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Fall 2016

The Bridge Fall 2016 Vol. 57 No. 1

Harding School of Theology

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VOLUME 57, NO. 1, FALL 2016



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The Bridge

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Rachel Denzin

Jeff Montgomery

Editor's Digest

You may have noticed the appearance of this publication recently changed. Although the appearance of *The Bridge* has changed, its purpose and content has not. The designers of this new format (Ellie Cooke, who created the incredible initial designs and basic layout structure, and Heather Gould, who worked tirelessly to make the new layout functional and the presentation of content aesthetically pleasing) have ensured the new design of this publication will continue to meet the needs of its readers while fulfilling its intended purpose. *The Bridge* still exists to connect you with Harding School of Theology and keep you informed about the work being done here.

Although HST has made changes over the years, as all living things do, its mission has not changed. HST has a long history and rich traditions it remains grounded in as it continues to move forward and maintain its relevance in our culture today. The need for HST is just as great today as it was when it was founded in 1958. HST continues to equip Christian leaders for a variety of ministerial roles (in and out of the pulpit) and call individuals to higher standards of ministry and scholarship. It is highly likely that you have been taught, counseled, encouraged or influenced by a student, graduate, teacher or administrator of HST without even realizing it. There is no question that the influence HST has had, and continues to have, on the kingdom of God is immeasurable. Harding School of Theology's influence literally extends around the globe, and it seeks (as it has always sought) to use that influence to make a kingdom difference. It is my hope that *The Bridge* communicates the difference HST is making in the church, the world and the kingdom.

Reflections FROM THE Dean



Jeff Montgomery

BY DR. ALLEN BLACK, DEAN

Dr. Allen Black

Many Christians in the United States have a growing sense that we now live in a “secular state” and that we are entering a “post-Christian culture.” Although this sense has existed for some time, events in the 21st century have heightened it. In the past, most non-Christians viewed Christians as mistaken but nevertheless generally beneficial to society. More and more are now agreeing with the post-9/11 rise of the “new atheism” that Christian perspectives are a detriment to society.

The advent of a post-Christian culture can be overstated. According to the 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Study, close to 71 percent of Americans still self-identify as Christians. Christianity is still clearly the dominant religion in America. As we long for “the good old days,” we should acknowledge the U.S. has never truly been a “Christian nation” and that in some aspects — for example, racism — our society is generally more Christ-like than it used to be. Nevertheless, the sense that American culture is progressively becoming more secular and more antagonistic to some Christian values is surely accurate.

In this setting it is helpful to turn to the book of 1 Peter. Even though our ancient brothers and sisters in Asia Minor lived in a fully non-Christian culture (as do many Christians today) and faced levels of persecution Americans can only imagine (which is unfortunately not true for many Christians elsewhere), Peter’s brief letter is full of sound understandings to guide us in our current journey. I want to highlight two of those.

First, Peter frames the Christian life in terms of living as foreigners in this world. He describes his audience as foreigners and exiles living in a Christian diaspora (cf. 1:1, 17; 2:11-12). Many years ago I read a story about a missionary who arrived by ship after many years overseas and was greeted by a large crowd and a marching band. After sadly discovering the crowd and band were there for a politician, he found reassurance by reminding himself, “You’re not home yet.” 1 Peter is full of exhortations for us to look beyond the present and focus on our hope of a glorious salvation (e.g., 1:3-12).

As citizens of a kingdom other than those of this world, Peter keeps our focus on our true homeland and reminds us in that light the trials we have now are only “for a little while” (1:6) and “after you have suffered a little while, [God] will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” (5:10). As the false image of the United States as a Christian nation unravels, we see more clearly our true status as foreigners, and we should embrace it.

