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From the editor:

In early January, I visited the Dominican Republic on assignment for Southern Seminary Magazine to learn more about the ministry of Miguel Nuñez and his church. During my visit, I spoke with nearly a dozen young professionals who want to study at Southern Seminary. Whether this is your first semester or your last, I hope you never forget the wonderful privilege you have of studying at this seminary.

As I enjoyed the foretaste of warm weather and sunshine, I was also anticipating my return to Louisville for the exciting semester awaiting us. Life at Southern Seminary is filled with opportunities to invest in missions, academics, friendships, and excursions, and this issue will help you take advantage of them.

Most importantly, I hope you participate in the Great Commission Focus. Each day the seminary will take students on evangelistic trips throughout Louisville. Resolve to share the gospel with someone this semester even if you are unable to participate. If personal evangelism is merely a class assignment for you, I pray the Lord will awaken your heart to the reality of lost and dying people in this city.

Our mission is to use our time, resources, and talents to tell the Southern story in an accurate, timely, and creative manner to the glory of God.
Southern Seminary professors trace the importance of biblical theology at Alumni Academy

By Andrew J.W. Smith

Biblical theology is a means of church unity and the foundation for careful theological interpretation, according to Southern Seminary professors at the Alumni Academy, Jan. 8-9, 2015.

James M. Hamilton Jr., professor of biblical theology at Southern Seminary, argued from Ephesians 4:11-14 that doctrinal agreement, unity, and Christlikeness are accomplished through understanding the work of God throughout salvation history.

“The narratives in the Bible,” Hamilton said, “are in the Bible to shape our desires, to cause us to want to be certain kinds of people. What they give us is a vision of what the good life looks like.”

Biblical theology also involves typology and symbols, Hamilton said, or ways the biblical authors “summarize and interpret” earlier stories in the biblical canon through various linguistic connections between texts.

Finally, Hamilton said that biblical theology shapes the church’s identity as the people of God. The Bible’s metanarrative becomes the believer’s story.

The two-day conference also featured lectures from Denny Burk, Stephen J. Wellum, and Robert L. Plummer, as well as panel contributions from Greg Gilbert, preaching pastor at Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and Brian Payne, associate professor of Christian theology and expository preaching.

Alumni Academy provides free ongoing instruction for alumni and prospective students of Southern Seminary. More information and audio from the Alumni Academy lectures are available at www.sbts.edu/resources.

Mohler offers ‘Christmas mandate’ to fall 2014 Southern graduates

By S. Craig Sanders

The mission of seminary graduates is to announce the birth of Christ and the clear truth of salvation, President R. Albert Mohler Jr. told the fall 2014 graduates of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Southern Seminary conferred degrees upon 207 master’s and doctoral students during the 214th commencement exercises in Alumni Memorial Chapel, Dec. 12.

In an address from Luke 1:67-80 titled “To Give Knowledge of Salvation to His People: A Christmas Mandate for Christian Ministry,” Mohler stressed the significance of the Christmas holiday as an opportunity for graduates to refute a “terminal theological confusion” in churches today.

“The clarity of the Christmas story reminds them that they are to be defenders of the faith, teachers of undiluted truth, guardians of the treasure entrusted to them, heralds of the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Mohler said. “They have learned so much in their studies here, and they will learn even more as they teach others.”

Mohler closed the address with a gospel call on behalf of the graduates, urging the audience to “know that the baby lain in Bethlehem’s manger is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father, but by him.”

Audio and video of Mohler’s address are available at sbts.edu/resources. A complete manuscript of the address is available at www.albertmohler.com.

Southern Seminary’s ‘growing influence’ in ETS seen at recent meeting

By James A. Smith Sr.

Thomas R. Schreiner’s presidency of the Evangelical Theological Society is the latest example of the “growing influence” of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the scholarly organization, seminary leaders say.

During the 2014 ETS annual meeting held Nov. 19-21 in San Diego, California, Schreiner completed a one-year term as president, but will continue to serve on the organization’s executive committee along with Southern Seminary theologian Gregg R. Allison, who is currently serving a seven-year term as secretary/treasurer of the group. In 2009, Bruce A. Ware served as president, marking the first time a Southern Seminary faculty member led the organization.

Together with the presentations by Schreiner and Allison, Southern Seminary faculty and graduate students participated in 47 paper presentations and panel discussions during the ETS 66th annual meeting, whose theme was ecclesiology.

Schreiner, James Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament Interpretation, told Southern Seminary’s news staff it was a “great privilege and honor” to serve as ETS president.

Southern Seminary’s leadership of and participation in ETS is also seen in the fact that the organization has been located on the school’s Louisville campus since 2009.

Southern Seminary professors Robert L. Plummer and Denny Burk were elected to the ETS membership committee during the 2014 annual meeting. Owen Strachan also currently serves on the membership committee.
Responding to *Newsweek*, Mohler tells ‘FOX & Friends’ the Bible ‘still matters’

*By RuthAnne Irvin*

A *Newsweek* cover story calling into question the veracity and relevance of the Bible nevertheless “shows the Bible still matters,” R. Albert Mohler Jr. said Dec. 30 on “FOX & Friends” on the Fox News Channel.

“It matters so much that someone would choose this type of venue to attack it in such an open way and those who are Christians know why: it is indeed the Word of God,” Mohler said.

Mohler also responded to the *Newsweek* article, “The Bible: So Misunderstood It’s a Sin” by Kurt Eichenwald in a Dec. 29 blog post, saying that Eichenwald’s article “is a hit-piece that lacks any journalistic balance or credibility.”

