

SPRING 2010

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends

gateway

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Unique Communities, Common Need

Letter from the President



Unique Communities, Common Need

God often develops compassion in the hearts of His people for unique or specific communities. These communities originate, as do all communities, from common bonds like culture, neighborhood, lifestyle, experience, or relationship. Regardless of the type of community, their common need is the same – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Many of the articles in this issue of the *Gateway* feature Golden Gate students and alumni who minister to a specific, unique community. Some gravitated to their community through personal experience; while some followed God's prompting to enter a new community. All have a ministry which responds to the needs of the lost. We rejoice that these ministries have been enhanced by their seminary education.

In this issue, we also celebrate the Seminary's financial progress in the Partners for the Future campaign. We have received \$12.4 million toward our \$13 million goal! When we set that goal five years ago, we thought it was very ambitious – some even said it was unattainable. Yet, through focused effort, we have the total goal in sight.

We have significantly exceeded the enhancement goal and continue to work toward the endowment goal.

I would also like to acknowledge the performance of our faculty and staff during the past year. In the midst of economic uncertainty resulting in less resources for our work, the Seminary family has pulled together to sustain and enhance our effectiveness. Their commitment to our mission and their passion for producing graduates who will expand God's kingdom around the world is both humbling and gratifying. It is a privilege to work with such a committed team and an honor to be their leader.

As you read about our alumni, students, faculty, and donors – pray for greater effectiveness for those who are faithfully sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. On behalf of our global Seminary family, I thank you for your continuing partnership in shaping effective Christian leaders who accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the west and on mission to the world.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff P. Iorg
President

gateway

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Golden Gate Mission Statement
Shaping leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world.

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On The Cover

Photographer Lisha Myers interpreted this issue's theme "Unique Communities, Common Need" by portraying a gathering of people, with some of today's tools used to spread the Gospel.

A Personal Ministry

By Phyllis Evans

Sachi Nishio

"I saw the young adults at church getting married and having children, but their children didn't have a resource to learn about Japan and Japanese customs," said Sachi Nishio, a Golden Gate Seminary student at the Pacific Northwest campus in Vancouver, Washington. "So, seven years ago, I started Little Lambs Japanese Preschool in my church, Japanese International Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon. It was a way to instruct the children about Japanese culture, history, and language, as well as to learn basic manners such as how to eat properly." And more importantly, Sachi wanted to include Christian education in a preschool setting.

The preschool began with six students from the church's congregation, and today averages 20 preschoolers who attend three mornings a week. "Japanese parents want their children to attend this preschool because they know that as a native Japanese, I teach the Japanese way," said Sachi. Assisted by two other native Japanese instructors, she has designed the preschool curriculum and another after-school program for elementary-age children who want to continue learning Japanese language and culture.



One-third of the students are Christians, including those who attend Japanese International Baptist Church. The others have no religious background, which provides Sachi with her ministry outreach. "Each year, at least one family member and one student come to Christ as a result of this ministry," Sachi reported. "Last year, an entire family joined the church!"

The Christmas and Easter holidays are opportunities to invite the preschool families to church, since the children perform on stage and the pastor gives a purposeful sermon. In addition, there is a monthly parent meeting where the senior pastor gives a short message.

Sachi was born in Sukuoka, Japan, and has lived in the United States for 20 years. She studied early childhood education in Japan, and was a preschool teacher there. She received a BA from Oregon State University, where she came to Christ 14 years ago.

As a second semester student at Golden Gate Seminary, Sachi explained that her seminary education enables her to answer parents' questions herself, instead of referring them to the senior pastor. "I learn about the Bible and how to teach it," the 15-year Portland resident said. "My education will be even more helpful when we expand our church building, which will mean more classrooms for the preschool."

James Brown

"I started seminary two and a half years ago with a passion for international missions," said 33-year-old James Brown. "My heart was already overseas, but through my experiences at Golden Gate Seminary's Arizona campus, God is refining that call."

In the course of the Seminary's field ministry experience, James has been called to an inner-city ministry where he offers pastoral counseling, discipleship, and teaching to those overwhelmed by addiction, violence, unemployment, and hopelessness.

"Set Free is a biblically-based, residential program," explained James, describing the ministry as "open to both men and women who have made poor life choices and wandered away from God's plan."



This voluntary eight-month program averages 80 baptisms a year. "Everyone who walks out of Set Free understands who Jesus is. They are taught how to pray and comprehend what God wants from them, and the hope is that they will let Jesus change their lives," said James. Set Free also reaches out to the community by offering free meals to those in need. The residents provide the driving, cleaning, cooking, and teaching.

"As a pastor's kid, I thought I knew everything," said James, who has a BA in management and economics from the University of Phoenix. "Golden Gate Seminary has provided me with the ability to see people in a different light, to understand them and teach them more effectively. Set Free has impacted my seminary experience. It's really reminded me we're here to discover, to grow, to be stretched. I've learned to take what we study and translate it into a simple statement of God's love so people will understand."

James recounted an experience about being accosted by a homeless man. "Several months later, this guy ended up at Set Free. He had been in and out of prison his whole life, including 20 years in solitary confinement. I was able to help him discover the purpose Jesus has for his life, to show him he has worth and value. When you see someone go from a life of saturated self-centeredness to a love for God, it's one of the most exciting things you can ever witness."

James currently resides in Chandler, Arizona with his wife, Neely. He plans to graduate with a Master of Divinity in May 2011.

"God is showing me through my seminary experience that cross-cultural ministry can be within the same city as well as on the other side of the world. After seminary, I am hopeful that God will keep me in an inner-city ministry setting."

Sahvanna Benally

"I was planning on attending graduate school with a focus in business," recalled Sahvanna Benally, who is the first Navajo woman to attend Golden Gate Seminary's Arizona campus. "Then I had an in-depth conversation with my pastor and an adjunct professor at the Seminary, about the option of attending Golden Gate Seminary."

Still unsure which to choose, business school or seminary, she found her answer while attending the Oklahoma Indian

Evangelism Conference in the spring of 2008, hosted by Glorieta Baptist Church. Jay Mule, a young pastor Sahvanna spoke with at the conference, firmly and simply stated to her, "We either serve God or we don't."

"That's when I decided to attend Golden Gate as my first step in obedience to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," declared the 26-year-old Master of Arts in Educational Leadership student.



During the school year, Sahvanna resides in the home of a woman from her church and works with the women's ministry at First Baptist Church of Tempe. "This ministry enables me to develop the skills I'm learning in Seminary," noted Sahvanna.

