

DENVER SEMINARY

FOCALPOINT

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Preaching

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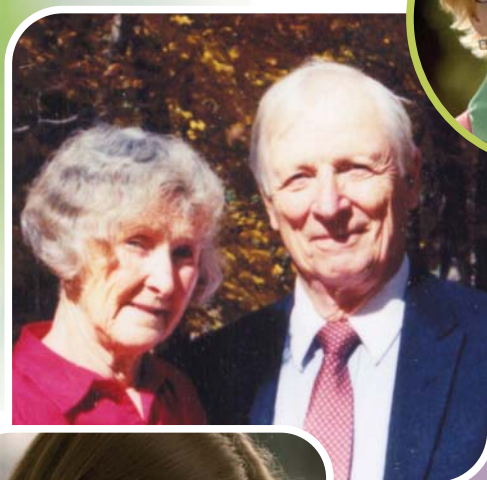
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FOCAL POINT STAFF

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Executive Editor: Gary Hoag
 Editor: Cynthia McDowell
 Editorial Consultant: Dave McClellan
 Editorial Assistant: Karen McClellan
 Design: Walking Stick Communications, Inc.
www.walking-stick.com
 Editorial Committee: Ann Ackerman
 Melanie Eagar
 Taryn Jensen
 Luanna Traubert
 Photography: Stephanie Patapenka

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IN YOUR CHURCH



1000 Mentors! (pg. 4)

Are there any people in your congregation or organization who might consider serving as a mentor to a Denver Seminary student? We are always looking for willing men and women to serve students in this capacity.

Preparing Preachers (pg. 8)

If you are currently preaching, who is shaping and critiquing you? Who are you shaping and mentoring in the area of preaching? Stories on these pages demonstrate the impact of such a relationship on the skill of preaching.

Oral Preaching (pg. 9)

Sound Redundant? Maybe not. The power of orality could improve next week's sermon.

Preaching the Parables (pg. 17)

As you prepare your preaching calendar, consider preaching a series through the parables, using Dr. Craig Blomberg's new book as a resource.

Summer Reading (pg. 17)

Purchase one of the homiletics department's recommended preaching books for some summer reading on the beach! Brush up on your preaching skills.



Philippians 3:10 "I want to know Christ and the power of resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

The oldest recorded conversation between God and humans is found in Genesis 1:28, when God speaks to Adam and Eve. There He teaches them about His nature as Creator and His desire for them to enjoy and faithfully steward the gift of His creation. Thereafter and throughout the history of His redemptive work, God repeatedly takes the initiative of revealing His nature and His desires to us. Without this revelation, we would be lost.

While in the past God spoke directly to some chosen leaders, in our time He prefers to speak primarily through His creation, His Son Jesus Christ, and His inspired, authoritative Word. The purpose of preaching, then, is to faithfully and effectively communicate God's nature and His desires as recorded in Scripture. The power of all preaching resides in the Word of God being used by the Holy Spirit to transform individuals and communities into the image of Christ and to call them into alignment with our Father's wishes. This God-designed approach never changes. Preachers who wander away from the clear declaration of God's Word, dependence upon prayer, and the Holy Spirit, do so at their own peril and the peril of the churches and organizations they lead.

While the centrality of the Word, dependence upon prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit for preaching never change, preaching styles can and should adapt to ensure faithful and effective communication of who God is and what He desires. Otherwise, preachers would need only to stand and read the Scriptures. Yet Scripture itself calls leaders to do more: "Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." II Timothy 4:2.

Those given the task of preaching week after week find it hard work requiring great discipline, dedication and creativity. We honor and thank all of you who so faithfully commit your lives to the effective communication of the Gospel. Preach with humility—recognizing that we are merely the vessels—and with confidence, knowing that the Holy Spirit can dramatically change lives through your preaching.

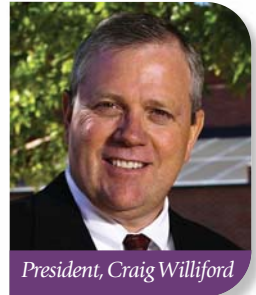
In this issue of Focal Point, we demonstrate Denver Seminary's continued commitment to honor God's Word, focus on Christ and to encourage prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit as the foundation for all faithful and effective preaching. We also provide some practical suggestions to assist you in your service of preaching.

For the church members whose role is to listen to the sermons preached each week by these faithful servants, may I encourage you to pray regularly for your pastors? Pray that God will empower, strengthen and use them to declare His wishes for your life and the lives of all in your church community. They offer a vital service on your behalf—and for God's glory!

For His glory,



Craig Williford
President



President, Craig Williford

Plantinga Headlines Spurgeon Lecture Series

Denver Seminary was pleased to host the annual Spurgeon lecture series in the spring. Through a generous gift to Denver Seminary, each year the Spurgeon lecture series brings to campus at least one representative of the Reformed tradition who has demonstrated skill in applying theological understandings to life, ministry, evangelism and social concern. The 2004 series, held March 15-16, welcomed Dr. Neil Plantinga, president of Calvin Seminary. The title of Plantinga's lecture series was "Rising with Christ," based on Colossians 3. The two-part series focused on "Rising with Compassion," in which Plantinga explained that God has built compassion into us as part of God's own image. All of the virtues of Christ are both God's gift to us and our calling. In "Rising with Forgiveness" Plantinga discussed the "craft of forgiveness," which fosters a softening that helps us release anger.



Dr. Plantinga earned his B.D. from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1971 and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1982. After early pastoral experience, he taught at Calvin Theological Seminary from 1979-1996 and at Calvin College from 1996-2001. His 1995 book on sin, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*, won the 1996 Book of the Year award from Christianity Today. His most recent book is *Discerning the Spirits: Understanding and Evaluating Contemporary Worship Practices*.

Our thanks to Dr. Plantinga for blessing the Seminary community through his visit and through this thoughtful lecture series!

Mentoring Leaders for a Changing World

Denver Seminary's National Conference on Mentoring was held April 1-3, 2004 and welcomed participants from the Denver metro area, as well as British Columbia, Delaware and Georgia, and from as far away as Ireland. The conference, held at the Denver Marriott Southeast and on the Seminary campus, was attended by pastors, ministry practitioners, students and mentors from diverse organizations. The theme of the 2004 conference was "Mentoring Leaders for a Changing World," and addressed the mentoring challenges we face in a rapidly changing culture. Workshop leaders facilitated 15 workshops that helped attendees design a working plan for sustaining a mentoring ministry that could fit their unique ministry setting. Specific tracks were offered in the area of mentoring wounded people, the emerging church, and practicing effective mentoring.

