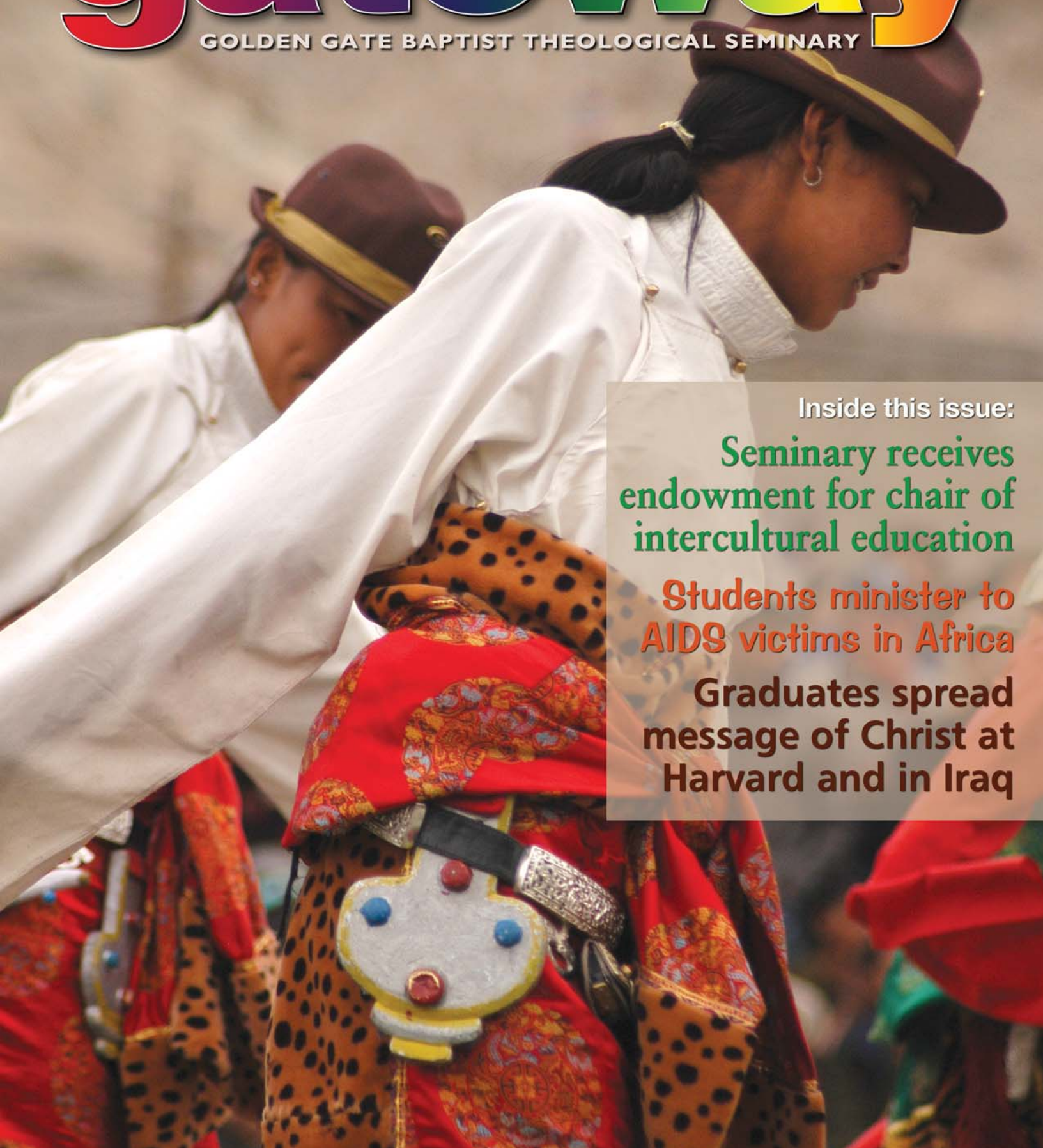


WINTER 2005

gateway

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Inside this issue:

**Seminary receives
endowment for chair of
intercultural education**

**Students minister to
AIDS victims in Africa**

**Graduates spread
message of Christ at
Harvard and in Iraq**

Leadership insight

Jeff P. Iorg, President



A few weeks ago I presided over my first graduation as president of Golden Gate Seminary. As I looked over the graduates, it was amazing to see the potential in the shining eyes of future pastors, missionaries, teachers, and leaders.

One of those graduates was Travis Saunders. Travis graduated from our Global Studies Program and volunteered to help with the tsunami disaster relief work in one of the places hardest hit in Indonesia. The amazing part of Travis' story was his decision to go to Indonesia in a matter of hours. Almost immediately after a friend challenged him to help with the relief effort Travis knew he was supposed to go. Instant obedience to the initial prompting of the Holy Spirit is the only real obedience. Travis is a model for all of us!

