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Harding School of Theology

Summer 2015

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THE Bridge

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Leadership Council to Honor Huffards

He is a graduate of Lubbock Christian University, Harding University, Harding School of Theology and Fuller Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of Lubbock Christian University, Harding University, University of Memphis and Harding School of Theology. His degrees include the A.A., B.A., M.A., M.Th., and Ph.D. Her degrees include the A.A., B.A., M.Ed., M.A., and Ed.D. Professionally, they have worked in a laundry list of positions including missionary, preacher, professor, church leader and mission

team consultant, leadership developer, Middle East tour guide, author, director of graduate education programs, graduate school executive director, vice president, and dean and held teaching appointments on every level from elementary school through graduate school.

An incomplete list of ways they have served is equally overwhelming: church elder; urban ministry work in Memphis and Los Angeles; participant in a diplomacy project in Amman, Jordan; advisory board member of Lubbock Christian University



Drs. Ileene and Evertt Huffard

Education Department; city missions church ministry member; world missions church ministry member;

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HARDING
 SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DINNER 2015 • HONORING EVERTT & ILEENE HUFFARD

— NOVEMBER 14, 2015 —



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THE Bridge

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DEAN'S NOTE

Why I Love HST: Personal Reflections

As I begin serving as dean at HST, I want to reflect on why I love this school and consider it a privilege to pour my life into it.

My love for HST has roots in the early 60s when my dad took two courses taught in HST's earliest extension work, carried out by a few professors with pilots licenses. Dad, a salesman for a pharmaceutical company and living in Rome, Georgia, took courses in John and Romans — the only formal training in Bible he ever received. They changed his life. He began

his life. The indirect influence of those two courses on my own life is immeasurable.

Fast forwarding to 1974, I had just graduated from Harding in Searcy after three years in the then junior college Freed-Hardeman. I took my first full-time summer job in ministry, preaching for the Scott City (Missouri) Church of Christ. I thought I knew a lot about the Bible and ministry. To give an example of how little that was, one of my accomplishments was to get the men's business meeting (no elders) to stop the man who counted the attendance

My small world was rocked in that first year. I fell in love with what I was learning and stayed two more years. What I received was a life-altering education.

teaching classes at church on John or Romans whenever possible. From the early 60s until his death in 1989, he served as a Bible school teacher, occasional preacher and, for many years, an elder in Birmingham and Atlanta.

In roughly 1961, Dad's HST professor, Dr. Donald Sime, took him and me up in the HST plane to fly around Rome, Georgia. At 10 years old, my first airplane ride was all that was important to me about the school. However, looking back I can see the role HST played in Dad's service to the church throughout the last three decades of

in our half a dozen or so Sunday morning classes because he wasn't faithful — he did not attend on Wednesday nights. He and his wife left that church. My views of most matters concerning theology and ministry were absolutely black and white, rigid, and poorly informed.

I came to Harding Graduate School that fall to get a credential, an M.A., working toward possible Ph.D. work. A close friend urged me to consider the M.Th. degree (today's M.Div.), but I was sure I didn't need it. However, my small world was rocked in that first year. I fell



Black

in love with what I was learning and stayed two more years. What I received was a life-altering education. When I took up full-time ministry again in 1977, I was a different person with a better informed understanding of the Bible and ministry and a deeper, more mature faith.

When I enrolled in Emory's Ph.D. program in 1980, my fondest hope was to teach at HST. The fulfillment of that dream seemed unlikely since HST already had two New Testament professors. I was shocked and delighted when I received a call in early 1983 that a New Testament position was open. That fall I began living my dream.

Many years ago I had an opportunity to hear Dr. LeMoine Lewis, Dr. Jack's brother, speak. He reminisced about his formative days at Harvard. Near the end, I was struck by his statement that if he had a chance to visit Harvard, he would "kiss the floors and kiss the doors." I feel the same way about what HST did for me.

In the past 32 years I have seen hundreds of students whose lives have been impacted like mine and who are now scattered around the world making an impact for the kingdom of God.

Dr. Allen Black
(ablack@hst.edu)

We Want You!