When not attending Golden Gate, she lives on the largest Indian Reservation in the country, the Navajo Reservation in Northwest Arizona, and resides in the community of Rough Rock. An active member of Many Farms Baptist Church, Sahvanna counts her mother, Elizabeth Benally, as a role model and strong supporter of her decision to attend Seminary.

Sahvanna attended Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico, before receiving her undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She then taught gifted and talented students at Rough Rock Community School on the reservation, instructing students in elementary, junior high and high school. A year later she began her courses at Golden Gate Seminary.

"Seminary has challenged me spiritually – especially my practicum class," observed Sahvanna. "I've learned to rely and acknowledge God for everything, including the ability to think and reason."

After graduation, Sahvanna will be returning to minister to those on the reservation. "I am unsure what God specifically has planned for me, but I am confident that He will reveal the next step of my journey, to live an obedient life for Him, in due time, and I look forward to the next adventure."



"The San Bernardino Police Department asked me to run a VA check before they jailed this homeless man, since he had warrants," said Duane, on the left in the above photo. "I discovered he was a retired Command Sergeant Major USMC, honorably discharged, and a Christian. We prayed and he was taken to the VA Loma Linda HCS for treatment of H1N1 flu. He almost died on the street that day, and today he is in the Veteran's Retirement Home doing great, and the judge threw out his warrants!"

Duane Magee

“Veterans are often ripe for spiritual advice, and I meet more and more who are spiritually inclined and ready to think about God,” said Duane Magee, who until April 2010 was the coordinator and chaplain of the VANS Program (Veteran Affairs New Start Program) at Veterans Association Loma Linda Healthcare System in Loma Linda, California.


Duane plans to graduate from Golden Gate Seminary's Southern California campus in December 2010 with a Master of Divinity degree. Though he is now interning as a chaplain with the Veteran's Association of Long Beach, he worked for nine years with the VANS program, reaching out to veterans who were incarcerated, homeless, had problems with substance abuse, or were in trouble with the law. "I empathize with this group," he said. "I was a vet and was incarcerated, too." He came to Christ in 1994 and was called to the VANS program as a chaplain in 2001.

“I began as a chaplain without any formal religious training,” Duane said. “My seminary education has prepared me to offer hope and spiritual support for these vets.” He explained how the VA system provides both health care and spiritual care to the veterans he encounters, who are men and women ranging in age from 19 to 70 years old. “A lot of the older vets have never used the VA system. My role is to determine if they’re eligible for benefits, and I advocate for them. I place them into a program, give them a 12-step recovery Bible, help enroll them into school and work-study programs, and add a spiritual component.”

Duane shared how social work and chaplaincy go hand-in-hand. “We address their needs, and give them an opportunity to tell their stories, to vent. Most often I hear ‘I killed somebody.’ They struggle with the horror of war, and were frequently on the front line, which means their experiences were even more harrowing.”

The 49-year-old California native searches for veterans by putting up posters and brochures in parole departments, courts, and jails. He contacts churches for referrals, and sometimes speaks at churches, and offers inserts to church bulletins. “The police or the legal system refer vets to me,” Duane said, adding, “They also invite me along on raids of homeless encampments or parks, and when I find veterans, I run their names through the system right there on the street. If they’re vets, I plug them into the VANS program.”

He credits his Seminary education with providing a theological foundation that enables him to minister to this specific community. “My classes on conflict resolution have been invaluable, and the pastoral counseling classes have also provided me with skills that I use frequently on the job.” He notes that even his New Testament and Old Testament courses “give me a deeper inspiration into the scriptures.”

His efforts bring approximately 30-40 veterans a month into the system, providing them with benefits and treatment. “We try to intervene, not just medicate. The program addresses all their needs, and gives them a family, which is part of recovery.” Duane noted the three components that will make them whole are health, mind, and spirit. “This is my ‘great commission,’” he said. “My outreach to people is through this program.” 

Serving in Their Own Backyard

By Matt Myers



LEFT TO RIGHT:

1. Desmond Ma, Master of Divinity student at the Southern California campus, has a ministry to Chinese restaurant workers.
2. Sherpa children chewing bubble gum.
3. Members of Genesis Church in Castle Rock, CO, shown here picking up trash at the end of the Douglas County Fair Parade, get involved with their community.

As Southern Baptists, we celebrate missionaries who go out to the uttermost parts of the world – and those who serve in their own backyard. Students and alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary often develop compassion for the lost people in their own communities, and their ministries are a response to the needs of those people.

Desmond Ma, a Master of Divinity student attending Golden Gate Seminary Southern California campus, reaches out to Chinese restaurant workers, who he calls ‘the forgotten people.’ Because of their work schedules, they are unable to attend traditional Sunday morning church services. Ma has a simple solution. “About 40 of us meet for worship on Monday nights at 10:30 pm” Ma first developed a compassion for Chinese restaurant workers while studying in England, where he was able to see their unique need for a church service. For Ma, one of the most important things is being together each day. “We spend time together on our days off. We meet, eat together and care for one another.”

“During his ministry, Jesus focused on people – people in every walk and stage of life,” said Eddie Pate,

Golden Gate Baptist
Theological Seminary
Chair of Intercultural
Studies Department, and
Director of The Kim
School of Global Missions.

“It is natural and spiritually reasonable to see our students and graduates responding as they take on the same mission as Jesus in their daily lives – to reach every tribe and tongue and nation! We would not expect anything less from committed followers of Jesus Christ.”

A Golden Gate Seminary couple, recently graduated from the Northern California campus, is reaching out to Nepali refugees in the Bay Area. "Upon learning that 5,000 Nepali refugees will be resettling in the East Bay over the next five years," emailed the couple, who wish not to reveal their identity, "We began to pray and mobilize to welcome these wounded people with loving arms." The couple has a unique opportunity to minister to more than just the Nepali. They have been working alongside Buddhists to feed and provide care for the Nepali refugees. The couple is excited about how God is working in this community. "We believe the Scriptures are clear that

Jesus transforms not only hearts, but lives, families and whole communities as well. So everything we try to be and do among the Nepalese reflects this holistic perspective of the Triune God and his redemptive purposes.”

“With every step we take we should be making a difference in people’s lives,” explained Dr. Rick Durst, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary professor of Historical Theology and director of the eCampus. “This does not necessarily require a plane ride to an exotic location; it can happen where we live, in our own community.”

