

SPRING 2007

gateway

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Answering the Call

...to seminary

...to Sudan

...to the hills of Israel

...to be on mission at all times and in all places



Jeff P. Iorg, President

Answering the Call

*I*t's been a good academic year for Golden Gate Seminary. Enrollment is healthy, our Contextualized Leadership Development program is growing rapidly, outstanding new faculty have joined us, we are launching our Ph.D program, and giving to our five-year *Partners for the Future* campaign is on track.

Most importantly, our students are learning and growing as effective Christian leaders. At our winter commencement, we conferred degrees on 60 men and women – including one 80-year-old doctoral candidate you can read about in this issue of *Gateway*. These are men and women who are passionate about – and now better prepared for – accelerating the fulfillment of the Great Commission throughout the West and the world. They are eager to tell others about Jesus. Thanks to the prayers and support of Southern Baptists, we are expecting great reports back from them as they go to the nations of the world with the Good News.

In this issue, you will read about the ministries of our alumni taking the Gospel from Sudan, to Houston, Texas. You will also read of cross-cultural and missions conferences at the northern California campus, events which prepare our students and college students from around the West to be on mission wherever they are.

Men and women across the country are **answering the call** to train with us so they can take the Gospel to the nations of the world. As they prepare with us, pray for them, support us as we train them, and stand with them as they learn and go. And remember, personally, to do your part where you are in accelerating the fulfillment of the Great Commission! **G**

Spring 2007

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Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
is a Cooperative Program Ministry of the
Southern Baptist Convention, operating five
campuses in Northern California, Southern
California, Pacific Northwest, Arizona and
Rocky Mountain.

On the cover:



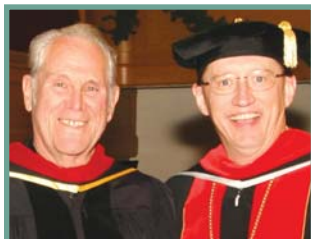
Shauna Swann,
GGBTS graduate,
and her husband
Peter served in
southern Sudan
with the Jur people.
They are two of
many graduates
who have answered
the call to overseas
missions.

I inside



Answering the call...

12 ...from Sudan
to Houston, Texas



14 ...to seminary training
at any age

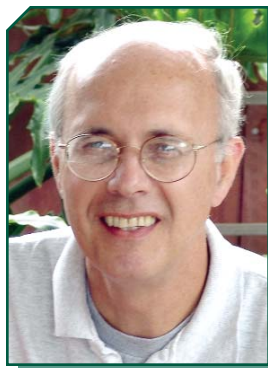


16 ...to share Jesus
“before night comes”

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Old Testament scholar **Dr. John Sailhamer** elected to faculty of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary




Renowned Old Testament scholar Dr. John Sailhamer has been elected to the full-time permanent faculty of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and began in January.

Sailhamer is teaching primarily at the Southern California campus of the seminary, located in Brea, Calif.

The southern California native holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Near East languages and literature from the University of California-Los Angeles; a master of arts in Semitic languages from UCLA; a Th.M. in Old Testament studies from Dallas Theological Seminary; and a B.A. in journalism from California State University-Long Beach. He has taught higher education since 1975, lastly at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"In coming to teach on the West Coast, I had anticipated new contexts and setting for practicing the ages-old calling of teaching the Bible," says Sailhamer, who initially taught for three years in southern California. "Having taught here now for most of a semester, I can genuinely say my expectations have been more than realized. I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of students for both a biblically-based ministry and a ministry-based theology. I am amazed at how much already I have been challenged by and have learned from my students."

Sailhamer has authored more than a dozen books, and is currently working on four others.

"Golden Gate believes that passionate ministry and cutting-edge evangelical scholarship go hand in hand," says Dr. Michael Martin, academic dean of Golden Gate. "The election of John Sailhamer to our faculty is a clear expression of our commitment to this." 

Marshall Shelley to teach in Golden Gate Seminary's Southwest Doctor of Ministry track

by Amanda Phifer & Jim Wilson



Marshall Shelley, vice president of Christianity Today International, will teach "the theory and practice of ministry and leadership" at the Southwest track of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's


Doctor of Ministry program.

Shelley is also editor of *Leadership Journal* and author of several books, including *The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham*.

Shelley will co-teach with Dr. Jim Wilson, associate director of the doctor of ministry program, at the seminar.

"I know few men who can match the ministry and leadership insights of Marshall Shelley," Wilson says. "In addition to being a premier thinker, he is a kind, gentle and sincere man. I'm excited about what he will bring to the Southwest track."

Golden Gate's 2007 Southwest doctor of ministry track, or cohort, will meet at the Phoenix, Arizona campus of GGBTS beginning Oct. 30, 2007. The deadline for application to this track is Apr. 15; cohort size is limited to 15 candidates.

For more information call (888) 442-8703 or go to www.ggbts.edu, or send an email to dmin@ggbts.edu. 

Worship and music professor **Dr. Gary McCoy** recipient of excellence award from church musicians



Mary Nell and Gary McCoy at the 2006 Fellowship of Church Musicians' Conference, Bakersfield, Calif.

Golden Gate Seminary professor of Worship and Music, Dr. Gary McCoy, recently received the Joseph Daniel Excellence Award from his fellow California Southern Baptist church musicians.

