

## THE YEAR OF FAITHFULNESS

Faithfulness flows from the character of God. The well-known description of the Divine nature in Exodus 34:6 identifies the great "I AM" as "abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." This declaration constantly appears in Israel's statement of faith in passages like Psalm 86:15. God is always reliable and keeps his promises from creation to the Exodus, to the resurrection of the Christ, and to the return of the Lord.

Because of the Lord's faithfulness, God calls on us to respond in the same way. God becomes the primary allegiance and priority of the first commitment. If we place God first, above all else, our other commitments in life will usually fall into their proper place. In contrast, the biblical narrative calls attention to the unfaithfulness of fallen humanity from Adam to the flood, to the idolatry of Israel, to the mission of the prophets, to the fall of Jerusalem, to the crucifixion of the Son of God, and to the churches of Asia. Through it all, a remnant remained faithful to the word and will of the Lord. Today we can still hear the call of Joshua to serve God in "sincerity and faithfulness" (Joshua 24:14).

Faithfulness creates community—the church. Some may be tempted to separate faithfulness to God from faithfulness to his people, but they are really two sides of the same coin. Faithfulness creates a strong marriage and a good family. It is at the top of the list of family values that define wholesome entertainment. Christian singles model faithfulness in service and life style. Faithfulness creates ministry; the loss of it destroys ministry. If the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable, the use of our gifts will be based on faithfulness more than success. We can be faithful in little things, but God still gives us much more than we deserve or earn. We all long to hear the Lord conclude: "well done, good and faithful servant."

In a world of declining loyalty and limited commitments, faithful Christians give hope. In a world where relationships often seem to fall apart, faithfulness can be the glue that binds us together. Faithfulness to God, the church, and each other provides a solid foundation for life on which we can confidently move to a future blessed by God.

Dr. Evertt W. Huffard and Dr. Phil McMillion

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

## FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



## May 7, 2011

Celebrating the Year of  
*Faithfulness*

## PROGRAM

DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM  
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 • 10:00 A.M.



Processional: "God of Our Fathers" ..... Daniel C. Roberts  
Assembly led by Dr. Edward A. Gray, Professor of Counseling

Invocation ..... Dr. John Simmons  
Chairman, HUI Board of Trustees

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

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dr. David B. Burks  
President, Harding University

Address ..... Dr. C. Philip Slate  
Former Dean, Harding University Graduate School of Religion

Recommendation of Graduates ..... Dr. Everett W. Huffard  
Vice President/Dean, Harding University Graduate School of Religion

Conferring of Degrees ..... Dr. Burks

Presentation of Awards ..... Dr. Huffard  
Dr. Steve McLeod, Associate Dean

Ministry of Study Award ..... Jr Sheets  
President, Student Association

Message from Faculty ..... Dr. Eddie Randolph  
Associate Professor of Ministry

Hymn: "Great is thy Faithfulness" ..... T. Chisholm & Wm. Runyan

Benediction ..... Dr. Mark Johnson  
Minister, Olympia (WA) Church of Christ

Recessional: "Take My Life and Let it Be" ..... F. Havergal & W.A. Mozart

## 2011 GRADUATES

### MASTER OF ARTS

Corey Alan Mullins  
Sean Patrick Webb



### MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Dwight D. Samuel  
Mitchell Dean Stevens  
Jeffrey Wayne Tacker  
Nathanael A. Wheeler



### MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Scherri Nicole Culp-Henderson	Marisol Rosas Castañeda
Jennifer Lynn Farmer	Matthew Simmons
Alan DeWane Moreland	Kacey Lynn Young



### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Mark S. Adams  
Jordan Randall Coss  
Eric E. Davenport  
Timothy Jay Davidson, Jr.  
Jordan Patrick Guy  
Christopher Matthew Keeton  
Jeremy James Lefler  
Makoto Tateno  
Paavo Nataniel Tucker  
Anessa D. Westbrook



### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Ricky Glen Burse  
Mark Randall Johnson  
Glenn Kirkpatrick Pennington, Jr.