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Harding School of Theology

Spring 2005

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the Bridge

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IJAMS

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Two Vital Keys to Preaching in the Collegiate Context

They often arrive late, exhausted from overextended social schedules, bruised by broken hearts, or alert to budding romances. The bright young folks that fill college halls today will soon teach our children, engineer our infrastructure and prescribe our medications. Sunday morning they file into church with various spiritual expectations. The preacher is but one of many voices contributing to the “activity of seeking and discovering meaning in the most comprehensive dimensions of our experience,” notes Sharon Daloz Parks in *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*. Although each college student is unique, as a group they are children of their generation and therefore have some common history and concerns that must be respected if the sermon is to affect the critical years during which they achieve social and spiritual independence. Listening to their questions can assist the preacher in being heard over the many voices competing

for the students’ attention.

1. Is this preacher genuine?

The sermon will quickly create an impression on the college students as to whether the preacher can be trusted with their quest for truth. Living in a world full of spam, telemarketing, and credit card hawkers in the student union, today’s students are savvy to what is too slick and too pushy. The sermon that struggles honestly with issues and respects the challenges encountered on today’s campus is most likely to win a hearing and leave an impression.

2. Is this preacher tolerant?

Students will seek to learn from the lesson if the church is a safe place to come and bring their friends. Preaching in an accepting style does not mean soft-peddling the truth. The preacher needs to extend kindness even while expressing disapproval with current trends or worldviews. In *More Ready Than You Realize*, Brian McLaren notes that “Jesus was short on sermons, long on conversations; short on answers, long on questions; short on abstractions and

propositions, long on stories and parables; short on telling you what to think, long on challenging you to think for yourself...” The inductive method provides one preaching style that allows the student to observe the preacher as he pieces together the answers to life’s questions, one biblical clue at a time.

The preacher is faced with the difficult responsibility of calling college students to “live holy and blameless lives” (Ephesians 1:4). May the



MCLARTY

words of Paul guide us to acknowledge our need for forgiveness (v.7) and admit our blind spots (v.18), that we might effectively proclaim the wonderful mystery of His will in Christ (v.9) to the present generation of college students.

▶ Karl McLarty, M.Div., 1993, D.Min., 2002 (k-mclarty@juno.com). McLarty was the campus minister for seven years at the Madigan Avenue Church of Christ (now the Morgantown Church of Christ) in Morgantown, W.Va. He moved into the pulpit position in 2000.

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Dean's Note

Global Priorities

The necessity to prioritize a bond with God's people and to develop a sense of mission is the crying need of the postmodern Christian. But instead of a costly commitment to the kingdom, many believers are characterized by fragmentation, individualism, and a consumer mentality toward the church.

► *Cynthia Westfall in Family in the Bible*

Massive loss of life in the past or in current history must heighten the sense of urgency and intensity of our mission in the world.

By A.D. 303, Diocletian, Emperor of Rome, may have killed 500,000 Christians in a 10-year period.

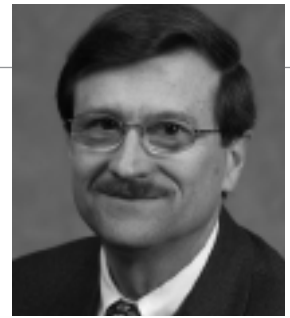
Antioch of Syria was destroyed by earthquake once every 200 years. In 526, an earthquake hit the city and killed 250,000.

The Spanish Inquisition began in 1478, and 120,000 Spanish intellectuals were executed by 1498. Spaniards conquered Meso-Americans, and within a hundred years — by 1619 — they reduced the population from 40 million to 4 million through war, disease, starvation and forced labor.

The loss of more than 150,000 lives in the Asian tsunami — along with massive devastation — changed priorities for the survivors and for those who tirelessly provide relief aid. It is hard for me to imagine the impact of so much loss. It is even

more painful to reflect on the spiritual loss, or the impact this will have on all of the survivors. I can only hope there is a good church in their neighborhood to meet these special needs. Reality tells me this is not likely. We need more mature churches planting more churches in the world to serve in such circumstances. For these churches to mature or for new churches to be planted, we need more well-trained servants with global priorities.

When we are pulled in more directions than we can manage, we may go into a spin like a car on ice. Our options? Learn how to drive on ice or decide when to stay off the road. Either option will force us to depend on the Lord. With my weekly schedule so full of appointments, speaking events, travel on weekends, chapel talks, church ministry, funerals, mentoring, endless e-mails, research, teaching class, returning phone calls and family needs, setting priorities becomes a matter of sur-



HUFFARD

vival. Mark Twain said, "As we lost our goal, we doubled our speed." Late nights at the office will just not get it all done anymore. How can I be an effective servant with so much unfinished business?

