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Summer 2008

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the Bridge

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Fifty More Years

Harding University
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New Year Begins 'Pursuit of Truth'

Imagine the congregations in cities such as Ephesus surrounded by abundant non-Christian claims of certainty and truth. For centuries devout pilgrims had traveled to worship the Ephesian goddess Artemis, convinced about the truth of her existence and power. Closer to New Testament times, the people in and around Ephesus had begun to take an oath of allegiance to the reigning caesar of Rome, confident in Rome's might. Local homes, marketplaces, gymnasiums and theaters had ubiquitous philosophers and sophists offering their "truths."

What perspectives could have aided those early believers in the midst of such a cacophony of truth claims? Clearly, early Christian leaders provided a compass by reminding their fellow believers of the certainty of God's truth, of God's revelation in the Messiah, and that God's church was "the pillar and foundation of the truth" (1

Timothy 3:15).

The Restoration Movement has clearly shared in the early church's conviction about the importance of truth, the close connection between truth and salvation (1 Timothy 2:4), and the importance of truth as a guide to the maturity of believers (Ephesians 4:14-15).



While modern thinkers and Christian groups have often felt a kindred spirit with Pilate when he said, "What is truth?" the convictions and passions of churches of Christ have not resonated with this agnosticism but rather with Jesus' own claim: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

To many contemporaries, the pursuit of truth must have an almost archaic sound since it seems to be vanishing from the American landscape.

Even though contemporaries might grant the idea of "a truth" or "personal truth," they are usually resistant to the notion of God's absolute truth. This relativistic outlook is not a new threat to the people of God. The book of Judges echoes that the people did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6; 21:25) and is one of many such examples. In his now-famous statement, "Man is the measure of all things," the pre-Socratic philosopher Protagoras taught that subjective values and experiences form the basic criteria for determining "truth."

A commitment to the pursuit of truth, like all pursuits related to God, remains a life-long commitment. The believer never arrives at a place in this life where the pursuit of truth should cease. Surely there are important transitions and stations in this pursuit, but the pursuer of God's truth is never satisfied.

▶ Dr. Rick Oster
Professor of New Testament

»training ministers »enriching faith »transforming leaders

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Dean's Note

Core Values

Many churches, especially larger growing ones, define and publicize their core values. Even within the same congregation, families are differentiated by their own core values. When the core values of two families clash, painful adjustments are made. Core values define who we really are, influence our decisions, ascertain what we reward, and

mission statement only to encounter the real culture of the congregation.

- ▶ The longer the list of core values, the less likely any of the values are core.
- ▶ Stated values may reflect the ideal values for a church more than its functional values.

In the article "Discerning Your Church's Hidden Core Value" (LeadershipJournal.net,

Core values define who we really are, influence our decisions, ascertain what we reward, and reduce the level of conflict.

reduce the level of conflict.

A Web search of "church core values" will illustrate that more than half of all churches in the U.S.A. have a Web page, and thousands of them identify their core values. I scrolled through more than 500 churches before a church of Christ popped up. I could have missed one, but clearly we need to be more overt about who we are and why.

DISCOVERING CORE VALUES

What is obvious is that we assume too much. For example:

- ▶ Clearly defined doctrinal beliefs do not automatically produce shared values or unity.
- ▶ A mission statement may not reflect true core values, which explains why churches struggle for months to produce a mis-

January 2005), Angie Ward gave a sobering example of a hidden but very real core value in a church: "Visitors are welcome to come back, if they really want to." Since our core values are not as obvious as we would like them to be or what we may want them to be, good leaders will invest the time and energy in defining and shaping these core values.

SHAPING OUR CORE VALUES

Discovering and defining core values attract more of our attention than shaping them. Churches list core values with the assumption that someone has shaped these values. The home will always be the primary center for shaping core values, but the church will need to do more to help the home shape these values — if the church plans



HUFFARD

to stay on mission and maintain unity.