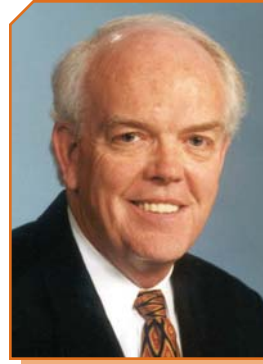
McCoy was selected for one of two prestigious annual awards out of almost 600 music ministers affiliated with the California Southern Baptist Convention. The award was presented at the 2006 Fellowship of Church Musicians Conference, held Nov. 13-14 at Daybreak Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif.

McCoy has been on the faculty at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary since 1991. Prior to coming to Golden Gate, McCoy served in Korea as a music missionary with the International Mission Board for 17 years. He is currently a member of Petaluma Valley Baptist Church. He is founding director of the East Bay Benevolence Choir, a Korean choral organization that raises funds for hunger relief projects.

"I am honored, surprised, and very appreciative of this award," said McCoy, "and eternally grateful to my wife, Mary Nell. Whenever the word 'excellence' is associated with my name it is a reflection of her."

McCoy earned a doctor in music arts from Southern Baptist Seminary, and a masters in church music from Southwestern Baptist Seminary. He is originally from Missouri. He and his wife, Mary Nell, have three children. **9**

Golden Gate Seminary to offer **Ph.D. program** beginning in fall



Dr. Rick Melick.

Another consuming statistic from the most populous West Coast state: just under 2.4 million students attend a California college or university, twice as many as the second-ranked state, Texas.

Starting this fall, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will contribute further to that statistic through its doctor of philosophy program.

The Ph.D. program at the Southern Baptist Convention's sole Western seminary will offer degrees in Old Testament and New Testament studies, with minors in theology and church history. It is approved by two independent accreditation agencies – the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Association of Theological Schools.

"I believe Golden Gate's Ph.D. program will offer a niche, and that is chiefly the unique atmosphere of the West," says Dr. Rick Melick, professor of New Testament studies and director of the graduate studies program at GGBTS. "And our program will be small and therefore especially interpersonal, relational, and with the mentoring nature of a Ph.D. program taken very seriously."

"I look forward to the day these graduates are leading churches and teaching in seminaries and universities around the world," says Dr. Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Seminary.

"I believe this program will help us fulfill our mission to train leaders for the churches of the West," says Melick. "While a Ph.D. is primarily for those who want to teach, it also helps pastors be better prepared, especially in the demanding intellectual and spiritual climate of the West." **9**



1. left to right: Dr. Steven Ortiz of Southwestern Seminary, Dr. Steven Andrews of Midwestern Seminary, Dr. Sam Wolff of the IAA, and Dr. Gary Arbino of GGBTS. 2. An aerial photo of the "Solomonic Gate" at Tel-Gezer. 3. A student from Lancaster Bible College digs at Tel-Gezer.

Marian Eakins Museum and Golden Gate participate in archaeological excavation in Israel

For five weeks during the summer of 2006 volunteers from across the U.S. unearthed portions of a wall thought by most scholars to have been first built by the work crews of King Solomon – almost 3,000 years ago.

The Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary are playing an important role in these archaeological excavations. The museum is one of several consortium members for the renewed excavations at the site of Tel Gezer, a dig sponsored jointly by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA).

Dr. Gary Arbino, the museum's curator and associate professor of archaeology and Old Testament interpretation at GGBTS, serves as field archaeologist for the project. The site of Tel Gezer, located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, has long been important for understanding the history of the biblical land and the history of archaeological excavations in Israel.

The Marian Eakins Museum, housed at Golden Gate Seminary's Northern California campus, pays \$8,000/year for membership in the consortium. Membership grants Golden Gate Seminary association with one of the major current excavations in Israel, and allows students to participate in the dig at a reduced rate.

Gezer is an educational dig, meaning students are privy to

hands-on learning in the field, lectures by a diverse faculty that includes top archaeologists and researchers, the opportunity to attend high quality weekend field trips throughout Israel – and, of course, academic credit.

During the inaugural 2006 season, workers unearthed at least three different building phases of the wall system and two possible destruction layers prior to the initial building of the wall. These two destructions are tentatively dated to the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs Merneptah and Siamun. Merneptah is most noted for a victory inscription from about 1200 BC which gives the first extra-biblical mention of the people called "Israel," while Siamun is generally thought to be the pharaoh who conquered Gezer to give it to his daughter as a dowry when she married Solomon, as noted in 1 Kings 9.

Recently, the Gezer dig was featured on the cover of a major magazine devoted to biblical archaeology, *Biblical Archaeology Review*. The cover photo, taken by Arbino, is of a Baptist collegiate volunteer unearthing fragments of a chalice.

This summer's dig season, from June 18 – July 20, will concentrate on the Iron Age remains along the southeastern slope of Tel-Gezer's western hill. For information regarding participation in the dig itself, or to assist with the consortium fees, contact Dr. Arbino at (415) 380-1517 or garyarbino@ggbts.edu. For more information about the Tel-Gezer dig, visit www.gezerproject.org. **9**

Partners for the future

A Campaign for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary



Upcoming Events

Below are currently scheduled *Partners for the Future* campaign events. Please RSVP to Sharon Daugherty at (415) 380-1478, (888) 442-8709, or sharondaugherty@ggbts.edu.

