

# GOLDEN GATE

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A magazine for alumni and friends

FALL 2012

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small seedling with dark soil. The seedling has three bright green leaves. Each leaf contains a different photograph: the top-left leaf shows a woman with a red headband and sunglasses; the top-right leaf shows a man and a woman in professional attire; the bottom leaf shows a group of five people outdoors. The background is a soft-focus image of the hand and soil.

# CHURCH PLANTING

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This won't surprise you – I am passionate about church planting! I still consider starting a church in Oregon my most significant ministry contribution to date. By establishing a church, a people-reaching movement was started that has lasted long after my pastoral leadership ended. More people are going to heaven because of that church's continuing ministry than any other thing I have done. For that eternal reason, being part of founding a church means so much to me.

Golden Gate has long been a leader in starting new churches. In this issue, you will read stories about recent church planting graduates, as well as graduates who have been instrumental in church planting for decades. For some, it seems like starting churches is a fad. Not so here at Golden Gate! We have been working on the front lines of establishing churches around the world for more than

sixty years. With the renewed emphases our denomination is bringing to this mandate, we are increasing our efforts to train more leaders for the task.

While we are a global seminary with a focus on the western United States, we recognize a strategic need to develop new churches in the San Francisco Bay Area. Because of this, we have entered into a partnership with the North American Mission Board to facilitate cooperative church planting efforts. You will read about that in this issue as well.

Biblical. Missional. Global. Church planting on every continent is part and parcel of who we are. Thanks for your support along the way!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff P. Iorg *President*

## FEATURES

### *Church Planting*

Sunset Chinese Baptist Church 4

Resonate Church 6

Epic Church 8

Don Overstreet 9

Rich Johnstone 10

### Professor's Perspective

Dr. Rick Melick 11

### Focus on a Program

Online Master of  
Theological Studies Degree 14

## IN THIS ISSUE

Why I Refer 12

Missions Conference 12

Distinguished Alum 13

Women's Leadership Consultation 14

W. Morgan Patterson Book Donation 15

2012 Harold K. Graves Award 16

Estate Gift for Pastoral Care and  
Counseling Program 17

Endowment for Kim School  
of Global Missions 17

Social Media News 18

## DEPARTMENTS

Letter from the President 2

Alumni Updates 18

In Memoriam 19

Seminary Sprouts 19



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.

[www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu)

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

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# CHURCH PLANTING

People have been planting new churches since the Antioch church was founded. While they weren't always called "church planters," those starting new churches use styles and techniques that haven't changed much in nearly 2,000 years: a church planter and family move to a new location to start a church from scratch. Or an existing church or organization provides leadership and resources to get a new church started. Small groups meet in a home, and the groups grow larger. Or an existing church divides and multiplies.

Our alumni and students are zealous about starting new churches – locally, across the country, or around the world. The articles in this section highlight a variety of Golden Gate church planters and church planting teams, each reaching out to a different people group or culture.



## Sunset Chinese Baptist Church

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

"In the late 1970s, when I was pastor of Chinese Independent Baptist Church in Chinatown (CIBC), I saw people moving into the Sunset District of San Francisco, and God gave me the vision for planting a church there," recalled Johnny Wang, a 1963 graduate of Golden Gate Seminary.

"With a team of deacons from CIBC, the first thing we did was a neighborhood survey of 10 square blocks," he said.



"We wanted to find out how many Chinese had moved there, and through the survey we learned there were numerous non-Christian Chinese immigrants, mostly two-income families with small children." The demographic was young, working families who were able to afford a

down-payment on a home.

"We saw potential for a church in this neighborhood, so we went ahead and followed God's leadership," Wang said.

Wang continued to pastor Chinatown's CIBC, as he began to plant what became Sunset Chinese Baptist Church. "We started in 1975 by renting Abraham Lincoln High School Chapel as an afternoon meeting place, with 40 members from CIBC. We then bought a house at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taraval in 1976. As we outgrew that space, in November 1979 a supermarket became available at 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Lawton for \$420,000." Wang explained how the transaction had to take place within three months and the members raised the money. "It was very sacrificial to meet the goal," he marveled, "and that was the largest check I have ever handled!"

In 1980, Sunset Chinese Baptist Church became incorporated with 75 people and two services, one in English and one in Cantonese. The original leadership included Wang as founding pastor and Rev. Gary Wong to minister to English-speaking families, with an English pastor and a youth pastor called in 1983. The complete ministerial team consisted of four pastors plus eight deacons. This church is still in operation today with 1,000 members and four services, two in English and two in Cantonese, all conducted in church-owned buildings.

Wang, who claimed early retirement in 1995 so that he and his wife, Vivian, could serve as missionaries in Macau, a region of the People's Republic of China, explained his strategy for growing Sunset Chinese Baptist Church.

*I saw people moving into the Sunset District of San Francisco, and God gave me the vision for planting a church there.*

"First, we established a mission policy so that the church would not become too self-centered," he said. "Our mission outreach was both within and outside of the U.S."

"Second, we assisted the immigrant families in the neighborhood with tools to become responsible citizens." The church provided English language classes, assisted with tax reporting, voter registration and explanation of issues, and social services guidelines. Husband and wife teams of evangelists shared the Gospel as well as the practical information.

"Third, we addressed the needs of the community," Wang said. "Because both parents were working, I realized the need for childcare. We set up a preschool – not for the benefit of our people, but for the families of the neighborhood. It was a neighborhood outreach. If students were accepted, the parents were required to attend two meetings a semester. We showed them the how-tos of childrearing, and provided the emotional support for parenting." This allowed teams of two to make home visits; one was English speaking, the other Cantonese. They would present the Gospel during the visit.

"The preschool policies included religious curriculum, scripture memorization, and songs," recalled Wang. "Every semester about eight parents came to Christ. Their kids then attended our Sunday school and summer camps – all came from the neighborhood outreach."

