

SPRING 2005

gateway

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Ministry in many forms

- Pastoring in Colorado
- Aiding Tsunami victims
- Encouraging Soldiers in Fallujah



Leadership Insight



Sometimes, God's purpose surprises us.

A few months ago, I shared my testimony of growing up in difficult circumstances at a meeting of Golden Gate alumni in Arizona. A pastor asked me to come to his church and tell my story. His church is trying to reach children and families similar to the family I grew up in. They were discouraged and needed some encouraging words.

That's how I wound up in a small town in rural Arizona, preaching to a vibrant church with an aggressive ministry reaching into their community. This small church has two worship services. In the first service, I told my story and asked for fresh commitment to reaching troubled families. Many responded to the invitation.

Between the services, I decided to go to the combination gas station/convenience store/bait shop at the town crossroads for a cold drink. Several pickups and SUVs with boat trailers behind them were gassing up for a day on the river. When I came out of the store, coatless but still wearing my white shirt and tie, I met a young man who was my real reason for being there that Sunday.

He was a typical ten- or eleven-year-old boy, already bronzed from the early summer sun, bleached-blond hair, and a white strip around his waist because his bathing suit had drifted below the tan line of his usual summer shorts. He looked straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. He boosted himself out the passenger window of an older model pickup and called to me.

"Hey mister," he said, "Are you a lawyer?" "No," I said, "I'm a preacher."

So, I turned the tables on him. "Are you a lawyer?" I asked. "No," he shouted. "Well then, are you a preacher?" I continued. "No," he laughed, "I'm just a kid." And we both laughed.

Jeff P. Iorg, President

Then he asked, "So what are you doing here?" I told him I was preaching at the Baptist Church down the street. Upon hearing the church's name, his demeanor changed. Much more seriously he said, "Mister, that's a good church."

"Is that your church?" I asked. "Yes, sir. And when you go back for the second service, tell the Pastor that Jack says hello."

So I went back to the church. As I told the Pastor about my encounter, he stopped me just before I mentioned the boy's name. Then he said, "The boy you met was Jack, wasn't it?" He then told me, as I was preaching in the first service, God had impressed him with one specific child he had to reach – Jack.

The pastor told me many details about the boy and his family that need to remain confidential. He was so much like me at his age. While the pastor was speaking, I discovered why I was in Arizona. I was not there to encourage a church. I was there to meet myself as I once was!

God used this experience to remind me how important it is that every person meet Jesus, how much Jesus can change hopeless situations, and how lost and helpless people are without Jesus. I came home from that trip with renewed passion to reach people with the gospel and commitment to infuse that passion through every part of our Seminary.

I told this story at every graduation this spring and challenged graduates to "go find Jack." This issue of the Gateway tells stories of Golden Gate alumni who are reaching people all over the west and the world for Jesus. As you read their stories, let them remind you of the urgency of our mission and the wonderful Good News that Jesus can change lives.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Golden Gate Seminary. Your individual gifts and your church's support through the Cooperative Program helps train students to effectively lead churches, and like the church in Arizona, reach the lost of this generation.

Thank you for sharing the passion of Southern Baptists to reach the world with the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. May that passion permeate our every effort!

Now, go find Jack!

Spring 2005

PRESIDENT

Jeff P. Iorg

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Thomas O. Jones

EDITOR

Jeff Jones

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kelli Cottrell
John C. Eagan
Paul Robbins Jr.
Jessica Sims
Allen Spencer

COVER DESIGN & INTERIOR LAYOUT

Suzanne Lee Design
Santa Clara, California

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To receive the *Gateway* magazine or to
change your mailing address, please contact:

Institutional Advancement
GGBTS-218
201 Seminary Drive
Mill Valley, California 94941

jeffjones@ggbts.edu

Toll-free 888-442-8709

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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:

*The wake of the
tsunami disaster in
Indonesia left thousands
of children orphaned.
Travis ('04) ministered
to these children and
others during his three-
month ministry in Banda
Aceh (see page 5).*

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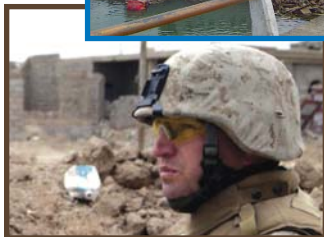
Ministry in many forms



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Rocky Mountain Campus prepares pastor for ministry

By Allen Spencer

Since he was 17, Sean Cole has pursued a path into full-time ministry. In March of this year, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sterling, Colo. called him as their pastor. He credits the Rocky Mountain Campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary with preparing him for this role while allowing him to serve in his home state.

Sean and his wife, Dawn, have deep roots in Colorado and leaving the state to attend seminary would have been challenging.

