

"God showed me he had a purpose for me in evangelistic work, but I had to let go of my plans and expectations and follow his lead instead."

Sarah Kim | M.Div.



**DR. JEFF IORG, PRESIDENT**

## Diverse in Culture United in Mission

We are now celebrating our 75th anniversary as a seminary! While we have lived through many dramatic changes in the past few years, Gateway remains as focused as it has ever been on fulfilling its mission of shaping leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world.

Two of our esteemed faculty, Dr. Chris Chun and Dr. John Shouse, have recently completed a commemorative history of our school entitled *Golden Gate to Gateway*. We will debut this volume as part of our Gala Celebration on April 28, 2020. One important observation by these faculty authors is the historic diversity of our student body. While we are currently recognized as one of the most multicultural seminaries in the world, Gateway earned this reputation decades ago. In 1949, Reverend K.S. Hiraide, president of the Evangelical Seminary of Japan, visited our school and made arrangements for his son to attend the following year. In 1951, a graduating class of 21 included two international students; one from Shanghai and the other from Brazil. We are a better school because of the richness of the cultural layers which create the Gateway family.

While Gateway students are diverse in their ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, educational experiences and callings, they share one uniting commitment - to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. I had the opportunity to witness this firsthand over the summer when I joined a mission team from Gateway to South Asia. Ten students shared the gospel with 642 people - 59 of those people professed faith in Christ!

The students on that team have much in common with those who attended in the past and who will come to our school in the future. Every Gateway student has a different story, but each of them is committed to Christ's story - learning it, living it, and sharing it around the world.

Some things change, but other things - like our mission and the passion driving our students - never do. Join us in thanking God for our heritage and in celebrating 75 years of serving him!





# *gala*

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Artist rendering of Mill Valley Golden Gate Campus, 1966.



## GOLDEN GATE TO GATEWAY

No book-length history of Gateway has been written since former President Harold Graves' personal reflections on the first 40 years of the school were published in 1983, as *Into the Wind*. This book covers the period from the seminary's inception up through the end of Graves' presidency in the late 1970s. It was the first history of Gateway ever written. Trained as a historian, Graves' first-hand knowledge of most of the events makes it a unique, authoritative, and invaluable resource. Graves explains why he entitled his book *Into the Wind*:

Anyone acquainted with how an airplane flies is aware that it takes off into the wind. Force works against force to produce the lift necessary for the plane to fly. I see in this phenomenon an analogy to the beginning of Southern Baptists' seminary on the West Coast. The struggle seemed at times to be against almost impossible odds. . . Men and women of vision and dedication set the seminary on its course into the wind. Others have added fuel for the climb to proper altitude and direction.

Nearly four decades later, Graves' aviation analogy still holds. The turbulence of postmodernity and post-Christian culture has, in the intervening years, created the gale-force headwinds forming the airstream into which Gateway has flown.

*Golden Gate to Gateway* chronicles the history of Gateway Seminary up to the time near to its writing. It also includes the period covered by *Into the Wind*. While *Into the Wind* will forever be a primary resource for the early years of Gateway, readers familiar with that work will find new insights and fresh material on that period in this volume. Ample archival materials exist to augment, elaborate and extend that volume. Nonetheless, this book concentrates more on the forty years of Gateway's history that have unfolded since Graves' presidency. The book is organized in chapters that, with one exception, follow the terms of the presidents whose tenures have guided Gateway through the years of its existence. Within that general structure, the book proceeds as much thematically as chronologically. It has been written with an eye to tracing the significant themes of Gateway's life alongside the major historical developments of the time.

The following is an excerpt from the soon-to-be published volume.

- Chris Chun and John Shouse



THE BERKELEY CAMPUS 1944

THE MILL VA



### Excerpt from *Golden Gate to Gateway*

#### Chapter 5: A Multiethnic and Multicultural Seminary

A central promise of the Christian faith is the kingdom of God will extend to every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 7:9). For a church or seminary to faithfully to reflect that kingdom, it must be a community that honors the diversity of God's creation and recipients of his love. Gateway Seminary has always had one distinctive gift to give Southern Baptists training for ministry: its geographical and cultural setting. While every SBC seminary shares the challenges of training leaders for service in the twenty-first century, Gateway alone does that in a region without a dominant Christian heritage and where the cultural, racial, and ethnic makeup is radically diverse. All five of Gateway's current campuses serve metropolitan regions whose multi-cultural presence is as diverse and intense as any in the world. This makes intercultural and multiethnic ministry an imperative, both theologically and practically. Gateway has always reveled in that gospel calling and the opportunity to train leaders in that context.

Historically, Gateway has worn this distinction as a badge of honor. According to a report Gateway made to the SBC as far back as 1968 "[Golden Gate] had more black students than any other seminary on the West Coast and more foreign students than all other West Coast seminaries combined." As recently as 2015, Dan

Aleshire (then Executive Director of ATS) told Jeff Iorg, "Golden Gate is likely the most multicultural seminary in the world."

#### Global from the Beginning

Just four years after the end of World War II (when the seminary was only five years old), Japanese students began to enroll at Golden Gate. *The Nugget*, tells the story:

In August, 1949, Rev. K. S. Hiraide, president of the Evangelical Seminary of Japan in Tokyo, came to the United States. He visited Golden Gate Seminary and liked it. In fact he liked it so much that he made arrangements for his son to attend next year.

As a result of that visit three students enrolled. Timothy Hiraide was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Takan Fukuchi. One issue of *The Nugget* honored the three as "students of the month." One can only imagine the emotions, so soon after World War II, with which these students were welcomed by and lived among fellow seminarians.

In January 1951, the "student of the month" was awarded to Thomas Lowe (his Chinese name was Tsau Yueh Loh), a graduate of the University of Shanghai. He was described as a "mission worker in San Francisco." Lowe was also featured in the new seminary periodical, *Golden Gate Magazine*:



## VALLEY CAMPUS 1959



wife, who is a graduate of a Bible college and a pianist, could be of great help to him in his mission in San Francisco. He spoke of the difficulty a man has in sitting alone in a Chinese home. Oriental custom does not permit him the freedom of personal visitation that a woman would have. His two children are girls. The youngest, who he has never seen, is two...

A fund was started to help Lowe bring his family to California. Among the 21 students who graduated on April 30, 1951, two were internationals - Thomas Lowe from Shanghai and Zely De Paula from Vitoria, Brazil. Another random sampling of graduating students shows that seven years later, the graduating class included two Asian graduates, Carl Kinoshita and Lawrence Uyehara; three African-American graduates, Homero Yearwood, Claude Wilson and Deborah de Oliveira, and five female graduates.

