Identity Theft

I was in the dentist office recently and, as I was waiting, the receptionist asked another patient for his Social Security Number. The man said he would rather not give it because there is so much identity theft going around.

As I thought about that, I thought about the “identity theft” that has taken place among evangelicals. It seems as if Satan has stolen our identity. Ron Sider, in a recent interview, was asked this question: “What troubles you the most about evangelicals today?” Here is what he said:

*The heart of the matter is a scandalous failure to live what we preach. The tragedy is that poll after poll by Gallup and Barna show that evangelicals live just like the world. Contrast that with what the New Testament says about what happens when people come to living faith in Christ. There’s supposed to be a radical transformation in the power of the Holy Spirit. The disconnect between our biblical beliefs and our practice is just, I think, heart-rending.*

Gallup has pointed out that in areas such as racism, divorce and physical and sexual abuse believers are no better than non-believers. One of our graduates, Josh McDowell, has estimated we are only slightly better in the area of sexual promiscuity.

Years ago I remember hearing R. E. Thompson, the founder of Missionary Internship, say that when he was in England he inquired about a big red “L” that was on the front and back of certain cars. He was told that someone just learning how to drive has to have that big red “L” posted on the car to signify that they are a “Learner.” The sign clearly identifies the novice driver.

Thompson went on to say that every missionary should have a big “L” on his or her forehead for life to indicate that they are to be constantly learning. For us, it doesn’t make much sense to have a big “E” for “evangelical” on our foreheads if there is no difference between unbelievers and us.

It is time to reclaim our true identity as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ so our practice matches our beliefs.

Virtual Reality Check: How the Internet Has — and Hasn’t — Changed the Church

*By Holly Pivec*

What Does It Mean to Be Relevant?

*We asked four people to give us their thoughts*
Kurt Van Gorden (“Scientology,” page 7) specializes in apologetics and new religious movements and is a frequent guest lecturer at Biola University. He directs two organizations: Jude 3 Missions and the Utah Gospel Mission (founded in Salt Lake City in 1898). Van Gorden has contributed to the apologetic works of Josh McDowell (’66, ’71), Dr. Walter R. Martin, Dr. Ronald Enroth and Dr. Alan Gomes (current Talbot professor).

Paul Poelstra, Ph.D. (“Misused Statistics,” page 24) serves as a professor of psychology in Biola’s Rosemead School of Psychology. He specializes in general experimental psychology, including statistics and research design. The misuse of statistics in popular culture concerns Poelstra. “When statistical information is flawed or misinterpreted, the danger is that decisions will be made that are not in the best interests of the individual or of society,” he said.

Erik Thoennes, Ph.D. (“Godly Jealousy,” page 39) serves as an associate professor of biblical studies and theology at Biola University. He also serves on the pastoral team at Grace Evangelical Free Church in La Mirada. Thoennes believes that, of all God’s attributes, God’s “jealousy” is one of the least understood or appreciated. His book on the topic was released in March: Godly Jealousy: A Theology of Intolerant Love (Christian Focus Publications).
The women’s volleyball team prepares for the fall season in the newly refurbished — and expanded — Chase Gymnasium. This summer, the gym received a refinished floor with a new athletic logo and was repainted red and white to match Biola’s school colors. The expansion, completed last spring, added 8,894 square-feet to the gym and increased seating capacity from 2,400 to 3,200. The volleyball team played its first game in the finished facility on Sept. 6 against GSAC rival, Fresno Pacific. See the results online (www.biola.edu/eaglesports).
Consumers Will Decide

I read with great interest the summer cover story. The apparent fear that “secular corporations” are going to “compromise the message” in Christian books and force “man-centered lyrics” into Christian music reflects a profound misunderstanding of the free-market economy. If corporations publish materials deemed heretical or non-substantive, the reason for it is simple: people buy it and, in some cases, lots of it. It has been individual consumer choices that have, over time, determined the ways in which the mainstream media and publishing industries have responded to Christians, and consumer choices will continue to drive these markets. Christians can waste profound amounts of time and energy fearfully searching for hidden agendas in “secular corporations,” when in fact it is the freely made choices of individuals that collectively determine how such corporations behave.

Austin Hill (’99)
Phoenix, Ariz.