His family moved to Colorado when he was just starting high school. It was during a youth mission trip to Telluride, Colo. that he first sensed God's calling upon his life. He graduated from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 1994 and met his wife, Dawn, through the ministry of the Baptist Student Union there. She grew up in a non-Christian home and, as a fifteen-year-old, was saved at a Billy Graham Crusade in Denver. In many ways, they are both products of the ministry of Colorado's Southern Baptists.

"I was in a ministry position and didn't want to leave that to attend seminary," he says, referring to his role as youth pastor at the First Baptist Church of Black Forest in Colorado Springs. ***"But I wanted to attend a Southern Baptist seminary."***

So in the spring of 2000, he enrolled in the Rocky Mountain Campus in suburban Denver. Every Monday afternoon, he would make the one-hour drive from his home to the school, located in the Colorado Baptist General Convention's building. That same year, his second son was born and he faced increasing challenges, juggling the demands of life, school and ministry.

"Time management became key as I tried to focus on what was really important," he says. The demands were great at times. "One semester, as I was taking a very heavy class load, I started having trouble with some of the teenagers in my youth group. At the same time, my pastor was leaving for another ministry."


Adding to the challenge was the discovery that his newborn son, Zachary, has a rare chromosome disorder that causes him to behave as an autistic and gives him developmental delays.

However, the Coles have endured and in May 2004, Sean graduated from the Rocky Mountain Campus with a master of divinity. He is grateful for the opportunities that Golden Gate Seminary provided him in his home state.

"It's contextual to Colorado," he says. "It's real people involved in real ministry – doing the real deal on a daily basis in a hard state."

He credits the faculty at the Rocky Mountain Campus for their emphasis on church planting, leadership and evangelism.

"I received a great education in the hard disciplines, but I could also apply what I was learning in a real situation," says Sean. The education he received at Golden Gate proved to be a perfect launching pad for his new ministry as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church on the plains of northeastern Colorado.

"The church is in a small town but has made an impact on a large geographic area," he says of the congregation. "They're a model for church planting, a key church in evangelism and missions and successful in bringing contemporary worship into a multigenerational church." 

"It's contextual to Colorado," he says. "It's real people involved in real ministry - doing the real deal on a daily basis in a hard state."



Relief workers assist in body removal. This work opened many doors for ministry as relief workers were able to bring closure to grief-stricken family members.

By John C. Eagan

He Answered God's Call to Aid Tsunami Victims

Late at night, when the day's work was done, the night brought a relaxation to Travis* that allowed him the freedom to share about Jesus with the victims of the December 26 Pacific tsunami disaster in Indonesia.

The tsunami struck shortly after Travis had graduated from Golden Gate Seminary from the Global Studies Program. He felt God's call to go to the region to help, leaving January 14 and returning April 6.

"Many times I stayed with the people in their village. The conversations and presence of being with these people was an experience I will never forget," said the 27-year-old. Because disaster workers are urged not to try to work alone, "I worked with a great team, including those who have a permanent presence in Indonesia and volunteers from the States. We became close through the hardships and joys of relief work."

He worked nearly three months assisting survivors to rebuild their lives and homes.

"When I arrived in Banda Aceh, I was setting up a tent for a local man I had just met. He told me that while others were staying in the hills, he would remain in the city, rebuild his life and find his family," Travis recalled. "The next week, the bodies of his family were located 1.5 kilometers south of their home."

"We never imagined how much our willingness to help in body removal would help bring closure to their broken hearts and continue relationships to meet other relief needs such as medical care," Travis reported.

Before leaving, Travis shared a reflection on what God had been teaching him: "If God calls you to do something, He is asking you to partner with Him. He's not leaving you on your

own. I'm about to enter an area where I'm out of my element...in every way I'm going to be uncomfortable, but it's where God wants me. So I am going."


Banda Aceh, where Travis worked, is an Indonesian provincial capital and the largest city on the island of Sumatra. It is the closest major city to the epicenter of the earthquakes that triggered the tsunami.

He relayed the story of the city of Leupong, on the west coast of Sumatra. Before the tsunami, the population was about 17,000. Of those present when the tsunami hit, only 18 survived.

"The two-kilometer strip of land between the shore and the mountains was nothing but a wasteland, strewn with splintered wood, broken trees, and remnants of a life that used to be," he said. One young man escaped to safety in the hills on his motorbike and returned to find he was the only survivor of the 24 people in his house.

"Our work slowly transformed from emergency, down to critical, to a focus on long-term community development and reconstruction projects," Travis said. Early on he worked to restore safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, then later helped to rebuild homes.

After emailing family and friends of his plan to go, he said he received many donations that covered the cost of his trip. Now he is preparing to move to France for graduate studies in business.

"I want to make disciples and plant churches through the avenues of business. This degree, that I will finish in June 2006, will continue to lead me in that direction," Travis said. 

* Last name withheld for security reasons.

In Fallujah, ‘The God Squad’ helps build troops’ morale

By Paul Robbins Jr.



