (Filipino), and Regeneration Church (post-modern, English-speaking second generation).

This combined ministry currently tallies 400 members and has grown from an older Caucasian congregation to a multi-ethnic, multi-age church including Asians, Hispanics, Caucasians, Native Americans, and African Americans.

"I oversee all the ministries, and meet with the leaders of the churches regularly to discuss how to support each other. Quarterly, we have a joint service, and we unite for neighborhood evangelistic events, Halloween alternatives, PTA yard sales with the nearby elementary school, community health fairs, and repairing the church buildings."

Victor began his education with a medical degree, and then felt God leading him to the ministry. He expects to receive his third Master's degree from Golden Gate in May. "My Seminary professors helped me to learn different perspectives and techniques that I can apply in my ministry setting. I value the friends and relationships that I developed during school. At Golden Gate you're not treated as a number, but as family. I really felt loved by my professors."

Joe Kim is one of Victor's professors whom he also counts as a mentor. He describes Victor as having little regard for pretentiousness, double-speak, and stale approaches to life and ministry. "He is a roll-up-your-sleeves, let-me-get-my-hands-dirty, walk-the-talk type of pastor. He seeks freshness from the Spirit and other co-travelers along this journey of faith, to live out the call to love the Lord with all of his heart, soul, mind, and spirit every day. He is generous, fearlessly honest, and a friend you can count on for the long haul."

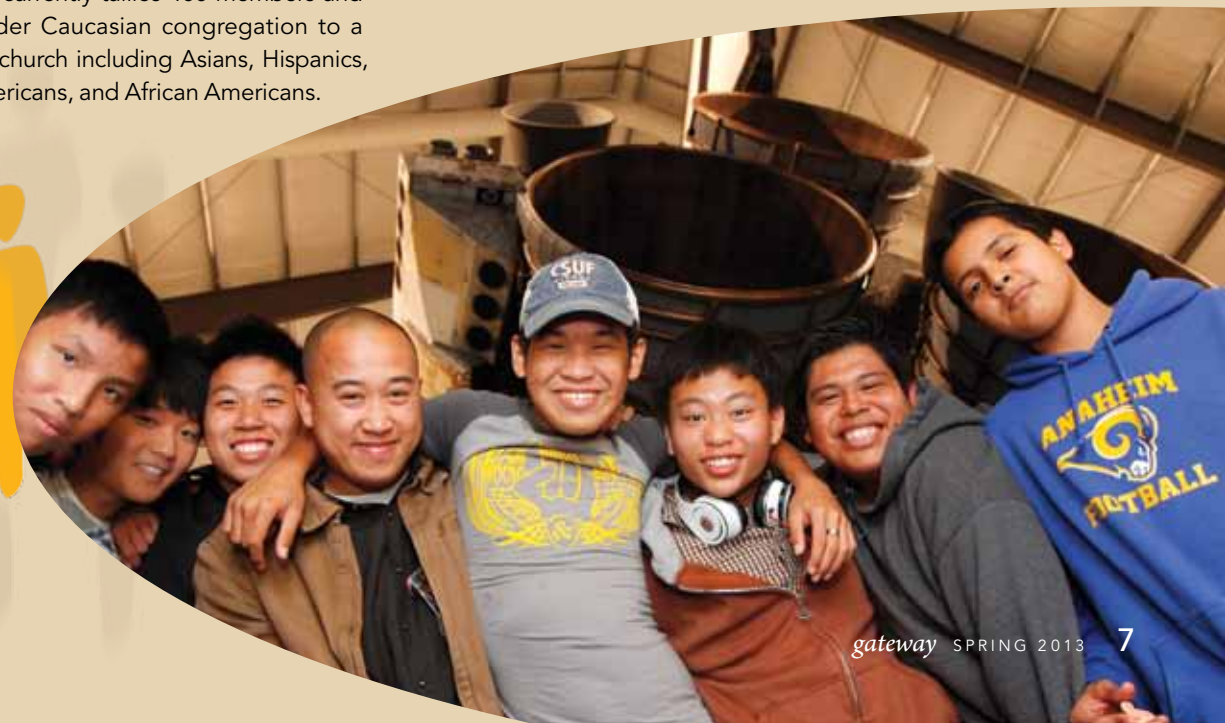
#### PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT:

Theresa and Victor with daughters Vanessa (in pink) and Keira (in red).

Victor with Biology students during a field trip to the California Science Center. "I love my students who God has given me from all around the world."

Victor with some of the kids from the neighborhood apartments around his church.