We are grateful to have students like Travis who are willing to follow the call of God wherever He leads. Travis has put previous plans on hold to help with the relief effort. He does not know exactly what he will face when he arrives, but I am confident he will be a radiant light sharing the love of Christ with those devastated by the tsunami disaster.

We have many in the Golden Gate family who are sharing the love of Christ to those in Southeast Asia. Will you join me in praying for relief workers who are representing Christ to many who do not know Him? Also, if you would like to contribute to the relief efforts that are taking place around the rim of the Indian Ocean, the International Mission Board is accepting donations at www.imb.org. You can be sure that all the money designated to this effort will go directly to those in need.

We are busy shaping effective Christian leaders, men and women who accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission, in the churches of the West and for mission to the world. Thank you for praying, giving, and standing with us in this great task!

Winter 2005

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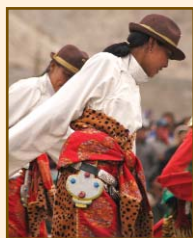
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On the cover:

Young women from
the Chang Thang
plateau, located next
to Tibet, perform a
traditional dance that
mixes modern and
traditional elements,
as evidenced by the

hats worn along with other traditional attire.
Russ Taylor ('00, '02), the photographer,
resides in this region known for its rich
landscape and unique culture. For more
photos by Russ, go to www.nomadruss.com.

inside

inside this issue



4. **Golden Gate Receives Endowment
for Intercultural Chair**



5. **Seminary graduates 77 at
Winter Graduation**



6. **Students Help With AIDS Relief
in South Africa**



8. **Alumni Ministers
to Ivy League Students**



9. **Army Chaplain Meets Spiritual Needs
of Soldiers in Iraq**



10. **Jeff Iorg Inaugurated as Golden Gate's
Seventh President**



12. **Archeological Field Work Resumes
Despite Tensions in the Middle East**

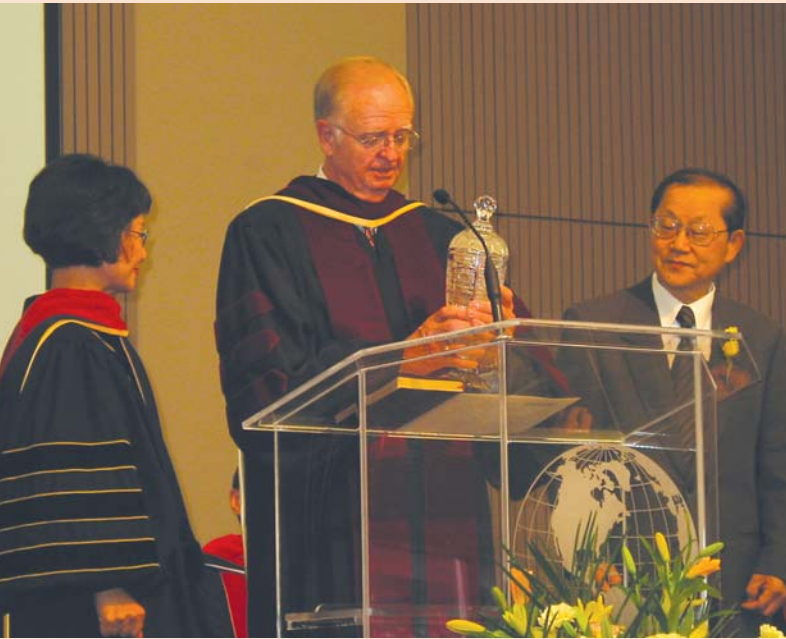


13. **Bill Wagner's New Book
*How Islam Plans to Change the world***



14. **Henry Blackaby Encourages
Students to be Watchmen**

Golden Gate receives Endowment for Chair of Intercultural Education



Chancellor William Crews presents a gift to Drs. David and Faith Kim in appreciation of their endowment of the chair of intercultural education.

Golden Gate Seminary has established an endowment for the chair of intercultural education through funding from David and Faith Kim, long-time supporters of Golden Gate. The \$1.5 million endowment will provide perpetual funding of a faculty member to teach in The David and Faith Kim School of Intercultural Studies.


“I count it one of my highest honors of my 18 years at the Seminary to be here today,” said Dr. Bill Crews, the Seminary’s chancellor, to those at the installation ceremony. “God has blessed the Kims with the rare combination of the dream of intercultural education and the resources to fulfill their dream. Because of their faithfulness God has been able to do what we never would have been able to do.”

The chair’s responsibilities include program planning and project assistance for the intercultural mission of Golden Gate, serving as a resident resource for student leadership development and serving as a representative for the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. All of these responsibilities are designed to ensure that an intercultural mindset is permeating all the classes at the Seminary.

At ceremonies held November 11, Dr. Faith Kim was installed as the first faculty member in the newly-created chair.