Matthew Weems gives a high five to an Iraqi boy. Weems and Neely provide security during a patrol through the city of Fallujah, Iraq. They participate in many different aspects of the battalion's operations to maintain a presence amongst the Marines. Photo by: Lance Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.

A Navy chaplain and his assistant are helping Marines and sailors in Fallujah, Iraq, in the ongoing war against terrorism.

Navy Lt. Matthew S. Weems, flanked by his religious program specialist, Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron G. Neely, are key weapons in the effort to maintain good morale among the 800 troops in the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, Regimental Combat Team-1.

"We're here to give encouragement to the Marines and sailors," said Weems, a graduate of the Arizona Campus of Golden Gate Seminary, "and to provide for the free religious expression of all in the command."

Nicknamed "The God Squad" by the battalion, Weems, 33, and Neely, 21, provide more than weekly religious services; they also perform baptisms; conduct the battalion's morale, welfare and recreation program; and provide any needed counseling.



"More than anything else, I think our ministry of presence is the most influential thing we do,"

Weems said.

Weems and Neely regularly attach themselves to convoys and patrols through the city to establish a rapport with the troops in addition to the time they spend at the battalion's bases.

Maintaining visibility with the Marines and sailors within the city allows Chaplain Weems to empathize with their situation and makes him more approachable, Neely noted.


"It allows us to trust them more because they're out here doing what we do," said Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Pleger, a 22-year-old assaultman. "It shows a lot of courage to come out and do what they do."

One of the most important roles the chaplain plays is as a counselor and adviser to the battalion.

Weems, a Kingfisher, Okla., native, and Neely, from Jeffersonville, Ind., spend 15 to 20 hours a week providing counseling to the battalion's Marines and sailors.

Some Marines and sailors may find it difficult to bring their personal problems to their leaders, so Weems provides a more comfortable environment for the troops to share concerns. Whether a soldier needs advice or just someone to talk to, there is complete confidentiality within his office, with no fear of reprisal or judgment.

"They don't have the Marine mindset," Pleger said. "They listen without criticism."

"Marines are expected to be hardcore," Neely said, "but they can find a sense of security in us." 

2010 PLAN

Golden Gate Seminary Unveils 2010 Plan to Trustees

By John C. Eagan

A bold plan for expanding and improving Golden Gate Seminary over the next five years has been endorsed by the Board of Trustees.

"We expect God to do miraculous things in our future," President Jeff Iorg told trustees at their spring meeting April 12. "This report is a preview of what we are asking God to do through Golden Gate in the next five years."

Dr. Iorg said the 2010 Plan focuses on seven strategic objectives:

1. Increase enrollment to 2,500 students total for the Seminary's five campuses, producing 1,100 full-time equivalents.
2. Strengthen the strategic programs offered at each campus and prioritize improving the quality of the Seminary's academic program system-wide.
3. Expand delivery systems, including residential students, commuter students, distance learning and online studies.
4. Enhance the faculty by growing to the equivalent of 40 full-time positions, and improve compensation and housing for faculty. Organize them into five departments or schools: Theology, Leadership, Educational, Intercultural Studies, and Music.
5. Reorganize, redeploy, or change the staff as needed to accomplish these objectives.
6. Maximize facility resources. The Seminary's five campuses are located in five of the seven largest metropolitan areas in the Western United States.
7. Increase financial resources to take fresh responsibility for the Seminary's financial future with anticipation that God will provide for the vision expressed in these strategic objectives.

"Some of this plan may seem impossible. You wonder how we can grow this much, change this much, achieve this much, or raise this much money. Well, we can do it. In God's power, we can achieve what seems impossible," Iorg added.

"God wants to do remarkable things through us at Golden Gate. We are already one of the largest seminaries in North America, yet we have so much unrealized potential," Iorg told those present. "We have strategic locations. We have supportive partners. We teach sound doctrine and live the Great Commission. Our faculty is passionate, our staff is willing to work hard, and our students amaze me with their eagerness to change the world."


"So, let's ask God to do the impossible, do our part to make it happen, and give Him the glory when it does!"

The plan was developed over the past six months, involving Seminary staff, faculty, constituents, and partners, Dr. Iorg said.

In other actions, the trustees elected Joe Panter from Arizona as new trustee chairman, E.W. McCall from California as vice chairman, and re-elected Janie Finlay from Texas as secretary. Outgoing chairman Gary Black was presented a plaque and a rocking chair for his two years of service as board chairman, which included leading the board in selecting Iorg as the Seminary's seventh president. Black will continue on the board for two more years.

Also, the Instruction Committee recommended the reinstatement of the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. The degree, which will be awarded in Biblical Theology, is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2006, pending accreditation approval.

The trustees also approved appointment of Mr. Mark Tichenor from dean of student life to vice president of student services. The appointment is intended to give Tichenor a system-wide influence on student life issues facing the Seminary's five campuses.