Rand Clark, a 2008 Master of Theological Studies graduate of Golden Gate Seminary Rocky Mountain campus, co-founded Genesis Church in Castle Rock, Colorado in 2007. “During our first year,” Clark wrote on the church website, “our church volunteered with various social organizations in



Bill and Cozette Gibson, 2009 alumni from the Southern California campus, are reaching out to those in senior housing communities through a ministry to the elderly.

Castle Rock and partnered with the town, the Chamber of Commerce and the Meadows Community on various projects. We picked up trash, held neighborhood parties, gave away snow cones and even hosted our first sports camp. God was moving us to understand that we needed to be more than just another new church. He was leading us to become a church that connected with the values and the people of Castle Rock."

The church's work in the community has caught people's attention. Clark recently was asked to sit on an advisory board that deals with the issue of homelessness in the community, because, in his words, "People see our church as an organization that wants to help our community. I know many people who have built barriers against Christians, the Church and the Gospel. These people tell me that the things they

have seen us doing have begun to change their perception of Christians and the Church."

Dr. Durst noted that every people group has a *Diaspora*, a group which has been dispersed out-


side of its traditional homeland. "This is when we have an opportunity to meet people, when they are at a distance from their home," he said. "You might never have the opportunity to meet them if you were in their country."

Those living in *Diaspora* among us are not always from a foreign country. Bill and Cozette Gibson, 2009 Master of Divinity grads from Golden Gate's Southern California campus, are reaching out to the elderly, specifically those who live in senior housing communities. The Gibsons provide worship services at elder care homes for those who would otherwise be unable or unwilling to attend. "We envision this ministry becoming a local and national outreach to the lost and forgotten people within communities of the U.S.," said Bill.

"For a long time, we have communicated that evangelism was telling people the truth and asking them to respond appropriately, often asking them to come to us to hear the truth," said Dr. Allan Karr, director of the Nehemiah Project, a church partnership between

Golden Gate Seminary and the North American Mission Board. "Christ also instructs us to tell the truth in the context of showing love. This makes the message of salvation ring true."

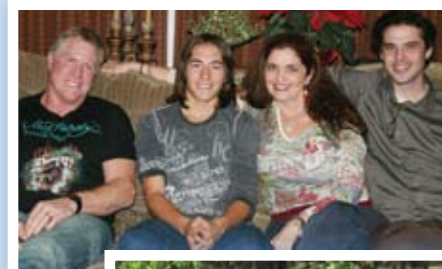
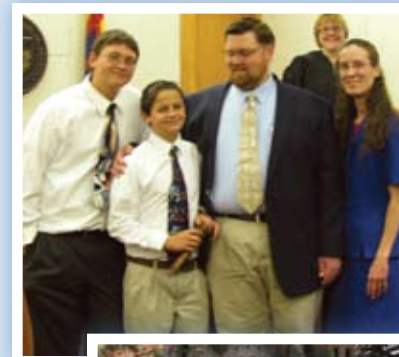
Charlie Granade is a 2008 Master of Theological Studies grad of Golden Gate Seminary's Pacific Northwest campus. As a "next generation" pastor at CrossPointe Church in Vancouver, Washington, he demonstrates how to tell the truth in the context of showing love by reaching out to young adults. He hands out hot chocolate to University of Washington students. Granade said, "You would be surprised at how popular the hot chocolate is, and how many people open up about their lives and are blown away because we're not trying to sell anything; we're just blessing them with free hot drinks on cold, rainy days."

"We don't take Jesus to people, He takes us to them," said Durst. These alumni and students are examples of going to those who need to know Jesus, showing His love and sharing His truth. They do this by meeting the needs in their communities. "God likes to work with us, at the same time He changes us through the ministry," said Desmond Ma. "He wants to change us to be more like Him, and I think that is the whole idea." 

Matthew Myers is finishing up his first year at Golden Gate's Northern California campus as a Master of Divinity student. He is a native of Irving, Texas, but is most recently from Oklahoma where he earned a bachelor's degree in Religion at Oklahoma Baptist University. Matthew aspires to continue in his education and eventually teach, write, and form future leaders who are passionate and responsible bearers of the word of God.

Ministering to the Least

By Brandon Wilborn



Five years ago, God surprised David and Joy Litzenberger with a new ministry that also grew their family: foster parenting. David, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Congress, Arizona and a 2008 graduate from Golden Gate Seminary's Arizona campus, explained how they became foster parents. "We saw a need and decided to help those we could."

After four teenagers in their church were placed in foster care, David and Joy saw how big the need was. On the national level, the U.S. Administration for Children and Families reported 463,000 children in foster care programs at the end of 2008.

"In most cases, kids are not put in foster care because of abuse," said Joy, who is a Golden Gate Seminary student attending the Arizona campus. "It can be because of neglect, either through drug and alcohol abuse, or poverty-related issues." Others may be taken from their homes because a parent's illness prevents them from giving proper care.

Foster parents provide an incomparable, on-call ministry to meet the needs of children who are not orphans, but lack parental care. Many Golden Gate Seminary students and alumni have responded to the call of a foster parenting ministry. The experiences of those mentioned here demonstrate how their seminary training has moved them to open their homes as well as their hearts. Greg Mitchell*, a graduate of Golden Gate Seminary's Northern California campus, summarized how being a foster parent is a way to speak with

actions, more than words. "If you're pro life, the ultimate statement of that is being willing to take in the kids nobody else wants."

Foster children, often "the kids nobody else wants," are a unique community with a common need, the need for Jesus as well as the need for a steady, safe, and loving home. Meeting the distinctive needs of each child may sound challenging, but foster parents minister to children in simple ways, like those Jesus listed in Matthew 25:35-36: something to eat, a place to stay, warm clothing, and loving care.

"Their greatest need is to be in a stable home," said Greg. He and his wife, Amy, have two foster children that they are in the process of adopting. "A child needs to know something in his life is going to be stable and secure," he emphasized.

"They need somebody to help them understand what a family is," added Don Buck, a student at Golden Gate Seminary's Southern California campus. He is taking classes through the Seminary's partnership with Saddleback Church in Irvine, California. Don and his wife, Linda, care for boys on probation from juvenile hall. "They don't trust people," Don observed. "They might not know how to interact with people or even understand what is right and wrong. Linda tries to show them what a mom can be and what a mother can do for children she loves."