Second, Peter encourages us to engage our culture in a manner characterized by “gentleness” (3:15) and “good deeds/behavior” (2:12; 3:16). Through these Christians strive to cause some to “be ashamed of their slander” (3:16) and ultimately to change so they may “glorify God on the day he visits us” (2:12). Peter would not be endorsing behaviors like those of the infamous protests of the Westboro Baptist Church. His approach is more in line with those taken by Darrell Bock, Dallas Theological Seminary’s director of cultural engagement, or John Dickson, founding

director of Australia’s Centre for Public Christianity. Bock stresses the importance of bringing together both “conviction and civility.” Dickson calls his approach “generous engagement.”

If you are interested in an approach that stresses a cultural engagement that maintains solid Christian convictions but emphasizes exemplary behavior and civil/generous dialogue, check out Darrell Bock’s “The Table” podcast (<http://www.dts.edu/thetable/>) and the materials provided through the Centre for Public Christianity (<https://publicchristianity.org/>).

Two books just published also can help equip you for a similar approach: David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons’ *Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You’re Irrelevant and Extreme* (Baker Books, 2016) and alumnus Chris Altrick’s *News-Worthy: Nine Ways to Live the Good News Now* (Christian Board of Publications, 2016).

At HST we are equipping our graduates to engage our culture (or other cultures around the world) in the ways suggested in 1 Peter: as foreigners who are full of hope, who live exemplary, Christ-like lives, and who season their dialogue with others with both conviction and civility.

“... we see more clearly our true status as foreigners, and we should embrace it.”



Matt Carter leads singing in chapel June 13.

Like the Spring of Gihon

BY DR. EVERTT W. HUFFARD, PROFESSOR OF LEADERSHIP & MISSIOLOGY

The tyranny of the urgent often forces church leaders to focus on short-term issues more than on important long-term outcomes. Children of Abraham today continue the same mission of ancient Israel to bless the nations. Kingdom business is long term. The church intentionally seeks to do the will of God by blessing all people. Our involvement in the ministry of the church brings us into something much bigger than ourselves in time and space. Our mission, as an extension of the mission of God, reaches as far into the future as it does into the past. Our rich inheritance motivates us to develop a long-term strategy to continue the spiritual legacy.

A financial adviser will coach families who neither save money nor invest it (but spent more than they made each month) to make radical changes in managing their finances. Churches that invest nothing in the future and are over budget also suffer from short-termism. As elders search for a preacher or youth minister, they realize how much more difficult the task has become. Fewer people are going into ministry. Very few churches dedicate time to developing leaders among them or resources for training for ministry. Many expect others to supply trained, mature preachers, missionaries, volunteers and leaders. Who are the “others”? It used to be smaller, rural churches. Christian schools have stepped into the gap to help equip leaders, but they are no substitute for the church. For Paul, the church is the unending source of glory to God through all generations.

In a non-denominational autonomous fellowship, who carries the responsibility for equipping the next generation of leaders? For caring for the orphans and widows? For serving the poor? For sending missionaries? When every church shares this mission, living water flows through the church, the body of Christ, through all generations.

The Spring of Gihon could be a metaphor for this unending, unstoppable source of blessing. It supplied water for Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah. The threat of Sennacherib’s Assyrian army motivated Israel to route the water that would usually flow from Gihon into the Kidron Valley back within the city walls to the Pool of Siloam (2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:2-4, 30). The water still

flows from Gihon today, 2,800 years later!

I can’t count how many times I have been through that rock-hewn shaft. It is a third of a mile long and takes about 30 minutes to wade through knee-deep water. All the chisel markings on the side walls make you wonder what really motivated everyone to take on such a task. Had they been planning it for years and a new crisis motivated them to finally do something? It was not the first shaft in the country or the deepest. Solomon and Ahab had already created impressive water shafts at Megiddo and Hazor. But none of them have had the continued, active usefulness like this water shaft from Gihon.

So what would Gihon churches be like? Here are a few examples. They have encouraged their preacher to continue graduate study at HST and provide half his tuition. Leaders have taken classes in the Harding School of Theology Certificate of Spiritual Leadership Program or enjoyed the church audits. When churches disband and sell their building, they set up endowed scholarship funds. They support the planting of new churches among unreached people. They provide oversight and support for a member who grows up in that congregation and becomes a missionary. Each generation learns to give from the example of those who precede them.