Over the years, Gateway has trained countless international students. For example, in 1963, after seven years of pastoring in Japan, Raymond and Kuniko Ozasa came to the United States



## 2016 THE ONTARIO CAMPUS

One cannot talk to him very long without hearing of his desire to have his family with him. He knows that his

to study at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. They soon realized, however, they needed a more biblical education. So trusting God for support, they transferred to Golden Gate. Raymond had intended to return to Japan but realized the great need for pastoral ministry among Japanese nationals in the United States. He started Japanese work in Marin County and San Francisco, began a weekly radio ministry in Japanese on *Sakura Melody* (a Japanese radio station in San Francisco), and launched additional preaching points in Fairfield and Sacramento. Kuniko, after Raymond's death in 1976, followed her dream of attending Golden Gate. She continued their work in Marin County until her move to a retirement facility in 2016. She continued to send devotions in Japanese electronically each week to those involved in their ministry. "It is my great pleasure," she said, "if God can use me in any way to expand His Kingdom . . . and help people come to know our Savior, Jesus Christ." The dedication of many students who attended Gateway over the years is captured in this testimony of gratitude for the privilege of devoting a life to Christian ministry.

Black and white, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic and Middle Eastern, Gateway's student body from its earliest days has brought students from many of the nations whose flags now adorn the fourth floor halls at the Ontario campus. Gateway, as well as the church fields it serves, mirrors the world and fulfills its global vision for leader training.



SBC President J.D. Greear preaches at Gateway Chapel

## GREEAR AT GATEWAY: ALL ARE CALLED TO THE TASK OF MISSIONS

Accepting the call to follow Jesus is accepting the call to missions said J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, during chapel February 12 at Gateway Seminary.

“I think the Christian community in large part has bought into a dangerous myth about calling... that it is an experience reserved for a sacred few people,” Greear said.

“The calling to leverage your life for the Great Commission was included in the call to follow Jesus.”

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus told the first disciples to follow him and that he will make them fishers of men. “The question is no longer if you are called. The question now is only where and how you are called,” he said.

Greear used the account of Stephen in Acts 6-8 to illustrate the convictions that led an ordinary person, called by God, and filled with the Holy Spirit, to be the

catalyst for the gospel expanding outside Jerusalem. “The whole plot of Acts develops in chapter six with the story of Stephen,” Greear said.

Stephen was selected as a deacon and his commitment to his work in the church caught the attention of the local community. Many people came to faith in Jesus Christ including a number of Jewish priests. “That of course got the attention of the Sanhedrin who began to try to discredit Stephen,” he said. Stephen was taken before the Jewish council where he delivered a sermon detailing the history of Israel and showing how the Old Testament points to Jesus.

After his sermon, Stephen was cast out of the city and martyred. As the stones began to strike Stephen, he saw the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Scholars point out Jesus standing here is odd because everywhere else that Jesus is at the right hand of God we see him sitting,” he said.



"[The book of] Hebrews says that having sat down, he was signifying salvation was done," he said. "Why is he standing at this moment? I think there is only one possible answer: he is standing to receive home his son." Stephen had made his choice: Jesus was worth it.

"At some point, if you are really going to follow Jesus, obedience is going to take you 180 degrees opposite of where you think you want to go. In that moment the only thing that will compel you forward is the belief that Jesus is worth it," Greear said.

Following Stephen's martyrdom, increased persecution in Jerusalem caused the church, except the apostles, to scatter into Judea and Samaria where the dispersed members preached the gospel. Greear pointed out that this was the first time the gospel had left Jerusalem and none of the apostles were involved. "I believe the story of Stephen is given to us as an example of how the gospel is supposed to expand globally," he said.

Greear asked the listeners to consider if God is returning the church to the simple convictions that impelled the early church forward "when a bunch of blue-collar people, without money or power, or any representatives in Congress, or TV stations, or podcasts, or organized leadership strategies turned the world upside down."

"What if everything that is happening now - loss of cultural influence, loss of funding - was designed by God to take us back to the things that propelled this movement in the first century when the church was an unstoppable force?" he said. It wasn't mega churches and stadium revivals that grew the church. It was members committed to the Great Commission.

"Historically, ordinary believers have always been the tip of the gospel spear," Greear said. There are currently around 40,000 evangelical missionaries serving in the 10/40 window, an area between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator in which nearly two-thirds of the world's population lives. Throughout this predominantly non-Christian area there are two million U.S. citizens working in secular employment Greear said. He estimated that one-tenth of that group could be committed Christians. "If they understood that their primary commission in life was to be a disciple-making disciple, the mission force in the 10/40 window would go from 40,000 to 240,000 and it wouldn't cost the church another dime," Greear said.

"The only way people develop the courage to go is the conviction that Jesus is worth it." Preaching a Savior glorious enough to joyfully die for won't grow an audience, but it will start a movement he said.

"Every church should multiply. Every person ought to think of themselves as on mission. Everybody is responsible for the gospel. These are the convictions of people who shape the world."

To watch Greear's chapel message go to [gs.edu/greear](https://gs.edu/greear).



**DJ Jenkins** @DJJenkins

Excited to be @GatewaySeminary today to hear @jdgrear! Great to have the president out on the West Coast. Yes, there are baptists out here 😄



**Jeff Iorg** @Jeff\_Iorg · Feb 10

Looking forward to hosting @jdgrear this Wednesday for chapel and a Q&A time @GatewaySeminary. [gs.edu/presidents-blo...](https://gs.edu/presidents-blo...)



**D.A. Horton** @da\_horton · Feb 12

Replying to @DJJenkins @GatewaySeminary and @jdgrear

I'll be there too! coming with some of our great faculty from @calbaptist in the @scmbu! See you there bro!



**J.D. Greear** @jdgrear · Feb 12

What a great day with @Jeff\_Iorg and @gatewayseminary here in California! (Weather and scenery here are unbelievable. I'm convinced if the pilgrims had landed on the West Coast instead of the East one in 1620, we still wouldn't know the East Coast exists.)



**Todd Unzicker** @ToddUnzicker · Feb 12

"The only way people develop the courage to go is the conviction that Jesus is worth it." @jdgrear preaching @GatewaySeminary on those who turn the world upside down.



