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Harding School of Theology

Winter 2015

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Harding School of Theology

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HARDING
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THE Bridge

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Surprised by God

The Hogan-Cate Sabbatical Endowment Grant came at a time when I was feeling parched in my ministry. For some time, I had been telling myself that I had to get away from it all, but I did not want to abandon the ministry in Seremban altogether. The sabbatical was like rain in a dry-crusted land, which springs forth to life again once the showers came.

Surprised by God — that's how I felt about a semester at HST. Even more of a surprise was that my wife, Esther, wanted and was given the opportunity to come with me. She has been a strong pillar in the Ong family and more pertinently in my ministry as well. The semester has been filled with loads of encouragement and renewal in both spirit and faith — from the classes to chapel services to visits with churches in and around Memphis and in Nashville,

too. There has been warmth, enthusiasm and Christian loving-kindness at every turn and corner from faculty to staff to students. Above all, I draw strong encouragement in seeing a group of young men and women who are willing to take a different path and to be schooled in the word of God, in the practice of ministry and servanthood in God's kingdom, and who are prepared to go to far away lands and peoples to be ambassadors for Christ. This in itself is testimony to the working power of the gospel of the Lord.

Another surprise from God was the discovery of a pile of files and bound volumes of reports from missionaries who had pioneered the work in Malaysia and Singapore in the 1960s and 1970s in the archives of the HST library. For a long time, I had been interested in how the church began life in



these two countries. These files will enable that story to be told in a more systematic manner instead of just a patchwork of anecdotes.

The crowning surprise has been the discovery (or rediscovery) that ministry is a joy. This I owe to Dan Williams, who delivered a message at the lunch for elders, deacons, ministers and missionaries at the Harding Lectureship last September/October. In his witty and self-effacing manner, Dan brought home to an almost dry-crusted preacher that ministry is indeed a joy from the Lord!

*Ong Kok Bin
Seremban Church of Christ
Seremban, Malaysia*

Unexpected Opportunity

When I first arrived at HST, I was very impressed by the beautiful buildings that I saw on campus. Once I started to get to know the people

related to the school, my impression became even better. Now that I am leaving, I would like to summarize my experiences.

At the beginning of the

year, I decided to apply for the grant that the school offered. I have been involved with the Baxter Institute in Honduras for 11 years since I

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THE Bridge

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VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Are You Building Below the Waterline?

David McCullough's book *The Great Bridge* tells a fascinating story about the building of the Brooklyn Bridge, which arches the East River and joins Manhattan to Brooklyn. He mentions that in 1872 the chief engineer of the project wrote that at one point the general public might have assumed very little work had been done on the bridge. After all, they could see no evidence of the bridge above the water. In fact, the amount of masonry and concrete that was laid on the foundation during the past winter was actually equal to the masonry that was visible on the Brooklyn

waterline. It is one more illustration of an ageless principle in leadership: *the work done below the waterline (in a leader's soul) that [sic] determines whether he or she will stand the test of time and challenge* (p. [1])

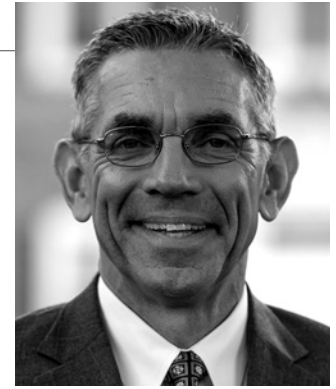
FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE PAY NO ATTENTION TO WHAT IS BENEATH

- Far too many families come apart.
- Far too many men and women become angry and cynical and live this way for the rest of their lives.
- Far too many church leaders crash and burn due to one poor, sinful decision.