Victor with Biology students under the afterburners of the space shuttle Endeavor during a field trip to the California Science Center.





# THE CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

## FAMILY

### Tim Walker

"I pastor a small country church," explained Tim Walker, pastor of Randle Baptist Church in Randle, WA. "For a country pastor, a schedule is just there to fill in the time between emergencies – you have to be flexible. I've cut trees off the highway in the middle of the night, winched trucks out of ditches, chased a wayward pig, dispatched horses, and helped castrate a bull." Not skills he learned in seminary, but all part of his ministry in addition to discipling, leading Bible studies, and preaching sermons.

The Texas-born pastor who received his Master of Divinity in 2007 described how a tree faller had an accident and called Tim. "Eleven-year-old Lucas and I responded to the incident and then went on to the hospital together. My kids get to witness ministry in action every day. It's an opportunity for them to learn what it means to serve the kingdom of God."

Tim and his wife, Rebecca, have nine children ranging in age from 22-year old Justin to 1-year-old Elias. "It's a perk to be able to take your kids to work," said Tim, who credits Seminary President Jeff Iorg with teaching him about the perks of being a pastor. "Home schooling further enables us to be flexible and minister as a family."

He observed "most of my children could be ministers right now. They know how to step up and pray for people, encourage them and speak the truth." In addition, he described how 15-year-old Cayla bakes the communion bread every Sunday, and Lucas sets up the communion table as well as helping with the other ministries of the church.

The call to pastoral ministry is a partnership, and Tim explained how Rebecca is his ministry partner. "My ministry doesn't happen without her. We've grown together in the Lord in our nearly 20 years of marriage. I would not have the fortitude or the sanity to do what I do without her."

Randle Baptist Church has a volunteer women's minister, volunteer hospitality minister, volunteer worship coordinator, volunteer children's minister, and a volunteer prayer minister. Tim explained that all these women were called. "None of them would have stepped up if Rebecca had taken on these ministries. She doesn't assume church ministries because that's what the pastor's wife is supposed to do." Tim pointed out that Rebecca supports these women, but is not leading. "Her primary calling is homeschooling the kids. She also writes letters, walks in discipleship, cooks meals for folks, and has people over. She listens to God and does what he calls her to do."

TOP TO BOTTOM:

Abigail keeping Papa company

Matt responding with Disaster Relief

Lucas helping at the home of a widow in our community



TOP TO BOTTOM:

Rebecca and Lucas doing farm chores

Katie helping grandma lead worship

Laura helping out with the nursery

Abigail, Larah, Katie, and Sam enjoying smores during a community service project

Mark Bradley, Director of Golden Gate's Pacific Northwest campus, praised Tim. "Although his ministry setting is rather remote, that doesn't appear to bother Tim. I get the impression he appreciates how that setting lends itself to closer relationships in his church and with his large family. When you visit Tim at Randle Baptist Church, you come away with a strong sense of his earnest commitment to live out his faith with his wife and children in communion with their congregation."

Tim also had that same sense of earnest commitment to his seminary education. Although he had a two-hour commute on Mondays and Tuesdays, he developed a perspective that was about more than attaining the degree. "I realized that I'm not learning until I get something of value for my ministry every day. This has driven me to get the education I never thought I would pursue. My life is less goal-oriented and more today-oriented."

Tim grew up in the church. His father was a pastor and role model. "I was 21 years old when I gave my life back to the Lord," Tim recollected. "I called to tell my dad, who at that time was the vice president of a Christian university in the south. Of course he was thrilled and called everyone he knew to tell them 'prayers have been answered!' The next morning he died of a massive heart attack."

Today, 39-year-old Tim has other mentors including Clint Ashley, Church and Leadership Consultant for the Northwest Baptist Convention and former director of the Seminary's Pacific Northwest campus.

"Tim and Rebecca Walker exemplify parenting at its very best," Ashley said. "Tim intentionally involves the entire family in serving Christ and serving His people. Their children are active in church ministries, and often one of them will accompany their dad as he visits with people in the church and in their community. The children model what they learn from their parents: friendliness, courtesy, fun, and commitment. In a word, they are a great family." 📷



# COMMUNITY

## Mike Duke

By Dale "Geno" Robinson, Director of Adult Discipleship and Small Groups, First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks, CA



Life in Firebaugh, California (population 7,570) is tied to sports, especially for the Eagles of Firebaugh High School. Practices are big and games are bigger! When high school sports are not in season, community leagues take up the slack. Every Monday night, however, as many as 90 high

school kids head to the Eagle's Nest, otherwise known as the fellowship hall of First Southern Baptist Church of Firebaugh. They come to hang out, watch sports on TV, eat, laugh, and hear a brief devotional. The meeting lasts until the game is over and they run out of food. Over the past six years, the only time the Eagle's Nest was empty on Monday night was when it was Christmas or New Year's.

