

Towers



A NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

31
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2009

Mohler: SBC
must be willing
to change or face
serious decline





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Mohler: SBC must be willing to change or face serious decline

By JEFF ROBINSON

The Southern Baptist Convention faces a critical crossroads and must move into the future with denominational structures and methods open to change or face serious decline, R. Albert Mohler Jr. told attendees of a forum on the future of the SBC held Aug. 19 at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Southern Seminary's president said the SBC in 2009 continues to operate largely out of a model that the denomination adopted from corporate America in the early 20th century, a model that prioritizes efficiency over theological conviction in carrying out the task of missions.

"Certainly in business, efficiency can be a make or break word between profit and loss," Mohler said, "but when it comes to missions and the work of our churches and the work of the Gospel around the world, efficiency has a limited application.

"What this really marked, more than anything else, was an infusion of a business culture into the life of the denomination... Churches were now concerned with efficiency; decisions were made on the basis of efficiency."

In the 1950s, the SBC underwent a restructuring calculated to bring greater denominational efficiency, Mohler pointed out; this led to the adoption of a programmatic approach to ministry based more on corporate management practices than on theology.

The approach worked because in those days the SBC largely held the evangelical franchise in the deep South and its programs were so vast that a Southern Baptist would develop a "tribal identity" that defined his church life from the cradle to the grave; Southern Baptist children would participate in all of the age appropriate SBC programs from life until death, he said.

Though American culture, particularly in the Bible belt, has changed profoundly, Mohler said the SBC has continued to operate out of a 1950s programmatic mentality. He compared the denomination to two American institutions: the General Motors Corporation (GM) and the shopping mall.

For most of the 20th century, more than half of all the automobiles sold in America were manufactured by GM. While the car-buying culture changed in the late 20th century, GM continued to operate out of a business model that worked well in the 1950s. Now, the automobile giant has declared bankruptcy and has

ceased to be a publicly-traded corporation.

Similarly, shopping malls exploded in number over the second half of the 20th century, but today, hundreds of the hulking complexes sit empty because businesses today want to operate outside of malls so their storefronts will have increased visibility.

In the same way, Mohler said the SBC faces a bleak future if it continues to minister out of a business model from the 1950s instead of one that is driven by theological and missional concerns, neither of which is susceptible to the shifting currents of culture.

"The question we have to ask is the same question that General Motors should have been asking for the last 20 years: What has changed and why have we not?" he said. "Or for those whose business is the shopping mall: Has the logic of this particular organizational pattern been eclipsed by something else?"

"Are the people who are actually in our churches today and the people we are trying to reach today, are they attracted to that kind of logic or does it seem like an age gone by?"

Mohler said the SBC faces at least 10 questions, which he put in terms of dichotomies.

Mohler said Southern Baptists in the future will be either:

Missiological or bureaucratic. The denomination will be driven by the work of the Gospel mission as set forth in Scripture or it will die a slow death along a path clogged by bureaucratic red tape.

"The missiological logic, I would suggest, is the only logic that fits the church of the Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "Unless the SBC very clearly asserts an unashamed, undiluted and ruthless missiological logic, we are going to find ourselves out of touch with our churches, with the generation now coming into leadership and with the world we are trying to reach, because the logic of bureaucracy will never take us where we need to go."

Tribal or theological. The SBC must be driven by common doctrine and not a "cradle to death" ethos in which one is a Southern Baptist by virtue of being raised in a SBC church. The SBC "tribal identity" no longer exists because the cultural assumptions that underpinned such a nostalgic identity have disappeared, he said.

See Mohler, page 6.



Heritage Hall was full to capacity with another 70-plus students in an overflow room, as R. Albert Mohler Jr. gave his prognosis on the future of the Southern Baptist Convention. Photo by John Gill

TOWERS

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ISSUE INSIGHT

Rethinking abortion: two unexpected witnesses

Looking across the moral landscape of the last half-century, one issue looms larger than all others — abortion. Considered from a historical perspective, the intensity and duration of the abortion debate came as something of a surprise. Handing down its infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, the majority of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court declared the abortion question settled and closed. They were wrong.

Almost four decades after *Roe v. Wade*, Americans are still torn over the issue of abortion. Indeed, the intensity of the abortion debate in 2009 exceeds that of 1973. The controversy over abortion is not only unsettled and unresolved — it is still developing before our eyes. To the great consternation of abortion-rights proponents, Americans have not accepted abortion on demand as a permanent reality. As a nation, we have debated any number of issues beyond abortion in recent years, but abortion remains the controversy that is most central, unavoidable, and deeply personal.

“The evil of abortion cannot be hidden once it is seen, and a voice for life cannot be forgotten once it is heard.”

— R. Albert Mohler Jr.

The personal dimension of the abortion controversy came to light recently from two unexpected witnesses. The first is Sarah Kliff, a reporter for Newsweek magazine. In a very personal column, Kliff describes her experience visiting Omaha, Neb., and the abortion clinic of LeRoy Carhart, now perhaps the nation's sole specialist in late-trimester abortions. As Kliff writes, her experience covering abortion for the magazine over the past two years has led her into contact and conversation with a range of persons on both sides of the abortion

debate. She recognizes that, “both sides feel abortion is an issue worth waging war over.”

Given her journalistic experience, Kliff describes herself as “well-versed



R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
President
Southern Seminary

in abortion policy, the pro-choice and pro-life arguments, the latest legislation.” Her next sentence delivers the surprise: “But I’d never actually seen an abortion; I’d never watched the procedure that activists vehemently defend or deplore.”

But that is exactly what happened when Kliff went to Omaha to research her article on Carhart. Even as she anticipated observing the abortion, Kliff confessed to hesitancy and reluctance. She observed a first-trimester abortion, even though Carhart does perform late-term abortions. Why was she so ambivalent?

In her words:

“Why was I reluctant to watch? To be fair, I’d never observed a surgery and knew myself to frequently flinch at ‘Grey’s Anatomy.’ But abortion isn’t like the complex, bloody operations you see on television: medically speaking, it’s a simple and common procedure. About 1.2 million were performed in 2005, the same, numberwise, as outpatient cancer surgeries.

“I was nervous, I think, to watch something so controversial; no one protests outside cancer clinics. I didn’t know how I’d react. Would I find the surgery repulsive? Encounter women whose choices troubled me? Whom I disagreed with? I was uneasy about coming in such close contact with such substantial decisions.”

Observing the abortion, Kliff writes of seeing a woman prepared for the procedure and then of the suction tube that was inserted within her. Her report is both chilling and honest.

“Carhart used a suction tube to

empty the contents of the uterus; it took no longer than three minutes. The suction machine made a slight rumbling sound, a pinkish fluid flowed through the tube, and, faster than I’d expected, it was over.”

As Kliff recounts, she felt no physical discomfort observing the procedure. Nevertheless, she did experience a very strong emotional reaction. After describing this emotional reaction and her encounters with patients in the abortion clinic, Kliff tells of returning home only to discover that her friends who supported abortion rights “bristled slightly when I told them where I’d been and what I’d watched.”

In a profound statement, Kliff acknowledges that Americans just do not talk about abortion as they talk about other surgical or medical procedures. “Abortion may be a simple procedure medically,” she explains, “but it is not cancer surgery.”

Kliff does not condemn abortion in her article and she does not articulate a pro-life understanding of the abortion issue. Indeed, she speaks of abortion as involving a weighty choice that, “depending on how you view it, involves a life, or the potential for life.” This is a very weak way of describing the moral question of abortion, but it is at least a start. Kliff’s honest reflections on her experience of observing an abortion are, perhaps more than she knows or recognizes, a witness to the horror of abortion. Her description of “pinkish fluid” flowing through the suction tube is almost impossible to force out of one’s mind.

Another unexpected witness this week is actress Kourtney Kardashian. Her recently announced unplanned pregnancy became part of Hollywood’s scandal and publicity circus. But what caught the attention of the media this week was her decision to keep the baby and the straightforward logic behind her decision.

Kardashian has not adopted a pro-life position on the abortion question. Indeed, she told People magazine: “I do think every woman should have the right to do what they want, but I don’t think it’s talked through enough.” The actress told of many friends who just assured her that abortion was the easy way out. “Like it’s not a big deal,” the actress recalled.

Interestingly, Kardashian’s decision to keep her baby was at least partially prompted by her experience of reading the testimonies of women who regretted their abortions.