I have learned that I must pay attention to what is "beneath the waterline" in my own life.

tower above the waterline. Gordon McDonald's book *Building Below the Waterline* also makes reference to the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. McDonald observed: The Brooklyn Bridge remains a major transportation artery in New York City today because 135 years ago the chief engineer and his construction team did their most patient and daring work where no one could see it: on the foundations of the towers below the

- Far too many people are not prepared for some of the difficult challenges they eventually face.
- Far too many church leaders focus more on what is above the waterline than on what is beneath the waterline. Some people focus on their image (above the waterline) while ignoring their character (below the waterline). Some focus on their gifts while ignoring the giver. Some focus on tasks that need to be



Martin

done while ignoring a heart that needs to be tended. Preaching ability and leadership capability will not substitute for ministering to a soul that is withering and parched due to inattention. Meanwhile, some may appear to be doing well because of what can be seen above the waterline. However, they may be on the verge of disaster because of how they have neglected their soul.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE SOUL

I have learned that I *must* pay attention to what is "beneath the waterline" in my own life. Many things on the surface may clamor for my attention. Appointments. Sermons. Meetings. Projects. Finances. Yet the best thing I have to offer my wife, my children, my church and my friends is a man who pays attention to his soul.

QUESTION

What have you experienced in your life when you are taking care of your soul? What have you experienced when you neglect what is "beneath?"

Dr. Jim Martin
(VPhst@hst.edu)

Harris Alumnus of Year

The HST Alumni Association, chaired by Dr. Leon Sanderson, has announced that Randy Harris has been chosen as the alumnus of the year for 2015. Harris was chosen from an outstanding list of candidates submitted by HST graduates. At the presentation to be made during the annual HST Advancement Council luncheon on March

26, 2015, Harris' name will be added to a distinguished list of former recipients ranging from Jimmy Moffett (1973) to Monte Cox (2014).

Harris is the spiritual director for the Abilene Christian University College of Bible and teaches in the department of Bible, missions and ministry. He was chosen Honors Professor of the Year in 2001, Honors Mentor of the

Year in 2003 and 2011, Outstanding Faculty Member of the College of Biblical Studies in 2003, and Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 2011. He holds degrees from Harding University, Harding School of Theology and Syracuse University with areas of expertise in modern theology and ethics. Harris is the author of *God Work, Soul Work, Life Work* and *Living Jesus*.

Welcome Rachel Denzin

2014 brought about many positive changes at the Harding School of Theology. Dr. Jim Martin began working as HST's vice president after 20 years as a pulpit minister in Waco, Texas. Jeannie Alexander, who has worked in the advancement office for 11 years, became Martin's administrative assistant while Brenda David temporarily added support of the advancement office to her duties as HST business office manager.

We are especially happy to announce that on Dec. 15,

2014, Rachel Denzin joined the staff of HST as the administrative assistant to the director of advancement.



Denzin

University and earned a master's degree in communications from the University of Memphis where she teaches as

Denzin completed her undergraduate work at Harding University

an adjunct faculty member. We are blessed to have her as a part of our staff. With Denzin's arrival, David has gone back to managing the HST business office, which is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please continue to pray for our faculty and staff as we support the mission of the school to equip and inspire servants of Christ with deeper faith and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.

Larry Arick
(larick@hst.edu)

Annual Pie Auction a Sweet Success

On Jan. 24, 2015, about 200 guests enjoyed various recipes of chili and soup at the Women for Harding chili supper and pie auction at the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis. This event is an annual opportunity for our faculty, staff and students to meet and have fellowship with our donors. Following dinner, more than 40 do-

nated pies were auctioned off with great flair by circulation librarian Bob Turner and M.Div. student B. Chris Simpson. Special guests from Harding University included Liz Howell, assistant to the president for alumni and parent relations and executive director for Women for Harding, and Dan Campbell, senior officer of the Harding Fund. Thanks to the hard

work of Women for Harding and other volunteers, a total of \$14,800 was raised.



BRIEFS

Save the Date

The annual HST Run for the Son 5K will be held on April 11, 2015. Watch HST.edu for more details.

Faculty Notes

During the last two months of 2014, Dr. **Evertt Huffard** preached at the University Church of Christ in Shreveport, Louisiana; the Bozeman (Montana) Church of Christ; the Millington (Tennessee) Church of Christ; the Hastings (Nebraska) Church of Christ; and the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston. In addition, Huffard spoke for the Winter Rendezvous in West Yellowstone, Montana.