Dr. Richard Melick was approved for a semester sabbatical in Spring 2006. He plans to use the time for writing two or three books that are in process with the expectation of completing at least one. Melick also plans to complete his site research on the cities of Paul in Turkey and Greece. 

Iorg tells GGBTS graduates to include **compassion** in ministry



Golden Gate Seminary held commencement ceremonies for 187 graduates at all five of its campuses throughout the month of May. President Jeff Iorg traveled to the five ceremonies and challenged the graduates to have compassion for the lost and those they serve.

Citing the example of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38, Iorg urged the graduates not to separate themselves from the people to whom they minister. **“Jesus went among people and lived, worked, and ate among them and as a result he had compassion for them.”**

Iorg also challenged the graduates to see people for who they really are. “Do you see protesters in the street and rail about their politics, or do you see hurting people who are misguided without a savior?”

“Do you see addicts and complain about their lack of discipline, or do you see them for what they really are – hopeless and in need of deliverance from Jesus Christ?”

Encouraging the graduates to look beyond artificial barriers, Iorg told the graduates to see people as “hopeless and helpless, weary and worn out like sheep without a shepherd. When you do this, something ought to stir up deeply inside of you and motivate you with compassion to go after them in the name of Jesus.”


The 12 degrees presented at the institution’s five campuses were: diploma in Christian ministries-CLD, diploma in theology-CLD, diploma in educational leadership, diploma

in theology, master of arts in worship leadership, master of arts in intercultural ministries, master of arts in educational leadership, master of arts in Christian education, master of arts in theological studies, master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry.

The Colorado campus had its largest graduating class of 12 at the ceremonies held May 14. Two of students were presented awards. Kelly Wheat received the LifeWay pastoral leadership award and Teresa Broughton received the Broadman & Holman Seminarian Award.

On May 20, Chancellor William O. Crews presented the Graves Leadership Award at the Southern California commencement ceremonies posthumously to John Funk. The award was accepted by his family. Funk, who died late in 2004, was chair of the board from 1999-2001 and served as a member of the board since 1991. The Graves award is the highest award given for service to the Seminary.

At the Northern California and Arizona spring commencement ceremonies, two graduates received the Crews Presidential Leadership Award. Dong Goo Kim was awarded the honor at the Northern California ceremonies, held May 27. The Seoul, Korea native came to Golden Gate after earning a Ph.D. in science and pursuing a career in the science field.

Fred Harris, a master of divinity graduate, was awarded the Crews Presidential Leadership Award at the commencement ceremonies held May 28 for the Arizona campus. The recipient is chosen by the president and must exhibit exceptional leadership potential. 

Hong Kong Seminary President Graduates with D.Min.

For the past ten years, Alfred Yiu Chuen Kong has been accustomed to giving students diplomas at graduation as president of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. On May 27, he was on the other side of the diploma as he received his doctor of ministry from Golden Gate Seminary.

Since 1995 Kong has served as president of Hong Kong Seminary. Leading the Seminary through the economic recession that hit Hong Kong from 1997-2004, Kong was able to complete a building project that saw the campus move to a new state-of-the-art facility in Sai O, Hong Kong in 1999. Established in 1951, Hong Kong Seminary currently enrolls approximately 1,200 students for service to the church.

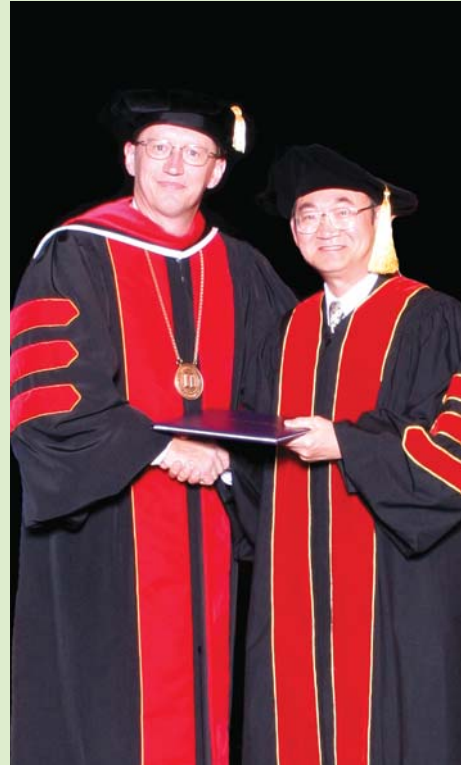
"Dr. Kong has done amazing things at Hong Kong Seminary during his presidency. A passion for the church is evident in his life and his leadership and vision is tremendous. I am so grateful that our paths have crossed," Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff long said.

Kong started his doctor of ministry at Golden Gate in 1992 while pastoring Danville Chinese Baptist Church, located 30 miles east of San Francisco. He finished the course work for the D.Min. in two years, but before he could complete his thesis he was asked to be the president of Hong Kong Seminary.

