

SPRING 2008

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GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*A magazine for alumni and friends of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary*



On mission to the world

- North Africa
- Egypt
- Manhattan

# Letter from the President



This spring, Ann and I helped lead a trip to the Holy Land. Along with our partners at the California Baptist Foundation, we hosted 68 people on a 10-day

visit to Jordan and Israel. Aside from experiencing the land, the people and the sights, what impressed me most was how easy it is to draw stereotypical conclusions, to make simplistic assumptions, and to have inaccurate cultural expectations. For that reason, exposure to other cultures is a valuable part of the education that Golden Gate offers. Learning about other cultures and a desire to truly understand the people and their beliefs helps our students fulfill Golden Gate's mission to shape effective Christian leaders.

We are fortunate that Golden Gate is one of the most multi-cultural seminaries in the world – our faculty, student body and our staff represents many nations. We are truly an intercultural community. Because of this diversity, we are able to equip and challenge each other to more effective ministry leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We are pleased this educational environment prepares our students for the opportunities to share their faith with those who have different beliefs, ideologies and cultures. These opportunities help carry out our mission, *shaping effective Christian leaders who accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the churches of the West and on mission to the world.*

## On mission to the world

In this issue, you will read how Golden Gate is shaping effective Christian leaders. You'll learn of students who traveled to North Africa, of Egyptian pastors who became students as they were taught by Golden Gate students and professors, and of the New York ministry of a Golden Gate alum. You will read of a missions conference and a women's leadership conference, events which prepare our students as well as college students from around the west to be on mission wherever they are.

As you read through this issue, be reminded of our mission to shape effective Christian leaders, be grateful to God for how He is working to see it fulfilled and consider your role in this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you for your partnership in this great work God has called us to do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Iorg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jeff P. Iorg**  
President



## Spring 2008

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Shaping effective Christian leaders who accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the churches of the West and on mission to the world.

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### ON THE COVER

Child of North African family which hosted five Golden Gate students this spring. Read the story on page 4.



# A Learning Journey

## Student Journals from North African trip

*Five students from Golden Gate Seminary traveled to a country in North Africa this spring, spending time in three major cities: a desert city, a capital city and an industrial city.*

*"In the course of their ministry training at GGBTS, students are encouraged to experience serving Christ and His church in a context where different cultures interface," said Ray Tallman, Professor, Global Missiology and Intercultural Studies at Golden Gate. "The cost, energy and wisdom of placing a western missionary overseas necessitates a testing in the training process. For that reason, an intercultural experience is essential to affirm both gifting and calling for global ministry."*

*The following are excerpts from the students' journals:*

**We entered** a shop and found a young man working there. After some friendly conversation he told me with tears in his eyes that his father had died earlier that year. He frankly said that he didn't understand why we should come to his shop today. I quickly told him that God has plans for us and it is by no mistake that we met with him that day. "Yes, but this makes no sense that you should come and talk to me." And I replied, "If you search for God, you will find Him." "Sorry?" He didn't understand. I repeated what I told him and added, "And sometimes He sends people to us." He thought for a moment and then said, "Will you come again tomorrow? I will be working here." Not one customer entered his store during our hour there, neither was there a phone call.

**The idea** of community is an overwhelming certainty in the streets and in the home. What's interesting to me is that North Africans don't eat from individual plates. They share foods from a community dish, and are taught from an early age that what they do in the dish affects everyone. Every choice that they make affects not only themselves but their family and their neighborhood.

**These people** taught me the importance of hospitality. The standard floor plan of a home includes a large salon to entertain guests. The salon is rectangular and has sitting couches around it. I enjoyed dinner, tea, TV and a henna party in the salon. When a new guest arrived, he or she would be escorted into the salon and would greet everyone already there. When the North Africans greet you they shake your hand and then put their hand to their heart to show sincerity. Women will give you two or more kisses on the cheek. One's presence is honored and welcomed any time one enters or leaves a North African home.



**Our visit** really softened my heart for the people. This is a family-oriented culture. People seem content and happy. Behind every young man on a motorcycle, every covered woman walking down the street, every old man sipping coffee and talking with his friends at the café, every teenager texting her friend... there's a family at home waiting with a warm plate of food, the TV blaring and children running about playing and singing. Families. Whole families who need to know the saving power of Jesus Christ. He is more than just a prophet. He is really the One they seek – they just don't know it because of the hundreds of years of a tradition that tells them otherwise. Oppression. Fear. Lies. Pray for freedom.

**Playing basketball** was a significant experience. The mosque was having call to prayer when we showed up. We played three on three with several North African guys. Many of them had American basketball shirts on. They all seemed more cultured than we. After playing for a while we became like "the guys," giving each other high-fives even though we didn't speak their language. I really see how hanging out and playing sports could lead to developing relationships. I feel like we started to build a foundation, turn around the stereotypes and demonstrate what it looks like to be a Christian...even without words.

**God broke** our hearts for the people living in North Africa. During one of our prayer walks on Friday, the Muslim's holy day, we walked past a mosque that was overflowing with men worshipping Allah on their prayer rugs. It was an honor to pray that these devoted men may worship God in Spirit and Truth, like Jesus taught us. (John 4:23)

**Today I** had my prayer answered. I asked God to reveal to me what He sees in North Africa. As I was riding in the taxi, thinking about the driver, I was considering the phrase "B'selama," meaning peace be upon you. I started tearing up thinking about the true peace the driver needed. As I got out of the taxi, I felt like dropping to my knees and weeping over these people. Every person I looked at was bringing out more emotions. It was painful and beautiful all at once. God is broken over North Africa.