Sunrise Preschool operated at full capacity for many years, and is still active today as a Chinese language school for elementary-age kids.

Johnny and Vivian Wang, who celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in June 2012, attended Golden Gate Seminary from 1960 until they graduated in 1963. They met while attending high school in Hong Kong, and were both students in the 1950s at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary before coming to the United States. "When we first arrived in the U.S. in 1958," recalled Johnny, "Peter Chen, then pastor of First Baptist Chinese Church of San Francisco, recommended Golden Gate because it was a convenient location from which to evangelize the Bay Area, which was even then very multi-cultural." The Wangs chose Golden Gate because of its missions emphasis.

Rev. Wang, who speaks English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Shanghai and Toyshan dialects, retired as pastor of Sunset Chinese Baptist Church in 1995 and he and his wife went to Macau as missionaries, before returning to the U.S. where Wang served as the General Secretary of the Chinese Christian Missions from 1997-2003. In addition to occasional mission trips to Macau, Wang has a pulp ministry throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. "I'm not really retired, I'm a spare tire," he said with a laugh. ☐





## Resonate Church PULLMAN, WA & MOSCOW, ID

“In 1999, I was in my last year of college at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas,” recalled Keith Wieser, Lead Pastor and co-founder of Resonate Church. “God was calling me to leave Texas, marry Paige, pursue working with college students, and plant a church.” That’s a clear calling!

Keith and Paige were married in 2000 and came directly to Golden Gate Seminary’s Pacific Northwest Campus within two weeks of their honeymoon. Why Golden Gate Seminary and the Pacific Northwest? “I wanted a hands-on seminary experience to integrate theology directly in the field,” said Keith. “There were two campus ministry opportunities in the area, and I was able to serve as a collegiate minister at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington while in seminary.”

After graduation in 2004, the Wiesers moved so Keith could serve as a collegiate minister at Washington State University. Keith had earned a Master of Divinity and Paige a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership. Keith explained how seminary had been a time of preparation in both theology and ministry leadership. “This was a time when God was preparing us to launch a church.”

Paige recalled, “Before we started, we began praying for a team – not just the two of us. God provided people at the beginning. We knew it was the Lord because he provided this team for us.”

In December 2006, five people who would later be called Resonate Church, started meeting in a coffee shop in Pullman, Washington. For nine months, they continued to gather and invite people to what they were calling “The Resonate Sessions.” Each week, they shared a meal and opened the scriptures and dreamed about what church could be. They told people, “If what we’re talking about ‘resonates’ with you, please stick around.” That gathering grew from 5 to 50, and their first service was held in August 2007.

Five years later, there are three Sunday services with a combined attendance of 900. In Pullman, there is one 5:00 pm off-campus service and a brand new 11:00 am on-campus service at Washington State University, primarily for freshman. A 7:15 pm service is held near the University of Idaho, in Moscow (only eight miles from Pullman).

Why is the response to Resonate so positive? Chad McMillan, 2006 Master of Divinity grad and Resonate’s Executive Pastor, explained that they are singularly focused. “We are targeting college students. Seventy-three percent of those attending are between 18-27 years old. We know the doubts, questions, and decisions college kids have. We want to provide a foundation and an environment, and we bring the Gospel to them in context.” He noted that there are very few churches where college students say “I want to be a part of that.”

Thirty-five-year-old Keith added, “One of our aims is to reach people who would never come to church. For about 20-30%, this is the first church they’ve ever attended. About 35% of those who attend were in a church at one time, then left, and 35% have a background in church.”



Chad McMillan



*Seventy-three percent of those attending are between 18-27 years old. We know the doubts, questions, and decisions college kids have. We want to provide a foundation and an environment, and we bring the Gospel to them in context.*

Resonate’s mission is to “connect the Gospel to people, people to community, and community to mission.” Their method of connecting people to community is through small groups, which they call villages. “We believe transformation happens in community,” said Paige, mother to three children. She described the 35 villages, which meet in homes and apartments, as “grouped by similar interests such as grad students, freshman, families, and international students. College students want a place to be real – a place where it’s OK not to be perfect.”

Today eight Golden Gate grads from the Pacific Northwest campus, and one current student, serve at Resonate. How did Golden Gate prepare them? Chad, a 37-year-old Washington native, answered that it exposed him “to people who think strategically about how to reach people for Christ. We would sit around the lunch room talking with classmates and professors. And the Seminary tends to draw a certain quality of person.”

Dr. Mark Bradley, Director of Golden Gate Seminary’s Pacific Northwest campus, recalled that he was pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pullman when Resonate was planted. “Emmanuel was the only Southern Baptist church in that college town. Keith and his college students were coming to Emmanuel, and we were open to Keith’s vision of transforming his Baptist collegiate ministry into a church.” Mark observed that Keith has great vision, energy, and connection with this generation. “My own daughter goes to Resonate as a college freshman,” he said.

Emmanuel, along with five other churches, provided financial support for Resonate. Emmanuel gave in excess of \$10,000 per year, plus the use of facilities for worship, storage and office space. “I am glad we had a role in helping to plant and support Resonate,” said Mark. “They are doing an excellent job of reaching post-moderns with the Gospel and training emerging leaders to be on mission for Christ.”

Over the last five years, the success of Resonate has become recognized beyond the northwest. “The story of Resonate has helped push the concept of collegiate church planting forward and we have seen a significant increase in church planting on college campuses,” Keith said. “Five years ago, we knew of only 60 collegiate church plants across multiple denominations. Today, we know of 200.”