Think More Deeply

Much praise is deserved for your lead article on “Corporate Christianity” (Summer 2005). Those who wish to see Biola Connections become a forum for genuine reflection will welcome such serious and substantive topics. Although the article dealt fairly with the potential problem of corporate interests diluting or compromising the Christian message, it did not sufficiently probe the relationship between the Message and the market. Most of the individuals cited were concerned with managing the market so that it remains friendly to Christian ministries. Few individuals, such as professor Scott Rae, raised the issue of the quality of the medium. As graduates of an institution of higher learning, readers of Biola Connections should think more deeply about how all forms of media — especially non-typographic forms — structure and alter messages, even the Message. That the general quality of books written by Christians and published by Christian presses is so low should give us pause. It should also make us ask whether the other instruments we depend on to transmit the Message are as effective as they appear.

Angel Cortes (’92)
South Bend, Ind.

An Errant Stand?

Fred Sanders (“Biblical Inerrancy,” Summer 2005) bemoans the fact that many evangelicals have “retreated” from the doctrine of biblical inerrancy as found in the 1978 Chicago statement. But it should come as no surprise that people working closely and carefully with the texts should feel the need to rethink that stance. Look at Mark 11:1-7 and John 12:14-15, and then Matthew 21:1-8. Apparently, Matthew misread the prophecy he quotes (Zk 9:9) as involving two animals, not one animal described in two ways. Or, possibly, Mark and John have inexplicably left out an animal. One thing is certain: one side or the other doesn’t quite have the story straight. Two other things, then, are certain: there’s at least one error in the Bible, and Sanders’ stance is an error, despite his excellent intentions. Brothers and sisters, let’s not allow party spirit to blind us to the plain facts of the texts. This needn’t be a slippery slope to theological liberalism; I point this out as one who strives to base his theology and spiritual life on those precious, revealed books.

Dr. Dale Tuggy (’93)
Fredonia, NY

What’s The Logic Here?

I have some concerns with the recent article on UFOs. I question the rationale and validity of key statements made in the final paragraph. Specifically, why would UFOs disprove Christianity? That was not even a question for me, yet the author seemed to feel that this is a valid threat. Second, the author states that if extraterrestrials exist, they are creatures made by God. He then goes on to say that, regardless of the certainty that God made them, they are possibly demonic in nature. Can you explain this logic to me? Finally, we are directed to explain to others the religious nature of UFOs/ETs. Are we qualified to explain to anyone what we truthfully know nothing about?

Pam Alexander Meyers
Tulare, Calif.

That’s New To Me

I chuckled when I read the words “If you haven’t been on campus lately, you may not recognize the place” [“Momentum,” Spring 2005]. I attended Biola when it was in downtown Los Angeles, so everything about it is new to me! But I had to write and tell you in spite of never having been on the La Mirada campus, I am enjoying the pictures and articles about students, faculty and alumni. So, although the La Mirada campus is like a foreign land to me, I feel a connection to the campus and students.

Barbara Fisher (’58)
Kellogg, Ind.
What Should Christians Know About Scientology?

The Church of Scientology has received a lot of news coverage recently. Many TV programs and news articles have discussed Tom Cruise’s dedication to Scientology and the decision of his fiancée, Katie Holmes, to join the church. To help readers learn more about Scientology, Biola Connections contacted Kurt Van Gorden, an evangelical writer who presented a paper on Scientology to the Evangelical Theological Society in 1998.

How was Scientology started, and how many Scientologists are there?
The Church of Scientology was founded by L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986) in 1954. After a successful career as a science fiction writer of the 1930s and 1940s, Hubbard turned his attention from science fiction to developing the teachings of one of the fastest-growing religions among young and affluent people in our society during the past century. The church claims about six million members, but outside sources often place it much lower.

What does Scientology teach?
Scientology’s belief system is not easily reduced to a few paragraphs, so my answer is not intended to express their entire worldview. Scientology’s voluminous texts, written mostly by Hubbard, exceed 25 million words of authoritative religious material. Some of these teachings are rarely seen in public since they contain advanced teachings for high-level members. Hubbard’s first book under Scientology was Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health (Hermitage House), which has sold over 20 million copies.

One of the first principles taught in Scientology is that you are not your body. You are a “Thetan” — a spirit-being (similar to the soul) that has existed for trillions of years. The Thetan has experienced previous lives on this and other planets in the universe. Mankind’s problem, according to Scientologists, is that each past life had aberrations and painful experiences — called “Engrams” — which attached themselves to the Thetan, like barnacles to a ship. The Engram’s presence is what makes individuals react negatively (with psychological problems, relational problems and psychosomatic illnesses). Scientology’s solution is to remove the Engrams from the Thetan. The only provision for removing Engrams is through “Auditing” and scientological technical courses. The cost to clear one’s Engrams sometimes exceeds tens of thousands of dollars. Once the Engrams are totally removed, then the Thetan is pronounced “Clear.” From there, a person can move on to additional levels of auditing toward a state called “Operating Thetan.” The Operating Thetan is said to have control over matter, energy, space and time and, thus, is able to transcend the cycle of birth and death. Operating Thetans can also access total recall of their memory, including past lives.