OUR CORE VALUES

A half-century of training for ministry bears witness to the core values at HUGSR. These values make us who we are and nurture servant hearts.

- ▶ We have a high view of Scripture that respects the historical context of the author and its authority and ongoing power to transform lives and communities.
- ▶ We have a deep respect for the ministry of study and disciplined research in response to the real challenges of ministry.
- ▶ The quality of students and curriculum are more important than quantity.
- ▶ The education of a student is not complete — even with the successful grasp of information — without spiritual transformation, which takes time, mentoring, and the guidance of the Spirit of God.
- ▶ The churches of Christ will always need well-trained preachers, missionaries, scholars, teachers of the Word, counselors and leaders to transform lives, plant churches, and glorify God among the nations.

▶ Dr. Everett W. Huffard
(dean@hugsr.edu)

Student Association Elected for 2008-09

PRESIDENT

Rusty Woods

B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, rusty.woods@gmail.com
Ministry goal: Church planting and/or campus ministry
Hometown: Dyersburg, Tenn.
Why did you select HUGSR?
My faith was the size and weight of a mustard seed. While, according to Jesus, that is all it takes, I knew he did not intend for our faith to remain that tiny. For me, HUGSR was and is faith fertilizer.

VICE PRESIDENT

Caleb A. Borchers

B.A., Harding University, cab647@gmail.com.
Ministry goal: To work with mission churches in a post-Christian context
Hometown: Clarkston, Mich.
Why did you select HUGSR?
I felt like HUGSR had the best mixture of academic quality, spiritual growth opportunity and Christian community.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Wes Kuryluk

B.A., Harding University, kane.lar@gmail.com
Ministry goal: Minister/professor
Hometown: St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Why did you select HUGSR?
Here I would be able to enter the world of biblical scholarship in a faith-based context. It is affiliated with churches of Christ, making it an ideal context in which to be introduced and learn to deal with challenges and issues unique to the Restoration Movement.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Preston Cottrell

B.A., Harding University, pzcottrell@harding.edu
Ministry goal: To spread God's truth through teaching and preaching
Hometown: Pinellas Park, Fla.
Why did you select HUGSR?
The welcoming attitude of the faculty and student body permits a collective mission to integrate our faith into practical living. This separates HUGSR from other academic settings.

MARRIED, ON-CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

Jacob Parnell

B.A., Pepperdine University, jacobparnell2000@yahoo.com
Ministry goal: To preach in a church of Christ (preferably somewhere on the West Coast)
Hometown: Kent, Wash.
Why did you select HUGSR?
The professors really invest themselves in the students and are clearly interested in preparing students to be effective Christian leaders.

MARRIED, OFF-CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

Jonathan Teel

B.A., Harding University, teelman@aol.com
Ministry goal: Mission work, church planting with Hispanics and/or counseling
Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Why did you select HUGSR?
I felt that the professors would be able to help me prepare to accomplish my goals and dreams of church planting.

SINGLES REPRESENTATIVE

Cynthia Turner

B.S., St. Louis Christian College, cturner2@harding.edu
Ministry goal: U.S. Army chaplaincy/church counseling support
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
Why did you select HUGSR?
I chose HUGSR because of the quality of education that I knew I would receive and because of my faith and convictions.

COUNSELING REPRESENTATIVE

Justin Lewis

B.S., Murray State University, justinlewis10@hotmail.com
Hometown: Paducah, Ky.
Ministry goal: To use my talents to promote and enrich healthy families and to comfort individuals in need.
Why did you select HUGSR?
 To be trained as a counselor from a Christian perspective.

Scholars Presentations Given

Two of the three graduate student papers presented at the 2008 Christian Scholars' Conference at Lipscomb University were presented by alumni. JoEtta Deaton (M.A., 2007) presented "A New Look at Gender Subordination: Redeeming Distorted Power Structures," and Chris Shrock (M.A., 2007) presented "Three Flavors of Moral Arguments for the Existence of God."