Keith and Paige Wieser and family





## Epic Church SAN FRANCISCO, CA By Emily Suddath

“When we told people we would be planting a church in downtown San Francisco, we had a variety of responses from people in our lives. Many were excited for us and others were honestly thinking that we were crazy for wanting to do this,” shared Ben Pilgreen, lead pastor of two-year-old Epic Church San Francisco. “Early on, we decided that we were not going to let fear keep us from doing what we knew in our hearts God was leading us to do.”

North American Mission Board church planter Pilgreen along with his wife, Shauna, relocated from his native Louisiana with their three young boys. They were joined by a team of three other couples, who were their good friends, from Missouri, Alabama, and Florida. All were devoted to the mission and calling of starting a church plant in San Francisco.

Lindsey Lee, Master of Theological Studies student at Golden Gate and Director of City Life at Epic, recollected how “The Epic staff began praying for God’s favor on our church 18 months before we even kicked off weekly services on October 10, 2010.” Epic was one of more than 40 new churches that were part of the California Southern Baptist Convention’s 10-10-10 initiative. As Epic Church has grown, God’s love for the people who enter Epic’s doors each Sunday is apparent, observed Lee, originally from New Orleans. Several thought it impossible in a city where

Church member and Master of Theological Studies student, Nick Davis, believes “God has blessed the ministry of our church for many reasons. The staff has been obedient to God’s calling to plant a church, and He has been faithful in helping the church move forward.” Davis and his wife, Cynthia, from Oklahoma, are also members of an Epic Church small group that meets weekly at apartments on the Golden Gate campus. “The groups have been instrumental in building stronger relationships with those in the church and here at the Seminary,” Davis shared.

Golden Gate Master of Divinity grad, Will Moraza, serves as Assistant to Church Staff at Epic. He explained that his role includes handling the administrative side of the church plant, and he also has opportunities to preach and meet with first-time guests.

“My education at Golden Gate has helped in many ways,” noted the Florida native. “Practically, I believe my preaching ability has improved because of various courses that I’ve completed.”

In addition, Moraza, who is currently in Golden Gate’s Ph.D. program, explained that Dr. David McCormick and President Jeff Iorg have aided greatly in his ministry preparation. “Dr. Iorg’s preaching class helped me grow in an area to which I believe God has called me. He renewed the vigor and passion that I have for speaking, while providing me with a helpful model and approach. Dr. McCormick taught me more than just counseling, he walked with me through the process of becoming a leader with integrity. Through Dr. McCormick, I learned to be aware of God’s activity in my life, and in the lives of all people that I encounter on a daily basis.”

Pastor Pilgreen has been impressed with the involvement of Golden Gate, as various students, families, and alumni serve at Epic. “I am so glad that it happened naturally,” he shared, in regards to the Golden Gate connection. Pilgreen explained that as a staff, Epic is grateful for the relationship that the Seminary has with local churches. “I have personally witnessed the quality graduates that the Seminary has produced.”



Ben Pilgreen

hostility to the gospel is common, but God “has honored and blessed the prayers and volunteer work of many people,” Lee said. Today, they average a combined attendance of 240 at their three Sunday services.

*Emily Suddath is a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership student at the Northern California campus, and wife of Master of Divinity student, Nick Suddath. A stay-at-home mom of 16-month-old William, Emily also is the Seminary’s Women’s Network facilitator.*

## Don Overstreet CHURCH PLANTER By Dale “Geno” Robinson



Starting new churches comes naturally to Golden Gate Seminary graduate Don Overstreet. At age eighteen, he started an English-language ministry in an Hispanic church in San Juan Capistrano. In forty-seven years of ministry, he has initiated and directly planted more than 500 churches.

Everywhere he has ministered, he has planted churches: hip-hop churches, post-modern churches, biker churches, and house churches. After graduating from both California Baptist College (now University) in 1969 and Golden Gate Seminary in 1974, he served as a missionary to the small Caribbean island of St. Vincent, population 120,000. There were no Baptist churches when he arrived there in 1977, and nine churches when he left in 1980. During a later pastorate in Sacramento, he started five more churches.

For the past eighteen years, this California native has served as a Church Planting Strategist with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board. He focuses most efforts in helping start English-speaking churches in the Los Angeles, Inland Empire, and High Desert Baptist Associations of California.

Working with the Set Free ministries to former convicts, addicts, and bikers, he has helped to start 50 inner-city churches whose specific goal is to reach “the addicted and afflicted.” Overstreet observed, “This is a field ripe for harvest, as over the past seventeen years more than 15,000 folks have responded to the gospel call to salvation through this ministry.”

His call to be a church planter was enhanced and focused during his time as a Golden Gate student. Dr. Francis DuBose, late professor of missions and director of urban

church studies at Golden Gate for more than 25 years (d. 2009), specifically impacted his life. Dr. DuBose was well-known in Southern Baptist life as the “Shepherd of the City” for his deep love and concern for San Francisco. “I never took an official missions class from Dr. DuBose,” recalled Overstreet, “but I did study with him on a more personal basis through directed readings and personal discussions. My exposure to Dr. DuBose’s teaching and personal example gave me a solid worldview with missions and church planting at its heart.” Overstreet observed how his seminary experience nurtured and strengthened what was already so vital a part of his personal nature.

Overstreet readily communicates his church planting skills to others. For the past sixteen years, he has served as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate’s Southern California campus, working with students in supervised ministry and more recently teaching Urban Church Planting. He has written the book *Sent Out*, which discusses the calling, character and heart issues of the church planter, and has contributed to two other books on church planting.

Married to Leesa for 25 years, this father of 15 (6 birth children and 9 foster children) and grandfather to 15, is 65 this year. He has no plans to retire until he is at least 70. “My focus for the future is to start more churches in unreached areas and untouched people groups of Southern California,” he said, seeing open doors for new work among second- and third-generation English-speaking Asian-Americans clustered around local universities.