Eichenwald argues that Christians have a poor understanding of the Bible, which leads them to be “God’s frauds, cafeteria Christians who pick and choose which Bible verses they heed with less care than they exercise in selecting side orders for lunch.”

“Christianity doesn’t have anything to fear from an honest look at the facts of the truth claims of Christianity,” Mohler said during the interview. “And when you have someone in the media give a balanced view and talk about the great truths of the faith in an honest and balanced and journalistic way, that’s fair game. But that’s not what we’re dealing with here. From the opening shot, this is an open attack upon Christianity.”

Concerning Eichenwald’s claims about translations of the Bible, Mohler told hosts Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Scott Brown, “We have very accurate translations available to us now based upon very credible texts. That’s not really the problem.”

Mohler’s blog post is available at albertmohler.com, and the interview is available on news.sbts.edu.

Michael Pohlman joins SBTS faculty as preaching professor

*By Andrew J.W. Smith*

Michael Pohlman has been appointed assistant professor of Christian preaching, seminary leaders announced in January. Pohlman served for five years as senior pastor at Immanuel Bible Church in Bellingham, Washington.

“Dr. Pohlman is an inspiration to me,” said Gregory A. Wills, dean of the School of Theology. “Students who take his classes will soon discover why. His teaching is the natural expression of his character and combines deep conviction, earnest zeal, and sincere passion.”

Pohlman has earned degrees from the University of Washington and Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, and a Ph.D. in church history at Southern in 2011 under Wills’ supervision. Pohlman has previously worked as executive director for The Gospel Coalition and an executive producer for Salem Communications.

Pohlman’s wife, Julia, passed away in February 2014 after a four-year fight against breast cancer, and Pohlman is the executive director of the charity she founded, Team Julia. He is joined by his four children, Samuel, Anna, John, and Michael.

“I am humbled and thrilled to be joining the faculty at SBTS and give my life to the training of pastor-theologians who long to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ,” Pohlman said. “I look forward to giving all my vital energies to this gracious stewardship, trusting the Lord to give the increase for the glory of His great name.”
Book Reviews

Letters to a Birmingham Jail: A Response to the Words and Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Bryan Loritts, ed. Review by Andrew J.W. Smith
Taking up Martin Luther King Jr.’s seminal “Letter from Birmingham Jail” during contemporary events like the Ferguson shooting and the Eric Garner case, one is immediately struck by how relevant King’s message still is, more than 50 years later.

In the original letter, King sought to spur white clergy to action, calling his fellow pastors to join his non-violent fight against systemic racial injustice. In Letters to a Birmingham Jail, edited by Bryan Loritts, evangelical pastors, theologians, and activists reflect on how King’s message relates to the church today.

While some progress has been made, these diverse voices — such as John Piper, Matt Chandler, John Perkins, and Crawford Loritts — again call for a radical shift toward justice, not just in our laws, but in our very hearts.

On Preaching
H.B. Charles Jr. Review by S. Andrew J.W. Smith
In On Preaching, H.B. Charles Jr., pastor-teacher at Shiloh Metropolitan Church in Jacksonville, Florida, offers a string of practical suggestions relating to the pulpit, from sermon preparation to the act of preaching itself.

Many of Charles’ recommendations involve simple steps, such as his model for the week before giving a sermon: “Think yourself empty. Read yourself full. Write yourself clear. And pray yourself hot. Then go to the pulpit and be yourself,” Charles writes. “But don’t preach yourself—preach Jesus to the glory of God.”

Charles emphasizes that great preachers are the ones who interpret the Bible faithfully and proclaim it boldly. But the best preachers, Charles observes, are great at applying it to real-life situations.

“Effective preaching requires that you exegete your audience, as well as your text,” he writes.

New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional
Paul David Tripp Review by RuthAnne Irvin
Whether or not you are a morning person, mornings are an inevitable and important part of the day. For Christians, Lamentations 3:23 is a refreshing reminder when the alarm sounds on a Monday morning: the Lord’s mercies are new. In his new book, New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional, Paul David Tripp takes short, gospel truths and applies them to everyday life.

“When amazing realities of the gospel quit commanding your attention, your awe, and your worship, other things in your life will capture your attention instead,” he writes in the introduction, illustrating why personal Bible study is essential for a deeper affection for God.

New Morning Mercies celebrates what God does in his children through his grace. Each entry explains a truth of the gospel and provides an application. The end of each entry offers suggestions for further study.
As the latest release in Crossway’s “Theology in Community” series, Heaven is a scholarly and accessible volume exploring a central theme in the Bible with contributions from leading evangelical scholars.

Jonathan T. Pennington, associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern, contributed a chapter on “Heaven in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts.” After tracing the various uses of the term “heaven” throughout the Gospels, Pennington argues that the word carries an inherent “happy ambiguity” between two poles of meaning: creation above and the place where the Creator dwells.

While much of the popular conception of heaven tends to focus on a disembodied final state where all believers “go when they die,” Pennington says this robs the term of its rich meaning in the Bible. Not only does Scripture refuse to collapse the multifaceted term “heaven” into merely a distinct future location, but the Gospel writers demonstrate that the end of salvation history is realized when God’s kingdom comes to earth.

Stephen J. Wellum, professor of Christian theology at Southern, writes in “Heaven in Paul’s Letters” that Paul’s view of heaven represents a “inaugurated eschatology” that is already partly present on earth.

“In Paul and the New Testament,” Wellum writes, “Christ has inaugurated the kingdom so that in reality, the heavenly age has come to earth — heaven has come to earth.”

Heaven is more than just a future reality; it is being realized in the present age. Believers experience the first fruits of “spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 1:3) and yet look forward to the fullness of salvation history in the final return of Christ, Wellum writes.

