

REACHING OUT

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Conference President Speaks for Ministerial Candidate Recognition

The School of Religion celebrated its annual Candidate Recognition Weekend September 27-28, 2013. Ministerial candidacy is the final step in the program for theology and pastoral care majors. Achieving candidacy permits those students to participate in interviews with conference presidents and ministerial directors for pastoral positions. During the weekend, 12 men and 6 women were recognized and celebrated for achieving this milestone in their respective programs. Elder Dana Edmond, president of the South Central Conference, was the featured speaker for the event.

Edmond's wit and wisdom were reminiscent of the legendary Charles Bradford. While preaching inspiring sermons and hosting a question-and-answer session, Edmond periodically touched on spiritual and professional life issues for future ministers. One story spoke of how Satan uses romantic relationships to divert many Adventists from Christ and ruin their spiritual life. Edmond emphasized the importance of being willing to go to heaven alone instead of just falling for anyone who shows an interest in you.

Other important themes included his message based on Elijah's flight all the way to



Dana Edmond, South Central Conference President

Mt. Horeb. Elijah effectively combatted 450 prophets of Baal—one prophet standing up to 450—but then his ministry was diminished by losing touch with God. Many contemporary ministers have had their ministries undermined by failing to maintain a connection with God. Additionally, Edmond masterfully developed the contrast of God's not being in the earthquake and whirl-

(Continued on page 2)



Power for Mind & Soul

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Dana Edmond (Continued from page 1)

wind, while being in the still, small voice. He noted that while ministers are often attracted to the spectacular, God is not often in those mighty human efforts, but is with the humble minister doing small things faithfully.

Edmond closed with a splendid development of the story of Jonah. Jonah did extraordinary things by the power of God, such as converting 120,000 people from one evangelistic campaign in a single city preached by one man. In Edmond's words, "This brother did not plant a church. He did not even plant a conference. He planted a UNION CONFERENCE!" The story ends, however, with

Jonah's heart devoid of God's love, thinking solely about his own legacy and reputation. Edmond admonished the candidates that God graciously uses unconverted and semi-converted pastors effectively, even though the pastors may have missed the point. He exhorted the candidates to remember that ministry "is not all about you" and to avoid being like Jonah by ensuring that their own lives are effective examples of God's grace and love.

—*The South Central Conference territory includes Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, and most of the Florida panhandle.*

Alumni Spotlight by Matthew Tinkham Jr. and Jonathan Cross

There is always a bit of apprehension when thinking of future job placement after graduating with a theology degree. Yet God confirms His calling in the lives of those He has equipped for gospel ministry. After graduating from Southern in December 2010, God opened the door for me to be a Bible



Matthew Tinkham Jr.

worker for several months in the church where I did my externship. This was a needed experience that further prepared me for my future pastoral ministry and helped me begin to demonstrate my competence to the local conference. In May 2011 I married and began serving as a pastor in Atlanta, Georgia, with my new wife. It was a special

arrangement, in that I served as the senior pastor of a 130-member church and as the associate pastor of a 450-member church. I had the wonderful privilege during my two-year pastorate of leading people to Christ in baptism by conducting evangelistic series, health outreach initiatives, Bible studies, youth work, and other creative ministries. There were tremendous opportunities in that big city! Last summer my wife and I transitioned to the Seminary, where I am gathering more skills and tools. It is a lot of work, but I am growing deeply in my relationship

with Jesus and my passion for ministry. I'm excited for what God has planned for me in the future.

Since graduating in November 2011, life has been a whirlwind. Kelly and I are up in the state of Maine in the Northern New England Conference. Since moving to our district we have had numerous cooking schools, undergone a major church renovation, begun a regional camp meeting, and conducted numerous Bible studies. Life is not always easy up here, though. At times during the winter, one is digging out of snow sometimes two or three times per week, which can be exhausting. The people up here are rugged, independent, and often set in their ways. Thankfully, the grace of Christ is capable of shining through to those who will receive it. The most important thing I have found with all of the work to do up here is to make sure that my gaze is constantly fixed on Christ, my Redeemer. He is the only source of life and strength.



Jonathan Cross and Family

Faculty News

Stephen Bauer, Professor of Theology and Ethics, preached for the youth at Mountain View camp meeting, followed by five days on the subject of the Trinity for the adults. He also preached at the Northern New England camp meeting on the ethics of the Ten Commandments. He published an article entitled “Universal Legal Justification” in the October 10, 2013, *Adventist Review*. He presented two papers via Skype at the sixteenth annual AIIAA Forum at AIIAS, Philippines: “The Ten Commandments and Kenosis” and “Teaching Them to Disobey: An Investigation of How James Rachels Attacks the Foundations of Christian Ethics Based on the Theory of Evolution.”



Michael Hasel, Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Languages, co-directed the Fourth Expedition to Lachish in Israel last summer. He held a seminar at the ASI meetings in Orlando, Florida, and presented “Discoveries of a Lifetime” seminars with Ron Clouzet in Missouri and with Mark Finley in Virginia. He published an article on Khirbet Qeiyafa in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*.