How does Scientology differ from Christianity?
In some of his writings, like Phoenix Lectures, Hubbard appears to embrace monotheism, but in his other writings, like Scientology 8–8008, he appears to embrace polytheism. His teachings on Christianity include the claim that the Christian God is rooted in Hinduism (Phoenix Lectures). Scientologists have stated that ”many authorities” believe “Jesus was a member of the cult of Essenes, who believed in reincarnation” (Scientology: A World Religion Emerges in the Space Age). Hubbard taught that Jesus attained a lower level of spiritual achievement than what Hubbard himself achieved — or what other Scientologists can achieve (Certainty Magazine, 5:10). Man, according to Hubbard, is basically good, and salvation includes the ability to operate free of the encumbrances of the physical universe and to transcend the cycle of birth and death.

The gap between these teachings and those found in historic Christianity is monumental. In Christianity, there is one God (Isaiah 43:10). Mankind is not basically good because there is none righteous (Romans 3:10). Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Reincarnation is impossible because it is appointed unto man to die once and then to face the judgment (Hebrews 11:29). All of the authority in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus (Matthew 28:18), which leaves no room for Operating Thetans possessing authority elsewhere.

Kurt Van Gorden is the director of Jude 3 Missions and the Utah Gospel Mission. He is the author of Mormonism (Zondervan) and is a frequent guest lecturer at Biola University.
Biolans Reach Out to Africa’s HIV/AIDS Capital

S pendning the summer waking up at 5 a.m. in almost freezing weather, traveling hours each day through jagged terrain, and planting gardens in Swaziland, Africa, does not fit most people’s idea of a “fun” summer vacation.

But that’s what 131 Biola students and faculty did from June 24 to July 25 as part of a “Dream for Africa” trip to provide HIV/AIDS and hunger relief in Swaziland. Swaziland has the highest concentration of HIV/AIDS cases in Africa, with more than a third of the population infected.

Dream for Africa is a project that was introduced to the campus last fall when Prayer of Jabez author Bruce Wilkinson came to speak at a university chapel. Wilkinson challenged the university to take part in this relief program, which included HIV/AIDS prevention education to teens through abstinence, as well as planting gardens for those suffering from poverty.

Dozens of faculty, students and staff committed to go during the chapel. Among those who made a commitment was Ann Hamilton, associate dean of student affairs and student development. She said she felt the Lord telling her she was supposed to go.

Hamilton, along with her husband, Mark, and two sons, Andrew, 17, and Micah, 14, decided to join the team as a family. And with a background in nursing and health education, she was an ideal candidate for HIV education.

Along with Hamilton, Provost Gary Miller spent 10 days in Swaziland roughing it along with the students. President Clyde Cook visited with the team for four days.

More than 60 percent of the Swaziland students who participated in the education program committed to practice abstinence.

Sophomore Chara Hoskins was excited to be a part of the abstinence education.

“I was so excited to see the students sign a commitment to abstinence because they know the peer pressure that they will have to face, but they recognize that life and real love are more important than the lustful passions that lead to wrong choices,” Hoskins said.

Dream for Africa partnered with local pastors and missionaries to create follow up support groups for those who made the commitment.

Senior Lindsey Torrison was nervous about teaching HIV/AIDS prevention.

“The AIDS education brought me out of many of my comfort zones,” Torrison said. “This discomfort was for the sake of a nation in deep trouble. To be an agent of truth in order to stop the spread of new infections of HIV/AIDS through behavioral change was more than worth feeling butterflies in my stomach.”

Alexander Carpenter, also a Biola student, said he was changed by his experience in Swaziland.

“Africa left a permanent imprint on my spiritual life, higher than many other callings I have ever had,” Carpenter said. “I would like to challenge others to think about Africa and pray for the needs of Swaziland and other countries.”

– Rae Lynn Rucker

King’s Business Now Available Online

The King’s Business — a magazine published by Biola from 1910 to 1970 — was a leading conservative Christian magazine of the first half of the 20th century. Yet, today, very few Christians have even heard of The King’s Business, which has only been available on microfilm or in bound collections of aging issues.