WOODS



BORCHERS



KORYLUK



COTTRELL



PARNELL



TEEL



TURNER



LEWIS

Self-study culminated by site visit

In October the Graduate School hosted a team of educators on site visit as part of re-accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools. The site visit caps a yearlong self-study by the Graduate School to reflect on our purpose, mission, and effectiveness. Dr. Steve McLeod (D.Min. 2003, smcleod@hugsr.edu) led the self-study team made up of faculty, staff, students, alumni and board members.

“The importance of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) self-study and site visit is to hold ourselves accountable to accepted standards of institutional and educational quality. Through the self-study, we take a hard look at ourselves to find areas that need to be improved. Peer review allows others to examine how we are handling the difficult challenges of providing theological education and gives guidance to us as to how we might better meet those challenges.”

— Steve McLeod

Alumni

Rocket Scientists Complete Degrees

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to study at Harding Graduate School, but in the case of two 2008 graduates, it didn't hurt.

Michael Brown (D.Min., 2008) and Michael O'Neal (M.A.C.M., 2008) share a first name, a graduation date and an employer: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Both are full-time engineers as well as ministers, and they added graduate school on top of that.

Brown is principle engi-

neer for Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., where he provides software support for NASA's new spacecraft, the Constellation. He is minister of Second Avenue Church of Christ in Lewisburg, Tenn., where he preaches, teaches, and produces a weekly radio program. His dissertation, "Adapting Principles of Family Wellness to African-American Families," was designed to help establish normalcy among African-American families and communities.

O'Neal is lunar surface

concepts manager at Kennedy Space Center in Titusville, Fla. He came to Harding Graduate School because he wanted an advanced education to enter ministry. He has developed several seminars for churches, one of which grew directly from his guided research project, "What Angels Tell Us About God." He is also associate minister at East Orange Church of Christ in Christmas, Fla., where he preaches and teaches classes.

The following interviews give insights into their experiences at the Graduate School.



BROWN



O'NEAL

WHY DID YOU COME TO HUGSR?

BROWN To enhance, sharpen and broaden my academic skills and to broaden/deepen my knowledge of Scripture. Harding has a stellar reputation for academic excellence, an outstanding faculty, and a commitment to improving practical ministry skills for leaders of congregations.

O'NEAL I came to HUGSR mainly because I believe God wanted me there. I am especially thankful for Steve McLeod's professional handling of my needs when I first inquired at the School. An educational experience that was objective was important to me at the time, and I believed HUGSR offered that.

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE?

BROWN My Harding experience was very rich. I had an opportunity to meet fellow ministers with both similar and totally different ministry challenges. I feel that I have a network of individuals with whom I can share the task of expanding God's kingdom.

O'NEAL My best experience was networking with the faculty, staff and fellow students. Not only were faculty members intellectual giants, they were excellent role models and, at

times, confidants. The kindred relationships I developed with my brothers from the great Northwest will always be held deeply in my heart. Another side benefit from the educational rigor was the positive spiritual growth you attain during this experience. Dealing with God's word at the depth that was required has a way of working on you spiritually. It is more than cool to combine academics with what you really love in life.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE IN THIS PROCESS?

BROWN My greatest challenges were with self-confrontation. My Harding experience forced me to constantly ask myself whether or not I really had a heart for ministry. The classes and discussions allowed me to face this challenge in a constructive environment.

O'NEAL Balancing my family life and the intensive requirements to read, write and study. I had to intentionally draw the line on my studying to make sure my family was not sacrificing unduly. I knew it was going to be sacrificial for me, but it was not fair for my passion for learning to be a detriment to my family.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD WORKING THROUGH YOUR EDUCATION?