**Saying goodbyes** was not easy this morning. It felt like I was saying goodbye to my family. I will remember our visit for the rest of my life. God is really showing me the power of love. This is a lesson I need to learn. The Gospel is not rooted in propositional statements, but rather rooted in love. 9





# A Tale of Two Testimonies

**Brent and Franci Pittman**

*Brent and Franci Pittman graduated in May 2008 from Golden Gate's Northern California Campus. Below is the testimony they shared on April 8 at the Spring Banquet, attended by trustees, staff and friends of Golden Gate.*

**B** Hi. My name is Brent.

**F** My name is Franci.

**B** We've been married almost 10 months. We met in January 2004 when we were both in East Asia.

**F** Actually I remember meeting you in February 2003 at a conference in East Asia.

**B** Really?

**F** It was pretty much love at first sight for me.

**B** I was not even thinking about love.

**F** That is why we never dated until we moved here to seminary.

**B** I came to Golden Gate to gain skills and knowledge that I found were lacking in me while in East Asia. Some things that attracted me to Golden Gate were its reputation for missions, its location near a diversely populated city and its affordable cost.

**F** I first was introduced to GGBTS through some missionaries that I met while I was in East Asia. I respected them and the ministries in which they were involved. Knowing my own desire to learn more about the Bible and God and though conversations with those alumni, I became more and more interested in seminary. Also I knew that Golden Gate was globally focused, which made it very attractive to me.

**B** I have learned many skills and received the knowledge for which I came. But most importantly I have been able to rub shoulders with non-Christians. Living in a county that is literally unreached has been challenging to my faith. I have talked with Jewish Yogi gurus, New-Age acupuncturists, disillusioned cultural Christians and agnostics. I have been able to share my faith and my life with them.

**F** I remember one afternoon I was in the library preparing to write a paper for Dr. Honeycutt's Church History class. The topic was Benedictine monks. I remember sitting in my chair thinking to myself, "Could I ever really live like a monk?" This is just one of the many examples of how seminary has opened my eyes to new and thought-provoking topics about Christianity that never before crossed my mind.

**B** We are tremendously thankful to the Cooperative Program, the Journeyman scholarships, and to the trustees for making our tuition affordable. We will graduate this May debt-free with no baggage as we enter into ministry.

**F** GGBTS equipped us well in our theological education. And now we want to take one to two years to learn some new jobs skills before heading onto the mission field, which currently brings us to the task of job hunting. I am interested in graphic design and Brent is interested in corporate business. We hope that these new skills will somehow be used in our future ministries overseas as missionaries.

We want to take a moment to remind you of this seminary's



*Mission Statement: "Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary exists to shape effective Christian leaders who will accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the churches of the West and on mission to the world."*

**B** The past few days we have seen the Olympic torch begin its journey through 120 countries and eventually end in Beijing, China. It has been met with protests and resistance in London and Paris. Tomorrow in San Francisco will most likely be a similar scene. People have been trying to extinguish the Olympic torch flame. The flame and torch represent unity, peace and hope. I find it ironic that Jesus and the church are meeting similar resistance in these cities. Many are trying to snuff out and stop the movement of Jesus. Jesus, who came to bring ETERNAL HOPE, who can bring about TRUE PEACE in lives, and who can bring lasting UNITY to cities and cultures. The Golden Gate family is called to hold high and proclaim Jesus to the West and to the world even among opposition. May the Kingdom of God advance. 9

# The Gospel in Graffiti

## Mission to the destitute of inner-city Manhattan

By Greg Asimakoupoulos  
Used with permission of the author

Taylor Field sounds like the name of a high-end department store, but it is actually the name of a storefront minister. But given the fact that this inner-city man of the cloth takes his cues for ministry from the One who clothes the lilies of the field, Taylor's name is most appropriate. Like the Heavenly Father whose unconditional love of His creation translates into tailoring nature's garments and feeding the anxious-free sparrows, Taylor has a passion for people.

"Early on the Lord opened my eyes to the value in all people, but especially those in the city," the pastor of New York's East 7th Street Baptist Church says without hesitation. "I love the way Francis Schaeffer put it. He said people are precious to God, so cities must be His treasure."

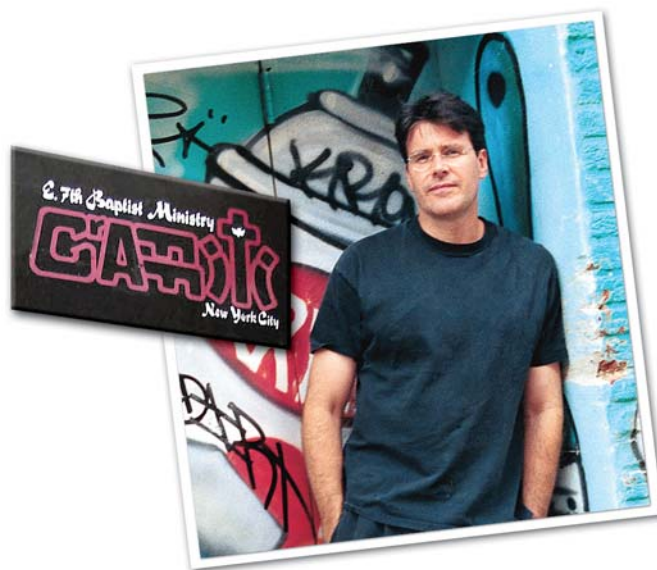
While studying at a seminary in New Jersey, Taylor first visited the storefront outreach center in the Lower East Side of Manhattan that would one day call him as pastor. Although the brick exterior was covered with graffiti, Taylor saw more than spray-painted slogans, pictures and designs. He saw the hand of God.