“We believe learning to relate cross culturally is imperative to fulfilling the Great Commission,” said president Jeff Iorg. “This endowed faculty position will help train people to go all over the world and give them the tools to take the Gospel into every culture.”

Speaking of how she hopes to influence the Seminary’s intercultural impact both with the gift and through her influence as a faculty member, Dr. Faith Kim stated, “The Gospel must be relevant in a given situation and in cultural variables, translating the unchanging timeless content of the Gospel into timely, meaningful ways to people in their own culture and within their particular existential specifics.

“For the purpose of sharing the Gospel, I want to encourage an intentional approach to life-long learning that will help us assess our strengths, weaknesses and biases in order to facilitate informed interaction across cultural boundaries. Without learning, we give answers without knowing the questions.” 

lorg Charges Golden Gate Graduates to be a Part of Impacting Ministry



Golden Gate Seminary faculty pray over the graduates at the winter commencement. Photos by Harry Weaver.

Golden Gate Seminary faculty, staff, friends and family members gathered at the historic First Baptist Church, San Francisco on December 17 to celebrate winter term graduation. Seminary President Jeff lorg challenged the 77 graduates to be a part of ministry that leaves a lasting impact.


Presiding over his first graduation ceremony, lorg told the graduates, "I hope you leave Golden Gate with a simple, but profound, commitment to preach, teach and tell every single person you can that God loves them, sin separates them from a loving God, Jesus Christ died that their sin might be forgiven, and if they will turn to God through Christ, they can have eternal life forever.

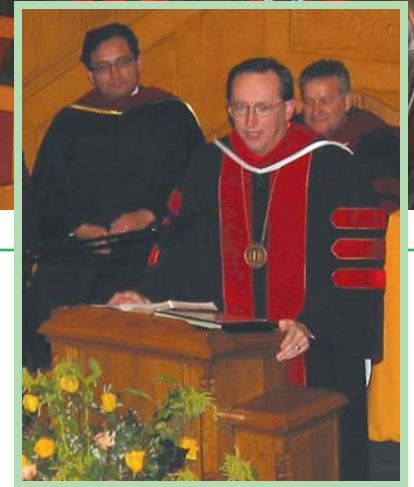
"There is no more profound message that you will share than the gospel... over and over and over again," lorg challenged the graduates.

Citing 1 Thessalonians 2, lorg observed, "In most of American Christianity, it cost nothing to follow Jesus Christ. In the midst of such blessing, let me remind you that our responsibility is still to find a way to sacrifice ourselves for the kingdom of God. It is not about what we will get out of service or for service. It is about what we can give up to extend and to expand the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

"My challenge to you is to speak the gospel and sacrifice yourself in every way God asks you to, so the gospel may be spoken and preached more effectively and His kingdom may be expanded. When that has been accomplished, your ministry will have been successful and the impact of your life will outlast your lifetime," said lorg.

J. T. Reed, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks, California, was presented with the president's award for outstanding leadership at the ceremony. Reed has graduated from Golden Gate two previous times receiving a masters of divinity ('85) and doctor of ministry ('89) and was awarded his third degree, a master of theology, at the winter ceremony.

Within the graduating class of 77 students, 14 states were represented as well as nine countries. The degrees presented include: diploma in Christian ministries-CLD, diploma in theology-CLD, master of music in church music, master of arts in Christian education, master of arts in theological studies, master of divinity, master of divinity with a concentration in Biblical studies, master of theology, and doctor of ministry. 





Pablo Zorzoli speaking to children in the South African country of Botswana.

Golden Gate Students Minister in Southern Africa

Last summer, Golden Gate Seminary students Pablo Zorzoli and Maela Sanders traveled to the Southern African countries of Botswana and Zimbabwe to visit and serve a culture plagued with AIDS. They went to Africa with a program through Golden Gate called BeyondTeams. BeyondTeams exists to give Seminary students, staff, and faculty the opportunity to expand their global vision and gain practical, hands-on ministry while experience serving in a multicultural setting.

“This trip was one of the greatest joys of my life,” said Maela Sanders. Pablo added, “It was the most captive audience I’ve ever had.”

For four weeks, Maela and Pablo were both able to draw

on personal professional experience as they used their current pastoral education to make an eternal impact in the lives of the people they met, children they taught, and examples they set out of love. Maela said, “If Jesus were here, I believe He would do this. He was found with the rejected, diseased, and helpless. It’s what He did and what He would do.”

While in Africa, Pablo taught groups of middle school aged students the program, True Love Waits, a campaign that encourages a decision for sexual abstinence. Teaching African public school students about purity was a place where he said, “God was really powerful.” The students were responsive to these new concepts, in particular, committing to purity. He said that a highlight

of the trip was seeing his experiences as a public high school teacher unite with his youth pastor skills. He was able to relate to the students in a public school setting and teach about Jesus at the same time.