The weekend was enriched by gifted leaders in the field of mentoring. Plenary speakers included Dr. Robert Webber of Northern Seminary, Dr. Isaac Canales, president of the Latin



American Bible Institute and Lee McDowell, clinical therapist, speaker and Denver Seminary alumna. Dr. Webber addressed "Christian Formation in the Ancient Church" and "Christian Formation in the Future Church." Dr. Canales asked the question "Is There a Mantle on You?" and spoke of "Passing on the Kingdom: God's Baton." Lee McDowell's session was titled "Connecting with God's Power and Wisdom through Sharing our Redemptive Story." Any of these plenary sessions, as well as the workshop sessions may be ordered by visiting www.denverseminary.edu/tm. A key component of Denver Seminary's integrated educational model is the Training and Mentoring component, and this annual conference was established in 2000 to provide training and mentoring resources for effective mentoring ministries to the broader community.

Successful Spring Telethon

You may have received a phone call this spring on behalf of Denver Seminary. If so, you are one of the many alumni and friends we attempted to reach in a recent calling effort to share the good news that our relocation is on track! Because many major pledges have been received for our new campus project, the purpose of the spring telethon was to secure gifts and pledges for the Seminary Fund. Gifts to the Seminary Fund help bridge the gap between tuition payments and the actual cost of a Seminary education, which is a difference of more than \$1,500 per student, per year. In all we received 247 pledges and gifts totaling \$16,241! We are deeply grateful to so many of you for this strong show of support! If you did not receive a phone call, we were unable to reach you, or may not have a current phone number for you. To update your records, please contact Eugene Ko at 303-762-6908 or eugene.ko@denverseminary.edu.



1000 Trained in Mentoring Modules!

Denver Seminary's Training and Mentoring department trained its 1000th person in the mentor orientation module. This orientation module is required of all mentors, and serves as an introduction to the Training and



Mentoring process at Denver Seminary. The 2003-2004 school year marked the sixth year of the Seminary's Training and Mentoring program. During a regularly scheduled mentoring orientation module held in the spring, one of the 22 people in attendance was the 1000th person trained. During the initial stages of the Training and Mentoring program, Denver Seminary trained 69 people in the fall semester of 1998. "What began with Dr. Clyde McDowell's new and courageous vision for theological education has now become an established and energizing part of the Denver Seminary personality that attracts students wanting a more integrated approach to ministry training," said Don Payne, associate dean.

Ministry professional mentors and lay mentors meet weekly with students, focusing on the development of character and ministry competencies. Mentors include men and women in vocational ministry, as well as business leaders and lay leaders. We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the men and women who have impacted Denver Seminary

students. The time, investment and commitment to equip godly leaders could not be possible without you! If you are interested in investing in Seminary students in this way, please contact Denver Seminary's Training and Mentoring department at 303-762-6917.

Commencement Ceremonies

Denver Seminary held its 2004 Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 15 at Colorado Community Church. The class of 2004 includes 125 graduates - 112 master's level candidates, three doctoral candidates, and 10 certificates. Dr. Williford and the Board of Trustees commissioned the graduates before family and friends, faculty and staff, and fellow alumni. Dr. Williford's address, based on Joshua 1:8, outlined the vital role that meditation on the Word of God plays in prosperous and successful leadership. Numerous awards were also conferred, including the Raymond McLaughlin preaching award, awarded to Joy Engelsman (see page 5.) Merrill and Helen Skinner received the Mentor Medallion, in recognition of their outstanding and continued service as mentors since 1998. Graduating Senior Kathy Scott received the Excellence in Mentoring Medallion. The Seminary community - the Trustees, administration, faculty, staff and fellow students - extends our best wishes and God's richest blessing on these graduates.



Seminary Awards Mentoring Medallion to Dr. Robert Webber

Denver Seminary was pleased to award the Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Medallion to Dr. Robert Webber of Northern Seminary at this year's National Conference on Mentoring. The Lifetime Mentoring Medallion is awarded annually to a person outside the Seminary community who demonstrates lifetime achievement in the area of mentoring. "This award means a great deal to me and stimulates me to be more vigilant in my personal mentoring," said Webber.



Dr. Robert "Bob" Webber is recognized by pastors, denominational leaders, scholars and lay people as one of the foremost authorities on worship renewal. He regularly conducts workshops for almost every major denomination in North America through the Institute in Worship Studies, which he founded in 1995. Over 30,000 people have attended his workshops. He has authored over 40 books on worship and the Church, including *The Complete Library of Christian Worship* and *Renew Your Worship!* He is also a regular contributor to numerous magazines, journals and newspapers.

The Denver Seminary Mentoring Medallion was established in 2003 to recognize individuals whose leadership and dedication have furthered the cause and value of mentoring. Annually, three awards are presented: to a leader in the Christian community, to a Denver Seminary mentor and to a graduating senior.

GROUNDING IN TRUTH

2004 Senior Preacher Profiles

Each spring semester, during the Seminary's chapel services, the Seminary community has the privilege of hearing sermons delivered by six graduating seniors. These Master of Divinity students are nominated by the Homiletics department based on demonstrated excellence in preaching. In addition, one of the six preachers is selected by the faculty to receive the Raymond McLaughlin Preaching Award. Congratulations to Joy Engelsman the recipient of this year's award! Before bidding them farewell and best wishes, we visited with each of these graduates to learn their take on the art and craft of preaching.



2004 Senior Preaching Award, M.Div.

JOY ENGELSMAN



M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

SANDY KOERNER



M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

JEFF KIKEL

JOY ENGELSMAN

2004 Senior Preaching Award, M.Div.

Hometown: Denver, Colo.

Employment: Worship II Coordinator at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church and Worship Coordinator at Denver Seminary

Plans after graduation:

Sleep! Since my husband and I have two preschoolers, my plans for the immediate future will be to work part-time. I believe God's call on my life is to contribute to the kingdom by creating and leading worship gatherings and by speaking and preaching wherever He opens doors.

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached during the senior preacher series: Romans 14, *Under Construction: A Blueprint for Christian Community*. Because the world is watching, we must work to build a strong and attractive community.

How you sensed God might be calling you to preach:

God's call to preach has sometimes been muffled by the restrictions that others have put on using the gifts of women. So I have not relied on my own "sense" of His call. I have heard it amplified by both of my grandfathers who independently predicted 25 years ago that I would be a preacher, by my husband, my parents, my mentors, and my home church. These affirmations support my own sense that while I am preaching, I hear the Spirit saying, "This is what you were created to do!"

Most enjoyable thing about preaching:

I love the preparation stage. When I dive into the text, I'm amazed at the depth of meaning, the connections to multiple other passages, and the applications of an ancient word to our current context. I also enjoy the time between my study and delivery as the sermon sinks into my own life and I collect fresh illustrations and applications.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

"It's not about you!" For it is GOD who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Phil 2:13

Bad preaching habit to break:

According to my husband: "Enough already!" He says my sermons are too long—especially during Broncos season!

SANDY KOERNER

M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

Hometown: Hutchinson, Kan.