... we do not have sufficient information to specify the details of when it all happened and of what pharaohs were present. ... we should teach the biblical history and not some reconstructed, hypothetical model that tries to make definite what the Bible leaves indefinite.

A new commentary from Duane A. Garrett, John R. Sampy Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Seminary, not only defends the reality of Exodus but contends for its relevance in Christian teaching.

“Exodus is the beginning of everything that is distinctively Israelite, and it is the fountainhead of most of the literature of the Old Testament that follows,” Garrett writes. “That history, along with the establishment of the Sinai covenant, was their pride, their identity, and their claim to being the people of YHWH.”

In a lengthy introduction to the commentary, Garrett examines ancient Egyptian geography and history, scholarly opinions on the dating of the exodus, the location of the Red Sea and Mt. Sinai, and the primary themes of the book.

Even evangelical scholars remain divided over an early or late date of the exodus, and Garrett provides a summary of each theory and its weaknesses. Rather than making a case for a specific date or pharaoh, Garrett ultimately warns scholars, and especially pastors, not to base their trust in the biblical account on a specific theory.

“I do not think it is wise or right to suppose that we can correct what seems to be a deficiency in the Bible and fix a date for the exodus, describe fully the historical setting, or name the pharaoh of the exodus,” Garrett writes. “We should teach the biblical history and not some reconstructed, hypothetical model that tries to make definite what the Bible leaves indefinite.”

While Garrett illustrates how the text is intentionally silent on the date and the pharaoh, he argues that Exodus clearly presents a geographical setting for the Red Sea and Mt. Sinai, thus making a search for these locations legitimate. Garrett points to and supports the recent study of James Hoffmeier, which concluded that the miracle of the Red Sea occurred at the northern Gulf of Aqaba and identified Mt. Sinai as the volcanic Mt. Bedr.

Arguably his most significant contribution to the literary analysis of Exodus is his emphasis on “The Songs of Exodus,” which are also organized in an appendix. Previously, scholars have only recognized “The Song of the Sea” in Exodus 15:1-18, but Garrett suggests that it is one of eight songs in the book.

“The songs of Exodus celebrate YHWH’s power and goodness as well as the glory that Israel has as YHWH’s covenant people,” Garrett writes. “They may well have served both as Israel’s early hymnody and as a succinct but poetic means for recalling the story and lessons of the exodus.”

The most familiar aspect of the exodus is often called the “ten plagues.” Garrett argues, however, that readers should think of the “twelve miracles” — beginning with the staff turned to a snake and ending with the parting of the Red Sea. He further explains that each miraculous event follows a similar structural pattern in the text as the intensity increases from warning to disaster.

Garrett’s commentary focuses on highly technical aspects of Hebrew composition, yet his insight into the text is valuable for pastors and scholars alike. Theological summaries of key points in his exegesis offer pastoral wisdom and Christian application in light of biblical theology.

(Crossway 2014, $18.99)

(A Commentary on Exodus
Duane A. Garrett
Review by S. Craig Sanders

Before the 21st century, major Hollywood movies like The Ten Commandments (1954) and The Prince of Egypt (1998) celebrated the redemptive power of the Exodus narrative. Yet in the past decade, films, TV documentaries, and scholarly writings have questioned the historicity of the Exodus account.

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(Kregel Academic 2014, $39.99)
The ‘fountainhead’ of OT theology
GARRETT DISCUSSES EXODUS COMMENTARY

By S. Craig Sanders

EDITOR’S NOTE: In what follows, Duane A. Garrett, John R. Sampey Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and professor of biblical theology, discusses his new book, A Commentary on Exodus, with Towers editor S. Craig Sanders.

CS: With the new movie Exodus: Gods and Kings and classics like The Ten Commandments, why do you think our culture is so fascinated with the story of the Exodus?

DG: One, it is really the pivotal event of Judaism. It’s like the cross and resurrection for Christians — it is the big event and anyone who has even the most marginal awareness of the Old Testament knows that whenever Israel is addressed in terms of their distinctive relationship to God, it is always the exodus that is brought up. And then, I think people have a strong kinship to the idea of the poor, the oppressed, the slaves over and against the all-powerful autocratic government and the sense that God delivers people who are under this kind of enslavement and oppression. It’s a kind of universal feeling that even has some kind of kinship to something like the American Revolution.

The third thing is, I think it is a really interesting story and, basically, people like miracles. You have all that stuff — the frogs, the gnats, the hail, and the parting of the sea — that’s a lot more interesting than just your run-of-the-mill story.

CS: The new Exodus movie brought renewed attention on the biblical narrative and scholars who say there was no historical Moses. What’s the firm evidence for the historical Moses and what is his importance for us today?

DG: There’s no doubt, the scholarly consensus today is that the Exodus story is a myth. Outside of confessional seminaries, you would be hard pressed to find any Ancient Near Eastern scholar or Old Testament scholar who holds to a historical exodus.
Many would regard that there may have been some figure Moses, but it was far less than he’s presented as in Exodus and he only did a handful of things attributed to him. It is very much the common view, and I should add that is a significant shift over the last 50 years or so. If you had gone to even the most liberal seminaries in 1965, they would have said that the exodus may not be exactly as it was in the book of Exodus but there was a real exodus and there was a real Moses. All the evidence for the existence of Moses is in the Bible. I would say his position in the Old Testament and his importance in biblical history is second only to Jesus. He is not only the one who led them out of Egypt and the one who was intermediary to making the Sinai covenant and giving them the law, he is the paradigm of a prophet and he established that when he interceded for Israel in Exodus 32 with the golden calf incident and saved them from being annihiliated and continued to intercede with God so his role as the intercessor, in addition to being the lawgiver. Moses, and the book of Exodus, is the real fountainhead of the entire theology of the Old Testament. Moses is irreplaceable; you really can’t have a biblical faith or an OT theology without Moses.

