

# GATEWAY

A man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a blue shirt and a grey blazer, is speaking at a podium. He has a microphone clipped to his shirt and his right hand is raised in a gesture. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**THE ONE-POINT  
SERMON**

**MMA FIGHTER  
CHOOSES MINISTRY**

**STUDIO CITY  
CHURCH PLANT**





ON THE COVER: Dr. Jim Wilson, professor of leadership formation and director of Gateway Seminary's doctor of ministry program, trains students who lead in ministry all over the world.

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## THE ONE-POINT SERMON

Dr. Jim Wilson's new book maintains that the way scripture is presented in a sermon could change its meaning.



## GATEWAY MAGAZINE

Official Magazine  
of Gateway Seminary  
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Ontario, CA 91761  
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**GATEWAY SEMINARY**

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DR. JEFF IORG, PRESIDENT

# SHAPING LEADERS TO BE THE DIFFERENCE

**In every place, ministry leadership is challenging work but neither faculty nor alumni are in ministry to get rich or famous. They serve to make a difference — and hopefully, to be the difference.**

Gateway Seminary shapes leaders who advance God's kingdom around the world. Yes, you see the Seminary's mission statement in our materials and on our displays. It is the heart of the institution — what we're all about here.

When I read those words, I see the faces of our faculty and our alumni. Our faculty do more than teach. They are active in various ministries, where they serve with passion, and then bring that experience back to their students as mentors. More than 9,000 graduates serve across the U.S. and in countries all over the world. What they have learned from their practitioner professors is being applied in very practical ways wherever God has led them.

In every place, ministry leadership is challenging work but neither faculty nor alumni are in ministry to get rich or famous. They serve to make a difference — and hopefully, to be the difference in their churches, in their communities and around the world.

That's why we adopted "Be the Difference" as the theme for this summer issue of Gateway magazine. In the pages of this edition, you'll read about Nate Marquardt, who gave up a career as a professional fighter for ministry. And about Jim Wilson, director of Gateway's doctor of ministry program, who brings his experience in the pulpit to those who want to be more effective preachers. There's a story about DJ Jenkins, who leads a church plant in Studio City, Calif. among those who work in the movie and television industry. And about Michael Kopulos, who took his ministry to a public high school, where God has multiplied his sphere of influence beyond what he could have imagined.

We are thankful for you, wherever you are and wherever you serve. Thank you for your support for Gateway Seminary as we continue to shape leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world.







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# EXILE AND A FUTURE HOPE

**Jared Jenkins, a Ph.D. student at Gateway Seminary, serves as discipleship and missions pastor at Risen Life Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. This article was originally titled *Exile, Ben-Hur, and a Future Hope* and appeared in Jenkins' blog at [www.entrustedwiththegospel.com](http://www.entrustedwiththegospel.com).**

**I**n August of 2016, I stepped on to the brand-new campus of Gateway Seminary to start my third year and final semester of seminars in my pursuit of an Old Testament Ph.D.

Not many schools move. Not many students experience the move of a school in the middle of their Ph.D. program. Not many schools move from one of the most beautiful pieces of property in the world to the Inland Empire. There is the sound of much rejoicing and weeping, similar to that described in the book of Ezra.

After the return from the exile, Ezra records the sentiment of the people as they viewed the laying of the foundation of the second temple. Ezra 3:11 tells us that “all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid,” but Ezra 3:12 also tells us that many of the old men who had seen the first temple “wept with a loud voice.”

Furthermore, Ezra 3:13 tells us that sound of joy could not be distinguished from the sound of weeping. The Lord had been faithful in bringing Israel back from exile, but the second temple was not as glorious

as the first. There was joy and pain in the return. The same has been true of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary’s move from Mill Valley, Calif. to become Gateway Seminary in Ontario, Calif.

**Where the old campus was more of a retreat, even monastic in feel, with the city nicely removed across the bay, the new campus in right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of humanity.**

God is faithful. God had a bigger plan for Israel, and he has a bigger plan for Gateway. Wise decisions have been made for the seminary based on its mission, and the future could not be brighter. As I stepped onto the new campus, I was stunned. The new campus is inspiring. I spent the day rejoicing with my fellow students as we caught up with one another from the summer, we explored the campus together, and encouraged each other to finish the

race. We worshiped together as we began the semester’s studies and living water began to flow. Our heads were lifted.

God was faithful to bring Israel back from the exile. The second temple seemed to be lacking compared to the first, but little did the returnees know that the glory of this house would far outstrip the first as the Son of God himself would walk right in the doors (Haggai 2:9). The new campus of Gateway Seminary is amazing, though it is not the original campus with all its memories and beauty, but we will pray and hope that the glory and impact of this campus will far surpass the first.

It has been almost two years since Gateway moved to Ontario from Mill Valley. I am still pursuing my Ph.D. in Old Testament, and I am currently a few chapters into my dissertation. I hope to finish up early in 2019. I visit the campus less than I did, but I am still a regular face.

The campus has come alive and normal patterns of life and education have begun to be established. You can now get a cup of coffee or a sandwich in the café on the first floor. The study cubicles in the library are so popular you have to make sure you





reserve one in advance if you are planning some days of study. The book scanner is firing away in the library. Hebrew students are practicing on whiteboards for Dr. Wegner. Chapel occurs regularly with many great guest speakers. You can enjoy a nice lunch outside sitting by the pond gazing through the palm trees at Mt. Baldy. Life is happening here at the school.

Two years ago, the memory of the Mill Valley campus was still raw and on everyone's hearts and minds seemingly daily. But it is funny how quickly memories fade. There is a new crop of students at Gateway, many of whom only know this campus. Memories are being made here. Men and women are training for ministry here, and this campus is becoming that special place where God is dealing with future ministers of the Gospel.

The unique aspects of the campus are starting to shape study here as well. Sometimes in the morning or evening I pray in the library by walking around gazing out of the perimeter windows. It is hard not to notice the campus on all

sides being surrounded by different means of transportation. Planes landing, trains chugging by, cars speeding along. It is a constant reminder that the campus is only a stopover place.

We are here to train, learn God's word, and then go out into the world and share the Gospel. Where the old campus was more of a retreat, even monastic in feel, with the city nicely removed across the bay, the new campus is right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of humanity. Many students commute to class from across the city and country, study, and then quickly are off to do ministry. This is a good thing.

The whole time the temple was being built the Israelites faced opposition. The regional governors of the land were perpetually trying to put a stop to the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple. But God was always there, despite the people's sin, being true to his promises to never let Israel go and to reestablish them in the land. Gateway and Christian education in general in California is currently undergoing a lot of fire from the regional governors of the

land. But in the midst of these trials, God is with his people. In Ezra, God sends Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to keep going. God has done the same with Gateway. The school is established, there are the ongoing trials and struggles both internally as well as externally, but there are many saints saying, "Keep Going!"

The future is bright and I look forward to how God will continue to shape and transform Gateway into a faithful seminary teaching God's word to a future generation of pastors and teachers. I am glad to be a part of this season in the school's history and look forward to being a part of its future, making this house more glorious and effective than the first.