"I was intrigued by the inner-city missionaries who were willing to do whatever it took to reach kids in their own subculture," Taylor admits. "Here was a group who initially tried to paint over gang graffiti on the front of the building. When the designs and slogans appeared the next day, these Spirit-led Christians chose to put down their paintbrushes and pick up a spray can. They created their own graffiti with Christian-oriented symbols and words."

Taylor volunteered at Graffiti Outreach Center, working with children and youth in literacy programs in a neighborhood comprised of abandoned buildings, drug traffic and prostitution – several worlds removed from his native Enid, Oklahoma.

Twelve years later while completing his doctorate at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Taylor contemplated the kind of ministry to which he wanted to commit. His heart still beat for broken people. A speaker in chapel challenged the students to have the courage to set out to do the thing that made their hearts sing.

"I knew what made my heart sing. I couldn't get the unique ministry at Graffiti out of my head," said Taylor. "In a very real way, the handwriting was on the wall. I knew that's where God wanted me."



Taylor arrived in Manhattan's "Alphabet City" in 1986 with his wife and two young sons. The 32-year-old was committed to serving the needs of those in his neighborhood before attempting to spell out the claims of Christ. For many, that meant helping adults as well as children learn how to read. It also meant staking a claim in a neighborhood that literally was controlled by drug dealers.

"Initially, I was concerned for my family's safety," Taylor confesses. "I remember watching my little boy pick up a hypodermic needle some addict had discarded. Another time, I took my sons to the park. As they ran up to chase a squirrel, I realized it was a big rat."

Taylor learned he had to trust God for his own safety as well. His arrival as director of Graffiti Outreach Center was not appreciated by everyone on the Lower East Side. Someone tried to strangle him while someone else pulled a knife on him. A homeless woman tried to attack him with a nail-pierced board.

The Graffiti Outreach Center has become a full-fledged church. But East 7th Street Baptist Church is not your typical congregation. It worships in a Jewish Synagogue it purchased and recently refurbished. Between Sundays, it is involved in 26 hands-on ministries that include literacy training, after-school tutoring, soup kitchens, Bibles studies, drug rehab and legal advocacy.

Asked if the ministry of Graffiti Church still causes his heart to sing, Taylor is quick to answer. "You better believe it! I'll be here as long as the Lord lets me." **9**

*Taylor Field is a Trustee of Golden Gate Seminary, and a 1986 Ph.D. graduate from the Northern California campus.*

# Christ Voices: *Gospel Expressions in Today's Language*

By Amanda Phifer



Eddie Pate, Director of the Kim School of Global Missions, and Joe Kim, professor at the Southern California campus of Golden Gate, discuss this year's missions conference.



Jared Jenkins, a GGBTS student and his wife Amy, are campus ministers at University of Utah.



Dennis Lee and Joe Cho, Golden Gate Seminary students.

The world doesn't need more religion, and attending a missions conference doesn't make someone a missionary.

So were told nearly 200 college students from across the West at the 47th annual missions conference at the Northern California Campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. The theme of the February 15-17 conference was "Christ Voices: Gospel Expressions in Today's Language."

Bruce,\* an International Mission Board strategist in Southeast Asia, challenged the students that the world "does not need more religion, more mosques, more temples, more church buildings. They don't need another god who does nothing for them; they need a God of power."

Bruce, who received both his master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Golden Gate Seminary, related how he learned this lesson in seeking God's power in ministry. His Buddhist neighbors began to visit because they felt a peace in his house – but he couldn't feel it himself.

"I began to realize I didn't have anything to teach my Buddhist neighbors," Bruce recalled. "I was disciplined by curriculum. I grew up in a Christian home nurtured by a Christian culture and got to this place where people were more spiritual than me, and I increasingly felt like I had nothing to offer."

He pointed out that Acts 1:8 said the disciples would receive "not the latest church planting methodologies, but power."

Once he sought God and implored him for His power, Bruce said, the ministry began to bear fruit – in two years, every person in 52 villages in his country had made a profession of faith.

"God doesn't need you or me to reach the world," he told the students. "Nor does He need the governments of the world. So why does He invite us? Because He knows we need to know the joy of being in His work, of sharing Him."

*\*name has been changed for security purposes.*





A group of eleven from Crossover Church, Spokane, Washington attended the 2008 Missions Conference. (left to right) Wendy Liddell, Kris White, Allison and Joe Pfening, Megan Briggs and Laura Liening.

Allan Karr, a Golden Gate professor and the director of the Nehemiah Project, echoed the issue of power in a Sunday morning message to the conference attendees.

“I have served the Lord all my adult life and I could mark in decades the times I really saw God show up, in a way that couldn’t be anyone else,” he said. “We live most of the time as if we have no power.”

Two years ago, however, Karr and his mentor began to pray together daily, asking God to empower them with the Holy Spirit.


“God started showing up so often I had to keep track on my computer,” Karr said. “It’s nearly every day now!”

Karr encouraged the students to be like the neighbor in the parable in Luke 11, and ask God regularly for “bread.”

“You don’t become a missionary because you go to a missions conference, get training, go overseas,” he said. “You become a missionary when you ask God for bread and He gives you bread to share.”