Dr. **Richard Oster**, professor of New Testament, spent the first part of January in India representing the Ministry for Theological Education. He taught the first week at the National Bible College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, and spoke at evening Bible classes on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Sunday, Jan. 11, he preached four times: at the Kumaaran Nagar Congregation, the Kilpauk YMCA Congregation, and then at the Royapettah YMCA Congregation in the morning. Sunday evening Oster spoke at the Mt. St. Thomas Congregation in Chennai.

BRIEFS

Faculty and Alumni Notes

During the fall 2014 semester, Dr. **Carlus Gupton**, professor of ministry:

- Taught Bible classes, preached, and consulted extensively with the leadership team at White Station Church of Christ in Memphis
- Served as interim preacher for the Millington (Tennessee) Church of Christ
- Presented workshops on “Understanding Churches as Emotional Systems” to leaders and spouses at Mansfield, Texas, Church of Christ and on “Effective Leadership” at Southside Church of Christ in Lexington, Kentucky
- Consulted twice with the leaders of the Northside Church of Christ in Jeffersonville, Indiana

Gospel Advocate announces the publication of *A Mountain Moving Faith: Teaching Young People to Reach the Ultimate Summit* by **Matthew Morine** (D.Min., 2013). Morine is pulpit minister at the Castle Rock (Colorado) Church of Christ.

Tweet Away

@hst.edu on Twitter



Global Missions Conference Comes to Memphis Area

Every three years, missionaries and missions-related personnel gather for the Global Missions Conference. The first three GMCs were held in Arlington, Texas (2005, 2008 and 2011). The fourth was held Oct. 16-18, 2014, in the Memphis area and hosted by the Goodman Oaks church of Southaven, Mississippi. We are deeply grateful for the servant-hearts of Goodman Oaks leaders and members who made this brotherhood-wide event possible. The steering committee includes mission leaders from a number of ministries and universities. Co-chairmen for the 2014 event were John and Beth Reese of World Bible School and Inter-Mission (peer-to-peer missionary care). The GMC also caters to Christian university and college students in place of the Global Missions Experience (formerly World Missions Workshop). This combination — general missions conference for churches of Christ with a GME-related component — requires special attention to college student housing and other needs. Dr. Evertt Huffard, a member of the steering committee, focused on this task.

Nearly 800 people registered at the conference, and many others participated as well. Each of the plenary sessions highlighted a continent or region: Africa, North and Central America, Asia and Oceania,

South America, and Europe. Keynote speakers were Machona Monyamane, John Reese, Gary Jackson, David Duncan and Monte Cox. Tracks addressed subjects such as short term missions, missionary care, Latino missions, Chinese missions, university outreach and U.S. missions. Breakout sessions covered a wide range of missions' matters: missionary care, fund raising, missionary committees, multimedia tools, etc. Eight interest group sessions focused on specific nations, methods and ministries. One highlight was “A Conversation With Leaders From White’s Ferry Road Church,” which explored growing receptivity to missions in the United States, prison and recovery work, and gospel opportunities. Audio CDs from the conference may be ordered from dovecassettes.com. The next GMC is scheduled for 2017, but the venue has yet to be determined.

The Global Missions Conference allowed interested people to come together to encourage one another and suggest ideas to help spread the Gospel to the peoples of the world. We want to thank everyone in the Memphis area who helped with housing, baking cookies, organizing food, teaching children’s classes, babysitting, and the many other logistics that made it possible to host the event.

Beth and John Reese

Workshop Provides Experiential Learning

More than 1,000 college students from across the country are expected to attend the **55th Annual Global Missions Experience** Sept. 17-20, 2015, hosted by Harding University at Camp Tahkodah in Floral, Arkansas.

This will be Harding’s 10th time to host Global Missions Experience, formerly known as the World Mission Workshop. The name change reflects a shift in the focus of the conference from a primarily lecture-based format to a hands-on experiential learning opportunity for students to gain practical knowledge that will aid them in the mission fields.