When Mike Duke (MDiv 2006), his wife, Sandy, and their four children (three daughters, now ages 22, 19 and 15, and one son, now 17) arrived in Firebaugh in 2006, there were few places for football players to hang out after practice. Mike discovered this through a friendship with Gary Barragan, a former assistant football coach. Barragan told him, "We just gotta help those kids. That is our job, we just gotta do it." Mike's reply set the pace, "Maybe we could invite the football team to come to the church and watch Monday Night football. We could feed them a hot dog and have a little devotion at half time." After putting the word out, they were surprised and pleased when over 60 students attended – both guys and gals from all segments of the school – on the first night.

For a pastor with a heart for the community and an underused fellowship hall, Eagles' Nest seemed the right thing to do. It has become evident that this ministry touches needs

unperceived by the mostly Hispanic community. Mike pointed out that of all the agricultural-based towns on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, "Firebaugh seems to have the smallest gang problem. Some in local law enforcement and the school district believe that's a result of Eagle's Nest."

Seminary president Jeff Iorg, who is one of Mike's mentors, noted how this ministry "is a great example of engaging a community – in this case a high school – with the gospel. It's being done by a small church in a small town which underscores this kind of outreach can be done by anyone, anywhere."



The weekly meetings have widespread support from community leaders including the mayor and members of both the city council and school board, noted 53-year-old Mike. "It is an easy connection since many of their own children have benefited from this ministry. School board members regularly help with special events at Thanksgiving and Christmas by preparing the food, helping clean up, serving, and generally hanging out with the kids."

The format has changed very little in the past seven years, Mike explained. "There is always fun, food, some television, and a devotional. At first, we had many different presenters,

but now I speak most of the time. Because many of the students have little or no knowledge of the Bible or understanding of their need for salvation, the messages are "pre-evangelistic." The goal of the program is to introduce students to the Bible, to God's love, and to their need for that love in their lives."

Local support comes from proceeds from a food booth at an annual city festival, and regular donations from community members. The local Methodist Church recently donated \$500. Some community influencers are personally active as leaders and helpers. It is obvious that this ministry resonates with the strong community interest in the well-being of its young people.

Mike recalled one instance which illustrates Eagle's Nest's impact. "A student who attended our Monday night meetings was very active in the local Catholic church. Her mother was also active in the parish, teaching confirmation classes. When she heard that her daughter was going to something at the Baptist church, she was concerned." Mike met the mother when she decided to check it out before she forbade her daughter from attending. She discovered that it really was good for her daughter to be there. Soon, she was helping as the chief dishwasher. Mike shared that when parish leaders wanted to forbid their high school students from attending, this mother ran interference that stopped their strategy in its tracks.

Today, you're likely to find Mike setting up chairs, shopping for food or cooking it, or operating as the AV tech for the video lessons. What began as a direct outreach to the football team now draws students of all kinds, even some from the local junior high. Few, if any, of these students have become members at First Baptist. Their Catholic commitments limit that. Yet, Eagle's Nest is making a deep spiritual impact. Mike says, "Some of our young people consider Eagle's Nest to be their church. When asked where they go to church, they say, "Eagle's Nest."

Born in Garland, TX, Mike graduated from high school in Fresno, CA, where his father, Jack Duke, was the long-time Director of Missions for the Mid-Valley Baptist Association. Mike credits his seminary education at Golden Gate for making the Eagle's Nest possible. "Here is the real miracle of Eagles Nest, the part that would not have happened if I had not gone to Seminary. Golden Gate took me through a process that prepared me to hear Gary Barragan. It gave me the interpersonal tools and the heart to hear Gary's heart." This preparation happened through lectures and textbooks, but Mike believed it was ignited by the personal relationships of those who teach there. In addition to Jeff Iorg, his list of Seminary mentors includes Dr. Greg Watson, Dr. David McCormick, and Dr. Leroy Gainey. He said, "Golden Gate prepared me to see the opportunities to serve, even in my weak points, and to encourage others to maximize their strengths and talents." ☐





# Torah Scrolls at Golden Gate

By Gary Arbino, Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament  
Curator of the Marian Eakins Archaeology Collection



When Christians read their Bibles, they open a bound book of pages. But this was not the original form of the biblical texts. In the ancient world, texts were written on parchment (animal hides) or papyrus (paper) scrolls rather than in books. Scrolls containing long works were made from individual hides or papyrus sheets sewn together. Perhaps the most famous examples are the "Dead Sea Scrolls" from around the time of Jesus.