Upcoming events will also be updated on our website, www.ggbts.edu. Visit the "Alumni: Upcoming events" page for more information.

Reno

April 12, 2007; 6:30 pm

South Reno Baptist Church
6780 S. McCarran Blvd.
Reno, NV 89509

San Diego

April 20, 2007; 6:30 pm

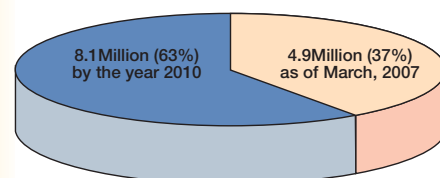
Shadow Mountain Community Church
2100 Greenfield Drive
El Cajon CA 92019

Oklahoma City

May 15, 2007; 6:30 pm


Sheraton Oklahoma City
Red Carpet Room
One North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**More than 37%
of \$13 million
goal raised
through second
year of campaign**



Almost through its second year, the seminary's *Partners for the Future* campaign is on track to meet its **\$13 million goal, with \$4.9 million raised as of the end of March**. Through collective support of friends, alumni, faculty and staff, the campaign is gaining momentum that will help propel the seminary to its goal of \$13 million by the year 2010.

Launched in 2005, the campaign is an effort to raise funds for both immediate use and long-term endowed support.

"I am continually amazed at the provision God gives for his work," says president Jeff Iorg. "We are excited about the momentum seen to this point and are excited to see what God has in store in the coming months." 



Members of the Korean Student Fellowship at GGBTS shared traditional Korean music during an Intersect chapel service.

Just as the Christian faith intersects the language, location, and cultures of people wherever they are, Christians are called to intersect with people – wherever and whoever they are – in the same manner of Jesus.

“Intersect 2006,” an annual cross-cultural awareness event held recently at the seminary, brought these issues to the table for discussion and exploration for dozens of students, faculty and staff.

The event was the brainchild of Dr. Faith Kim, chair of intercultural studies in the David & Faith Kim School of Intercultural Studies.

The weeklong event featured Dr. Lamin Sanneh, professor of missions and world Christianity at Yale University; seminars on intercultural issues, led by intercultural studies students; a special “cultural worship” evening chapel; a culture shock simulation event; and a viewing of the film “Smoke Signals.”

During his lectures, Sanneh shared about the unique features of the Christian faith and how those features enable the faith to grow worldwide. Christians, he stated, do not hold any language, place, or culture over another in the practice of their faith.

Intersect '06


provides intercultural awareness for Golden Gate Seminary

“What language you speak does not matter; there is no language held above another,” explained Sanneh, who received his Ph.D. in Islamic history at the University of London. “Where you live does not matter. Jesus may have been born in Bethlehem, but he is bred in the hearts of believers wherever they are.”

He continued, “No time or place or culture or language has a monopoly on God and none is fully adequate to explain the Christian faith. None is so superior it can claim exclusive access to the truth and ways of God. And none is so inferior or poor that it cannot provide any way to the truths of God.”

“I really appreciated what Sanneh said concerning the emphases that Christianity does not have in comparison to other faiths,” said student Daniel Ezell. “There’s no emphasis in our faith on geography, or language, no cultural high ground. This really affects how I think about church planting in particular.”

“The event helped us recognize we are each ‘multi-cultural’ selves, and our identities are formed by intersections,” said Dr. Faith Kim.

Seminars through the week addressed cross-cultural issues such as: seeing business as a Kingdom mission; why theology matters in Africa; and the changing culture of university-aged Indians. 



▲ Student Chris Galacia and professor Dr. Faith Kim discuss logistics of one of the chapel services during Intersect '06.

◀ Korean student Boosik Kong and his wife Hyangok and daughter Shion enjoyed a luncheon held during Intersect '06.

Baptists moving away from modernism, noted Baptist historian says at Golden Gate Seminary lectures

Baptists in America and England are in the midst of a move from a “whole-sale adoption of modernity” to a turning away from “modernism,” says Baptist historian Dr. William Brackney, who addressed students at Golden Gate Seminary last fall.

Brackney was the featured speaker for the school’s annual Deere Lecture Series, named in honor of the late Derward Deere, professor of Old Testament from 1950 to 1968. The lectures address rotating topics in Biblical studies, theology, or church history.

Brackney explored three phases of Baptist history: as a movement, as a tradition, and as a denomination; then he explored the two major turning points among Baptists: towards modernity, and away from modernism.

He cited several aspects of the Baptist embrace of modernity: first, their organizational structure, with local associations, state conventions, and national conventions. A second proof occurred following the Civil War, as Baptist colleges began to further develop masters level degrees, often including sciences in order to gain university status.

Third, Baptists responded to the twin cultural products of modernity: urbanization and industrialization.

All of these factors contributed to the Baptist rise into the mainstream


religious scene – where they were never going to be completely at ease, Brackney says, because of their birth as a movement of dissenters.

“In every movement, there is a counter-movement, and this is true of the Baptist denomination,” says Brackney, professor of Christian thought and ethics at Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, Nova Scotia. “What we are seeing now is the conservatives and fundamentals reacting against all that modernism and moving to a new denominationalism.”