Pablo said that teenagers in America struggle with drugs, alcohol, and materialism, but he learned that in Southern Africa, sex is becoming a national addiction and the children are its victims. Pablo reported feeling a sense of urgency as he shared about Christ's love. "AIDS is destroying their families and everyone they know."

Mothers pass on AIDS to their unborn children, so as a result, there is a whole generation growing up sick. As the number of AIDS cases reported continues to rise, more and more children are orphaned.

Maela Sanders is not only a Golden Gate student, but also a registered nurse. So one of the ways Maela used her skills while in Zimbabwe was to volunteer at a hospital ward for abandoned babies. The hospital cares for 25-30 babies with an average of six to eight workers. Their job is to keep the babies fed, clean, and give them as much attention as possible. "Being with those babies was ministering the gospel to 'the least of these,' " she said.

Maela also spent time at a home for adult AIDS patients. Some were there because they were too sick to be at home, but had already been released from the hospital. Others knew death was imminent and had no home in which to return.

While in Southern Africa, Pablo and Maela visited a local church. Pablo found an added opportunity to give to the congregation. The small church owned a keyboard, but none of the members knew how to read or play music. In his spare time, Pablo taught eight people piano lessons five times a week. Now they are able to have keyboard players during their worship services. The church had been thriving in its simplicity, but now has the added gift of music for worship services.

In a culture where death is a part of everyday existence, a relationship with Christ lends hope in life. Maela and Pablo were able and willing to give sacrificially and make a difference in South Africa. "I went to use my skills," said Maela, "but those children and people taught me more in that short time than I could have ever taught them."

For more information about Golden Gate's BeyondTeams program, contact Stacey Harris at staceyharris@ggbts.edu.



**"If Jesus were here,
I believe He would do this.
He was found with the
rejected, diseased, and
helpless. It's what He
did and what He would do."**



Ministering to Ivy League Students



In an attempt to reach the students at Harvard University, Amy Taylor is immersing herself in the Ivy League tradition as a Baptist student minister and as a single's minister at Hope Fellowship Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Amy has been in Cambridge for a year and half building relationships with students, planning outreach events, leading Bible studies and mentoring new believers. Her job description is long, with a variety of duties, but the main focus of her ministry is one-on-one relationships with women.

“God has blessed me with opportunity after opportunity to invest in women who don’t know Christ. I’ve seen God working in their lives and drawing them to Himself,” said Amy.

“We have seen students come from the place of having no interest in hearing about the name of Christ, to giving their lives to Him and becoming a part of His body here. We are truly in awe,” said Amy.

Hope Fellowship Church, where Amy serves as a singles minister, is a local church plant that is celebrating its one-year anniversary. In its first year, the church membership has grown from 15 to over 100, with eighty percent of the worshippers coming to the church from some type of servant evangelism. Most of them do not have a church home and many are lost.

“This year, we are seeing our small group of students/singles from Hope Fellowship commit themselves to ministering together as the body of Christ on Harvard’s campus, as well as other campuses in the area. It is our prayer that as we live out the body of Christ in this place He will continue to draw students to Himself,” said Amy.


Amy’s journey to student and singles ministry in Cambridge started when she graduated from college in 1995. After graduation, she felt God calling her to be a Journeyman missionary with the International Mission Board.

Amy’s Journeyman assignment was in Prince Edward Island, Canada, ministering to students at the University of Prince Edward Island.

“I found I had such a passion for meeting students who are far from Christ, praying for their salvation, investing in them, and seeing them come to faith in Christ. In this, I found something I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” said Amy.

When Amy completed her two-year assignment on Prince Edward Island, she entered the Intercultural Ministries degree at Golden Gate. Her studies stretched and trained her in the areas of leadership, theological study and broadened her worldviews and ideas about ministry.

During her time at Golden Gate, Amy kept in touch with John Ramirez, the New England State Director of Student Work. As she completed Seminary, Ramirez asked Amy to come to Boston to talk about serving there. To her surprise, he took her straight to the Harvard campus. She had visited the campus before when on mission with her Prince Edward Island students and had thought it would be an incredible place to serve. Now, to her delight, she was being offered a position as Baptist Campus Minister at Harvard.

“My prayer is that I can be used in the lives of people who need Christ, even one person at a time. I am committed to furthering God’s purposes here in Boston until He wills me to go,” said Amy. 

For a soldier at war, putting on the full armor of God has a practical application. As United States troops are stationed in the Middle East defending freedom, it is their chaplains that are being used by God to defend their souls. Golden Gate Seminary graduate Captain Greg Cheney, a battalion chaplain for the army, is one of those serving in Iraq.