A global disaster gets our attention and we rethink our priorities. The ultimate goal of the church and its mission is to glorify God. This translates into persistence in faith for new believers, which can only be done through faithful involvement in the church. If the church fails to set its priorities by a global mission, our spiritual growth will be stunted. Can global priorities impact the spin-out of personal lives? It does for me. A short-term mission trip can jolt us back to reality. A 10-day trip back to the church in Nazareth, Israel, in December refreshed my global priorities. On a larger scale, mega events may force a tension in the church between our "busy-as-usual" routine and our priorities. It is the jolt that graduate students often experience as they step out of the routine of life to better equip themselves for a lifetime of ministry.

Rising above "fragmentation, individualism, and a consumer mentality toward the church," is to reprioritize the "costly commitment to the kingdom" in our churches and lives.

► Evertt W. Huffard
(dean@hugsr.edu)

Hull Scholars Announced

Each year the Midtown Church of Christ in Memphis supports promising African-American full-time students as they prepare for a lifetime of ministry. One key resource for this support is the M.A. Hull Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship began as an initial gift of \$50,000 to honor Brother Hull, preacher emeritus of the Midtown congregation. An additional \$50,000 was raised in the spring of 2000 to bring the total endowed gift to \$100,000.

This year four students received the M.A. Hull Scholarship.

BRIAN AYERS was 32, married, and working with a program geared toward helping adolescent offenders in Southaven, Miss., when he realized his desire to be a minister. He expressed his interest to Dr. Harold Redd at Midtown Church of Christ, and found out about the M.A. Hull Scholarship. He began classes the following year and now works at the Raleigh Springs Church of Christ in Memphis. Brian believes he has three great rewards from being involved in ministry. The first is the stronger relationship he has developed with God and His people. The second is saving souls. The third is the great relationship God has blessed him to establish with Brother Hull and with his mentor, Dr. Redd. He says, "Their major concern is doing the will of God, and these relationships are priceless to me. I thank God for the vision

that He has bestowed on both of these men to create the M.A. Hull Scholarship Fund that will continue to assist in spreading the Gospel long after we have gone. That is a great reward."

Before coming to the Graduate School, **JERRARD DAVIS** had no experience in ministry. He was 26 and planning a career in philosophy when he was providentially led to pursue ministry. He says, "The Graduate School has opened my mind to different aspects of religion, research and ministry." After working with the Midtown congregation, Jerrard feels that the greatest reward gained in ministry is developing ministerial skills and passing them on to someone else. He adds that, for a minister, "ultimately the greatest goal is assisting someone in giving their life to Christ and encouraging them to remain faithful to God."

HAMILTON ARCHIBALD was a newlywed who had just graduated from Harding University when he began attending the Graduate School. His decision to attend was based on the recommendations he received from his minister and undergraduate faculty. Hamilton, who has just completed his

first semester, says, "I can already see the challenge this education has to offer. The closeness of the students is becoming more apparent with time, and I look forward to more semesters to better understand the Graduate School experience." He works with the Earle, Ark., Church of Christ.

Another recent graduate, **JASON MANNING**, started attending the Graduate School after graduating from Ohio Valley College. Jason was attracted to the Graduate School's urban setting because he plans to do inner-city church planting, and he saw the need for further education to maximize his ministry potential. He can already see that the Graduate School has increased his knowledge of the Bible significantly. Jason works with the Midtown Church of Christ.

Endowed scholarships like the M.A. Hull fund allow individuals and congregations to honor in perpetuity significant people and help support excellent students. If you would like more information about establishing an endowed scholarship fund, please contact the Advancement Office at (901) 761-1355 or e-mail Larry Arick at larick@hugsr.edu.



Hull Scholars are Brian Ayers, Hamilton Archibald, Jason Manning and Jerrard Davis.

Marriage Matters

Jerry Jones (M.Th., 1963) and Lynn Jones have started Marriage Matters, a 13-session seminar that focuses on incorporating God into real-life issues of marriage and family. Each year, Jerry and Lynn travel the country teaching seminars on how to sustain good, godly marriages. The seminar is also available on cassette and audiotapes. For more information about Marriage Matters or to book a seminar, please visit their Web site at www.marriagematters.ws. Part of the proceeds of the videotape series go to the Graduate School scholarship fund.