J.D. Greear and 2 others



**Daniel Bannister** @danielbannister · Feb 12

It is AMAZING and EMPOWERING to realize that having the Holy Spirit inside you is better than having Jesus beside you! - JD Greear



**Matt Lawson** @MattLawson77 · Feb 12

@jdgrear Wish I could get over to see you today at Gateway! Next time bring Daniel Riggs with you! Appreciate you bro!





## LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON WITH J.D. GREEAR



**lorg:** How has your seminary training helped you in ministry?



Grear: You've heard it said 'Reading makes a thoughtful man; writing makes an exact man.' In Ph.D. especially, you have to do a lot of reading and writing that forces you to think out and be disciplined in ways that greatly benefit your people.

The calling God has given me is to the 'common person' so to speak, which means I am aiming at an eighth or ninth grade level when I preach. But I don't consider one second of my Ph.D. wasted... it has helped me to articulate things in a way that is helpful.

Steve Jobs said 'Genius is simplicity on the other side of complexity.' If you understand the complexity, it actually helps you with the simplicity. I'm not just saying this because you're a seminary president or because I am at a seminary - I am humongous, humongous supporter of that. I realize you can get trained at a church and get out there, but there is a mental discipline that is necessary if you're going to be a great communicator and a great leader that only seminary can provide.



**lorg:** What has surprised you about being President of the Southern Baptist Convention?



Grear: What surprised me is the genuine unity that Southern Baptists have around the things that matter. If you pay attention to the 'Twitter-verse' you may feel like it is a dumpster fire. When I go to a state convention there is a sense of unity and excitement about the gospel, evangelism, and missions. Most people are genuinely annoyed at those voices that seem to delight in division, to desire to segue us off of into conversations that don't really matter, or at least to have conversations at a tone that can distract us from our unity in the Great Commission. It has been pleasantly surprising. I have been encouraged by it.

We have a gospel that is too urgent and a Great Commission that is too important to let secondary things stand in our way.

\*Greear's answers have been edited and condensed for clarity.



Go to [gs.edu/jdgreear](https://gs.edu/jdgreear) to watch the full Q&A with J. D. Greear

A portrait of David Rathel, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

## DAVID RATHEL APPOINTED TO GATEWAY FACULTY

It was his first seminary class that redirected his future, from pastor to seminary professor. Dr. David Rathel says his systematic theology professor was passionate about his subject, and that changed everything for him.

“By the end of that first day of class, I knew I wanted to teach. It was a life-changing day for me. I began to work toward a Ph.D. with a focus in theology.”

Working toward that goal meant Rathel needed to focus on his studies and not split his attention. He served for six years as pastor of Fork Baptist Church in South Boston, Va., before coming to that realization.

“I knew I could not be a good pastor, a good student and a good family man. At least, I could not.”

Rathel’s seminary professors encouraged him to apply to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, the top-ranked divinity school in the United Kingdom. He had followed Dr. Stephen Holmes, senior lecturer at St. Andrews and head of the divinity school, through his writings.

“He appealed to me because he tied theology and the local church together. I wrote to him, and he agreed to supervise my studies at St. Andrews. After that, St. Andrews accepted me for admission, so my wife and I had decisions to make.”

The family moved to Scotland, where Rathel set his sights on a Ph.D. in divinity. While he was a student, he taught undergraduates online for the Baptist College of Florida, his alma mater. By the time he left Scotland in December 2018 with his degree in hand, he was already talking to Gateway Seminary about a faculty appointment.

“We had initiated conversations with the seminary, and my wife and I really liked the school’s multiculturalism. St. Andrews also featured great cultural diversity, and we enjoyed living in such a place. When we visited Gateway, we enjoyed the diverse student body and the exciting conversations. We had followed the seminary’s move from Mill Valley to Ontario and knew of the school’s work with online and commuter students. Our family wanted to serve an institution looking toward the future.”

The family moved from rainy St. Andrews to the high desert in Hesperia, Calif. in summer 2019, and Rathel started teaching as associate professor of Christian theology this past fall. His wife teaches English at Apple Valley Christian School. Their daughter Sophia, who was born in Scotland, is 3 years old.

“I am looking forward to building relationships with students,” he said. “It is nice to complement my experience teaching online with in-person experiences. Now I am excited to teach from this vantage point.”



# NEW GATEWAY PROFESSOR TEACHES WITH OVERSEAS PERSPECTIVE

Gateway Seminary has hired its first ever full-time faculty member to teach entirely online.

Dr. Philip O. Hopkins, associate professor of church history, says he will teach classes as he conducts research overseas.

"I am doing research for a couple of books I am writing on church history," he said. "The primary source material is not located in the U.S. I think online education provides access to quality instruction without the need to move locations. The ability to stay connected with one's local church and ministry helps keep the gospel real."

Hopkins' research focuses on the history of Christianity in Iran during and after the Pahlavi era, specifically on ethnic Christian communities in Iran (mainly Armenians and Assyrians), ideology and nationalism among Christians in Iran and perceptions of Western Christian missions by Iranians. Since the spontaneous candle light vigil in Tehran, Iran, right after 9/11, Hopkins has worked to develop connections with Iranians to promote dialogue on substantive issues related to culture, history, philosophy and religion.

He hopes to offer students a perspective that challenges their thinking.

"Being an American but not living in the U.S., I present a bit of a different take on things," he said. "I want students to think critically and contextually, to love God with their minds, as well as their hearts and souls

and to love their neighbors as themselves. After taking the classes I teach, I want students to ask questions that enable them to find answers using their critical thinking skills that I hope to refine."