Employment: Youth Minister at Corona Presbyterian Church

Plans after graduation: I plan to stay at Corona as I complete the ordination process for the PC(USA) and then seek an ordained position somewhere, in the Denver area or in Colorado.

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached:

Psalm 19, *No Excuses*. Through the revelations of creation and Scripture, we can know God, recognize our unworthiness before Him, and realize that through Christ, only God can make us worthy.

How you sensed God might be calling you to preach:

I always did well in speech classes in high school and college, and I have always felt comfortable speaking in group settings. As I felt called to ordained ministry, I realized that public speaking is a gift that God has given me that I need to continue to develop.

How Denver Seminary developed you in your preaching competencies:

Denver Seminary taught me good hermeneutical and exegetical principles that help me keep my preaching biblical. Learning Greek and Hebrew and how to use Greek and Hebrew tools has enabled me to draw a deeper understanding from each passage

for 30 minutes. I just want to be a youth pastor." God's "call," I suppose, has come primarily through the encouragement of professors and fellow students, who have offered great feedback, recognized some level of spiritual gifting, and encouraged me to pursue preaching in the future.

How Denver Seminary developed you in your preaching competencies:

The preaching program at Denver Seminary has been invaluable for a rookie like me. In addition to providing solid practical guidance in terms of preaching skills, types of sermons, and techniques to use, the program has given me a greater passion



M.Div.

DAVID POOL



M.Div.

ARON TECHT



M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

TODD SLOCUM

I preach, which allows me to pass on this understanding to my congregation or audience.

Person who has most inspired you as a preacher:

Scott Wenig (Denver Seminary professor of homiletics.) When Scott preaches, he uses the techniques and skills that he teaches. Scott seeks to be a better preacher each time he preaches.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

Have fun!!

JEFF NIKKEL

M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

Hometown: Hesston, Kan.

Current employment:

Pastor of Student Ministries, Belleview Community Church, Littleton, Colo.

Plans after graduation:

To take a nap, then go fishing. Oh, after that, our plans are to stay at Belleview! In addition to youth ministry, I will oversee adult discipleship, including small groups.

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached:

Matthew 13:44-46, *Discipleship: The Magnificent Obsession*.

Following Christ is so great that it is worth any sacrifice.

How you sensed God might be calling you to preach:

Honestly, coming to Denver Seminary, I had no intentions of taking any homiletics classes. I had never preached a sermon before then and I can remember thinking, "How in the world would I go about preparing and giving a sermon. I don't have anything to say

for Scripture, an invaluable opportunity to develop and refine my communication skills (I preached five full-length sermons in class), and an overarching preaching philosophy (Big Idea) that seems to be really effective – all in a positive, constructive environment.

Person who has most inspired you as a preacher:

Dr. Larry Kalb, my homiletics instructor and preaching coach, who modeled for me humility, dependence on God, excellence, and passion for communicating truth.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

Never violate the author's intent because you, as one who has been gifted and given authority to handle God's word, are standing in the place of God in the minds of people. Our goal is not to inflict our ideas on people but to expose the authors' word to people.

Bad preaching habit to break:

Well, uh, I guess, uh, uh, I, uh, can't think of anything.

DAVID POOL

M.Div.

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Employment: Denver Seminary Maintenance Supervisor

Plans after graduation: To pastor in a small to medium sized church somewhere in the West.

2004 Senior Preacher Profiles Continued

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, *Letting Go to Hang On*. We must let go of our desires, expectations, and presumptions for our lives and ministries so that we can serve God wholeheartedly and not be found lacking.

Most enjoyable thing about preaching:

Studying a passage of Scripture, deriving the "big idea," and discerning how to best communicate it to an audience. This is usually arduous work, but to be used by the Holy Spirit to communicate and apply His Word is both humbling and fulfilling.

Person who has most inspired you as a preacher:

Scott Wenig has done more to educate and mold me as a preacher than any other person. He taught me how to approach the sermon development process and how to be clear. His passion for the exposition of the Scriptures and the Big Idea model of preaching have inspired me to preach the Word to the best of my ability.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

Structure is the key to clarity, and that if one is unclear in their preaching it becomes very difficult for the sermon to accomplish its purpose.

Bad preaching habit to break:

Sometimes I am a little nervous right at the beginning of my sermon and this causes me to want to pace back and forth too much like a caged lion!

ARON UTECHT

M.Div.

Hometown: Wakefield, Neb.

Employment: Self-employed carpenter

Plans after graduation: Pastor of Discipleship at Grand Island Evangelical Free Church in Grand Island, Neb.

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached:

John 8:1-11, *Caught in the Act*. Mercy compels a radical response.

How you sensed God might be calling you to preach:

When given the opportunity to open the Word, I sense that oneness with the Father, as two concert instruments being tuned together.

Most enjoyable thing about preaching:

Finishing.

Person who has most inspired you as a preacher:

Dr. Vern Steiner of the Miqra Institute in Lincoln, Neb. I've never seen anyone embody such brilliance and humility together.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

Be clear. Be clear. And be clear!

Bad preaching habit to break:

Some would say I give too much detail...of course they are wrong though!

TODD SLOCUM

M.Div., Youth and Family Ministry

Hometown: Moraga, Calif.

Employment: Inmotion Enterprise—my own business in video editing and graphic design.

Plans after graduation: Pastoral ministry. I believe this is my role wherever I find myself—in a church vocation, secular vocation, etc. My life is to be about shepherding people through life.

Text, title and "big idea" of the sermon you preached:

Psalms 13, *How's Your Relationship with God?*

Christians survive despair through a face-to-face relationship with God.

Most enjoyable thing about preaching:

Preaching is a laborious process when we really ask God to do a work on us first and foremost. I enjoy most when He actually has done some work on me and then speaks through me. I don't want to just preach from myself, but preach from His Spirit. This is glorious to have our very Lord pulsing through our words.

Person who has most inspired you as a preacher:

Right now, simply the person who is honest and real in preaching.

Best advice you ever received about preaching:

Be yourself – who God has made you and from where He has brought you.

Bad preaching habit to break:

Being too intense. Sometimes, I even tell a joke with a seriousness that strips it of any laughter. I'm just too passionate, perhaps, about real, heart-level change in myself and in others.

Passing On Preaching Tools

Joe Fortna, *M.Div. alumnus and associate pastor of Hope Community Church in Denver, Colo.*



Playing golf with someone else's clubs—this is perhaps the best way to describe how I felt in the pulpit after taking the required preaching courses at Denver Seminary. The courses themselves were excellent. They were a much needed and valuable source of structure and insight into the art of biblical preaching and gave me the precise tools I needed to preach well. Nevertheless, I struggled to incorporate my specific gifting, personality, creativity, etc. as some students were able to do quickly.

This is where the Training and Mentoring program was invaluable. I decided to concentrate a year's worth of the requisite church practicum in front of an actual loving and gracious congregation. It did not take long to realize that while I still needed to work on some specific areas, the greatest need was to discover how God intended me to preach based on how He created me and how He has gifted me.