Golden Gate Seminary recently acquired two Torah scrolls, each over 100 years old, as a gift from a generous donor. One of these scrolls is from Poland and was written in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Ashkenazi script. Having survived the Holocaust, it was taken to Israel after World War II and is now housed in the Pacific Northwest campus library. The second scroll is on display in the Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection at the Northern California campus. This scroll, written in the Sephardic script, originated from North Africa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its 62 panels of tanned and unfinished cow hide measure 113 feet long, with 242 columns, and 304,805 letters.

The scrolls illustrate the reverential tradition and careful transmission of the Sacred Text itself. Reading from hand-

copied Hebrew scrolls, rather than books, continues to be the only proper form of the Torah used in Jewish synagogue worship to this day. Torah scrolls like these, which are no longer kosher for ritual use, are still too sacred to be destroyed or thrown away. Rather, they are usually placed in a *genizah* – a storage place in the synagogue where they are left to decay. Golden Gate is fortunate to have obtained these special artifacts which illustrate, for those of us committed to the Bible, the legacy we have in its preservation.

The North African Scroll is the highlight of the museum's exhibit tracing the Hebrew transmission of the Old Testament. The museum itself is undergoing a renovation and expansion. Over the course of several years, the exhibits are being reworked, updated, and expanded into an adjacent room. This expansion will allow materials currently in storage to be displayed providing a broader view onto the ancient and biblical world.

The Eakins Museum is housed in the Seminary's Northern California library, and is open Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm (depending on library schedule). ☐



Gary Arbino

### LANCE CADDEL



- Pastor, Valley Christian Fellowship, Longview, WA
- Diploma in Theology, 2001  
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

My own early years as a church planter helped me discover the importance of a seminary education. I felt overwhelmed at the task and my own lack of skill. Ted Cotten, pastor of First Baptist, Longview, WA, invited me to work with him in the Northwest. He gave me the opportunity to attend Golden Gate's Pacific Northwest campus. Those were valuable years for my ministry.

I refer students to Golden Gate because I have a personal loyalty to the Seminary and maintain on-going relationships with the faculty and staff. I have confidence in the skills and theology taught there. Seminary courses and classes reinforce what we are trying to accomplish at Valley Christian Fellowship. I have discovered that a good education builds confidence in the new church planters and staff assistants.

Since I have a strong "theology of trained leaders," I believe in mentoring young men in the ministry and in referring them to Golden Gate because that was my own personal experience. I am always seeking to encourage others to have that same point of view. In the past 16 years, I have sent seven students to the Pacific Northwest campus, three of whom are pastors and two others serve as associate pastors. Referring students reflects the leadership mentality I developed through my own experience and education at Golden Gate Seminary.

### ANDREW NGUYEN

- Master of Missiology – current student
- B.S. (2010) – Corban University, Salem, OR
- Associate Pastor of Media Arts and Communication, Valley Christian Fellowship, Longview, WA



I grew up a Southern Baptist and have always believed that if a person is going to serve the Lord, he needs to be the best he can be. The way to do this is to have a quality seminary education. That is why I chose to attend Golden Gate. When I joined the staff at VCF in July 2012, I had already been taking seminary classes. Because my pastor, Lance Cadde, also believes in seminary education, he led the church to support me financially.

The two-year Master of Missiology degree is a good fit for my interests and calling. I believe God is leading me to serve as part of a church planting team. I anticipate the education and experiences I receive from my seminary education will help strengthen the team with whom I serve. Just as someone has encouraged me to attend Golden Gate, I would encourage others to do the same.



# President's Blog Rated Number 1!



eLearnPortal.com has announced the Top 10 College Blogs of 2012 – and Dr. Iorg's blog was rated as number 1!

Blogs were evaluated "from our entire group of partner schools listed on eLearn Portal." eLearnPortal.com is affiliated with The Learning House, Inc., the company that manages our online degree program.