Run for the Son

Runners from across the Mid-South will come together April 30 for the annual Run for the Son, a 5-K fun run and 1-K fun walk hosted by the Memphis chapter of the Associated Women for Harding.

Registration for runners will be available online in mid-March.

The annual event raises nearly \$30,000 for the annual scholarship fund at the Graduate School. Those wishing to sponsor Graduate School students in the run may send \$100 to the Advancement Office.

BRIEFS

Library Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition to the L.M. Graves Library will be held March 31. Chapel and the annual Advancement Council luncheon will follow the ceremony.

The new addition, the Oliver and Norma Rogers Research Center, will house a new "smart" classroom for a teaching library and Internet research tools, a reading area, and periodicals. This vital addition will free space for the library's holding of more than 124,000 books and more than 600 journal subscriptions.

The \$1.2 million project will ensure that students have a state-of-the-art research facility and that the library collection can continue to expand.

Ministry Forum

Annual Forum Slated for April 7

"Young Adult and Campus Ministry" focus of program

Harding University Graduate School of Religion will host the annual Ministry Forum on April 7 with the theme "Young Adult and Campus Ministry." Featured speakers will include Matt Carter, Dr. Stan Granberg, Dr. Karl McLarty and Tim Stafford.

Collegiate and young adult ministry is a vital mission of the church to those navigating the dangerous pas-

sage between childhood faith and adult faith. As crucial as ministry is to collegians and other young adults, resources are spread thin. In the United States alone, there are 3,000 colleges and universities. Churches of Christ operate ministries on about 200 of these campuses, and not all of those have full-time staff.

This year's Ministry Forum focuses on the church's opportunities for young adult and campus ministry. Each of the

four speakers has experience in developing relationships between the church and young adults.

Ministry Forum runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a luncheon at which Dr. Evertt W. Huffard will announce the 2005 Alumnus of the Year. For more information, or if you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Steve McLeod at (901) 761-1353 or smcleod@hugsr.edu.

Library expansion



An architect's rendering reveals the revamped look for the new addition to the library. Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held March 31. For additional information, see Briefs on Page 3.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Your gifts can bless the Graduate School and provide you secured income

A number of advertisements claim to be “the gift that keeps on giving,” but few can deliver on that promise. One exception is a gift to the endowment fund at Harding University Graduate School of Religion.

The endowment fund at the Graduate School was established to supply an ongoing income for scholarships and other needs of the school. Many friends have established specific funds within the endowment fund to help with areas in which they have a special interest. For example, scholarship funds have been established for missionaries, pulpit ministers, youth ministers, inner-city ministers, counselors and others.

Endowment gifts can be made to the Graduate School in a variety of ways, including:

1. Outright gifts through cash, appreciated stock, land, etc.
2. Deferred gifts are made by including the Graduate School in a will, or by retained life estates in which the deed to one’s house is signed over to the

school while the donor continues to live in the house for the remainder of his or her life rent free.

3. Gift annuities, in which a gift is made to the Graduate School with the agreement that the school will pay the donor an income for life and then use the remaining funds for endowment after the donor’s death.

For example, one friend of

Graduate School that will continue to help students and the church in perpetuity.

Every financial situation is unique, and donors need to act with consultation from tax or legal professionals. But the bottom line is that this type of gift continues to bless ministry students, while also continuing to bless you.

If you are interested in a gift that truly does keep on giving, think about setting up

an endowed fund at the Graduate School. The students it supports and the results of those students’ life-long work assure you the Lord’s work will continue after you are gone.

We would like the opportunity to visit with you and discuss the options for giving gifts that keep on giving. You will also be

investing in preparing those who will make a difference in the lives of people around the world. That return on investment is priceless. Call Larry Arick at (901) 761-1355 or e-mail larick@hugsr.edu and let us know a convenient time for you. May the Lord bless us as we work together to spread the borders of His Kingdom!

▶ *Larry Arick*
larick@hugsr.edu

One friend of the Graduate School recently looked at his CD portfolio and, with help from his tax adviser, realized he could use the funds from a maturing CD for a gift annuity earning several times more than rolling it over to another CD earning 2.5 percent.

the Graduate School recently looked at his CD portfolio and, with help from his tax adviser, realized he could use the funds from a maturing CD for a gift annuity earning several times more than rolling it over to another CD earning 2.5 percent. He receives income for life, a tax deduction now, tax-free income on part of the payments, and the ability to set up a scholarship at the

Gift Annuity Payment Rates

Selected Rates for One Person

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
55	5.5%	75	7.1%
60	5.7	80	8.0
65	6.0	85	9.5
70	6.5	90+	11.3

Selected Rates for Two Persons of the Same Age

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
55	5.0%	75	6.3%
60	5.4	80	6.9
65	5.6	85	7.9
70	5.9	90+	9.3

Please write for current benefits and rates for other ages. For illustrative purposes only.