“I looked online, and I was sitting on the bed hysterically crying, reading these stories of people who felt so guilty for having an abortion,” she explained.

“I was just sitting there crying, thinking, ‘I can’t do that,’ ... And I felt in my body, this is meant to be. God does things for a reason, and I just felt like it was the right thing that was happening in my life.”

As she thought about her decision, Kardashian concluded that “all the reasons why I wouldn’t keep the baby were so selfish.” She also received encouragement from her doctor. “My doctor told me there is nothing you will ever regret about having the baby, but he was like, ‘You may regret not having the baby.’ And I was like: That is so true.”

The Culture of Death looms as a massive threat, but its foundations are crumbling. Unexpected witnesses such as Kliff and Kardashian help us to see how moral insight can emerge from unexpected experiences, reflections and witnesses.

Some of the most profound witnesses to the horror of abortion and the sanctity of human life do not even know that they are so. The evil of abortion cannot be hidden once it is seen, and a voice for life cannot be forgotten once it is heard.

RESOURCE:

Fall Convocation 2009

Video from Southern’s Fall Convocation 2009 is available at:
<http://www.sbs.edu/resources/chapel/chapel-fall-2009/opening-chapel-fall-2009/>

MOORE TO THE POINT

Will the devil be in my classroom today?

I'm minutes away from walking into my first class of a new semester here at Southern Seminary. If this class is like the others I've taught, there will be people in the room I come to know this semester that will be friends for the rest of my life. I also know that there will be hundreds of thousands in that room here in Norton Hall.

Now, physically speaking, of course, the room can't fit nearly that many. But as we're talking through issues of the mystery of Christ, how to preach the Word of God, how to understand what's going on in the universe and in the lives of people, there will be a number I can't number (including many yet unborn) who'll be part of the conversation.

You see, in the room will be future pastors, missionaries, counselors and women's ministry

leaders. They've been called out by God to minister to people they've not met yet. And that's what theology is about. It's not about quarreling about words, or setting up partisan divisions.



Russell D. Moore, Senior V.P. for Academic Administration; Dean of the School of Theology, Southern Seminary

Theology is helping a shell-shocked widow clean up after a suicide. Theology is about crying with a teenage boy whose body is shaking with crystal meth. Theology drives you to rock

orphans in India, singing "Jesus Loves Me" while you pray they learn what that means. Theology is hugging an animist African's neck while you tell him Jesus can protect him from the spirits he fears ... or hugging a self-righteous Southern Baptist American's neck while you tell him he doesn't fear those demonic spirits nearly enough.

And that brings me to one more thought. My demonology is Third World enough (I'd say first-century enough) for me to believe that there just might be some unclean spirits in the room today, scoping out their future opposition. Might I even hope that Satan himself might peer in to see what's in store for him in the next generation?

If so, I hope they understand what I hope will go on in there. The powers would love

for us to learn to cherish our systems or our arguments. They'd love for us to learn how to win arguments with lost people. That's not what we're here for. We're here to learn wisdom and love, to learn Christ.

That's why we'll start this semester off throwing the textbooks on the floor, pulling our chairs out, and getting on our knees to pray for the people in our future, those whose names we don't know, that this semester would be profitable for them.

Satan doesn't mind hearing us debate supralapsarianism or the days of creation or the noetic effects of the Fall (and we'll do all of that).

But what he trembles at is what we will start out doing today — calling out to the Lord Jesus: "Have mercy on us, sinners."

ISSUE INSIGHT

Reflections on the first Great Commission Resurgence task force meeting

The first meeting of our Great Commission Resurgence task force is now behind us. We are so grateful for each member of this group, for their spirit, honesty and contribution to this process. The Southern Baptist Convention has entrusted us with a big task that we must be good stewards in performing.

I believe all of us left our first meeting in Atlanta full of hope and excitement, as well as feeling the burden of responsibility we have to our convention of churches. However, our responsibility is not just to our convention. We feel an even greater responsibility to the lost humanity on this earth. We believe we are accountable to the Lord for this task that has been placed upon us.

The final 30 minutes of our meeting was a press conference which I began by sharing the following words:

"The Great Commission Task Force of the Southern Baptist Convention has gathered for our first meeting together. We began with an extended period of prayer and then immediately got busy with the job Southern Baptists assigned to us.

"We talked to each other — with serious talk, honest talk — but we were able to do this within a context of Christian kindness and friendship. I am thankful that we are already talking about big issues and looking at big questions. This is how I had hoped we would begin. We have a huge job to accomplish and a looming deadline before us.

"This much is already clear — our great pas-

sion is the Great Commission. We yearn with all our hearts to see Southern Baptists be more faithful in taking the Gospel to the nations. With that as our passion, we will work long, hard and tirelessly to develop a report that



Ronnie Floyd, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and the Church at Pinnacle Hills of Rogers, Ark.

will unleash a passion for the Great Commission that will energize Southern Baptists and prioritize our work together. We are so highly honored by this task entrusted to us."

Hopefully this will encourage you. I believe God is answering our prayers. Remember, we are pressing towards our goal of at least 5,000 prayer warriors coming alongside of us. If you have not signed up to pray, please do so at: www.pray4gcr.com. Our greatest need is for you to pray. Take it to your church, your Bible study class, your worship ministry, wherever you go, and encourage others to join us. For the reaching of the nations, we need you to pray with us.

For those who have offered encouragement and your prayer support, on behalf of our group, thank you so much. It means everything to us to know you were and are praying. There

were groups who even prayed while we were meeting, every hour we were meeting. Praise the Lord for God's people who want to see the nations come to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Why our church (First Baptist Springdale/Church at Pinnacle Hills) needs a GCR:

I want to share with you why I believe our church needs a Great Commission Resurgence. While I commend what our great people have done in this very challenging year financially, I know there is so much more to do. We need a Great Commission Resurgence for the following reasons:

1. We must all be involved in the Great Commission.

While we have many of our people involved in Great Commission activity, the vast majority of our people are not conscious of the Great Commission. While we can recite verses and even our mission statement as a church, we are in a great need of an awakening to the Great Commission. I believe this commission is given to each one of us; therefore, we need a major resurgence.

2. Because of the lostness of this world.

Northwest Arkansas, America and the world is getting more lost by the moment. Our church cannot sit by and just settle where we

are. I want God to wake us up! I want God to wake up this pastor and his staff! We are in urgent need for us to respond to the vast lostness of the world. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer for this lostness and it is this Gospel that will be the light in this dark world. Please pray for our church, pray for this pastor and pray for our staff: we all need a Great Commission Resurgence.

"Business as usual is not acceptable. This is an urgent hour. Jesus could come today. We must have a reawakening to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ."
— Ronnie Floyd

3. Because Jesus is coming soon.

My eschatology calls me to a much greater commitment to seeing the nations won to Christ. Business as usual is not acceptable. This is an urgent hour. Jesus could come today. We must have a reawakening to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

This article is a compilation of two blog posts from www.ronniefloyd.com. Floyd is the chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence task force.

Mohler

Continued from Page 3.

Convictional or confused. The basis of cooperation among Southern Baptists must be a robust theology. Mohler said Southern Baptists must not be afraid to discuss and even debate theology:

"If we avoid talking about theological issues, if we try to minimize the theological logic of this denomination...Or if we make every issue a first-order issue, we are going to have a very confused people," he said. "Southern Baptists are going to have to grow up theologically in this new age and we're not going to have any choice. Southern Baptists are no longer going to be insulated from the theological and ideological currents around us."

Secular or sectarian. Southern Baptists are sectarian by their very nature, he said. Because of their allegiance to Christ and Scripture, Mohler urged that they must be qualitatively different than the world in their mores, ideology and convictions. In the mid-20th century South, Southern Baptists did not have to be sectarian because they were "at home" within that culture, Mohler said, but no longer.

"The South became the Sun Belt and the primary religion of the Sun Belt is material-

ism," he said. "We have gotten contamination from other worldviews and we are going to have to recover the sense that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is always, in a New Testament sense, sectarian. It is going to be made up of resident aliens who are never fully at home in the culture because the culture itself is a Genesis 3 culture and the church is called to a different worldview under allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ."