But that’s changed. In July, the first decade of the magazine became available on the Internet at: www2.biola.edu/kingsbusiness/. The rest of the issues will be added when more funding is secured. The project was spearheaded by Dr. Fred Sanders, a professor of theology in Biola’s Torrey Honors Institute.

Sanders said that the The King’s Business is a primary source for historians of American religion, as the official record of Biola’s monthly conduct when the school was a “flagship of the international [conservative Christian] movement.”
The King’s Business was one part organizational (reporting the activities of Biola students in Los Angeles), one part celebrity editorializing (with Biola founders R.A. Torrey and T.C. Horton reacting to contemporary events like America’s role in the first world war, the Depression and the Prohibition), and one part content provider for the church life of conservative Protestants (publishing vast quantities of Sunday School literature). Its subscribers looked to it for a reasoned defense against the encroachments of biblical criticism, for a balanced view on phenomena like Pentecostalism, and for inspiration in their spiritual lives.

“Bringing the early issues of The King’s Business online is a boon to historians of American religion and culture,” said Dr. Philip Goff, the director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. Church historian, Joel Carpenter, agrees.

“Everyone who wants to look at fundamentalism as a national movement and, certainly, as a force on the West Coast should be reading The King’s Business,” Carpenter said.

Joanne Perez — the wife of the late Jose Escobar Perez — died April 2004, leaving their estate to Biola’s radio/television/film/journalism program. Jose was famous for his role as “Pepito, the Spanish Clown” on I love Lucy, and he helped write the show’s pilot episode (that never aired). The Perezes — both performers — were close friends of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. Their estate included a large, Victorian-style home in Santa Ana, Calif., and items associated with I Love Lucy, like a trick cello that Lucy played in the show’s pilot episode and an early episode. Biola also inherited personal letters and photographs from the Arnazes addressed to the Perezes. Biola plans to auction the items, and some will be kept in Biola’s mass-media collection. The trick cello was already auctioned for $35,400.

Ben Homan to Lead Voluntary Foreign Aid Committee

Biola graduate Ben Homan (’80) — the president and CEO of Food for the Hungry — was appointed the new chairman for the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, part of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The committee serves as a link between the U.S. government and private voluntary organizations that provide humanitarian assistance and development work overseas. Homan studied communication at Biola.

Student Retention Rate Rises

The number of students who come to Biola and stay through graduation is on the rise. The percentage of freshmen who return to Biola for their sophomore year has risen 14.3 percent in the past 10 years to the current rate of 86.4 percent. Most students who choose to leave a university do so between their freshman and sophomore years, so the percentage of students who return for their sophomore year is a strong indicator of student satisfaction.

Listen to Chapel Services Online

Biola’s chapel services are now available in mp3 format on Biola’s Web site. To listen to a service, visit: www.biola.edu/alumni/events_chapel.cfm. Well-known Christian leaders scheduled to speak during the fall semester include Michael Reagan (son of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan) and Dr. Keith Phillips (the president of World Impact).
Is it important for Christians to be relevant?
Definitely. Christians need to be relevant to the culture that they are in and to meet the needs of the people where they are at — really trying to put ourselves in the position of somebody else and understand where they’re coming from so we can share the gospel with them.

How would you define being relevant?
Being relevant is connecting with people and culture in an appropriate and significant way. That would mean being able to understand the other person in order to present the gospel to them by emphasizing parts of the gospel that relate to them, like if somebody’s father was absent to emphasize God as Father.

Who is an example of someone who is relevant?
Ravi Zacharias because he proclaims unchanging, uncompromised truth to various people of various cultures. He’s lived and traveled all over the world.

Are you relevant?
I hope so. It’s definitely a lifelong process — learning how to make an impact — but because the Lord has redeemed me I think I’m relevant in that way.

How so?
Christ transforming my life can be an example for other people. So, I think every Christian, as far as that goes, is relevant and can connect with people in an appropriate way.

How can we grow in our relevance?
It’s important for us to take advantage of the different situations and positions we’re put in and to be willing to use the gifts God has given us as individuals so we can share the message of Christ with co-workers, family, people at school and others.

What does it mean to be relevant?
It means to be true to yourself, to be who you know you are. I’m sure that changes as one matures. Relevance also relates to what’s important.

What is important?
Right now, I see relationships with individuals as really important. Previously I thought that the acquisition of knowledge was really important. But how we interact with mankind is far more important than whether there are X number of species in the world.