In time, I began to view my training as a beautiful framework rather than a rigid set of walls. A wonderful aspect of the T/M program is that it provided me with the accountability I needed to not swing the pendulum too far as I explored, but also allowed me to seek the best possible environment for discovering my own preaching style: my church. In the process I was also able to focus on improving specific elements such as eye contact and voice variation, but these were bonuses. I have my own set of clubs now, their basic design has not changed a bit, but they feel just right when it comes time to open God's Word and preach it to His people.

Practice Makes Progress

Karla Bebber, *M.Div., Pastoral Counseling*

Before my first sermon for Homiletics, I practiced with Vaun, my professional mentor. She had never seen me preach or teach before, and this gave us a chance to enter new territory with each other. Because she is a gifted teacher herself, I valued her opinion. Ironically, she was to be a guest preacher at my church a few weeks after my first sermon, so this was good timing for both of us! This allowed me to watch and learn. In addition to her feedback, we also had a good conversation about female preachers. How are we received differently? How can we be relevant to audiences of men and women? What mannerisms tend to be unique to female speakers? Is this a hindrance or a benefit to our message?


At the beginning of the summer session, I had chosen to combine my mentoring experience with my preaching class by creating a learning contract on preaching. In my learning contract, I committed to practice not only by myself, but also with other people. I also made an evaluative tool for people to use as they listened to me. By working through this contract, I learned that I need to finish a rough draft of my sermon much sooner than I had previously done. I need time to practice!

On the day I delivered my sermon, my lay mentor, Margie, came to hear me preach. This was so helpful! My classmates gave me helpful feedback, but not the kind Margie gave. In class, sermons can become a drill or hoops you must jump through in order to make a good grade. But when I speak, I want God to speak. I want to be a mouthpiece for God. Fellow students will rarely give this kind of feedback. My mentor was able to simply sit and listen rather than critique. I was surprised and thankful when she shared what she had heard. God had encouraged her through me—and encouraged me as well, through her.



Finding Pre-Modern Help *for* Post-Modern Preaching

by Dave McClellan

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue button-down shirt, is shown from the side, looking down at an open book he is holding. The background is a solid light blue color.

This article sits on the page in your hands, frozen in time. As your eyes scan the shapes on the page, they instantly recognize the patterns of the letters. The letters form words. You could speak the words out loud if you needed to. But you're probably "speaking" them silently to yourself. You may think you're not speaking when you're reading, but test yourself. Try to read these words without, at least in your head, "hearing" them. It can't be done.

That's because while the invention of the alphabet (an ingeniously simple innovation in writing that allowed the "mapping" of sound) made verbal speech preservable, it is still only a record, an archive of spoken words. Sound is still primary in communication, despite the fact that the invention of text, and then later, printed text, has revolutionized the very way we process information, communicate it to others, and archive it for the future. This article, while arguing for the rediscovery of orality in communication, is dependent upon the very literate tools of alphabet, paper, and printing press for its distribution.

Literacy and orality have been using each other this way for at least 4,000 years. Ideas conceived and expressed in orality are documented and preserved with literacy. God

has used the amazing power of literacy to accurately preserve His revelation to humankind. But Scripture itself is a blend of oral and written sources. When you read the passionate prayer of Solomon or the raging of Jeremiah or the anguish of the Psalmist, or Peter's sermon at Pentecost, or Paul's at Mars Hill, it's easy to "hear" the primary orality of the words. They were spoken before they were written. Jesus didn't Xerox the Sermon on the Mount and have His disciples pass it out. He spoke the words even as God "spoke" the universe into creation, and in these last days "has spoken to us" through His Son.

This raises an interesting question for contemporary preaching. Although our source, our text, is literate, how "textual" should the preacher be in the exposition of that text? One might think that all sermons (unless read verbatim from a manuscript) are orally based. Not necessarily so. Jesuit scholar Walter Ong has documented the ways literacy has shaped our modern thinking in pervasive ways (*Orality and Literacy*, Routledge 1988).

Textual preachers prepare their sermons surrounded by piles of books and downloaded articles. They prepare privately in monk-like seclusion. They craft an argument or central premise and support it with multiple points through extended argumentation. They refer constantly to a detailed set of notes to guide their delivery, and publish a version of those notes in the form of an outline, often projected with PowerPoint. The entire process is couched in literacy which was invented to archive and preserve a message, and endows the sermon with a sense of documentary authority. If it's on paper, it must be authoritative, right? But is that confusing the nature of the source of the sermon (Scriptural text), with the sermon itself? What would it look like if a preacher utilized the older resources of orality, and added those to the mix?

Oral preaching would be better modeled than described. Forcing orality into literate forms on this page somewhat cramps its style. Nevertheless, in general, an oral sermon would utilize dialogue as an integral part of its preparation. Rather than being researched in secrecy, foundational research in text is distilled to general ideas. Those ideas then go through an extensive cross-examination by a process that ancient orators of the Greek and Roman periods called "stasis." In stasis every implication of an idea is tested and refined both mentally and orally. A preacher talks about a scriptural idea until it becomes so familiar, so close to lived reality, that it becomes "owned." Those ideas

are then processed in dialogue with others: staff members, elders, discipleship groups, worship leaders. Sometimes we don't know what we mean until we actually utter words. In speaking we find clarity. The sermon is "prepared" privately and publicly.

Oral preaching is also structured differently. Rather than relying on multiple points to buttress a central premise, it has a more narrative structure. That doesn't mean it's merely sprinkled with good stories. All sermons attempt that much. A narrative structure implies a sequence where one episode leads naturally, sequentially to the next. If a sermon's points can be rearranged sequentially without harm, it has no narrative (unfolding) structure.

Since that sequential narrative structure naturally unfolds, the sermon is more like telling a long story. Just as you don't normally forget how a story ends when you're in the middle of it, an oral preacher doesn't have to repeatedly return to notes to bolster and reinforce flow of thought. So the sermon can be exceptionally fluent, and gain the advantage of almost constant eye contact with the audience. Oral preachers evidence a credibility that comes through to an audience. The message "seems" owned by the preacher and not separate and disembodied. The preacher enjoys more freedom and less stress in delivery.

Given the fact that a sermon, as it is being delivered, is unquestionably an oral event, it would seem to make sense to utilize the strengths of orality in preparation and delivery. Preparing entirely in the world of paper and ink, and then expecting that preparation to magically transform into something oral at the point of delivery, seems naïve at best. The strengths of literacy are abundant and unquestioned, but perhaps not sufficient to entirely supply the preacher with the necessary resources for the oral environment. Indeed when we look for creative new ways to reach a post-modern culture, we might find unexpected help in the very ancient, pre-modern, art of orality.



Dave McClellan, Denver Seminary alumnus, is the pastor of The Chapel at Tinker's Creek in Aurora, Ohio and is finishing a Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric at Duquesne University.