# THE ONE-POINT SERMON

**Jim Wilson began preaching at the age of 17. Now he teaches ministers all over the world to be more effective from the pulpit. His new book *Impact Preaching: A Case for the One-Point Expository Sermon* calls for accuracy in presenting scripture in sermons.**

**T**he seed for Jim Wilson's new book on one-point sermons began with a convocation address in 2013. That address began a discussion among the faculty at what was then Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I made the argument that the form of a sermon should match the form of the [biblical] text," Wilson said. "We have to be careful about the way that text is presented in a sermon, because the way it's presented can affect the meaning."

The discussion with other faculty led Wilson to dig deeper.

"I wanted to go beyond what I knew. I needed the expertise of biblical scholars — scholars of both the Old and New Testament. I worked with David Johnson, Michael Kuykendall and Greg Watson, who co-wrote the book with me."

All four men are faculty members at Gateway Seminary. The book, *Impact Preaching: A Case for the One-Point Expository Sermon*, was published in March. Wilson uses the book as a text for his preaching class.

"If we take our cues from biblical cues, half our sermons should be one point sermons," Wilson said. "If we force a form

on a text, we can alter the meaning and the impact. Take Matthew 7:7, for example: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Some preachers will divide that verse into three parts — *ask* and it will be given you, *seek* and you will find, *knock* and it will be opened to you.

"The verse means you can pray with confidence that God will answer your prayers. But to divide it into three parts — as a preacher might in a three-point sermon — implies three modes of praying or even three separate actions involved in praying."

Wilson said that structure makes prayer a secondary solution and human activity the primary, consistent with Benjamin Franklin's philosophy that God helps those who help themselves. But the verse really says that God loves His people, and He will answer their prayers.

"When I say to my wife 'I love you, I care for you, I couldn't live without you,' I'm telling her how much she means to me," he said. "To divide the statement into parts would change its meaning."

In his preaching class, offered online this fall, Wilson maintains a comfortable environment so that students can grow.

"We don't poke holes in each other," he said. "I see transformation in the students as the class progresses. During the term, I spend a lot of time in the structure of the sermons, because if the bones aren't right, the meat won't hang right. I tell students not to cobble together ideas to develop a sermon — you can't get better than the scriptural text."

It might seem strange for a preaching class to be offered online, but Wilson says he sees as much or more growth among online students than he sees in a traditional classroom with face-to-face students.

"I boil lectures down to 20-minute videos. We have discussion boards, I make follow-up phone calls and we have [web] meetings. The format of the class gives me a better idea of how students are integrating the material into their own ministries."

Wilson said students are required to post one question and two comments from others' postings, so they are posting something three times in one class session.







“Even the normally silent student must post three times,” he said. “What I learn about their grasp of the material is through their interaction with one another. Plus feedback from a peer is easier for students to process than feedback from a professor. The groups within the class give them feedback, then I give private feedback. I call out excellence through public praise. For the preaching class, students will preach six sermons, including an expository, a multi-point sermon, three one-point sermons and any type of expository sermon. I give them individual coaching, and we use private appointments to walk them through the sermon.”

In his feedback, Wilson tells the student what he did best, as well as the one thing that if improved would make the sermon more effective.

“I’m interested in helping people communicate God’s word, not to express their own ideas.”

Wilson, professor of leadership formation

and director of the doctor of ministry program, began preaching when he was 17. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Wayland Baptist University and master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. In the last three years, he has published nine books as author, co-author or contributor, and he just signed contracts for two more.

He has taught at Gateway Seminary for 12 years, formerly serving as pastor at Light-house Baptist Church in Seaside, Calif. He received a sabbatical grant to become fluent in Spanish, with his goal to lead the church to become bilingual. Plans for him and his wife to be appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries did not work out. At first he was disappointed that he would not be able to serve overseas, until the opportunity to join Gateway’s faculty came where he has the opportunity to train those who go.

“I can’t go myself, but I train those who do. The D.Min. program is expanding to Singapore, Taiwan, Europe and South Korea.”

Still, Wilson is wistful as he talks about ‘those who pour out their lives around the world.’

“We have faculty members who spend their summers doing things no one ever sees, like establishing orphanages or training members of the underground church in China, or training pastors in Africa. We have missionaries around the world who are students in our program. It’s an honor to serve next to those men and women.”

Wilson said the book would not have been possible without Gateway faculty.

“It is such a privilege to be a part of these men and women. They’re not only shaping leaders to expand God’s kingdom, they’re accelerating the Great Commission,” he said. That’s why we dedicated the book to the faculty and students at Gateway Seminary. They’re my heroes.”





# CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

**A**nthology Church is a young plant in Studio City, a neighborhood of Los Angeles, Calif. The sanctuary of Anthology is assembled each Sunday: black drapes are lifted onto tall steel pipes on the lateral walls, and crimson curtains are pulled across the stage.

But DJ Jenkins, pastor of Anthology and current Gateway student, doesn't preach on the platform. He is on the ground, a small striped rug and a black music stand his pulpit. A few colored lights shine up from the ground to light this area. The atmosphere is decidedly relaxed and children can be heard playing soccer outside.

They meet each Sunday in a recreation center at a public park that serves some of the most influential people in Los Angeles.

"These are the people who are making the stories that shape our culture, our world, our children, not just in our country but everywhere," said Jenkins. "As we prayed about where we were going to start a church, it became clear this is one of the most strategic neighborhoods, not just in Southern California, but perhaps the whole country, and there is no consistent, indigenous Gospel witness here."

Studio City sprung up around what is now CBS Studio Center. Originally built in 1928 by Mack Sennett, the studio has been used to film series such as *Seinfeld*, *Mary Tyler Moore*, *Gilligan's Island*, *Roseanne* and *Gunsmoke*. There are around 40,000 people living in Studio City, many of whom work in the movie and television industries.

"We learned there were zero evangelical churches at all," Jenkins said. "There was no place in Studio City where a person could walk or drive in five minutes to hear the good news of Jesus in their own community."

Jenkins grew up in Redlands, Calif., 75 miles east of Studio City. He began following Christ while he was a student at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona through the local Campus Crusade chapter. After graduating he served with Campus Crusade for nine years at Cal Poly, the University of Arizona and in São Paulo, Brazil. He met Alisha, his wife, through Campus Crusade, and they now have two children.

"The last few years we were on staff with that organization, we started to be

burdened for Los Angeles as a whole, particularly hard areas," Jenkins said. He met with a NAMB Send City missionary who cast a vision for the San Fernando Valley, specifically Studio City.

In 2012 Jenkins and his family moved back to California and spent a year doing groundwork by volunteering in the neighborhood. They started the first small group in their home, meeting once a month. By 2014 they needed more space for weekly meetings. The Studio City Recreation Center was open to hosting Anthology Church at a reduced cost, even though they had previously rejected other religious groups' requests to use the building.

"We came in asking for tangible ways we could bless the community and get involved."

Jenkins' daughter was old enough to start playing sports so he and his wife began coaching soccer, basketball and tee ball. Then Jenkins was asked to join the park advisory board, a role that helped him better understand his neighborhood.

"Studio City is an extremely progressive area. It places a high value on tolerance; a



high value on diversity; a high value on justice,” Jenkins said. “They are passionate about their values.”

Jenkins finds it easy to connect those values to the truth of the Gospel. In light of the #MeToo movement and a growing list of sexual assault accusations and convictions in the entertainment industry, sense can be found in the Bible.