**CS:** What is the importance of the exodus for Christians?

**DG:** In a nutshell, the exodus establishes the pattern for redemption — it is entirely the work of God. Initially, God just declares he is going to deliver Israel. He sees the suffering of the Jews and when he calls Moses, Moses does not want to go. And all the way up through chapter six, Moses is very unhappy about this whole thing. And so it’s very clear the deliverance didn’t come about because of Moses, and then in pharaoh’s hardness of heart — while that is always troublesome to people — I think the main point is it establishes the fact that the deliverance from Egypt was literally a work of God. It wasn’t because pharaoh was kind or generous or weak or easily over-awed. It was totally a work of God. Even the Israelites themselves were not always completely cooperative. But you put it all together, Moses was not keen to go, pharaoh was certainly not willing to let them go, and even the people at times were pretty weak. So it was entirely God’s work. So what does that say to us as Christians? Salvation is entirely a work of God. You have the same thing in the coming of Jesus; the incarnation of the cross, the resurrection, the miracles are a sign of the eschatological age. God may use humans, but God is the one who even has them come along; the work is entirely God’s work. I think that is the central tie to the heart of Christian theology.

**CS:** You illustrate the importance of ancient Egyptian geography for understanding Exodus. Why do so many Christians struggle with this aspect of Bible study?

**DG:** I think the big thing is people read Exodus and other books of the Bible with no sense of context at all. They’ll read about Egypt and they know roughly where Egypt is on the map but they have no sense of what the real geography of the land is like. So both the geography and the historical background in the book are there because I just don’t think you can appreciate what’s going on in Exodus if you have no idea what the land was like, how important the Nile was for survival. Why don’t people get into geography? That’s a much larger cultural question, but I’ll say this: in terms of biblical studies, we are very accustomed to just jumping into the text without thinking at all about the world around it. We’ll have a Sunday school lesson on some episode in Israelite history in David’s life and it will refer to places but no one in the room really knows where they are, they’re just names. We are kind of accustomed to thinking we can jump into the text with no awareness of what’s really going on.

**CS:** I think some people may be disappointed that you did not come to a clear consensus on the identity of the pharaoh of the exodus. Was it a difficult decision for you to study it and not come to a firm conclusion?

**DG:** I take a fresh look into all the evidence and there are substantial arguments for and against every position. And I hesitated — the decision has almost been like a coin flip to just arbitrarily say, “Okay this is the right one,” but I just didn’t think that was honest with the data. The data was not nearly that clear. But the other thing is, the Bible doesn’t tell us. It struck me that we’re not necessarily doing the Bible a service when we feel that we can kind of improve on the story by saying we know it happened at this time, under this pharaoh. The biblical story is amazingly thorough in not giving us any external evidence as to the name of the pharaoh or the specific date. But as I say, the Bible just seemed to be determined not to give us a specific pharaoh and so I finally thought, “Well, why would I want to improve on that?” I mean it’s one thing just to try to solve a little historical conundrum or something like that, but in the biggest event of the Old Testament when the narrative itself is absolutely silent on the matter, I think you have to respect that.

**CS:** If Exodus is the fountainhead of OT theology, what are some oft-overlooked themes and messages that you found in Exodus?

**DG:** I would say in terms of often overlooked themes, probably the big idea that I had never noticed before and I’ve never heard anyone else mention is the importance of God going with his people. During the golden calf episode, after God says, “I’m going to destroy those who intercede,” God relents. Then God says, “I won’t destroy them but I won’t go with them.” And Moses gives a long intercession, 40 days, and finally God relents on that too and he goes with them. It’s at that point that they make the tent of meeting, the complex with the tent and the ark of the covenant. They wouldn’t have needed it if God wasn’t going to walk with them. This idea of God sojourning with the people is very important in the OT and it is almost defining of the God of Israel. And it plays in naturally to the theology of the incarnation. Of course, John 1 explicitly alludes to it when he says Jesus came down to “encamp among us,” so John clearly links the incarnation of Jesus to the sojourning of God in a tent with the Israelites.
Every semester, Southern Seminary and Boyce College on-campus students have the opportunity to attend one of Southern’s conferences for free.

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The start of the semester can be a rush preparing for the haul of studying for classes and reading through a pile of textbooks. The Towers team wants to guide SBTS and Boyce students to see opportunities beyond the classroom. Enjoy this guide to your life at SBTS this spring semester.

Each day during the week of Great Commission Focus, the seminary community will hear from Southern Baptist leaders on the importance of missions and evangelism. Students can participate in daily evangelistic excursions and learn strategies for sharing the gospel.