What caused this paradigm shift?
Age. Three years ago, it came to a head when I had some very severe physical conditions, which made me re-evaluate how long I was going to live on earth, what my plans had been, and the tentativeness of life. I realized the need to spend more time being attentive to people and being candid with people.

How are you trying to communicate the “important things” to your students?
Through things I say in class and hopefully by the way I live. I also teach the freshman first-year seminar class, which is an introduction to being successful as a college student. Hopefully, they’ll understand that being successful as a college student doesn’t necessarily mean getting straight As. I’m not ashamed to say that I graduated from college with a B minus average, yet I was able, later, to get a Ph.D. But I feel successful as a human being, and I feel relevant in my church and in my relationships with my family and students. And that has little to do with what I learned as facts in college. It has more to do with learning how to get along with mankind.
Are you “relevant”? This question is buzzing in churches around the nation. But what does it mean to be relevant? We asked three Biolans and Ken Myers, of Mars Hill Audio, what they think it means.

Michael Winter
Dentist for 20 years in La Mirada
Biological Sciences, ’80

Is it important for Christians to be relevant?
Absolutely. I think Christians are more able to be relevant because we’re willing to discuss, from a Christian worldview, things that the politically correct side isn’t.

What does relevancy look like for a businessperson?
Having integrity and a work ethic, being a continual student of the Scriptures and of our own profession, and integrating those together with the good of the customer. It’s also rubbing shoulders with the community.

Who is a relevant person you know?
The late Dr. Foster Bens, the first dentist in La Mirada and a former chairman of the Biola Board of Trustees. He was very involved in the community. He was aware of world history and how it related to the politics of the day. He could have a conversation with anybody and engage them in any area.

Do you consider yourself relevant?
Yes. I was a past president of the Chamber of Commerce. I’ve been in the Kiwanis Club for 20 years. I’m on the board at Whittier Christian High School, where my oldest daughter is a senior. I’m also on the alumni board at Biola.

So, it’s important for Christians to be involved in their communities?
Yes. I know the mantra, now, is “Don’t over extend yourself, and say no to things.” But I tend to say yes when there’s an opportunity in the community. Through that, I’ve interacted with all kinds of people. Christians are surrounding themselves with believers and immersing themselves in the church, which is all good. But are we touching base with the world in general? We need to join in where there’s a little profanity and a little disrespect to be salt and light in the world.

Ken Myers
Director of Mars Hill Audio, a non-profit organization that examines popular culture from a Christian perspective

Is it important for Christians to be relevant?
Why do we assume we have to be relevant? The Bible says we have to be loving and communicate and be attentive to the needs of our neighbors. It doesn’t say we have to be relevant. I think the way that language has been used has been that we don’t want to look too much unlike the people around us because then they’re not going to be interested in our message because we are going to look like aliens. But we need to look more and more like aliens because we are more and more like aliens. The more the secular values depart from reality as God has made it, the more likely it is that we’re going to look weird.

Did you always think this way?
I used to think the most important thing to do is to be up-to-date — to be as much like our contemporaries as we can without actually sinning. But that view assumes that God doesn’t care about the shape of our cultural lives. [For example], if most people assume the best way to live is to go for instant gratification then Christians should go for instant gratification. But, if God made the world so that some good things take time — and if Christians are going to affirm the way the world is as God made it — then we’re going to look weirder.

So, is the current emphasis on relevance in error?
One of the things about relevance is relevant to whom? To a conservative, white, middle-class Republican? Or relevant to somebody living in an inner city below the poverty line? Or relevant to someone who is attracted to Eastern mysticism? A problem with the whole seeker-sensitive movement is there are a lot of different types of seekers.
Thirty-one Biola students are currently enrolled at Roehampton University, in southwest London, where they will take classes and live on campus for the fall semester. The “Biola-London” program — open to juniors and seniors — is Biola's most popular study abroad program. Students can participate for the same price as Biola’s tuition.

Between classes, students find time to travel throughout England and other western European countries, like Scotland, France and Italy. Along the way, they meet people who are a lot like them in many ways, but who don’t always share their American views on culture, religion and politics.

Of all the experiences the students have during their semester abroad, the one they say benefits them the most is the friendships they develop with their non-Christian classmates, according to Dr. Todd Pickett, the program director and the dean of humanities. That’s because, for all its advantages, going to a Christian university has not allowed many of them to develop close friendships with non-believers.