“We have a story for that; we have an explanation for that,” Jenkins said. “The drama in our society is in many ways created by us and our sins.”

This is not to say the task is easy.

“Because there are so few Christians here, many people only have the stereotype in their heads. So we have to do our best to show we care for this city, that we want Studio City and Los Angeles to flourish.”

To that end, everything at Anthology Church centers on the Bible. Jenkins is preaching through it in order. Each Sunday includes a public reading of Scripture. The congregants sit at tables supplied with Bibles, pens and handouts that cover background material and further reading on the subject scripture. Anthology’s community groups are oriented around Bible study.

“When we talk about serving in the community it is ‘Let’s go live out the implications of this truth together; Let’s invite other people into this Good News,’” Jenkins said. “We want to bring our stories together with God’s story to see a greater work in our city.”



He says it is slow work, but the fruit is obvious. It can take a person one to two years of involvement in the church before they accept Christ.

“Because we are in a very diverse, progressive area, [people] are probably going to have a lot of things, either in their life or their thinking, that are outside of a Christian worldview or a gospel life.”

These seekers are welcome at Anthology. The message to non-Christians is “whatever doubts and whatever question [they have] are not abnormal things,” Jenkins said. “We want [them] with us to explore what Jesus says about life and purpose.”







# IORG: 'TELL EVERYONE'

**Dr. Jeff Iorg presents the William O. Crews Presidential Leadership Award to Wuttichai Chayasirisobhon. Chayasirisobhon honored Iorg with a special award his church presents for outstanding achievement.**

President Jeff Iorg charged Spring graduates to share the Gospel with everyone they encounter, to be the sweet aroma of a triumphant Lord.

Iorg said some aromas evoke positive emotions. He recalled playing baseball as a boy in the shadow of huge, commercial bakery, "Baseball and the smell of fresh bread go together and bring back many happy memories.

"Our sense of smell is profound. That's why God used it as an analogy to communicate something powerful about



our role in sharing the gospel.” Speaking from 2 Corinthians 2, Iorg charged the graduates, “Tonight, we commission you as the sweet aroma of Jesus Christ sharing the good news of our triumphant Lord. Like a generous diffuser, you must share the gospel indiscriminately with as many people as possible.”

Iorg continued, “Sharing the gospel is not about you getting accolades. It’s about being faithful to the Lord and his gospel. It’s not about you. It’s about the message and getting it to as many people as possible, not who gets the credit.”

Ninety graduates received diplomas and degrees at the Spring commencement ceremony May 18 at Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda, Calif. The service was the third of five for Gateway Seminary students, including the Pacific Northwest Campus in Vancouver, Wash., on May 11, the Rocky Mountain Campus in Centennial, Colo. on May 12 and the San Francisco Campus in Fremont, Calif. on May 19. The final ceremony was held at the Arizona Campus in Scottsdale May 26. In all, Iorg conferred 194 diplomas and degrees during those services.

In a student testimony, Christian Lopez of California, who received a master

of divinity degree, testified to being an atheist as a senior in high school. He connected with a church youth group and youth pastor who patiently answered his questions about religion and faith. Lopez later accepted the challenge to read the Bible — and read it all the way through. That experience led him to faith in Jesus. When he continued to ask many questions about faith and the Bible, his pastor encouraged him to consider seminary.

“I didn’t know what seminary was, but the pastor paid for me to visit Gateway,” he said. “I eventually enrolled, and I’ve loved my experience here. I have enjoyed the diversity of the students, where a senior pastor sits on my left and a missionary off the field is on my right. I also am grateful you can become real friends with the professors.”

Another student, Carola Manriquez of Chile, received a master of arts in intercultural studies. She grew up on Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary’s former campus in Mill Valley, Calif., as her dad attended classes. After growing up in a minister’s home, she has come full circle and discovered her own calling through Gateway.

“There are plenty of labels placed on me: Latina, minority, women, student,” she said. “At Gateway, I learned the label of God for my life: cultural mediator. I am a third culture kid who sits in the middle. My role is helping people in other cultures understand things, to be a resource for what God has called them to do, to help them find beauty in their birth place. That is my heart song.”

Iorg presented the William O. Crews Presidential Leadership Award to Wuttichai Victor Chayasirisobhon, senior pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Anaheim and chief administrator of the Discovery Christian School. The Crews award recognizes a graduate who has significant leadership potential, particularly for pastoral or denominational service.

Chayasirisobhon received both the master of intercultural studies and doctor of ministry degrees. He has now earned 10 academic degrees, having first trained as a physician before committing himself to pastoral leadership. He is also the first vice-president of the California Southern Baptist Convention.



Gateway Seminary faculty pray over graduates during the closing prayer at the spring commencement ceremony at Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda, Calif.



# REGIONAL CAMPUSES

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Faculty and graduates pose for photos at the Pacific Northwest Campus commencement ceremony, held May 11 at CrossPointe Baptist Church in Vancouver, Wash.



Faculty members at the Rocky Mountain Campus pray with graduates at spring commencement services held May 12 at Community of Grace in Centennial, Colo. *Photo by Lou Taylor of Taylor Made Photography*





San Francisco Campus faculty pose with graduates at the commencement ceremony held May 19 at the Crossroads Church in Fremont, Calif.



Gateway Seminary's Arizona Campus hosted the final spring 2018 commencement service at First Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale. Faculty and students are pictured here.



# MMA TO MTS

**Nate Marquardt retired as a professional mixed martial arts fighter to direct his energy toward theological education and ministry.**

BE THE DIFFERENCE

One thing Southern Baptists and mixed martial arts fighters have in common is a propensity for acronyms. For instance: Nate Marquardt, a current MTS student at the RMC, retired from professional MMA fighting in 2017. He fought matches for Pancrase, UFC and Strikeforce.

Now he hopes to serve with his family in ministry.

Marquardt is pursuing a master of theological studies degree at Gateway's Rocky Mountain Campus. The drive that led him to a successful career in mixed martial arts (MMA) has been redirected into pursuing Christ.

As a child, Marquardt would always tell people that whatever sport he was currently playing was what he wanted to do professionally.

"When I was playing soccer, I wanted to be a soccer player," he said. "If I was playing basketball, I wanted to play in the NBA."

Marquardt began training in MMA in high school after watching an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fight.

"I was kind of a small [person] in high school," he said and he identified with a successful UFC fighter who was the smallest guy in the tournament. "He was able to use technique to beat his opponents and that really intrigued me. As soon as I started fighting, my goal was to become a professional fighter."

He found a gym that taught Brazilian jiu-jitsu, kickboxing and karate. By age 20, Marquardt had a contract to fight in Japan, marking his move into professional fighting. He went on to win 35 fights in his career, earning titles in Pancrase, several wins in UFC and a welterweight title in Strikeforce. He announced his retirement in December 2017 after 18 years and 56 professional fights.

Retiring from professional fighting has been an easy transition for Nate Marquardt. Many people, athlete or not, do not get to share that experience. For Marquardt, the ease of this shift is due to a greater change he experienced in 2013: salvation.

Though he grew up in what he called a Christian home, and his father was a Lutheran pastor for a few years, Marquardt did not fully surrender until later in his life.