In January, 1995 Kong became the fifth president of Hong Kong Seminary. With the new demands and responsibilities as president, Kong was unable to finish the final component of the D.Min.

"It was quite tough because the administrative work was continuous without any stop," reflects Kong as he looks back on his ten years as president. "Especially the first two years, because I had to tackle to financial deficits, push the new building project and also get adjusted with the relationship with faculty and staff and churches."

It wasn't until 2003 when the board of trustees at Hong Kong Seminary



allowed Kong to take a six-month sabbatical that he was able to complete his thesis and his D.Min. degree.

"I thank God that the trustees were very understanding, supportive and encouraged me," said Kong. "Because of their generosity, I was able to finish."

Kong states that he hopes to start a doctor of ministry program at Hong Kong Seminary in two or three years. "The design of this D.Min. program is very good and has been very beneficial to me. I hope that our program will follow the same model as Golden Gate's."

The D.Min. program offers several tracks in different areas of the western United States and Canada and in specialized areas such as: collegiate ministry, missions administration, spiritual formation and a specialized track in the Korean language. For more information about Golden Gate's D.Min. program, visit www.ggbts.edu or call 1-888-442-8703.



Golden Gate partners with Mosaic Church

By Kelli Cottrell



Golden Gate Seminary and an innovative church in Southern California have partnered together to equip more church leaders for ministry throughout the state and beyond.

Beginning in August, Golden Gate's Southern California campus will offer interns at Mosaic Church, pastored by author and national speaker Erwin McManus, a customized Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree program.

"The Southern California campus has a successful track record in offering accredited classes at key sites in the region," said Tom Jones, interim director of the Southern California campus. "This partnership with Mosaic will provide Golden Gate Seminary students another exposure to an effective and unique ministry approach to introducing Jesus to the lost people of Southern California and other cultures around the world."

Golden Gate President Jeff Iorg is excited about the new program and what it will mean to the Seminary.

"This partnership with Mosaic reflects the Seminary's commitment to serve the churches in training people on the front-lines of ministry," said Jeff Iorg, president of the Seminary. "The interns will not only sharpen their effectiveness through their involvement in the cutting-edge ministry of Mosaic, but from the biblical and theological foundation Golden Gate will build into their lives as well."

The twenty-one month program is comprised of existing classes and a few customized to the Mosaic ministry approach. Many of the courses will be taught by adjunct instructors who are members of Mosaic, according to Steve Saccone, education liaison for the Southern Baptist church.

Interns accepted by Mosaic through an application process will have first priority for this special program, but all other students will have an opportunity to enroll if space allows.

Erwin McManus, author of *The Barbarian Way, Seizing Your*

Divine Moment and *An Unstoppable Force*, will teach several classes at the Southern California campus and is scheduled to teach a class at the Northern California Campus in January 2006.

McManus also regularly speaks on leadership and global diversity across the nation and world. He is a contributing editor for *Leadership Journal* and founded Awaken, a team of collaborators who specialize in unleashing personal creativity. He also is president of Global Impact and a consultant for small churches to Wall Street investment firms.

"We are not creating new courses, but partnering with Mosaic to re-package courses in a format that will enhance the Mosaic program," said Jones. "The benefit for our students is that they will learn fresh approaches from one of the most cutting-edge pastors and ministries in the country."

Costs for tuition and books are approximately \$7,000 and admission requirements for the Seminary degree will remain the same.

Mosaic staff will train their interns to raise their own financial support or will be allowed to take a part-time job.

"This will be a full-time program," said Jones. "Each semester, students in the program will be expected to carry a full class load."

Mosaic expects 12-15 students to attend this program each year, Saccone said.

"Our hope is that when they are done, their character will be shaped and formed, they will have a better understanding of themselves and how to use their gifts and talents for the ministry," said Saccone. "We really want to find church planters and lead pastors from this program and send them out."

Saccone expects some of the students from Mosaic will stay on staff at their church, but most will be sent out to various parts of the country and world. [9](#)

Spiritual Warfare Weapons

By Jessica Sims and John C. Egan

Over 350 students, faculty, staff, and members of the community gathered at Golden Gate Seminary February 18-12 for the annual missions conference. The spiritual warfare theme drew an audience from as far away as Idaho, Arizona, the Pacific Northwest, and Southern California to the Seminary's Northern California campus in Mill Valley.

Main speaker, Dr. Chuck Lawless, began the weekend by focusing on the fact that spiritual warfare begins internally with our obedience to God's commandment to know His word.

"We've got the great privilege that God would use us to take the gospel to people who are hiding in their sins and God allows us to be vessels of light," said Dr. Chuck Lawless of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Doug Hayward of Biola University, speaking on the topic of spiritual warfare, told the audience that love is most powerful weapon when dealing with spiritual warfare. "We have to be confident of the power of God in us. We have the power of the living Christ in us, a power that transforms lives."