“They come to me asking for guidance on everything from interpersonal relationship issues to questions about life and death because I have literally ‘walked a mile in their shoes,’ or better yet, their boots,” said Cheney. “It opens all kinds of doors for evangelism, informal counseling sessions, and opportunities to spread the love of Jesus Christ in the middle of a war.”



While in Iraq, Cheney and other chaplains will perform hundreds of services similar to this one, knowing that as the convoys move out, some soldiers will not return. Each encounter with a soldier may be the last opportunity they have to hear how to accept Christ.

Cheney is also working with soldiers that are already Christians, helping them understand God in the face of death. Cheney recently preached from 2 Samuel 22 where David talks about God’s protection during battle.

“After some discussion, we ended by offering the challenge of giving your heart and life to Christ and one soldier prayed to receive Christ as his savior,” reported Cheney.

Motivated by a sense of duty to his country, a calling to see people come to faith in Christ, and recognition of his gifts,



Cheney performs service for soldiers about to travel from Kuwait to Iraq on some of the most dangerous roads in Iraq. Cheney said he felt “really feel blessed to be able to provide spiritual guidance to these soldiers.”

Army Chaplain *“Nurtures the Living, Cares for the Dying, Honors the Dead”*

Living by the Chaplain Corps motto, “Nurture the Living, Care for the Dying, Honor the Dead,” Cheney’s days not only include military procedures but also seeing to the spiritual welfare of his fellow soldiers.

“My goal is to always be where my soldiers are. When they are doing physical training before dawn, I’m there...now that we are deployed, I go where they go.”

Cheney recently preached to a group of 15 on the eve of their departure through Iraq. “With the convoy preparing to travel some of the most dangerous roads in Iraq, I had their undivided attention,” said Cheney.

Cheney used the service to urge those present to “put on the full armor of God” as instructed in Ephesians 6. Emphasizing the “helmet of salvation,” Cheney wanted each soldier to know how to make Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior before they began their mission.

Cheney’s variety of training has uniquely prepared him for the battlefield. His theological training came from Golden Gate Seminary, graduating in December 2003 with a master of divinity, and serving as a full-time pastor for four years. His commissioning is a result of the application and interview process with both the North American Mission Board and the Army. His military conditioning include the U.S. Army Chaplain Officer Basic Course, Airborne School and Jumpmaster School.

As with most military appointments, the length of Cheney’s overseas service is uncertain, but he expects to serve in Iraq for at least 13 more months.

“The hardest thing about being in Iraq is not a culture shock, but being away from my awesome family,” said Cheney.

Cheney’s wife, Judy, and three children, Luke, four; Daniel, two; and Allyson, six-months, eagerly await his return home. [9](#)

Jeff Iorg is Inaugurated as Golden Gate's Seventh President

Dr. Jeff P. Iorg accepted the charge as Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's seventh president on October 11. Casting his vision for the future of Golden Gate, Iorg shared his passions of fulfilling the Great Commission through the strengthening of churches.

"God did not call me because of my Christian heritage, my denominational loyalty, my political connections, my academic credentials, or my leadership abilities...God called me because of the person I am, with the passions that drive me in this position," Iorg told those gathered at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate.

Iorg's passion to fulfill the Great Commission stems from his personal relationship with Christ. "It is not enough for me to be only an administrator of or advocate for the Great Commission. My passion mandates personal involvement."

The Iorg family experienced this firsthand when moving to the west, getting involved in public schools, community sports, and any other venue where they could actively live out their faith. Which included starting one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in the Northwest, Greater Gresham Baptist Church in Gresham, Oregon.

Iorg said that he does not understand Christians whose primary relationship to the culture is to condemn it and shun it.

"Passion for non-Christians demands we plunge in among them. If your anemic, undisciplined faith can't handle the pressure, that is your problem – not the problem of the world we are living in. Grow up! The culture is not our problem – failure to boldly live and declare the gospel is our problem."

Iorg told the audience that this passion for the Great Commission will be expressed at Golden Gate through a mission-focus. As a result, the curricular and co-curricular

programs will demonstrate a renewed emphasis on missions, evangelism, church starting and church building.

The multi-cultural aspect of Golden Gate's programs will continue as students are prepared to live and work cross-culturally. Students will be challenged to go to every part of the world, wherever God calls, and to make whatever sacrifice necessary to expand His kingdom.

The fulfilling of the Great Commission begins with sound theology rooted in an unapologetic, uncompromising commitment to the Bible as the Word of God and an affirmation of the historical core doctrines of the Christian faith.

"We will stand for the absolute truth, despite the cultural opposition to that idea."

Iorg also shared his passion for the church. "While Jesus 'saved my soul' in a real sense, the church saved my life.

"And yet some are giving up on the church. Why? Two reasons seem

prominent. First, the church in our culture has become more of an institution than a movement. Very few young leaders today want to give their lives preserving yesterday's institutions. Second, church is often lifeless, routine, and monotonous."