"I learned about a false Christianity that says you can live however you want and call yourself a Christian and be accepted," he said. "The true Gospel is the Gospel that changes lives, and I didn't learn about that until I was 33 years old. I basically hit rock bottom. My career, my finances, my marriage, everything was in shambles. But once I truly surrendered and humbled myself, all the anger, the lust was just gone. It changed my life, our family life, changed my wife's life and my kids' lives."

*Continued on page 18*









Nate Marquardt in class on Gateway Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus near Denver, Colo.

## MMA TO MTS

*Continued from page 16*

"My goal wasn't to just live a good, happy life," he said. "In fact, if by any kind of suffering I can win more people to Christ, then so be it."

Marquardt is married to Tessa, and they have four children together plus one more from a previous relationship. They study the Bible, memorize scripture, sing worship songs and even evangelize together. One of his daughters recently gave Marquardt's physician a gospel tract, and Marquardt has been following up with him since then.

This is markedly different from how Marquardt grew up.

"I had a very good childhood when my parents were married. As soon as they split up I had a pretty bad childhood," Marquardt said. Being a biblical father is something Marquardt strives for. He recalls being disciplined as a child "always out of anger." Now he seeks an alternative: to discipline his children in a gospel-centered way.

"God is just, so we need to be just with our children, but God is also merciful," he said. Marquardt's goal is for his children to

understand why they are being disciplined and why they receive mercy.

He holds himself to the same standard, modeling repentance for his children when he is wrong. Marquardt and his wife want to represent Christ to their children. "How can we do that if we are hypocrites?" Marquardt asked.

Marquardt watched the film *The Insanity of God* and began to seriously consider becoming involved in ministry.

"I had wanted to do missions as soon as I got saved," he said, but was unsure he would be able to because he doesn't have a bachelor's degree. With encouragement from his wife, Marquardt continued to investigate and found that a master's by exception was an option.

Marquardt is careful to say that he will follow God's call to any task in any place, but he thinks there may be a way for his experience in MMA to be used in some unique ways.

"Once I got saved I had this idea of opening a gym in a poor area," he said. He'd like to work with orphans and children whose fathers have left them. His vision is to serve them by "letting them train for free in the gym, helping them with homework and whatever else they need."

Marquardt currently runs a small sports ministry called Resurrection Jiu-Jitsu with a friend who used to train with him. That friend was one of the first people Marquardt shared Christ with, and he experienced a drastic conversion from Islam to Christianity.

In this ministry Marquardt teaches a class for children and one for adults. The children listen to a Bible lesson and memorize Scripture while the adults share testimonies after training.

Though Marquardt isn't exactly sure where God will lead him after seminary, he is ready to do it. Until then, he is going to be obedient each day.

"I see life as ministry. Once you are a Christian, you are in ministry," he said.



← TRAVEL WITH GATEWAY



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# *The Footsteps of Paul* March 10-20, 2019

**Turkey**

**Greece**

11 days, including a 3-day Mediterranean cruise

**\$3,609.00 \***

*\*with roundtrip  
airfare from  
Los Angeles.*

▶ E-mail Jeff Jones at [JeffJones@gs.edu](mailto:JeffJones@gs.edu)



# THE NEW NORMAL

Trustees of Gateway Seminary approved an \$11.9 million budget for 2018-2019; approved the sale of the regional campus in Brea, Calif.; and heard reports on the “new normal” for the main campus in Ontario.

President Jeff Iorg noted that the transition to a new location and a new name for the Seminary occurred two years ago, and he had noticed it is no longer a topic of discussion in meetings.

“I’m proud that we’re not talking about it any more,” he said. “It’s a compliment to leadership that (the staff) has moved on to strategizing for the next era. I thought it would take one year (after the transition) and we would be in our ‘new normal,’ but it actually took two years. Now we have finally come to that point.”

Iorg said the new budget was conservative and balanced, and represents post-relocation realities.

“We have calibrated every position and made sure the funding and staff is in the right place.”

Trustees approved the sale of the regional campus in Brea, Calif., giving Iorg authority to negotiate with prospective buyers. The 2-acre property, located approximately 25 miles from the main campus in Ontario, could add another \$5 million to the institution’s land sale endowment. The academic operations in Brea will end by July 31, 2018, with classes transitioned to the main campus in Ontario. That move is the final step in the Seminary’s transition that began in 2014.

“For over 30 years this property has been a source of theological training for students throughout Southern California and our commitment to the area remains,” said Iorg. “The proceeds of this sale will allow us to continue to fulfill our essential mission of shaping leaders who expand God’s kingdom around the world.”

Iorg said that pastors ask him “how is enrollment?” and he tells them he can answer that question if the pastor will answer one of his: “when is the last time you issued an invitation from the pulpit for full-time Christian service?” Iorg said he had not spoken with a pastor yet who remembers the last time he did so.

“If the Southern Baptist Convention has been declining in baptisms for 40 years, why do we assume seminaries will not decline also? We can only enroll those students who have answered the call for full-time Christian ministry. Pastors need to return to the practice of inviting those who are called to come forward.”

In personnel matters, the trustees, citing multiple factors, voted unanimously to end employment of Dr. Carl Moser as professor of theology. They also recognized Dr. Tim Wiarda as senior professor of New Testament studies. Senior status is granted to faculty who are retiring but will continue to teach adjunctively.

The board elected new officers for 2018-2019, including Larry Felkins of Alabama as chairman, Keith Goeking of Missouri as vice chairman and Gayle Fee of Nevada as board secretary.





President Jeff Iorg congratulates Dr. Tim Wiarda as senior professor of New Testament studies.



President Jeff Iorg (center) poses with a framed cover of his new book on the seminary's transition, along with vice presidents key to the institution's move. From left, Tom Hixson, Jeff Jones, Michael Martin and Adam Groza.



# AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SER







**M**ichael Kopulos took an alternate route to becoming a teacher. Not only did he get his teaching certification later in life, but his path to Delhi High School's classrooms included several turns along the way.

Delhi is a small community outside of Turlock in northern California. The school campus is made up of several administrative and classroom buildings connected by sidewalks and open grass lawns. It plays an important role in a place the size of Delhi. For example, Merced Community College uses some of the classroom space for classes.

"In a lot of smaller communities like this — 10,755 people — there is no city council or mayor," he said. "The school is the center of the community; it is everything to the community."

Before becoming a teacher, Kopulos was a professional musician, touring with Earl Thomas Conley, Mel McDaniel, Clay and Sally Hart. He also has worked with Nelson Rios, Grecco Buratto and Dove Award winner Bryan Duncan. Kopulos became a Christian while living and working in Nashville and began spending his downtime on the tour bus reading the Bible. He and his family moved back to California to attend Gateway Seminary to feed a "deep hunger and thirst for God," he said.

He graduated in 1992 with a master of divinity degree, expecting to work as a minister in a church. Instead, Kopulos began a second successful career in the automotive industry until 2008, when he began considering ways to give back to his community in a meaningful way. Although teaching had not been part of Kopulos' plan at all, he returned to the classroom to gain teaching credentials.

"For me it comes down to surrender, and that means putting aside my expectations and my hopes and just trusting," he said.