"These are kids that need to be loved. It's part of our call as Christians," agreed Abel Garcia, a student at the Seminary's

TOP TO BOTTOM:

1. Litzenbergers on adoption day
2. Roger with foster mother, Linda Buck
3. Don and Linda Buck with Nathan and Aaron
4. Jennifer and Abel Garcia with foster child

*name changed for privacy



LEFT TO RIGHT:
1. Sisters adopted by the Kost family
2. Kosts on adoption day

Northern California campus. His wife, Jennifer, added, “The kids experience our relationship with God. We give them the opportunity to witness a loving, committed marriage, and even that is ministry.”


Rob Kost is in his second semester at Golden Gate Seminary’s Arizona campus. With his wife, Bobbie, and their three girls, the Kosts have cared for seven infants and have adopted two sisters. Rob immediately pointed out the blessings of this ministry. “These two girls are so thankful to God when they pray at night – thankful for their family, for the life they have,” he said.

Greg Mitchell articulated that foster parenting is a way to teach the Gospel to children who might otherwise never hear it. Sometimes those children are reunited with their families and share

“I imagine that there are a lot of people who’ve thought about foster parenting, but haven’t taken the next step. Sometimes it just takes one person sharing their story to influence a community.”

Abel Garcia, foster parent and Golden Gate Seminary student

the Gospel with their parents, according to the Liztenbergers. “These kids come without hope,” said David Litzenberger. “They come thinking that their only future is to move into a gang or get a minimum wage job, and they leave us thinking, ‘I can choose, I can have a life, I can hope.’”

None of these families claim to be exceptional, even though they are changing lives. “Foster parenting is something you can do that will have eternal consequences,” said Rob Kost. “It’s tough, but you see Him paving the road before you, and you see that child being healed by the love of Christ.” That love shines through these families who are willing to live out their faith and bold enough to take in the kids who might otherwise be lost in darkness. 

Brandon Wilborn is a Master of Theological Studies student at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate Seminary. He works out of San Rafael, California as a freelance writer for businesses and organizations. Raised in Makakilo, Hawaii, he has a degree in English from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2004). He spends his spare time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity so he can learn how to build a home for his wife, Sharon.

Slumdog City and the Spirit of God

By a 2001 Golden Gate grad now living in India

Alumni from all over the world regularly send us reports about their service in a variety of ministry settings. The following email essay describes some of the experiences of an alum whose ministry has been enhanced by his seminary education.

Ranee* lives in a chal, which is one step above a slum. That means she simply has walls. She lives next to a young believing family up a fire escape-sized staircase in the northern outskirts of Slumdog City. When we walked into her small home, she reverently greeted us and said, “You are like gods to me.” As she served us chai, she said she wanted to ask a question. While she asked, tears fell down her face.

“My husband abandoned my young son and me,” she explained. “A local leader has asked me to become his second wife so he could take care of us. What should I do?”

Our hearts broke. She lives in a land where abandoned women live as societal rejects, but to be a second wife? Then at the Spirit’s prompting, we responded: “Your answer is Jesus.” Gosh, it sounded trite when we said it. But it never felt truer. We told the story of how humankind had become separated from God and how Jesus brings us back into a relationship with God and guides us in all our problems. She wanted to hear stories. And when we asked if she wanted to give her life to Christ, Ranee said, “Yes.” Ranee became a sister right before our eyes as she repeated a translated prayer after me.

Downstairs, we met her landlord and he invited us in for chai. Ranee and her neighbors came along. We started telling the story of the prodigal son. As we approached the end, Ranee yelled out in her mother tongue, “That’s me! I’m the prodigal son, and Jesus is the father! That’s my story!”


Though the landlord wasn’t responsive, it was exciting that the Holy Spirit was already enlightening Ranee about the Scriptures.

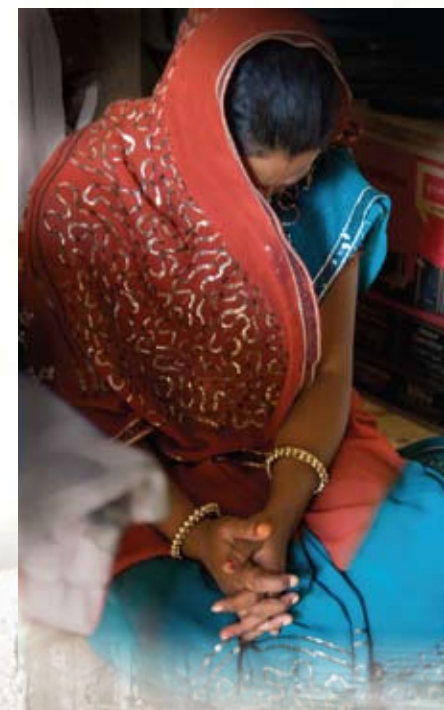
About ten days later, some colleagues went back to see Ranee. Her brother’s wife was there. She and her husband were going to commit suicide because of financial problems, but Ranee told them about Jesus. Though her husband had to work, the sister-in-law came to hear more about Him. After one colleague prayed for Jesus to keep teaching and revealing Himself to Ranee, they

found her with large tears flowing from her open eyes and her hands in a praying position in front of her.

“Jesus came to me while you were praying,” she said. “I was thinking that I’m too bad to be baptized because I’m like the Samaritan woman at the well. But He told me just now that I should follow Him and do what He says. He talked to me!”

I saw much fruit during the 12 days we spent in Slumdog City. I felt like I’d stepped back into the book of Acts. We told stories and shared in temples. I watched one couple give their lives to Christ and a group of women do the same in another house. One group saw a lame woman healed; she then served chai to them! One woman possessed by an evil spirit was set free in the name of Jesus. I taught piano (a miracle in itself) and watched some of my students make sure of their salvation in Christ and get right with Him.

All in all, I think at least 50 people came to Christ and hundreds more heard about Him in Slumdog City. Pray for Ranee and her believing neighbors, their landlord, and a family down the road who feel their family is cursed. Pray for a group of women in another part of the neighborhood who came to Christ. Pray two churches are born from these new lives in Him. Pray for the keyboard students I had. The story isn’t over for this city. The Spirit of God is moving! 



*name changed for privacy

eCampus

By Phyllis Evans

A recent National Survey of Student Engagement study looked at the experiences and outcomes of both traditional and online students. The findings challenge many of the assumptions about online versus traditional, face-to-face instruction.

“Ahead on many counts, online students were as likely as their campus-based peers to spend at least 10 hours a week preparing for class, to participate in discussions that enhanced their understanding of social responsibility, and to believe that their campus environment was very supportive of their academic success.”

