

# REACHING OUT

A biannual publication of the School of Religion

Fall 2012

Vol. 18, No. 1

## October 2012 Adventist Heritage Tour *by Jonathan King*



*The Sabbath Trail*

The downpour was so intense that the dense forest provided scant shelter. However, I was barely aware of the rain as I walked through the New Hampshire forest. I was too focused on the image of God revealed in both the nature that surrounded me and the history of the seventh-day Sabbath that was presented along the “Sabbath Trail” at the Washington Seventh-day Adventist Church. I agreed with a friend who said that everything that was needed to discover the truth was right there; one only needed to receive the message and then search the Scriptures.

On the Adventist Heritage Tour, an experience is chiefly valuable for

how it will be remembered in the future. What better location is there for a tribute to the commandment that begins with the word “Remember” than in the midst of the creation of the Giver of that law?

The Adventist Heritage Tour included many of the sites significant to the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to the famous bridge where Joseph Bates first spread the good news of the Sabbath in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, we also visited the homes of Bates, Uriah Smith, and the Farnsworth family. We even saw the plot of land in Gorham, Maine, where church historians now believe Ellen White was born. The beautiful fall colors provided excellent scenery, and our hosts at Camp Winnekeag provided us with equally excellent food and lodging. Even though the trip lasted less than a week, the tireless efforts of tour guide Dr. Jud Lake ensured that we made full use of our time.

(Continued on page 2)



Power for Mind & Soul

School of Religion  
P. O. Box 370  
Collegedale, TN 37315  
423.236.2976  
Fax: 423.236.1976  
southern.edu/religion

### In this Issue:

Adventist Heritage Tour .....	1, 2
R. H. Pierson Weekend .....	2
Faculty News.....	3
2012-2013 Ministerial Candidates .....	4, 5
Ministerial Candidate Recognition 2012...	6
Dean's Page.....	7

# Adventist Heritage Tour (Continued from page 1)

Arriving on the farm in upstate New York where William Miller began his ministry, we met another group of Seventh-day Adventists from the Southern Asia Pacific Division. We gave them a lift when their bus broke down and had the privilege of hearing their tour leader, Jim Nix, relate some of his very interesting stories about Ellen White and her family.

Probably the most meaningful experience for me was having a communion service on Ascension Rock, where early Adventists awaited Jesus' return 168 years ago to the day. Not much has changed since then; we are still awaiting the Second Coming, which grows closer with each passing day. The fervor that marked the Millerites' anticipation may be missing, even though it's still the case



*Ascension Rock*

that no one knows whether or not they will live even one more day. However, seeing the places and events that shaped the Millerites' experiences firsthand gave me hope that this spirit of expectation is still with us.

## Pierson Evangelism and Missions Weekend

**O**n the weekend of November 9, the School of Religion hosted its twenty-fourth annual Robert H. Pierson Evangelism and Missions Weekend. This annual event features speakers who have vast knowledge and experience in the area of missions or evangelism. The speaker for this year



*Shawn Boonstra*

was Shawn Boonstra, associate ministerial director of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Boonstra's passion for evangelism and his personal enthusiasm moved the audience. Throughout the whole weekend, the emphasis on evangelism was very prominent. Eric Louw remembers Boonstra's

encouragement to serve the Lord now, "You don't want to get to the end of your life and find out you wasted it!" In all three services the audience was very

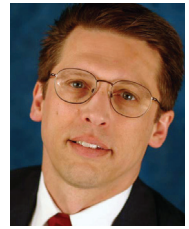
*by Carlos Martin*

responsive, and students felt the impact of Boonstra's messages. Christopher Hufnagel said, "Pastor Boonstra helped me to see a method for evangelizing and sparking an interest in those who have never heard the gospel before."

The School of Religion works in partnership with The Quiet Hour and ShareHim. With their help, the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) of the School of Religion has sent more than 700 students on mission trips, where they have preached full evangelistic campaigns and have led more than 21,000 people to baptism. Now the ERC is preparing 120 preachers who will go during Summer 2013 to Angola, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and the Philippines. About three-fourths of these speakers are not religion majors, and most of them go as volunteers. Professors from various schools and departments accompany these students and preach with them as well. Southern Adventist University aims to imbue all students with a passion for missions, witnessing, and service.