Short-termism tells a different story. Quarterly reports in the market, annual budgets and a consumer mindset make long-term outcomes weak. Chip and Dan Heath in their book *Switch* observed that businesses with a short-term mindset cannot tackle long-term problems (2010:83). I see this principle working for churches as well.

I have often wondered why Paul reminds the elders at Ephesus of the words of Jesus — “It is more blessed to give than receive.” How does the church give more? How does it give more leaders to the kingdom than it takes? I know churches that supported missionaries long term, and when the missionaries returned, they served the church that sent them. HST is not the source of life to our churches. Churches are the source, and we are constantly grateful for the churches that have given life to this ministry of equipping leaders to develop greater faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.

Encouraging Young Preachers

BY MATT CARTER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

HST was blessed by a visit from Kerusso Experience, Harding University's weeklong preaching and ministry symposium for high school boys. These young men had a traditional Memphis barbecue lunch, toured campus, and used classroom space for their Bible study. The group also visited the National Civil Rights Museum and listened to sermons by alumni Dr. Chris Altrock of Highland Church of Christ and Dr. Harold Redd of Midtown Church of Christ. Kerusso participants have been identified by church members as potential future preachers and have been given the opportunity to begin learning to preach at an early age.

During lunch, faculty and staff introduced themselves and shared a little about their early experiences in preaching. Dr. Carlus Gupton began preaching every week as a high school junior. Dean Allen Black and Associate Dean Steve McLeod both first preached as teenagers, and Dr. Kevin Shelby gave his first lesson even earlier.

A common thread in these stories is opportunity and encouragement. Someone tapped these young preachers on the shoulder and gave them the opportunity to preach their first sermon. Someone encouraged these high schoolers to attend Kerusso (and some of those encouragers even paid for it). Future ministers, no matter their age, need an opportunity to speak, teach or lead. They need encouragement from other Christians to step out in faith (especially the first time!) and to continue.

Does your congregation provide opportunities for members to engage in ministry? Do you know someone you could encourage to serve in some type of ministry? Be the encourager. Tap them on the shoulder and let them know what you see in them. You may be opening the door for the next Matt Carter.

If you would like to talk about the ministry of shoulder tapping or know someone who would benefit from the type of ministry training we offer, please get in touch at 901-432-7744 or mrcarter@hst.edu.



Devin Swindle

2016 Kerusso Experience participants

New Testament in the New World

BY BOB TURNER, CIRCULATION LIBRARIAN

During the week of May 23-29, Dr. Richard Oster and Bob Turner led a tour of three of America's most historic cities: Boston, New York and Philadelphia. But the history of those cities was not the focus of the trip. Instead, Oster and Turner oriented the trip around the museums in those cities, which boast world-class collections of statues, reliefs, coins, inscriptions, jewelry and other artifacts from the time of the New Testament. Their tour, "The New Testament in the New World," gave travelers an opportunity to understand the ways that Greek and Roman antiquities in American museums can help Christians understand the message of Scripture. A few highlights were:

- A vase in Boston that sheds light on how first-century drinking parties might inform Paul's instructions on how to

share the Lord's supper in 1 Corinthians.

- A figurine in Boston of the goddess Nike standing on the globe, projecting Rome's dominance over the world and, similarly, the perceived threat of early Christians who "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).
- Fragments of papyri in Brooklyn from Elephantine, which provide evidence of both a Jewish community and a Jewish Temple on that island in Egypt.
- A relief in New York (via Berlin) depicting sea monsters from ancient Pergamum, which informs conversations of spiritual warfare and the fight between good and evil.
- Artifacts in Philadelphia regarding magic, and what Jesus really meant when he said that not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the

kingdom of heaven.

- The Roman statue in Philadelphia that illuminates Paul's discussion in 1 Corinthians about women praying and prophesying in the church.