Even such associations as Willow Creek and the network of churches affiliated with Saddleback Community Church are not “non-denominations,” Brackney says, but “new” ones.

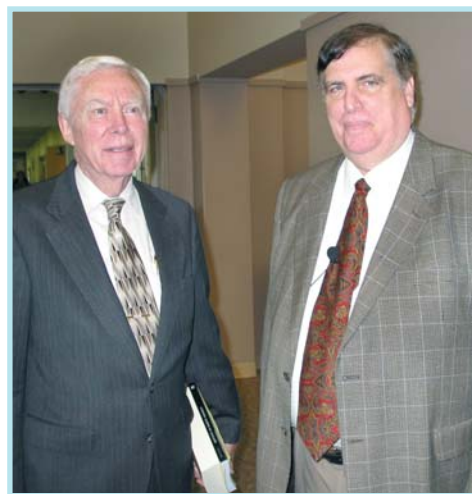
“Every movement, even within a denomination, moves relentlessly to the pursuit of order,” he says.

Brackney is the author of several books, including *A Genetic History of Baptist Theology* and *Human Rights and the Christian Condition*. He is completing a historical analysis of Baptists in higher education.

Brackney was ordained by Dr. Frank Pollard, former president of Golden Gate Seminary. He is a long-time friend of Dr. Morgan Patterson, who served as academic dean of Golden Gate Seminary from 1976 to 1984. 



Golden Gate Seminary student Donald Hart gets a signature from Baptist historian Dr. William Brackney, who spoke at the school’s annual Deere Lectures.



Dr. Morgan Patterson, academic dean at Golden Gate Seminary from 1976 to 1984, visits with long-time friend and Baptist historian Dr. William Brackney, professor at Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia.



Tribute to: Beloved retired seminary professor **Dan Boling**

“He's the caregiving heart and soul for us; a generous, kind, Christian man who loved to laugh.”

Dan Boling, retired professor of Christian Education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died of cancer March 22 at his home in Petaluma, Calif. He was 71 years old.

Boling served on the faculty from 1974 until 2001. The Elaine Southerland - Boling Christian Education Fund is named after his wife; the fund provides for a Christian education lecture series every other year.

Boling, a native of Austin, Texas, received his bachelor of arts from Baylor University; and the bachelor of divinity, master of religious education, master of divinity, and doctor of education degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Before coming to Golden Gate Seminary, Boling served as a Baptist Student Union director, minister of youth and minister of music and youth at churches in Texas, and assistant director of the Baptist Counseling Center at Southwestern Seminary. He was president of the Western Baptist

Religious Education Association from 1979-80.

Boling saw many changes during his 28 years at Golden Gate: the addition of three regional campuses, the expansion of degree programs, and the tenures of three different seminary presidents.


Says Dr. Shera Melick, faculty and chair of Educational Leadership at the school, “Dr. Boling was an excellent Christian education professor who made a tremendous impact on our students. His combination of spiritual integrity, practical humor, and academic excellence made him a popular professor and a valued colleague.”

Dr. Gary Arbino, professor of Old Testament at the seminary, co-taught an adult Bible study class with Boling at Petaluma Valley Baptist Church.

“We call him Pastor Dan in our Bible Study class,” he said. “He's the caregiving heart and soul for us; a generous, kind, Christian man who loved to laugh.”

Below are words Boling penned to a friend on staff shortly after his retirement. They reflect his personality well:

“I drove out of the parking lot at GGBTS in Mill Valley, Calif. As I was driving home, I reflected with my wife [on] 28 years of teaching there. It was a bit depressing because I never was the teacher I wanted to be. I sometimes felt like I stayed just one step ahead of anyone finding out I could not teach. I drove past the coffee shop where my colleagues and I made most of the major decisions for the seminary. All of that is over. I came on home and tried to bury my sorrow in Coke floats, chocolate cake, fried chicken, and black-eyed peas.”

Boling is survived by his wife, the former Elaine Southerland; daughters Dianna Lynn Boling and Sara Gustafson; and grandchildren Daniel and Kayla. 

If leaders will stand up and slay the Goliaths of our day, like the biblical David, those in churches will also become giant-killers, says Southern Baptist Convention president Frank Page.

The pastor of First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C. spoke March 8 to students, faculty, and staff at Golden Gate Seminary, along with dozens of pastors and other church leaders from the Bay Area.


“We live in a day when fear has become the predominant perspective,” he said to a full chapel. “There are giants to fear – giants of factions, power struggles, politics, personal agendas. But I do not believe all is lost.”

He pointed his listeners first to the famous I Samuel 17 account of David the shepherd boy slaying Goliath the Philistine giant. He then steered them to the list of “giant-killers” in I Chronicles 20.

“What happened?” he asked. “In I Samuel 17 everybody was afraid of the giant, and in I Chronicles they’re all in the giant-killing business. The difference is we went from Saul’s leadership to David’s. When God’s leaders become giant-killers, God’s people become giant-killers.”

“I thought he was very inspirational,” said student Paul Davis. “He seemed to have a very inclusive approach to moving forward in terms of expanding our cultural relativity as Southern Baptists, and I think that’s really necessary.”

Page later reflected upon his visit to the West Coast in an article posted on Baptist Press.