*Dale “Geno” Robinson is a life-long Californian who has served the Lord through the California Southern Baptist Convention, as pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Sacramento, and currently as the Interim Director of Adult Small Groups and Discipleship at the First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks, CA. He is married to Betty Pattillo Robinson.*



## Rich Johnstone

By Dale "Geno" Robinson

San Francisco Bay Area Coordinator for NAMB's Church Planting Initiative



The sun shone brightly as Golden Gate alumnus, Rich Johnstone (D.Min. 2010, M.Div. 1986), took an early morning walk on the Seminary's Chapel Hill. As he stood there gazing across the bay to the San Francisco skyline, his ringing cell phone broke his reverie. But the call was no interruption. It was a call to service.

Over a period of several months, Seminary President Jeff Iorg had been discussing the possibility of a ministry effort with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). They would seek an individual to serve jointly as Associate Professor of Leadership Formation at the Seminary and as City Coordinator for Send North America: San Francisco, NAMB's Bay Area church planting initiative.

That morning phone call to join the harvest came while Johnstone was gazing on that very field "ripe unto harvest." He accepted the call and began his ministry with the Seminary and NAMB on August 1, 2012.

Johnstone's responsibilities include training Seminary students and connecting them with new churches in unreached communities in the Bay Area. He assists the Seminary, the California Southern Baptist Convention, local associations and churches, and out-of-state Baptist entities with a heart for the West Coast to facilitate the planting of local and indigenous churches.

A 30-year resident of California, Johnstone is a two-time graduate of Golden Gate. He was awarded the Langford Award (outstanding D.Min. project report) and the William O. Crews Presidential Leadership Award, both exemplifying the kind of quality leader he is and the contribution he will make to the Golden Gate team. He has served for the past 12 years as the Director of Missions in the Fresno, California area.

"Dr. Johnstone is an outstanding leader, a product of Golden Gate Seminary, and a well-respected team-builder who is well-suited to the task of coordinating the church planting effort of NAMB, several Bay Area associations, and coalitions of other partners who are now making commitments to Bay Area church planting," said Jeff Iorg.

"Currently, I plan to work with these partners to focus on an initial 75 unreached or under-reached Bay Area communities that need a sustained Gospel witness," said Johnstone. "But my vision sees the number 75 as just a start!" 📌



## Dr. Rick Melick

By Dale "Geno" Robinson

Dr. Richard (Rick) R. Melick, Jr. is a Proverbs 16:31 kind of guy. Just glance at his photograph. Yet, there is more to him than the color of his hair. The

faculty, administration, and trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary recognized that recently when they named him the Seminary's first Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies. "Distinguished Professor" is an honor established in 1992 and only now granted to a deserving Golden Gate professor.

The designation "Distinguished Professor" recognizes "full professors" at the top of their profession as educators. Candidates for this honor submit a portfolio which is a detailed summary of their entire career including all achievements, previous honors, academic and ministry roles, and publications.

Melick combines all this honor's defining qualities. Well-liked by his peers and students, he has reached a grand milestone in a wide-ranging career. For the past sixteen years, he has taught at Golden Gate as professor, currently Professor of New Testament Studies. He has taught New Testament, Greek, Hermeneutics, Old Testament, Theology, Apologetics, Philosophy, and Preaching. He served as Seminary Provost and currently directs the Academic Graduate Studies program. A recent highlight of his career is his leadership in the development of the new Ph.D. program at the Seminary.

For twenty-four years prior to coming to Golden Gate, he served in other areas of Christian higher education. He taught and served on the administrations of Palm Beach Atlantic University, Mid-America Baptist Seminary, the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, and KCBI Radio Network in Dallas, Texas. Since 1986, he has also taught and supervised Ph.D. students at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit in Leuven, Belgium. He has pastored and served multiple churches as Interim Pastor, and is a frequent speaker at Baptist conventions and Bible conferences.

Following his mission to enrich the church through education, and his passion of the accurate dissemination of the Word of God, Melick has written four books including *Teaching that Transforms: Facilitating Life Change Through Adult Bible Teaching*, which he co-authored with his wife, Dr. Shera Melick. He has contributed to fifteen other books, is a contributing editor and commentary writer for the *New American Commentary*, and was a translator for the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*.

It is Golden Gate Seminary, however, which has provided the context for Rick Melick to excel in ministry. "I was drawn," he said, "by the fellowship and friendship among its faculty, by its commitment to the priority of Scripture and to California's challenging social and multi-cultural environment." He is encouraged by the Seminary's "trajectory of growth" and progress he sees here.

He said the Seminary has given him a sense of liberty to share the Gospel to a pagan society. "I see the need to plant truly indigenous churches that speak to the needs of the varieties of peoples and cultures in California. I appreciate the encouragement and motivation the Seminary provides for doing just that, and I'm grateful for the mandate to teach solid theology to my students so that they may confront this common secular culture."

Born in Charleston, SC and reared in the greater Atlanta area of East Point, Rick Melick is honored to be recommended by the faculty, affirmed by the administration, and unanimously approved as Distinguished Professor of New Testament by the Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. This honor recognizes a career of excellence that is still in progress which he shares with his wife, Shera, three children, and seven grandchildren. White hair and all, it is fair to say that Dr. Richard R. Melick, Jr. is a Proverbs 16:31 kind of guy. 📌

*Gray hair is a crown of splendor;  
it is attained in the way of righteousness.*

— Proverbs 16:31

# Why I Refer

## STEVE BASS

- North American Mission Board, Regional Vice President West
- Former Executive Director/State Missionary for Arizona SBC
- Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate Seminary
- D.Min., 1983 – Vanderbilt Divinity School
- M.Div., 1981 – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



When I talk to people considering seminary, I tell them they can't get a better seminary education than Golden Gate. The quality of the faculty is excellent. They are academically qualified and also involved in ministry themselves. They have the experience of both the local church and the mission field.