... To join us for HST's 15th Annual Run for the Son on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 8 a.m. on our campus. Here's why:

When you show up on race day you strengthen the HST community. It encourages friends of HST to see others support the work and mission of the school. When we hold a public event, we remind our neighbors of our existence and commitment to this area. There are many participants who have no other connection to HST — they just enjoy entering races or want to engage with other Memphians. We love Memphis and our community, and we want to display our love. This race is a way to make new connections.

When you participate you are supporting HST students. Most of our students could not continue their edu-

cation without scholarship assistance. This would not only be a loss for the student but also for the church as a whole. Any sort of student scholarship at HST comes directly from donors like you. Race entry fees (\$12/early or \$15/day of the race) and any additional funds that you raise or give go toward those student scholarships.

Most importantly, we get to glorify our God. When we can do something and point to God, making his name known to those who may not know him, we can consider that activity a success. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

How can you participate?

- Take part in the 5K Run or the 1-mile Fun Walk.

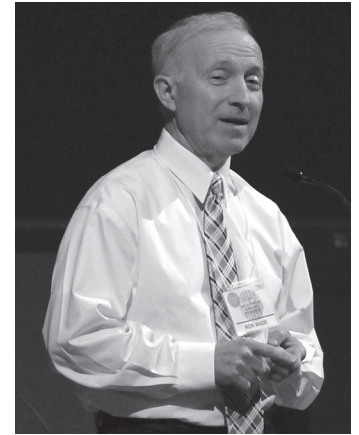


- Be a cheerleader and encourage our racers from the sidelines.
- Choose a side in the Faculty/Student Association Challenge. Each dollar raised in this friendly competition adds one minute to the opposing team's combined run time. Will youth and vigor trump age and wisdom? You decide by your support.

Remember, you don't have to be an Ironman to run for the Son. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, Sept. 19. If you have any questions, please call 901-432-7723, email hstadvancement@hst.edu, or visit hst.edu/run for more information.

Rachel Denzin
(rdenzin@hst.edu)

BRIEFS



Quotable

"Jesus asked his disciples to visit those in prison in Matthew 25. Most of us haven't considered visiting the prisons — not because we are not interested but because we don't know anyone in prison. Prison ministry is a neglected area of evangelism and relationship building that is easy to learn and can provide the most rewarding outcomes. Because of the large number of people in the U.S. incarcerated in jail or prisons, the opportunities for sharing the love of Christ to someone who is seeking God may be unprecedented in our lifetime."

Ron Wade
Executive Director
of HopeWorks

'I Was in Prison and You Visited Me'

MATTHEW 25:36

Harding School of Theology encourages faculty, staff and students to be involved in ministries beyond our work here. Employee Vernon Perry has recruited several of us to work in prison ministry. Perry has an incredible story of spiritual transformation. He was incarcerated in northern Mississippi and converted by a man named Paul. Now he wants to pass on the blessing he received by serving those who are incarcerated.

This past June, Perry joined HST alumni Evertt Huffard, Ron Wade, Chris Altrock, Thomas Snow, Leon

Sanderson, Marisol Biser and Jim Harbin as well as Harding board member John Reese in speaking at the National Jail and Prison Ministry Workshop. Highland Church of Christ in Cordova, Tennessee, hosted the workshop, which was sponsored by HopeWorks, the Tennessee jail and prison ministry, and area churches. The 200-plus attendees participated in sessions on topics ranging from addiction to volunteering. Perry spoke about obstacles that former inmates often experience as they reenter society. These obstacles might even include

difficulty securing basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter and a job.

I never thought two of my best friends would be people



who had spent most of their adult life incarcerated. These friends bless me every day, and I would not know them had I not gotten involved in prison ministry.

Larry Arick
(larick@harding.edu)

Vernon Perry speaks at the National Jail and Prison Ministry Workshop.

BRIEFS

Faculty Notes

HST Dean, Dr. **Allen Black** will speak on “Interpreting the Parables” at the Harding University Bible Lectureship Sept. 28. He will also speak at the Envision conference held on the Ohio Valley University campus Oct. 24.