In addition to four worship sessions, the missions conference included two seminar opportunities on topics such as Voice Lessons in Theology, Christ and Pop Culture, Spiritual Formation and the Arts and Developing Indigenous Worship. Students also were invited to take a Saturday afternoon walk through Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and look for opportunities to share their faith with people.

There were also two special elements to the conference: an art show with works from Golden Gate Seminary students and an interactive prayer room that included music, tools for creating art and specific spaces set aside for confession, petition and a focus on evangelism.

Jared Jenkins, student minister at the University of Utah and also a Golden Gate student, was attending his fourth annual missions conference. “Bruce did three of the best sermons I’ve ever heard, and the students really liked the evangelism in Golden Gate Park. Every year it does something for me and my students – keeps us focused, exposes us to ideas about missions.” 

*“Bruce challenged my paradigm on reaching students in American culture.”*

**Wendy Liddell**  
student minister, Crossover Church, Spokane, Washington

*“The speaker was honest, didn’t try to make things sound easy or comfortable, and I appreciated that.”*

**Inyoung Lee**  
one of a dozen people who came from Life Harvest Baptist Church in Southern California

*“They were messages you normally wouldn’t hear at church.”*

**Stan Hruza**  
one of about 20 students from the University of Utah



# Education in Egypt

## Teaching refugee pastors and cell group leaders

“In some parts of the world, a successful church isn’t measured by how many turn up on Sunday morning, but is measured by people who follow Jesus even in an unfriendly environment,” said Eddie Pate, Director of the Kim School of Global Missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. “It’s not the size but it’s the faithfulness, the commitment and discipleship.”

Pate, who speaks Arabic and lived for eleven years in the Middle East, had just returned from a ten-day trip to Cairo where he and a team of five people from Golden Gate taught 70 pastors and cell group leaders. These refugees are mostly Southern Sudanese Christians who are living in Egypt after leaving Sudan for a variety of reasons.

“These pastors were eager to hear what we had to say,” recalled Pate. “They were hungry to know and wished greater depth of understanding of the Bible and the church.” Pate emphasized their desire to learn as he noted how “they engaged everyone in conversation. They sat in a cold room in uncomfortable chairs for seven hours each day in order to learn.”

This was the first of eight trips planned, with the purpose of teaching the same people over a two-year period. Classes are held in an Egyptian neighborhood, far off the tourist path. The students are pastors and cell group leaders who have no opportunity to go to school and are unemployed with no chance to work. Living in apartments with friends and family, they hope to someday return to their own country. A goal of the program is to be able to relocate these pastors to their homeland to start new churches. In the meantime, they come to learn how to effectively start church plants throughout the Sudan and beyond.

Underwritten by a Southern California church, the program began in the summer of 2007 when the church took a large number of high school students to

*In Sudan, as many as five million Muslims have accepted Christ since the early 1990s, despite horrific persecution of Christians by the Sudanese government. What is behind the mass conversions? According to a Sudanese evangelical leader, “People have seen real Islam, and they want Jesus instead.”*

**Chuck Colson**  
BreakPoint Commentaries  
March 24, 2008





Egypt to teach English. While there, they met Ahmed, who is considered the leader of this group of refugees. He shared his vision to train Sudanese pastors for the next generation.

Ahmed is from a highly-respected family and a top student in a class which studied the Koran. Having many questions, he prayed that God would reveal himself. He was directed to a Christian woman in his village. Although dangerous for both of them, she led him to faith in Christ. When he returned to school, he told them he was a believer. They threw him in jail where he remained for 16 days, until a Christian jailer helped him to escape. He fled Sudan to a neighboring country where he connected with many Christian refugees.

When Ahmed met the high school students teaching English, he shared his vision. The seeds were planted and the trip was planned. Motivated by Ahmed's enthusiasm and God's prompting, Pate and a team of five taught the first series of classes. The workshop is free for those attending, and includes meals, books and transportation as well as the classes.

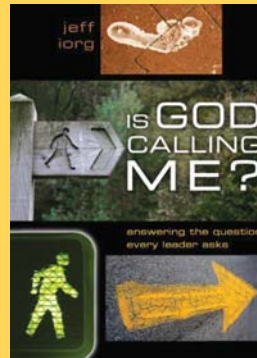
The curriculum, which is taught in Arabic, includes church history, Old and New Testament, evangelism, missions, church planting and leadership development. Upon completion of the program, graduates will receive a certificate.

Dr. Pate is encouraging students to join an upcoming trip as part of a training team. This educational opportunity enables students and staff to equip others. Enrolled GGBTS students will receive course credit. "Students who go will be doing the teaching," says Pate, "and they'll receive an understanding of the Christian Muslim world in the Middle East." 9

*Dr. Pate, Director of the Kim School of Global Missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, can be reached at [eddiepate@ggbts.edu](mailto:eddiepate@ggbts.edu).*

Photos provided by Eddie Pate

## New book wrestles with age-old question *Is God Calling Me?*



In the new book *Is God Calling Me?*, seminary president and author Jeff Iorg addresses the foundational question that must be asked by anyone who considers entering the field of ministry.

Writing to a student and young adult audience, Iorg uses this book to illustrate his collection of personally field-tested insights that have already helped many students clarify their understanding of God's call.

With chapters including "Defining the Concept of Call," "Three Ways God Calls," and "Who God Calls," Iorg cuts straight to the heart of the matter and gives students the tools to work through the call process.

The book is published by B&H Publishing Group and is available at all booksellers nationwide and on-line.