Golden Gate Seminary has the incredible ability to train missionaries, to train those going overseas as well as those with ministries in the west.

President Iorg sits down with local state leaders in the west, and spends hours with them. He asks them, "Tell me what's going on in your region." He then refers to this information as curriculum is designed. It's a brilliant and powerful strategy to prepare students.

How many people have I referred to Golden Gate? The truth is, I refer everybody. As I travel across the west and meet with our western state executives and interact with our local church members, I simply refer everyone to our seminary in the west.

## KAREN MASSENGILL

- Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (MAEL) 2010
- Foster Care and Adoption Licensing Specialist, Arizona Baptist Children's Services



I tell people that I didn't choose Golden Gate Seminary, it chose me. I was on staff at First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix as Children's Minister. David Johnson (current Director of the Arizona Campus of Golden Gate) was then pastor, and both he and Clinton Kinnison (who also taught at Golden Gate and attended FSBC) encouraged me to go to seminary. I kept putting it off. Then I prayed about it, talked to my husband, and decided to take one class. I fell in love with the classes, with the Seminary, and with the people.

Steve Bass also went to FSBC Phoenix, and was one of my references.

My seminary education has been so helpful in my current position. I have learned how to speak honestly with people where they are in their life right now. I am able to sit down and speak to parents one-on-one – to help teach them about children, and how to parent. They are so hungry to have someone love them. I pray with them, loving them often when no one else will. Also, my gift of teaching enables me to help train foster parents. The families are all Christians. We pray together, and I tell them how to reach children for God.

## Golden Gate Seminary Honors 2012 Distinguished Alum Edmund William "Bill" Hunke, Jr.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary alumnus Edmund William "Bill" Hunke, Jr. was presented with the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award at the Seminary's



Arizona Campus graduation ceremony on May 26, 2012.

Hunke, a native of Taylor, Texas, earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Golden Gate in 1952, when the campus was located in Berkeley,

California. His journey to seminary began when he accepted Jesus Christ in 1944, during World War II on a California P-38 flight line, through the personal witnessing of Clifford E. Clark, the first Home Mission Board state evangelist in California. He was baptized in the cold, melted-snow waters of the San Joaquin River. He met his future wife, Naomi Ruth Savage, in 1945, and they were married in 1946. She attended Golden Gate Seminary with Bill, and together they served in SBC mission work in the west for over 60 years.

"Dr. Hunke was one of the earliest graduates of Golden Gate Seminary," said President Jeff Iorg. "He has invested his life fulfilling our mission of expanding God's kingdom around the world. It is a privilege to honor him and celebrate his many accomplishments."

During his joyful lifetime of service, Hunke pastored four churches in California, Utah, and Arizona, and served numerous interim pastorates. He planted 14 churches in California and Arizona, plus was involved in starting more than six other churches, missions, and fellowships in Alaska during his tenure there as Executive Director.

Hunke has held many denominational positions in his career. He was the Home Mission Board's Pioneer General Missionary for Arizona (1954-56); Director of Stewardship for Baptist General Convention of Arizona (1956-58); Associate Executive Secretary and State Missions Director for Arizona Southern Baptist Convention (1958-66); Home Mission Board's architect for the formation of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Nevada Baptist Convention (1964);

Executive Director of the Alaska Baptist Convention (1966-71); Chaplain (Major) for the Alaska Civil Air Patrol; Home Mission Board's Western Regional Coordinator for the Southern Baptist state conventions of California, Northwest, Hawaii, Alaska, Northern Plains, Utah-Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Nevada (1972-86); Director of Evangelism and Missions for the Grand Canyon Baptist Association in Arizona (1986-92); President of the Arizona Southern Baptist Historical Society (1991); and interim President of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary (1993).

Hunke received several degrees including a Bachelor of Theology from Pacific Bible Institute, Bachelor of Arts degree from Fresno State University, Bachelor of Divinity from Golden Gate Seminary, and a Doctor of Education from Arizona State University.

He chose to attend Golden Gate because at that time Dr. B.O. Herring was the president. Herring's son, Jack, was one of Bill's best friends growing up in Waco, Texas. "The greatest benefit of my seminary education was having the opportunity to get a quality Biblical education while pastoring in the west," said Hunke, expressing a profound appreciation for faculty members who not only taught courses, but lived exemplary lives.

He is the author of numerous articles, as well as two books: *Southern Baptist Jubilee in the West* (1996) and *Southern Baptists in the Intermountain West*, a 50-year history of Southern Baptist work in Utah, Idaho, and Nevada (1998).

"It is a real honor and blessing to be remembered and recognized," said Hunke, "especially so long after my graduation in 1952!"

Hunke lives in Sedona, Arizona. He and Naomi, who passed away two years ago, have three children and five grandchildren. Today, at 88 years old, he is helping to plant another new church in Arizona, MissionPoint Baptist Fellowship, and provides his home as the church's current place of worship. His vast Bible knowledge and love for the Lord are instrumental in nurturing and maturing Christ's disciples while continuing to share the Gospel with a lost world. 📖

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SAVE THE DATE





## Online Master of Theological Studies Degree

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary announced that its entirely online Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) degree program is available for the first time beginning this fall. Dually accredited, this 49-hour, two-year program allows students to earn a seminary degree from anywhere in the world without disrupting their current life and ministry.

The online M.T.S. program links students with Golden Gate's faculty, as it integrates a wide variety of online methods including graphic and video lectures, video and audio chats, threaded email discussions, shared applications, wiki documents, online exams, and posting shared research. The courses are asynchronous so students can conveniently blend assignments into their work week.

"The online concept maximizes learning through weekly interaction with qualified faculty and fellow students," said Dr. Rick Durst, director of Golden Gate's online education.