# Faculty News

**Stephen Bauer**, Professor of Theology and Ethics, published a chapter in *Always Prepared: Answers to Questions About Our Faith* titled “If God is Good and All-Powerful, How Can He Allow Suffering?” During his two years as Adventist Theological Society president, he wrote eight articles for the “Presidential Columns” in *Perspective Digest*. He is the author of “The Lesson in Brief and Learning Cycle” for the 2013 first-quarter *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide: Origins*.



**Greg King**, Dean and Professor of Biblical Studies, spent part of his sabbatical during the fall semester of 2012 at the Tyndale House in Cambridge, England. His projects included writing a Sabbath School quarterly on Isaiah and editorial work on the forthcoming *Andrews Bible Commentary*, for which he serves as one of the two associate editors for the Old Testament. Additionally, he is writing on Zephaniah for the *Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary* series.



**Martin Klingbeil**, Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Studies, read at the Third International Bible Conference in Jerusalem, Israel. The title of the paper was “‘He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved’ (Psalms 104:5; ESV): Visual Representations of Ancient Near Eastern Cosmologies and the Old Testament Worldview.” He is editing the second volume of the final excavation reports of the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavation in Israel. His family lost their little dog, Bella, and found her after she had been in the woods for 25 days—a miracle. (The story appeared in the December issue of *Adventist World*.)



**Carlos Martin**, Professor of Evangelism and Mission, wrote the companion book for the 2012 second-quarter *Sabbath School Lesson Study Guide* for the Inter-American and South American Divisions. During the summer, he coordinated the trips for 74 student preachers from Southern Adventist University to Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, India, and Sierra Leone. The students led more than 2,400 people to baptism. He taught “Theology of Mission” at Montemorelos University and wrote a 360-page textbook for the class, and he conducted four seminars in Spanish and English on last-day events. He also offered six presentations to all pastors, directors, and administrators of the Honduras Union Mission.



**Alan Parker**, Professor of Evangelism and Missiology, was in Memphis, Tennessee, during the summer, leading a citywide evangelism effort with our field school students. He also helped coordinate the Summer SALT Evangelism Intensive and is currently involved in the second full SALT program. This year he directed all the evangelism projects in the East Ridge SDA Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



**Barry Tryon**, Professor of Ministry and Spirituality, has recently begun serving as a board member on the Chattanooga Association for Clinical Pastoral Care (CACPC) at Erlanger Hospital for a two-year term. The CACPC is a voluntary organization of persons with a common interest in providing appropriate clinical training for those who are engaged in ministry, with an emphasis on ministry to persons in crisis. This corresponds with Tryon’s responsibilities as director of the ministerial externship program as it relates to pastoral care majors.



# 2012-13 Ministerial Candidates



*Ramsey Asenjo, Montana*  
May '13



*Edward Bryan,\* Georgia*  
May '13, No. New Engl. Conf.



*Robert Dabney Jr., Tennessee*  
May '13



*Billy Freck, N. Carolina*  
May '13



*Egbert George, Barbados*  
May '13



*Keishauni George, Barbados*  
May '13



*Bradford Goodridge Jr., Georgia*  
May '13



*Alex Hernandez, Georgia*  
Dec '12



*Daniel Lenart, Germany*  
May '13

*“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*



*Richard McNeil,\* Florida  
May '13, Ga.-Cumb. Conf.*



*Anthony Messer,\* Michigan  
May '13, Michigan Conf.*



*Samuel Nadarajan, Oregon  
May '13*



*Haniel Prado, Brazil  
May '13*



*Alejandro Sarria, Georgia  
Dec '12*



*Jerryn Schmidt,\* Canada  
May '13, Michigan Conf.*



*Donald Sparks,\* Michigan  
May '13, Michigan Conf.*



*Timothy Taylor,\* California  
May '13, Florida Conf.*

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

# Ministerial Candidate Recognition 2012 *by John Nixon Sr.*

The chapel in Thatcher Hall was abuzz with anticipation, as it is every time there is a School of Religion event. This was the Ministerial Candidate Recognition weekend, in which senior theology and pastoral care majors are welcomed into candidacy, qualifying them to interview with North American Division conferences and other institutions for prospective hiring.