BROWN I can definitely say that the Lord is using Harding to do a wonderful ministry. There is a burgeoning recognition of the need for a multicultural, multi-ethnic approach to ministry — all while keeping and even improving the high quality of academic challenge for students.

as my ability to provide counsel to those in need. I hope to turn my guided research on “What Angels Tell Us About God” and my work in spiritual formation into seminars. I also will be preparing a talk on spirituality and space flight. I hope to publish in all three of these areas. I have a publisher who believes my guided research has great potential as a book concept, so I am in the process of turning it into a popular format for him.

O'NEAL My teaching and preaching has most certainly been elevated to new levels, as well

ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE COMING BEHIND YOU?

BROWN I learned to appreciate the gifts that God has given to all of his children. This was especially true as I came to appreciate the gifts found among the faculty and students. I would advise every student to be open to all that God can reveal through the experience. This includes moments of self-confrontation/examination as to one’s willingness to be used by God in his designated way.

Each class humbled me, as did walking into the library. From Dr. Huffard's “Spiritual Leadership” class I learned some of my spiritual weaknesses, which has allowed me to work on them and continue my growth process in a more positive way. To my fellow students, patience, my brothers and sisters. You, too, will finish, and you will come through the process much more objective about ministry and God’s word. Also, I learned to love research. Being able to unlock mysteries through research can be enjoyable.

O'NEAL Self-discipline, self-discipline, self-discipline. I did not know I had so much of it in me. I also learned how little I really know.

IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR WORK AT NASA AND YOUR MINISTRY/MINISTRY GOALS?

O'NEAL During my time at HUGSR, I worked on a two-year project for NASA that culminated in a report titled “Historical Research and Mechanisms for the Provision of Spiritual Support for Human Space Flight.” My research and writing skills developed at HUGSR were invaluable in completing this project. The project consisted of researching how astronauts spiritually prepared themselves for space flight, how they practiced their faith during their missions, and how being in space impacted their spirituality. I also researched the role spirituality played in other exploration endeavors with shared similarities to space flight such as going to the Arctic and

Antarctic. To understand how others performed ministry in remote environments, I spent time with the Air Force, Army, Navy, FBI and National Science Foundation (which controls the work at McMurdo Station in Antarctica). Several astronauts and their spouses were interviewed, and a look at how science views spiritual formation was presented by researching the work of Abraham Maslow, James Fowler and Ken Wilber. This work was vetted with several astronauts and the behavioral support team at Johnson Space Center. Key findings and recommendations were presented to NASA in this report.

Sanderson Named Alumnus of the Year

At the April 3 Ministry Forum, Dr. Leon Sanderson (lsanderson@cocws.org) was named Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his years of service for the kingdom. Sanderson has preached and served in ministry capacities since 1950. He is currently a worship leader at the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis.

“Leon represents the best of service to the kingdom of God,” Vice President and Dean Evertt Huffard said. “His commitment to the word of God and to people has made him a great influence in the church.”

Sanderson earned his master’s in religious education in 1963, master’s of divinity in 1998, and doctor of ministry degree in 2007. His dissertation was titled “Empowering Senior Adults Through the Role of Grandparenting.”

Sanderson penned the music to the Harding Graduate School alma mater and serves on the School’s Lewis Scholarship Committee.



MARILYN AND LEON SANDERSON

Ministry-Connections First Graduates

The class of 2008 saw the first MinistryConnections students earn M.A. in Christian Ministry degrees. Dave Shaner from Bellevue, Wash., and Scott Laird from Great Falls, Mont., both earned their degrees from a distance. MinistryConnection allows students to earn their M.A.C.M. degree by combining online courses and one-week intensive courses on campus.



Shaner and Laird



Master of Arts: Clyde Slimp (left) and Byron Dannatt



Master of Arts in Christian Ministry: (from left) Dave Shaner, Mike O'Neal, Scott Laird, Ileene Huffard. O'Neal earned the M.A.C.M. academic award.