During the workshop, students will have the opportunity to simulate life in Africa, southeastern Asia, Central America, Appala-

chia, slums of the urban developing world, and refugee camps. This year’s workshop will incorporate elements of urban ministry in addition to the rural development techniques offered in the past.

Students will be offered classes that center on using their specific major to glorify God. They can also choose from a variety of stations that help them to acquire skills needed to evangelize in urban and rural settings. Five keynote speakers, each representing a different continent, will address the students at the worship sessions.

*Shawn Daggett
Center for World Missions, Director
Harding University*

The Mission of God: GMC Through Students' Eyes

For me, the best part about the conference is networking with other kingdom workers. It's nice to catch up with people whom I haven't seen for a while. In many ways it feels like a family reunion. Also, it is a pleasure getting to know new people working across the globe. Hearing about others' ministry and sharing with them my own is exciting.

One thing that impressed me was that, before the plenary sessions, there were video interviews shown of seasoned, pioneer missionaries. Hearing their stories reminded me of the great importance of what we do. I can see myself in their place one day, reflecting back on all that God had done in my life and assuring people that it was all worth it. Shalom.

Bryan H. Greene, M.Div. student

The GMC is a brilliant chance for missions-minded individuals and teams to network. Missionaries from every continent were present. One could not estimate the combined number of years of missions experience present there: mountains of missionary wisdom in one meeting place.

One common thread that was woven into discussions was this: conversion is easy, but leadership training is tough. One seasoned missionary suggested close relationships are better than seminars for leadership training. Jesus was, after all, closest to three out of the Twelve.

In one country a missionary has seen some 400 baptisms over the years, yet only 100 or so remain members, which is staggering. Many churches were started, but only half survived. This is one of the major challenges of missions.

Servant leadership is a necessary component. One missionary witnessed a church leader who swept the sidewalk every Sunday morning before service. As time passed members began to catch on that this is what it means to lead: to serve (Luke 20:26-28). Jesus is our prime example of this.

John Reese stated the method of missions this way: "God opens doors. God connects."

Doors are open today that only a couple of decades ago did not even exist. Just one example is World Bible School (worldbibleschool.org), which connects interested students around the globe with teachers — for free. Anyone can sign up to teach or study. Almost 5,000 students have lessons online each month: citizens of around 140 different countries.

Clint Boyd, M.Div. student

I participated in a panel during the GMC comprised of missionaries from China, Poland, Nigeria and South Africa. We all agreed that American missionaries tend to expect to be the hero when they enter the mission field. They take care of everything by themselves. They barely teach members how to teach, preach and lead in a congregation. After they leave, the congregation loses direction. We understand most American missionaries grew up in the churches of Christ or studied missiology or may have earned a Bachelor of Ministry or M.Div. degree; however, understanding the culture is more important than anything else. The solution is to be humble and give all the glory to God, to equip rather than lead.

Tian Deng, M.Div. student

During the GMC conference, my wife, Helen, and I ran into Truitt Adair, president of Sunset Bible Institute. He was encouraging and sought to understand our plans for the future. I shared how being a student at Harding School of Theology has sharpened, challenged and molded me.

Beth Reese, head coordinator of GMC 2014, worked closely with teammates and made a conference housing several thousand Christians feel like it was a luxury cruise. Seeing her move, communicate, serve and work herself to the bone made me thankful for many like her. Three sisters from Goodman Oaks Church of Christ sold cookbooks published to support a Tennessee school of preaching. Irene McNamara oversaw children's ministry Bible classes in which Helen and I played a part. Working with Irene as well as Andrew and Lydia Taylor (not to mention Josiah), blessed us immensely.

Jonathan Crews, MACM student

BRIEFS



Alumni enjoy time together at the National Conference on Youth Ministries.

Staff Notes

Director of Admissions **Matt Carter** represented HST at the National Conference on Youth Ministries (held Jan. 5-8, 2015, in Dallas) and at Gulf Coast Getaway (held Jan. 16-18, 2015, in Panama City Beach, Florida). In the upcoming months, Carter will be at the Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship (Feb. 2-5), Campus Encounter (Feb. 20-22, Stillwater, Oklahoma), and the Ohio Valley University Lectureship (April 12-15).