The weekend speaker this year was Pastor John S. Nixon II, son of Dr. John Nixon Sr., professor in the School of Religion. Pastor Nixon II came with 11 years of experience in the pastorate, having served congregations in South Carolina and as the current pastor of the Immanuel Temple Church in Durham, North Carolina. Nixon was accompanied by his wife, April, who sang a beautiful meditation song before her husband's Sabbath sermon, and their two children, John III (known as "Third John") and Julia.

On Friday evening, Nixon spoke about "Secret Service Agents," emphasizing the spirit of service that Christ commended to His disciples when He said, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3). Sabbath morning's sermon, "The Dangers of Practical Atheism," was one of those soul-searching messages aimed at leading the listeners to self-examination regarding their personal experience with God. Based on Isaiah's prophetic call in Isaiah 29:13-16, the premise of the message was that religious leaders sometimes overlook their

own personal spiritual growth as they focus on the growth of those they serve. This may lead to private habits of life that deny the minister's calling and compromise the integrity of his or her spiritual leadership. Both sermons were sobering and relevant, bringing listeners to thoughtful introspection.

Perhaps the most vibrant and memorable aspect of the weekend took place during the Sabbath School service. Rather than presenting a particular topic, Nixon courageously opened the floor for questions on any issue

a student wished to raise. Some of the questions were theological and some even personal, but most were practical questions concerning the responsibilities of ministry, as students sought insight into some of the things that await them as they prepare themselves for the future.

Nixon was candid with his answers, often using his own personal experiences as

illustrations of the challenges awaiting those who aspire to full-time ministry.

The service concluded with the charge and prayer of dedication for the candidates and their families. Dr. Alan Parker, professor in the School of Religion, made the prayer highly personal by calling each candidate by name. All left with an awareness of God's blessing and with a sense of purpose and certainty for the future with complete trust in Jesus Christ.



*John Nixon II*

## A Foretaste of Heaven

This last summer I had the opportunity to travel to Israel and attend the Third International Bible Conference, which was sponsored by the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference. A nice hotel next to the Sea of Galilee was the base of operations for the first few days, after which we headed south to Jerusalem for the remainder of the conference.

And what a memorable event it was! Over 300 Seventh-day Adventist theology professors, scholars, and church administrators from numerous locations around the world came together to hear, reflect on, and interact with a number of presentations on the topic “Issues in Biblical Anthropology from an Adventist Perspective.” (I gave a paper titled “Bodily Resurrection in the Old Testament: Hazy Hope or Certain Promise?”) In addition to the presentation and discussion of papers, time was spent in worship; viewing various sites of biblical importance, such as Capernaum, Megiddo, and the Temple Mount; and enjoying good conversation while savoring the delicious food that was provided.

My time at the conference left me with several lingering impressions. First, as Seventh-day Adventists, we are part of a worldwide movement. While at the conference, I might sit at one meal with theologians from Mexico and Brazil, and at the next meal with professors from the Philippines and Kenya. On my tour bus there might be church leaders from Romania and South Korea. This church to which we belong is not a tiny organization limited to the United States or sequestered in a small corner of the world. Not at all! We are a global church, and the delegates at the conference reflected the richness and variety of the worldwide family to which we belong.

Second, these professors and scholars from various countries around the world were theologically astute. Sometimes Adventists in the Western world might be parochial in their thinking and hold the position that the only brilliant minds in the church are those found in

their own countries. However, this is far from the truth! Professors and church leaders from a whole host of countries revealed themselves to be informed, well educated, and professional. These individuals are a credit to the Lord’s cause, and they have much to contribute to the biblical understanding and evangelistic proclamation of a worldwide church.