Graduates, faculty and guests gather on the steps of the Ijams Administration Building after the 50th commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS

Dan Cooper – Minister for Pitman (N.J.) Church of Christ

Byron Dannatt – Undecided

David Pritchett – Future medical missions

Aaron Roland – Missionary in Montepuez, Mozambique

Clyde Slimp – Preacher at Lakehoma Church of Christ in Mustang, Okla.

Curt Sparks – Preacher at Overland Park (Kan.) Church of Christ

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Ileene Huffard – Director of Memphis graduate education program for Freed-Hardeman University

Scott Kopf – Youth and family minister in Jackson, Miss., at Meadowbrook Church of Christ

Scott Laird – Minister/evangelist for the church in Great Falls, Mont.

Mike O'Neal – NASA, teaching seminars on spiritual formation and what angels teach us about God

David Shaner – Preacher at Bellevue (Wash.) Church of Christ

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Angela Rusk – Counseling and Latin American missions

Carmen Taylor – Christian counseling in the Memphis area



ment May 3, 2008

Ben Thompson – Counselor at Christ Community Health Services in Memphis
Kristina Yeouze – Child and adolescent individual, group and family therapy in Ossining, N.Y.

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Jeff Brown – Community outreach minister at Skyline Church of Christ in Jackson, Tenn.
Shannon Cooper – Youth minister at Central Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark.
Jordan House – High school chaplain at Greater Atlanta Christian Schools
Steven Hovater – Youth minister at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ark.
Nathan Knappier – Registered nurse at LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center
Daniel McGraw – Campus minister at University of Kansas
Greg McKinzie – Missionary in Arequipa, Peru
Robert Meyer – Urban minister in North Little Rock, Ark., and missions in Angola, Africa, in 2009
Dorn Muscar – Full-time outreach minister with Memphis Urban Ministry (MUM)
Tim Westbrook – Associate director of the Institute for Church & Family in Searcy, Ark.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Michael Brown – NASA and preaching in Lewisburg, Tenn., and future church plant in Huntsville, Ala.
Tim Stafford – Teacher at Harding Academy of Memphis



Master of Arts in Counseling: (from left) Angela Rusk, Carmen Taylor, Ben Thompson, Kristina Yeouze. Yeouze earned the M.A.C. academic award.



Master of Divinity: (back) Dorn Muscar, Tim Westbrook, Jeff Brown, Robert Meyer, Greg McKinzie; (front) Steven Hovater, Shannon Cooper, Jordan House, Daniel McGraw. McKinzie earned the M.Div. academic award.



Doctor of Ministry: Michael Brown (left) and Tim Stafford. Brown earned the D.Min. academic award.

BRIEFS

Campus mourns losses

Anna Maye Johnson, 82, died June 13. Johnson was the first librarian at Harding Graduate School when it opened in 1958, serving nearly two years. She was a member of Highland Church of Christ and later Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis.

Daniel Rice, 44, of St. Louis died June 20. As a student in the MinistryConnection program, Rice was working toward the M.A. in Christian Ministry degree while serving as a minister at Greater St. Louis Church of Christ.

Roy Sawyer Jr., 83, of Sardis, Miss., died July 3. He was a longtime member of the Harding University Board of Trustees and served on the subcommittee overseeing the Graduate School of Religion. He was an elder at Como Church of Christ and a long, faithful friend of the Graduate School.

Faculty

Active Faculty Adds Kennedy

John Kennedy (M.A.C., 2004, jkenned1@hugsr.edu) joined the counseling faculty this fall.

He came to the Graduate School as a student in 2002, leaving his CPA practice in Lebanon, Tenn. After graduating he served as counselor and then interim director at HopeWorks, a Memphis non-profit organization helping underemployed individuals.



Kennedy's areas of instruction include research in counseling, personality studies, cross-cultural counseling and counseling fundamentals.

He is currently finishing his Ph.D. in counselor education.