Blogs from 95 schools were evaluated, using the following criteria:

**Content:** Is the blog content interesting, interactive and up-to-date for blog readers?

**Design:** Does the design fit the theme of the blog? Does it attract and draw in new readers?

**Relevancy:** Is the information included in the blog timely and relevant for its intended audience?

**Prevalence:** How accessible is the blog on the school's website? How prevalent is it for readers?

eLearnPortal described the president's blog as "welcoming its readers with a bright, vivid photo and fascinating content that touches on topics such as education, evangelism, marriage and family, and social issues. Iorg brings up relevant issues relating to each topic for not only Golden Gate students and faculty but outside readers as well."

You can read his weekly post by going to [ggbts.edu/president/blog.aspx](http://ggbts.edu/president/blog.aspx). To make it easier to read the blog regularly (a new post every Monday morning), you can have it sent directly to your email inbox by subscribing to an RSS feed. You can find the RSS icon at the bottom of the president's webpage: [ggbts.edu/president](http://ggbts.edu/president) where you can sign up.



focus on a  
**PROGRAM**

## Master of Arts in Christian Counseling

The Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC), which launches in fall 2013, equips ministry leaders with a high degree of competency in counseling ministries. Christian counseling involves caring for people in the deepest and most profound aspects of their lives. The MACC program offers an opportunity to develop Bible-based counseling skills, theological knowledge providing a strong foundation for Christian counseling, counseling techniques based on Scripture and informed by contemporary psychological knowledge and practice, and understanding of human nature and counseling techniques within the context of biblical truth.

"The MACC provides more than just counseling theory," said Dr. Debbie Steele, Associate Professor of Christian Counseling. "It promotes discernment within the counseling context based on the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's word." Dr. Steele and Dr. Phil Connor are the primary professors launching the MACC and the related Master of Divinity concentration in Chaplaincy.

The MACC degree will prepare students to serve as Christian counselors in a variety of church-related settings. It is a non-licensure, two-year professional master's degree. This degree is not designed to fulfill the California state requirements which allow a person to seek credentialing as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT).

The MACC at Golden Gate distinguishes itself from the typical secular counseling program by including coursework which assists the student in developing a Christian biblical and theological framework from which to deliver effective Christian counseling. This is accomplished by core coursework in Biblical and Theological studies and experiential courses aimed at cultivating self-awareness and clinical competency.

"The final degree approval proposals have been sent to Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), our national and regional accreditors. We already have approval to advertise the program "pending final approval" which we expect this summer," said Dr. Michael Martin, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Golden Gate.

"In addition to the New Master of Arts in Christian Counseling degree, our faculty has also approved a new Concentration in Chaplaincy as an addition to the Master of Divinity degree," Seminary President Jeff Iorg stated. "We have also just announced a Doctor of Ministry in Chaplaincy, with more than 30 students starting the application process the first week after it was announced!"

We are now accepting applications for this new degree program launching fall 2013. For more information, contact our Admissions office via phone 888-442-8701 or email at [admissions@ggbts.edu](mailto:admissions@ggbts.edu).

>> BIBLE-BASED COUNSELING SKILLS

>> CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

>> DISCERNMENT BASED ON THE LEADERSHIP OF  
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Cassandra Tomlinson

"My scholarship has had the single greatest impact on my education, because without it I wouldn't have been able to afford to attend Golden Gate," said Cassandra Tomlinson, 25-year-old second semester Master of Theological Studies student. "Receiving the Neva Burk Southern California Campus Scholarship for Women in Ministry was the greatest encouragement towards my goal of attending graduate school. I had the support of friends and family, but receiving the scholarship made me feel that it was truly in God's plan to attend Golden Gate."

In addition to her seminary studies, Cassandra is currently serving in Saddleback Church's HIV and AIDS initiative. "We minister to people in the HIV and AIDs community," the California native explained. "We provide free HIV testing, support groups, advocacy, and we connect with people who are not associated with churches." Cassandra ministers to people all over North America, and her education helps her to focus on people more specifically.

"My education is equipping me in learning how to use tools for sharing and ministering to the sick, and to those who are just learning about faith. What I have learned at Golden Gate, as well as the ministry I'm currently serving, has equipped me to minister both to people in my personal life and to those whom God brings to me every day."

"I am so thankful for receiving my scholarship!"



## Kelcey Fry



"I chose Golden Gate Seminary because I can serve in ministry and get my education at the same time," said 23-year-old Kelcey Fry. His goal is a Master of Divinity with a Concentration in Youth Ministry. As a pastor to students at Hi-Way Baptist Church in Mesa, AZ, Kelcey ministers to people who range in age from 7<sup>th</sup> graders through 25-year-old young adults. He is also the director of Christian Challenge for Red Mountain Community College.