Younger or dead. The SBC, Mohler pointed out, is losing two-thirds of its young people between adolescence and adulthood. He said Southern Baptists must reach the younger generation with a theologically robust vision of the Christian life to rescue them from a deadly therapeutic ethos that says God wants their lives to be worry-free, prosperous and happy.

Diverse or diminished. Mohler said studies show that by 2050, 25 percent of all Americans will have a Hispanic grandparent. The denomination will have to become more racially diverse to reach America, he said.

Missional or more methodological. "For a long time when you asked the question, 'Who

is a Southern Baptist?' you got a methodological answer," Mohler said. "You got a certain historical answer, a certain minimal theological answer, but by and large, it was a methodological answer. By and large, that's not going to be an option in the future. The church is not methodological, but is deployed for the cause of the Gospel."

More strategic or more anemic. Southern Baptists must update their missions strategy at every level. Local churches will have to become individual missiological units to reach their communities, Mohler said. A fast-changing world demands that Southern Baptists be constantly rethinking their missions strategy.

More bold or more boring. "This is a generation that is not going to be satisfied with boring," Mohler said. "The kind of boring logic which is the same thing being said in roughly the same way every time - no surprises - is simply not going to work because that's not the way the New Testament is. The mission of the Lord Jesus Christ is so bold that it can never be boring. ... This means we are going to have to take risks."

Happy or bitter. The SBC has gained a repu-

tation for denominational crankiness, Mohler said, adding that Southern Baptists often seem upset, angry and frustrated even while claiming to be happy.

"Crankiness often erupts on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "We criticize people who are not even there. We raise issues as if this is where the SBC should direct its energies. ...

"The risk here is that we will be cranky in all the wrong ways. If we stand by the Scriptures, we are going to have to say hard things to a culture around us that will consider us backward, unloving, intolerant, while having to stand by the truth. ...

"We cannot afford to waste our energy on being cranky about things that are irrelevant and unhelpful and extraneous to the life of the SBC. When we gather together there had better be evident joy and there had better be a unity of purpose and a commonality of heart or people will stop coming."

Video and audio of Mohler's presentation on the future of the SBC is available at www.sbts.edu/resources.

Celebrate Southern's past and pray for its future during the 2009 Heritage Week events, October 13-15.

Join the faculty, administration, trustees, and foundation board as they renew their commitment to fulfill the mission of Southern and enjoy fellowship across campus.



E. Y. Mullins standing between his golf partners, circa 1912.

The Heritage Golf Classic is far more than just a good time; each year it helps fund student educational needs.

With your partnership, the Heritage Classic can further aid in preparing ministers for work across the globe.

The Heritage Classic will be hosted on October 15, at Covered Bridge Golf Club. All are invited to participate, for more information contact Shelley Sullivan at 1-800-626-5525, or locally at (502) 897-4700. Look to www.sbts.edu for more information on Heritage Week activities.

Panel discussion to deal with relationship between gender and Trinity

By JEFF ROBINSON

What does the Trinity have to do with gender?

Scripture places the two in close relationship, but there are two camps within contemporary Christianity that hold divergent views as to how the two specifically relate.

Complementarians argue that the Bible teaches hierarchy and an authority/submission structure within the Trinity, a structure that provides a model for the way gender roles should operate within the home. Egalitarians see no such structure within the Godhead and thus argue that none should be in place within the home.

But who is correct?

The School of Church Ministries at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood will co-sponsor a panel discussion to discuss these crucial questions at 10 a.m., Sept. 9 in Heritage Hall.

Panelists will include Southern Seminary theology professors Bruce Ware and Gregg Allison. Randy Stinson, president of CBMW

and dean of the School of Church Ministries, will serve as moderator.

Ware, who is a CBMW council member, has written extensively on the Trinity and gender,

“Every student is going to have to deal with gender roles and every student is going to have to have a theological understanding, not just of gender roles, but of how this fits in particular with their understanding of God.” — Randy Stinson

including the book, “Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, and Relevance.”

Allison has written much in the area of historical theology. Both theologians will argue in favor of the historic complementarian position

and will seek to show the unbiblical nature of the egalitarian view.

Stinson said he hopes many students will attend the event because the way one views the Godhead and gender goes a long way toward determining the way one views God Himself. All pastors and future pastors will face the issue within their ministries, Stinson said, so it is crucial that they begin to build a biblical understanding of Trinity and gender.

“Every student is going to have to deal with gender roles and every student is going to have to have a theological understanding, not just of gender roles, but of how this fits in particular with their understanding of God,” Stinson said.

“God and gender intersect here and these are two very important things for all of our students to understand.”

The discussion will begin, Stinson said, by dealing with accusations against complementarians made recently by egalitarian scholars such as Millard Erickson and Kevin Giles. Erickson,

Giles and other scholars brand as heresy the complementarian view of the Trinity.

“Somebody is wrong,” Stinson said. “Egalitarians are making strong accusations against complementarians. We can’t both claim to have an orthodox understanding of the Trinity and have two different versions of the Trinity and then claim that it is going to drive, or at least undergird, our understanding of gender roles in the home and in the church.

“So what we have is the cross-section of a historic doctrine of the church and how that doctrine is used to work out the way in which gender roles are viewed in the home and in the church. This is a very important contemporary debate.

“We want to help our students to understand the contour of the debate and understand a little bit about the orthodox view of the Trinity and the relationship between the members of the Godhead and its implications for gender.”

Five books on gender that should be in every student and pastor’s library

By JEFF ROBINSON

“Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism” (Crossway), edited by John Piper and Wayne Grudem.

Published in 1991, this book is the seminal work on complementarianism. It covers all the major textual, theological, historical and cultural issues surrounding the gender issue. The entire book is available free online at www.cbmw.org.

“Women in the Church: An Analysis and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15” (Baker), by Andreas J. Kostenberger and Thomas R. Schreiner.

This volume upholds the traditional interpretation of the text under consideration and exposes the faulty hermeneutical approach to it, which egalitarians follow.

“Evangelical Feminism & Biblical Truth: An Analysis of More Than 100 Disputed Questions” (Multnomah), by Grudem.

This massive volume answers all the contemporary egalitarian objections to the historical biblical view of gender roles in the home and church. It gives the answer to such questions as, “Should a para-church organization follow the same structure on gender roles as the church?”

“Evangelical Feminism: A New Path to Liberalism?” (Crossway), by Grudem.

This book is not a boiled down version of “Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.” Rather, Grudem here compellingly demonstrates the force of the “slippery slope” argument that egalitarianism, because it moves away from the authority of Scripture, leads to more and more error the further it drifts from the truth.

“Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, and Relevance” (Crossway), by Bruce Ware.

This helpful volume shows how authority structures within the Trinity provide Christians with a clear picture of the way in which God calls men and women to function in the home and church.

NORTON LECTURE SERIES **Dr. Marvin Olasky**

Tues., Sept. 29th • 1 p.m. • Lecture 1, Heritage Hall
“Prodigal Sons: Deeper into the Parable and the Need to Become Third Brothers”

2:30 p.m. • Lecture 2, Heritage Hall
“Prodigal Doctrines: Going beyond ‘Social Justice’ to ‘Righteous Justice’”

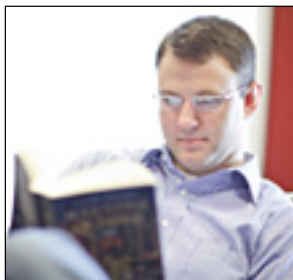
Wed., Sept. 30th • 10 a.m. • Lecture 3, Heritage Hall
“Prodigal Occurrences: Moving from Medieval Understandings to Reformation”



Marvin Olasky is provost of The King’s College in New York City, and editor-in-chief of *World* magazine. Olasky is an alumnus of Yale University and the University of Michigan. An accomplished writer, Dr. Olasky has released 20 books and has had articles appear in *World*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*.



with Brian Arnold



A cross section of the student body of Southern Seminary

Hometown:

Mason, Ohio (home of Kings Island).

Spouse/years married:

Lauren, two years.

Degree track:

Arnold earned his master of divinity from Southern in December 2008 and is now a Th.M. student in New Testament.

Before Southern:

Arnold came to Southern straight out of college, graduating from Eastern Kentucky University in December 2004 and starting at Southern in January 2005.

Why Southern?

"Everybody I knew whom I trusted, who I liked and who had mentored me came to Southern. It was the only viable option that I saw."

Arnold visited Southern in high school and sat in on one of Peter Gentry's classes. He also said Southern's faculty played a role in his decision.