In addition to seminary and university professors, the conference also included missionaries, such as Mark Wagner, a missionary from Germany.

"God hasn't called us to be Lone Rangers. Live in a community in which the Gospel is being lived in contrast to



the world around us," said Dr. Mark Wagner. He cautioned that "if there is a problem in your life that is not taken care of, it will just get worse" in the mission field.

"Prepare for truth encounters...know the word of God...stand firm and trust in the Lord," Wagner added. "You are a light and there's a lot of darkness out there. God is calling you to start fires, to be a spiritual arsonist. When you get into encounters for God, it will cost you everything...it may even cost you your life."

Speakers taught how to recognize, combat, and safeguard against spiritual warfare in our own life and in the lives of others.

"Our purpose was to help those in attendance have a balanced, but realistic understanding of spiritual warfare on the missions field," said conference organizer Dr. William Wagner, E. Hermond Westmoreland Professor of Evangelism at Golden Gate, who helped organize the conference. "Most missionaries around the world are up against tremendous spiritual powers. As educators, we feel it is necessary to help people understand these satanic powers that our missionaries encounter on a regular basis."

Other speakers included Mrs. Tanja Guerrero, Dr. Craig Isaac, Dr. Rick Durst and Dr. Ray Tallman.

"One of my favorite quotes from the weekend is, 'People think we are human beings going through life with a few spiritual experiences, when in reality we are spiritual beings that move through life with only a temporary human experience,'" said Golden Gate student Vanessa Crowley.

"Education on spiritual warfare is crucial because Satan is out there trying to stop us from serving God really before we start. We need to know God's word, His promises... to be mindful and purposeful in our actions so we're not taken out of the game before it begins. We have important work to do," said Stephanie Green, a student at the University of Washington.

The annual missions conference is hosted by The David and Faith Kim School of Intercultural Studies with program content the responsibility of the Missions Department. A primary goal is to help prepare those called onto the mission field as well as strengthen their church support base.

"We feel that the mission conference is an opportunity for Golden Gate to make missions a living reality for not only our Seminary family, but for students throughout the West Coast," said Dr. William Wagner.

Working to continue to help students understand the spiritual dimension of missions, the theme of next year's conference is "The Holy Spirit in Missions."





Seminary Honors William Crews

By John C. Eagan

The life and presidency of Dr. William “Bill” O. Crews was celebrated April 12 at a retirement dinner attended by trustees, faculty, staff and friends of Dr. Crews. During his presidency of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, more than 2,500 graduates have served as Christian leaders and missionaries in 30 countries, on every continent in the world.

“The word ‘leadership’ defines Bill Crews,” Dr. Jeff Iorg said, who succeeded Dr. Crews as president. He said Dr. Crews has been a mentor and friend to him for many years.

Dr. Iorg told those in attendance “the many accolades are so richly deserved” for Dr. Crews. He said Dr. Crews comforted him when he was seriously ill and “helped me learn the things that were happening in the Southern Baptist Convention.” He added, “You have been a constant source of confidence and stability during the transition to a new administration.”

“Thank you for a remarkable legacy,” faculty spokesman Dr. John Shouse said, adding that perhaps Dr. Crews’ greatest contribution to the Seminary was in creating a close connection with the churches it serves.

“I am so grateful for the past 18 years with Golden Gate Seminary,” Dr. Crews said. “I am also grateful for those, who from 1859 to the present, have made the Seminary dream come true. We’re stewards of their dream of shaping effective leaders for the churches of tomorrow,” remarked Dr. Crews.

Several hundred friends and colleagues attended the dinner and heard praises from representatives of the faculty, students, the Southern Baptist Convention and Marin County community.

Earlier in the day, Seminary trustees approved several honors for Crews, who became chancellor after Iorg was inaugurated as the new president in 2004. They include:

- Announcement of the William O. Crews Chair of Leadership. The endowed chair is funded by a gift from Mr. Jack Rice and his late wife, Duna, of Sacramento, California.
- Creation of a special section of the Seminary library housing leadership books and materials named in Dr. Crews honor.
- Renaming the Seminary’s “Eagle Leadership Award” to the “Crews Leadership Award.”
- Naming Dr. Crews president emeritus upon completion of his tenure as chancellor in 2006.

Dr. Crews was also presented a series of laudatory plaques from a variety of organizations. One from Seminary students was created from a piece of steel cut from the Golden Gate Bridge when it was remodeled.

Rotary Club representative Mr. Jim Placak also lauded Dr. Crews for his active participation in Rotary activities in several communities over his career, including most recently the San Rafael Rotary Club. He especially mentioned Crews sense of humor and ability “to speak at any time, in any place, on any subject.”