*"Acknowledging all believers have a call of God on their life, Iorg effectively categorizes the more specific calls to Christian leadership or missionary service as well as God's call to a particular job or location. His review of the diverse ways God calls will dispel doubts and indecision while giving assurance and confidence."*

**Jerry Rankin**

President, International Mission Board



# Strengthening the Leader Within You



First time Women's Leadership Conference attendees Jania Fusilier and Lorraine Combs.



Friends from Milpitas reconnect at conference.



Jackie Nolen and Genna Lewis chat between seminars.

"When Jesus was present during a tragedy, He spoke from His heart. He wept and shared emotions with the person going through the loss or painful experience," explained Deb Douglas as she taught the *Ministering to Women in Crisis* seminar during the Women's Leadership Conference held at the Seminary's Northern California Campus on March 14 and 15. "He physically touched them, and allowed the person that was hurting to become a priority."

The room was filled with women attending the two-day *Strengthening the Leader Within You* Women's Leadership Conference. This particular seminar explained how to respond to hurting women and to learn practical tips to help. Douglas assured them that it's okay to not have all the answers.

One hundred and ten women came from all over the San Francisco Bay area to attend six seminars taught by Chris Adams, National Southern Baptist Women's Ministry Leader for LifeWay Christian Resources. She was assisted by Deb Douglas, a conference/retreat speaker and Minister to Women at First Baptist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana.

The conference was spearheaded by Helen Groat, Women's Network Coordinator at Golden Gate Seminary and Ann Iorg, wife of seminary president Dr. Jeff Iorg.

"This year's conference was specifically designed to provide tools to help women lead in today's global setting," said Groat.

Jackie Nolen, whose husband was a Golden Gate student in the late 1960s, and whose son is an adjunct Golden Gate professor, admits she came to the conference looking for spiritual renewal and encouragement. "Spiritually, it's a dynamic conference," she shared. "The information really hit home, especially the Emerging Cultures seminar on how to reach women from other cultures who live here. I'm getting lots of good ideas on how to approach my Muslim neighbor." She marveled at how she is living out the speaker's topic, "that the world is coming to us, and we don't have to travel to foreign lands to reach the unsaved."

*"The information really hit home, especially the Emerging Cultures seminar on how to reach women from other cultures who live here. I'm getting lots of good ideas on how to approach my Muslim neighbor."*

**Jackie Nolen**  
Conference Attendee

Lorraine Combs, whose husband is in the Seminary's CLD program (Contextualized Leadership Development), is herself a student. She enjoyed the conference, her first. "My favorite seminar was *Women in Crisis*. It was very powerful, with a lot of take-aways, and I met some wonderful people." She was chatting with her newly-made friend Jania Fusilier, whose husband is also a seminary student. Fusilier agreed that the information was very helpful, and especially because she could apply it in her daily life.





*Helen Groat, Women's Network Coordinator, discussing conference logistics with Elizabeth Howeth and Dawn Gary.*

The conference volunteers were impressed by the enthusiasm of those attending. "It's important for women to know how to effectively reach the women in their community," said registration chair Dawn Gary. "I was so pleased to have someone tell me 'This conference came at the right time for me.' And another woman said 'I was looking for something just like this.'"

Volunteer Elizabeth Howeth, decorations chair, was as enthusiastic as the attendees. "I appreciated that the leadership empowered me to do what I envisioned. I took the colors of the conference brochure and transformed the room." She noted that she wouldn't have typically thought of decorating as a ministry, "but it really made a difference in the presentation of the conference - it all came together with a feeling of welcome, warmth and comfort." In the main room the round tables faced a wall of windows revealing the gorgeous panorama of the San Francisco skyline and the bay. "The view contributed to the feeling of a vacation, giving the attendees a feeling of refreshment," Howeth noted. "Connecting with God's gift of natural beauty allowed them to focus on their spiritual development, on worship and renewal."

LifeWay speaker Chris Adams summed up the purpose of the conference: "There is not a woman today who is a believer in Christ who does not have a place to serve. He has a calling for every woman to perform in Kingdom work, and it's our job to help them discover what that is." 9

## Looking Back

We're looking for photos that tell the Golden Gate story, or your chapter in Golden Gate's history. Do you have a photo from your years at Golden Gate that you'd like to share with Seminary alumni and friends? Send your snapshot, including names, dates and any other pertinent information to Gateway Editor, GGBTS 933, Golden Gate Seminary, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley CA 94941. We'll return it if you include your address and contact info. For those who have digital photos, please email high-resolution digital photos with the names, dates and other details to [phyllisevans@ggbts.edu](mailto:phyllisevans@ggbts.edu).



*The Seminary Student Association officers form the Student Council which serves to coordinate life on Strawberry Point.*

**California Southern Baptist Magazine**  
February 13, 1969

## SBC Mission Service Scholarships

Expanded funding for missions personnel

Golden Gate Seminary announces a new financial aid opportunity for SBC mission workers, available for Fall 2008 admissions. Qualifying students will see a marked increase in available scholarship aid of \$4,320 in tuition funding, which covers the first 24 credit hours taken at Golden Gate.

“Golden Gate completely embraces the value of these workers,” said Dr. Eddie Pate, Chair, Intercultural Studies Department, Director of the Kim School of Global Missions and Associate Professor of Missions. “As our SBC mission programs continue to grow, we want to offer increased financial assistance to those returning home for seminary training.” Dr. Pate noted that Golden Gate is “a popular seminary for Journeyman and this enables us to continue the history we have in equipping these missionaries for future effective service.”