The Educational Programs department joyfully celebrates the addition of two new faculty members, and the promotions of three individuals already serving in an instructional capacity at Denver Seminary! It is our privilege to introduce Dr. Laverne Jordan and Dr. Philip Towner to the Denver Seminary community, and to formally acknowledge the advancement of Dr. Terry Burns, Dr. Steve Young, and Ms. Elodie Emig.

NEW FACES NEW PLACES



DR. LAVERNE JORDAN,

Professor of Counseling

LaVerne Jordan is completing her eighteenth year of teaching in the Psychology Department at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill. She directed the development of the graduate program in counseling eight years ago and has been the program coordinator since the inception of the program.

Dr. Jordan earned a B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Purdue University and taught Home Economics for three years. She returned to Purdue, after two children and a serious auto accident, and earned a masters degree in School Counseling and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education.

LaVerne's favorite courses focus on individual counseling, group counseling, and growth and development topics. Recently, she was involved in creating a proposal for a school counseling program. During her tenure at Olivet she has provided leadership to various groups and projects, having chaired the General Education Review Task Force, the Faculty Development Committee, and serving as chairperson of the Psychology Department. She was also invited to honorary membership in Phi Delta Lambda, the Nazarene Universities honor society, for her "outstanding contributions to Olivet Nazarene University and for demonstrated character..."

LaVerne married her college sweetheart, Gary Jordan, in 1969 and they will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary shortly after moving to Colorado in August. The Jordans have two daughters and hope their children will love vacationing in Colorado as much as they have over the years.



DR. PHILIP TOWNER,

Associate Professor of New Testament

Philip Towner earned his Ph.D. in New Testament at the University of Aberdeen in 1984. His first post was as a lecturer at China Evangelical Seminary in Taipei, Taiwan. He also served with Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Taiwan during that time.

His first daughter, Rebekah, was born in Scotland in 1982, and his second daughter, Erin, was born in Taiwan in 1987. Phil and his wife Anne returned to Aberdeen to join the faculty in 1993. From there, in 1995, he took a post at Regent College in Vancouver, teaching New Testament, Missiology, and China Studies. Dr. Towner was recruited by the United Bible Societies in 1996, and has worked for the Asia Pacific Region and Americas Region since. He also remains on the teaching staff as a UBS representative at the Centre for Translation, Communication and Cultures in Misano, Italy, where he hopes to participate annually in a Translation Studies workshop.

His main projects at the moment include a revision of the Vietnamese Bible (Choctaw and Lakota translations), and he serves editor of the Bible Translator – Technical Papers (UBS academic journal). His wife, Anne, is an educator, and they love travel, Rome, Gelato and the Green Bay Packers—well, Anne is more partial to the Vikings.



DR. TERRANCE BURNS,

*Training Center Director
(with faculty status)*

Terry Burns joined the Training and Mentoring team at Denver Seminary in April of 1998. Since then he has given direction to the Intercultural and Para-church Training Centers, helped facilitate mentor orientation modules, coordinated the Urban and Intercultural Ministries concentration, and served as advisor to international students.

Dr. Burns and his wife, Gail, served with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society (CBFMS) in Cote d'Ivoire from 1975-1977. During that time, he served as a high school social studies teacher and assistant principle at a boarding school for missionary children. After additional experience and training, the Burns' returned to Cote d'Ivoire in 1983. They led bible studies, planted a church, and trained pastors. He also served on the executive committee of the CBFMS field in Cote d'Ivoire as secretary and vice-chairman, while completing his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Terry and Gail returned to the U.S. in 1990, though Terry continued to work on various projects for Cote d'Ivoire until 1992 when he was appointed as an area director for CBFMS. This took him to places such as Budapest, Hungary; Spitaal, Austria; Paris, France, Manilla, Singapore and Taiwan. Dr. Burns still serves as a consultant to CBI in the area of mentored leader development. In addition, he serves as a consultant to International Development and Education Associates.

He and Gail have been married over 35 years and have three adult daughters and two exceptional grandchildren, all living in the Pacific Northwest. Terry most enjoys his family, serving at Denver Seminary in the area of mentoring, and traveling and helping missionaries.



DR. STEPHEN YOUNG,

*Director of the Leadership
Degree Program*

Prior to his appointment as Director of the Leadership Degree Program, Steve Young served Denver Seminary as the interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University.

His graduate studies included organizational and small group dynamics, leadership theory, motivation theory, inter-group relations, communication education, systems theory, quantitative research methods and statistical data analysis.

After teaching at the high school level and serving for four years as professor and chairman of the Speech Communication Department at Grace College, he entered the business world. He has 22 years of leadership experience in human resources, training and sales management. Working in a large corporate environment, he has led teams involved in planning, policy and process improvement, contract negotiations, conflict resolution, and the development of accountability systems.

Dr. Young has also served in the church as an elder and teacher. He has over 25 years of experience in teaching adults, leading boards and committees, and traveling abroad on short-term missions initiatives.



MS. ELODIE BALLANTINE EMIG,

Instructor of Greek

Elodie Emig joined the Denver Seminary adjunct faculty in 1988 and has taught Beginning Greek ever since. In addition to her duties at the Seminary, she is also on the pastoral staff of New Song Fellowship and the leadership team of Where Grace Abounds.

Ms. Emig earned her M.A. in New Testament from Denver Seminary in 1984. Since her student days, Elodie has served the New Testament department of Denver Seminary as a grader and guest lecturer. She has also volunteered her exegetical expertise to Where Grace Abounds, a local ministry to people with sexual and relational struggles. Elodie has written numerous articles on the Bible and homosexuality.

Elodie loves running and hiking, especially with students. In fact, when she's not doing something Greek, or sleeping, she's probably out on the trails. Elodie also has a deep commitment to praying with and for students. Prayer is the one thing that makes Greek and running look rather insignificant, unless of course, they can be combined.

The Flint of Real Life

By Dr. Scott Wenig, professor of homiletics and church history

A noted preacher from the mid-twentieth century once insightfully noted, "Say Christianity and you say preaching!" I think that's an astute observation. The Greek word group from which we derive our words *preach*, *preacher*, and *preaching* are among the most theologically significant terms in the New Testament. Preaching and teaching the Word of God was at the heart of the apostolic faith 20 centuries ago and it demands to be at the heart of our faith now. So for the past 54 years Denver Seminary has emphasized not just theological education in general, but specific training in the clear communication of the Scriptures.

But some may ask, "Is it really possible to teach men and women to preach or is that something which is simply God-given?" For me, that's not only an excellent question, but it also goes to the very heart of my calling as a professor of homiletics. At one level, I've always appreciated what the sprint coach, Sam Mussabini, told his star pupil, Harold Abrams, in the marvelous film *Chariots of Fire*: "I can't coach what God left out!" But from the perspective of working with students for almost 20 years, I sincerely believe that we can give anyone who has a heart for Christ and a desire to communicate – whether they're strongly gifted or not – enough instruction and practice to proclaim the Scriptures in a clear and effective fashion.