How have you supported yourself through seminary?

Full-time paramedic for Yellow Ambulance (Arnold's major was emergency medical care). "I ride in an ambulance and take care of people in emergencies. We do the 911 coverage in J-town." Arnold works a 20-hour shift each Monday and Saturday.

How has getting married changed your seminary experience?

"The biggest thing is you have to manage your time differently. Making sure you take time to love your family, make them a priority and get less sleep. Find time to squeeze in study; always have a book with you. My wife is good about understanding that when I have a paper coming up, or something else major, I will be barricaded in my study."

Impactful classes:

"The best class I ever had was history of New Testament interpretation with Dr. Pennington. It was insightful, challenging; he really pushed us to think in ways that most of us have never really thought before."

Arnold said the two hardest classes he has taken are Hebrew composition with Russell Fuller and advanced Greek grammar with Peter Gentry.

What is the most transforming thing you have learned at Southern?

"One of the biggest lessons I have learned is the value of the languages. Taking a couple years of each language has really helped in interpretation. One of the burdens I would have for people at Southern is to take the languages seriously. You can always read the books in other fields later on, but if you don't get the languages now, you will never get them."

Local church involvement/ministry:

Attending Immanuel Baptist Church, but looking for a senior pastorate.

Classroom fear:

"Gentry's hot seat. It is very intimidating. When you are on the hot seat, you are on the hot seat until you come up with something."

Future ministry plans:

"I would like to pastor and teach. I would like to have one foot in the academy and one in the church."

Advice for other students:

"I would encourage students to take the languages and not avoid the hard classes. Take the hard courses, be challenged; those are the courses you are going to learn the most in."



Tweetable features "tweets" from Southern Seminary faculty and other leaders in Southern Baptist life.

@albertmohler: Is praying for a dear friend in a time of sickness. We are indeed made of dust. Sometimes the dust gets sick. God is able to make dust well.

<http://twitter.com/albertmohler>

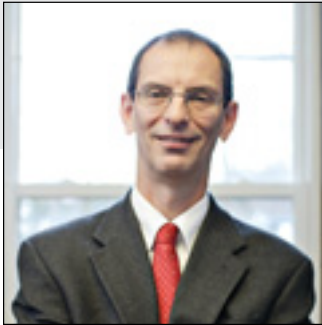
@drmoore: About to meet a room full of future ministers to talk about how to understand Wiccans, Darwinists, Taoists, & Wal-Mart.

<http://twitter.com/drmoore>

@troytemple: Nearly 20 years in local church youth ministry & youth min training & I'm feeling nervous about mid. school orient'n. Kids are a gift from God.

<http://twitter.com/troytemple>

Bird illustration Copyright © 2009 Luc Latulippe



Dr. Tom Schreiner

*James Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament Interpretation;
Associate Dean, Scripture and Interpretation*

Information:

Spouse's name:

Diane

How long married:

34 years

Children's names and ages:

Daniel, 27; Patrick, 24; John, 21;
Anna, 17.

Grandchildren:

One on the way!

Hometown:

Salem, Ore.

Did you know?

(from Patrick Schreiner)

• He does not have a cell phone, and doesn't plan to get one any time soon. On long trips he borrows Diane's phone.

• It has probably been 10 years since he has stepped foot in a shopping mall.

• "He can read while a million other things are going on around him, he says it is because he came from a family of 10."

• He has had the same suits and shirts for about 20-25 years. Every once in awhile he will get a present of a new shirt or suit but that is rare.

Current church:

Clifton Baptist Church, where I serve as preaching pastor

Hobbies:

Swimming, hiking

How did you become a Christian:

The witness of the person who became my wife, a small group Bible study and reading the Bible on my own.

Something surprising students might not know about you:

I have seven brothers and sisters.

What books, beside the Bible, have most influenced you and why?

George Ladd, "A Theology of the New Testament." I began to see how the Bible fits together from a biblical theology standpoint.

John Piper's "Desiring God" captures beautifully the biblical mandate to delight in the Lord.

John Frame, "The Doctrine of God." One of the most compelling books I have read on systematic theology.

John Calvin, "The Institutes of the Christian Religion." It is the clearest, deepest and most pastoral systematic theology ever written.

Martin Luther's 1535 commentary on Galatians. Read Galatians and Luther often to be reminded of the gospel.

A few things for students planning to be pastors to focus on in seminary:

1. You are in seminary to build an exegetical and theological foundation for ministry. So, study!
2. Get involved in your local church.
3. Make it a priority to minister to your family!
4. The responsibilities are heavy. So pray for wisdom and strength.

A few things for students planning to be professors to focus on in seminary:

I would reiterate everything I said to the previous question. But in addition it is helpful if you can discern earlier what you want to focus on in your Ph.D., so you can take electives in that area during your M.Div.

How do you feed your soul on a regular basis?

Nothing surprising here! Meditating and lingering in the Bible. Let it soak into you through prayer. Also, reading great Christian authors. I have been strengthened by many modern authors and Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards. Don't forget the greats of church history.

Name a few New Testament exegesis books/resources that would benefit pastors:

Frank Thielman, "Theology of the New Testament: A Canonical and Synthetic Approach." Stephen Westerholm, "Perspectives Old and New on Paul." Adolf Schlatter, "The History of the Christ and The Theology of the Apostles."

What influenced your decision to come to Southern Seminary?

The evangelical movement in the school and the commitment to a classical seminary education.

Ministry philosophy/passion:

To borrow the words of John Piper: To glorify God by enjoying him forever.

What do you like most about teaching?

I love the students we have at Southern, and what a privilege and joy to teach the Scriptures!

List one of your favorite:

Authors: G. K. Chesterton.

Preachers: John Piper.

Courses that you teach: The New Testament 2 introduction course.

Music groups: The Beatles.

Movies: "The Man Who Knew Too Little."

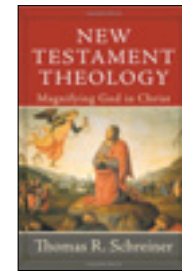
Restaurants: PF Changs.

Vacation spots: Beautiful Oregon!

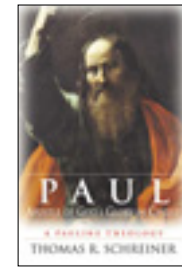
Website:

www.sbts.edu/theology/faculty/thomas-schreiner/

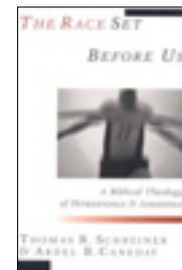
Books:



New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ (Baker: 2008).



Paul: Apostle of God's Glory in Christ — A Pauline Theology (InterVarsity: 2001).

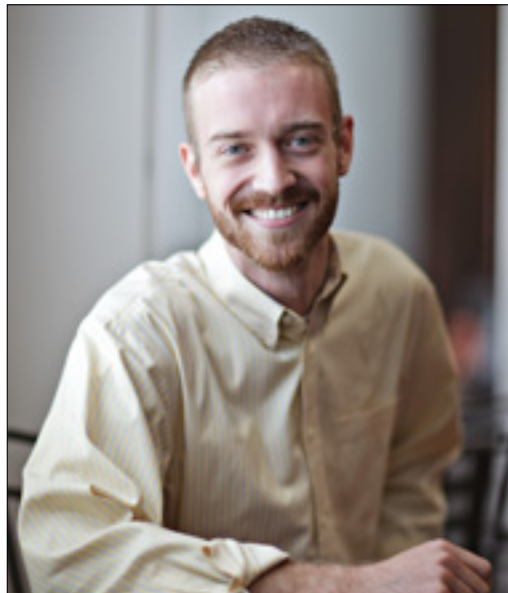


The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance & Assurance (InterVarsity: 2001).

Boyce Student Council president adding Boyce College ministry preparation to experiences in Zambia, other training

By EMILY GRIFFIN

At 21, Boyce College student Stephen Ripley has experienced the world in a way that not many his age have.



Stephen Ripley, Boyce College Student Council president, said he wants to partner with the Southern Seminary Student Council this year to be able to "build each other up and learn from each other." Photo by John Gill

Ripley spent several of his teenage years in the South African country of Zambia, where his family served on the mission field. Ripley started his ministry training as a youth, serving along side his parents and working with Zambian street kids. His situation provided the opportunity to learn under, and develop mentoring relationships with, nearby young missionaries, something he holds dear today.