Iorg went on to discuss how sad this realization is for a body that was designed to be a vibrant, spiritual, supernatural community.

This passion for church will shape Golden Gate's future as students are encouraged to answer the call to the pastoral ministry, develop churchmanship and cultivate church leadership. "We are committed to supporting church starting and



Jeff Iorg speaks to those gathered at the Inaugural Ceremony held October 11 at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate. Photos by Duke Wright



Trustees of Golden Gate come together during the Inaugural Ceremony for a time of prayer for Jeff Iorg. Photos by Duke Wright



Gary Black, Chair of Golden Gate's trustee board, places the Seminary medallion on Jeff Iorg.
 Photos by Duke Wright



The Iorg family, from left, Jeff Iorg, Casey, Melody, Caleb, and Ann. Photos by Duke Wright



church building strategies of our western partners in every way possible," Iorg told those present.

Roy J. Fish, Distinguished Professor of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and mentor to Iorg during his time at Seminary, gave the summons to the task to Iorg.

The focus of Fish's message was the head, hand, and heart of the seminary students. First, the head—student's worldviews will be shaped by their Golden Gate education. He also challenged Iorg to ensure that students learn how to reach the lost using the latest technology. Second, the hand—referring to field training for students that imparts not only knowledge, but also a skill. Third, the heart—the shaping of students hearts not by what they learn in the classroom, but by watching the lives of their professors.

"Students come in with a full heart and a head to be filled, but if they leave with a full head and an empty heart, they've been done an injustice," said Fish.

Several members of the academic and religious communities were present on this historic day to offer representative greetings.

Morris H. Chapman, President and Chief Officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention offered greetings from 16.3 million Southern Baptists in over 42 million churches.

R. Phillip Roberts, President of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, brought greetings on behalf he council of seminary presidents and Golden Gate's five sister seminaries. He also offered a pledge of prayers of God's every blessing during his tenure as president.


"We join our hands with you, today, in renewal of our sacred covenant with our Southern Baptist churches in believing, living and teaching the truth which makes all men free to embrace its facts and realities," said Roberts.

Ronald L. Ellis, President of California Baptist University, spoke on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention College and Universities throughout the United States.

"Significantly we share a commitment to the Great Commission. We are committed to cooperation. As we go about our work together, it's my privilege to serve with you and look forward to our joint efforts in love, in Christ and in working arm-in-arm, hand-to-hand, and heart-to-heart as we seek to be a witness of Jesus Christ here in California, in the Pacific Rim and literally to the uttermost parts of the earth," said Ellis.

"I'm glad to be a part of the Foundation in California and the west that can assist Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in their ministry of preparing pastors and leaders for the churches of today and the future and training missionaries that will seek to reach the lost throughout the world," said K. Milton Higgins, President of the California Baptist Foundation.

Fermin A. Whittaker, Executive Director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, gave the charge from the churches. With millions of un-churched people looking for a place where they can connect to God, the church is a crucial element to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

"Churches are in need for visionary and dedicated leaders to move us forward. There are days when the harvest is ready, but the labors are few. As you prepare leaders for all us, may God guide you along the way," said Whittaker. 



Golden Gate Archeological Field Work Resumes Despite Tensions in the Middle East

'Umayri archaeologists uncovered a standing stone from the days of Moses. These standing stones were used in the ancient world to remind people of their gods or God. For example, Jacob erected a standing stone and then poured an offering over it as a way of memorializing his encounter with God at Beth-el (Gen. 28:18-22) and Moses erected 12 standing stones during the ratification ceremony for the covenant (Ex. 24:4)

Despite continuing Middle East strife, Golden Gate Seminary is moving toward reestablishing a long-term archaeological presence in the Biblical Lands. Dr. Gary Arbino, Associate Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament Interpretation, has been working to bring archaeological field opportunities to Golden Gate students.


Arbino, who is also the Curator of the Seminary's Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection, returned to the field this past summer after a four-year hiatus to dig in Jordan at the Tall al-'Umayri site. At the same time, he has been working to lead Golden Gate in becoming a consortium member of a dig at the important site of Tel Gezer in Israel.

Tall al-'Umayri, located just southwest of Amman, has been important in understanding the Ammonites mentioned throughout the Old Testament, as well as for their neighbors, the Israelites. Tall al-'Umayri was possibly the village known in ancient times as Abel Keramim, mentioned in Judges 11:33. It has been excavated for ten seasons since 1984 and has evidence of occupation stretching from the Early Bronze Age (ca 3000 BC) through the Roman Period.