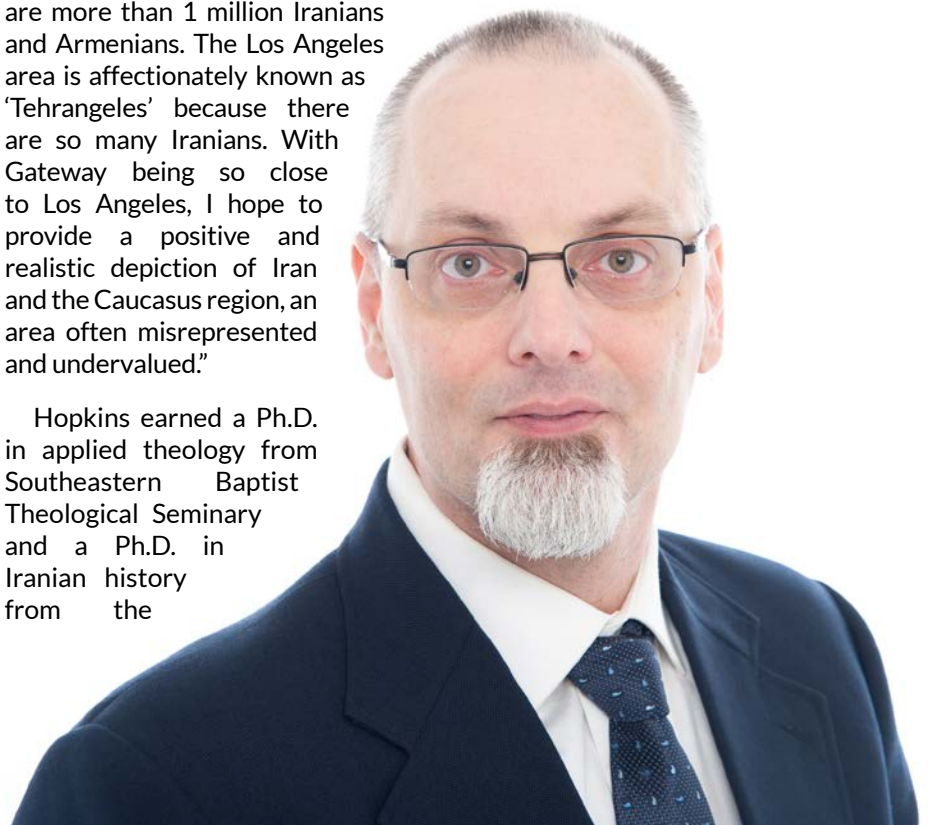
Hopkins said he "saw Gateway's professionalism and heart for the gospel from afar with the move to Ontario" and believes its main campus location near Los Angeles offers unique opportunities for students.

"The nations are in southern California like nowhere else in the U.S. outside of New York City," he commented. "As I have an interest in Iran and Armenia, I found Gateway attractive because Gateway's main campus is in southern California, where there are more than 1 million Iranians and Armenians. The Los Angeles area is affectionately known as 'Tehrangeles' because there are so many Iranians. With Gateway being so close to Los Angeles, I hope to provide a positive and realistic depiction of Iran and the Caucasus region, an area often misrepresented and undervalued."

Hopkins earned a Ph.D. in applied theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Iranian history from the

University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Along with his appointment at Gateway Seminary, he is a research fellow for the Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews, guest lecturer at Russian-Armenian University in Yerevan, Armenia and part of the editorial board for *Iran and the Caucasus* (Brill).

Prior to coming to Gateway, he taught at Southeastern Seminary and Southwestern Seminary and was research associate for the Centre of World Christianity at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He has published with Brill, Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming), Broadman and Holman, and others.



# GATEWAY ADVANCE PROGRAM OFFERS ACCESS TO THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Ministers without a college degree can study for seminary diplomas or certificates through Gateway Seminary's ADVANCE program. ADVANCE centers all over North America and in a few international locations provide classes at a post-high school level to train effective Christian leaders.

ADVANCE centers are established under a cooperative agreement between Gateway Seminary and a local Southern Baptist church, association or state convention. Depending on location, Gateway ADVANCE centers offer classes in English, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Chinese, Hmong, Mien, Russian and Haitian. Currently, centers are available in 16 states in the U.S. and in three countries overseas. Class availability and language offerings depend on the local center.

"A local ADVANCE center begins by filling out an application," said Dr. Warren Haynes, ADVANCE director. "Once that application is accepted, people can find the center on Gateway's website. Our program is well-networked."

Haynes explained that if a church, an association or a state convention has a certain passion for an area of ministry, it could dive down deep by opening a center and using that passion strategically.

"Take an area like chaplaincy, and a center can train people in a whole

association," he said. "Churches can use it to strengthen their membership by doubling the number of trained Bible teachers. A church can become a worldwide ministry center."

The ADVANCE program began in the 1980s as Ethnic Leadership Development. After a few years, it became Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD); in 2017, it became ADVANCE. Nearly 1,000 students are currently enrolled in classes through the centers.

"We have a lot of room to grow for sure," Haynes said. "People just need to know ADVANCE is available. We haven't begun to scratch the surface of this program's potential."

He said the goal is to offer core courses online at some point so centers would only be responsible for recruiting instructors for the additional classes. The main thing is that students can learn where they are.

"Most people are never going to realize they have access to theological education," Haynes said. "With ADVANCE, everyone has the opportunity to improve. Someone with a doctorate who teaches in college or a person with a high school diploma might be asked to teach a Bible study. It may be that neither has theological education. Through ADVANCE, both have the opportunity for seminary training."

For more information about starting an ADVANCE center or enrolling in classes, email the program at [advance@gs.edu](mailto:advance@gs.edu).

This ADVANCE



class, taught by Allan Karr, is being translated into Burmese and Karen simultaneously.



## GATEWAY OFFERS D.MIN. FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Gateway Seminary is offering a doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree completely by distance learning for overseas students. The Western Association of Senior Colleges and Universities Commission (WSCUC) approved the program Aug. 5. The American Theological Society (ATS) previously affirmed it.

Delivery systems for Gateway's program will include video conference technology, online coursework and traditional classes offered in international locations.

Dr. Jim Wilson, director of Gateway's D.Min. program, said the expansion is part of the seminary's global perspective. "As we recruited in South Korea and Singapore, we found that travel to the U.S. for a traditional D.Min. program would be prohibitive for many pastors, since they would need to produce documentation that all the funds were available for the entire program just to acquire a student visa. That caused us to consider how we could offer the same quality courses through distance education."

Wilson said traditional courses were redesigned for distribution over a two-year period.

"We tested seminars individually with current D.Min. candidates," he said. "With their input, we made adjustments until the online seminars offered the same quality academics as traditional courses do."

The distance learning D.Min. begins with a video conference, continues with coursework that can be done at the student's pace and concludes with a ministry project. The first cohort began July 23 in South Korea, with provisional approval by accrediting agencies.

For now, the distance learning D.Min. degree program is only offered to overseas cohorts. However, Gateway Seminary utilizes online seminars for all their D.Min. cohorts and offers some online classes to fulfill the 15 units of course work required by the program. D.Min. candidates make only two trips to one of the seminary's five campuses to complete the degree. Requirements also include eight units of fieldwork and a six-unit ministry project.