There is a common thread that ties each phase of his career together: Kopulos' focus was less on what he is doing and more on how he was doing it. Though it was not what he expected, his career has given him the opportunity to let people know about the love of Jesus Christ.

Kopulos teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Literature, AP Language, Pre-AP English for Sophomores and American Literature for Juniors. His passion is found

in those AP classes.

"It is a very deep look into the subtext and the intentional meanings of the authors," he said.

Because students are often under immense stress — some with difficult family lives — he aims to educate them about more than particples and passive voice.

"I train them not to run from problems but to face problems, to work through problems," he said. "I am a messenger of God's love to these students, because a lot of them come from troubled homes."

His role as an English teacher allows him to reach students with "treasures of deep Christian truth" from classic literature.

"How does this piece of literature or speech connect to the human predicament, the universal challenge that all humans have to face?" is the question Kopulos ultimately asks his students.

"The jewels come from the lessons that the piece of literature teaches. While they may not be explicitly Christian, they certainly come under the strong influence of Christian tradition. Occasionally those things need to be explained a little bit more explicitly, in terms of the symbolism and such, but they are rather prevalent in both British and American literature."

He mentioned *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë as a text he uses in class. In the story, Jane is sent to a boarding school by her cold aunt. There she meets Helen Burns, an incredibly devout Christian who models the love of Christ and the idea of forgiveness against her adversaries.

"She [Helen] never loses hope and that shapes Jane," Kopulos said. "That whole new birth in Jane is lived out in the rest of the novel. [Literature] asks questions that we as humans have to deal with. In advance of students having to personally face the real-life question, they are cultivating values through the study of literature."

Kopulos says that life is ministry.

"It is service unto God in everything we do," he said. "God is at work in me and through me. It has nothing to do with me being a teacher. I put on Christ every day and live that in front of my students."



# ORDINARY WOMEN EXTRAORDINARY GOD



## Have you ever thought you might be limiting God by not believing He can accomplish what He's called you to do?

About 200 women participated in the 2018 Women's Leadership Conference at Gateway Seminary Feb. 23 and 24. With a theme of Ordinary Women, Extraordinary God, the conference featured 25 session speakers in English, Korean and Spanish tracks, as well as keynote speakers Chris Adams and Dr. Jeff Iorg. Sandra Lucrecia Williams served as worship leader.

Adams, who recently retired as senior lead women's ministry specialist at Lifeway Christian Resources, helped pioneer women's ministry. Williams is director of magnification (consisting of music, audio, video and drama) at Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, where her husband is senior pastor.

In her keynote titled "An Imperfect Woman in God's Perfect Plan," Adams opened her address by asking "have you ever thought you might be limiting God by not believing He can accomplish what He's called you to do?"

"What causes you to fear? Maybe it's just someone who said something that makes you doubt your abilities. Perhaps you're just afraid of God's assignment He has given you. Perhaps you think 'I can't do that.' We have to be ready for the attack of the enemy. God is calling you to a deeper level all the time."

She reminded the audience that in Exodus chapters 3 and 4, Moses made four excuses: inferiority (who am I?), ignorance (what do I say?), insecurity (what if they don't believe and don't obey me?) and inadequacy (I'm not eloquent).

"With Jesus, we are better than good enough for the task we've been given, because He steps in and fulfills what we cannot do on our own."

Adams recalled a time when she and her husband got a two-man kayak at the beach and went out on the water.

"We both had paddles, we were going in circles and we got exhausted. We got back to the shore, and I kept looking at the boat. Could I do this by myself? I started paddling and I thought—sometimes it's

easier to get in the boat by yourself—just you and God."

As she paddled the kayak, she headed for a manmade reef, not knowing if it was too far away. She made it and realized she would have missed the beauty of the reef if she had been too afraid.

"You can't stay where you are and go with God. That's not how God works. He's always trying to get us to go deeper with Him."

Adams said she likes to look for shells on the beach. She used to look for large shells or the unusual, throwing back the little ones and the broken ones.

"But one day God asked me 'aren't you glad I don't do that?' Now I have a shell I have kept because it's chipped, and it's scarred. It has a lot of character. This is a picture of us in our lives. We'll have scars in heaven, but we won't have the wound. Which shell would you want to be like — the smooth one that is nearly perfect or the one that has scars?"

Cathe Laurie, originally scheduled to speak at the conference, was unable to attend and addressed the women via video. Laurie is the wife of Greg Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., and is the founder and director of women's ministry at Harvest. President Jeff Iorg spoke in her stead, using John 14:12 as his text: *Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

"This verse intimidates me," he said. "I did not preach on this text until I had been in ministry for 30 years. What does it mean? I finally discovered the answer when I kept reading. In the next few verses, Jesus lays out simple processes — to pray bigger prayers and to pray in His authority, His power and His glory. What are you praying for that seems impossible?"

He challenged participants to pray bigger prayers and to take risks in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"When you do something in your ministry

that requires risk, it will only be successful if the Holy Spirit intervenes. It only happens when you open your mouth to stop talking and trust in the Lord."

Iorg said the way to change the people around you is to teach them to obey the commands of God.

As a chaplain for a sports team, he talked with a husband on the team about problems the man was having in his marriage, telling him "God loves you and will change you." Iorg did not expect to hear from him again.

Weeks later, the man contacted Iorg and said that he had called another player for advice, who told him the same thing Iorg had. He asked 'now what?' Iorg told him to get his Bible, start with Matthew and do everything it tells you to do.

"His life was transformed in front of me," Iorg said. "He asked me one day 'Did you know there's a whole lot of Bible before Matthew? I told him 'Matthew starts with Jesus, and I thought you should get to know him first. Change someone's life by teaching them to obey God's word. You will see lives transformed.'"

**Opposite page: Chris Adams gives a keynote address.**

### JOIN THE GATEWAY SEMINARY WOMEN'S NETWORK (WN)

Take the lead and join hundreds of women as they connect through interactive live webinars led by world-class trainers and ministry leaders. Gain instant access to WN conferences, personal mentors, and other resources designed to equip you in your calling. For more information, go to [www.gs.edu/academics/womens-program/](http://www.gs.edu/academics/womens-program/)



## ACADEMICS

# MAIS ONLINE

Gateway Seminary's Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies degree, offered in traditional classroom and online formats, prepares students to minister in today's multicultural environment.





**T**he Master of Intercultural Studies (MAIS) degree program will be offered entirely online in the fall, in addition to being available in the traditional classroom on the Los Angeles-Ontario campus. Gateway Seminary is the first Southern Baptist seminary to offer the degree to online students.

“The MAIS is a two-year degree program to prepare men and women to effectively live out their faith in an increasingly diverse and urbanized world,” said Dr. Lisa Hoff, associate professor of intercultural studies. “No matter what your talents or gifts, God can use the MAIS to grow your understanding of His word and to learn how to engage diverse peoples throughout the world.”

In addition to elective courses, the 49-credit hour program includes a core curriculum with six elements: theology, intercultural communication, multicultural ministry, global leadership, research design and the capstone project.

“In the capstone project, students use what they learned throughout their degree for individual research applied to the intercultural context of their choice,” Hoff

said. “This is a mentored final project that includes a thesis and a public presentation.”

### **CAPSTONE PROJECTS**

Two students recently presented their capstone projects to an audience of Gateway faculty, staff and students.