Dr. Crews became the sixth president of the Seminary in December 1986, transitioning to the role of Chancellor in 2003. He came to the Seminary from Riverside, Calif. where he was pastor of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church for eight years. Previously he served as a pastor in



Rick Durst, moving from VP post, to lead GGBTS' 'mobile M.Div.'



Speaking at a plenary faculty meeting, President Jeff Iorg announced that the Seminary's vice president for academic affairs, Rick Durst, will become director of the MDIV/MTS degree, effective July 1.

The change, Iorg told the faculty May 11, will help accomplish goals approved by the Golden Gate trustees to increase the visibility of the master of divinity (M.Div.) and master of theological studies (MTS) programs and the need to make the M.Div. available in a distance format.

"For these items to be a priority, it will require a passionate, focused, creative leader – a champion to make and keep them a priority," Iorg said in naming Durst to the new post.

"I have loved serving Golden Gate as vice president and dean these past 11 years," said Durst, who will retain his rank as professor of historical theology. "However, this change to direct the M.Div. program and develop the mobile M.Div. program allows me to put calling before career.

"Dr. Iorg has allowed me to align my passions for teaching and innovation with a strategic need in the Seminary's five-year plan to provide effective leadership training for all the churches of the western U.S."

Durst has served Golden Gate Seminary in various positions for more than 14 years, initially as director of the Southern California campus in 1991. He was elected as vice president for academic affairs in 1994. During that time, Durst oversaw the development and accreditation of two new campuses, in Arizona and Colorado.

Washington, Ore. and Texas and on the staff of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

During his tenure as Golden Gate president, the Seminary established new campuses in Phoenix, Ariz. in 1995 and Denver, Colo. in 1996. The Seminary also achieved accreditation approval to offer full master's degrees at all five of the Seminary's campuses.

His wife, Jo Ann, was also honored for her support to her husband. Gifts presented to her included a book of memories containing numerous letters from friends, a rocking chair and a painting by one of her favorite artists, Thomas Kinkadee.

The banquet also featured entertainment by Christian comic, Dr. Dennis Swanberg. Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Cecil Sims, a long-time Crews' friend and member of the Seminary Board of Trustees.

The Crews family currently resides in the Vancouver, Wash. areas with their son, Ronald. Dr. Crews will continue to teach classes for the Seminary at its Pacific Northwest Campus. ☺

"This kind of change in assignment by a high-ranking administrative leader sometimes produces speculative questions," Iorg told the faculty. "So, let me be very clear. Dr. Durst is an outstanding classroom educator, passionate supporter of Golden Gate and one of the most creative people I have ever met. Rick has been my friend for more than a decade. He has served me with loyalty and devotion. We both intend to retire as servants of Golden Gate."

Underscoring the strategic nature of his decision, Iorg said Durst is simply the "best choice" for the newly created position.

Dwight Honeycutt has been named interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. Durst will continue to lead through the next six weeks, helping facilitate a smooth transition.

Honeycutt, the William A. Carleton professor of church history, has served as a faculty member since 1988.

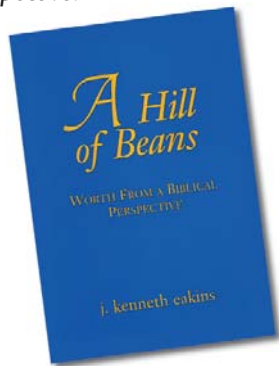
Referring to the assignment of Honeycutt, Iorg stated, "Dr. Honeycutt is a respected leader among us and I ask you to give him your full cooperation through this transition."

The search for a new vice president of academic affairs and dean will begin immediately. A senior faculty consulting group was appointed by Iorg to assist in the process. ☺

◀ Jeff Iorg, Mark Edlund, of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, and Bill and Jo Ann Crews, enjoy the humorist Dennis Swanberg at the April 12 dinner.

j. kenneth eakins
publishes fifth book,
A Hill of Beans:
Worth from a Biblical
Perspective

j. kenneth eakins, professor emeritus at Golden Gate Seminary, has published his fifth book, *A Hill of Beans: Worth from a Biblical Perspective*.



A Hill of Beans is a book that considers the struggle many people have with low self-esteem and feelings of inadequacy. While some wonder, “Will I ever amount to a hill of beans?,” eakins discusses the futility of seeking for worth through wealth, education, fame, power, and happiness. Drawing upon his diverse professional, educational, and personal background, eakins approaches the subject from a biblical perspective with an easy-to-read style. The book suggests answers and provides helpful insights for anyone who aspires to be truly worthy.

eakins is native of the Missouri Ozarks and has worked as a pediatrician, archaeologist, seminary professor, and minister. Retiring in 1993, he was Professor of Old Testament and Archeology at Golden Gate Seminary for 23 years and director of the Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection at the Northern California Campus. To order copies, contact eakins at keneakins@ggbts.edu.