While Ripley returned stateside several years ago to further his education, his parents returned just last year, bringing home with them two Zambian children. As Ripley has gotten to know his new brother and sister, Gift and Grace, his heart has only grown more intent on serving the Lord and his people.

Ripley's classroom ministry training began at The Bethlehem Institute, now The Bethlehem College and Seminary, in Minneapolis, Minn., where he completed the INSIGHT program, a one-year intensive world and biblical history study.

"The INSIGHT program was priceless, it

really prepared me well for Boyce, especially the reading level," Ripley said.

In 2006, after soaking in The Bethlehem Institute, Ripley headed to Louisville to enroll at Boyce College. Since his arrival Ripley has been involved with his local church, Immanuel Baptist Church.

Ripley said he was attracted to Immanuel Baptist after learning of their outreach program to the Somali people group in Louisville, and has since come to love the congregation's passion for the community and Preaching Pastor Ryan Fullerton's leadership.

"I love my church, I've never seen a church like this," he said. "Even when I'm away, visiting a place like Bethlehem Baptist, I miss Ryan Fullerton's preaching."

This semester marks Ripley's final year at Boyce and he is determined to make every minute count. He was named Student Council president and is eager to serve the Boyce student body with his fellow Student Council

members. The six-member Council is planning activities and opportunities for students to become involved with each other and also, more importantly to Ripley, to promote deep spiritual growth.

"All of the Student Council members work side-by-side to organize student life to promote and cultivate spiritual growth across campus," he said. "This year we are really trying to think about how we can use 'fun' as an opportunity to also encourage and teach God's Word."

Some of those opportunities include the legendary dodge-ball tournament, known as Hall Ball. Ripley is a proud alumnus of the *Prōtotokos* (Greek for firstborn) Hall Ball team, which has been known to "dominate" a time or two, he said. Other events include the spring retreat, which Ripley contends is the best week-end of the year. While this year's retreat is still in the planning phase, spiritual disciplines will be the topics of conversation and study.

Ripley and the entire Council are complementary of Boyce's administration, particularly

Dean Denny Burk and Lawrence and Garnetta Smith, dean of students at Southern Seminary and Boyce College and associate dean for women respectively, for aiding their campus wide efforts.

"With the new administration everything they do, old or new, has been reevaluated. They are doing stuff not just because it is fun, but because there is something there to learn," he said. "Dean Burk has made sure our dorm meetings this year are going to have incredible speakers to learn from like Mark Dever (senior pastor at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.), who will be here later this semester."

Ripley is also looking forward to developing a partnership with the Southern Seminary Student Council this year.

"As a group, we are thinking about ways that we can stimulate discipleship relationships between Southern and Boyce students that attend the same church," he said. "We're looking for a way that we can build each other up and learn from each other."

Ripley is on track to graduate in May with

a bachelor of arts in biblical and theological studies. As for the future, Ripley has a heart for international missions, particularly the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa, and is

*"I love my church, I've never seen a church like this (Immanuel Baptist). Even when I'm away, visiting a place like Bethlehem Baptist, I miss Ryan Fullerton's preaching."
— Stephen Ripley*

also interested in continuing his education at Southern Seminary. He is honest and content when he says, "only the Lord knows what is next" for him.

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Mohler: Christ is sovereign over time, all rulers and His church

By GARRETT E. WISHALL

Amid a world of confusion, turmoil and suffering, Christian ministers can stand, and will only be able to stand, as they look to the sovereign Lord Jesus Christ and His imminent return, R. Albert Mohler Jr. said Aug. 25 at fall convocation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mohler, president of Southern, preached from Revelation 1:1-20, kicking off a semester series on the seven letters to the churches in the book of Revelation. God calls His people to take an eternal Gospel to the lost in a confused and fallen world, Mohler said.

"The backdrop and background of ministry is its end," he said. "The foreground of ministry is a time of tremendous conflict, controversy, change and opportunity to [spread] the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The ministry is a place where the Gospel intersects with the strangeness of this world. We look around and observe poverty and war and pestilence and famine and confusion. What are we to think?"

Mohler installed Southern professor Eric

Johnson as the Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Professor of Pastoral Care. Johnson previously taught psychology, theology and Christian worldview for nine years at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn., and has served as professor of pastoral theology at Southern since 2000.

Additionally, two professors — Carl Stam and Brian Vickers — signed the seminary's Abstract of Principles. Stam serves as associate professor of church music and worship and director of the Institute for Christian Worship at Southern, while Vickers is associate professor of New Testament interpretation and assistant editor of the Southern Baptist Journal of Theology.

Mohler said the sovereignty of Christ over time, over the rulers of the world and over the church, should define the way we approach the world. Those serving in Christian ministry should have a yearning in their hearts that comes from living with eternity in mind, Mohler said.

"The sovereignty of Christ over time is a theme that is repeated in Revelation," he said. "As we look at the book of Revelation we see

the things that must soon take place. We see that the time is near, but let's be honest: it doesn't feel that near. Most of us have IRAs, long-term investments and mortgages.

Do we really believe that these things must soon take place?"

"In Romans 16:20, we read that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Not soon according to our chronological reflection looking backward, but very soon in terms of time and the promise that time will be no more.

"Time is reflected against the timelessness of the One who is, who was and who is to come. Jesus Christ is sovereign over time and that is the only assurance you have that our times are meaningful."

Second, Jesus Christ is described as the Ruler over the kings of the earth, Mohler said, and just as the world does not live as if the end is near, neither does it live as if Christ is King of the earth. But the power of nations and strivings of people does not threaten the rule of Christ, he said.

"The apocalyptic message of God delivered through Christ to John is the relevation

of all earthly powers. Jesus Christ is above all earthly powers. It is here that all kingdoms, empires, businesses and governments meet their end.

"The powers that be, whether it be military, or politics or the cultural powers; they are all relevelized by the fact that Jesus Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth. The powers that be will one day be the powers that were; they will be judged and they will be found wanting."

Third, Jesus is sovereign over His church. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a kingdom of priests, people who have been bought by His blood, Mohler said. Mohler said God means for all the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the ages to heed the seven letters to the churches in Revelation until Christ returns.

"To John, Jesus communicated the message, 'Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last. I am the living one and I was dead. I am alive forevermore and I have the keys of death and of Hades. You are not dead. Do not be afraid. Therefore, write the things which you have seen.'"



Left: R. Albert Mohler Jr. urges students to find strength for their ministries in the sovereignty of Christ over all things at Fall Convocation, Aug. 25, in Alumni Memorial Chapel.

Top right: Carl Stam, associate professor of church music and worship and director of the Institute for Christian Worship at Southern, signs the seminary's Abstract of Principles.

Bottom right: Mohler congratulates Eric Johnson upon installing him as the Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Professor of Pastoral Care. Photos by John Gill



Great Commission Task Force proposed for Kentucky Baptist Convention

By Kristie Randolph

The Administrative Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board has approved a recommendation calling for the formation of a Great Commission Task Force for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Meeting in executive session Aug. 20, the committee voted to send the recommendation to the full Mission Board for consideration at its meeting Nov. 9. If approved, it would then go before messengers attending the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Nov. 10.

The task force, to be appointed by KBC President John Mark Toby, would be asked to study "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission." The task force would bring its report and any recommendations it might have to messengers attending the 2010 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

In a letter to Mission Board members, Administrative Committee Chairman Darren Gaddis said the committee's decision was in response to action by messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville in June to ask SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint a task force to examine how Southern

Baptist national organizations are engaged in helping fulfill the Great Commission. That task force has already begun its work and will be reporting back to SBC messengers at the SBC annual meeting next June in Orlando.



Darren Gaddis, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board. Photo from KBC

of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff and that of the other entities that receive at least some funding from the Convention. These include Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, the University of the Cumberlands, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Sunrise Children's Services, the Western Recorder and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"We certainly appreciate and affirm the

"This (appointing a Kentucky task force) would allow the KBC to track with the national effort in evaluating how we as a state convention can best fulfill the Great Commission," Gaddis said.

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, affirmed the work

of our Mission Board staff and that of every Kentucky Baptist Convention entity. We know that each of our state organizations have been and are working faithfully," Gaddis said. "They are all led by capable and committed individuals who receive guidance from boards prayerfully selected and elected by Kentucky Baptists. It is healthy for any great organization to be constantly seeking ways to be even better and it is in this spirit that we recommend the formation of this task force."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said he supports the idea of a state task force.