The trip wasn't just about museums. The itinerary included a harbor cruise of Boston, bus tours of Manhattan and Philadelphia, and train rides between cities. And the group was able to squeeze in a viewing of "Aladdin: The Musical" and eat plenty of clam chowder, pizza and cheesesteaks. This was the first time Oster and Turner led such a group. If you would like more information about this tour or future events, contact Bob Turner by email at rjturner@hst.edu.

“HST challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.”



Ministry

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty **Dr. Allen Black** spoke on “1 Peter: Holy Living in an Ungodly Culture” at a men’s retreat near Cle Elum, Washington, on May 20-21 and at Olympia, Washington, Church of Christ on May 22. **Dr. Ed Gray** presented a senior ministry workshop in Knoxville, Tennessee. He conducted marriage enrichment seminars and retreats in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania; Southaven, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee; and Harriet, Arkansas, along with his wife, Rhonda. They also co-taught a marriage ministry course at Baxter Institute in Honduras as part of the Ministry for Theological Education. **Dr. Carlus Gupton** presented on “Pathways of Transformation - Strategies for Church Renewal” at Harding University’s Lectureship and Lipscomb University’s Summer Celebration. **Dr. Rick Oster** spoke to preachers, missionaries and Christian leaders in Gemunden, Germany, at the conference titled “The Enthronement of God’s Anointed One” sponsored by the Ministry for Theological Education in October. He is also a regular co-teacher of an adult Bible class at the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis. **Bob Turner** spoke at Memphis Work Camp and Sardis Lake Christian Camp in June. He spoke at churches in Memphis, Oakland, and Springville, Tennessee, in June. Additionally, Turner was the featured speaker at the University of Memphis Christian Campus Ministry Retreat in October.

Alumni **Erma Simpson** (M.A.C., 2007) founded The Hagar Center in the Frayser community in Memphis. The center opened in May, and it will act as a comprehensive resource agency to connect teen mothers with pre- and postnatal services. The major focuses of the agency are education and health. You can learn more by visiting thehagarcenter.org.

Scholarship

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty **Dr. Allen Black** attended the Association of Theological Schools’ biennial meeting June 26-30. **Dr. Dave Bland** and Sean Webb (M.A., 2011) recently published their book *Creation, Character, and Wisdom: Rethinking the Roots of Environmental Ethics*. **Drs. Ed Gray** and **Kevin Shelby** co-led “The Live Streaming Classroom: The New World of Pedagogy” at the Faculty Technology Showcase at Harding University in September. **Dr. Ed Gray** taught a Prepare/Enrich certification workshop in Memphis and in Malibu, California. He will also present “Restoration Therapy: Rapid De-escalation for Couples in Crisis” at the Chinese Association for Psychological Intervention in Beijing in November. **Dr. Carlus Gupton** attended the Catalyst Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. **Dr. Lance Hawley** successfully defended his dissertation, “Metaphor Coherence in the Book of Job,” May 9. **Bob Turner** attended the Stone-Campbell Colloquy on the Pedagogy of the Archive in Dallas in March. He also made presentations in June at the Christian Scholars Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and the American Theological Library Conference in Long Beach, California.

Alumni **Dr. Jeff Cline** (M.A.C., 2006) earned his Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision in May. He has served as the clinical director at Better Life Counseling Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for the past six years. **Shelley Jacobs** (M.A., 2009) was recently hired as librarian/archivist for the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. **Dr. Mark Sneed** (M.A., 1986) was invited to contribute a commentary on the book of Job for the *New Oxford Bible Commentary*. **Sean Webb** (M.A., 2011) and Dr. Dave Bland recently published their book *Creation, Character, and Wisdom: Rethinking the Roots of Environmental Ethics*.

Notes

FROM A

Novice

BY PARKER BULLARD, M.DIV. STUDENT

The prophets of Israel were fueled by memory. They remembered God's deliverance in the exodus, they remembered the covenant God made with Israel, and they remembered the lessons learned in the wilderness. Israel's memory enabled them to imagine a future for Israel, whether a future of judgment or hope. It was their commitment to the past that compelled them to push Israel forward.