The Chronicle of Higher Education, November 14, 2008

Coast Guard pilot, Ryan Hawn, flies a helicopter over the Golden Gate Bridge, while five miles away, students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary attend classes. Ryan is also a Seminary student, although he has never been in a classroom at the Northern California campus. He is taking an online theology course from the Seminary's eCampus program.

For students like Ryan, who want to take seminary classes but don't have the time to attend a traditional class, the eCampus program provides a flexible, convenient way to learn. Typically, courses are arranged in a series of ten weekly lessons. Students have a variety of interactive learning options, including weekly online forums, live chat sessions with the professors, video posts on YouTube, a weekly visual lecture, study guides, and quizzes.

Special education teacher, Dan Conner, spends his days in the classroom at South San Antonio High School, while his free



Ryan Hawn flying over the Golden Gate Bridge

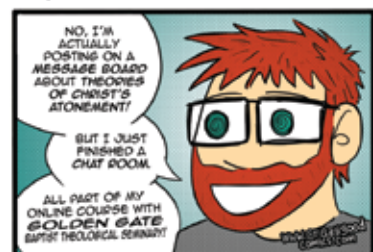
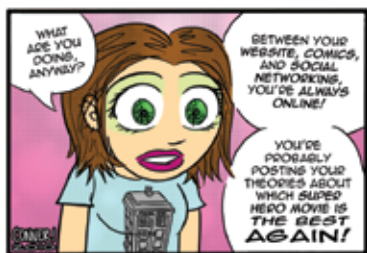
time is taken up with his growing career as a comic artist. Yet this 25-year-old also found a way to fit a seminary education into his schedule – by taking an online theology course from Golden Gate Seminary's eCampus program.

Staff Sergeant Michael Johnson has been a rock musician in an Army band for six years. Currently stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, he began the eCampus program during the spring of 2009, just before being deployed to Iraq for six months. He was one of the only people in his unit taking any college classes online, and almost certainly the only one studying Worship & Music and Hebrews while on active duty in Iraq.

Pastor Frank Johnson has lived in Washington State for most of his life, and has taken various seminary classes from a few different institutions throughout his career. He figures he's completed approximately one half of a seminary degree from courses taken at Golden Gate's Pacific Northwest campus in Vancouver, Washington. Because he is so close to earning a degree, his son Michael, the Army musician, urged him to take Hebrews with him online. This semester, they are both studying Christian History II through the eCampus program.



Coast Guard pilot Ryan Hawn

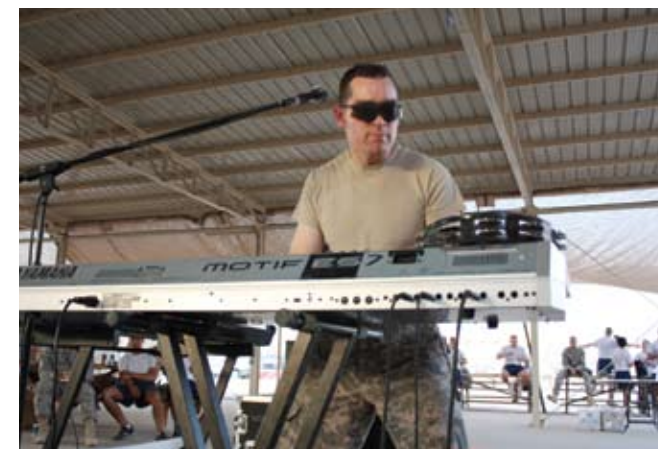


Dan Conner, Special Education teacher and comic artist

All of these men have full-time, demanding careers, as well as volunteer ministries, and families. Where do they find the time to take an online theology course?

“I rely heavily on the internet in general,” said 27-year-old Ryan. “I usually have my laptop with me, which means I’m set to work on my class work wherever I am.”

“Even though I tend to be a pretty busy person,” noted Dan, who is taking Christian Theology II with Ryan, “The eCampus is available 24/7. I can look at the lectures, the forums, and don’t have to worry about attending a class tomorrow. I have the freedom to study at my own pace.”



Staff Sergeant Michael Johnson

“I do most of my work in the afternoons before dinner,” said Michael, 34-year-old father of four daughters. “I help the girls with their homework and do mine at the same time. After the girls go to bed, I continue to work on my classes.” He is currently taking Christian History II and Old Testament II.

“As a senior pastor,” said Frank, who serves at Chestnut Street Baptist Church in Ellensburg, Washington, “I can make it work. I put it on my calendar and schedule it as I would anything else.”

Golden Gate's Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies online degrees are designed for adult learners who want to work on their seminary degree at their own pace from anywhere in the world. More than 40 credit hours are offered annually. Taught by eight dedicated and passionate professors, the online courses span a 10- to 15-week semester. All credit hours are transferable to most accredited higher education institutions.

While some might think an online class is a solitary experience, Ryan praised the sociable characteristics of the electronic education community. “We engage each other regarding the material we’re reading.” Referring to

his relationship with his 19 classmates, he said, “We’ve developed a community among ourselves, and there are many ways to interact with each other as we study.”

“I like to get my postings done early in order to get a thoughtful response from my classmates,” added Ryan. He noted how the on-

line discussion forum enables everyone “to say exactly what they think. The format allows everybody a chance to be heard without anyone dominating the conversation, and the group is learning together while helping each student contemplate the questions.”

“I enjoy interacting with the other students and the live chat with the professor,” agreed 54-year-old Frank. “I recommend this format to someone like myself who is fully engaged in ministry, yet who wants to study while serving.” He noted how the eCampus




Pastor Frank Johnson

fulfills the Seminary's goal to provide training to those who already have a significant ministry or career commitment.

“I would recommend this type of class to anyone,” said Dan, who lives in San Antonio, Texas. “I have freedom and flexibility.”

Ryan said he would choose the online format even if he had the time to attend class. “This gives me lots of opportunity for self-study, and fits into my schedule, regardless.” He anticipates taking more classes. “It’s an excellent experience, a very legitimate and convenient way to learn,” he said. “I can earn credits toward a master’s degree and go to seminary right now!”

“Golden Gate Seminary created the eCampus program in 2006 to deliver accredited theological education and leadership skill development to those already established in their ministry setting,” explained Dr. Rick Durst, director of eCampus. These fully-accredited, master-level courses are 100% online and require no visits to a campus. At this time, eCampus students may take up to one-half of any masters’ degree online. Due to accreditation requirements, the other half of the degree program must be taken in a face-to-face classroom setting. January and summer intensive courses are offered with the objective of allowing a student to complete their degree without relocating or disrupting their ministries or families. 