"Youth ministers don't get paid very well, so it's nice to get an education with a scholarship, without putting out large amounts of money when I can't afford it. The scholarship also enables me to be a better pastor," said the Arizona native, "since I can concentrate on my ministries and my education without working an additional job to pay the bills."

Kelcey's mother is also a Golden Gate student and was a motivator in his decision to attend. David Johnson, current director of Golden Gate's Arizona campus and executive-director-elect of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, was Kelcey's former pastor and an influential recruiter.

"I'm thankful for my scholarship. Because I make so little and work so much, it's hard to afford school any other way," said Kelcey. "The scholarship makes me a better minister to my congregation and students. I don't have to take out loans and spend money I don't have."

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## Gabriel Beltran

While pursuing a Master of Divinity degree, Gabriel Beltran is serving as a K-5 Sunday School teacher at Epic Church in San Francisco. He has recently begun a volunteer relationship with a ministry in San Francisco's Tenderloin District where he has been given the opportunity to preach the Gospel and share what God has done in his life.

"I have a heart for the people in the Tenderloin," said the 36-year-old father of two with another child expected in October. "That was me seven years ago – battling drugs and addiction, living on the street." After ten years of addiction, two of which were spent homeless, Gabriel called on the God he remembered from his childhood, and "God gave me a whole new life."

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 Mr. Roosevelt Mercer  
 Rev. Janet L. Mers  
 Rev. Marilyn L. Meyer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter D. Mills  
 Mrs. Mary E. Mohn  
 Mrs. Melva J. Molina  
 Rev. & Mrs. Ira D. Morrow  
 Chaplain & Mrs. Thomas W. Murphy  
 Nana's Day Care  
 Mr. C. Wayne Nance  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas H. Napier  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Narh  
 Mr. Jose Navarro &  
 Mrs. Juana Garcia Denavarro  
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Netherton  
 Mr. & Mrs. Darrell J. Newell  
 Chaplain & Mrs. Darryl B. Newhouse  
 Mrs. Minh Ngoc Nguyen  
 Rev. & Mrs. Elvin B. Norris

Mr. & Mrs. Rodney L. Odom  
 Dr. & Mrs. Dexter C. Ogan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Athos G. Oliveira, Sr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mario E. Orellana  
 Ms. Theresa B. Ortega  
 Rev. & Mrs. Larry R. Packard  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Perkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Petersen  
 Dr. Linda E. Phillips  
 Chaplain Walter L. Phillips  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rody Pierre  
 Dr. & Mrs. E. O'Dell Pointer  
 Pastor & Mrs. Gary G. Potter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nolen G. Pridemore  
 Mr. Sung Taek Pyo  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Oswaldo Quiroz-Matildo  
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren C. Rathbun  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ray G. Register  
 Rev. Ernest & Dr. Deborah Rettino  
 Lt. Col. & Mrs. Charles E. Reynolds  
 Rev. & Mrs. Wayne C. Reynolds  
 Mrs. Susanna W. Rice  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Richardson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael W. Routt  
 Rev. & Mrs. Dale L. Rowley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kao Fou Saechin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren H. Sawyers  
 Sawyers Novelty  
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 Mr. & Mrs. J. Douglas Scherling  
 Chaplain & Mrs. Delbert D. Serratt  
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 Rev. & Mrs. H. Paul Smith  
 Ms. Norma L. Soltero  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert O. Spacy  
 Rev. & Mrs. Franklin L. Sparkman  
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerry G. St. John  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley D. Stamps  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Stephenson  
 Mr. Eugene A. Stevens  
 Rev. & Mrs. Robert A. Stiver  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Mark W. Tynan  
 Ms. Josefina Vasquez  
 Vision Himpossible  
 Mrs. Bae Bay Wah  
 Rev. & Mrs. David T. Wallin  
 Mr. Marlon & Dr. Denise Washington  
 Rev. & Mrs. George H. Watanabe  
 Mrs. Shirley A. Webster  
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Wiley, Jr.  
 Mr. Trent O. Wilkins  
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 Rev. & Mrs. Ralph A. Wilson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael D. Wright  
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman O. Wright  
 Dr. & Mrs. Byung-Sam Yoon



*Josh  
Turansky*

"The scholarship I receive brought my tuition down to a place that fits within my budget and makes it more reasonable," said Josh Turansky, who pays full tuition because he is not Southern Baptist. "In order to qualify for the scholarship, I need to attend full-time, so it's motivating me to move faster through the curriculum," the first year Master of Divinity student said.