Carola Manriquez conducted research on the Ontario, Calif., neighborhood surrounding Gateway Seminary’s student housing. Ontario has a population of about 173,000 with 160 churches and is 71.9 percent Latino.

“Every person deserves to hear the gospel,” she said. “That’s why it’s important to build relationships in our communities.”

Her research question was “who is our neighbor and how can we participate in its transformation?”

“The community is changing from primarily Anglo to mostly Hispanic. People in Ontario are less educated, so businesses hire people from other places. The literacy rate and competency in math is lower compared to other places. Education and job opportunities need to improve.”

Gateway students who live in the area view it as poor and Latino, with a language barrier.

“They either have a negative view or a very positive view,” Manriquez said. “My research showed that those views have changed toward the positive in the past eight months, since students have become involved in the community. Gateway students changed when they worked to change the neighborhood.”

Manriquez’s interviews with pastors, city officials and college and seminary administrators revealed that leaders are willing to work alongside students in the area for evangelistic outreach and to improve the area for residents.

“How can you be an example if you’re not there? Building those relationships is so important. We’re all unique, but we all have things in common.”

Victor Chayasirisobhon studied the cultural adaptation of students from Da Nang, Vietnam at the Anaheim Discovery

*Continued on page 28*





MAIS student Carola Manriquez Pozo



MAIS student Victor Chayasirisobhon



Dr. Lisa Hoff directs the MAIS program.

**Part of the class will include an urban plunge with prayer walking communities like Little Tokyo and Skid Row, meeting with church planters, doing street evangelism and engaging in a service project.**

## MAIS ONLINE

*Continued from page 23*

of the school, he noticed that 70 percent of the enrollment was international, with most students coming from Vietnam — particularly from Da Nang.

“My research asked the question ‘why did they come to this school and why did they stay?’” Chayasirisobhon’s study included 14 students (eight women and six men) between the ages of 13 and 19. His methodology included observation, interviews and focus groups.

“I found that the low tuition attracted students, and the school’s proximity to a large Vietnamese population was important. Ten out of 14 of the students learned about the school from word of mouth.”

One student explained in his interview “Vietnamese are not rich like Chinese and Koreans. People from Da Nang are not as rich as people from Ho Chi Minh City. If I fail, my parents won’t lose much money.”

Tuition at ADCS is about \$8,000 per year, compared to \$24,000 elsewhere.

“Some schools have 40-page application forms,” Chayasirisobhon said. “ADCS has a one-page application. We are more interested in souls and seeding them with the word of Christ. Alumni keep coming back, because the school is family. God has sent us the fish, and we prepare them with the gospel as best we can.”

### ELECTIVE COURSE

One option for an elective is the new Engaging Global Cities class, which will be offered this summer.

“The course incorporates everything from the history and growth of global centers, including megacities and megaregions to urban evangelism (reaching professionals and those on skid row), creative access initiatives and church planting,” Hoff said. “We will be offering this class first as a face-to-face experience and then putting it online next year.”

Hoff said part of the class will include an urban plunge with prayer walking communities like Little Tokyo and Skid Row, meeting with church planters, doing street evangelism and engaging in a service project.

“We are partnering with the North American Mission Board to give students maximum exposure to the opportunities in Los Angeles and for them to learn how they can best be equipped to serve in the megacities of the world.”

For more information about the MAIS program, go to <https://www.gs.edu/academics/degrees/masters-programs/master-of-arts-in-intercultural-studies>.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES! APPLY NOW AT [WWW.GS.EDU](http://WWW.GS.EDU) OR CALL 888.442.8701 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAIS PROGRAM. YOU CAN ATTEND TRADITIONAL CLASSES ON THE MAIN CAMPUS IN ONTARIO, CALIF. OR STUDY FROM ANYWHERE ONLINE.**





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# GLOBAL WITNESS

The governing passion in David Garrison's life is simple: to take the Gospel to places where people have never heard. He spent many years doing missions work overseas; now he is leading a ministry that focuses on cross-cultural missions in the United States.

Garrison moved to California from Arkansas, trading the Bible Belt for a learning community "in the midst of a very diverse and in many cases anti-Christian culture," he said. As a student at Gateway, Garrison and his wife, Sonia, attended a Baptist church in San Francisco that had six different language congregations. Having been an exchange student in Japan, he knew enough of the language to lead the music for the Japanese congregation and to preach a few times.

Following seminary, Garrison served as a missionary in Hong Kong, North Africa and Bangalore, earned a Ph.D. in historical theology from the University of Chicago, helped the International Mission Board (IMB) develop Cooperative Services International, served as associate vice president for global strategy for the IMB and wrote several books. In their travels, David and Sonia "found that Christ was up to the challenge of any questions, any needs that anyone from any culture had."

In 2009, David Garrison was asked by the IMB to serve as liaisons to a number of evangelical mission sending organizations to determine best practices in modern missions work. This position catapulted Garrison into a three-year research project on evangelism in Muslim communities that formed the basis of *A Wind in the House of Islam*. "We ended up traveling more than a quarter of a million miles through the Muslim world," Garrison said. From West Africa to Indonesia, Garrison visited more than 44 different evangelistic movements among Muslim-background believers; each had at least 1,000 baptized converts while some had tens of thousands. Garrison's question for these people was simple: "What did God use to bring you to faith in Jesus Christ? Tell us your story."

"For a Muslim to say yes to Jesus and be baptized is to say 'I am willing to die for this,'" Garrison said. "This is not a casual thing; it is a capital offense." Garrison was seeking the reason for this unprecedented movement towards Christ among Muslims. "We've never seen anything like what is happening today," he said.

Ultimately, the point of the book was to ask new converts how missionaries can be more effective at reaching and discipling Muslims because "God is bringing them to our front porch as well," Garrison said. "That led the most recent chapter in our ministry."

"A group of missionaries were saying 'We want to see this happen in America. We believe that God has brought all of these immigrants here not on accident but purposefully,'" Garrison said. "He has brought them to New York, Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and even smaller towns; Nashville [has] a huge Kurdish population; St. Louis [has] a sizable Bosnian Muslim population," he said. "He has brought them here for a reason but we don't know how to reach them."