In the same way, Harding School of Theology is a prophetic voice among theological schools. With a strong commitment to our distinctive Restorationist roots, our legacy of scholarship and academic excellence, and the centrality of the word of God, HST continually pushes its students forward. The school is fueled by memory for progress.

I am keenly aware of the legacy of HST. When I began my studies here in fall 2013, during my first intensive course I met at least three people who knew my father, Chris Bullard. He too earned his master's degree at HST some 40 years ago. His guided research paper and some of his books are still in the library. I grew up under a Harding graduate, so I have seen firsthand the kind of scholars produced here. I have seen what a ministry committed to our roots looks like when it is coupled with a commitment to academic excellence. It looks like my father. I am proud to be his son, and I am also proud to follow in his footsteps at his alma mater.

But following in his footsteps does not mean I will receive the same education my father did. It has been four decades, and HST continues to be on the cutting edge of theological studies. The professors are not simply well-read observers of scholarly topics; they are involved in and even leading those conversations. The theological library is comprehensive and state-of-the-art. The material I am studying is not only up to speed but also calls me to think about the future of the church and theological scholarship.

HST produces ministers and scholars equipped to lead the church into the years ahead. That's what it did for my dad, and that's what it is doing for me. But that kind of leadership does not emerge out of thin air. It comes from HST's anchor in our distinct history, our legacy of excellence, and the Bible. That is why HST is a prophet among seminaries.



Parker Bullard

Heather Gould

CHAPEL

Life of Worship

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
11 - 11:30 a.m.

BY CALEB DILLINGER, M.DIV. STUDENT

I have just finished my first year at HST, and I attended nearly every chapel both semesters. Chapel is something I love. I loved it while in undergrad at Ohio Valley University, and I love it here at HST. Being the new Student Association vice president, I have one main task: prepare and deliver chapel every week. This is quite a legacy to fill. Even just being here for one year, I have seen how impactful and meaningful the HST chapel experience can be.

I want to honor that legacy by maintaining the same heart and core present in every chapel. Each chapel is different; sometimes it focuses on prayer, sometimes on singing, sometimes on a guest speaker, but most of the time it involves all of the above. I fully intend to honor this time-tested method of glorifying God: prayer, songs, and a devotional message. This is what makes the chapel experience.

One thing I certainly hope to add to the chapel experience is a bigger emphasis on speaking the word of God. I also want to incorporate using social media to promote our speakers, times and themes. We want any alumni, prospective students or friends of HST to feel welcome to come worship with our community here on campus.

Whatever the result, I am excited to share in this legacy.

News & Events



First Day of Class
January 17



Intensive Course Week
March 6-11



Graduation
May 13

Pie Auction
January 28

Spring Break
March 13-17



DEGREE PROGRAMS

- M.A. Master of Arts
- M.A.C.M. Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- M.A.C. Master of Arts in Counseling
- M.Div. Master of Divinity
- D.Min. Doctor of Ministry
- C.C.C. Certificate in Church Counseling
- C.S.L. Certificate in Spiritual Leadership



Bottom Line

BY HEATHER GOULD, M.A.C. STUDENT



Heather Gould

Rachel Denzin

When I decided to pursue a Master of Arts in Counseling degree at Harding School of Theology, I was concerned I would be wasting four years of time, effort and money I had invested in a degree in graphic design from Harding University. Shortly after the 2015 fall term began, however, I obtained a student worker position in the Advancement Office. This position has opened doors to enable me to retain and refine my skills in design as well as to give back to HST, even as the school and professors

are molding me into a competent counselor.

I have worked alongside Rachel Denzin, with significant contributions from Ellie Cooke, to create and refine an updated format of *The Bridge*. My personal goals for this updated design are for it to be inviting to readers, current in design elements, as well as providing more space for text and pictures. It is exciting to see months of hard work reach the press and be sent to alumni, students, prospective students and friends of HST for them to enjoy!