"Growing, whether as an individual or as an organization takes a willingness to step back from time to time and evaluate," Mackey said. "I see this as a very good way to do just that. Kentucky Baptists have a strong track record of using special committees like this one to study big issues effectively and I believe God will bless as we seek His guidance."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is a cooperative missions and ministry organization made up of more than 2,400 autonomous Baptist churches in Kentucky. A variety of state and worldwide ministries are coordinated through its administrative offices in Louisville, Ky. including: missions work, disaster relief, ministry training and support, church development and evangelism. For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org.

Newsbriefs

NAMB task force dissolved; members to stay involved

A North American Mission Board task force commissioned by former NAMB President Geoff Hammond is being dissolved, but members have been asked to be available for questions about the effectiveness of the entity's evangelism and church planting efforts. The task force was originally called the North American Great Commission Task Force, but the group changed the name to avoid being confused with the Great Commission Resurgence task force that messengers approved at the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention. (BP)

Southwestern professor resigns rather than leave church

A music professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has opted for early retirement rather than leave a church declared out of fellowship with the Southern Baptist Convention because of openly homosexual members. Michael Cox, an award-winning professor of music theory and composition who has taught at Southwestern since 1990, chose to remain in membership at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, a congregation with 125-year ties to the SBC and a long history of faculty and seminary leaders in its membership. The seminary requires faculty to be members in Southern Baptist churches. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in June in Louisville, Ky., voted overwhelmingly to declare the congregation "not in friendly cooperation" for violating the convention's bylaws prohibiting the approval, affirmation or endorsement of homosexual behavior. (BP)

Artificial brain by 2020?

Swiss scientists predict they may be able to build a human brain with computers by 2020. Henry Markram, head of the Blue Brain project in Switzerland, said at a July conference in Oxford, England, he plans to construct an electronic human brain in 10 years, the Daily Mail reported Aug. 11. The Blue Brain research team has been working for the last five years on constructing a mammalian brain with the use of supercomputers, Markram said. In the past, scientists have assumed a "soul" permeates the brain, but now most neuroscientists think "feelings of self-awareness, pain, love and so on are simply the result of the countless billions of electrical and chemical impulses that flit between its equally countless billions of neurons," Michael Hanlon wrote. (BP)

FactCheck.org: Obama wrong on abortion funding

By Michael Foust

A leading nonpartisan fact-checking organization says President Barack Obama was incorrect when he said the congressional health care plans could not lead to government-funded abortion.

FactCheck.org, a website run by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, posted a 1,400-word analysis Aug. 21 examining a statement Obama made to a group of mostly liberal religious groups. During that webcast/conference call, he asserted, "You've heard that this is all going to mean government funding of abortion. Not true. These are all fabrications."

The website, which has been critical of statements by both Republicans and Democrats, said, "[W]e judge that the president goes too far when he calls the statements that government would be funding abortions 'fabrications.'"

FactCheck.org further said, "[W]e take

no stand on whether all abortions should or should not be covered. As for the House bill as it stands now, it's a matter of fact that it would allow both a 'public plan' and newly subsidized private plans to cover all abortions."

The analysis ran under the headline of "Abortion: Which Side is Fabricating?" A sub-headline read, "Despite what Obama said, the House bill would allow abortions to be covered by a federal plan and by federally subsidized private plans."

Time magazine also criticized Obama's statement on abortion in an Aug. 24 story, saying it "does not tell the whole story."

Obama increasingly has dealt with the issue of abortion and health care in recent days, saying in his Aug. 22 weekly address that dealt with a string of criticisms, "Some are ... saying that coverage for abortions would be mandated under reform. Also false." Technically, Obama may be correct in that statement: While elective abortions may not be mandated under current proposals, they will be allowed, and Obama as

a candidate stated his support for abortion coverage in a health care plan, FactCheck.org said.

Under the leading House plan, H.R. 3200, and an addition to the bill known as the Capps Amendment, the public plan can cover elective abortions as long as the abortions are paid for only by enrollees' premiums.

Similarly, lower-income people will be allowed to use federal subsidies to purchase a public or private plan that covers abortions as long as the subsidy itself does not go toward financing abortions.

Supporters say the segregation of funds is a compromise that would work. Opponents call it a phony compromise and a bookkeeping scam. Those same opponents say it's nonsense to argue — like supporters do — that under a public plan, some of the money is not government money. The federal government, after all, would be running the public option and paying the abortion doctors out of a government account — even if the account is financed by premium monies, pro-lifers say. (BP)

Bloom where you're planted

BGS grad finds herself on an unexpected path

By EMILY GRIFFIN

Jennifer Lyell, a 2005 master of divinity graduate of The Southern Baptists Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School, felt called to serve through international missions work. Yet, she also wanted to fulfill stateside obligations prior to heading to the mission field.

Upon completion of her M.Div. and after taking some doctoral classes, she realized it was time to put her education into practice. She sent her resume to mission agencies across the country but after six months of searching, Lyell had not been granted only one interview. The Lord had not opened any doors and her sense of confusion and impatience had set in.

"So often in those situations, I respond with a spiritual (or sometimes physical) temper tantrum before the Lord," Lyell said. "Eventually, I'm always convicted of the reality that my life is not my own. It was bought at an incomprehensible price. When I remember that- when I remember the Gospel and the picture of who Christ is and who I am- then I can humble myself before the Lord and confess the disappointment, while praying for greater faith, trust and submission."

Entering the world of publishing

Unbeknownst to Lyell, the Lord has been developing her career path through her local church ministry at Louisville's Ninth & O Baptist Church. While diligently job searching, Lyell had been helping teach a Sunday school class for women who were new to the church. Lyell loved watching God transform the women right before her eyes and was pleased to find their hearts and minds yearning for more of God's Word. While looking for additional resources for these women, Lyell came across

the website for Moody Publishers, which had posted a job opening that intrigued her.

"I saw the job listing for Women's Acquisitions Editor and realized I met the minimum requirements for the position," she said. "As I went through the interview process, initially hesitant at the thought of entering a field that was not missions, I began to realize how serving in publishing could have an immense impact in the lives of so many. I was able to see how I could help shape biblically sound and substantive resources that would help women seeking to be godly in the midst of a culture that is very far removed from the time when generations were raised learning from flannel-graphs in children's church."

Lyell, who has been an avid reader since childhood, moved to Chicago and joined Moody Publishers in 2006. Her initial adjustment to the publishing world was somewhat difficult, as she struggled to reconcile the path on which the Lord had her with that which she had previously envisioned. "During those first six months I was frustrated that I was not serving in the capacity I thought would most honor the Lord and the passions He had given me," she recalled. "Thankfully, He ultimately helped me to realize that He did not need me to fulfill His purpose and was more concerned with conforming me to the image of Christ."

Lyell grew to see how her work at Moody could both benefit the Kingdom and be used of the Lord to conform her to the image of Christ. She has taken those experiences to her current position as executive editor for women's books at B&H Publishing Group, the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

Being prepared at Southern

Lyell credits her experience at Southern Seminary and its Billy Graham School for preparing her heart and mind for her current work. Arriving at Southern in 2002, just two

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3,
2009

Panel: N.T. Wright and the Doctrine of Justification

MODERATOR:
R. Albert Mohler Jr.

PANELISTS:
Denny Burk,
Tom Schreiner,
Brian Vickers &
Mark Seifrid



and a half years after the Lord saved her, Lyell acknowledges that at the time she was full of passion for the Lord but was still "very rough around the edges."

"The Lord used virtually every aspect of SBTS to transform so much of that--although I'm certainly still a work in progress. My classes taught me how to study God's Word, how to defend God's Word, and perhaps most importantly, how to minister it with grace," Lyell said. "So many of the core relationships in my life today are relationships that began at SBTS and continue to be my strongest source of support and mentoring. In short, my education at SBTS gave me the theological discernment to serve in Christian publishing while the relationships and experience of SBTS have enabled me to exercise that discernment with greater care and wisdom."

Lyell is proud to be a Billy Graham School alumna and believes wholeheartedly that the school's balance of theological grounding and missiological emphasis is unparalleled: "Second only to my salvation, frankly, going to Southern Seminary has been the most significant blessing in my life."

