

The Year of  
**THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

A casual reading of the synoptic gospels reveals the central theme of Jesus' ministry is "the kingdom of God." In both Matthew and Mark, the ministry of Jesus begins with the proclamation, "The kingdom of God (or heaven) has come near." In Luke, Jesus' ministry begins with the reading of Isaiah 61:1-2, after which Luke expounds on the implications of the coming of the kingdom: Jesus has come to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, set the oppressed free, and proclaim cancellation of debts at the Year of Jubilee.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the term "kingdom" refers primarily to the authority of rule and only secondarily to the territory over which this rule is exercised. Synonyms for "the kingdom of God" include "the reign of God" or "the rule of God." The Lord's Prayer illustrates this understanding as "your kingdom come" is parallel to "your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). For God's kingdom to come is for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In Jesus' ministry sins are forgiven, and estranged humans reconciled to God and each other. Injustices are confronted, and outcasts welcomed. Diseases are healed, and demons cast out. Death is defeated, and the call of discipleship issued.

The kingdom ministry of Jesus has important implications for the life of the church. People are invited to receive and participate in the work of God, but one cannot live under both the reign of God and the reign of Satan. The church is the people of God who live under, proclaim and anticipate the reign of God. A kingdom outlook brings the whole of the Christian life together in a profound way and calls for a radical commitment of allegiance.

Dr. Mark Powell  
Associate Professor of Theology

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL of RELIGION**  
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HARDING UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

**FIFTIETH ANNUAL  
COMMENCEMENT**



**50<sup>th</sup>**  
**GRADUATING CLASS**  
**1959-2008**



**May 3, 2008**

Celebrating the Year of  
*The Kingdom of God*

## PROGRAM

**DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM  
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008 • 10:00 A.M.**



Processional: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ..... van Dyke/Beethoven  
Assembly led by Dr. Leon Sanderson

Invocation ..... Dr. Jack P. Lewis  
Professor Emeritus

Alma Mater ..... Kinder, Flatt, and Sanderson

Message from Board of Trustees ..... Mr. Harry Risinger  
Chairman, Harding University Board of Trustees

Special Presentations ..... Dr. David B. Burks, President  
Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, VP/Dean

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dr. David B. Burks

Address ..... Dr. Clifton L. Ganus, Jr.  
Harding University Chancellor

Recommendation of Graduates ..... Dr. Evertt W. Huffard

Conferring of Degrees ..... Dr. David B. Burks

Presentation of Awards ..... Dr. Evertt W. Huffard  
Dr. Steve McLeod, Registrar

Ministry of Study Award ..... Mr. Daniel McGraw  
President, Student Association

Message from Faculty ..... Dr. Allen Black  
Professor of New Testament

Hymn: "Faith of Our Fathers" ..... Faber/Hemy

Benediction ..... Dr. Michael Brown

Recessional: "Live for Jesus" ..... Latta/Davis

## 2008 GRADUATES

### MASTER OF ARTS

Byron Chauncey Dannatt  
Clyde H. Slimp  
Curtis Wayne Sparks



### MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Joyce Ileene Huffard  
Marvin Scott Kopf  
Scott Andrew Laird  
Michael Alan O'Neal  
David W. Shaner



### MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Angela Joy Rusk  
Carmen Nicole Taylor  
Benjamin Alden Thompson  
Kristina Anne Yeouze



### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Jeff Allen Brown	Daniel Andrew McGraw
James Shannon Cooper	Gregory Eugene McKinzie
John Jordan House	Robert John Meyer
Steven Lee Hovater	Dorn Leonard Muscar, Jr.
Nathan T. Knappier	Timothy Paul Westbrook



### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Michael Anthony Brown  
Timothy Clint Stafford