We enjoy meeting and visiting with alumni, students and future students at these conferences. If you know of a conference or event that could help connect us to prospective students, please email Carter at mrcarter@hst.edu.

Order on Amazon

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Harding School of Theology challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.

BRIEFS

Text Hotline Service

HST Admissions has implemented a text hotline service for communicating with prospective students and others who need to talk with someone at HST. If someone has a question, they can text the Admissions Office at 901-300-3995. There is a "text us" button on the mobile version of the HST.edu contact page as well.

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We're on facebook

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Meet Clay Smith

2014-15
Lewis Scholar

Lewis Scholars have a proven record of the highest academic performance and ministry skill and are awarded Harding School of Theology's most prestigious scholarships. Funded by generous donors, these scholarships honor the lives of three individuals whose work has left an indelible mark on the school: Dr. Jack P. Lewis, Mrs. Annie May Lewis and Mr. Clyde Lewis.

Growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, Clay Smith attended Lipscomb Academy. As a freshman in the high school chorus, he got his first opportunities to preach when the chorus visited various churches to lead worship and perform. Through these early preaching experiences, he found his calling to ministry.

Smith's girlfriend, Aubrey Brown, was a student at Harding University, which influenced his decision to attend Harding for his bachelor's degree. They dated eight years before getting married and still live in

Searcy where Aubrey is in physical therapy school.

Smith is serving as a graduate assistant for Harding University professor Andrew Baker and is co-teaching with another professor, Devin Swindle. He enjoys the opportunity to teach and interact with students in freshman Bible classes. Although he is drawn to preaching, he is open to God's leading in whatever form of ministry he finds himself.

Having completed a semester at HST, Smith says his experience has far exceeded his expectations. The professors, the students and cam-



Clay and Aubrey Smith

pus life all have him excited about the future.

Matt Carter
(MRCarter@HST.edu)

Resources on Prayer

SA Vice President Steven Gaines shared this material in chapel Jan. 29, 2015.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2 NRSV). When we walk into the HST chapel, a banner with that verse reminds us of this year's theme: “Life of Prayer.” We hear, read, think, talk and learn much about prayer and are encouraged to pray. Sometimes, however, learning about prayer can be easier than actually practicing it. Unplanned reading assignments and neglected research papers force all-nighters. Friends and family members have needs, and we have jobs.

Chapel speakers call us to pray, and perhaps we wonder how to find the time. If we find the time, maybe we grow weary of repetitious patterns that have ruttled our prayer lives.

An improved prayer life requires more than books and information; the information must shape action. As Thomas Merton taught, “If you want a life of prayer, the way to get it is by praying” (Thompson, 49).

Here I offer a few resources to help us pray. These are not scripture. I trust that you know to find powerful prayer language in the Bible,

especially the Psalms. I invited recommendations from several church leaders and professors in various parts of the world, and this list shares some of their suggestions.

The list is eclectic; it contains some works you might love and some you may dislike severely. It has books about prayer, books of prayer, websites, and mobile apps. I pray that you will find something that will play a small role in increasing your devotion to prayer.

<http://hst.edu/2015/01/resources-on-prayer-from-steven-gaines/>

Mission Transitions

In March, **Jason Whaley** (M.Div., 2007) and his family will return to the U.S. after spending six years in mission work in Wollongong, Australia. HST students and alumni are leaving for and returning from the mission field all the time. We don't always record those transitions but always thank God for the sacrifice and commitment of these servants.

Greg McKinzie (M.Div., 2008) and his family recently returned to the U.S. after seven years of missions in Arequipa, Peru. One of their teammates, Larissa Smith,

wrote a farewell to the McKinzies that deftly expresses the joy and sorrow of letting go. We are grateful to Smith for allowing *The Bridge* to excerpt her article here.