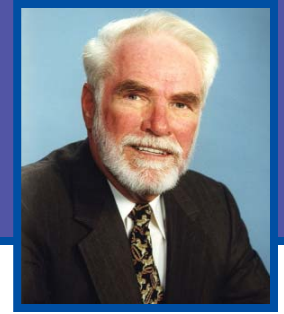
The dig has produced a house that has been dated to the time of the Judges. This house is especially important because it was destroyed before its inhabitants could escape, giving archaeologists and biblical scholars a rare snapshot into daily life in the days of the Judges.

Affiliation with Tel Gezer in Israel is another significant step in revitalizing the archaeology opportunities at Golden Gate. Gezer is mentioned as playing an important role in the Israelite United Monarchy (1 Kings 9:16-17) and is also mentioned in several other historical sources. The research goals will focus on the 10th century BC, the time of David and Solomon.

With excavations at Tel Gezer scheduled to begin in the summer of 2005, Golden Gate and the Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection are getting in on the ground level. In order to join the consortium and receive the benefits from such an association, Golden Gate will participate in the financial support of the dig. Students will be able to participate in archeological activities, including study tours and a field school for students to obtain both academic and practical education for archaeological investigation, giving students a true immersion experience.

Arbino sees this as a welcome opportunity for Golden Gate. "We will once again have an ongoing presence in the field, something we had in the 70s and early 80s at Tel el Hesi, with Dr. j. kenneth eakins, and in the 90s at Tel Migne-Ekron," stated Arbino. "The international cross-cultural learning experience will be invaluable as students seek to minister in our modern world." The connections made in Jordan and Israel will have long-lasting benefits for Golden Gate. 

Professor sets forth *How Islam Plans to Change the World*



By Lauri Arnold – Baptist Press

In the weeks and months that followed September 11, 2001, churches across America reported a high increase in the number of attendees - and so did mosques across America.

“9/11 was a wakeup call. Suddenly people began to say, ‘What is Islam?’ and it was quite amazing after 9/11 that Muslims began saying, ‘Come to the mosque and find out what Islam is,’ ” said William Wagner, professor of missions at Golden Gate Seminary and author of *How Islam Plans to Change the World*, a new book from Kregel Publications.

Wagner writes in his book that Islam has grown in America as a result of a detailed strategy that was already in place long before radical Islamists associated with Osama Bin Laden perpetrated the tragedies of September 11.

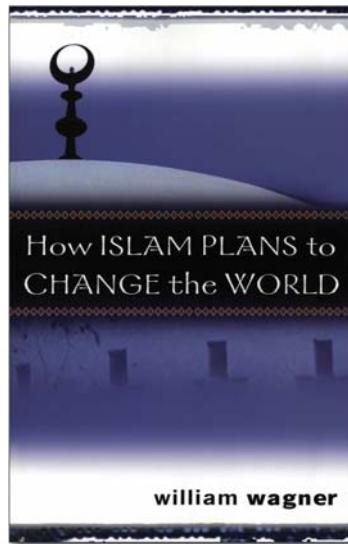
“Islam is a world religion with a well-defined culture and a developed strategy for taking control of the world,” Wagner writes in the preface of the book.

One example Wagner noted was that those who went to the mosques following September 11 were told that Islam “is a religion of peace, love and forgiveness and that there were few real terrorists in their faith,” as Wagner put it. “They did such a convincing job that some converted and others became vocal supporters of tolerance for Islam in their communities.”

Four years ago, Wagner set out to research six groups and their missiological strategies for growth: the Assemblies of God denomination, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Muslims and the Southern Baptist Convention. Further into his research, he discovered that only three of the six had an overall mega-strategy of growth - homosexuals, Mormons and Muslims. Even further into his research, Wagner became more impressed with the strategy that had long been expressed and set in motion by Islamic leaders.

Two of Wagner’s students at Golden Gate, both native Arabic speakers, were able to read well-accepted Arabic newspapers and magazines from the Middle East and then relate to Wagner what was being written. This coincided with Wagner’s own research and direct discussions with Islamic leaders.

“So much of my book is not saying, ‘This is what I as a Christian say they are doing or they are going to do,’ ” Wagner said. “It’s a book saying ‘it’s what they say they’re going to do and what they are doing.’”




Wagner identifies three specific tools that are utilized today in order to keep the overall Islamic strategy in place and ultimately advance the spread of the faith: jihad (holy war), da’wah (missions) and the building of mosques. Wagner said now he also identifies immigration as a fourth tool that is used, though it is not included in the book.

Wagner noted that it may seem strange to some people that the Muslim faith is growing, both in America and beyond in light of the faith’s link with September 11, but he said the faith is growing “because they know what they are doing.

“I think that we need to be aware that they really are a threat to us and that if we don’t wake up, one of these days it is going to be too late.”

How Islam Plans to Change the World is written from a missiological perspective rather than a theological one, Wagner noted, and it serves as a warning for the Christian church of the “clash of civilizations” that is already taking place between Islam and the West.

Wagner spent 32 years as a missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board in Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa, including 12 years as a chairman of the Muslim Awareness Committee of the European Baptist Federation. 