DON MEREDITH

On Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008, at 1 p.m., Don Meredith (M.Th., 1967) entered the classroom to teach "Advanced Theological Research" for the 150th time. The course, formerly known as "Introduction to Graduate Study," has been Meredith's hallmark course since 1983, which he has taught an average of six times per year over the past 25 years. The course has traditionally both impressed and scared students since, for many, it raises the

bar on the level of scholarship expected of them. For those rising to the challenge, however, the course proves invaluable, giving students skills and perspectives some graduate schools do not provide.

DAVE BLAND

Dave Bland wrote six essays on the Psalms published in *Feasting on the Word*, Volumes 1 and 2, edited by David Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor and published by Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

PHIL MCMILLION

Phil McMillion presented "Psalm 105: History With a Purpose" at the Christian Scholars' Conference at Lipscomb University June 26-28. He is currently teaching a Wednesday evening series on the Psalms at Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis.

MARK POWELL

Dr. Mark Powell read "Canonical Theism and Theological Commitments in the Stone-Campbell Movement" at the Christian

Scholars' Conference at Lipscomb University June 26-28. He has also presented programs to area churches such as "Are Christians Deluded? Faith, Reason and the New Atheists" at Millington (Tenn.) Church of Christ and "The Identity of Jesus: Fully Human, Fully Divine" at Exchange Street Church of Christ in Union City, Tenn. In addition, Powell is now serving part time as a preaching minister at Cordova Community Church, a church of Christ in Cordova, Tenn.

EVERTT W. HUFFARD

While Harding Graduate School celebrated its 50th commencement in 2008, sister school Korean Christian University celebrated its 50th anniversary as well. Dr. Evertt Huffard, vice president and dean, represented Harding University in Seoul and spoke at its forum. He also met with Graduate School alumni who presented him with a check for \$1,500 in support of the School.



Dr. Evertt Huffard and alumni celebrate the 50th anniversary of Korean Christian University in Seoul, Korea, March 2008.

Give Now and Get Income for Life

Get money back and a tax deduction with certain gifts

Most people are surprised when they first learn they can give to a nonprofit organization such as Harding University Graduate School of Religion and receive funds back. Not only can you support the mission of the Graduate School, but you may also receive valuable tax savings, capital gains benefits and income for life.

It is easier than you might think to make a gift for lifetime income, and there is still time to receive tax advantages this year. Take a look at these two opportunities, consult your tax professional, and contact HUGSR for more information.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

One of the simplest ways to make a gift and receive funds back is with a charitable gift annuity. With a gift annuity, you give a gift to Harding University, and we agree to pay you a fixed amount for life at a rate based on your age. You will receive an income tax deduction for your gift and may avoid capital gains tax on a gift of your appreciated property.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Like a gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust provides you with a current tax deduction, capital gains tax savings and regular income.

You can choose between two types: fixed income annuity trusts or unitrust plans. The unitrust plan's payouts vary and may increase over time. Certain unitrust plans even permit you to make gifts of real estate and unique properties.

Whether a gift annuity or charitable trust appeals to you, now is the perfect time to make a gift. The last few months of the year offer the opportunity to assess your financial successes and needs and prepare for the new year that is right around the corner.

Please call Larry Arick, director of advancement, at (901) 432-7727 or e-mail larick@hugsr.edu to discuss how you can get the most from your year-end gift.

Chili Supper Scheduled

The Memphis chapter of Associated Women for Harding will host its annual Chili Supper and Pie Auction Saturday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the Church of Christ at White Station. For tickets or more information, contact Brenda Curtis at dean@hugsr.edu or (901) 761-1352.

How can you support students training for ministry?

A \$757 gift to the annual scholarship fund supports one student with a 50% scholarship. A \$1550 gift to an endowment fund supports one student each year with a 50% scholarship. Endowment funds can be established by cash gift, estate gift, or through a gift to a charitable annuity/charitable remainder trust.