New faculty member **Lance Hawley** wrote an article titled “The Agenda of Priestly Taxonomy: The Conceptualization of *tāmē’* and *šeqes* in Leviticus 11,” published in the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Dr. **Rick Oster** spoke on the “Letters to the Seven Churches” at the Jack P. Lewis Christian Studies Seminar hosted by the Church of Christ at White Station Aug. 29 and at the Baxter Institute, Honduras, Sept. 3-4. He will also speak at the Harding University Bible Lectureship in Searcy, Arkansas, Sept. 28.

This summer, Dr. **Mark Powell** spoke at Skyline Church of Christ in Jackson, Tennessee, and Missouri Street Church of Christ in West Memphis, Arkansas. He also presented a series from his book *Centered in God: The Trinity and Christian Spirituality* at Summer Celebration, Lipscomb University in July. Powell will present a similar series at the Harding University Bible Lectureship Sept. 30.

Dr. **Carlus Gupton** spoke on minister’s spirituality at the Memphis Regional One Clergy Wellness Conference and on leadership vision at the Lipscomb Summer Celebration. In the past few months, he has conducted 30 consultations with the leaders of several congregations. He continued interim preaching at Millington and also preached at the Granny White Church in Nashville and White Station in Memphis.



Congratulations to Our 2015 Graduates

MASTER OF ARTS

Brandon L. Moore

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Randy Steven Hohf
Lance Wade Love
Jesse L. Warren

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Eric Walker Allen
Benjamin Paul Brownfield
Nathaniel Seth Hudson
Jessica C. Mays
Barbara Ann Pruitt
Benjamin Roberts III
Eric G. Suddeath
Leah Ashley Walker

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Tim Alsup
Patrick Glen Barber
Steven Tramel Gaines
Bryan Henderson Greene
Christopher Keith May
Nathan Michael Myers
Timothy Stephen Pate

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Herbert Dale Hartman
Robert G. O’Lynn II

Is God Calling You?

Have you wondered if God is calling you to ministry? Do you think God might want you to preach, be a missionary, or serve in some other ministry? Just how do you know? This is both an intensely personal and a deeply communal question. It’s personal because God calls us as individuals. In the Bible, he communicated with different people in different ways: the prophet Isaiah gave some pretty long speeches; the prophet Ezekiel had some amazing visions. It’s communal because as Christians, we only fully live our faith in the context of the church.

Here are five questions that I suggest to people asking if God is calling them to

ministry. Not all of these are equally vital, but they can help frame a conversation about calling.

1. Are you **ministering** where you are? If you’re not already serving, you won’t start serving because you get a new job title. Ideally, you get the job title because you’re serving.
2. Are you **content** where you are? If God will let you be content where you are, he is probably content to leave you there. But if he’s giving you a holy discontent — a lack of peace about your life and level of service — then he may be calling you for ministry.
3. Do people turn to you for

spiritual wisdom? You won’t suddenly become a leader when you get a title. If you want to know if you’re a leader, check to see if anyone is following. If you want to know if you are called to minister, one sign may be that people come to you for spiritual wisdom.

4. Are you getting **confirmation** from your **spiritual community**? Are people in your congregation encouraging you to think about ministry? Are you being asked to teach, lead devotionals or plan retreats? Not all congregations recognize leadership from within, but if you are getting this type

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Student Profile: Clint Boyd

M. Div. student Clint Boyd grew up in what he calls a “culturally Christian” family in McMinnville, Tennessee, but his faith and practice waxed and waned over the years. While an English/education major at Middle Tennessee State University, he was more interested in playing in a band than anything else. Then a friend who planned to do mission work in Africa persuaded him to get involved with the campus ministry. The group reignited his desire to serve God, and an exchange student named Linli sparked his interest in China.

In the middle of his B.A. degree, Boyd accepted a full scholarship to study Mandarin at Hangzhou Normal University in China. While there, he worked with house churches. At the end of the school year, he and Linli were married. After finishing his degree at MTSU, Boyd came to HST on the recommendation of Ed Short (M.A., 1976), the senior Chinese producer for World Christian Broadcasting.