He said, “I found the churches, people and leaders of California to be a refreshing and exciting group. While there, I was also privileged to speak at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. What a great experience that was. That wonderful institution is ably led by Dr. Jeff Iorg. Honestly, I had not had much time with Jeff in conversation prior to that day. However, I can assure you that that institution is in great hands. His commitment to quality theological education as well as the accomplishment of the Great Commission in the West is without reservation, as well as contagious.” 

SBC president urges Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary students to become “giant-killers”



Golden Gate Seminary students gather around Dr. Frank Page to pray following March 8 chapel service.



Page visits with George Shahrzad of Southern California following the chapel service.



Student Sara Heck, from Wichita Falls, Tex., talks with Dr. Frank Page after chapel.



Sonshine Loomis listens as Page talks with students at the March 8 chapel.



Experiencing healing,

Some missionaries do lead lives straight out of the movies.

In the movies, missionaries live in mud huts among isolated tribes deep in the bush, with no other fair-skinned or English-speaking people, no electricity, no plumbing, and no contact with the outside world for months at a time.

Peter Swann doesn't hesitate to say it:

"It looked just like it does in the movies. It was like stepping back in time a couple of thousand years."

A graduate of Golden Gate Seminary, Peter and his wife Shauna spent two years in southwest Sudan as missionaries with the International Mission Board. In the process, the Swanns really did live in a mud hut without plumbing or electricity. They reached their province by a four-seat Cessna airplane, often scurrying the cows off the landing strip, and then driving for several more hours to get to the village.

"Yes, we saw a green mamba in one of our huts, and cobras in our kitchen, and

a zillion other snake stories, and some insect bites we never did figure out," he concedes. "But we were just in the same boat as everyone else in the village, really."

The difference, of course, was the new good news they came to share. While Shauna, a nurse, provided medical care and help at the primary school, Peter spent most of his days teaching Bible stories using chronological storying – an oral and kinesthetic method of transferring the theology of the Bible via its narratives. Previous missionaries had taught 160 Bible stories; Peter's role was to review them and help the believers use those stories to disciple others and plant new churches. He also taught a second class of students some of the same stories.

First, Peter and Shauna had to learn the language the old-fashioned way: by just living there. In their village, only a few men spoke some English; none of the women did. The Jur people have three languages and seven dialects. Only two other people know the main language – a retired British missionary couple. Peter is the only foreigner to have ever studied and learned the second Jur language. They used Jur so exclusively, he says, they began to lose their English skills.

"I think we were as isolated as you can get in today's world," he says. "We lost track of what was going on in the rest of the world. We had a satellite phone, but it was extremely expensive, so whenever someone back home had a birthday we would call them and talk for 10 minutes, and that was it."

He pauses, then states the obvious. "There were a lot of challenging days. It wasn't easy at all."

There were highlights, too, of course. Shauna says she spent hours and hours sitting in the kitchens with the women of the village.

"They deal with so much death, so many hard times, and losing children," she says. "We had some powerful, good conversations. It was my favorite thing to do, just sit in their kitchen, hear their stories, share the stories of God with them, and try to be a blessing to them."

In addition to the lack of creature comforts and the months of 130-degree weather, the Swanns dealt with spiritual warfare, from their own struggle to stay faithful and focused to demon-possessed people and power encounters their people described. Projects, papers, and studies regarding the African world-



Far left: Shauna holds a little girl who was born after the Swanns arrived - and named after Shauna.

Middle: Oliver and Peter sit in the shade for a small relief from the hot Sudanese sun.

Right: Alfred, Peter, and David talk in the Jur village in southwest Sudan. Peter spent much of his two years learning two tribal languages and teaching Bible stories to the men of the village.



even in and out of Sudan

view while in seminary were coming in handy.

“I’d studied it every chance I got while in seminary – demons, angels, spiritual warfare, anything pertinent to the African continent, and my professors let me do that,” Peter says. “Even more powerful was the time I spent out of class with these professors. They could talk to me about those things based on their own knowledge and experiences. It all made a difference.”

It wasn’t just spiritual warfare the Swanns faced. This was, after all, southern Sudan, scene of both the north-south conflict raging in that east African country for many years, and ongoing conflict between tribes.

“We could hear bomber planes flying everywhere,” says Peter, whose experiences as a missionary kid in the modernized cities of Tanzania had not prepared him for this life. “We lost different friends to diseases and to tribal fighting. We had to evacuate a couple of times. Once a raiding tribal group came through our village and went on a rampage. Shauna was hiding in a mud hut on the back of our compound, I hid behind a tree. For some unknown reason, at the last minute, they turned off the road

and then left. It was very odd.

“And all I could think later was of the many, many people praying for us back home.”

Looking back, Shauna says, “Amazingly, I felt this huge peace even through all of that, that we were still where we were supposed to be.”

In May of 2006, nine months after the Swanns had returned to the States, a rival tribe returned, killed many of the residents, and completely destroyed the village. Out of the 200,000 Jur people, more than half are now refugees within their own country.

The Swanns, in the meantime, have answered a variation on their call to the Sudanese. While in Nairobi for routine medical check-ups, Peter was diagnosed with severe heart damage and strongly encouraged to leave their stressful life and war-torn village.