Haddon Robinson, former president of Denver Seminary and prince of the evangelical pulpit, is famous for saying "When flint strikes steel, sparks fly!" The steel he is referring to is the Word of God. Therefore, our specific philosophy of preaching is rooted in the exposition of the Bible. By that

we mean the clear explanation, illustration and application of a biblical text to a specific audience in a culturally relevant way. At a foundational level, we're trying to teach our

students to preach the whole Bible, in all its various genres, in an engaging manner.

To assist our students in that process we use the methodology of "The Big Idea." Social-psychological research has firmly established that, regardless of the setting, listeners will only remember one thing. Moreover, spaced repetition of that one idea facilitates its impact on the hearers. Modern advertisers know this well. That's why they're willing to spend thousands of dollars repeating, illustrating or visualizing one idea during a 30-second commercial. In lieu of this sociological and psychological reality, we have taken to heart the sage advice of H. Grady Davis: A sermon should be "the embodiment of one vigorous idea."

But no idea—regardless of how biblically or theologically true it may be—can create sparks unless it strikes the flint of real life. For preaching to make a difference, it must be relevant to the pains and problems that post-modern people face. This demands that our students understand contemporary culture, modern psychology and sociological dynamics in addition to the Bible. Therefore, we spend a considerable amount of time in class talking about audience analysis as well as always asking the "So what? What difference does this make?" questions of our preaching.

I believe that transformational preaching can be taught. Thus, our goal at Denver Seminary is to prepare our students to understand both the truth of the Scriptures and the times in which we live. The power of the Bible can be unleashed most effectively when we know both the meaning of the Word and the world of the people we're talking to. If both of these pieces are in place, our communication of the Scriptures will connect with others and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, redemption will be wrought.

Herbert H. Farmer, *The Servant of the Word* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942), p. 19.

Cf. Gerhard Friedrich, "keryx," in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964-76), 3:683-718 as cited by David Fisher, *The 21st-Century Pastor* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), p. 243.

Martin Bolt & David G. Myers, *The Human Connection: How People Change People* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1984), pp. 68-69.

H. Grady Davis, *Design for Preaching* (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1958), p. 20.

A Senior Preacher Remembers

by Cynthia McDowell

When I called William McEachern, 75, on a Tuesday morning, it didn't surprise me that he was working on a sermon for Sunday. Fifty years ago, Bill, or pastor Mac as some call him, won the inaugural Senior preaching award. Bill hails from the second graduating class of Denver Seminary, or Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, as it was named in 1950.

The message he was preparing for the upcoming Sunday was based on Jesus' instruction to turn the other cheek. And he had no problem recalling the message he preached that won him the award in 1954. It was based on Psalm 1:1-3. "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers...." He shared with his classmates, a group of about 50 people, "here is how you can be a happy person."

His perspective, hundreds of sermons later, on how the Seminary prepared him for a lifetime of preaching, was comprehensive. "I'll give all the credit to Dr. Ray McLaughlin," (then professor of homiletics and pastoral theology). "Ray had the sweetest spirit of any man that I have known. He was on the par with Dr. Grounds, though he was an entirely different type of individual. He was able to communicate to me what it meant to communicate to other people and how to do it." As for the how? "We were taught to preach without notes, so he (gave) me a freedom in preaching that I would never hold myself to a manuscript. Even to this day." He continued as if he had sat in Dr. McLaughlin's class yesterday. "The other thing he taught was to look at a passage, understand the theme, and then apply that message to life. And he taught the importance of illustrations, a window that gives light to the point." He concluded, "You are to be compassionate about what you are preaching, experience it yourself, and then in experiencing it yourself, you convey the truth of it to the people that this is real and yes, this will work."

Speaking of work, Bill's life motto is "work hard, play hard." (He still skis). That's why his retirement didn't last long. Recently, he began praying for the right opportunity and is now the full-time senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Luck, Luck, Wisconsin, that is—a town of about 900 people. Since Bill accepted his preaching award and his Bachelor of Divinity in

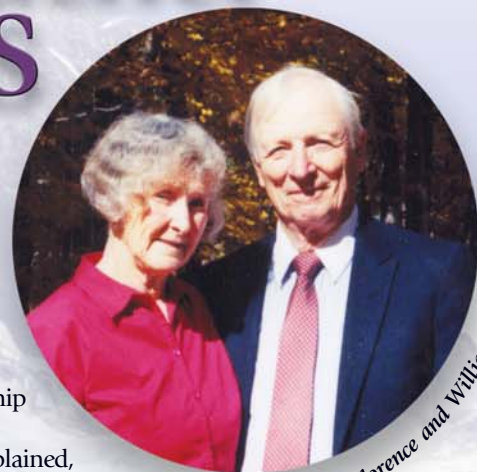
1954, he has certainly worked hard. Bill began his ministry as an intern at First Baptist Church in Hackensack, N.J. under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Stowell, II. Bill explained, "I learned what it meant to

really be a pastor and to know and share the word of God." He then served six years as senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Niagara Falls, N.Y., which provided his first foray into preaching—four times a week, fifty one weeks a year. Bill held additional pastorates at a mission church in Michigan, where he served for five years and at Oakhill Baptist Church in Minnesota where Bill enjoyed reaching out to the "hippy culture."

After enjoying fulfilling and successful ministries in these pastorates, Bill took a hiatus from vocational ministry and worked in the nursing home business for 15 years, while also pastoring a Korean Presbyterian Church. After retiring for a season, Bill and his wife Florence settled in northern Wisconsin. At that point, he thought, "At the ripe old age of 75, I would like to find a church around here that has only three, four or five people but still really believes that God can do something and are willing to say to the Lord, 'Here's our territory and we want to conquer it for you.'" The opportunity arose at FBC of Luck, yet they were curious why Bill wanted to serve. "One, this may be my last hurrah. Pretty soon, I'm going to see my Lord face to face and that will be a great day, but the hero of the Bible to me has always been Caleb. Joshua said, 'there are giants in that mountain.' Caleb said, 'I know but I want my mountain.'" Bill continued, "I still have the energy and same drive I had when I was 40. And the same vision. And I want a mountain. And God has given to me this mountain. And under His leadership and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are going to conquer that territory for Christ."