Like Pami Ellis (’05), a music major who studied in London last fall and graduated from Biola in May. Pami grew up in a missionary family in the Philippines and attended a school for the children of missionaries. When she first went to Roehampton, she was confronted with the immoral lifestyles of her flatmates. They would sleep with their boyfriends and get drunk nearly every night. Pami never thought she would become close friends with them. But she was wrong.

Pami discovered they were “fun” and “kind.” They respected Pami’s lifestyle and would often ask her questions like “What do you think of my boyfriend?” and “Do you think abortion is wrong?” Pami said these friendships enlarged her heart for non-believers and showed her the importance of meeting people “where they’re at” spiritually.

This exposure to differences is one of the most important aspects of the study abroad program, according to Pickett.

“Our greatest educational leaps in life occur when we are moved out of our comfort zones to face that which is new, unfamiliar and challenging,” Pickett said.

Another student who went to Roehampton last fall was Lyndsey Barthe — a communication studies major from Apple Valley, Calif., who graduated in May. Lyndsey said she was intrigued by the cultural differences during her time in London.

“Fish and chips is one of the most popular meals,” she said, “and everyone goes to pubs instead of coffee shops — even the Christians.”

Another thing that surprised Lyndsey was the Brits’ interest in American politics — something that had never interested her. Being overseas during the U.S. presidential election opened her eyes to how other nations view America. On election night, her British friends threw an “election party” and watched the early exit polls on television.

At first, Lyndsey couldn’t believe they were so interested in a U.S. election. But now she knows why: They knew that, because of America’s influence in the world, the U.S. president would have an effect on them. Lyndsey said she now has a greater appreciation for American politics.

Both Lyndsey and Pami said their time in London whet their appetites for more international travel.

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Both Lyndsey and Pami said their time in London whet their appetites for more international travel.

“I think everybody should travel abroad,” Lyndsey said. “It opens people’s eyes to the bigger world out there.”
In Print

BOOKS BY BIOLANS

Godly Jealousy: A Theology of Intolerant Love, K. Erik Thoennes (Bible and theology professor), Christian Focus Publications, March 2005: Divine jealousy plays a central role in God’s activities throughout human history, yet it is virtually ignored among those in the church today. Christians desire leaders who are dynamic, educated and entertaining, but it is highly unlikely you will ever see “jealous” as one of the desired qualities of leaders within the church. However, jealousy is one of the primary attributes of the great leaders in the Bible. As human jealousy is seldom uncontaminated with sin, it tends only to be understood as a negative emotion. However, the Bible tells us that God is a jealous God, and Erik Thoennes offers us unique insights into godly jealousy as taught in Scripture and also looks closely at biblical leaders who displayed godly human jealousy.

Growing As a Christian 101: A Guide to Stronger Faith in Plain Language, Co-authored by Stan Jantz (Biola board member), Harvest House, Jan. 2005: Christianity is more than a system of beliefs or even an experience — it’s a completely new life. In this fresh new look at the essentials of the Christian walk, Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz offer practical wisdom and penetrating insights into such foundational topics as the Bible, prayer and the Holy Spirit. Readers will find the encouragement they need to continue making steady progress in their spiritual lives.

Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: 5 Views, Edited by Gary McIntosh (Talbot professor of church growth), Zondervan, Nov. 2004: Although the church growth movement has made a significant impact on evangelicals over the past half century, it has also created controversy and division. This careful five-view analysis helps evangelicals understand the movement’s strengths and weaknesses and arrive at their own conclusions on issues that affect the future direction of the church.

Men’s Ministry in the 21st Century: The Encyclopedia of Practical Ideas, Chapter contributed by Gentry Gardner (’83), Group, June 2004: It’s “tool time” for your men’s ministry! This all-in-one collection of practical, fun, easy-to-follow ideas is the perfect resource from which to build all your men’s ministry programs. Use these effective lessons and activities to connect with your male audience in an array of events including retreats, “Guy’s Movie Night,” father/child outings, ready-to-go Bible studies, service projects … plus you’ll get secrets to a successful men’s ministry and more!

Little One, God Loves You and Little One, God Made You, By Amy Warren Hilliker (’00), ZonderKidz, Oct. 2004: Inspired by Rick Warren’s The Purpose-Driven Life, Amy Warren Hilliker, daughter of Rick Warren, wrote these charming board books for small children. Warm and whimsical illustrations are by Carol Thompson. Children will learn about God’s love, being a member of God’s family, growing in Christ, helping others and telling others about God.

Event Calendar

October 8
Alumni-Parent Reception: (for alumni who are also parents of a current Biola student) Saturday, 4:30 p.m., during Parent Weekend.