While in Kenya, a friend told them about Aid Sudan, an aid organization in the States. Lo and behold, Aid Sudan had an office in Houston, where Shauna also

had family. The pieces were falling into place.

About four months after their return to the U.S., Peter was asked to serve as executive director of Aid Sudan. So he continues to work with Sudanese refugees here, organizing mission and humanitarian trips to southern Sudan, and is now beginning a missionary training program for Christian Sudanese who are returning to their home country.

And the heart damage that spurred their leaving Africa? When Peter went to see the cardiologist in Houston six months later, “The doctor ran all kinds of tests, and didn’t find a single thing. My heart was perfectly fine. All I can say is I must have been completely healed.”

Healing – it’s exactly what Peter and Shauna want for all people of southern Sudan – physical, spiritual, and community healing. Their prayer is that as they continue to use the gifts, experiences, and training God has given them on behalf of the Sudanese people, those healings will come. **9**



*Bob Royall,
James Williams, and
seminary president
Jeff Iorg at the
winter 2006
commencement
ceremony*

“Irrepressible” 80-year-old among winter 2006 doctoral graduates from Golden Gate Seminary

Eighty-year-old James Austin Williams, Jr. was one of 60 students who received degrees in December from Golden Gate Seminary at its winter 2006 commencement ceremony at First Baptist, San Francisco.

That’s right, 80 years old.

As Williams tells his students at the Frontier Seminary in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, “I’m as young as you are, my only problem is my body gets old. I don’t feel like an old man.”

And Williams doesn’t much act like one either. In addition to his role as director of that seminary, he serves as volunteer missionary for northern Mexico, commuting from El Paso, Texas to its Mexican counterpart, Juarez. And for the past three years he’s also been a full-time doctorate of ministry candidate at Golden Gate.

Williams, who was a student at Golden Gate in the early 1950s, when it was in Berkeley, Calif., says he felt like being in the program “opened up a whole new world, like I was standing on the threshold of so many things I didn’t know.”

The international missionary and pastor already had an extensive resume: fluency in Spanish, pastorates in California, Spain, north Africa, and Mexico, ministry as a traveling revival evangelist, and administration at the Frontier Baptist Seminary.


Williams’ goal is to plant 100 churches in Juarez in 10 years. While he was persuaded to whittle it down to one house church in six months for the purposes of his doctoral ministry project, the bigger fish is still in his sights.

Dr. Bob Royall, director of Golden

Gate’s doctor of ministry program, did confess he knew there would be a challenge when, on the second day of orientation, Williams took him aside and quietly asked, “Where are the typewriters?”

“But James persevered and with his field mentor’s help, he came through and finished well, despite being caregiver for his wife who has advanced Alzheimer’s,” Royall adds.

Between a new church start in Juarez, the grand goal of a church planting movement there, bringing a seminary up to accreditation standards, being a student, and providing care for his wife, Williams, at 80 years old, is more active than many people years younger.

Says Royall, “He is simply irrepressible. And obviously, he is a lifelong learner!” 

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary confers degrees upon 60 students at winter commencement ceremony in San Francisco

*“My time in seminary
has taught me
to let God
go ahead of me.”*



Kellye and Daniel Frazier and their son Logan on graduation day at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.



Kelly Mason and her parents pose for a graduation day photo with president Jeff Iorg.

Sixty students received degrees at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's winter 2006 commencement ceremony.

The ceremony was held at First Baptist Church, San Francisco, but the students came from all of Golden Gate's five regional campuses, plus several of its regional Contextualized Leadership Development centers.

They represented more than four countries, and received diplomas, masters, and doctorates of ministry.


Daniel and Kellye Frazier, who earned a master of divinity and a master of theological studies, respectively, shared the story of their experiences at Golden Gate Seminary.

“My time in seminary has taught me to let God go ahead of me,” said Daniel. “I’ve also matured in my love for Christ. And third, I’ve developed a deeper trust in him – the one who calls us is faithful.”

Kellye explained that while in seminary, they had developed a deep pas-

sion to be strong laypeople in the church. “Over these years, obedience has become a bigger desire than following the suggested plan.”

President Jeff Iorg charged the graduates to accomplish three tasks: **to live the gospel, to share the gospel in their communities, and to model the gospel through the church.**

“The sad truth is Christian life today looks too much like secular life,” he said, “and that’s not the culture’s problem, that’s our problem. Live the gospel and your life will look different. Share the gospel in the community. The gospel is what changes lives, not a technique or a scheme or a strategy. Preaching the gospel is not complicated. Go into the community where you live, find a niche of people who are open, and talk to people about Jesus. That really is all there is. It really is that simple.” 

College students urged to share Jesus “before night comes”

Most college students are familiar with the frenzy of cramming all night before an exam or a term paper deadline. That same sense of urgency should guide their hearts for non-believers, about 160 students were told at a missions conference at the seminary in February.

“If time is short, it’s not business as usual, right?” asked Eddie Pate, director of the Southern California campus of GGBTS and a keynote speaker at the conference. “If you have ever stayed up late to finish a paper, you know this.”

“We have to be not about theological debate, but about doing the work of Christ,” said Pate, who served for 11 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in North Africa and the Middle East.