"While students don't have to travel to a campus, the serious masters-level coursework means students will need to create time in their schedule to do the work," Dr. Jeff Iorg, seminary president added. "We are committed to delivering high-quality educational opportunities in every venue."

Courses are taught by professors, not teaching assistants. The commitment to excellent education includes access to qualified librarians who assist students in finding the best databases and electronic works in the Seminary's collection and server. Students also receive 24/7 technical support for their courses.

Class size is limited to ensure a high-quality educational experience, so those interested are encouraged to apply for admission now. Transfer credit is available. Apply online at [www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu) or call toll-free 888-442-8701 for more information. More details at [online.ggbts.edu](http://online.ggbts.edu).

"Golden Gate Seminary is one of the world's most experienced theological schools in online education," said Dr. Michael Martin, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "Our first online class was offered in 1998, and our commitment is always to provide a high-quality education with the maximum student/teacher and peer-to-peer interaction. Student feedback for our program to date has been excellent."

Dually accredited by Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the online Master of Theological Studies is affordable and requires no on-campus time. ■



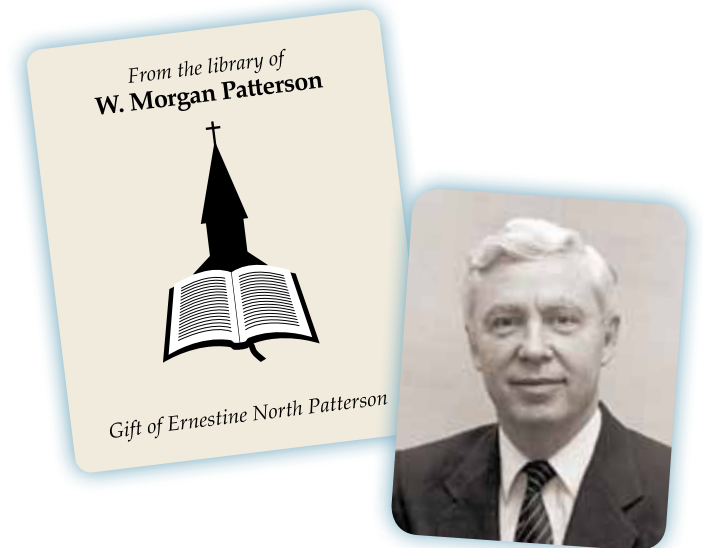
## Seminary Receives Gift of W. Morgan Patterson's Library

Golden Gate Seminary has received an extensive library collection from Dr. W. Morgan Patterson, former Dean of Academic Affairs from 1976-1984. Dr. Patterson died at the age of 85 on November 19, 2010.

For over a half a century, Dr. Patterson collected books germane to his studies and interests. The collection is composed of nearly 5,000 items including books, pamphlets, tracts, papers, and sets. The subject areas include Baptist life and thought, church history, the reformation, Christian theology, published sermons, general history, religion and religious history, American history, and American religion. There are several volumes of 18<sup>th</sup> century provenance and one published in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The vast majority of the collection was published in the 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. A significant percentage of the titles are out of print.

"The Patterson library is an excellent resource for students and scholars to conduct research on Baptist life and thought," said Kelly Campbell, Golden Gate's Director of Library Services. "Due to the rich depth of the collection, researchers are able to utilize both primary and secondary literature in their work."

Dr. William H. Brackney, the Millard R. Cherry Distinguished Professor of Christian Thought and Ethics on the Faculty of Theology of Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, is the world's leading Baptist historian. He assisted in evaluating the collection.



"Dr. Patterson's library has many mint condition works, some very hard-to-locate originals that reflect the careful collecting eyes of a true lover of books," said Brackney, who teaches Baptist history for Golden Gate as an adjunct professor and is a longtime friend of the Pattersons. "Morgan Patterson's library reflects a lifelong habit and interest in collecting. He loved his library and took great personal pleasure in showing it to all who visited him. It was his great dream that students would someday benefit from using his gift. Golden Gate Seminary is indeed fortunate in having the Patterson Collection." ■

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONSULTATION

SAVE THE DATE



### Who is My Neighbor? Reaching the World at My Doorstep

Saturday February 23, 2013

A conference for women leaders and future leaders in the local church, including ministry leaders' wives, and others serving in the church.

[wlc.ggbts.edu](http://wlc.ggbts.edu) 415-380-1318 [womensnetwork@ggbts.edu](mailto:womensnetwork@ggbts.edu)



# 2012 Harold K. Graves Award



Donald C. Nason, Maintenance Supervisor for Golden Gate Seminary's Facilities Department, received Golden Gate's 2012 Harold K. Graves Award. The Graves Award, named after a former president, is presented to an individual or family who demonstrates long-term faithful service to the Seminary. The award is presented upon recommendation and approval of the faculty.

"I have tried for twenty-four years to do my work behind the scenes and accomplish each task without disturbing the general flow of the educational system in place here at the Seminary," Nason told a gathering of more than 125 at the President's Spring Banquet, held on the Northern California campus on April 24, 2012. "And now you folks have engraved my name on a very special plaque which will immortalize me to all future generations for as long as the Seminary exists. What is up with that?"

"Hence, I thought it would be appropriate for me to give you my answer to that question. First let me say, for as long as I've worked here, I have not thought of it as a job, I have considered it a ministry. My crew and I have been a part of preparing leaders for tomorrow to serve the Lord in the west and around the world and this is how we do it:

*We repair the floors  
And fix the doors  
We patch the walls  
And carpet the halls  
We change the lights  
No matter the heights  
We unclog the drains  
And replace the broken window panes  
We fix the fridge and repair the stove  
Pull the nails that have been drove  
A fresh coat of paint all throughout  
Clean the bath and check the grout*

*And while we are doing all of that, once in a while:  
We help a student find their way  
And offer a prayer to help their day  
Now don't tell the boss for it is not our task  
We've given a few rides when they are late to class  
So at the end of the day adding it all together  
And knowing it is done in all kinds of weather  
And yes it is done for a check or a salary  
But we consider it all our God-given ministry*

"I thank you with all my heart, coming from you this means a lot. I love you! God bless you all!" concluded Nason, to cheers and applause from numerous relatives and his Seminary family. Nason retired in June 2012.