October 22
Sacramento-Area Biolans: Annual lunch in Auburn, Calif.

November 3
Alumni Board Meeting: All alumni are invited to attend this quarterly board meeting at 6 p.m. in the Board Dining Room (Metzger Hall). Dinner will be provided.

November 5
Gospel Choir Reunion: Former choir members, directors and their families are invited to attend a free reunion on Nov. 5 in the Collegium.

November 6
8th Annual Midnight Madness: Join students and alumni as they celebrate the opening of basketball season in Biola’s remodeled gym. Doors open at 11 p.m., and festivities begin at 11:30 p.m.

November 7
27th Annual Golf Tournament: Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund and athletic programs. For more information, call Paul McGinty at (562) 903-4784.

November 18
Young Alumni: Join students for the annual Comedy Sportz improvisational comedy show in Sutherland Auditorium at 7 p.m. A reception for young alumni will follow.

December 2
Christmas Tree Lighting: 6:30 p.m. in front of Crowell Hall. (No RSVP necessary)

Please RSVP for events.
To RSVP, or for more information, call (562) 903-4729 or e-mail alumni@biola.edu. Visit the alumni Web site at: www.biola.edu/alumni.
Women's Soccer

The men's soccer team had its largest and "most talented" recruitment ever, this season, according to coach Bryan Kuderman. He believes the team has what it will take to win the GSAC crown.

"We created a much more difficult preseason schedule to help us prepare," Kuderman said.

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Women's Volleyball

Head coach Aaron Seltzer expects another year of tough competition. The past two national championship teams came out of the conference Biola is part of, the Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC). It's likely this year's national champion will also come from the GSAC, Seltzer said.

Biola's team, this season, is a mixture of experience and youth — with four strong seniors and four recruits. The returning seniors are: Hannah Timboe, Heather Diliberto, Kristen Orem and Joelle Lawson. The four recruits are: Kelsey Mitchell from Christian High School in El Cajon, Calif.; Kristen Peterson from Peoria, Ariz.; Caroline Ruttenbar from Santa Margarita High School, Calif.; and Micalia Drews, a transfer from Cypress College, Calif. , and sister of former player Carissa Drews ('04).

"Each player is extremely important this season — from the seniors to the new recruits," Seltzer said. "To be successful, we will need contributions from everyone."

Men's Soccer

The women's soccer team enters the season with four strong seniors.

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Four Baseball Players Drafted by Major League Teams

Reid Hamblet, a Biola University right-handed pitcher, was sitting at home listening to the major league draft on the Internet last spring when he learned he had been chosen by the Baltimore Orioles in the fifth round, as the 153rd pick. He breathed a sigh of relief. All his years playing baseball had finally paid off. Hamblet felt he couldn’t pass up this opportunity, even though it meant postponing his last year of college.

The 21-year-old Hamblet signed with the Baltimore Orioles and is currently playing for the Averdine Ironbirds for the short season A-ball team.

Hamblet’s draft pick in the fifth round is the second highest draft pick ever received by a Biola player, according to Biola’s director of sports information, Ken Carlson. The highest was Todd Worrell, who was picked by the St. Louis Cardinals in the first round in 1982. Biola’s baseball team has had 25 of its players drafted by major league teams.

“Playing professional baseball is not a glamorous lifestyle as most people might think,” said Hamblet. “It is fun because I get to play baseball for my job, but it is also hard work.”

Hamblet and his team are on the field everyday and are often required to take long bus rides to get to their games, which typically draw a crowd of 6,500. During the entire summer, the team was only given three days off. Hamblet, who was used to pitching for Biola one day a week, now has to train daily, unsure of when he will be called into the game.

Still the experience has not been disappointing to Hamblet.

“We eat a lot of peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches, and I only get paid about $35 per day, but I knew that was what it would be like when I signed,” he said.

During the off-season, Reid will spend six weeks in Florida for an instructional league where he will play baseball every day. Then he plans on returning to La Mirada.

Four players from Biola, including Hamblet, were draft picks for major league teams last spring. Andy Kroeker, a catcher, was picked by the Houston Astros in the 15th round. However, Kroeker suffered a shoulder injury early during the summer and has not been able to play.

Anthony Manuel, a second baseman, was picked up by the New York Mets in the 45th round. Garet Hill, a right-handed pitcher, was picked in the 49th round by the Los Angeles Dodgers, but did not accept the offer. He returned to Biola to play on the team and finish his senior year. Jonathon Grihalva was not drafted but recently signed on with a Toronto Blue Jays rookie ball club as a free agent. — Rae Lynn Rucker
‘The Research Says’
HOW RELIABLE ARE THE STATISTICS WE HEAR EVERYDAY?