Gateway's campuses are all located near one of the North American Mission Board's strategic SEND cities, including the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas in California; near the Denver, Colo. and Portland, Ore. areas and in Phoenix, Ariz.

**"We tested seminars individually with current D.Min. candidates. With their input, we made adjustments until the online seminars offered the same quality academics as traditional courses do."**

Dr. Jim Wilson, director of Gateway's D.Min. program



# IORG: EVANGELISM MUST BE THE CHURCH'S PRIORITY MINISTRY

**For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; CSB)**

Dr. Jeff Iorg, president of Gateway Seminary, opened the fall 2019 semester by exhorting listeners to prioritize personal evangelism, specifically when the denomination is in a healthy state.

"The factors undermining personal evangelism have often resulted from a positive theological conviction, ministerial practice, or leadership perspective taken to an extreme or applied in an unbalanced way," Iorg said.

He said that in many ways the Southern Baptist Convention is stronger than ever before, with a force of 3,600 international missionaries, increased enrollment across the six-seminary system, and about 1,000 new churches planted annually across the U.S. The convention also operates various need-meeting ministries, including one of the largest disaster relief networks in the United States. Yet, the diminished role of evangelism threatens the denomination's existence.

"Since baptism is the first act of public obedience for a new believer, baptismal rates are one important measure of evangelistic effectiveness. By that key indicator, our effectiveness in leading people to faith in Jesus is in steep decline."

Iorg pointed to statistics that indicate the SBC baptismal rate is lower than at any time since the

1940s, in spite of having more than twice as many churches in the denomination.

"In 2017 just over 30 percent of SBC churches did not record a single baptism. In that same year, 50 percent of SBC churches baptized two people or fewer. And 82 percent of churches had fewer than 10 baptisms in 2017 — less than one per month. Baptismal data indicates we have a declining effectiveness in sharing the gospel with non-Christians and leading them to publicly profess faith in Jesus."

Iorg said he was not implying that evangelism is the only thing the church should be doing, but it should be the priority.

"A church must do many more things than evangelism," he said. "A church must maintain a robust worship ministry, sound teaching ministry and provide interpersonal and practical ministry to both its members and its community. Evangelism is not the only ministry of the church. But, it is my contention it is the priority ministry."

Iorg said Southern Baptists are doing many things well, including giving money, sending missionaries, standing up for moral causes, demanding social justice, writing and printing quality materials, caring for retirees and granting record numbers of seminary degrees.

"But we are failing in our priority assignment," he said. "We are not sharing the gospel effectively and leading people to profess faith in Jesus."

He said that Paul taught the priority of evangelism in 1 Corinthians 15, highlighting the phrase "as most important."

Besides the biblical directive, Iorg said there is a practical reason why communicating the gospel is important.

"Every church is just one generation from extinction. Unfortunately, this is a present reality; not a sociological scare tactic. California, for example, is littered with the dying remnants of Southern Baptist churches that were vibrant in the 1960s through the 1980s. They are closing as the previous generation enters heaven and no new believers take their place."

Iorg said there is no single reason for the decline in personal evangelism among Southern Baptists. He pointed to ten factors contributing to the problem, including defining discipleship as "turning weaker Christians into stronger Christians" instead of "turning non-Christians into growing Christians."

"Suppose you become the pastor of a 100-member church," he said. "You train every one of them to be a 'super-Christian.' What happens in



50 years? All your members go to heaven and your church closes. That's the result of defining 'making disciples' as 'turning weaker Christians into stronger Christians.'"

Another factor is reducing the outreach responsibilities of church members by telling them to "invite your friend to a church service" or "bring your friend to a ministry event." Iorg said the subtle message from leaders in this example is "you get them here; we'll take it from there." But the "come and hear" approach to reaching people is inadequate.

"Most non-Christians are not attracted to anything we are doing. If they are going to hear the gospel, we are going to have to go where they are and share it with them," Iorg said.

Iorg reminded the audience the most effective gospel-sharing strategy has always been believers telling their friends, family members, work associates and neighbors about Jesus.

"We short-circuit God's plan, over-estimate our leaders' capacities and rob rank-and-file believers of the joy of sharing the gospel when we limit our evangelism strategy to attraction models."

Iorg closed his message with a challenge for each person to examine his or her own plan for personal evangelism.

"Lives hang in the balance," he said. "Certainly, the lives of churches and our denomination are at stake. But, more importantly – much more importantly, the lives of people – broken, hurting, frustrated, sometimes evil, always lost – are in the balance. May God give us the grace to share the gospel with new intentionality, fervor and effectiveness."

## SBC CHURCHES BY THE NUMBERS IN 2017:

**30%** OF SBC CHURCHES DID NOT RECORD A SINGLE BAPTISM.



**50%** OF SBC CHURCHES BAPTIZED TWO PEOPLE OR FEWER



**82%** OF CHURCHES HAD FEWER THAN 10 BAPTISMS IN 2017



## RELATED TO PERSONAL EVANGELISM OF ACTIVE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEMBERS:

**57%** HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS



**14%** REPORTED ONLY ONE ATTEMPT IN SIX MONTHS.



Go to [www.gs.edu/priority](http://www.gs.edu/priority) to listen to a short series of podcast episodes from Dr. Iorg on this topic.



# Beyond Team: South Asia

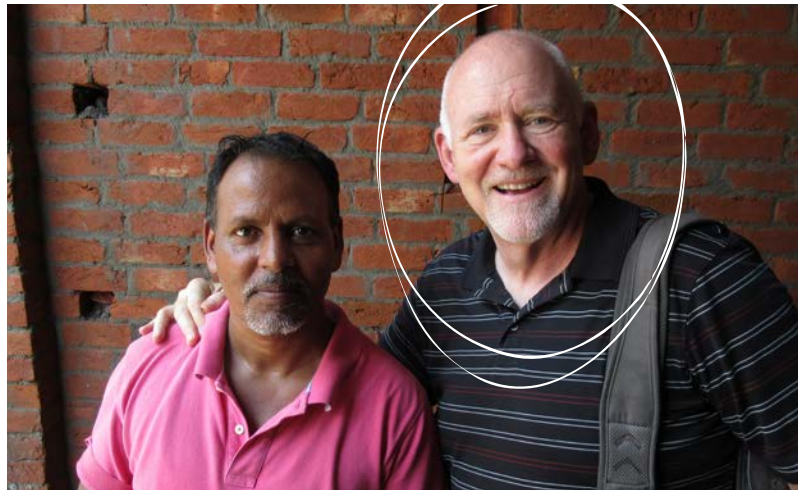
This past June, Gateway students traveled to South Asia for a Beyond Team mission trip. The team spent their first few days in a mega-city and then separated into smaller groups to work with Gateway alumni serving with the International Mission Board (IMB). Students practiced cross-cultural evangelism by engaging Hindu and Muslim people with the gospel. Led by Don Dent, director of the Kim School of Global Missions and missions professor at Gateway, the team shared the gospel with 642 lost people; of that number 59 professed faith in Christ.