# Estate Gift for Pastoral Care and Counseling Program

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$1.4 million bequest from the estate of Cecil and Josephine Osborne. This gift, creating an endowment for Pastoral Care and Counseling, was received by the Seminary in May 2012. Further future distributions from the estate will ultimately bring the total gift to approximately \$2 million.

Dr. Cecil Osborne, a renowned psychologist and author who died in March 1999, was a pastor for more than 40 years. He established several social ministries programs and started nine churches in addition to pastoring First Baptist Church in Burlingame, CA for 34 years. He also authored 13 books, among them two bestsellers – *The Art of Understanding Yourself* and *The Art of Understanding Your Mate*. He established Yokefellows, Inc. in 1957 and the Burlingame Counseling Center in the South San Francisco Bay Area.

Yokefellows was an organization devoted to the spiritual and emotional growth of individuals through small group counseling and Bible study. Dr. Osborne assumed full-time directorship of Yokefellows in 1970, which ultimately served 90,000 persons in churches of 30 denominations in all 50 states and 14 foreign countries.

Cecil and Josephine were married in 1986, and lived all of their married lives in California. Josephine, who died in April 2012, was a marriage and family counselor originally from England.

"The Osbornes spent many years ministering together," said Victor Vanloo, Director of Development. "This gift will extend that partnership in ministry beyond their lifetimes, and we hope it motivates others to think about what kind of legacy they can offer."

"We are grateful for the Osbornes' vision for a counseling program and for creating an estate plan to fulfill their dream," said Dr. Jeff Iorg, Seminary President, explaining that the Osbornes gave over 90% of their estate to Christian causes, with most going to the Seminary. "We are pleased to see their true desire come to life through this donation."

The Seminary is currently designing a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling degree. Many of the required courses for the MACC will be available in 2012-13, and students will be admitted to the program in fall 2013.

# Endowment for Kim School of Global Missions

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary received a \$3.25 million gift for the purpose of funding The David and Faith Kim School of Global Missions. The Kims commemorated Dr. Faith Kim's retirement from the Seminary by giving this gift to permanently endow The David and Faith Kim School of Global Missions. The Kims created an original fund in 1995 to establish The Kim School, which has been financed in part with the fund's earnings. This gift of the fund's principle is the largest single gift the Seminary has ever received.

"David and Faith Kim continue to invest in our future by this remarkable gift," said Dr. Jeff Iorg, Seminary President. "While they have long supported the Kim School, this gift makes their support perpetual and insures the long-term success of our programs in missions and intercultural education. We thank God for their consistent support and vision for what God can do through Golden Gate Seminary."

Dr. Faith Kim, Professor of Intercultural Studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, retired on July 31, 2012. Dr. Kim has been associated with the Seminary since 1979 when she began teaching Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD) courses in Southern California. Appointed to full-time faculty status in 1996, Dr. Faith Kim has served the Seminary for many years teaching at both the Southern and Northern California campuses on a weekly basis.

"Drs. David and Faith Kim are incredible supporters of the mission of Golden Gate Seminary," said Victor Vanloo, Director of Development. "Though this significant gift is certainly a tangible example of their incredible generosity, it pales in comparison to their endearing love, passion, and commitment to teaching others intercultural competencies that help introduce a lost world to the Good News of Jesus Christ."



1970s-1980s

**Timothy Morita** (1974) is the senior pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu. Prior to that, he served as Vice President, Hawaii Baptist Academy.

**Laura Fry Allen** (1975) co-wrote the book *Brain Storm: A Journey of Faith Through Brain Injury* with her husband, Bruce Allen. Published by Westbow Press in 2012, the book includes a resource section for caregivers and survivors, and recounts the experience of Bruce's sudden brain injury. Laura works in the WellStar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University.

**Bill Foltz** (1981) is retired and living in West Columbia, SC with his wife, Betty. They are members of Northside Baptist Church, Lexington, SC.

**Glen Allen Land** (1981) provided over 25 years of service in the new convention areas of the Upper Midwest. In February 2011, he was called as senior pastor of Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA.

**Ron Bodlander** (1982) wrote the book *God's Arithmetic: How Life Adds Up In The Kingdom of God*, published by Xulon Press.

**Mark Caldwell** (1982) and his wife, Helen, continue to serve in N.E. Thailand with the International Mission Board. Mark is starting a D.Miss. program at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Dr. Bill Fowler** (1982, 1995) was named associate professor of Christian Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX. He joined the HPU faculty in 2007.

**Byron P. Glenn** (1982) is currently serving as Assistant Manager of the Pastoral Services Department at Mercy Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK. He has served in the medical chaplaincy ministry for more than 18 years. He and his wife, Scharlee, live in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Ronald "Ron" Lloyd** (1983) has been serving with CSBC since September 2011 as an interim pastoral minister and a Disaster Relief chaplain.

**George Titsworth** (1983) is serving as Pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Benton, AR. He and wife, Kathy, celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June.

**David D. Benham** (1985) has been serving as Priest-in-Charge of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Rogers, AR since January 2012.

**Taylor Field** (1986), pastor of New York's Graffiti Church, has written a new book, *Upside-Down Leadership: Rethinking Influence and Success*, published by New Hope Digital.

**Steve Hughes** (1986) serves as Manager of Volunteers at Urban Peak, a non-profit that provides support and resources for homeless teens in Denver. He and his wife, Karen, serve as volunteers in the Worship, Hospitality, and Small Group ministries at Highlands Church in Denver, CO.