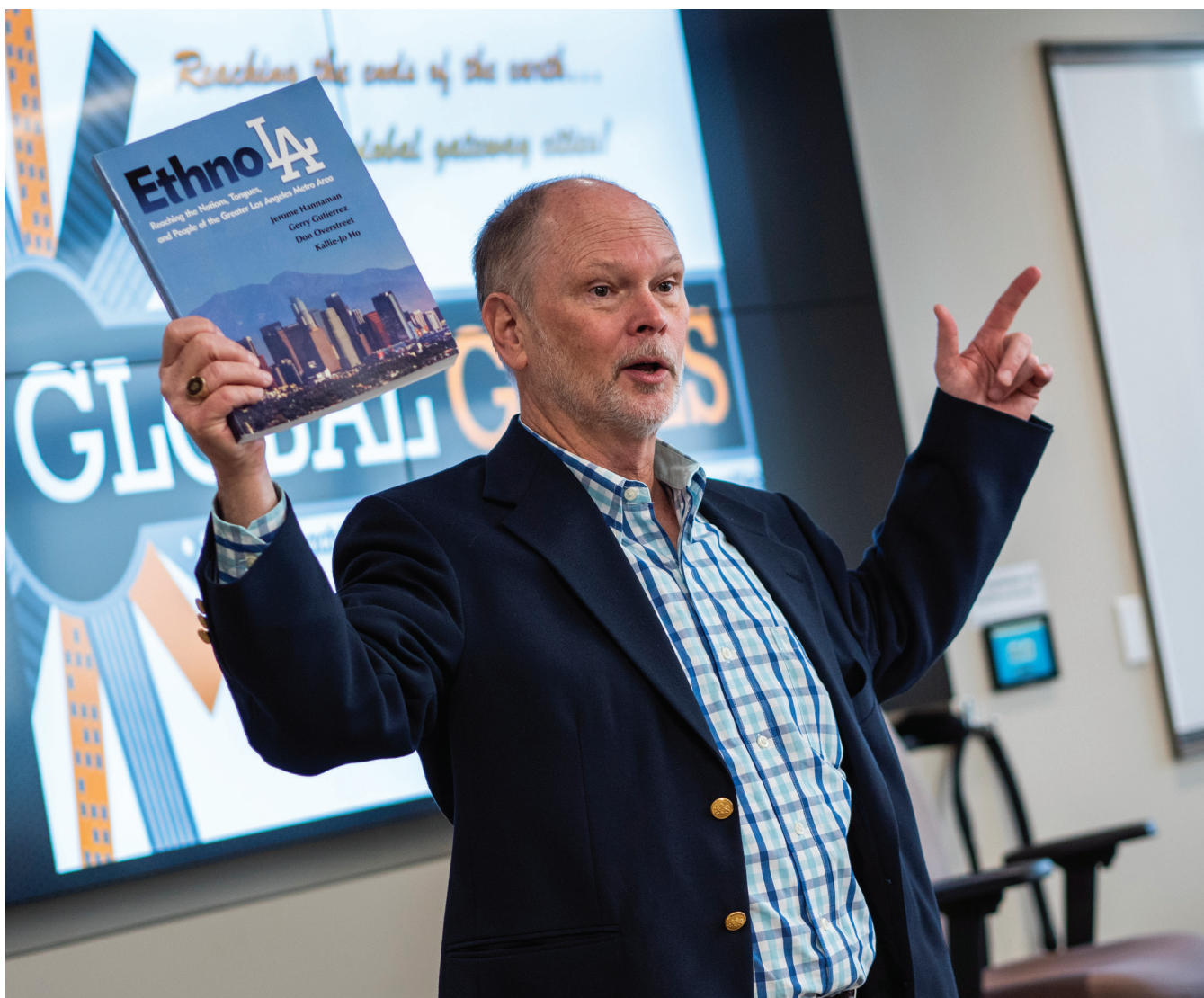
Now Garrison is executive director of Global Gates, a ministry that focuses on training and supporting missionaries who plant churches in 'gateway cities.' A 'gateway city' has unreached people groups living in it and no restrictions or prohibitions on evangelism. The strategy is to reach people groups in closed countries by converting their family members who live in open countries. "It is a gateway in that it is open and that its got this very people group situated across the world located right here," Garrison said.

"Because of today's interconnectedness, this city or community is not an end to itself, it is a continuum that goes all the way back to the other side of the world," Garrison said.

"Who would have thought Fremont, California would be

*Continued on page 32*





David Garrison speaks to students, faculty and staff at Gateway Seminary. Garrison is executive director of Global Gates, a ministry that focuses on training and supporting missionaries who plant churches in "gateway cities."

## GLOBAL WITNESS

*Continued from page 31*

known as Little Kabul? Kabul, Afghanistan has 60,000 of its people that have immigrated and they are almost all located around Fremont," Garrison said. "Whereas Afghanistan itself is a pretty dangerous place and pretty hostile to the Gospel," he said, "in Fremont, they love Americans; they are open and friendly." In settings like this, missionaries are even able to share the Gospel in English.

These benefits don't make this missionary work easy though. It requires churches to develop a new perspective on doing local ministry. "The very idea that just because we have a vibrant, thriving church community, these people are going to

somehow be drawn to it really is a bit of a delusion," Garrison said. "They are lost, and in their lostness they are blind to the Gospel."

"It used to be that missions was something we did at a distance, far away. Here we just did church planting," he said. "Now we've got to do cross-cultural missions here. We've got to reach into those communities. We've got to pray for the people. We've got to listen to them."

"For so many of these immigrants, one of the things they need and want is a friend," Garrison said. "Someone who will say 'We stand with you. We're glad you're here. We're glad God brought you to our community.'"





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# ALUMNI UPDATE

## 1960s

**Delmer L. Allen** (MRE, 1963; M.Div., 1969, M.Div.) lives in Wilburton, Okla., where he serves at Freedom Baptist Church.

**Ralph B. Collins** (MRE, 1964) lives with his wife Florence near Tyler, Texas. They visited the Seminary's former campus at Strawberry Point in 2012.

**Joe Ellis Tarry** (M.Div., 1961) and his wife **Leona Tarry** (Certificate, 1961) retired from the International Mission Board in 2000 after serving for 36 years in Brazil. He has written six books on spiritual growth. The couple lives in Ruidoso, N.M.

## 1970s

**Fred Kerr** (M.Div., 1972) serves as senior adult pastor of Westport Baptist Church, near Cleveland and Tulsa, Okla.

**Jerry Roberts** (M.Div., 1976) has worked at Sutter Memorial Medical Center in Modesto, Calif., for 25 years. He also has served as interim pastor of various churches in the Central Valley Association.

**Kenneth Wray** (M.Div., 1978) retired after 28 years in the pastoral ministry. Currently, he serves as a chaplain with The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's rapid response team. In the last several years he has been deployed to one forest fire, two hurricanes, several tornados and several floods. He also served with Franklin Graham's Decision National Prayer Tour at rallies in New Mexico and Arizona. Wray lives in Las Cruces, N.M.

## 1980s

**Toshikazu Matsuno** (M.Div., 1988) serves as Facebook editor for Global Recordings Network USA (GRN) in Temecula, Calif. The organization has recorded gospel messages in 6,538 languages and dialects.

**Thomas "Tom" Willis** (M.Div., 1986) has served as senior pastor of Nine Lakes Baptist Church in Federal Way, Wash., since 2016.

## 1990s

**Lee Bradley** (M.Div., 1992) became director of missions for the Tucker Baptist Association in Camilla, Ga. in January 2018. Previously, he served as pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Mobridge, S.D.

**Mark L. Chamberlin** (M.Div., 1991) lives and serves in Crows Landing, Calif.

**Bob Hnat** and **Debbie Kious-Hnat** (both M.Div., 1996) live and minister in Celle, Germany. He serves as pastor of two English language churches, and she teaches children and women.

**Charles Ray Richardson** (Certificate in Christian Studies, 1993) was recipient of the 2016 Altom Christian Service Award at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He retired from HSU in 2005 after 30 years as director of media relations. In retirement, he serves as a volunteer chaplain for Abilene Regional Medical Center and Hendrick Medical Center. He and his wife, Karin, are members of Abilene's First Baptist Church.