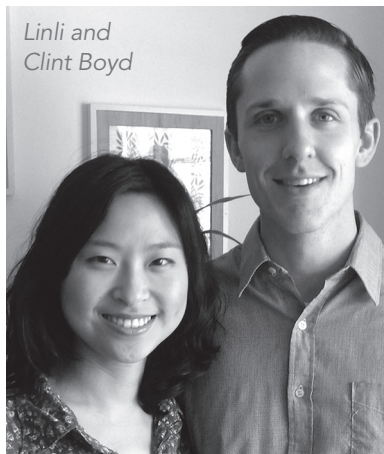
Harding Academy of Memphis hired Boyd this past spring to develop and recruit for their international

student program. Their goal is to offer an immersive experience for foreign high school students, combining regular coursework with English as a second language and support classes, as well as a first year Bible class specifically for international students. Having studied Chinese, Greek and Hebrew, Boyd can empathize with ESL students.

Working with the international program means Boyd’s HST degree may take a little longer to complete, but the opportunity to participate in this flipped mission work was too good to pass up. “We’re assuming most of these students will have had little or no exposure to the Bible,” Boyd notes. “This is a way to live out the Great Commission.” He credits his studies at HST for equipping him for this role. The benefit will be mutual,

he believes. “Students who come [for this program] will be a blessing to other Harding Academy students, broadening their horizons.”

Eventually Boyd would like to return to China where his wife’s family still lives. He’d like to continue working in education and missions. Studying at HST has taught him to explore different perspectives — to be able to sift



through large amounts of information and think about it critically. “It’s becoming more and more clear,” Boyd says, “that God can use me

in Chinese ministry, whether here or in China. English and educational administration are my tent making.”

More information on Harding Academy’s international student program can be found at www.hardingacademymemphis.org/international-students/.

Is God Calling You? *continued from Page 4*

of confirmation, it can be helpful. If you’re not in a spiritual community, then that is a warning sign to me.

5. What **passion** has God given you? God gave me a passion for working with college students. I’ve known others who had a passion for preaching or missions or youth ministry. You may not have a clear

vision for a particular type of ministry, but what are you passionate about?

As you think through these questions, you may want to share them with someone who knows you well. If you would like to talk and pray through this with me, please call or email to get in touch.

If you believe God wants you to serve in ministry, HST is a great place to be equipped. Many of our students keep their current job and home and learn from a distance. Call, text or email today!

Matt Carter
(mrcarter@hst.edu)

901-432-7744

Admissions Text Line:

901-300-3955

BRIEFS

Faculty Notes

This summer, vice president **Jim Martin** spoke at Westside Church of Christ, Russellville, Arkansas; Skyline Church of Christ, Jackson, Tennessee; Senatobia Church of Christ, Senatobia, Mississippi; Germantown Church of Christ, Germantown, Tennessee; and Saturn Road Church of Christ, Garland, Texas.

Dr. **Dave Bland** made a presentation at the Faculty Colloquium Series at Harding University titled “My Journey From Resistance to Acceptance: Teaching Performance Classes in an Online Environment” in March. He spoke at the Pepperdine Lectureship in May on “Preaching James,” and at Senatobia Church of Christ, on “Christians’ Relationship to Creation,” Aug. 5. Bland has two books and two articles submitted for publication; more details will be in the next issue of the Bridge.

During the summer, Director of Admissions **Matt Carter** spoke about spiritual gifts at the Senatobia Church of Christ and the Park Avenue Church of Christ. He represented HST at the Lipscomb Summer Celebration and the Campus for Christ Conference.

Librarian **Bob Turner** made a presentation at the annual conference of the American Theological Library Association held in Denver during June. His presentation highlighted how HST has facilitated collaboration among the researchers and collectors digitizing historical materials in the Stone-Campbell Movement.

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

BRIEFS

Alumni Notes

Mark Sneed (M.A., 1986), adjunct instructor, announces the publication of his book *The Social World of the Sages: An Introduction to Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature* (Fortress). For more information, visit www.fortresspress.com/product/social-world-sages-introduction-israelite-and-jewish-wisdom-literature.