Alumni Henry Blackaby speaks in chapel

Golden Gate Seminary hosted Alumni Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, during chapel on October 28. In his address to the student body, faculty, staff and guests Blackaby preached from Ezekiel 7, delivering the challenge to be watchmen on the walls of our nation.

Believing that today's ministers are the "11th hour watchmen," Blackaby stressed the reality of standing on the edge of eternity.

"Wherever God places us, we are next to someone that someone has been praying for," said Blackaby, referring to the how God uses people to minister to others and at times to answer prayers for ministry.

Often times ministers experience "pastor disorientation" where they forget that their job is about relationships and not to be administrators of a ministry. Blackaby told those in the audience that these relationships reflect the condition of the heart and are seen in the way we live and are heard in our conversations.

The call of God is not to a job or position, but to a relationship with Him. To truly be a servant, there must be an unconditional release to answer, "yes" to anything God assigns.

"It is a leader's responsibility to know the spiritual condition of each follower," said Blackaby. After having a transforming encounter with God, ministers must then turn and warn the people.

Blackaby also challenged those present to never deliver a message that was not from the word from God. As the speaker stands before the congregation, it should be obvious that he or she is not the same as they were the last time they spoke. They must have been changed by a transforming encounter with God.

Blackaby is a two-time graduate of Golden Gate. Upon reflection Blackaby said, "Golden Gate has deeply effected

my spiritual life. The professors were deeply concerned and helped me in my walk with God. They profoundly affected my thinking. I have always been proud to be an alumni from Golden Gate Seminary."

After graduating with a Th.M., Blackaby served as music director, education director, and pastor of churches in California and Canada. He also held the office of president of Canadian Baptist Theological College for seven years and president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference.

Blackaby also spent time on the staff of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and worked as special assistant to presidents of the International Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources.

One of his most notable accomplishments is the publishing and selling of four million copies of *Experiencing God* in over 45 languages. In addition, both his *Experiencing God Together* and *Experiencing God Day By Day Devotional* won the Gold Medallion Award.

Officially retired, Blackaby still travels speaking and teaching. During his ministry, he has provided leadership for thousands of pastors and laymen across America and to people in over 90 countries. 🇺🇸



Henry Blackaby speaks with Golden Gate student, Pete Cuison, after the Oct 28 chapel service.

Obituary



Trustee John Funk, 63, passed away Saturday November 6, 2004 at St. Johns Hospital in Santa Monica.

Serving Golden Gate for over a decade, Funk was a trusted friend and avid supporter of the Seminary, serving as chair of the board from 1999-2001 and as a member of the board since 1991.

Funk was a healthcare consultant and in his career held several executive offices for healthcare firms, including the position of corporate CEO for eight years. Active in his church, he was chairman of deacons and the finance committee and taught adult Sunday School.

Funk is survived by his wife, Barbara, and four children.



Mrs. Shirley Harrop, widow of Clayton Harrop, former vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, died peacefully on October 3, 2004. Mrs. Harrop, 81, was a lifelong supporter and friend of the Seminary's faculty, staff and students.

With an enthusiasm for life, she was active as Associational WMU Leader, in the community volunteering as a precinct judge, working as an usher for the County facilities and in the Senior Information Fair, the Human Race, and many other educational events.

In honor of Mrs. Harrop, family members have asked that contributions be made to the Shirley Harrop Scholarship/Foreign Missions Fund, made payable to Golden Gate Seminary.



Dr. Gary Pearson, a faculty member at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died from cancer on June 29 at the age of 62 in Missouri.

Pearson served as director of theological field education and professor of ministry at the Seminary for 13 years. He also served the Golden Hills Baptist Association as director of missions and served as a church conflict mediator.

Pearson is survived by his wife, Jean, and two sons, David and Danny.



J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Seminary, died in Nashville on December 29 at the age of 87. He served as a member of the faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 1983.

Skelton was a pioneer in bringing new church growth philosophies to the Seminary. Leading the faculty to emphasize growing churches through a healthy Sunday School program, Skelton was the first to teach classes on church growth at the Seminary.

Roger is survived by his two children, Martha and Fredrick, and was preceded in death by his wife, Bessie. Funeral services were held Monday, January 3 at First Baptist Church, Nashville.



Dr. Craig Skinner, former professor of preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, passed away August 10 after an extended battle with cancer. Skinner taught preaching at Golden Gate's Northern California campus from 1982-1994.

Dr. Skinner was well known for his specialization in the ministry and preaching of the famous British Baptist pulpiteer, C.H. Spurgeon, and for his biography of Spurgeon's son, Thomas Spurgeon.

He and his wife, Betty, retired to Atlanta in 1994 to be near children and to facilitate a continued itinerant ministry of preaching and lecturing.

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