SBC mission personnel who qualify are those in International Mission Board programs such as ISC/Journeyman and North American Mission Board programs such as MSC and US2/C2. International Service Corps (ISC) are singles, couples and young families who are willing to accept an assignment from two to three years. The Journeyman Program is available for single, twenty-something college graduates who will commit to two years of international cross-cultural missionary service. Mission Service Corps (MSC) is a team of self-funded missionaries who serve for four months or more in an assigned ministry supporting the evangelism and church planting efforts of the NAMB. US2/C2 missionaries are college gradu-

ates who serve two years under appointment with the North American Mission Board (NAMB), SBC, and participating state conventions or the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

Students attending Golden Gate following a mission assignment often experience a smooth transition from the mission field. All five campuses in the Golden Gate System are located in multicultural metropolitan areas

which often provide the students with various opportunities to continue aspects of their field missionary work in the same language and culture.

“Global mission service characterizes the very heart of seminary life,” says Dr. Jeff Iorg, president of the Seminary. “We are proud to be able to increase our assistance to these whose call is not limited by geographical or cultural boundaries. Their experiences with the International Mission Board

and the North American Mission Board always bring a welcome dimension to the Seminary classroom.”

This special SBC Mission Service Scholarship fund is open to all qualified IMB International Service Corps or Journeyman alumni, or NAMB Mission Service Corps or US2/C2 personnel, and is designed to provide tuition assistance for study at any Golden Gate campus. For more information about the scholarship, visit our website at [www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu) or go directly to [www.ggbts.edu/financialaid/EnteringStudents.aspx](http://www.ggbts.edu/financialaid/EnteringStudents.aspx) or contact the Office of Admissions at 888-442-8701. 



## Generous Donation Provides New Playground for NCC Student Families

"The quality of life on our seminary campus is determined by many factors. When you're a five-year-old, it's having a fun place to play," said President Jeff Iorg.

Dr. Iorg was joined by the Seminary's Board of Trustees, staff and a collection of children from nearby Golden Gate Academy preschool as the new playground was officially dedicated on April 8, 2008.



"The original playground was 47 years old," recalled trustee Bob Galey. "This is something that has been on our prayer list for five or six years. I'm just real excited that it's finally become a reality."

The project began in the fall of 2007, when Dr. Iorg attended a neighborhood social gathering and met a neighbor who had recently moved to the area. "He enjoyed walking the campus in the evening with his family," said Dr. Iorg. "He saw the need and offered to anonymously donate specifically for the playground in appreciation for living near the Seminary."

"The playground is intended for children on our campus and in our community," stated Dr. Iorg. Total cost of

the 5,000-square-foot play area was \$80,000 for new equipment and installation. "We're delighted to improve the life of the Seminary kids," he added.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by Dr. Iorg to Seminary friend Jack Rice at the Spring Banquet hosted by the Northern California campus. Mr. Rice, a developer in the Sacramento area, has been a generous supporter of the Seminary for more than 25 years.

## Korean Donation



Isaac Kim, President of the Association of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in Northern California, presented Dr. Iorg with a \$5,000 gift to the Seminary. The Association held their sixth annual Choir Festival to raise funds for the Seminary on March 1, 2008. Held at the New Vision Community Church

in the San Jose area, a two-hour program of quality Christian music was presented by six choirs, most of which were led by directors who are alumni of Golden Gate.

## Seminary Employee Honored

"It's been a real challenge and a blessing," said Mary Harmon as she recalled her ongoing ministry to share the gospel with women who are incarcerated in the Solano County area of Northern California. Harmon was honored with a Sheriff's Office Certificate of Commendation in April. Since 1987, she has been a volunteer leader of Bible studies for incarcerated women. She is the administrative assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

"This ministry wasn't my choice," said Harmon. "I knew someone who was in jail and I called the chaplain about this person. He invited me to a nondenominational fellowship ministry retreat and at the conclusion he asked me if I'd like to 'pick fruit.' After prayer, I said yes."

Harmon has been a Golden Gate employee since 2000. Commenting on Harmon's award, Michael Martin, Academic Dean said, "It doesn't surprise me about the county recognizing Mary...her gentle spirit and generous heart are expressed in all she does."



## 3-Minute Briefing Bimonthly e-Newsletter

Now you can receive informative, streamlined news about Golden Gate sent to your inbox on a bimonthly basis throughout the year. This fast read shares noteworthy information about the Seminary's programs and delivery systems, with links to more details on our website.

It's a quick way to learn what's new at Golden Gate, and it's easy to share with colleagues and prospective students.

If you wish to receive your "3-Minute Briefing" please request to be added to the list by emailing [dawngary@ggbts.edu](mailto:dawngary@ggbts.edu).



## Professor Dwight A. Honeycutt Retires from Golden Gate Seminary

"I have enjoyed the benefit of having a part in sparking the interest and the careers of so many students," said Dr. Dwight A. Honeycutt as he recalled his 20-year career at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary as William A. Carleton Professor of Church History. "Many of the students continue to keep in touch."

When considering the offer to teach at Golden Gate in 1988, the location was what persuaded him. "San Francisco, the Pacific Rim, it's such a strategic area. I'm not sure anything else could have convinced us to leave Colombia [South America] except the challenge and the opportunity of living in this diverse area." Honeycutt noted the "magnificent laboratory for multicultural ministry we have at our doorstep."