BRIEFS

Study Biblical Archeology in the Lands of the Bible

May 29-June 3, 2006

Harding University campus in Athens, Greece

- ▶ Followed by a 12-day tour of Greece, Turkey and Israel
- ▶ Team-taught by professors Huffard, McMillion and Oster
- ▶ Participants may earn three hours of graduate credit

For more information, contact Brenda at dean@hugsr.edu.

Missions Emphasis Seen in Campus Residents

In a recent missions interest group meeting in the home of Drs. Evertt and Ileene Huffard, 40 students and spouses came together to share their dreams of serving God in global missions, church-planting, or urban ministry. Half of the resident students at the Graduate School plan to serve in one of these mission areas.

Book Review

Shank Offers Insights into Ijams' Life

The E.H. Ijams Building dominates the Harding University Graduate School of Religion campus and pays tribute to a key figure in the history of the institution and 20th-century Churches of Christ.

In his new book, *It's All about God: Including Thoughts from E.H. Ijams*, Harold Shank (MAR, 1977) offers insight into our relationship with God and the life of E.H. Ijams.

The book includes stories of Ijams as professor told by former students and staff such as Neil Anderson (now with *Gospel Advocate*), Paul Brown (currently ministering in Nashville), Clarence



SHANK

Dailey (with Nashville's Brentwood Hills church), Bill Flatt (still with the Graduate School), Harold Hazelip (chancellor at Lipscomb), Leon Sanderson (with the Memphis White Station church), Landon Saunders (ministering through Heartbeat), and Terry Smith (on staff at Woodmont Hills).

Research on the life of E. H. Ijams arose from the E. H. Ijams Collection, which will be housed in the newly expanded Graves Library on the Graduate School campus.

Photographs fill the book and include Ijams visiting

with founding dean, W. B. West, and a group photo of the faculty in the early 60s.

Who was E.H. Ijams?

He started preaching in 1911 and was the founder of what was one of the most evangelistic congregations among Churches of Christ in the 20th century. This congregation baptized 8,000 people in the first 20 years and led one of the most effective benevolent efforts of any church anywhere. For example, in four years in the late 1920s, they served 45,000 hot meals to the needy.

Ijams led in keeping Lipscomb University solvent during the Depression, and started his last ministry at Highland in Memphis when he was 73 years old. He consulted with George Pepperdine in planning a new college in Los Angeles, served as president of Lipscomb for 10 years, headed Georgia Christian School, and served on the faculty of the Graduate School in its early days. Men like Landon Saunders and Clarence Dailey claim that Ijams influenced them more than any other man.

A Unique Biography

The book's title comes from the central focus of Ijams' 96 years of life and is a living testimony to what he believed. The volume is built around 13 Bible studies on crucial elements involved in getting to know God. Shank

wrote the book after reading much of the massive material in the E. H. Ijams Collection. He brings the most potent statements from Ijams' generous pen back to print.

The volume is filled with photographs from Ijams' long tenure. Co-author David Ralston has created a photo history showing Ijams interacting with such notable figures as Marshall Keeble, Willard Collins, W. B. West, Harold Hazelip and Jack P. Lewis.

The book could be useful in several ways. It is arranged to be a Bible class text. The 13 chapters match the length of a quarter. Each chapter has Bible study questions at the end.

Additionally, individuals will be able to follow the path Shank charts as a devotional guide. Each chapter has a prayer at the end, and the Bible study text is amplified with thoughtful lines from Ijams. Those with an ear for stories will find the compact treatment of Ijams' life — including three interludes filled with pictures and stories — an easy way to consider the life of a noteworthy leader in our fellowship.

Additionally, all of the proceeds from the sale of the book go to the E.H. Ijams Scholarship Fund at the Graduate School. You may order the book from the Harding University Bookstore at (800) 477-4351 or by e-mailing hubookstore@harding.edu.

Plunket Brings the Word to Life

Editor's note: In November 2004, Rodney Plunket (M.Div., 1990) assumed the role of pulpit minister at the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis. Rodney now serves as chairman of the Harding Graduate School of Religion Leadership Council, encouraging those who support the work of training ministers for service. His varied overseas and domestic experiences offer a glimpse into the ministries led by Graduate School alumni. Rodney may be contacted at rplunket@cocws.org.