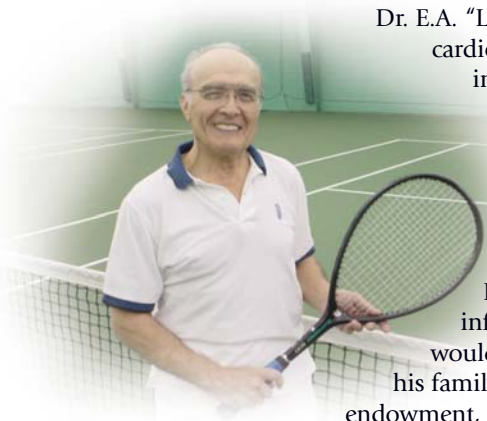
In recalling each of his pastorates up to the present day, one

continued on page 17



Florence and William McEachern

A Challenge to Match



Dr. E.A. "Lee" Husni loves to play tennis. As a retired cardiologist, he can be found on the court almost daily in the Cleveland Racquet Club in Cleveland, Ohio in order to stay fit. His passion for the game is trumped only by two things: his love for Christ and his commitment to his family. Born in Lebanon, Husni has a specific interest in making Christ known to Muslims by preaching the Word of God through example and evangelism. When his wife Betsy died, Husni committed to establish the Haddon W. Robinson Chair of Biblical Preaching through current gifts and provisions in his estate. Robinson had been an influential preacher in his life, and Husni wanted to ensure that a faculty position would be endowed to see that students were equipped to preach the Word of God. Though his family has experienced financial challenges recently, Lee made a \$25,000 pledge to the endowment, and it comes with a challenge. The challenge is not to a game of tennis—though he would not turn that down—but to other alumni and friends to join him in making a \$25,000 pledge to the endowment. **If you're interested in a match with Lee, or in joining him by making a campaign commitment to the endowment, please contact Vice President of Advancement Gary Hoag at 303-762-6941 or at gary.hoag@denverseminary.edu.**

Featured Funds

During our current comprehensive campaign, our goal is to grow these funds so that when the campaign is complete, we can endow two new faculty positions and provide additional scholarship dollars for our growing student body. If you would like to contribute to these funds, which honor and remember our past presidents, contact Brian Fort at 303-762-6924 or at brian.fort@denverseminary.edu.

Vernon C. Grounds Chair of Pastoral Care

The professor selected to occupy this chair will wear the mantle of this great man and will be chosen to exemplify the qualities that best describe Dr. Grounds. Denver Seminary desires to perpetuate his legacy of pastoral care.

Edward L. Hayes Presidential Scholarship

This fund has been established to provide merit-based presidential scholarships for deserving students to enable them to attend and complete their degrees.

Clyde B. McDowell International Student Scholarship

The purpose of this fund is to provide aid for full-time international students attending Denver Seminary.

Haddon W. Robinson Chair of Biblical Preaching

The establishment of this chair will enable the Seminary to recognize outstanding teachers or scholars in the area of preaching and thereby maintain and elevate the high caliber and reputation of homiletics at Denver Seminary.



EQUIPPING LEADERS, INCREASING THE IMPACT

The *Equipping Leaders, Increasing the Impact* comprehensive campaign for Denver Seminary aims to respond to unprecedented growth with strategic measures that expand the scope of its mission for years to come. As you may recall, the three components of this comprehensive effort are (1) building a new campus, (2) sustaining the Seminary Fund and (3) strengthening the Endowment.

We are encouraged at our progress thus far in the private phase of the campaign. In gifts and pledges, we have received more than \$9.4 million toward our \$17 million goal as of June 1. Because of this strong start, the board moved unanimously to break ground in July for the new campus, trusting God to move his people to provide the necessary funds for completion.

In the last two issues of *Focal Point*, you may have seen the sketch from our architect for the new campus as well as

read about the importance of the Seminary Fund as it serves our students with scholarships, financial aid, educational programs and quality faculty and staff. Although the new campus project garners most of the excitement, we want to continue to increase the awareness of the other two key aspects of the campaign.

Therefore, in this issue we would like to highlight the Endowment as the third of three critical areas in this campaign. Our Board has determined that the Endowment must be strengthened as we seek to build a transformational global community to equip leaders who will think biblically, live faithfully and lead wisely for a lifetime.



ENDOWMENT

A strong endowment will enhance our overall educational program in the present, and provide stability for the future. Such funds strengthen our financial and operational foundation through the following means:

- Chairs to recognize accomplished faculty and strengthen academic disciplines
- Scholarships to generate funds for student aid in perpetuity
- Lectureships to enrich the academic environment and Christian community
- Emergency funds to prepare the institution for unexpected future challenges
- General endowment to support continued institutional growth

As the Board and Administration of the Seminary chart the course for this comprehensive campaign, trusting God to lead and provide each step of the way, please consider prayerfully what role you may play in the effort. We are off to a strong start as the first year of this three-year effort draws to a close. From here, the participation of our alumni, supporting churches and friends through intercession, investment, and involvement will truly make a difference!



Books on preaching "The Book."

You may contact the Denver Seminary bookstore to purchase any of these resources at 303-762-6885.



360 Degree Preaching, Michael Quicke

Apologetic Preaching, Craig Loscalzo

The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative, Steve Mathewson

Biblical Preaching, 2nd ed.,
Haddon Robinson

Christ-Centered Preaching,
Bryan Chapell

Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth in Our Changing World,
David Henderson

Preaching in Black and White,
E.K. Bailey and Warren Wiersbe

Preaching That Connects,
Mark Galli and Brian Larson

The Sermon-Maker, Calvin Miller
Spirit, Word and Story, Calvin Miller



Preaching the Parables

by Craig Blomberg (Baker Book House, 2004)

Preaching the Parables provides a responsible introduction to understanding and proclaiming the parables that pastors, church leaders and seminary students will appreciate. Dr. Craig Blomberg demonstrates how the structure of a parable is key to its interpretation and thus to its exposition. He shows how a parable, when properly contemporized, can be a powerful rhetorical device, and that recognizing the elements of the parable that were atypical to everyday life leads to important surprises that will be of significance to contemporary parishioners. Each of the fifteen exemplary sermons is accompanied by an analysis that points out key interpretive decisions.

For more resources feel free to contact the Denver Seminary Bookstore at 303-762-6885.



A Senior Preacher Remembers - Continued from page 14

thing was primary—the people. He remembered names, stories and events. And while preaching has been a constant for the last 50 years, he made little, if any, reference to it. Nevertheless, he did share a few words of wisdom regarding the subject at my request. "So much of our preaching is nothing more than a lecture. It says good things, it's very well put together, very appealing, but it's a lecture. What it has to have is life. Sunday morning, when I stand up and say to the people, 'God expects us to turn the other cheek,' I have to believe that. It has to be a part of the very marrow of my bone. And I can not be detached from what I'm preaching—emotionally, physically, spiritually or mentally. When I go into that pulpit, I have to believe from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet that this is truth and that it consumes me. And then, I've got to be convinced that if people buy into it, their lives will be better for it."

Bill's responses were never laced with the youthful desire to be the biggest, the best or the most famous. Nor did they suggest a selfish desire to be known, to be liked or to be applauded. How then does he want to be remembered? "What I want more than anything else—when I see Jesus, I want him to say 'well done,' and if I don't hear that, my life's a failure. That's it. I don't want anything more than that." Fighting back tears, his response was a sermon in itself.

