

## THE INCARNATION

John 1:1 makes it clear that from the beginning: “The word was with God, and the word was God.” The idea is that “the word was fully deity in essence.” Yet he did not just associate himself with a human being nor did he take on the appearance of a human being; he became flesh.

Paul agrees with John’s statement of Jesus’ deity in Phil. 2:5-11 (Col. 1:15-17). However, Paul goes on in verses 7-8 to say, “He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!” Here is a description of one who had the nature of God and willingly took on the nature of humanity even to the extent of dying on a cross. It is this self-emptying act in the person of Jesus Christ that gives both anchor and motivation to the people of God. It is our anchor because in the sacrificial work of Jesus we find the gap between the Holy God and the sin of humanity bridged — the only son of God came to bring eternal life (John 3:16-17). It is also our motivation because the church in the world is, in a powerful sense, the continuing incarnational presence of Jesus.

The mission of Jesus as savior is unique and unrepeatable, but it is continued in the church, which Paul frequently refers to as the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 4:12). As the body of Christ, the church becomes a physical presence of God in the world. The church’s identity hasn’t changed through the centuries. The church, like Jesus, is to respond to the world and each other in love. Following the lead of Jesus, the church humbly serves the world. His mission becomes our mission.

Being the body of Christ, continuing the mission of Jesus Christ, results in tangible ministry in our world.

From the foundation of the “enfleshment” of God’s son, the church preaches reconciliation and salvation. The incarnation allows the desperately needed fruits of hope and justice to ripen in broken lives. The mission of Christ in the world empowers us to love the world, leading the church into gracious service.

Dr. Allen Black and Dr. Eddie Randolph



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

1000 Cherry Road • Memphis, TN 38117  
(901) 761-1350 • [www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)

## HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



May 12, 2012

2011-2012 Theme:

*The Incarnation*

## PROGRAM

**DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012 • 10:00 A.M.**

Processional: "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah".....William J. Kirkpatrick  
Assembly led by William Stewart Denman, Jr.  
Master of Arts Graduate

Invocation.....Dr. Allen Black  
Professor of New Testament

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

Welcome.....Dr. Evertt W. Huffard  
VP/Dean, Harding School of Theology

Message from Advisory Board.....Dr. Roger Craddock  
Advisory Board Member

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

Address.....Bobby Lawson  
Pulpit Minister, Park Forest Church of Christ, Matteson, IL

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

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

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

Ministry of Study Award.....Andrew Taylor  
Student Association President

Hymn: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You".....Peter C. Lutkin

Benediction.....Dr. Mark Parker

Recessional: "In My Life, Be Glorified".....Bob Kilpatrick

## 2012 GRADUATES

### MASTER OF ARTS

Jeremy Adam Anguish  
David M. Chalenburg  
William Stewart Denman, Jr.  
Keith Elwin Gant



### MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Winston Batino  
Robert C. Bliss, Jr.  
James H. Grose  
Kevin Eugene Holland  
Neil Landon Reynolds  
Jason Andrew Swick



### MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Fredrick Gillam, Jr.



### MASTER OF DIVINITY

David Clint Burnett  
Jason Brett Dougherty  
Edgar Taylor Francis, Jr.  
Eric Allen Hallett  
James Ray Mitchell  
Keith Edwin Sheets, Jr.  
Jonathan David Strasser  
Cynthia Marie Turner  
Chadwick Adrian Wagner



### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Clifford Lee Holladay  
Mark Kelcy Parker