“Night is coming” was the theme of the 46th annual missions conference at GGBTS, held on the Northern California campus. The theme was based on the words of Jesus in John 9:4: “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

Carrie McDonnall, former missionary to Israel and Iraq who was the lone survivor of a terrorist attack in Mosul, Iraq, that killed four other missionaries, including her husband, told the students, “I’d heard about being a light all my life. I’d been taught it. I’d sung the songs. But it didn’t hit home until I went to a people who live entrenched in darkness. Light in darkness, my friends, is a real thing.”

With the “mess in Iraq” and terrorism worldwide, she said she was often asked how she could go to those people and places. Her answer was that “we are just like them, sitting in darkness before Christ came into our lives. There is no ‘those people!’”


Seminar topics included a “crash course” in Christian eschatology; the issue of child soldiers in Africa and how volunteers can minister there; reaching unreached people groups in Africa, the Middle East, and worldwide; and a question-and-answer time with McDonnall.

Charla Lincoln, a graduate of California Baptist University, said she especially enjoyed consulting McDonnall for one-on-one advice on being a single female ministering to Muslims. Lincoln is preparing to work with Wycliffe Bible translators in Chad, Africa.

Matt DeRoest, who came with 11 other students from Western Oregon University near Portland, went to the seminar on child soldiers in Africa.

“I’m really glad they put some focus on this stuff,” he said. “And I’m really impressed with the level of experience the speakers brought to the table.”

Chanwoo Choi, from the University of Utah, said he was taking their words to heart.

“People have been talking about things I’ve been thinking about,” he explained. “I’m getting the feeling you can go on missions as long as you have the heart, like maybe you don’t have to have this huge calling. It was also interesting hearing about how missions is related to the end times.” 



Dr. Rick Durst, professor of theology and church history at GGBTS, led a seminar on eschatology at the 2007 Missions Conference.



Mark Jung and Chanwoo Choi, students at the University of Utah, attended the 46th annual Missions Conference



Jessica Ian and Daniel Lee, from UC-Berkeley, and Andy and Daniel Kim, from southern California, participated in the general sessions.

Women learn to be “pure water in a muddy world” at Women’s Leadership event

by Taryn R. Hutchison

Kim Watson and Erin Wilson attended the Women’s Leadership event at the Northern California campus of GGBTS.



Mel Eastman, whose husband is a student at Golden Gate Seminary, attended the Women’s Leadership Consultation.

The rain could not keep 190 women away from an event that only comes to Mill Valley, Calif. once every six years. On February 10, Golden Gate Seminary hosted a women’s leadership consultation called “Pure Water in a Muddy World: Effective Ministry in a Confused Culture.”

Women’s ministry leaders, pastors’ wives, Bible study teachers, and seminary students attended the all-day event. Three keynote speakers and 14 workshop leaders offered a Biblical foundation and practical tips on how to make a difference in the world.

Every February, the Seminary Women’s Network, which includes women in leadership at all six Southern Baptist seminaries and at SBC agencies, meets at one of the seminaries. This year was Golden Gate’s turn.


General session speakers included:

- **Dr. Linda Clark**, Women’s Ministry specialist with the California Southern Baptist Convention, defined purity as being “untainted and undiluted.”
- **Dr. Rhonda Kelley**, whose husband Dr. Chuck Kelley is president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, cautioned the women to “be on guard – don’t ever take purity, righteousness, or godly living for granted.”

Alicia Wong, who graduated from GGBTS in 1999 and served in East Asia for two years as a missionary, co-led a workshop on “Women’s Ministry for Postmodern Women.”

“Be relevant and authentic, but don’t ever sacrifice the truth. You have to live out your faith in front of post-modern women,” she encouraged her class.

Beth Patel, who directs the women’s ministry at Tiburon Baptist Church in Tiburon, Calif., hoped to “take home ideas to inspire and encourage the women in our church.”

Franci Cupp, a student at GGBTS, summed it up by saying, “It’s a rare opportunity to worship with other women, and I didn’t want to miss out.” 



Rhonda Kelley and Dorothy Patterson, two of the keynote speakers at the Women’s Consultation, sign books during a break.

Free gift for Alumni

Through a generous gift from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., all Golden Gate Seminary alumni have been given free access to ATLASerials for two years (2006 and 2007). This premier online database for religion and theology includes 82 titles in the collection, and many titles cover more than 50 years.

Publications include:

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\$200,000 gift from Strongtower Financial contributing to renovation of student housing

It's no secret that the cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area is sky-high, especially the cost of housing. Affordable on-campus housing at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate Seminary, then, is a crucial need for students.

So a recent gift of \$200,000, designated for the refurbishing of student housing, is an especially practical and welcome contribution.


The gift is from Strongtower Financial Inc., a church and faith-based lending and investment arm of the California Baptist Foundation.

The gift is a matching one, meaning the seminary will provide a matching \$200,000, bringing the total amount for renovation of student housing to \$400,000.



Renovation work continues on one-bedroom apartment units at the Northern California campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Shown here: the bedroom and kitchen, with new cabinetry and appliances.

“Strongtower’s goal is to make regular contributions to California Southern Baptist organizations and institutions,” said Chester Reid, president of Strongtower Financial, Inc. “We are delighted to help meet this immediate housing need in support of the seminary’s mission.”