Q. Where were you in your life and your ministry when you came to the Graduate School?

A. I first came to the Graduate School in 1981, so I was in my late 20s and had been married about six years. Our two children, Callie and Chad, were about four- and two-years-old, respectively. I had preached for the Plainview Church of Christ in Florence, Ala., during my sophomore through senior years at Lipscomb. In addition, I had worked with the church in Dunedin, New Zealand. At the time of my initial enrollment at the Graduate School, I was serving as the associate minister and youth minister at the Cox Boulevard Church of Christ in Sheffield, Ala.

Q. Why did you begin thinking about graduate

school?

A. During my undergraduate work at Lipscomb, I experienced the joy of academic work in Bible. Through that study, I grew spiritually and my sermons deepened. I knew that I wanted to learn more. In addition, Dr. Harvey Floyd explicitly encouraged me to pursue academic work in Bible.

Margaret and I moved to New Zealand within four months of my graduation from Lipscomb and our wedding. I was assigned to teach at the Otago Bible Chair in Dunedin; I also did 75 percent of the preaching for the church there. I did much study to fulfill those responsibilities, and the joy of study increased. My awareness of the need to do more study increased also. During my first year of ministering at the Cox Boulevard congregation, the desire to do more academic work in Bible grew to the point that I enrolled at the Graduate School.

Q. What brought you to the Graduate School of Religion specifically?

A. My father had received his master's degree at the Graduate School, and he spoke very highly of that experience. When Harold Hazelip was the dean at the Graduate School, I was part of a group of ministry students at Lipscomb to whom he spoke; that also caused me to have a positive evaluation of the Graduate School's program. The fact that most

classes were three-hour classes, which met on the same weekday throughout a semester — plus being able to drive from northwest Alabama to the Graduate School campus in about two and a half hours — encouraged me to come here.

Q. What was your experience like at the Graduate School?

A. My experience at the Graduate School was extremely positive. My personal walk with the Lord was enhanced. My ability to preach, teach, counsel, write, and apply Christian teachings to life were enhanced. My work at the Graduate School also gave me more than I needed to complete my Ph.D. degree.

Q. What is the most challenging part of being a preaching minister?

A. Keeping the passion and the joy alive during times of frustration.

Q. What is your greatest reward in ministry?

A. Seeing people's lives transformed by the power of God.

Q. How has your training at the Graduate School influenced your ministry?

A. The training I received at the Graduate School helped me hear more clearly the message of Scripture, helped me communicate that message more effectively, and improved my ability to minister to others.

Ministry Locations

Present: White Station, Memphis
 1993-2004: Broadway, Lubbock, Texas
 1989-1992: Washington, England
 1988-1989: Highland Street, Memphis
 1974-1979 and 1983-1987: George Street, Dunedin, New Zealand
 1979-1983: Cox Street, Sheffield, Ala.

Education

Ph.D., University of Durham, 1997
 Master of Divinity, Harding University Graduate School of Religion, 1990
 Bachelor of Arts, Lipscomb University, 1974



The Bridge Gets a Fresh Look

A few years ago the highway authority decided to retrofit the bridges in the area for seismic activity. The bridges worked fine, but needed more structure to keep them from collapsing during an earthquake.

We are not expecting any earthquakes around here as far as I know, but this issue of *The Bridge* is the first in our new format — our retrofitting, if you will.

There is more than a pretty

face here, though. We have expanded *The Bridge* in order to have the room to better tell the story and share more photos of our students — both current students and alumni. We also have more room to share with you the opportunities open to future students, donors and friends. All of the various individuals who look to *The Bridge* for information and perspective can be better addressed with the expanded format.

All of this redesigning also brings with it a new schedule.

We are planning four editions per year, instead of six, to better distribute the work of the editorial and design staff. Look for *The Bridge* each spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Please let us know what you think. The authors have included their e-mail addresses in each article, and there is contact information inside the front cover. Since *The Bridge* is designed to keep you informed, please let us know how it is going. You can also get more information from our Web site,

www.hugsr.edu.

The bottom line is that God does amazing things in the lives of our students through their experience at the Graduate School. Then He does amazing things in churches and ministries through those alumni. We hope this *Bridge* serves as an even better connection between you and this exciting work of God.

▶ Mark Parker
mparker@hugsr.edu

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