"Professors whose character and classes stand out in my mind as having had an especially deep impact on me during my time at Southern include Drs. Moore, Lawless, Nettles, Sills, and Stein. Each of these men and their classes taught me aspects of disciplines from which I draw every day while their character continues to challenge me today," she said.

Speaking at Southern

Giving back to Southern is important to Lyell. On Aug. 24, she returned to campus to speak at the Chit Chat Café event, hosted by the Pendergraph Women's Ministry. Her discussion, "Expectations and Realities Concerning Seminary, Ministry as a Woman, and Publishing," offered invaluable information for women wondering about their place in

ministry -- both in and out of the traditional workforce -- and how to be patient for the Lord to reveal their place to serve.

Lyell's position at B&H keeps her in contact with female authors from around the country. During her Chit Chat Café presentation, she commented on three particularly: Beth

"He ultimately helped me to realize that He did not need me to fulfill His purpose and was more concerned with conforming me to the image of Christ."
— Jennifer Lyell

Moore, Carolyn McCulley and Nancy Leigh DeMoss, all of whom have impacted her life profoundly and have challenged her to grow in her walk with the Lord. Lyell has come to love and appreciate her time at both Moody and B&H Publishing and is thankful her ministry preparation is being used—but in a manner she never anticipated.

"I believe that it is good stewardship of the gifts and opportunities that the Lord has given us when we sense He is leading us in a particular direction and pursue that plan. Yet, we must be cautious and submissive to the Lord as we plan. The wisdom of today tells us that we should "network" in every way possible. The potential danger with this model is that it can sometimes entice us to trust in our relationships, connections, or social savvy, rather than trusting and hoping in the Lord. He has called us to trust in Him with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding--and He has promised that He will guide our path." Lyell said.

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Local pastor calls younger generation of pastors to visit the sick

By JEFF ROBINSON

It seemed almost natural for Brian Croft to write a book on ministering to the sick, but it took some encouragement from his pastoral interns.

Croft, who has served as senior pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church in Louisville for the past six years, is the son of a medical doctor who grew up being unwittingly prepared for local church ministry by his father.

William Croft has practiced as a family physician for more than 30 years in New Albany, Ind., where Brian Croft grew up. The elder Croft has made house calls throughout his career and as a boy, Brian often accompanied his father to watch him care for and minister to both the bodies and souls of the sick.

In addition to addressing their physical needs, his father would often painstakingly apply the healing balm of the Gospel to his patients and frequently gave them copies of resources such as Josh McDowell's "More Than a Carpenter." William Croft and his wife Mae are members of Clifton Baptist Church.

"My father is one of the only doctors I know who still occasionally does house calls," Brian Croft said. "When I was a kid, in order to spend time with me, dad would take me with him on some of his home visits.

"I watched how significant a ministry a regular Christian man who was not a pastor could have by ministering to physically and spiritually hurting people in so many ways. I got to see at an early age the spiritual fruit that comes in those moments when people are having their eyes opened to what really matters in

life. As I felt called to ministry, visiting the sick was a very natural thing for me."

The younger Croft recently wrote a book, "Visit the Sick: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Illness" (Day One), a unique work that provides a biblical and theological basis for, as the title implies, visiting the sick.

Croft, who has taken classes periodically at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said his book was born out of a desire to see young ministers not only preaching sound expositional sermons, but to live out the Gospel by visiting those who are infirm.

The book first took root in the mentoring of pastoral interns at Auburndale, some of whom would accompany Croft on his visits to hospitals and homes. They encouraged him to turn his informal teaching into a book.

"Pastors from my parents' and grandparents' generations knew how to visit and shepherd people," Croft said, "but it is kind of a lost art in my generation. The reason I wrote this book was to call my generation of pastors back to this vital ministry and to give them a biblical foundation and practical tools to do it."

"I'll be the first to admit that a pastor who has been in ministry for 40 years would be a far more credible spokesperson for this subject, but I feel like there needs to be a voice in my generation to speak to my generation and to recover it. Part of the Word being central in the church is shepherding with the Word in the midst of the one-one-one situations when our people are hurting."

The book includes a biblical and theological case for visiting the sick and also includes a chapter on practical considerations such as

"Listen, don't solve," "prepare your heart" and "make eye contact." The book's practical theology is modeled after that of English Puritans such as Richard Baxter and great pastors such as C.H. Spurgeon.

"Visit the Sick" includes appendices on spiritual conversations and other topics. Mark Dever, who serves as pastor of Capital Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and chairman of the board of trustees at Southern Seminary, wrote the forward. Brian's brother Scott is a

Washington, D.C., attorney who serves as an elder at CHBC.

"This kind of ministry does not replace the centrality of preaching the Word," Brian said, "but is an important part of ministering the Word to the local congregation. I am thankful to see the resurgence of expositional preaching among young pastors and I hope they will also return to carrying out the Word's practical implications."

Students should take precautionary measures against H1N1

By JEFF ROBINSON

A severe strain of the flu known as H1N1 will pose a serious threat across the country this coming flu season and seminary administration is asking students to take precautionary measures to guard against this aggressive form of the flu.

Students should seek vaccination for H1N1 through their primary medical care provider as soon as it becomes available. Anyone suffering from the flu is asked to contact the seminary clinic at 897-4497 so the seminary can monitor any spread of the flu among the seminary community.

Vaccination for the general flu will be available at the seminary clinic and students are urged to get the vaccination shots for their entire families. Vaccine for the general flu is not effective against H1N1. A vaccine for H1N1 is projected to be available in December.

Simple steps may be taken to prevent the flu, including: covering your nose and mouth when sneezing, washing your hands frequently and using hand sanitizer frequently. For more information on H1N1 flu, including symptoms, please visit the Center for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm. Southern Seminary will be following CDC guidelines in response to H1N1 which are available at <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredguidance.html>.

The seminary is taking several steps to prevent the spread of the flu, including:

- Placing hand sanitizer in numerous public areas around campus.
- Making masks available for those who have contracted the flu or who have flu-like symptoms. Masks are available in the seminary clinic and in the seminary security office.
- Making special accommodations for students suffering from the flu. Please contact the seminary clinic for details.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursday
at 10 a.m.

Tue., Sept. 1

R. ALBERT MOHLER JR.
President
Southern Seminary

Thu., Sept. 3

PANEL: N.T. WRIGHT
AND THE DOCTRINE OF
JUSTIFICATION
Moderator: R. Albert Mohler Jr.
Panelists: Denny Burk, Tom
Schreiner, Brian Vickers and
Mark Seifrid

Tue., Sept. 8

R. ALBERT MOHLER JR.
President
Southern Seminary

Thu., Sept. 10

BRUCE WARE
Professor of
Christian Theology
Southern Seminary

Tue., Sept. 15

AL JACKSON
Pastor
Lakeview Baptist Church
in Auburn, Ala.

Thu. Sept. 17

R. ALBERT MOHLER JR.
President
Southern Seminary

Previous chapel messages available at www.sbts.edu/resources/.

Announcements

Baby recognition

For students and staff who have been blessed with a birth in recent months, there will be a baby recognition in chapel Thursday, Oct. 1. Contact Student Life (897-4015) to be included in the special recognition.

2009 Summerfest Pops concert

The seminary orchestra will present its annual Summerfest Pops Concert at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 1 in Alumni Memorial Chapel. In step with the seminary's 150th birthday, music will include two composers who also turn 150 this year: Victory Herbert and Mildred Hill. Herbert wrote the famous "Happy Birthday to You," and Mildred Hill is a Louisville-born composer.

Southern Seminary violinist Rachel Boren-gasser will perform accompanied by her sister Lydia on piano and the Cheng family will present "Jehovah's Blessings Abound." There will also be music from two movies, "Star Wars" and "E.T.," and entertainer David Garrard will be a featured guest. Doug Smith will conduct the orchestra and admission is free.

Southern Seminary music ensembles

All seminary students and spouses are invited to participate in three new Southern Seminary music ensembles this fall: Southern Seminary chorale, Southern Seminary worship band and Doxology vocal ensemble. These ensembles will assist with chapel services and other musical services on and off campus. Students who register for these ensembles receive one elective credit hour with no tuition fee. For full details on these ensembles, visit www.biblicalworship.com/?page_id=739.