Josh was born in Oahu, HI, where his father and grandfather were both pastors. The family moved to New Jersey when Josh was six years old, and he lived there until he left for California in 1999 to attend Calvary Chapel Bible College (CCBC) when he was 17 years old.

After graduating from CCBC, he served there until 2007, when he started a Bible college in Hawaii which was an affiliate of Calvary Chapel. He began to serve in 2010 at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa in the area of higher education, advising CCCM on their seven different higher education programs. Today, this father of three also serves as assistant pastor at Calvary Chapel.

"The primary reason I chose Golden Gate Seminary was because I wanted to have professors who had pastoral ministries in their background, and who were active in their local churches. This is the kind of training I wanted since I'm interested in hands-on local ministry."

Josh is grateful for his scholarship. "It's a blessing, especially being a non-SBC student. It is encouraging to me that people are contributing and supporting me so that I can complete my education."

# Alumni & Friends LUNCHEON

SBC Annual Meeting in Houston  
 Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 12:15pm

George R. Brown Convention Center  
 Room 320A/B/D/E, Level 3  
 1001 Avenida de las Americas  
 Houston, Texas

*Dr. Roger Barrier*  
*Mrs. Pearl Dee Chiu*  
*Dr. Willie Simmons*

The 2013 Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award

Tickets \$10 at our booth  
 RSVP 888-442-8709 or [rsvp@ggbts.edu](mailto:rsvp@ggbts.edu)





1970s

**Don R. Taylor** (1970) serves as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, AR.

**John** (1972) and **Kathy** (1972) **Dillman** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 19, 2013. John is a project manager at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, and Kathy is executive director of Industries for Christ. They have one adult child, Munkei, who was adopted during their missionary years in Kenya.

**John R. Vaughn** (1974) retired from Kalihi Baptist Church in April 2012. He served for 40 years in pastoral ministry in Hawaii. He has served as pastor of four churches and also served as a full-time prison chaplain for 11 years.

**Milton W. Kliesch** (1977) retired from full-time ministry in July 2012 and now serves as interim pastor of Sunlight Baptist Church in Franklinton, LA.

1980s

**Steven W. De Bernardi** (1982) is now serving as chaplain-at-large in Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico.

**Gary Dewayne Martin** (1982) has served as Pastor, Winton First Southern Baptist Church in Winton, CA from 1986 to present. He also serves as Moderator, Central Valley Southern Baptist Association. He served as Mission Team Leader, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine, in 2002, 2003, and 2004. He and his wife, Nancy, have two adult daughters and three grandsons.

**Donald "Don" Nelson Lee** (1983) has served as a social worker at Rusk State Hospital in East Texas for the last 17 years. Earlier, he served for 16 years in the Pacific Northwest doing various types of mission work. He and his wife, Nany, have one eight-year-old daughter.

**Jeanette Omarkhail** (1985) has been serving as a middle school teacher in TN for 10 years.

**Dan Brown** (1986) and his wife, Jan, are serving for two years as volunteers with Bridges for Peace, a Christian ministry in Jerusalem. Dan and Jan have both served on staff at Abba's House in Chattanooga, TN, for the past six years and with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) fulltime from 2000-2006. Dan had served in various pastoral roles in CO and TX from 1986-2000.

**David B. Hardesty** (1986) is currently serving as Headmaster of Coram Deo Academy, a classical and Christian school in Carmel, IN.

**Gary L. Buckner** (1987) serves as Director of Missions at Mountain Valley Baptist Association in Alamogordo, NM.

**Sheryl Marie Cooper** (1987) has retired and now resides in Cuenca, Ecuador.

**David Wilcox Howle** (1988, 1993) has been serving as the Executive Director/Campus Dean of Wayland Baptist University's Hawaii campus since in October 2011, after 16 years of ministry at WBU. He and wife, Cathy, live in Central Oahu; sons Adam and Greg live in California and Australia, respectively. The Howles have one grandson and two granddaughters.

**Edward "Ed" H. Williamson** (1988) retired from the U.S. Army Chaplaincy in March 2011 after 22 years of service. He now serves Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado in their Montrose office.

1990s

**H. Wayne Ballard, Jr.** (1990) received a second Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Wayne and his wife, Kim, reside in Strawberry Plains, TN where he serves as Associate Professor of Religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, TN.