Third, the delegates to this conference demonstrated a spiritual commitment that was truly inspirational. It was a blessing to get better acquainted with them and hear their compelling stories. Some of them had overcome severe challenges in order to become pastors and Bible teachers. Some of them work at institutions that face ongoing hardships in order to survive. Yet their love for the Lord was evident, and their commitment to His work was contagious.

It was a tremendous privilege to share those ten days with my brothers and sisters from around the world. As I reflect on the stimulating presentations, the excellent fellowship, the delectable food, and the enriching visits to biblical locations—all enjoyed with others who are part of the same church family—it strikes me that what took place at this conference was truly a foretaste of heaven, a foreshadowing of the time when, as described in John’s vision, “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10).

My experience in Jerusalem both enhanced my appreciation for my worldwide church family and strengthened my desire to be present on that great day in the New Jerusalem when we are reunited. May that grand consummation, the reality of which this conference was but the preview, come soon!



Greg King, Dean

# Summer 2013 Master's Degree Courses

*Tuition: \$1,710 per class. Audit: \$855 per class. Contact Edwin Reynolds at <reynolds@southern.edu>*

## June 3-14 Intensives

**RELP 513 Effective Church Leadership.** Church leadership viewed from the perspective of character and effectiveness. Issues covered include visioning, local mission development, mentoring effective administration, and decision making. (Professor: John Nixon)

**RELT 568 World Religions.** A study of several major Christian and non-Christian religions contrasting these religions and considering areas of commonality between them. Insights are provided on how to share Christianity with practitioners of these religions. (Professor: Carlos Martin)

## June 17-28 Intensives

**RELP 532 Principles and Strategies for Church Growth.** This course focuses on the application of biblical principles of church growth to the North American church, as well as practical evangelistic strategies for the local Adventist congregation. These include year-long planning for community outreach, church planting, evangelistic preparation, and membership training. (Professor: Jud Lake)

## **RELT 531 Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation.**

An investigation into fundamental hermeneutical presuppositions and the formulation of both sound principles of biblical interpretation and proper methods of interpreting the writings of E. G. White, for use in preaching and ministry. (Professor: To be announced.)

## July 1-12 Intensive

**RELT 520 Spirituality in Ministry.** An examination of a biblical model for spiritual leadership and its implications for personal spiritual life and development. The objective of this course is to discover how to experience life and ministry that is full of God's grace and power. (Professor: Philip Samaan)

## July 1-19 Intensive

**RELG 600 Research Methods and Writing.** A course dealing with techniques and tools, including library and online sources available for theological research for the construction and practice of writing research papers. Emphasis is given to expository and persuasive writing skills, documentation styles, and bibliography in various religious disciplines. (Professor: Donn Leatherman)

REACHING OUT

**Support Staff**  
Susan Brown, Admin. Assr., Pierson Institute and Institute of Archaeology  
Michelle Doucoumes, SALT Coordinator  
Justo Morales, Museum Coordinator  
Star Stevens, Resource Secretary

**Faculty**  
Stephen R. Bauer, Ph.D.: Theology, Ethics  
Mary Anne Poulson, Assistant Editor  
Philip G. Samaan, D.Min., Editor  
Greg King, Ph.D., Executive Editor  
P. O. Box 370  
Collegedale, TN 37315

Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.: Archaeology, Biblical Languages  
Douglas Jacobs, D.Min.: Ministry, Homiletics  
Greg A. King, Ph.D.: Dean, Biblical Studies, Biblical Languages  
Martin Klingbeil, D.Litt.: Archaeology, Biblical Studies  
Judson S. Lake, Th.D.: Homiletics, Adventist Studies  
Donn Leatherman, Ph.D.: Old Testament Studies, Biblical Languages  
Carlos G. Martin, Ph.D.: Evangelism, Missions  
John S. Nixon, D.Min.: Theology, Spirituality  
Alan Parker, Th.D.: Missiology, Evangelism  
Edwin E. Reynolds, Ph.D.: New Testament Studies, Graduate Studies Coordinator  
Philip G. Samaan, D.Min.: Religion, Spirituality  
Barry Tryon, D.Min.: Ministry, Spirituality



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 1114  
Chattanooga, TN