**Monday**
- **9 a.m.** 72 hours of prayer begins | Pavilion
- **2 - 5 p.m.** Evangelizing Louisville
- **7 p.m.** Short-term mission training | Legacy Hotel
- **9:30 p.m.** Boyce Dorm Meeting | Heritage Hall

**Tuesday**
- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Mission exhibits open | Pavilion
- **10 a.m. Chapel with Danny Akin**, president, Southeastern Seminary | Alumni Chapel
- **12:15 p.m.** “A Presidential Panel on the Urgency of Evangelism” with R. Albert Mohler Jr. and Danny Akin | Heritage Hall
- **2 - 5 p.m.** Evangelizing Louisville
- **6:30 p.m.** GO Talks: “Telling Your Testimony”, “Evangelizing Mormons,” “Evangelizing Muslims,” “Reaching Lost Family Members” | Legacy 303

**Wednesday**
- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Mission fields open | Pavilion
- **Noon** “Evangelism and Ethics” with Bob Russell and Owen Strachan | Heritage Hall
- **2 - 5 p.m.** Evangelizing Louisville

**Thursday**
- **9 a.m.** 72 hours of prayer ends
- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Mission exhibits open | Pavilion
- **10 a.m. Chapel with Al Jackson**, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church | Alumni Chapel
- **Noon** “Church Planting 101: Am I Called to Plant?” | NAMB Send City Coordinators | Heritage Hall
- **2 - 5 p.m.** Evangelizing Louisville
- **6:30 p.m.** Ministry info sessions: Talk with various ministries including the IMB, NAMB, Pioneers, Voice of the Martyrs, and Wycliffe | Honeycutt Campus Center

**Friday**
- **Noon - 1 p.m.** Global Connections | Library basement
- **2 - 5 p.m.** Evangelizing Louisville
- **6:30 p.m.** Ministry info sessions: Talk with various ministries including the IMB, NAMB, Pioneers, Voice of the Martyrs, and Wycliffe | Honeycutt Campus Center
Southern Baptist seminaries will partner for a week of evangelism training and outreach leading up to the Southern Baptist Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Students who sign up to participate in the June 13 event and the week-long class* will be equipped to evangelize and support local churches in the Columbus metro area.

*Seminary students need to register for Personal Evangelism MS32100. Boyce College students need to register for Personal Evangelism MS105CT. Free housing will be at Ohio Dominican University, along with free meals for students. Transportation must be arranged.

Church Planting Roundtable:
February 12 (Heritage Hall), March 12, April 23 (Legacy 303); Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Global Connections Luncheon:
February 13, March 20, April 17 (Library basement) RSVP at missions.sbts.edu/events/#global

**Mission Trips**

- **Salt Lake City**, April 4-12
- **Central Asia**, May 9-19
- **Himalayas**, May 15-25
- **North Africa**, May 15-27
- **Middle East**, May 16-23
- **Philadelphia**, May 23-28
- **El Salvador**, June 20-29
- **Italy**, June 20-30
- **Uganda**, June 26-July 11
- **Southeast Asia**, June 27-July7
- **South Asia**, June 27-July7
- **Haiti**, July 3-18
- **Montreal**, July 16-25

Find more information on Southern Seminary missions trips by emailing missions@sbts.edu or visiting the Bevin Center in Honeycutt 218.
“The Legacy of Andrew Fuller”
Held on the 261st birthday of the pioneering Baptist theologian, the mini-conference will include lectures from Michael A.G. Haykin, Steve Weaver, and Gregory A. Wills. The free event in Legacy 303T will begin at 9 a.m. on Feb. 6. The year 2015 also marks the bicentennial of Fuller’s May 7 death.

Southern Seminary and Boyce College students are eligible to register for one free conference each semester through a general conference scholarship. Students must present their Shield cards in the Event Productions office beginning Jan. 20. A limited number of scholarships are available for each conference.

- **Resolute Collegiate Conference:** “Discipleship,” Feb. 20-21 | R. Albert Mohler Jr., Tommy Nelson, and Sean McDowell
- **9Marks at Southern:** “The Gospel,” Feb. 27-28 | Mark Dever, R. Albert Mohler Jr., Ligon Duncan, Trip Lee, Ray Ortlund, and Dave Gobbett
- **Renown Youth Conference:** “Growing Grace,” March 13-14 | R. Albert Mohler Jr., Dan DeWitt, and Rick Holland
- **Counsel the Word:** “Confident Parenting,” May 2 | Tedd Tripp, Heath Lambert, and Stuart Scott.


**Spring reading days**
Once you catch up on some reading and rest, explore the city of Louisville in your free time (p. 18).

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.’s daily podcast examines current news and events from a Christian worldview. His “Ask Anything: Weekend Edition” returns this spring, as well as his “Thinking in Public” podcast — conversations with leading thinkers on cultural and theological issues.
research like an expert

Get to know the Boyce Centennial Library
  Feb. 9, 10 a.m.
  Feb. 10, 1 p.m.

Library Research 101: Finding books
  Feb. 16, 10 a.m.
  Feb. 17, 1 p.m.
  Feb. 19, 1 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Library Research 102: Locating articles and book reviews
  Feb. 23, 10 a.m.
  Feb. 24, 1 p.m.
  Feb. 26, 1 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Proper paper formatting
  March 2, 10 a.m.
  March 3, 1 p.m.
  March 5, 1 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Footnotes and bibliographies
  March 9, 10 a.m.
  March 10, 1 p.m.
  March 12, 1 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Zotero for doctoral students*
  Feb. 17, 5 p.m.

Managing research in large projects*
  Feb. 24, 5 p.m.
*For doctoral students, but open to all.

schedule an appointment with the writing center

Before turning in a research paper for class, email writingcenter@sfts.edu to receive feedback on grammar, style, and argument. The assistance in refining and editing research papers will improve your grade and your writing skills.
Beginning Feb. 6, these 10-week mentorship programs will model faithful Bible study groups and encourage personal spiritual growth. Men will study 1 John with Jeremy Pierre and women will study Philippians with Jodi Ware, the wife of Bruce A. Ware.

Come to chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. to hear a great lineup of speakers during the spring semester.