Douglas Jacobs, Professor of Ministry and Homiletics, successfully defended his Doctor of Ministry thesis-project, “Preaching to Older Adults,” at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. For the Southern Adventist University Board of Trustees retreat, he and Mia Lindsey made a presentation regarding the findings of the Adventist Connection Study, which looked at the various ways that recent graduates of Southern, Pacific Union College, and Oakwood University connect or disconnect with local Adventist churches. He and Lindsey presented the findings from the Adventist Connection Study to the 2013 Summit on Nurture and Retention at the General Conference headquarters.



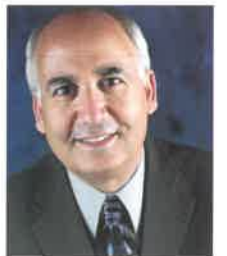
John Nixon, Professor of Theology and Spirituality, together with his wife, Dr. Januwoina Nixon, conducted a week-long seminar on marriage in Wolverhampton, England; taught a summer master’s degree course, Effective Church Leadership, for Southern; delivered the convocation address for the semester opening convocation of Southwestern Adventist University; and conducted three weddings that involved five former Southern students.



Edwin Reynolds, Professor of New Testament Studies and Graduate Studies Coordinator, co-presented the minority report of the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee for the NAD year-end meetings at the General Conference.



Philip Samaan, Professor of Religion, Spirituality, and Seventh-day Adventist History, was the featured speaker at the camp meetings for the Kentucky-Tennessee and Wisconsin Conferences. He was also the featured speaker at the workers’ meetings for the Gulf States Conference, and at the teachers’/pastors’ meetings for the Indiana and Illinois Conferences. Most recently he was the devotional speaker for the Southern Union Conference executive and departmental meetings in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was also the guest speaker at several conventions and church gatherings.



2013-14 Ministerial Candidates



Bryan Baños, * Florida
May '14, Ky.-Tenn. Conf.



Ruth Bonet, Florida
May '14



Chelsy Calumpiano, Texas
May '14



Tina Carriger, Nebraska
May '14



Eric Chavez, * Texas
Dec. '13, Upper Columb. Conf.



Sarah Dahlstrom, California
May '14



Jason Dietz, Michigan
May '14



Daniel Escalante, * Texas
May '14, Ga.-Cumb. Conf.



Kevin Ferguson, California
Dec. '13



Thomas Gearing, California
May '14

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.” 1 Timothy 1:12, NKJV



***Karen Glassford,* Tennessee
Dec. '14, Missions Office, SAU***



***Manuel Gomez,* Florida
May '14, Florida Conf.***



***D. Luke Gonzalez,* California
May '14, Korean Lang. School***



***Stephen A. Hall II, Florida
May '14***



***Gabriel Johnson,* Ohio
May '14, Ga.-Cumb. Conf.***



***Eric Louw,* California
Dec '13, Texas Conf.***



***Cherie Lynn Olsen, Florida
May '14***



***Andres Palacios,* Florida
May '14, Florida Conf.***



***Marcos Torres, New Jersey
May '14***



***Braden Way, Oregon
May '14***

*Students who have accepted employment as of publication date.
Dates reflect the time of graduation.

Recapturing the Vision of SMC

The good news is that Southern Adventist University is still a missionary college! The Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) in the School of Religion is committed to keeping alive the spirit of the early Christians and of our Adventist pioneers.



Loany Garrido Preaching for the Guatemala Campaign

This summer 128 preachers traveled to seven destinations in six countries (Argentina, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and the Philippines), in five different world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They traveled 1,119,222 miles roundtrip (you read that right!) and preached 2,432 sermons. God used them to lead over 2,800 people to baptism! Praise the Lord!

One motivating factor for the ERC to maintain this project is that participants are acquiring an experience that will allow them to serve as professionals who know by experience what it takes to get involved in missions and evangelism. The participating students came from varied schools and departments within Southern: Allied Health (7); Biology (3); Business and Management (2); Chemistry (3); Computing (1); Education and Psychology (6); General Studies (1); Journalism and Communication (2); Mathematics (2); Modern Languages (2); Music (2); Nursing (22); Physical Education, Health, and Wellness (1); Religion (30); Social Work (2); and Visual Art and Design (3). Nine full-time Southern employees (two members of the staff and seven faculty, including one

that went to two destinations) served as preachers and supervisors.

Most preachers had never done it before, and they had to be trained. They are average church members who are willing to participate in what may appear impossible. To put what they have accomplished in perspective, consider this: In the last ten years, our local conference averaged 814 baptisms per year; 774 students sent by the ERC have averaged 1,849 baptisms per year over a 13-year period, for a total of 24,042 baptisms.

Participants were aware that the experience was demanding. They preached 19 evangelistic sermons over a 16-day period. Furthermore, the 128 preachers had to raise more than a total of \$100,000 for the privilege of preaching the gospel! Moreover, they preached during their summer vacations! Some of them experienced various levels of discomfort, but as they returned tired after such an intensive three weeks, they all felt that the 2,833 baptisms were worth every penny, every mile traveled, every bit of energy, and every minute, tear, and prayer. In fact, all supervisors and many students volunteered to serve again this coming summer!