He recalled the interview he had with Golden Gate's then-President William O. Crews, when they talked about Crews' vision for contextualized theological education with the establishment of the regional campuses. "I wanted to be involved with this concept," Honeycutt said. "I liked the idea of students being able to go to seminary in the area where they already had a ministry."

In addition to his Golden Gate teaching and faculty responsibilities, including chairing many committees and departments, Honeycutt has lived in Colombia, South America as a missionary, served as guest professor in seminaries all over the world, given numerous keynote addresses, pastored many churches and authored several articles and books. After taking a year off to "debrief" and travel, Honeycutt plans to return to Golden Gate to teach occasionally as a senior professor.

"Dr. Honeycutt's background in pastoral ministry, as an IMB missionary and as a proven scholar made him a valuable addition to Golden Gate," said Dr. Michael Martin, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "During his time here his passion for Jesus, his love for students and his command of his discipline have been evident and have earned him the respect of students and colleagues alike. We celebrate with him his retirement, but will miss him greatly." 📧



## Milton F. Steck Named 2008 Distinguished Alumni

Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff Iorg has announced the recipient of this year's distinguished Alumni Award. Pastor Milton F. Steck will be presented with the award at the Seminary's alumni luncheon in Indianapolis on June 11, held in conjunction with the 2008 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A native of Sonoma, California, Steck earned a master of divinity from Golden Gate in 1971. He began serving as the Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Vacaville, California after receiving his degree, and continues in this position today.

"As a pastor and denominational leader, Milton has always represented Golden Gate with dignity and distinction," said President Iorg.

Steck has held many denominational positions in his career. He has been a member of the Seminary's Alumni Committee, a committee member of the Doctoral Ministry Program and a field supervisor of the Supervised Ministry Program. He was an International Mission Board Trustee from 1994-2002, and served on the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations in 1988. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He has served extensively on boards of the California Southern Baptist Convention. Steck served on the Executive Board from 1989-1993 and 2004 to present. He served as Chairman of the Executive Board in 1991-1992 and 2006-2007. He was



the California Southern Baptist Convention President in 1994 and 1995. He served for six years on the Committee on Board Nominations, and as a consultant for Building for Today's Challenge.

Steck has received many awards and honors, including Outstanding Young Men of America in 1974 and 1976; the Distinguished Service of Religion Award presented by California Baptist College Alumni Association in 1987; Clergy of the Year in 1990 from Kiwanis Club of Vacaville; Outstanding and Exemplary Service in 1992 from the City of Vacaville; Profile in Excellence Award in 1993 presented by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association; and the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2003 presented by California Baptist University.

Steck received his B.S. in 1966 from California Baptist College in Riverside, with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Religion. He and his wife Linda, who live in Vacaville, California, have two children and one grandchild. 9

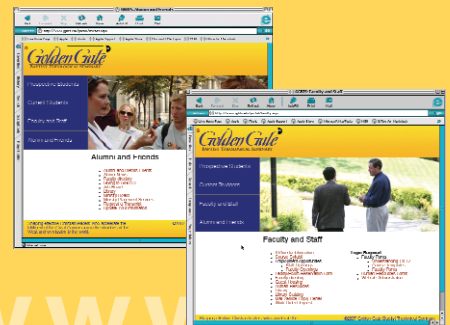
[www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu)

### New website launched

Have you visited the new Seminary website at [www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu) lately? We launched last fall and are continuing to develop more features, such as online donations. The new design is intended to increase user-friendliness for both prospective and current students, and also for faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

The home page includes links to upcoming events, Seminary news and of course a link to information for alumni and friends. In this section of the site you can find out about upcoming alumni events and update your own alumni information.

Dr. Iorg writes two weekly columns – one on general issues and one on leadership insights. Both are thought-provoking and intended to initiate conversations. He invites readers to interact via email at [jeffiorg@ggbts.edu](mailto:jeffiorg@ggbts.edu).



## Ministries

### 1965

(Harold) Gene Younger presently serves as a Natural Vision Educator in the Portland Metro area.

### 1978

John Christy, one of the world's leading authorities on global climate change, has been named a distinguished professor at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

### 1983

Gary P. Lukas, former missionary to San Francisco and London, published his second book, *Adventures in Evangelism*, in October 2007.

### 1987

Stacy Lee (Haus) Miller is teaching/coaching wrestling, track and rugby. He is also church planting. His wife Donna is working for TSA.

### 1993

Charles R. Richardson has been endorsed by the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Endorsement Council of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as a volunteer chaplain for Abilene Regional Medical Center. He retired in May 2005 as director of media relations, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas. Charles previously served as news director of Golden Gate Seminary, 1961-1962, and also with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Baptist Standard of Texas, Biblical Recorder in North Carolina and Howard Payne University.

### 1994

Garry Thornton is command chaplain with First Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, Parris Island. He and his wife now live in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Burt Schmitz and his wife, Suzanne, have two adopted children. Both were orphans in the village where they ministered in Togo, Africa. They now live in Senegal.

### 2000

Rick Rogers and his wife, Sally, have four daughters. They are planting an SBC Church in Soap Lake, Washington which celebrated two years on Easter of 2008.

Randall Higgins has been teaching English in Lanzhou, China for the last four years. He and his family will return to the U.S. in the summer of 2008. Son David is a sophomore art major at Fullerton College and Biola University. Daughter Lian is a junior communications major at Biola. Lauren is a high school sophomore.

### 2001

Ben (B.J.) Mathis serves as a Navy chaplain to a Marine regiment on Okinawa, Japan, and is currently on a six-month deployment to Kuwait. He and wife, Erin, have two sons, Benjamin and Caleb.