- Feb. 3 | R. Albert Mohler Jr.
- Feb. 5 | Randy Stinson
- Feb. 10 | Danny Akin
- Feb. 12 | Al Jackson
- Feb. 17 | Nick Floyd
- Feb. 19 | Tommy Nelson
- Feb. 24 | Brian Croft
- Feb. 26 | Michael Pohlman
- March 3 | Buddy Gray
- March 5 | Ken Fentress
- March 10 | Ken Whitten
- March 12 | Ben Stuart
- March 17 | Hershael York
- March 19 | Russell Moore
- March 24 | Mark Coppenger
- March 26 | Curtis Woods
- March 31 | Robert Vogel
- April 2 | R. Albert Mohler Jr.
- April 14 | Brian Payne
- April 16 | Tom James
- April 21 | Jim Henry
- April 23 | Francisco Preaching Award Day

Buy your loved one a gift at Edgar’s Emporium for 25 percent off during February. Edgar’s carries watches for men and women, personalized stationery, ties, and more for anyone on your gift list.

Do you have friends who might consider attending Boyce College or Southern Seminary? Invite them to see the school for themselves. Preview Day is a great opportunity for prospective students to experience campus first-hand, attend a class or two, meet professors, and grow comfortable with the campus they might call home.
Check out the new SBTS and Boyce College gear at the Fifth and Broadway Campus Store: sweatshirts, jackets, school supplies, and more.

The Health and Rec Center offers SBTS and Boyce students free access to a weight room, running track, swimming pool, racquetball courts, and a sauna. In addition, students can join a fitness class for $2 per session. Contact hrc@sbts.edu for more details.

- **Aqua Alive**
- **HiIT** (High Intensity Interval Training)
- **Spin**
- **Total Toning**
- **Core Foundry**
- **ZUMBA**

Share your life at Southern with others through Southern Draw, a free iPhone and iPad app for hand-drawn artwork. Users select from a variety of creative options, save their artwork to their Photos, and then share their work with friends on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

You can get in the game with the Health and Rec Center’s intramural sports programs. Sign up yourself and some friends to play men’s basketball, co-ed volleyball, or men’s flag football. Contact dsheaffer@sbts.edu for more information on intramural sports.

- **Aqua Alive**
- **Ultimate Frisbee Tournament | March 14**
- **Spin**
- **Total Toning**
- **Core Foundry**
- **ZUMBA**
- **Dodgeball Tournament | March 7**
- **Pingpong Tournament | April 15**
- **Ultimate Frisbee Tournament | March 14**
- **Pingpong Tournament | April 15**

Come cheer on the Boyce Bulldogs at their home games this semester.

- **Ohio Christian University | Feb. 3, 7 p.m.**
- **Crown College | Feb. 7, 2 p.m.**
- **Welch College | Feb. 14, 2 p.m.**
- **Johnson University | Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.**

Looking for a place to build relationships? Koinonia is a fellowship opportunity for all women in the Southern community. The theme for this year, *Thrive*, encourages women to embrace whatever phase of life in which God has placed them. The meetings for the spring semester are Feb. 17 and April 14. See sbts.edu/women/koinonia for more information.
All eyes are on Louisville the first Saturday in May for the 141st running of the Kentucky Derby, “The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports.” But prior to the race, the city of Louisville enjoys “The Greatest Two Weeks of Celebration” before the world comes to the Derby City. Here are a few big events before the May 2 Kentucky Derby:

- **Thunder Over Louisville**, April 18 — The nation’s largest annual fireworks show is an all-day event with a top-five air show featuring the Blue Angels. Plan ahead and arrive early to Waterfront Park for a fireworks display that will take your breath away.

- **U.S. Bank Great BalloonFest**, April 23-25 — Wake up early on April 25 to see the Great Balloon Race, as hot air balloons fill the morning sky. Catch the hot air balloons on the ground at Waterfront Park, April 23 at 8:30 p.m., and the Kentucky Exposition Center, April 24 at 9 p.m., for a creative light show.

- **Republic Bank Pegasus Parade**, April 30 at 5 p.m. — The Kentucky Derby Festival’s oldest event, the Pegasus Parade marches down 17 blocks on Broadway in downtown Louisville.

After setting new attendance records in 2014, the oldest free professional Shakespeare festival in the country returns in 2015 with more opportunities to see the Bard’s plays. The theater troupe will perform *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* in public libraries and parks before opening the summer festival on June 3. Find schedules and performances at kyshakespeare.com.

Bring your Kentucky/Indiana driver’s license or Shield card during the month of February to receive $5 admission to these four museums in downtown Louisville:

- **Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory**, 800 W. Main St.
- **Frazier History Museum**, 829 W. Main St.
- **Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft**, 715 W. Main St.
- **Muhammad Ali Center**, 144 N. 6th St.
Louisville City FC, the city’s new professional soccer team, will begin playing at Louisville Slugger Field in April. If you are no fan of soccer, catch the Louisville Bats, the AAA-affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, at the same ballpark.

Louisville is home to a vibrant international culture, which offers students a wide variety of options for ethnic cuisine. Here are a few recommendations from the Towers team of our favorite intercultural restaurants.

- **Abyssinia (Ethiopian),** 554 S. 5th St.
- **International Mall,** 737 S. 8th St.
- **Saffron's Persian Restaurant,** 131 W. Market St.
- **Simply Thai,** 323 Wallace Ave.

The pedestrian walkway will take you from Waterfront Park in Louisville across the Ohio River and into downtown Jeffersonville, Indiana. Walk or ride a bicycle — but leave your dogs at home — and explore the downtown areas on either side of half-mile bridge.
New on display in the James P. Boyce Centennial Library is a numismatic collection featuring actual coins used throughout the Ancient Near East and Roman Empire over a 900-year period. This collection — 256 coins in total — is a recent donation from Kelly E. Blanton Jr., a private collector who wants to share his appreciation of ancient numismatics with a wide audience. The staff of the James P. Boyce Centennial Library has selected 29 coins for immediate public display, with the remainder of the collection to remain in archival storage in a secure and climate-monitored environment.