**Stephen Mortensen** (1986) serves as Vice President of Providence Working Canines, Inc. He is also a Bible teacher, husband to Julie, and father of four.

**Mark W. Jones** (1989) serves as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Darlington, SC. Prior to that, Mark served as a Minister to Students for 25 years in churches in California, North and South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. His wife, Diane, is a church secretary at Kelleytown Baptist Church in Hartsville, SC. They have a 25-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son.

1990s

**Daud "DJ" Omarkhail** (1991) has been serving for three years as a middle school teacher. He is on track to complete his Master of Special Education in December 2012.

**Rhonda Boggs** (1995, 2000) married Brad Kitchen on March 10, 2012 and now resides in Pinehurst, ID. She serves as adjunct professor for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and Fort Sherman Academy.

**John "Johnny" Aho** (1997) has been serving Dearborn Covenant Church for seven years as lead pastor in Dearborn, MI. He and his wife, Michelle, have three teen girls.

**Adam Simpson** (1998) serves as Vice President of Missional Advancement for Global Outreach International. Prior to this position, he served as a missionary, church planter, and film producer in the Middle East for the last fourteen years after graduating from GGBTS.

2000s-2010s

**John Fredrick Keith** (2000) is currently serving in his eighth year of ministry as a Navy Chaplain.

**John Richardson** (2001) has served for six years as a church planter and pastor in Clinton, MS. He also wrote *Giving Away the Collection Plate: Re-Gifting God's Love and Money*, published in 2012 by Tate Publishers.

**Andrew Soon Teo** (2003) moved from Ann Arbor, MI and is currently serving as senior pastor at Toowong Baptist Church, in Brisbane, Australia.

**Mi Kyung "Mikki" Lew** (2005) travelled this summer with a group from GGBTS to Burma, to minister at a couple of orphanages as well as to work with an anti-human trafficking group. Additionally, she served in Thailand, ministering at a refugee camp.

**Glenn Nicolas** (2005) serves as pastor of Light By The Bay Church in San Lorenzo, CA.

**Alicia Feaster** (2006) has served as a pastoral counselor in Marin County, CA for six years. She and her husband, Steve, have 11 grandchildren.

**Eric Herrstrom** (2008) serves as Lead Pastor of Lake Arlington Baptist Church, TX. He is also the author of *Integrity is a Lost Art*, published by Xulon Press.

**Emile Masabarakiza** (2009) serves as pastor of Twin Palm Baptist Church in his native Zambia. In July and August, he taught Introduction to Hebrew Language at the International Bible College in Kazemba. He and his wife, Florence, also taught Vacation Bible School at their church.

**Deborah "Debby" Kerner Rettino** (2010) ministers alongside her husband, Ernie Rettino, in Psalty's Kids Co., writing, producing, and overseeing their publishing company. They have just released a new Psalty album, "Faith It! God Loves Me."

**Michael Bruce Atinsky** (2012) serves as the Programs Chaplain for Stanislaus Sheriff Detention Centers. He serves as pastor for Dry Creek Community Cell Church in Riverbank, CA, and offers weekly effective training for Cell Church leaders.

**Abel Garcia** (2012) and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Jacksonville, FL, where Abel was called as Associate Missions Pastor at Chets Creek Church.

**Frederick "Derick" Wilson** (2012) serves as Pastor of Worship at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Hobbs, NM.

## In Memoriam

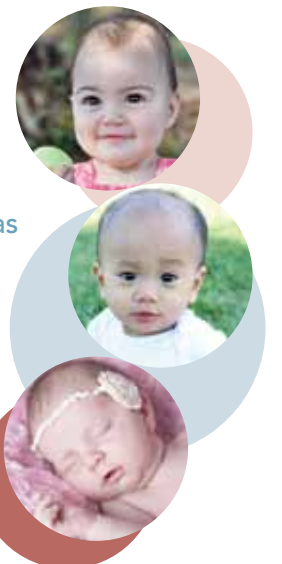
John F. Berry 1950  
Bonnie Faye Isbell 1954  
Hazel Miriam Adams Lee 1955  
Martha Jean Honeycutt Stevens 1956  
Bobby Dial Key 1959  
C. Sue Lindwall 1959  
Ralph L. Gardner 1962, 1972  
Robert E. Craig, Jr. 1964  
Charles Martin Bolin 1973  
C. Gus Bogan 1975  
Mary Jo Bogan 1975  
Vernon Wendell Brown 1978  
Richard A. Dines 1983  
Robert Ray Campbell 1984  
Mark E. Horodt 1996

## Seminary Sprouts

**Zoe Grace Galacia**  
Born August 2, 2011  
Chris (2007) and  
Terrie (2008) Galacia

**Timothy Joshua Nicolas**  
Born August 4, 2011  
Glenn (2005) and  
Patty Nicolas

**Juliana Skye Burbank**  
Born June 5, 2012  
Scot (2009) and  
Sarah Burbank



## 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.

## Social Media News



Golden Gate Seminary has an official Facebook page, we tweet on Twitter, and we've got videos on Vimeo. Dr. Iorg has a blog and a bi-monthly eNewsletter. It's all social media, and we use these tools to communicate with you: with prospective students, current students, and alums.

To manage these digital tools and the content, Golden Gate now has a Social Media Coordinator. If you have questions, suggestions, or want to communicate outside of Facebook and Twitter, contact [socialmedia@ggbts.edu](mailto:socialmedia@ggbts.edu).

We encourage you to participate by liking us on Facebook: "Golden Gate BTS" and following us on Twitter: "twitter.com/goldengateBTS"

Would you like to sign up to receive the *Stewardship Corner* or the *President's 3-Minute Briefing*? Send your email address to [communications@ggbts.edu](mailto:communications@ggbts.edu).

We look forward to staying in touch with you!





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