**Art Brown** (1990) is now serving as Children's Pastor at Hillcrest Covenant Church, Prairie Village, KS.

**William "Bill" Howard Swartz** (1991) serves as the senior pastor of Baptist Church on Homedale, Klamath Falls, OR. BCH was formed in 2012, by the uniting of Suburban Heights Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Klamath Falls.

**Betty M. Chen** (1993) lives in Sunnyvale, CA and serves with Bay Area Life Witness.

2000s

**Rick Rogers** (2000) is now serving in his fifth year as Regional Representative of Moody Bible Institute for California/Oregon/Nevada/Hawaii. He also serves as professor in the Moody Distance Learning program. He lives with his family in Redding, CA. His oldest daughter recently got married and his son-in-law attends GGBTS in Southern CA.

**Eric L. Light** (2004) serves as U.S. Army Chaplain in VA.

**Jerod Faris** (2006) is a structural engineer from Lakewood, CO who, as part of a team of architects and engineers from across North America, volunteered his time with Engineering Ministries International. He spent a week in February 2013 in Honduras preparing the design for a new clinic, Clínica El Buen Pastor.

**Jeff Waldrop** (2006) received his Ph.D. in Church History and Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in December 2012. He is currently teaching Church History as an adjunct for Golden Gate's Online Degree Program.

**Adam Adams** (2007) is now serving as Director of International Programs at Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, AR.

**Joy Rena Gragg** (2007) serves at New Braunfels Christian Academy in New Braunfels, TX.

**Charlene E. Hios** (2008) wrote an article entitled "How Do I Respond When a Loved Says 'I'm Gay'?" which was published in a special insert of the 1/15/12 edition of the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger* called "The New Normal."

**Gary Brndiar** (2009) serves as Staff Chaplain at North Colorado Medical Center. He is also a Family Care Pastor in Fort Collins, CO.

**Terry Wayne Dorsett** (2009) completed 19 years of ministry in Vermont, where for the last 11 years he has served as the Director of Missions for the Green Mountain Baptist Association. During Terry's tenure, the number of SBC churches in Vermont grew from 18 to 37. Terry is now serving with the North American Mission Board as the Church Planting Catalyst for the state of Connecticut. Terry has written his fifth book, *Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church*, published in 2012 by CrossBooks, a division of LifeWay.

**Amanda Phifer** (2009) is serving as a missionary with Resources for the Blind, International, working as a writer out of their Columbia, SC office. RBI provides Gospel-centered advocacy, education, prevention, and medical care for blind children and adults in the Philippines.

## In Memoriam

### ALUMNI

Walter Lloyd Phillips (1950)

Dexter Carl Ogan (1952, 1954)

Eilene Duett (1957)

Pauline Baker (1960)

Glynn Paul Hamm (1960, 1963, 1972)

—also former NCC Library staff

Sara M. Wisdom (1962)

George Adam Baker (1964, 1972)

Glenn Alvin Grubb, Sr. (1968)

Mary Susie Colaquer (2013)

### FORMER STAFF

Manuel Casas (CLD)

Myrna S. Saulter (AZC)

Beulah M. Eakins (NCC)

—sister of retired professor, Dr. J. Kenneth Eakins

### FORMER TRUSTEE

Floyd M. Hixson (CA)

## Seminary Sprouts

**Evangeline Harper Morales**

Born March 19, 2011

Nathan (2011) and Amy Morales

**Sabine Avna Barrett**

Born June 17, 2011

Dan (2003) and Ginny (2003) Barrett

**Matthew Harrison Gorney**

Born December 27, 2011

Mark (2007) and Ticia (2007) Gorney

**Sophia Joy Farris**

Born May 12, 2012

Jack (2011) and Jenny Farris

**Allie Elisabeth Blackwell**

Born September 30, 2012

Ryan (2008) and Rachel Blackwell

**Preston Nobuo Tanigawa**

Born October 13, 2012

Shane (2006) and

Maela (2006) Tanigawa

**Elizabeth June Baum**

Born January 8, 2013

Stephen (2009) and Nikki (2010) Baum

**Emma Grace Garcia**

Born February 1, 2013

Abel (2012) and Jennifer Garcia

SEND  
US YOUR  
SPROUTS

If you are an alumnus (grad or former student), and would like to include your 18-month-old or younger child in an upcoming issue, please send a high-resolution jpg. Include the name of your child, you and your spouse's names, the dates you graduated/attended, and email to alumni@ggbts.edu.

Send the latest news of your current ministry activities to [alumni@ggbts.edu](mailto:alumni@ggbts.edu).



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