Impact on the Local Churches

Seminary offers support and resources

By Emily Harper

In places where Christianity isn't cultural, local churches need all the support they can get. The five campuses of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, located in urban cities of the western United States, offer local churches refreshing resources and encouragement.

"It's a blessing to have the proximity of Golden Gate Seminary, an institution which is founded on Biblical values," said Chris Losey, Senior Pastor of Valley Baptist Church in San Rafael, California. "Golden Gate is relevant to the culture, but has not sacrificed its core values," he added. Losey appreciates the hands-on resources the Seminary's Northern California campus offers his church. "It's great to have a LifeWay Christian Store and theological library so close to the church. It's nice to look things up online, but it's something else to have the books in your hand."

Pastors also appreciate and utilize the expertise of their local Golden Gate faculty. Kevin White, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Longview in Longview, Washington, said he values the interactions between his church and faculty from the Pacific Northwest campus. "It's the first place I go when I need someone to fill in when I'm gone. I am very protective of my pulpit, you know!"


But it's not just pastors who are encouraged by Golden Gate Seminary. Local church members are offered opportunities to deepen their ministry training.

Rhonda Boggs, Director of Global Outreach at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, California said, "With Golden Gate Seminary's Southern California campus being local, our members who feel called to minister can take classes

which fit around their work and lives." She noted how the Seminary assumes students are working or ministering full time and "makes it easy for them." A steady flow of Immanuel church members take classes through the Seminary's Southern California campus, and Boggs observed how it has helped inspire more church leadership. "Many of the Sunday school teachers and leaders in our church have been empowered by the classes they take at Golden Gate Seminary."

Charlie Jones is working on his Master of Divinity degree while simultaneously serving as the lead pastor of Fellowship of the Rockies in Pueblo, Colorado. "Golden Gate Seminary really allows local people to do their ministry in their local setting. People can have jobs and still take classes."

In Arizona, First Southern Baptist Church in Tucson hosts Golden Gate Seminary classes in its facilities every Thursday evening. Associate pastor, Rob Gaschler, said hosting these classes benefits the church and is a part of the church's overall strategy. "One of our major draws is that you can take Golden Gate classes in our church," said the 2002 Golden Gate graduate. "For me personally, it is a key part of our strategy to keep Golden Gate a part of us."

With the close proximity of each campus to these churches, students have the opportunity to put into practice what they are learning in the classroom, and help encourage their local church. Chris Losey says it's a perfect partnership between the Seminary and churches. "You have students looking for places to serve, and we are looking for people to serve. It's a win-win!" 

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

A Texas native, **Emily Harper** is currently pursuing her Master of Divinity at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate. Emily enjoys gathering and writing personal stories and has previously worked at an NPR affiliate station as a news producer. She holds a BS in Journalism and an MA in Intercultural Studies.

Why I Refer

Rhonda Boggs

- DMin 2000 from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Adjunct professor at Southern California Campus
- Director of Global Outreach at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, CA
- Referred more than 20 students to Golden Gate Seminary
- Helped form Golden Gate scholarship program for Immanuel members



"I recommend people to Golden Gate because my experience there was so positive in terms of the education I received, as well as my relationships with the students, faculty, and staff. It was a place where I felt at home. Those are some of the reasons that I also chose to teach there."

"I send people to Golden Gate because I believe you need to be educated in the area where you will be ministering. The mindset of the people is very different in the west, and therefore the approach to ministry is going to be different. Each geographic area has its own culture."

"One of the benefits of Golden Gate is having teachers who are also practitioners. It's not just head knowledge, but the application of learning that these professors possess and pass on to students. The professors invest in the students and care whether or not the students understand and learn."

Michael Gayheart

- On mission with the IMB in Costa Rica
- Second-year Master of Theological Studies student, currently taking online classes through eCampus

"Dr. Boggs pointed out the benefits of a Golden Gate education such as the opportunity to receive a Bible-based education from an affordable, accredited school with Southern Baptist ties. The convenience of the Southern California campus also offered me the opportunity to study in a classroom while working full time. Having online classes available is important, too, as I continue to pursue my degree from the mission field."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Julia (9), Michael, Abigail (7), Chloe (4), Crystal, and Nathaneal (5) Gayheart.

Golden Gate Seminary Receives Million Dollar Endowment

In January, the Seminary received a one million dollar bequest from the Charles and Barbara Waters Charitable Trust. Established in 1992, the donation was created to fund the Charles & Barbara Waters Endowment Fund for Theological Projects.

Charles "Chuck" Waters was a minister and funeral home director in Roseville, California, who died in March, 2006. His wife, Barbara, passed away in late December, 2009. Based upon their admiration of Golden Gate Seminary's focus on Scripture and missions, this retired Methodist minister and his wife established an endowment for the Seminary. The couple also donated a number of books to the Golden Gate library system.

"Chuck and Barbara spent many wonderful years ministering together," said Dr. Tom Jones, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "This gift will extend that partnership in ministry beyond their lifetimes."

"We are grateful that the Waterses were generously motivated to create a trust and name Golden Gate Seminary as the beneficiary," said Dr. Jeff Iorg, Seminary President. "Their prudent planning has provided a legacy gift that will enable us to continue our efforts in shaping Kingdom leaders at Golden Gate Seminary."

2009 Sustaining Gifts

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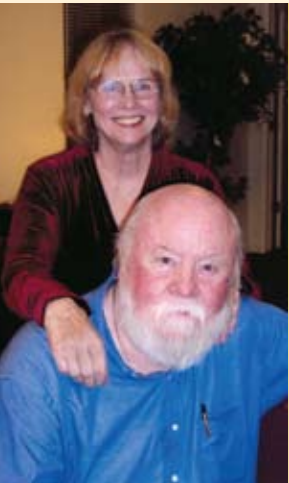
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First Baptist Church of Sun Lakes, Inc.
First Chinese Baptist Church of Phoenix



Charles & Ruth Addison

“The first time I heard about Golden Gate Seminary was in 1948, at the Osyka Southern Baptist Church my family attended near the Louisiana/Mississippi line,” recalled Charles Addison. “A pitch was made for funds to support this new seminary in California.

“I was twelve years old and so impressed by the great need for a seminary in California that I donated a quarter. Twenty-five cents was all I had, and that seemed like a lot of money to me at the time.