Congratulations to **Chris Buxton** (M.Div., 2010), who received the Jim Brinkerhoff Servant Leader Award at the 2015 Campus for Christ Conference for leaders in campus ministry in Austin, Texas, July 30-31.

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We're on facebook

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Tweet Away



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

Alumni Reflect on Huffard's Legacy

Dr. Everett W. Huffard has had such an enormous impact on the Kingdom of God and churches of Christ specifically. The Jeff Wallings and Patrick Meads and Don McLaughlins and Rick Atchleys of the world (no disrespect to them) might have headlined more lectureships, but Dr. Huffard has been every bit, if not more, influential. He always tried to pull our academic world of Harding School of Theology toward ministry mindedness.

At our Kairos Church Planting banquet the other night, it was cool to hear guys like Ron Clark and Wilson Parrish voice how Huffard's thoughts and advice shaped them as planters. I know he certainly has meant a lot to me and Scott Lambert and Bruce Bates as well. My prayer is only that he is even freer to do whatever the Lord calls now. Blessings to Al-

len Black. Certainly HST could not have found a replacement with a greater heart for the Lord and other people.

*Caleb A. Borchers
(M.Div., 2010)*

*Reprinted from Facebook
(Oct. 27, 2014) with permission*

I first met Dr. Huffard in winter 1998. He was conducting an intensive class on spiritual leadership in Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada, a place 200 miles northwest of Winnipeg and once home to Western Christian College. Imagine if you can, snow a couple of feet deep and temperatures that would drop to -40 at night and warm up to -20 or so during the day. Not only was Dr. Huffard to be my instructor, but I also had the responsibility of safely delivering him from Winnipeg to Dauphin and back again when the week was done, despite near blizzard

conditions both ways.

I specifically remember two things from that class. One, I did not have a clue what "Turabian" was. Two, I saw for the first time what God had done to prepare me for ministry. Dr. Huffard, through our class and our bonding in snowy travels, helped me understand the providential work of God in my childhood, as a young Christian, and my mission work in Canada. God was shaping me in all circumstances. I have been blessed to know Everett for 17 years, and I continue to witness his ability to help people see God at work in their own lives and in the lives of people around them. I thank God for that gift and am tremendously grateful for our friendship. Grace and peace.

*Scott Laird
(M.A.C.M., 2013;
D.Min. program)*



Dr. Everett Huffard works in a market simulation during the 2014 Global Missions Conference.

Resources on Homosexuality and Same-Sex Marriage

The Supreme Court's recent decision on same-sex marriage has prompted many Christians to carefully examine biblical, theological, pastoral and legal issues related to homosexuality. Here are some recommended resources:

Wesley Hill. *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. 160 pages. In this personal account, Hill shares his struggles with the biblical teaching on homosexuality, the loneliness he feels as a man with persistent same-sex attraction, and his longing to be pleasing to God as a celibate gay Christian.

Dan Via and Robert Gagnon. *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003. 117 pages. Two respected

New Testament scholars debate the implications of the biblical teaching on homosexuality. Gagnon, who holds the traditional view, is widely regarded as a leading scholar on homosexuality in Scripture. A fuller presentation of his views is found in Gagnon's book *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. 520 pages.

Sally Gary. *Loves God, Likes Girls: A Memoir*. Abilene: Leafwood Press, 2013. 239 pages. Gary, a member of churches of Christ, tells the story of her struggle with same-sex attraction and her belief that she should not act on these attractions. She is the founder and director of CenterPeace, a non-profit ministry dedicated to help-

ing "churches and families worldwide learn a more Christ-like response to individuals experiencing same-sex attraction." For more information see www.centerpeace.net.

Protecting Your Ministry From Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Lawsuits. Alliance Defending Freedom, 2015. The legal issues stemming from the Supreme Court decision are still unclear, but this free guide is a starting place for churches, Christian schools, and Christian ministries who want to communicate their convictions about marriage and protect themselves from lawsuits. This 40-page guide can be downloaded at <https://goo.gl/iA8u7d>.