## 2000s

**Michael Atinsky** (M.Div., 1993; D.Min., 2012) is pastor of Dry Creek Community Church in Modesto, Calif.

**Barbara Kay Bacon** (M.Div., 2012) serves with City Light Community Ministries, a mission of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas. The ministry works with the homeless to offer lunch and showers three days a week and a load of laundry once a week. In addition, Bacon has a prayer ministry for employees of 26 businesses in Abilene.

**John Bohrer** (M.Div. and MRE, 1983; D.Min. 2013) served as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Red Bluff, Calif. for 12 years before the church relocated to Gerber and changed its name to New Life Baptist Church. He also has served for 26 years as chaplain of St. Elizabeth Community Hospital in Red Bluff and interprets for Hispanic patients and their families. Bohrer became director of missions for Shasta Baptist Association in December 2017. He and his wife Carol have lived in Red Bluff nearly 30 years. They have three grown children (including Bethany Bohrer (M.Div., 2016) and three grandchildren.

**Lydia Chou** (M.Div., 2015) received a doctor of educational ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2017. She serves at Thousand Oaks Baptist Church in Berkeley, Calif., and leads the Good News Club at Nystrom Elementary School in Richmond, Calif. The Good News Club began in January and has 35 students participating. Chou lives in Albany, Calif.

**Julie Miller** (MTS, 2012) is a facilitator for a two-year training program in spiritual direction and retreat leadership at the Journey Center in Santa Rosa, Calif. She also works part-time as a host at The Bishop's Ranch Retreat Center in Healdsburg, Calif.

**Katie L.C. Philpott** (M.Div., 2009) partners with her husband, Kent Philpott, as he leads Miller Avenue Baptist Church in Mill Valley, Calif. The couple publishes books with Christian themes and produces three television series locally: The Bible Study (verse by verse through individual books, now on the 65th episode of Acts); Why We Are Christians (conversational interviews with Christians locally and around the world, via Skype); and The Imam and the Pastor (presentations by Kent, the pastor, and Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin of San Francisco on topics of importance that distinguish Islam and Christianity. The Philpotts also recently welcomed their first grandchild, Matilda Rose, who lives with her parents in Atlanta.

**Brannon Shortt** (MTS, 2017) serves as associate pastor of Saddleback Church, Los Angeles, where he oversees spiritual maturity, assimilation, small groups and outreach.

**Teresa Simmons** (MAIM, 2000) was treated for cancer last year and eventually declared cancer free. She changed her name to Rebekah Savage and moved to Farmer's



Romeo Aijon Savage



Branch, Texas, where she works as an insurance agent. Her son Romeo Aijon Savage was born Nov. 10, 2017.

**Carri Stoops** (MAIS, 2017) and her husband recently moved from California to a South Asia city. They are getting to know the area, furnishing their apartment and learning the language and culture. They

anticipate sharing Good News with the neighborhood and the city.

**Benjamin Keith Thompson** (M.Miss. and MAEL, 2011) lives in Lugoff, S.C.

**Jae Yoo** (CLD, 2017) and his wife share the Gospel in California's Bay Area. They live in Morgan Hill.

**Sam Yoon** (M.Div., 2013) is campus pastor at Saddleback Church, South Bay in Torrance, Calif. He and his wife recently celebrated 10 years of marriage and have two daughters, Karis and Zoe.

## DEATHS

**Thomas R. Belew** (M.Div. and MRE, 1981) of Clovis, Calif., passed away Dec. 10, 2017.

**Lemuel M. Boyles** (B.Div., 1967) passed away Jan. 27, 2017. He served as an Air Force chaplain for 28 years and retired as a colonel. Boyles was New Mexico's bishop for the Pentecostal Church of God and senior pastor for the Legacy Church of Albuquerque, N.M.

**Martha Cobbs**, a student, died Dec. 12, 2017.

**Ted M. Cotten**, a student, died Jan. 7, 2018.

**George L. Esch** (B.Div., 1952) died Oct.

8, 2017 in Greeley, Colo. He retired from the U.S. military as a lieutenant colonel and is buried in the Fort Logan National Cemetery.

**Howard L. Ford** (B.Div., 1958) passed away Dec. 19, 2017.

**Julius Y. Ma** (MATS, 2008; M.Div., 2011) of Irvine, Calif., died April 29, 2018.

**Jack E. McDaniel** (B.Div., 1956) died June 22, 2017.

**Chad McMillan** (M.Div., 1996) passed away April 4, 2018 due to complications from sudden pneumonia and sepsis. He served as the major gift officer for the Rescue Mission of Tacoma, Wash.

**Donald G. Overstreet** (M.Div., 1974) passed away Dec. 8, 2017 in Pomona, Calif.

**George William "Bill" Schweer**, retired professor of evangelism, died May 16, 2018. He and his wife Wanda were Southern Baptist missionaries to Indonesia for 15 years. Returning to the U.S. in 1972, Schweer taught at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary until his retirement.

**Robert C. Smith** (MRE, 1965) died Sept. 16, 2017

**Carlyle C. Wright** (1988 and MTS, 2003) died on Jan. 1, 2017.

## RMC DONOR DIES AT AGE 83

Conley Paul Smith was an avid Oklahoma Sooner fan, a successful oil executive and an active member of Bear Valley Church in Lakewood, Colo. When he died unexpectedly on April 21 at age 83, he was not famous — but his influence will live on.

"When we get to heaven, we will be surprised who the really important people really were," said President Jeff Iorg. "Conley Smith will make that list."

A native of Louisiana, Smith graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a degree in petroleum engineering, followed by a master's degree in the same area from the University of Oklahoma. He worked for oil companies early in his career but became an independent oil producer in 1969, winning the Wildcatter of the Year award in 1988 and honored as the Denver Petroleum Club "Man of The Year" in 1989.

Among his many achievements is his work in the founding of one of Gateway Seminary's regional campuses.

"Conley was the reason Gateway Seminary

has the Rocky Mountain Campus in Denver, Colorado," Iorg said. "He was on the task force that completed the study, raised the money and made the recommendation to start the campus. Truth be told, he was the person who gave most of the money to launch the campus. Without him, there's no campus. And that wasn't enough. Two years ago, he made another significant matching gift (which has been matched) to strengthen our efforts at training leaders for and from the Rocky Mountain region."

Iorg noted that Smith invested in people and projects that would make long-term impact. He believed schools were essential to training leaders and invested in them — with his time and money. He served on the board of visitors for both the College of Engineering and the College of Earth and Energy at the University of Oklahoma.

"He knew organizations, including churches, rise and fall on leadership. Conley invested where leaders are shaped for future effectiveness, and that included Gateway Seminary."

Iorg recalled a trip to Israel a few years ago, when Smith used the historic impact of the sites they visited to remind Iorg about the importance of generational impact.

"He challenged me to balance tomorrow's insistent demands with the future's unrealized opportunities. I am a better man and a better leader for having known Conley Smith."

Gateway Seminary honored Conley and Carolyn Smith with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001 and the Harold K. Graves Distinguished Service Award in 2006 for their long-term service to the seminary.

Smith is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carolyn McNabb Smith; four children and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Conley Carl and Agnes Robertson Smith, his sister, Cherry Lynn Smith and a brother-in-law, O'Deane Holloway.





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