

THE LORD OF ALL NATIONS

God is Lord of creation, of all people, and of all nations. Paul proclaims to the Athenians, "From one human God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live . . ." (Acts 17:26). This theme of divine lordship is seen even more clearly in the enthronement psalms, the theological heart of the Psalter (Psalms 93-99). These psalms make the fundamental pronouncement: the Lord reigns! They call on the whole earth to worship and praise God as Lord. With one voice all of creation and all of the earth sing to the Lord a new song (Psalm 96).

That is obviously, however, not the reality of our world. The nations do not sing praises to God. Instead they rebel (Psalm 2). Injustice, violence, and greed rip apart our world (Hosea 4:2). Nations commit atrocities against other people and sometimes even their own (Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 13; 2:6-8). Such violence and greed also lead to the destruction of creation (Hosea 4:3; Jeremiah 4:23-28; Romans 8:19-23).

After the Genesis flood and after the nations once again rebelled against God (Genesis 11:1-9), God chose a special people, Israel, to serve as priests (Exodus 19:4-6) and to bring light to the nations (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 51:4; 60:3). Disastrously, Israel misunderstood its role and its relationship to God. When the Lord declares to Israel, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2a), Israel came to believe not only that Yahweh alone is God, but also that Israel alone is God's people.

Although Scripture robustly proclaims Yahweh's election of Israel as his chosen people, it hastens to underline that Israel never held nor would ever hold a monopoly on the knowledge of God (Isaiah 2:1-5 = Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 11:1-9). Yahweh is both the Lord of Israel as well as the Lord of all nations (Amos 9:7; Isaiah 19:23-25; Psalm 96:1-3). As their overlord, Yahweh requires an accounting from all the nations of the earth (Deuteronomy 2:5-6, 9-10, 19-22; Amos 1-2; Isaiah 13-23; Jeremiah 46-51; Ezekiel 25-32; Psalms 2, 82). He even uses other nations to punish Israel for their rebellion!

The church is founded upon the revealed truth that Jesus Christ is the longed-for Messiah of Israel through whom the covenants, promises, and commissions given to Israel are now to reach their fulfillment (Luke 4:14-21; 24:25-27; Matthew 5:17-20; 16:13-20). Upon the community of the Messiah (the church) fall the privilege and responsibility of fulfilling Yahweh's commission to Israel. God calls the church to serve as a light to the nations (Matthew 5:14-16); it is "a royal priesthood" called to proclaim the mighty acts of God to the whole world (1 Peter 2:9).

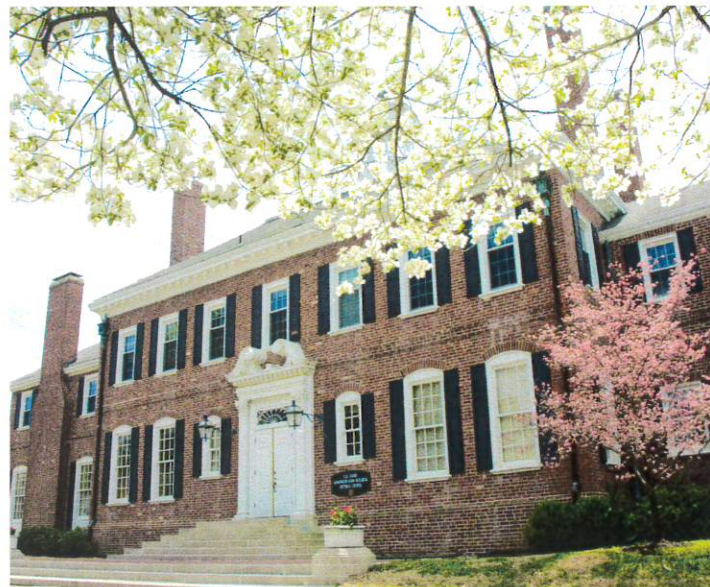
Dr. Dave Bland



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

1000 Cherry Road • Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 761-1350 • www.hst.edu

HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



May 18, 2013

2012-2013 Theme:

The Lord of All Nations

PROGRAM

DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013 • 10:00 A.M.

Processional: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee".....H. Dyke & Beethoven
Assembly led by Dr. Leon Sanderson, Associate Minister
Church of Christ at White Station

Invocation.....Dr. Thomas Snow
Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry

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

Welcome and Introduction of Speaker.....Dr. Evertt W. Huffard
VP/Dean

Address.....Dr. David Burks
President, Harding University

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

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

Certificate of Recognition for Quintin Baker.....Dr. Evertt W. Huffard

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

Ministry of Study Award.....Kevin Burr
Student Association President

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

(Graduates Stand and Face Audience for Hymn)

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

Benediction.....Dr. Bruce McLarty
President-Designate, Harding University

Recessional: "We Will Glorify".....Twila Paris

2013 GRADUATES

MASTER OF ARTS

Glenn R. Hawley
James Andrew Sowers
John Paul Suchecki



MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Javier Arturo Amaya
Alan T. Arneson
Stephan Mark Connors
Marek Dawidow
Jared King
Christine Lynette Parker
Joe Thomas Spivy, Jr.



MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Michelle Bates
Jessi R. Berger
David Edwin Mars
James Michael Piiparinen
Anastasia R. Randolph



MASTER OF DIVINITY

Gary Franklin Baird
Minku Andrew Chang
Chase Brandon Froud
Charles E. Fulbright, Jr.
Dennis Kyle Hooper
Chauncey Smith Hopkins
Craig M. Poole
Lewis Edward Short, III
James Andrew Sowers



DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Matthew Wayne Morine
Ryan Donald Richardson
Thomas Shannon Snow