“I retired from the navy in 1978 and stayed in the San Francisco Bay Area. The late Dan Boling, former Seminary professor of Christian education, attended the church we joined in Petaluma, and reconnected me to Golden Gate Seminary. I became a supporter once again. We love the Seminary, its outreach in the surrounding communities, wonderful staff, and emphasis on missions.”

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Jonathan & Janice Liu

Trained as a clinical pharmacist, Jonathan is an alum of the Southern California campus and a member of First Chinese Baptist Church in Los Angeles. “As a student, I was greatly blessed when I was attending Golden Gate. Now as a graduate, I am honored to give back to the Seminary. We fully support the vision of our Seminary of training future ministry leaders.”

With daughter, Megan.





Michael & Sonshine Loomis

Michael and Sonshine Loomis are both students at the Northern California campus and pursuing a Master in Educational Leadership and Master of Divinity, respectively. Michael, who earned a Master of Theological Studies degree in 2008, is pastoring First Baptist Church of Graton, as well as running a State Farm Insurance office with his wife.

“The future of evangelism and carrying out the Great Commission is directly related to the development and competency of trained pastors, missionaries, and lay people in the Church. We both have been blessed to receive training from the Seminary that is allowing us to minister effectively at a church on a bi-vocational basis. We give to Golden Gate because we feel called to support the Seminary as they train other leaders for ministry in the church.”

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Mr. Samuel Yoon
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Rev. & Mrs. Moses L. Yu

Alumni
& Friends
Luncheon

SBC Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL
Wednesday, June 16, 12:30 pm
West Building, Room W303
Orange County Convention Center
Tickets \$10
RSVP 1-888-442-8709 or rsvp@ggbts.edu

My New Investment Counselor

By Jay Badry




Like most people, I have had mixed results from my investment selections. Some have offered steady growth, while others have fallen flat. If the recent recession taught us anything, it was that financial uncertainty can be hiding around any corner. Of course, those who stayed the course crawled out of the pit, but can anyone accurately predict our economic future with any degree of certainty?

However, I have discovered a new investment strategy that, to this point appears to be a slam dunk. A year ago, at the depth of economic despair, I approached Dr. Steve Veteto who serves as Director of Golden Gate Seminary's Rocky Mountain campus. I asked him to prayerfully consider a student or two that could use some financial assistance. My wife, Becky, and I wanted

to partner with them on their seminary education. If they were able to pay for one or more classes, we would provide for an additional class.

There is a reason I chose to contribute in this way. As I was making my way through my own seminary education, there was a particular semester when I "hit the wall" financially. We had two sons in college and money was just not available to take the classes I needed that semester. Had I missed out on the courses offered that semester, it might have been a couple of years before they would be offered again at the Rocky Mountain campus. A wonderful couple was led by God to invest in my tuition and I stayed on track for graduation.

Now we have had the honor of making a similar investment the last three semesters. And those whom we have supported are the ministers and missionaries who are impacting the world for Christ. How can an investment like this go wrong? It is an investment that will continue to pay rich dividends right into eternity. Now, what investment can you name with that rate of return? It is for this very reason that I now refer to Dr. Veteto as "my new investment counselor."

Would you consider making a similar investment? Golden Gate Seminary has some of the most incredible men and women preparing for maximum impact through ministry. Hundreds of graduates serve throughout the US and around the world as ambassadors for Christ. They preach and teach and serve in churches and missions. These men and women are on the front lines of ministry seeing lives changed for the glory of God. I urge you to contact Golden Gate Seminary and ask them to assist you in your investment strategy. 

Jay Badry is a 2005 graduate of the Seminary's Rocky Mountain campus. He ministers in the Denver area with Marketplace Chaplains, a ministry providing chaplain services to businesses.

Faculty News



Rick Melick, professor of New Testament and Director of Academic Graduate Studies Programs (PhD and THM) has co-authored a textbook with his wife, **Shera Melick**, chair of Educational Lead-

ership. *Teaching that Transforms: Facilitating Life Change through Adult Bible Study* (Nashville: B&H Academic, May 2010), is a textbook for college and seminary classes as well as a guide for adult Bible teachers.



Timothy J. Wiarda, professor of New Testament Studies, authored *Interpreting Gospel Narratives*, published this spring by B&H Academic. The 245-page book discusses principles for interpreting Gospel narratives, especially for those who may preach and teach from the Gospels.

Golden Gate News

Scholarship Established

Golden Gate Seminary alum Daniel Dover (1995), established a scholarship in memory of International Mission Board missionaries Larry and Jean Elliott, who were his aunt and uncle.

The Elliotts were killed in 2004. They and three other relief workers were in a car in eastern Mosul in northern Iraq when they were attacked with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

"Not long after the Elliotts gave their lives in Iraq, I was able to visit with some pastors in Honduras, where the Elliotts had served for 25 years prior to Iraq," recalled Eddie Pate, director of the Seminary's Kim School of Global Missions. "The pastors were moved and challenged by the story of the Elliotts. Many responded by saying, 'If the Elliotts have given their lives, now we must go!' I am grateful for this ongoing scholarship to help Golden Gate students go to the nations. The Elliotts leave a legacy of faith and sacrifice that is an inspiration to our students."

The \$15,000 scholarship will provide financial assistance to Golden Gate students for short-term mission trips. To contribute funds, please call toll-free 1-888-442-8709. Email studentservices@ggbs.edu to apply for the scholarship.



Institutional Advancement Award Winners

Phyllis Evans and the Institutional Advancement team were honored at the 2009-2010 Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition, which recognizes the best image-makers and storytellers in the Baptist Communicators Association.

■ Grand Prize for exceptional achievement in public relations and development

■ First Place in Special Events

Both awards were received for efforts on the Seminary's celebration of 50 Years on Strawberry Point.



Max Lyall, Former GGBTS Music Professor, Dies



Max Lyall, a professor of music for 25 years at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died February 18 in Oklahoma City. He had turned 71 on Valentine's Day.

Lyall, who retired from Golden Gate Seminary in 1999, served as a pianist for several meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist World Alliance and was on the committee for the 1991 edition of the *Baptist Hymnal*. The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference awarded him an honorary life membership in 1992 and the California Southern Baptist Convention presented him with the Duane Barrett Award in 2007.

"For more than two decades, Dr. Lyall's work was foundational to the work of our Seminary. His investment in the lives of countless students and his incredible performance ministry earned him the respect and love of thousands. His legacy with this institution will long be remembered with fondness," said Jeff Iorg, Seminary president.