Visitors to the display will be able to see the variety of denominations including leptons, a penny-sized coin more commonly known as a “widow’s mite” on account of its connection with Luke 21:1-4 and Mark 12:41-44. At least one copper mite on display is believed to date from the time of the first Jewish revolt against Rome. Also of particular note are the tetradrachms of Tyre (alternatively known as “shekels”), which are possible representatives of the “thirty pieces of silver” which Judas Iscariot would have received for the betrayal of Christ.

The likenesses of many of the greatest personalities of the ancient world are represented on denarii, small silver coins widely circulated through the Roman Empire. On display are the iconic images of Cleopatra VII, Mark Antony, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, and Marcus Aurelius. The first Christian emperor, Constantine the Great, and his son grace two bronze coins displayed alongside the other Roman emperors.

Impressive though it is, the library display cannot convey the breadth of Blanton’s collection. Visitors to the archives office may request to peruse the rest of the items not currently on display.

These coins include multiple examples of the Roman currency during the days of Paul and the early church. The names of Pontius Pilate, Herod Agrippa, Antonius Felix, and Porcius Festus have been familiar to Christians of all eras on account their prominence in the Gospel accounts and the book of Acts. Seeing actual currency associated with these aforementioned rulers, however, provides today’s students with an opportunity to connect directly with the ancient world in which the Holy Spirit worked mightily through men and women to establish the community of God’s people.

Some coins also testify to the prevalence of Greek mythology through the ancient age through the amalgamation of historical and symbolic figures as Alexander the Great with Hercules. Rome’s fabled deities such as Minerva and Justitia (commonly recognized as “Lady Justice” holding the scales) are also featured on reverse sides the coins that revere emperors on their obverse.

The Kelly Blanton Numismatic Collection will be of aid to students of New Testament and Greco-Roman history, but it also can serve the entire Christian community by helping bridge the time and cultural gaps between ourselves and the biblical world.

The Blanton collection display can be viewed on the second floor of the James P. Boyce Centennial Library. Other coins can be viewed under supervision.
As an undergraduate student, Bryan Baise was filled with many unanswered questions about Christianity until a friend suggested he read C.S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*. His belief in the Bible had been challenged by liberal college professors and he needed a voice of wisdom to bolster his confidence in the truth.

“I knew this [Christianity] was real, I knew this was true, but I didn’t know why and I wasn’t comfortable saying that, just leaving it there,” he said.

He questioned his faith until he read Lewis’ classic for the first time, when he said that his faith came alive and made sense.

The Boyce College philosophy and apologetics professor grew up in a conservative Christian home with a father who served their church as an elder. Baise was baptized as a young child, but had no true repentance or faith in Christ. During his teenage years, he said there was little evidence of conversion. He knew he was not saved. During a weekend retreat with his church, he “felt the weight” of his sin and repented and trusted in Christ. The weight was lifted, and Baise said his world looked fresh and he felt less of a burden.

While in college at Western Kentucky University, he spent a summer in Daytona, Florida, with Campus Crusade, where he met his wife Danielle. He later transferred to the University of Kentucky – where she was a student – to finish his degree and get married. His time at UK helped to “crystallize” his love for both philosophy and the gospel. He was one of the only theists in many of his classes, which helped him dig deeper into Scripture and learn how it fills the gaps in secular philosophy.

“Studying philosophy actually ended up being just a study of further confirming what I already knew to be true but didn’t know how to explain it.”

Several years after he graduated, he and his family moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to pursue an M.Div. from Southern Seminary. Since their move, Baise and his wife have had three children: Madelyn, Collin, and Olivia. His initial goal after graduation, he said, was to work with a church plant in New York City. But when he was halfway finished with his M.Div., he started meeting with Ted Cabal, Christian apologetics and philosophy professor at Southern. Cabal, also the general editor for the *Apologetics Study Bible*, mentored Baise during his seminary years. In God’s providence, he gave Baise the opportunity to teach.

“I look back and I’m not here today without him,” Baise said.

Baise later became Cabal’s Garrett Fellow, which led to Baise teaching several classes during the semester. The response to his teaching and his own enjoyment of the experience confirmed his desire to teach. But in January 2012, his plans changed. Before Baise was scheduled to travel to Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., for a possible internship, former Boyce College apologetics professor Travis Kerns offered Baise an adjunct professorship. Baise accepted, canceled his trip, and joined the Boyce College faculty that spring.

Now, as the director of the worldview and apologetics degree at Boyce College, Baise says he hopes his teaching reflects Augustine’s idea of loving God and loving neighbor. Baise teaches philosophy courses that range from aesthetics to the problem of evil, epistemology, and metaphysics. Through every course he wants to train students to study doctrines they may not agree with in order to love their neighbor well. The study of secular ideas, he said, makes Christians better ambassadors of the gospel. When students study Plato or David Hume, when they study the ideas that “swirl around in our culture” and are contrary to Scripture, it teaches students to love their neighbors as themselves, he said.

“If I could hang a banner over everything I do, it’s this Latin phrase, ‘Pondus meum amor meus,’ or ‘my weight is my love.’ The weight of who I am, the weight of what I do, the weight of what I write, the weight of the way I teach is love.”
RETHINK MERCY

If your church is considering starting a new community outreach ministry or refining an existing one, these workshops are for you!

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February 2015   towers.sbts.edu
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary opened the remodeled Dining Hall, Jan. 22. The room seats 232 people but looks more spacious with additional booths and bar seating.