THE FIRST FAREWELL

There is never a good moment to say it's all done. There is no closure in the cultivation of life. You just have to let go and step back, knowing that growth continues but fighting the urge to stay close enough to ensure it. It goes against every instinct we've developed over the years in nurturing a faith community. I can't

imagine how hard that was or how hard it will be for us to follow suit.

At the same time, I was proud. I watched as our young church stood up and declared them not lost or finished but sent yet again, back to a "home" mission field. While we all know their absence is our loss, someone else gains their dedication, wisdom, and heart for the kingdom of Jesus. We choose to share them, knowing just how lucky their next group of friends will be.

Larissa Smith

www.teamarequipa.net

Unexpected Opportunity *continued from Page 1*

was a student, so it was time to take a break in my activities to reflect on the positive things that I have done in my ministry and also to think of the areas in which I needed to grow. At the same time, I was thinking of starting a counseling program for the students at Baxter but had no time or energy to work on it. God opened this door, and I was able to come to HST where I could have both things that I needed: time for reflection and time to research counseling programs.

The four months that I spent in HST were a blessing. I have learned so much from my brothers and sisters on campus. I loved this year's theme expressing our need to pray at any time. Sometimes in ministry we work so much for people that we forget to be in touch with God, and my time here has given me a greater understanding of this. The academic experience was valuable. Being with Dr. Ed Gray in the coun-

seling skills course was very positive; I learned a lot about what to do and what to avoid while trying to help the brotherhood. Dr. Carlus Gup-ton was a blessing; I learned a lot from his ministry experience. The library was a great help; I was really amazed at all the resources I found while researching my project.

While in Memphis, I worshipped with the Hispanic ministry at the Church of Christ at White Station. It was a blessing to spend time with people from my own culture. I learned so much from the lives of these brothers and sisters who truly love the Lord. I also learned a lot from my roommates. I saw how much time they spent studying in order to make good grades and also how they went to work in secular jobs in order to make some income to continue with their studies. They really inspired me in many different ways. It was great to attend the Harding Lectureship in

Searcy and the Global Missions Conference. I had a chance to share my experience working with churches in Honduras and learned so much from missionaries from all over the world.

Being without my family was really challenging. My wife could not come with me because she was finishing her medical school internship. There are a lot of positive things about technology, and while I was here, I could get in touch with her and our son every single day. I have always loved my wife and son with all my heart, but during these four months I have learned to love them even more. My experience at HST was better than my expectations. I give glory to God for this great opportunity.

Guadalupe Mayo

Baxter Institute

Kennedy Church of Christ

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

BRIEFS

DID YOU KNOW . . . that the vast majority of HST students work in addition to taking classes? Almost half of current HST students work full time, most in local ministry. Your donations help us provide scholarships for students, allowing them to focus more time on their studies.

Tweet Away



Keep up with the latest HST announcements on **Twitter** at twitter.com/hst_edu and twitter.com/hstlib.



FINAL WORD

Learn More

Want to learn more about a person or topic mentioned in *The Bridge*? Check out the following resources:

Dove Cassettes: Conference Recording, Duplication & Fulfillment. <http://dovecassettes.com/>

Gaines, Steven. *Resources on Prayer*. <http://hst.edu/2015/01/resources-on-prayer-from-steven-gaines/>

Gulf Coast Getaway. <http://gulfcoast-getaway.org/>

Harris, Randy. *God Work*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood, 2009.

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InterMission Missionary Care. <http://www.intermissionministry.org/>

McCullough, David. *The Great Bridge*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

McDonald, Gordon. *Building Below the Waterline*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011.

Morine, Matthew. *A Mountain Moving Faith: Teaching Young People to Reach the Ultimate Summit*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2015.

National Conference on Youth Ministries. <http://ncym.org/>

Team Arequipa. <http://www.teamarequipa.net/>

Thompson, Marjorie J. *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1995.

World Bible School. Learn more: <http://www.worldbibleschool.net/> Sign up: <http://www.worldbibleschool.org/>

For help in borrowing, purchasing or using any of these resources, feel free to contact us at the HST Library.

Sheila Owen
(sowen@hst.edu)