Southern Seminary chorale and oratorio chorus

Professor Carl Stam would like to invite students to participate in Southern Seminary chorale or oratorio chorus this fall. The chorale will meet from 9-9:50 a.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Chorale will sing in chapel on Tuesdays and work towards a fall concert in November singing a variety of sacred choral pieces with a wide range of styles from traditional to contemporary.

Oratorio chorus will meet from 7-9 p.m. on Monday evenings. This group works on larger choral works written by some of the best church music composers. Oratorio chorus presents a concert in November accompanied by the seminary orchestra. For more information on either of these groups, contact Stam at cstam@sbs.edu.

SBTS students: financial aid incentive

Something new happening this year with financial aid is the incentive to take more classes each semester. Students who take 12-14 credit hours will receive an extra \$150 for the semester. If you take 15 or more hours, you will receive an extra \$300. This money will be applied in the middle of the semester, after billing has closed. To qualify, you must complete the online application for financial aid at finaid.sbs.edu. If you have questions, contact the financial aid office at financialaid@sbs.edu.

Summer 2009 SBJT available for pick up

Students may pick up their free copy of the Summer 2009 issue of *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*: "Theological Anthropology" in Williams Hall 5123 during the following days and times:

- Monday, Aug. 31: 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 1, 11:15 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3, 8:15-10 a.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Note: the SBJT office is located on the 1st Floor of Williams Hall. Williams Hall faces the cafeteria. As you enter Williams, go down the hallway on the right.

Community newsbriefs:

'The Albert Mohler Program'

"The Albert Mohler Program," a daily radio show hosted by R. Albert Mohler Jr., can be heard from 5-6 p.m. on WFIA-FM 94.7 or as a live webcast at www.AlbertMohler.com. Previous broadcasts of the nationwide program may be accessed at the web site and are also available as a podcast. Anyone is invited to call the show toll free, 877-893-8255, or to e-mail mail@albertmohler.com with questions and comments.

Free sewing classes resume Sept. 14

The free sewing class led by Mrs. Barbara Gentry will resume Sept. 14. The sewing class meets from 6-7:30 p.m. on Mondays in Fuller Room 16. Mrs. Gentry is back from Germany and Mrs. Kathy Vogel will continue to assist her. Sewing machines will be provided at no cost. No experience is required, but women with experience may also participate. Knitting and crocheting lessons will also be offered. Mrs. Barbara Gentry will lead the class, assisted by Mrs. Kathy Vogel. For questions, you can call Mrs. Gentry at 380-6448 or Mrs. Vogel at 742-1497.

Pray for the nations as you train for the Great Commission Center 5k

The Great Commission Center 5k helps provide scholarships for students going on school sponsored missions trips. The 5k will be held Saturday, Sept. 12 on the Southern Seminary campus. The remaining training dates for the 5k are Aug. 31 and Sept. 7. Students should meet in the Health and Recreation Center at 4:30 p.m. for prayer, followed by a training run. Coaching will also be available to develop a training plan for students. Contact Anthony at missions@sbs.edu with questions.

Louisville Orchestra String Quartet at Southern Seminary

The Louisville Orchestra String Quartet will be performing at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4 in Alumni Memorial Chapel. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for general admission and \$15 at the door. Seniors and children ages 12 and under are free. Doors open at 7 p.m. Visit www.TicketWeb.com to purchase tickets.

Annual job and bank fair

The Southern Seminary community is invited to attend the annual job and bank fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3 in Heritage Hall. This is an opportunity to find a local bank, open a new account with perks, learn about home loans or find a job. Participating local banks and businesses this year include: Baptist Hospital East, Olive Garden, Federal Express, US Census Bureau, Jefferson County Public Schools, US Bank, Stockyards Bank and Trust and UPS. For questions, contact Human Resources at 897-4721.

Ministry Resources

SEND International missionary opportunities

Tom Engelsman from SEND International, an interdenominational mission agency with more than 600 missionaries in 20 countries, will be on campus Sept. 8-10 to meet with students. Engelsman will host an information table in the 5th and Broadway lobby to speak with interested students about short-term and long-term missions opportunities.

Air Force chaplaincy opportunities

Chaplain Paul Gunn of the Air Force, will host an information table in the 5th and Broadway lobby Sept. 16 to discuss chaplaincy opportunities.

Army chaplaincy opportunities

Chaplain Major David Sifferd of the Army,

will host an information table in the 5th and Broadway lobby Sept. 17 to discuss chaplaincy opportunities.

International Mission Board opportunities

International Mission Board candidate consultant Jim Riddell will be on campus Sept. 29-Oct. 2 to interview students interested in missions opportunities with the IMB. To schedule an interview, call Joan Ivey at 1-800-765-0011.

IMB's 'meet the new consultant' information sessions

New International Mission Board candidate consultant Jim Riddell will be available to meet with any interested students in the cafeteria during lunch from 12-1 p.m., Sept. 29 and 30. He will also be available from 7-8 p.m., Sept. 29 in the HCC North/South Gallery (snacks will be provided). In each session, Riddell will dialogue on "how the current reorganization and financial crisis will impact those seeking missionary service."

Ministry position postings

Full-time and part-time ministry positions may be found on e-campus through the help desk's link to Ministry Resources.

Résumé service

Start or update your résumé file with Ministry Resources by submitting the on-line candidate form. Visit the church resources quick link on www.sbs.edu for the simple instructions. Ministry Resources is also eager to counsel students over their résumé and ministry preferences. Visit Norton 150 or call ext. 4208.

Health and Rec

The Health and Recreation Center (HRC) will be open regular hours during the fall semester: Mon.-Fri. — 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat. — 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Aerobics schedule

Fitness Boot Camp M, W & F 7-8 a.m.
Mommy and Me Power Walking M, W & F 9-10 a.m.
Practical Pilates M, T, & R 4:45-5:45 p.m.
Aqua Alive T & R 5-5:45 p.m.
Step It Up Cardio Blast T & R 8-9 p.m.

Intramural volleyball

Co-ed intramural volleyball will be held every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

• Call the HRC at 897-4720 with questions about scheduling and events.



THREE 3 Questions WITH

Major General Douglas Carver

1 *What's the most inspiring display of heroism you've heard of on the battlefield?*

IT IS AMAZING to see these young men and women ages 18-25, who in the midst of some dangerous circumstance forsake their own safety to take care of one of their buddies who may be in harm's way. I think of one story with Ross McGinnis, our last Medal of Honor recipient. In December 2006 he was on a convoy in Adhamiyah, Iraq, and a fragmentation grenade got thrown into his Humvee. His response was to yell, "grenade" and prepare for the explosion. He could have jumped out. But instead, he jumped down inside of the Humvee and braced his back against the fragmentation grenade, which took his life. But he saved his four friends. It's that kind of selfless service and sacrifice that is repeated all over the battlefield by our great soldiers.

2 *Why is knowing theology and the Bible important for soldiers?*

FIRST OF ALL, the battlefield is a very confusing place. God's Word brings calm to chaos and confusing situations. Our soldiers are looking for truth. They're looking for truth about life, and as they are facing a life and death situation, they are wanting to know about important things like immortality, heaven, hell, forgiveness, redemption and having to kill somebody in combat. All of these things have theological implications. Why does God allow the innocent to suffer and the guilty to continue on? Those kinds of questions continue to be repeated.

Therefore, the chaplain is there providing a listening ear, but also some guidance and some instruction not only for those questions, but even for Christians who are on the battlefield. As their faith is tested and challenged, as they face fear, as they face all the stress of life, they have an opportunity for their minds and their bodies to be ministered to by God's Word. One of my concerns right now is post-traumatic stress, the trauma of war. I truly believe that one of the healing solutions is the power of God's Word that can wash the conscience of all of the sights and smells and sounds of battle that they have experienced. God's Word can bring healing and strength.

3 *What's the greatest lesson you've learned through your years of military service?*

THE GREATEST LESSON I've learned is that our God is awesome. He does immeasurably more than what we could ask or think. I continue to be amazed that God would take me and put me where I am. First of all, I'm amazed that He called me out of darkness into light, that He saved my soul. And it's just been a great adventure.

The thing I remain amazed about is the Scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 where God says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans not to harm you but plans for your good, plans to give you a future and a hope." This is my 25th assignment in 36 years. I know that God orders my steps, and that's what I continue to be amazed at, in the military or in the civilian community. It's just awesome.

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