Compiled by Mark E. Powell, professor of theology (mpowell@hst.edu)

Dinner to Honor Huffards *continued from Page 1*

grant writer; school consultant; and mentor. Personally, they fill the positions of spouse, parent of three, grandparent of seven, and friend to many.

Dr. Evertt Huffard has served at Harding School of Theology as executive director from 1999-2006, vice president from 2006-14, and dean from 1999-2015. Dr. Ileene Huffard has served as the director of graduate studies in education at the Mid-South Professional Center since 2010. Their service and work reaches far beyond any one geographical place, institution or body of people. The Huffards have dedicated

their lives to furthering God's kingdom across the globe. From mentoring single individuals to large congregations, the gospel they preach is the same one that guides their life on a daily basis, and it is obvious in everything they do.

Harding School of Theology's 2015 Leadership Council Dinner will honor Drs. Evertt and Ileene Huffard for their service and commitment to Harding School of Theology and, more importantly, for their impact on the church as a whole. Through this event, which will include a video, a theme reflecting their work, and special entertainment,

we will honor them for their tireless work and the way they have allowed God to use them in every area of their lives by service to God, the church and his people. The dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14, will be one small way that we show our gratitude toward these two faithful followers of Christ.

If you would like more information about the dinner or how you can honor Evertt and Ileene, you may contact the Advancement Office by calling 901-432-7723 or emailing hstadvancement@hst.edu

Rachel Denzin
(rdenzin@hst.edu)

BRIEFS

Review: Sermon Design App

The process of producing a sermon can get cluttered. To help preachers streamline the process, **Steven Hovater** (M.Div., 2008) has produced *Sermon Design*. The app is laid out in six stages: plan, listen, focus, structure, write and deliver. Write and deliver are comparable to a stripped-down word processor while the others are more suited to the planning, research and development of a sermon. The app's simple design and layout allows users to perform both basic tasks (printing the sermon) and more advanced tasks (alerting Twitter followers about it).

The thing that distinguishes Hovater's product from a generic organizer like Evernote is how it incorporates 14 major homiletical strategies ranging from basic forms such as traditional and devotional to more advanced forms that have been popularized by leading homileticians, such as Eugene Lowry's "Loop" and Paul Scott Wilson's "Four Pages." It also provides other prompts relative to the sermon so that preachers can contemplate not only how their pieces fit together thematically but also in terms of mood and tone. The app goes beyond simply organizing the sermon; it inspires it.

At the very least, *Sermon Design* will help preachers organize their next sermon series. But at its best, it's a digital way of welcoming the great recent preachers and thinkers to comment on the development of the sermon. I've used *Sermon Design* for my own work and recommend it to everyone.

Bob Turner
(rjturner@hst.edu)

FINAL WORD

Learn More

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

Campus for Christ. <http://www.campuscrosswalk.org/>

Hawley, Lance. "The Agenda of Priestly Taxonomy: The Conceptualization of *ṭāmē'* and *šeqeš* in Leviticus 11," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 77 (2015): 231-249.

Hemenway, Joanne. *Forget Them Not: a Holistic Guide to Prison Ministry*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.

HopeWorks. <http://www.whyhope-works.org/>

Huffard, Evertt W. "The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam." *Missiology* 36, no. 4 (Oct. 2008): 527-528.

----- "Reaching the Resistant: Barriers

and Bridges for Mission." *Missiology* 29, no. 1 (Jan. 2001): 92.

----- "When Scholarship Goes South: Biblical Scholarship and Global Trends." *Restoration Quarterly* 48, no. 2 (2006): 65-72.

Kairos Church Planting. <http://kairoschurchplanting.org/>

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot, Expanded Edition: the Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

National Jail & Prison Ministry Workshop. <http://www.nationalprisonworkshop.org/>

Sermon Design. <http://www.sermondesign.com>

Shepherds Network. <http://www.lifeandleadership.com/shepherdnetwork>

Sneed, Mark. *The Social World of the Sages: An Introduction to Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2015.

Spitale, Lennie. *Prison Ministry: Understanding Prison Culture Inside and Out*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Turabian, Kate. *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*. University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: a Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1999.

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

Sheila Owen
(sowen@hst.edu)