For summer 2014, the ERC has decided to “go south.” Destinations for May 6-25 will be Bolivia, Columbia, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. The evangelistic series in Chile is scheduled for July 1-27. Indeed, Southern Adventist University is still a “missionary college” and a great place to inspire young people to participate in God’s mission on earth.



Edward Pino in the Dominican Republic

Three Truths from Jeremiah 1

It is one of my favorite passages in the Old Testament. Moreover, I believe it to be one of the most thrilling passages in all of Scripture. Each year when my Old Testament Studies class looks at the books of the prophets, it is a privilege to reflect on Jeremiah 1:4-9. This passage underscores several profound spiritual truths that speak not only to those who sense a call to be full-time pastors and evangelists, but to all Christians, because God has called each one of us to serve Him in some form of ministry. What are these truths?

First, there is the truth that God has a plan for the life of each of His children. “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you,” the Lord declared to his chosen messenger (Jer. 1:5*). And while these words were spoken to young Jeremiah some 26 centuries ago, Scripture clearly indicates that they apply to all children of God in all times and all places. The One who formed us in the womb knows us intimately and personally, and He has a plan for our lives (see Ps. 139:13-16).

When we wrestle with the question of whether our life has a purpose, of what we are meant to be and do, let this biblical truth give us hope. Before we took our first breath, the Sovereign God knew us personally and had a plan for each of our lives.

A second truth that emerges from this passage concerns the Lord’s promise to Jeremiah. When the young man protested that his youthfulness rendered him incapable of serving as a divine messenger, the Lord let Jeremiah know that his tender age should not hinder him from embracing the divine call. Additionally, the Lord asserted, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you” (Jer. 1:8).

Notice that the Lord did not guarantee Jeremiah an easy, comfortable life. There was to be no bed of roses for him! On the contrary, he

would encounter persistent opposition from his nation’s leadership and would endure unimaginable hardships and persecution. However, whatever difficulties he would be called to confront, he would not face them alone, for God had promised to be with His faithful prophet each step of the way.

This pledge of the Lord’s ongoing presence is one of the most meaningful promises in all of Scripture, and it is for all of God’s children. “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5) is the divine assurance to each of us. When we feel alone and abandoned, let us take comfort in the promise of God’s unfailing presence.

A final truth expressed in this passage is seen in the next event that is described. The Lord reached out His divine hand and touched Jeremiah’s mouth, declaring to him, “I have put my words in your mouth” (Jer. 1:9).

In other words, God made provision, enabling the young man to complete his assigned task. Thus it always is with the Lord. When He calls us to do a special work, we are not left to accomplish that work in our own strength and wisdom. Rather, the Lord qualifies and empowers us to do what He asks us to do.

As *Christ’s Object Lessons* says, “All His biddings are enablings” (p. 333). That is to say, when the Lord asks someone to do a work for Him, He will provide what is necessary for that task to be fulfilled.

God has a plan for our lives, He promises to be with us as we live out that plan, and He provides what is necessary for us to fulfill it. Important truths for Jeremiah—and important for us today.

**All Bible verses are taken from the English Standard Version.*



Greg King, Dean



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Summer 2014 Graduate Courses Offered

Tuition: \$1,755 per class. Audit: \$878 per class. Contact Edwin Reynolds at <reynolds@southern.edu>.

May 6-25 Intensive

RELP 591 Evangelistic Preaching Practicum. Field School in Bolivia (Professor: Carlos Martin)

Jesus Christ through one-on-one small group evangelism. Practical experience is gained in laboratory exercises and in the field. (Professor: Alan Parker)

June 2-18 Intensive

RELB 555 Studies in Daniel. A study of the prophecies and symbolism of Daniel to discover their meaning and relevance for today. (Professor: Donn Leatherman)

RELP 570 World Mission. A broad introduction to Christian world missions covering aspects of the theology of mission, the history of missions, various philosophies of mission, and strategies for implementing missions in a variety of cultural settings. (Professor: Carlos Martin)

June 16-27 Intensives

RELT 546 Doctrine of Salvation. A study of the plan of salvation and righteousness by faith. The course focuses on building a biblically-based understanding of salvation through the sanctuary and key soteriological books like Romans, Galatians, and the Gospel of John. Some time is also spent in examining and critiquing varying views of salvation from theologians such as Abelard, Calvin, Arminius, and Wesley. (Professor: Stephen Bauer)

June 30-July 11 Intensive

RELP 561 Preaching to the Secular Mind.

(Prerequisite: At least one introductory course in biblical preaching.) A study of how to communicate the character of God and the truths of Scripture to post-modern society through effective sermons. Course requirements include preparation, delivery, and evaluation of sermons in a peer-review setting. (Professor: Douglas Jacobs)

RELP 534 Personal Soul-Winning Skills. A study of the importance, principles, and methods of personal evangelism. The course focuses on the development of skills to help individuals make favorable decisions for

On-campus housing is available upon request.