The following reflections represent a narrow slice of the team's experience in the field: challenging circumstances, providential successes, insights into cross-cultural ministry and the implications of obeying the Great Commission.



**Don Dent:**

The whole team spent the first three days in a mega-city visiting Christian families and their neighbors as well as sharing with people on the street. Many of those we met on the street had never heard anything about Jesus before. It was amazing to see them come to faith in Him; sometimes within a few hours of conversation. Almost all of the new believers will face persecution for their faith. Confessing faith in Christ is about the most politically sensitive act a person can do in that location.

**Erin:**

At the last home we visited one day, we shared with three cousins of a local pastor who was friends with our translator. All of them accepted Christ. We continued to share with them to make sure they truly understood what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Being able to share the gospel and His love with many people and seeing three people turn to Christ made me super excited!

**Katie :**

I went to a factory where workers use recycled materials to make bricks by hand. I shared my testimony and the gospel. All of the adults prayed with us through the sinner's prayer. Then I got to teach them the story of Zacchaeus and help connect them to a local pastor. It was really amazing because the workers in this brick factory were from multiple villages. Making them disciples and empowering them means the gospel is going to dynamically spread into their villages.





**Taelyr:** We stopped at a beauty salon and the women who worked there offered to thread our eyebrows. At first we declined, but we realized it was an opportunity to share the gospel. We had our eyebrows done and then they asked us to stay and have tea with them. We started to share our testimonies and develop relationships with them. Then we used a gospel-sharing technique to discuss brokenness and the need for salvation. It was completely driven by the Holy Spirit. They said they needed more information before making a decision so we connected them to a local pastor.



**Bryant:** There is a procedure for growing rice; it is a staple food for the people we were working with. Part of the process is pulling weeds out of the rice field which leaves holes for the rice seeds to go into and grow roots. The people in South Asia are very religious; they are devout but in the wrong way. They are primed and seasoned for someone to plant the seeds of the gospel - the divine truth. We just have to pull out the weeds of the old thinking. We have to replace the old gods with the one true God. All they need is someone to go and tell them the Bible's story and watch God do the work!





**Thomas:** Erin and I visited three men, two of whom were brothers related to our translator. They lived together and had some familiarity with the gospel. We shared the Roman road with them and told them that Jesus Christ must be the only God they would serve and trust. Erin asked if they would be willing to trust in Jesus as their one and only God and they all said yes! We led them to the Lord that night and shared with them the importance of growing in their relationship with Christ through accountability and discipleship.”



**Sarah:** I felt this burden to share the gospel so much that at times I felt we needed to be going out and sharing more! What I think God challenged me to do is to learn how I could best come alongside the work He was already doing. As a team we had to find the balance of being missionaries by spreading the gospel and partnering with the local church and building up their ministry. God showed me he had a purpose for me in evangelistic work, but I had to let go of my plans and expectations and follow his lead instead.

# TRUSTEES: IORG REPORTS GROWTH AND STABILITY AT GATEWAY

President Jeff Iorg reported gains in enrollment at Gateway Seminary and mission clarity in planning for the future during the seminary's fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"Our enrollment continues to grow, our financial position remains strong, our morale is good and our mission is clear," Iorg said.

Iorg reported a 9.4 percent increase from fall 2018 to fall 2019 in enrolled hours system-wide. The Ontario, Calif., campus and Gateway Online experienced particularly strong growth; enrolled hours in Ontario increased 12.3 percent and online course hours increased 19 percent.

"We are delighted our fall tuition revenue has exceeded the budgeted amount, indicating our growth exceeded our expectations," Iorg said.

To meet current and future needs, trustees discussed purchasing additional apartments near the campus in Ontario. "This step would solve our housing needs for the next two to three years," he said. The seminary purchased

two apartment complexes when it moved to Ontario and they are now fully occupied.

Gifts to the annual fund increased 15 percent in the 2018-19 fiscal year compared to the previous year. The number of donors increased by almost 40 percent over previous years through the application of a crowdfunding platform and social media campaigns.

"Many of these new donors are Millennials and Generation X-ers," Iorg said. "They will be the future strong supporters we depend on."

The sale of the Brea property -- site of the former Southern California campus -- continues to move forward with a finalized sale expected within six months. The earnings from this sale will be added to the Land Sale Endowment or used to purchase campus housing, Iorg said.

Trustees approved the Gateway Imperative, a new strategic plan designed to guide the seminary through the next decade. The plan was crafted by a task force of Gateway





faculty and staff during an 18-month period of research into future student demographics, future trends in graduate education and projections about Southern Baptist churches in the western United States. Additionally, the task force sought input from students, staff, faculty, trustees, donors and ministry partners.

"The entire seminary community has had a voice in creating this document, as well as key people outside our system," Iorg said. Gateway faculty endorsed the document in August 2019.

In personnel matters, trustees approved Max Stabenow as the new regional director for Gateway's San Francisco Campus (SFC) as of January 2020. Current SFC director Rick Durst will transfer to the Ontario campus to serve as a full-time professor of theology.

Iorg shared a story with the trustees about a summer mission trip to South Asia

he participated in with Gateway students. While doing street evangelism in a city, Iorg, a student and their translator were invited to a local family's home. They listened as the family shared their religious beliefs, then a young woman in the home asked about the team's beliefs.

"The student responded by saying she worshiped Jesus Christ and asked her if they had ever heard of Him," Iorg said. "The young woman cocked her head to the side and said, 'No, I have never heard of Him. Who is He?'"

"Everything I love about Gateway crystallized in that moment," Iorg said.

Iorg watched as his student shared the Gospel and led the young woman to Christ.

"Why are we here? We are here because we believe people need to hear the Gospel and we can train people to share it more effectively," Iorg said.



**Trustees pray during a tour of Gateway's San Francisco Campus**



Graduate Luke Thompson shares his testimony at winter commencement.