The seminary completed the renovations during winter break. Anna Damico contributed the architectural design, Robert Koneman served as general contractor, and Andy Vincent, vice president of operations, supervised the project.

Students gathered outside the Dining Hall to hear President R. Albert Mohler Jr. recount the history of the seminary’s dining rooms and his hopes that students remember the renovations for Christian fellowship more than for food.
From the Georgian architecture of our campus buildings and chapel to our perfectly manicured lawns, Southern Seminary is the ideal location for wedding ceremonies, receptions and meetings of all types.

Legacy Hotel & Conferences offers visitors beautifully appointed guest rooms and dynamic meeting and banquet space – only minutes from downtown and the airport, with complimentary parking and wi-fi.

Receive our friends and family rate starting at $79.99
PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL STUDIES

Applied Apologetics

From college campuses to coffee shops, culture is shifting. Pastors and leaders are continually confronted with questions regarding faith, ethics, and the Bible. A Doctor of Ministry in Applied Apologetics is designed to help leaders engage the culture and equip the local church to defend the gospel. This program, led by apologetics experts Ted Cabal and Timothy Paul Jones, blends rich theology with a local church focus — something Southern Seminary does best. Are you serious about engaging the culture with the truth of God’s Word? Apply today.

Timothy Paul Jones
author of Misquoting Truth

SBTS.EDU/DMIN

SERIOUS ABOUT THE GOSPEL.
Announcements

Read Towers Weekly
Towers Weekly is a new email publication from the Communications Office at Southern Seminary. It provides an overview of news, events, and announcements for the Southern Seminary community in the week ahead. You can also find complete and updated information at towers.sbts.edu, along with a web version of the monthly Towers magazine publication.

9Marks at Southern
Feb. 27-28, 2015
9Marks and Southern Seminary are partnering together for a third annual conference. This conference is focused on encouraging and equipping church leaders to understand how the gospel alone builds true and healthy churches. Registration closes Feb. 20.

Health and Rec
More information on hours and fitness classes are available at sbts.edu/hrc, the front desk or call 897-4720.

Seminary Clinic hours
Staff, students, and their immediate family members are provided a health maintenance program through the clinic, located on the second floor of the campus center, Honeycutt 213.
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
More information and price listings are found on the clinic website, www.sbts.edu/clinic.

Free sewing class
The free sewing class led by Barbara Gentry meets from 6 - 7:30 p.m., Mondays in Fuller Room 34. Sewing machines are provided at no cost. No experience is required, but women with experience may also participate. Knitting and crocheting lessons will also be offered. Gentry leads the class assisted by Donna Chancellor. For more information, call Gentry locally at 423-8255.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Friday</th>
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| 4    | SOT Shepherding Groups  
10 a.m. | Various locations  |
| 5    | Chapel  
10 a.m. | Alumni Chapel  
Randy Stinson  |
| 6    | The Legacy of Andrew Fuller  
9 a.m. | Legacy 303  |
| 7    | Boyce basketball  
2 p.m. | vs. Crown College  |
| 11   | “Evangelism and Ethics” panel with  Bob Russell and Owen Strachan  
Noon | Heritage Hall  |
| 12   | Chapel  
10 a.m. | Alumni Chapel  
Al Jackson  |
| 13   | Global Connections  
12 p.m. | Library basement  |
| 14   | Boyce basketball  
2 p.m. | vs. Welch College  |
| 18   |  |
| 19   | Chapel  
10 a.m. | Alumni Chapel  
Tommy Nelson  |
| 20   | Resolute Conference  |
| 21   | Seminary Wives Institute  
7 p.m.  |
| 25   | SOT Shepherding Groups  
10 a.m. | Various locations  |
| 26   | Chapel  
10 a.m. | Alumni Chapel  
Michael Pohlman  |
| 27   | 9Marks Conference  |
| 28   |  |
Questions
WITH

David F. Wells
Distinguished senior research professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

How has the holy-love of God shaped your personal devotions?

The holy-love of God shapes the whole of my Christian understanding. I tried to develop the holy-love of God in relationship to the cross, but I didn’t talk specifically about the holy-love of God shaping and defining what it means to be sanctified. Or the holy-love of God defining and shaping our worship, or the holy-love of God compelling and defining our service. That’s all through that. Our devotion is about walking with the Lord. It starts with the corrections that we need to make in our walk and it continues with thinking about what that walk is and trusting that the Lord will sustain and lead us. Sometimes it is that trust through times of difficulty and uncertainty that’s part of our devotion.

How was John Stott influential in your life?

To start with, I was a radical student at the University of Cape Town and he came to the university and preached the gospel, and it was the first time I had ever heard the gospel, and two days later I responded in faith and trust. So it was through Stott I came to Christ. A year or two later, I left Africa and went to London, I looked him up and he asked me where I was staying. I said I had nowhere to stay and he literally said, “Well I have a room here, so come and live with me.” And so I lived with him for five years. I served on his board for 25 years so I saw him on a regular basis.

What are some of your favorite books?

I do think that at different times in your life you have different favorites. But I greatly appreciated The Freedom of the Will by Jonathan Edwards. I got to know J.I. Packer when he was a young, spry theologian. And Packer helped me to think theologically. I greatly admire him and his Knowing God. I very much appreciated Malcolm Muggeridge’s Chronicles of Wasted Time — he is an artist with the English language, so adept with such finesse, but sometimes he can be a little cruel in treating people. I nevertheless found his observationist point of view helpful in so many of the great shaping moments of the earlier part of the 20th century with his acute observations about human nature.