### 2002

Alan Roberts is currently serving at South Peoria Baptist Church, leading Adult Bible Studies while working as the Director of Corporate Services at USAA in Phoenix.

Scotty Goldman transferred from the Office of Collegiate and Student Ministries to the Office of Global Missions with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

### 2003

David Humphrey is on staff with Aid Sudan. He and his wife, Danyel, attend First Baptist church in Humble, Texas.

Timothy Royal is pastor of Halcyon Baptist Church San Leandro, and serves as the Controller of Patten University Oakland, California.

### 2004

James Clark is the new pastor at Sebastopol Baptist Church in Sebastopol, Mississippi. He served New Life Baptist Church and Northwest Collegiate Ministries for seven years in Portland.

### 2005

Matthew Scott Fite is Lead Pastor at Good News Community Church in Broomfield, Colorado. They have three kids: Elijah, 8-years-old, Savannah, 5-years-old and Isaiah, 2-years-old.

### 2006

Carey Hall-Waldrop is currently teaching ESL at California Baptist University and at a language institute in Pasadena.

### 2008

Simone Lake currently serves alongside pastor/husband at Church on Randall Place in Pine, Arizona. At the church Simone serves as Bible teacher and speaker, minister of prayer, minister of education and administration. At the associational and state level, Simone serves as Director of Ministers' Wives of Arizona, member of state prayer team, and a board member of Arizona Baptist Children Services.

## In Memoriam

### 1949, 1950

Charles Oren Mashburn

### 1958, 1972

Roy L. Cissna

### 1954

Eldon J. Van Fossan

### 1995

Terry Lee Nelson

### 1996

James Harold Ingram, Jr.



Below are photos of children of GGBTS alumni. If you are an alum and would like to include your 12-months-old or younger child in an upcoming issue, please send a 300 dpi photo and include the name of your child with your and your spouse's names, the dates you attended and email to [alumni@ggbts.edu](mailto:alumni@ggbts.edu).



## 1) Alison Suzanne Jones

Born July 24, 2007. Jeff Jones (03) and Melissa Jones.

## 2) Julia Hanbie Oh

Born December 24th, 2007. Ocean Oh (02) and Nicole Oh.

## 3) Olivia Anne Tafao

Born January 8, 2008. Stacey Harris Talfao (01) and Elijah Tafao (06).

## 4) William Isaiah Bunn

Born on April 15, 2007. James Brian Bunn (02) and April Renee Bunn (02).

## 5) Mason Christopher Farrington

Born September 22, 2007. Chris Farrington (06) and Krista Farrington.

## 6) Kade Mitchell Duncan

Born April, 2008. Brannan Duncan (05) and Kristie Duncan (05).

## 7) Timothy Lamar Swann

Born January 25, 2008. Peter Swann (03) and Shauna Swann.

## Update Your Classmates

**Don't be shy! Share your news and let your classmates know what you're up to:**  
weddings, babies, ministries, missions, business successes and community achievements

### Website:

[www.ggbts.edu](http://www.ggbts.edu) - select the "Alumni & Friends" button

### Email:

[alumni@ggbts.edu](mailto:alumni@ggbts.edu)

### Mail:

Alumni Updates  
Institutional Advancement  
Golden Gate Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
201 Seminary Drive  
Mill Valley CA 94941

### Questions:

call toll-free 888-442-8709

Please limit your updates to 60 words and include your year(s) of graduation

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Admissions: (888) 442-8701

**Pacific Northwest:**

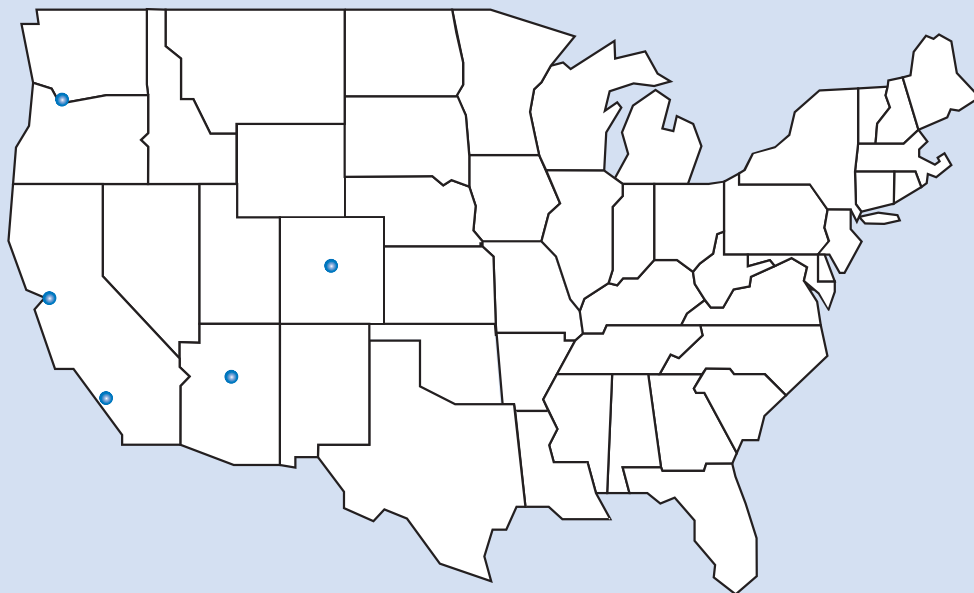
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*Golden Gate*  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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