Pacific Northwest Campus Graduates Ethnic Leaders

For the first time, the Pacific Northwest Campus of Golden Gate Seminary graduated students from the Contextualized Leadership Development program. Forty-nine students qualified for diplomas in Christian ministries at the May ceremonies.

“The Pacific Northwest Campus is delighted to have this opportunity,” said PNWC Director Chris Turner. “The graduates of this program are quality individuals who will minister effectively across many cultural and geographical barriers. Rev. Rodruan has done a tremendous job with the Portland CLD center.”

Established in the early 1980s, CLD offers post-high school education to Christian leaders for church planting, evangelism and ministry. Classes are offered at sites close to sponsoring churches and are taught in several languages.

Since many people arrive in the Northwest from countries with little or no opportunity for formal education, CLD serves this need to teach, train and deploy Christian workers.

CLD classes are most often taught in the language of the student, utilizing teaching methods and materials that are contextualized — geared and reworked to communicate the best way to meet the needs of the target audience.

Prachan Rodruan, associate pastor of the Mien Fellowship Baptist Church in Portland, is director of CLD in the Northwest. The school is called the Asian Theological Institute and is operated by a volunteer board of directors and faculty. Tom Hixon, Tuanjai Rodruan and Vincent Inzerillo are on the board of directors. Prachan, Rob Pengra and Inzerillo serve as teachers.

Vincent Inzerillo, a board member and faculty member, said CLD “has inspired other Anglo churches to form partnerships with ethnic congregations. A most unique accomplishment is that they have translated much of the materials with the intent purpose of multiplication. That is, to multiply leaders, start new work and make theological training available in their own language.”

He added, “Many places in Southeast Asia have no materials or formal training. The Mien Church and ATI are looking to send trained disciples where most Caucasians and Christians may not enter.”

Golden Gate helps local churches and associations to open CLD centers wherever such training is needed in order to provide relevant meaningful ministry within every cultural and ethnic group.

More than 400 students are currently enrolled in 25 CLD centers with more than 70 graduating this spring.



Seminary Fills Key Positions



Dr. Don Beall has been named the **director of the Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD)** program of the Seminary. The CLD program offers post-high school education to Christian leaders for church planting, evangelism and ministry. The CLD program currently enrolls approximately 400 students studying at 25 centers

Beall comes to Golden Gate from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) where he served as director of the associational strategy team. Serving state conventions across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, Beall implemented leadership-training programs and provided strategy consulting.

With extensive experience as a director of missions, Beall served 17 years in three different areas of the United States. He served in the Pacific Northwest's Puget Sound Baptist Association from 1995-2001. During this time, the association planted 60 churches and established ministry partnerships in Korea and the Philippines.



Dr. Scott Benson has been appointed as the site **director for the South Orange County Extension** of Golden Gate Seminary on the campus of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. The new assignment is a part of Benson's responsibilities as spiritual growth pastor at Saddleback. In that role, he leads a team that provides tools and resources to help members advance in discipleship.

The extension site of the Seminary offers graduate-level biblical, historical and theological courses that train students for church leadership, Christian living, ministry effectiveness and mission preparation on location at the Saddleback facilities. The courses and supervised experiences lead to a master of arts in theological studies from the Seminary.

Benson received his doctor of ministry and master of divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Before coming to Saddleback, he served as small group pastor at Mariners Church in Irvine, California.



Golden Gate Seminary has named **Dr. Edsel "Eddie" Pate, Jr.** as **director of the Southern California Campus**. As director, Dr. Pate will oversee the operations and development of the campus in Brea, California.

A native of Southern California and well-known California Southern Baptist, Pate was a successful pastor in Barstow before he and his wife, Myrla, were commissioned by the International Mission Board in 1992. He has served as a Missions Leader in the Middle East working with various Arab speaking peoples in areas such as the Sudan and Jordan. Currently an associate professor of missions at Liberty University/Seminary, he teaches missiology and leads ministry trips to the Middle East.

"Pate understands Southern California and I am excited about partnering with him in training church leaders in our region," said Doyle Braden, Director of Missions for the Orange County Southern Baptist Association. "Eddie is not stranger to the cultures of Southern California and his level of commitment will enhance our efforts as he coaches and mentors students at the Southern California Campus."

Pate received his bachelor of arts from California Baptist University and the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southwestern Seminary. He served as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Barstow, California and the senior pastor for North Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Arizona:

2240 North Hayden Road, Suite 101
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
(480) 941-1993

Northern California:

201 Seminary Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
Main number: (415) 380-1300
Institutional Advancement:
(888) 442-8709
Admissions: (888) 442-8701

Pacific Northwest:

3200 NE 109th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98682
(360) 882-2200

Rocky Mountain:

7393 South Alton Way
Centennial, CO 80112
(303) 779-6431

Southern California:

251 South Randolph Avenue, Suite A
Brea, CA 92821
(714) 256-1311



On the Web:
www.ggbts.edu

Golden Gate
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

201 Seminary Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941

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