DMin graduate Noel De Guzman



Faculty pray over graduates

# IORG CHALLENGES GRADS TO FOLLOW CHRIST AS THE MAGI DID

Gateway Seminary conferred 42 diplomas, master's and doctoral degrees Dec. 14 on students from nine states and three countries. President Jeff Iorg noted the graduates would join more than 9,600 alumni who had received degrees over the seminary's 75 years of ministry. Commencement exercises were held in the chapel of the seminary's main campus in Ontario, Calif.

Iorg challenged graduates to follow Christ as the magi did, with endurance and submission.

"Following the Lord is the essence of Christian leadership," he said. "If you follow the Lord, you must endure when circumstances are baffling, when time moves slowly and when opponents are threatening you."

He recalled the story from Matthew 2:1-12, when the wisemen — also called the magi — modeled what it meant to follow Christ.

"They encountered unusual circumstances, the guiding star," he said. "The magi overcame geographic and time obstacles and arrived at the place where Jesus could be worshipped. They confronted a powerful enemy while following the Lord, Herod who would slaughter every male child under the age of two."

Iorg said the magi followed the star, not knowing where it would lead, and they worshipped Jesus when they finally found him.

"Here's Jesus — not an infant any longer but certainly a toddler — and they fell to their knees to worship him. These were prominent, well known men, and they were on their knees in front of a baby, giving gifts."

Iorg likened the magi's experience to that of those called to ministry.

"Submission means following God's direction, not always knowing where he will lead or what will happen when you get there," he said. "Submission

is demonstrated and reinforced through worship. Privately and publicly, I worship and in my worship, I demonstrate submission."

Luke Thompson of Missouri, who earned a master of divinity degree, recalled four years ago when Dr. Adam Groza, vice president for enrollment and student services, visited his college.

"I was already going to seminary, but I wasn't going to Gateway," he said. "It was too far, and I didn't know anyone. However, that night, Dr. Groza told us 'if you're called to ministry inside the Bible Belt, then go to a seminary in the Bible Belt, because they will equip you better. If you're called to ministry outside the Bible Belt, go to a seminary outside the Bible Belt, because they will prepare you for that ministry better.'"

Thompson said he wrestled with the decision about going to Gateway.

"It didn't make sense, and it wasn't logical," he said. "I didn't know anyone, and it would be expensive to live in California."

Through prayer, Thompson said every fear he had and every doubt was erased. Within the next month, he applied for admission to Gateway and received his acceptance letter.

"It was the right decision," he said. "I love Gateway Seminary. I love their location and their push toward missions in the Los Angeles area. I love the diversity of the culture. But the thing I valued most from Gateway was the way people invested in me."

"When I think of the past three years, I have to wonder if this wasn't something of what the disciples experienced. They were average people who were willing to follow, and that's me. For three years, Jesus Christ showed them how to invest in others. For three years he shaped them to become leaders who advanced God's kingdom. That's what I learned in my three years at Gateway Seminary."



# CHITWOOD CHALLENGES GATEWAY AUDIENCE TO GO WHEREVER GOD CALLS

Dr. Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board, told a chapel audience at Gateway Seminary Sept. 5 that God's vision cannot be fulfilled until people from every nation, all tribes and all languages have heard the gospel.

Preaching from Revelation 7:9-10 — which is the basis for the IMB's vision statement — he reminded faculty, staff and students on Gateway's main campus in Ontario, Calif., that without vision, we have no direction.

"Without vision, we become discouraged, because we don't know where to go or what to do," he said. "That's why it's so important for the International Mission Board to have a vision statement, but it's also important for the church to have vision. I believe with all my heart that this vision in Revelation 7:9-10 will be fulfilled one day. But will we be a part of seeing this vision fulfilled?"

Chitwood said this vision should be driving the ministry and mission of the church. He pointed to the who, the where, the how and the why of the challenge described in the scripture: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

"Who do we see in the vision? The scripture says there is a great multitude that no one can number from all tribes, from every nation, from every language. The vision of heaven is inclusive. The adjectives are every and all. The who of the vision are still out there. Many of them have yet to hear, many have yet to be reached, they have yet to confess Jesus as Lord. If He should come today, they would not be among the number. So the vision cannot be fulfilled until the great innumerable multitude can include every nation, all tribes, all peoples, all languages. They are the who of the vision and until they are reached, we have yet to complete the vision."

He said the where — the location for the vision — is standing before the throne and before the Lamb of God in heaven.

"But they aren't there yet. They are still on the farms, in the subdivisions, in the cities, on the deserts. Some don't have a Bible in their language. Some have never seen a church building and wouldn't know what it was if they did see it. Many millions and maybe billions have never met a follower of Jesus, but what they have in common is they are all lost."

Chitwood said the how pertains to the multitude being clothed with white robes in spite of their sin.

"The Bible informs us that human beings are conceived in sin. The Bible says we are dead in our sin. How can it be that the people who are so stained with the guilt of sin can be in the vision clothed with white robes? It's the how of salvation. They've been clothed with white robes because the sorrow within them was taken from them and borne by another. The debt we owed was paid by another. The judgment we earned was taken by another. The Messiah came and the lamb was slain and his death brought life. Then grave clothes are replaced by white robes. That's how the who will be there. Some of them will be there because you have seen the vision of heaven, and it has become the vision of your life that drives your life and your ministry, and you will go."

He said the final question of the vision is why the innumerable multitude is there, with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice.

"Why are they there? Because he is worthy. They are there because he is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. They are there to acknowledge him, to worship him, to adore him, to declare him as the one who is worthy. They are there because he deserves for us to be there, because he is worthy of us being with him to adore him."

Chitwood said the vision must remain the call and the passion of the church, until Jesus comes to claim his church and until the vision is fulfilled.

"It is the vision that should carry you not only to the classroom but carry you to the fields where you have been called. It is the vision that will cause you to labor on that field and will keep you laboring on that field. It is my prayer that each of us individually and the church collectively will be about doing our part to fulfill the vision."

He said the vision will be fulfilled, whether we choose to be a part of it or not, but it is a privilege that God gave us a purpose, his vision to be part of.

"Don't live without vision. Without vision, the people will perish, but God has given us a vision. Let this be a vision for your life and wherever he calls — go."



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### 1980'S

**DR. KATHY HOPPE | 1982** Dr. Hoppe recently published a book entitled *Discovery Teaching Like Jesus*.

### 1990'S

**LORI ADAMS-BROWN | 1999** After serving as an IMB missionary for 20 years, Lori and her husband Jason have begun serving on staff at Echo Church in the California Bay Area.