“Without affordable housing on campus, many of our students would be financially unable to attend our Northern California campus,” says Dr. Jeff Iorg, GGBTS president. “We are grateful to our friends and supporters, like Strongtower, who ensure that we can continue to offer quality housing, allowing our students to study and minister in local churches without the financial hardship of paying for off-campus housing in the Bay Area.” 

Alumni Updates

Births

2006

Caleb and **Lydia Camp** welcomed son Josiah on Dec. 27, 2006.

Gianne and **Eugene Curry** (pastor of Granada Hills Baptist Church, El Segundo, Calif.) welcome Charlotte Rose, 6lbs., 14oz.

Ministries

1971

Charles Day has retired from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, San Pablo, Calif., and began a house church in January of 2006.

Lawrence Wilkes is "semi-retired" from Crystal Cathedral Academy and has begun serving as head of the Homiletic Department at California Graduate School of Theology in La Habra, Calif.

1976

Wilhem "Guillermo" and **Ester Kratzig** are serving in Fort Morgan, Colorado, where Guillermo has been appointed as a church planting missionary by the North American Mission Board.

1980

Conrad Rougeux received a letter of commendation from James Nicholson, secretary of Veterans Affairs, for his services following the 2005 hurricane season.

1988

James Eugene Tille is serving in the following capacities: counselor at the Army Substance Abuse Program of Madigan Army Medical Center; private pastoral counseling practice; adjunct professor of Christian counseling at Faith Seminary, Tacoma, Wash.; assistant professor of marriage & family therapy and addiction psychology at Northcentral University, Prescott, Ariz.

1989

Van R. and **Robin Kicklighter** have been appointed by the North American Mission Board to Springfield, Ill. Van is serving as state church planting program director for the Illinois State Baptist Association.

1991

Jonathan and **Cassandra Stockstill** are serving in church planting with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board in Los Angeles.

1992

Doug Powell is serving as minister of education at First Baptist Church, Garland, Texas.

1994

Matthew Wysocki is serving as brigade chaplain for the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, Ken.

2000

David A. Croteau, Jr. is assistant professor of New Testament and Greek at Liberty University.

Randall Ireland is serving as a hospice chaplain in California.

Jae Eun Kim is working as Christian education director and Sunday School teacher with First Baptist Burmese Church in San Francisco, in addition to establishing the Oakland Burmese Mission Baptist Church.

2005

Brannan Duncan is associate minister of missions at Sagemont Church in Texas.

Deaths

1955 & 1969

Alfred M. Smoak, Sr.
(alum and former GGBTS staff)

1965

Clifford H. Hoff
(alum and former GGBTS staff)

1973

Beth England, died Oct. 8 in Lake Forest, Calif. (alum and former staff, widow of former vice-president of business, Gene England)

1977

Michael T. O'Shaughnessy

1979

Lionell Chaddick

You Are Invited...

*...to the annual
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Theological Seminary
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in conjunction with
the annual meeting of
the Southern Baptist
Convention*

WHERE

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Room 8A/B

WHEN

Wednesday
June 13, 2007, 12:30-2pm

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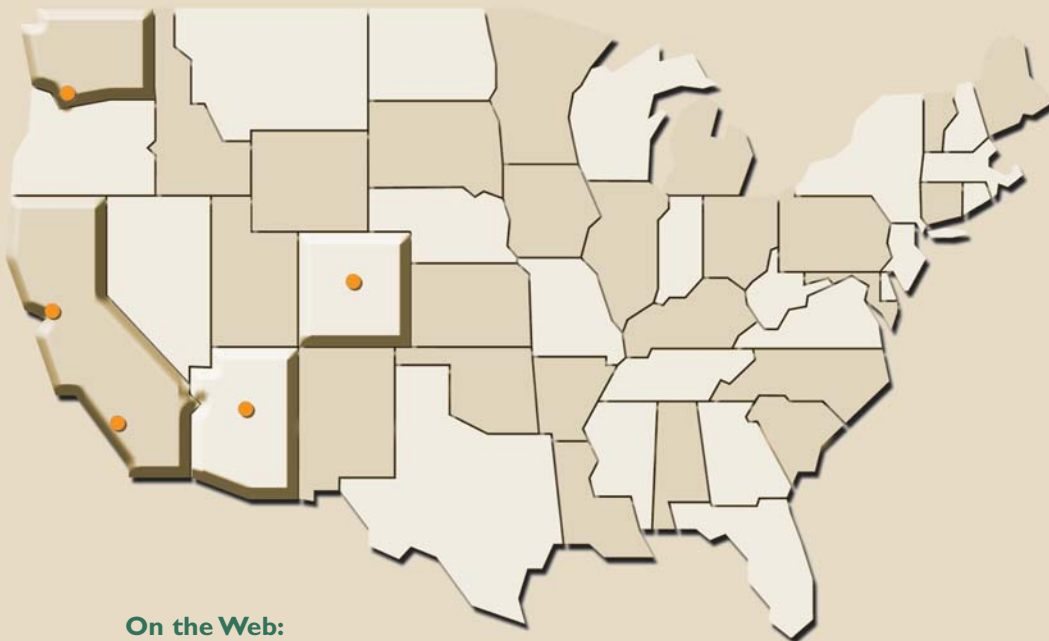
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