In The Classroom

Are you a pastor, counselor, or leader of a nonprofit or parachurch organization? Consider taking one of these classes, which address topics that are relevant to your ministry! Both of the courses below are offered in the fall semester, beginning August 30.

Counseling 590

Victim Care: Issues for Pastors and Counselors
This course will train you to understand the issues confronting victims of crime or trauma. Rev. Cary Johnson, along with Dr. Joan Winfrey, will impart a unique understanding for compassionately responding to victims in your church and provide tools to equip you to assist your community to heal after a significant traumatic event.

Leadership 612 Stewardship and Resource Development.

In this course, Gary Hoag will help leaders understand biblical principles for successful fundraising. This practical leadership class will explore theological and professional publications as well as case studies. Students will be required to develop a personal philosophy of stewardship and map out a resource development plan for an organization or church. Guest lecturers include Craig Blomberg, Wesley Willmer.

As a special student, you may audit or receive credit for any of these classes. For more information, contact the Admissions office at 800-922-3040 ext. 1278.

PROFESSORS TRAVEL SCHEDULE SUMMER 04**Dr. Jim Beck**

July 24–Aug. 12: Southeast Asia Bible Seminary, Malang, Indonesia.

Dr. Terry Burns

June 7-21: mentoring CBI field and regional leaders, Madrid, Spain and Rome, Italy

Dr. Daniel Carroll R.

July 3-24: El Seminario Teológico Centroamericano, Guatemala City, Guatemala
 Aug. 1: Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, Colo.
 Sept 5-7: Perspectives Course, Denver, Colo.
 Sept. 17-18: Ward Consultation, Chicago, Ill.
 Sept. 26: Iglesia Esperanza Viviente, Aurora, Colo.

Dr. Bruce Demarest

Sept. 16-19: Theological and Cultural Thinkers Group, Denver, Colo.

Dr. Richard Hess

July 25-28: Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Groningen, The Netherlands.
 July 26: "Onomastica as a Means to Access Israelite Religion," in the Epigraphical and Paleological Studies Pertaining to the Bible World

Unit, in Honor of Dr. Shlomo Moussaieff
 Aug. 1-4: Participant at the International Organization for the Society of the Old Testament, Leiden, The Netherlands
 Sept. 14-18: speaking at the Association of Military Christian Fellowships World Conference, Osanri Prayer Mountain near Seoul, South Korea

Dr. Randy MacFarland

June 25-28: ATS CAOS Conference and ATS Biennial Meeting, Garden Grove, Calif.

Dr. Jan McCormack

July 16-18: NASCAR Race, Monroe, Wash.
 July 30- August 1: NASCAR Race, Irwindale, Calif.
 Aug. 19-22: International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Denver
 Sept. 3-6: NASCAR Race, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Sept. 17-19: NASCAR Race, Roseburg, Ore.

Dr. Craig Williford

June 25-29: ATS Biennial Meeting, Garden Grove, Calif.

Chancellor's Corner



Sermonic Lives

Dr. Vernon Grounds In today's mega-churches, preachers are not usually pastors if by "pastor" one means a New Testament shepherd. They are pulpiteers and administrators who don't often have much personal contact with the members of their congregations. But while the mega-churches are making a significant impact for the Gospel, most churches are still small in size and unable to hire a large staff. Their pastors are more like the traditional shepherds of their flocks, but of course they preach Sunday sermons. Yet if those pastors are dedicated servants of God, disciples of Jesus characterized by loving concern and known for integrity of character, their lives are eloquent homilies every day of the week.

G. Campbell Morgan, pastor of London's Westminster Chapel, was an expositor whose gifted preaching attracted crowds of appreciative people. He had four sons, all of whom followed in their father's footsteps and became preachers. One day when the family had gathered for a delightful time of fellowship, there was a light-hearted debate as to which was the best preacher. Debate stopped when one of them said, "Our family's best preacher is mother." All agreed. Annie Morgan's life was a constant and consistent sermon.

In the pastorate, however, piety alone will not avail for fruitful ministry. Private godliness is imperative by all means, yet a congregation needs to be nourished on an edifying diet of biblical and theological truth.

We understand what Francis of Assisi meant when he invited one of his younger disciples to accompany him on a preaching walk through their community. After they had walked some time in silence, the disciple with a bit of impatience, asked when they would begin to preach, to which Francis responded that they had already been preaching. While being observed by townfolk, their very behavior had been sermonic. As Francis famously put it, "Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words."

A pastor's words are indeed necessary to help people understand that a life eloquent with Christ-likeness is not simply a genetic endowment or a human achievement; it is evidence of God's indwelling presence and enabling grace.

Vernon Grounds

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FOUNDER'S WEEKEND AT DENVER SEMINARY

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2004



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 SECOND ANNUAL DENVER SEMINARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Ridge at Castle Pines North

- 11 am Registration and box lunch
- 12:30 pm Shotgun start
- 5:30 pm Awards dinner and silent auction

The purpose of the golf tournament is to raise \$35,000 for the Seminary Fund, which benefits all our students! For more information, please contact Brian Fort at 303.762.6924 or by e-mail at brian.fort@denverseminary.edu.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

(Daytime activities held at Hudson Gardens — 6115 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, Colorado)

- 9 am Ceremonial Groundbreaking
(6399 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, Colorado — adjacent to Hudson Gardens)
- 10:30 am Denver Dialogue, featuring:
Dr. Scott Wenig, Professor of Applied Theology; Dr. Danny Carroll, Professor of Old Testament
- Noon Celebration lunch on the grounds*
- 6 pm Colorado Rockies fireworks game at Coors Field* (limited tickets available)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Alumni Gathering*—Join Dr. Grounds and senior faculty members at a special brunch and reconnect with fellow alums.

*Reservations required for celebration lunch, Rockies game and alumni brunch. Contact Melanie Eagar at 303.762.6949 or melanie.eagar@denverseminary.edu. Please visit www.denverseminary.edu/newcampus for relocation information.

Please join us for a
Birthday and Anniversary
celebration for
Vernon & Ann Grounds



Monday, July 26, 2004 · 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Vernon Grounds Learning Center Chapel, Denver Seminary
Cake and refreshments will be served

Come celebrate 90 years of life and 65 years of wedded bliss for our beloved chancellor Dr. Vernon Grounds and his wife, Ann. Join us as we honor the man who has earned the love and respect of all who know him, and the faithful wife who has supported him for so many blessed years of ministry!

Cards are welcome. The Grounds ask that in lieu of gifts, please make donations to:
The Vernon C. Grounds Chair of Pastoral Care
Attn: Denver Seminary Advancement Dept.
PO Box 100000, Denver CO 80250

RSVP to Luanna Traubert by July 16, 2004 at 303.762.6929 or luanna.traubert@denverseminary.edu

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