### 2010'S

**ELIZABETH DANIEL | 2017** Elizabeth and her husband John serve at Red Hill Church in San Anselmo, California. They recently purchased their first home in Novato, California, and are fostering a teenager. Elizabeth also serves as a teacher at an ADVANCE Center, the North Bay School of Theology at San Quentin State Prison.

**SARAH KATHERINE JOHNSON | 2019** Sarah Katherine became the ADVANCE Program Coordinator at Gateway Seminary's Ontario Campus in December 2018. She is continuing to serve faithfully in the ESL ministry at Magnolia Baptist church in Riverside, California.

**BETHANY RAFFERTY | 2019** Bethany was promoted to Executive Assistant to the President of Gateway Seminary in November. She and her husband Danny are active members of Lakeshore City Church in Corona, California.

**LUKE THOMPSON | 2019** Luke is serving as the associate children's pastor at Cross Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where they are actively reaching over 400 kids every week.

**CORWIN WONG | 2017** Corwin is youth pastor at Brentwood Bible Fellowship and recently published *PLUM: A Theology of Sex*. Additionally, he offers weekly kickboxing classes for teenagers at the church.

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE SERVING SO WE CAN INCLUDE IT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF GATEWAY!

#### WE WILL NEED:

- Your name (including maiden name or nickname)
- The degree you received from Gateway/GGBTS and the year of graduation
- Where you live now and where you serve
- Any special news, i.e. marriages, births, publications

EMAIL TO [ALUMNI@GS.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@GS.EDU)



## IN MEMORIAM

**DOROTHY W. CATE | DONOR**  
on 12.10.2019

**CHIHANG CHANG | STUDENT**  
on 6.17.2019

**ROGER W. CORUM | MRE, 1969**  
on 2.3.2019

**JOSEPH C. FABIAN | DPTH, 2016**  
on 7.24.2018

**DON W. FORD | DCMN, 2012**  
on 12.9.2018

**WILLIE T. GAINES | STUDENT**  
on 1.21.2020

**AMELIO A. GIANNETTA | THM, 1959**  
on 8.25.2019

**LIDIA GIANNETTA | STUDENT**  
on 7.26.2018

**DAVIS HARRELL | MDIV, 1972**  
on 12.8.2019

**DR. JASON D. HELMBACHER |**  
**DMIN, 2018**  
on 4.8.2019

**BILLY W. HENLY | MDIV, 1970**  
on 3.10.2019

**JEANETTE HENRY | DONOR**  
on 2.4.2019

**J. MAX HIVEY | MDIV, 1972**  
on 1.21.2019

**E. W. MCCALL SR. | TRUSTEE**  
on 4.19.2019

**BRUCE A. MOON | MDIV, 1999**  
on 7.17.2019

**DR. STANLEY NELSON | FACULTY**  
on 8.25.2019

**DR. M. WAYNE NOLEN | MDIV, 1970**  
on 11.1.2018

**ELVIN B. NORRIS | MDIV, 1962**  
on 11.27.2018

**DR. JOHN P. WHEELER | DMIN, 1991**  
on 9.26.2018

**L. ARTHUR NUNN | MRE, 1976**  
on 6.24.2018

**DORIS NUNN | STAFF**  
on 6.10.2019

**BOBBY B. ROMANS | CERT., 1977**  
on 1.21.2019

**ROBERT B. ROOKS | STUDENT**  
on 11.20.2018

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**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**  
12 p.m. (after the morning session)  
[gatewaysbc.eventbrite.com](http://gatewaysbc.eventbrite.com)



**ENGAGING GLOBAL CITIES**  
— MISSIONS CONFERENCE — MARCH 6+7 —

 GATEWAY SEMINARY

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

## 3.6-7 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

This year's missions conference is focused on five global cities: Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Shanghai and Tokyo. Guest speakers are urban strategists who will present ministry models for engaging influential cities around the world.

Register: [mc20.eventbrite.com](https://mc20.eventbrite.com)  
ONTARIO CAMPUS | ONLINE

## 3.19 JONATHAN EDWARDS CENTER LECTURE AND LUNCHEON

Robert Caldwell will be joining us for a lunch lecture following his chapel message on March 19, 2020. He will be discussing his new book, *Theologies of the American Revivalists: From Whitefield to Finney*.

ONTARIO CAMPUS | ONLINE

## 4.02 DEERE-HESTER LECTURE

This year we are hosting Clint Arnold, dean of the Talbot School of Theology and professor of New Testament language and literature, for our annual lecture series.

ONTARIO CAMPUS | ONLINE

## 4.04 CELEBRATION LUNCHEON FOR DR. LEROY GAINNEY

Join the Gateway family for a special luncheon honoring Dr. Leroy Gainney for the significant contributions he has made in the lives of students and to God's kingdom through the Seminary!

Register: [gaineyluncheon.eventbrite.com](https://gaineyluncheon.eventbrite.com)  
VALLEJO, CA

## 4.28 75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Gateway Seminary 75th Anniversary Gala is an opportunity for alumni, students, staff and friends to celebrate 75 years of training pastors, missionaries and leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world!

To commemorate this historic occasion, we are releasing *Golden Gate to Gateway: A History*, a new history of Gateway written by Dr. Chris Chun and Dr. John Shouse.

Register: [75gala.eventbrite.com](https://75gala.eventbrite.com)  
ONTARIO CONVENTION CENTER

## 5.22 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

As Dr. Iorg says, this is what it is all about! Come celebrate Spring 2020 graduates with us! Visit [gs.edu/news-events](https://gs.edu/news-events) for more information.

ONTARIO CAMPUS | ONLINE

## 6.12 ALUMNI AND FRIENDS LUNCHEON

SBC Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida

Register: [gatewaysbc.eventbrite.com](https://gatewaysbc.eventbrite.com)

ORLANDO, FL

## Nov. INTERSECT CONFERENCE

Look this summer for more information on our annual Intersect Conference. Visit [gs.edu/news-events](https://gs.edu/news-events) for more information or email [communications@gs.edu](mailto:communications@gs.edu) to be placed on our update email list.

ONTARIO CAMPUS | ONLINE

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR EVENTS, EMAIL [COMMUNICATIONS@GS.EDU](mailto:communications@gs.edu) AND LET US KNOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR EVENTS MAILING LIST.





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