Mac Lynn

Alumni Insights

Alpha Class: Reflections from the Class of 1959

During the past 50 years, the class of 1959 has drawn extensively from the experiences and influences gained from studying at Harding Graduate School. I am honored to share my experiences and involvement in God's kingdom, which have stemmed from the instruction, encouragement and academic preparation I received. As students, we were urged to "redeem the time" and use wisely every God-given talent for his glory. We were exhorted to pursue maximum accomplishment of good for those in the kingdom and those in the world.

I came to HUGSR aware of the excellent faculty, the fine facilities and Christian environment. I wanted to prepare myself for multiple forms of Christian involvement. Actually, six different areas of service in God's kingdom were my ultimate goal: preaching, Christian educa-



Finis Caldwell in his 1959 graduation photo (left) and today (right)



tion (in the classroom and local church), missionary work, counseling, extensive academic study, and travel throughout Bible lands. Most recently I wrote a book on David Caldwell, a significant 18th-century preacher and religious educator who made a profound impact on the Restoration Movement.

It has been a constant challenge for more than 50 years to strive to live up to the charge given by the Master Teacher to another excellent first-century teacher: "Thou that teacheth Israel, teacheth not thyself

also?" (Romans 2: 21).

I owe an eternal debt of gratitude to HUGSR. I am especially stimulated every day to strive with all my being to accomplish for God's glory those tasks faced and driven forward by the warmhearted memories of godly men and women such as Dr. and Mrs. W. B. West Jr., the esteemed Dr. Jack P. Lewis and Annie May Lewis, Dr. Richard Batey, Dr. Don Sime, the spiritual saint E. H. Ijams, and others. Rubbing elbows and wrestling both mentally and spiritually with some of the greatest minds of the 20th and 21st centuries has indeed been a God-given pleasure every day of my life.

My sincere prayer to almighty God, who rules the entire universe in the most impressive and competent manner, is that he will continue to pour out his bountiful blessings upon our great alma mater — straight into the eternal realm of his infinite and everlasting glory. In Jesus' name, Amen!

► *Finis Jay Caldwell Jr., M.R.E. 1959*
(mcaldwell@clgw.net)

Graduate School alumni gather at the Global Missions Conference in July at the Arlington, Texas, Convention Center.



PHOTO BY DALE HENRY

Strength and Challenges

Editor's note: Stan Granberg (M.Th., 1983, sgranberg@kairoschurchplanting.org) and his wife, Gena, spent 10 years as church planters in Meru, Kenya. They were instrumental in planting 40 churches. Now, based out of Portland, Ore., the Granbergs lead the Kairos Church Planting ministry, empowering congregations and church planting teams to take the Gospel to unreached people in North America. This article is excerpted from his e-newsletter.



GENA and STAN GRANBERG

My wife and I have the opportunity to travel widely across the country, observing, listening to and engaging in conversation with the fellowship of churches of Christ. As we do this, I keep a travelogue of what we are learning, and I pray these considerations will encourage and challenge you as you serve God in his great kingdom.

Our heritage is blessed by a powerful “believers’ church” theology that, in its strength, is not complacent with the world as it is. For church planting, it is this theological heritage that critiques pragmatism or personal preference as the foundation for decision making about what a church planter will do. Our believers’ church heritage should help us live out God’s desires in the midst of the fiercely opposing values of a world where the “prince of this world” rules.

Our fellowship is blessed by a deep desire to obey, rooted in a trust in God’s word. When this desire to obey is based on relationship — knowing God — we do well. When this desire to obey is interpreted as being knowledgeable of the word — disconnected from rela-

tionship with a relational God — we lapse into law keeping.