A native of Tonkawa, Oklahoma, Lyall earned a bachelor's degree in music from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master's in music from the University of Oklahoma and a doctor of musical arts from Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory of Music. He also studied at Columbia University and the Julliard School of Music.

Alumni Updates

1960s

Neal Myers (1960) retired from North American Mission Board in 1990 due to medical considerations. He became pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, West Plains, MO, in 1993 and retired in December 2009, at age 81.

Wade Robertson (1960, 1972) is on staff (part time) at First Baptist Church, Wagoner, OK. His responsibilities include adult Sunday school, small group development, and spiritual formation.

Joe E. Tarry (1961) and wife, Leona, have retired after 36 years with the International Mission Board. While in Brazil, he wrote 14 books in Portuguese, and translated three of these books into English. The Tarrys are presently writing about their missionary experiences.

Woodrow Crouse (1968) moved to Lancaster, PA, November 2009, with his wife, Gail, who retired in June.

1970s

Fred D. Kerr (1972) is serving his 38th year as pastor of Greenville Southern Baptist Church, Greenville, CA.

Ubirajara De Silva (1973) and his wife, Alya, have retired from full-time pastoral ministry at Gospel Baptist Church in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.

Kenneth Wray (1978) spent 29 years pastoring churches in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. He retired from the pastoral ministry in 2008 and has since been accepted as a volunteer chaplain with The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's Disaster Response Team.

1980s-1990s

Charles Edward Reynolds (1982, 1989) is serving as a chaplain assigned to the Army War College Fellows Program at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, in Fairfax, VA, focusing on Religion and Diplomacy in Afghanistan.

Mikael N. Broadway (1983) was named Tar Heel of the Week for March 14, 2010, by the North Carolina *Raleigh News and Observer* for his work on economic justice dealing with credit card interest, foreclosures, and predatory lending.

Joe M. Flegal (1992) and wife, Sueann, are serving in Vancouver, WA, where Joe has been named state director of evangelism. Previously, he was church health strategist for the Northwest Baptist Convention in Vancouver. From 1989 to 2007, he served as associate pastor of Greater Gresham Baptist Church, Gresham, OR.

John Greenwalt (1994) continues to pastor at First Southern Baptist Church in Bakersfield, CA. His three children are grown and married, but five grandchildren are filling up the family house.

Garry Thornton (1994) has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps. He is a Fleet Marine Force qualified officer currently assigned to the USS Oak Hill (LSD-51), JEB Little Creek, Virginia Beach, VA. Chaplain Thornton is married to the former Rhonda Leech of Lubbock, TX. They have four children.

Miguel Rodrigues (1996) is currently the pastor of Homesite Baptist Church, a home Bible fellowship. He is also principal of Sue H. Morrow Elementary School in Henderson, NV, and adjunct professor of religion for the University of Phoenix, Las Vegas campus.

Charles "Chip" Anderson (1998) is teaching pastor at The Next Level Church in Denver, CO.

2000s

Ryan (2003) and **Marian Engelland** (2004) coordinate and oversee English language classes and devotional time in a program they founded called "La Puerta" in the Canal district of San Rafael, CA. They organize and produce an annual summer soccer camp as part of their outreach to the Hispanic community. They have four little girls.

Jeffrey Brooks (2004) is now serving as Pastor of Worship and Youth at Northside Baptist Church in Vancouver, WA.

Patricia "Leanne" (Sanders) Miller (2005) and her husband, David, relocated with the Navy to Southern California. David is stationed at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme. Leanne is volunteering as a spouse Ombudsman, a link between the Navy and families. She is also ministering to local international students at California State University Channel Islands.

Nestor Amaya (2005) planted two churches with his wife, Sara. The most recent one, in Stockton, CA, celebrated its one year anniversary in January.

Derek Dennis (2006) accepted a "missionary assignment" as a high school social studies teacher and assistant football coach in Altus, OK.

Jeromy Guthrie (2006) and his wife, Jessica, live in Hoffman Estates, IL and are missionaries in Chicagoland.

Gary Brndiar (2009) and wife, Anna, are in South Africa on a six-month intensive spiritual formation and cross-cultural missions experience through Youth with a Mission.

Seminary Sprouts



Nikole Joy Christman

Born July 29, 2009
Adam (2009) and Rachel Christman



Hope Dominguez

Born December 25, 2009
Andy (2005) and Tracie Dominguez



Isabella Susan Farrington

Born November 2, 2009
Chris (2006) and Krista Farrington



Davis Richmond Hilgenfeld

Born September 4, 2009
Blake (2007) and Shanae Hilgenfeld



Isabella Esther Inskeep

Born March 6, 2010
Stephen and Tana Inskeep (2009)

Send Us Your Sprouts

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

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The Journeys of Paul and the Early Church

April 15 - 27, 2011

Led by

Dr. Jeff Iorg, President, Golden Gate Seminary

Dr. Michael Martin, Academic Dean and
Professor of New Testament

For more info, call toll free 1-888-442-8709

In Memoriam

Nell E. Boyett (1948)

James Paul Maxwell (1953)

Delbert Griffin Fann (1955, 1959)

Oscar Loran Hipshman (1957)

John H. Davis (1958)

Kernal "Hawk" Grammer (1958)

Donald Wayne Mulkey (1958)

John Clarence Rudd, Jr. (1959)

Martha F. Watkins Rudd (1959)

Ben W. Tomlinson (1961, 1972)

Robert Alan McAlear (1963)

Wilfred H.C. Hsu (1964)

Hugh Glynn Hayes (1966)

Jack William Walker (1966)

James E. Coffee (1970)

Jeff R. Zurheide (1981)

Amy Lee Fannin (1986)

Michael John West (1987)

Harry Hai-Lin Keng (1999)

Anne Rigel Segar (2008)

Edgard Javier Parrales (2009)

Calling All Chaplains

We are planning a future issue of the *Gateway* which will feature stories and profiles of chaplains. If you are an alum or student who is serving or have served as a chaplain, please send a brief paragraph describing your experience in this special field of ministry. If possible, please include a photo or two (high resolution jpgs) to communications@ggbs.edu. For more information email, or call the editor toll free at 1-888-442-8709.



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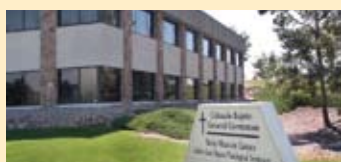
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