Our fellowship, and probably God’s people in general, tend to do better when we are travelers and not settlers. Our call is still the call of Abraham to leave Ur and of Moses to leave Egypt so that we can experience God as we travel with him. Here are three areas that for me constitute the road our fellowship in this generation has yet to travel:

- ▶ We need to reduce our pride and arrogance, which is evidenced by our spirit of debate and our well-honed ability to critique. The most damaging evidence of this sin is our struggle with spiritual submission to those whom God brings with spiritual authority into our lives. I confess, I am truly a child of my heritage; I feel I can do better than “they” can. May the Lord enrich my willingness to be blessed by others.
- ▶ We must serve the world as part of the fellowship of the broken. Our strong, “set apart” exclusivity has not only separated us from other believers’ traditions, but also it has often separated us from the world God intends for us to serve. If we are to be salt and light among lost people, we need to recognize that we, too, are members of the fellowship of the broken. It is this personal recognition that will raise our level of compassion out of the pew and into a life of transforming service in God’s world.
- ▶ Lastly, we must develop a culture of generosity at the level of the congregation. My experience is that as individuals our fellowship can be generous. This has seldom been my experience at the congregational level. Giving without expecting the benefit of the gift must truly be the definition of generous giving. My experiences suggest that generous giving is a road our churches have yet to travel.

May God bless us all as we learn together how to minister as a fellowship, calling one another to God’s mission among lost people!

An Overview of 50 Years

- 1951 W.B. West Jr. (1907-1994) began teaching at Harding
- 1954 Jack Lewis began teaching at Harding
- 1955 First classes offered in Memphis
- 1957 Mansion and campus acquired by Harding
- 1959 First graduating class in Memphis
- 1963 Annie May Alston Lewis (1917-2006) became librarian
- 1964 L.M. Graves Library built
- 1964 Harding-Brewer apartments built
- 1972 Harold Hazelip became dean
- 1977 Doctor of Ministry program began
- 1978 Library addition built
- 1978 W.B. West Jr. Center built
- 1986 C. Philip Slate became dean
- 1993 Bill Flatt became dean
- 1993 Mansion fire
- 1995 Master of Arts in Counseling program began
- 1997 Accreditation by Association of Theological Schools
- 1997 Benson town houses built
- 1999 Evertt W. Huffard became dean
- 1999 Harding-Brewer apartments remodeled
- 2002 Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program began
- 2003 Distance learning program MinistryConnection begins
- 2006 Library expansion completed
- 2008 50th annual commencement, first MinistryConnection students graduate

Fifty More Years

It's not a political rally but the future of Harding Graduate School that elicits from me the cry, "50 more years!"

Over the past few months, I was blessed to do research into the history of the Graduate School and discover much about my own heritage here.

It began with Bobby Ross from the Christian Chronicle visiting campus to write a story about our 50th graduation. I did a lot of research for his visit, not knowing what information he would need in his brief stay. This research, coupled with his interviews with students, alumni and professors, gave me a glimpse into the impact the School has had in the lives of ministers, counselors and other leaders throughout the years.

My research continued when *Harding* magazine wanted a story about the history

of the Graduate School. This was more daunting since my name was on the byline! As I wrote the story, I saw threads and themes weave together into a cohesive story: men and women going against the odds to make a great school.

Such a history gives us great hope for a vibrant future. In particular, two areas will likely distinguish the Graduate School over the course of our next 50 years.

- ▶ **Spiritual formation of ministers.** The role of minister as leader can only be addressed in an academic community by viewing ministers as children of God on a spiritual journey. Their own spiritual health bodes well for their ability to lead other communities into spiritual health. The Graduate School will continue to foster this personal growth among students.

- ▶ **Continued academic rigor.** In a world where easy education is easy to find, our commitment to excellence in ministry training becomes even more important. Spiritual leaders are forged not by learning tips and tricks but by the rewarding labor of building heart, mind and strength. Uncompromising standards for learning, passion for seeking God and a heart for service cannot be obtained with a "get the degree quick" mentality.

A strong history leading toward a strong future promises that Harding University Graduate School of Religion will play an important role in the future of God's kingdom for the next 50 years as well!

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