News headlines are filled with statistics: “Study shows 50 percent of marriages end in divorce”… “Research reveals women are better drivers than men” … “Findings show that intelligent people are more attractive.”

The scientific mindset has so captured our society that one can often prove a point simply by saying, “the research says.” But how reliable are statistics?

That depends on many factors. Statisticians know that using statistics to prove a point is fraught with difficulties. The reason for this is that newspapers, and other sources, are not reporting objective data, but the researchers’ subjective interpretations of the data. Because of the element of subjectivity, another researcher might look at the same data and draw a different conclusion.

A case in point: In the last presidential election, some prognosticators — using early exit polls — predicted a landslide victory for John Kerry. Other observers saw the same data and recognized that it was inconsistent with other polling data. So, they were much more cautious in predicting a Kerry win.

The election example illustrates a key point in survey research: the people surveyed must be drawn from a “random sample” to get a true picture. Apparently, the early exit polls were not based on random samples, but on samples consisting of, mostly, John Kerry supporters.

Here’s another example of a time when a non-random sample was polled, resulting in a misleading statistic. In 1976, Shere Hite published a book on female sexuality where she reported that 84 percent of American women were unhappy with their relationships with men. But the statistic was meaningless given the sample Hite used. She sent out 100,000 surveys that invited women to fill out a lengthy questionnaire. Only 4.5 percent of the women returned the survey. This led other researchers to suspect that her sample was not random, but was overweighted with unhappy women who had the time and energy to complete the survey.

Errors can creep into statistics in other ways. Sometimes a statistic combines data from unrelated groups that lead to a misleading generalization. For example, some years ago a researcher reported that children whose mothers were employed had higher IQs than children whose mothers stayed at home. But, upon closer scrutiny, the statistic didn’t hold up. When the data were broken down by marital status, it was revealed that for intact homes there was no difference in IQ between children whose mothers were employed and those who stayed at home. The difference showed up in the divorced sample: children with working mothers had higher IQs than children whose moms stayed at home.

Here’s another example of a misleading conclusion. In recent years, some investigators have reported negative effects on children who are often spanked and called for a ban on spanking. But other researchers, like Bob Larzelere, have questioned these studies. Larzelere reports that when studying the results from other forms of discipline — like the use of “timeouts” — equally negative effects are found. So, the problem doesn’t seem to be with the spanking (nonabusive), but something else.

Another important factor in evaluating statistics is the “effect size.” In laymen’s language, this simply means “how much of a difference does the issue really make?” Let’s go back to the example of working mothers and their children’s IQs. The mothers who were employed (both married and unmarried) had children with an average IQ of 108.2. The mothers who were unemployed (both married and unmarried) had children with an average IQ of 104.6. The difference in IQs was 3.6. While the children of employed mothers did have a higher average IQ, it wasn’t much higher. In fact, when it comes to IQs, a difference of 3.6 would seem rather trivial — definitely not enough to draw any firm conclusions.

As seen in these examples, we need to dig further when reading an article saying, “The research says…” Given the power of research to influence public opinion, it behooves us to approach such reports with a degree of healthy skepticism.

Paul L. Poelstra, Ph.D., is a professor at Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University. He teaches courses on statistics.
Martin Luther King, Jr., once said that Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America. And — four decades later — nothing has changed, said Biola sociology professor Dr. Brad Christerson.

In 90 percent of the churches in America, nine out of 10 members are of the same ethnicity, according to Christerson. He wants to change that.

Christerson began researching multi-ethnic churches to find out how they became diverse and how they maintain that diversity. His findings were published by NYU Press last January in a book titled, *Against All Odds: The Struggle of Racial Integration in Religious Organizations*. He co-authored the book with sociologists Korie Edwards, of Ohio State University, and Michael Emerson, of Rice University.

Their book includes six case studies of multi-ethnic, religious organizations. The researchers found that successful multi-ethnic churches have done three things. First, they have developed integrated leadership. For example, one of the churches has three rotating pastors — a white pastor, an African American pastor and a Hispanic pastor.

Second, successful multi-ethnic churches have created intentional programs to help those in the minority feel welcome and connect with others of their own ethnic group. Third, multi-ethnic churches have a “theology of diversity” and intentionally teach members to value the diversity in God’s creation and kingdom.

The unique challenges faced in multi-ethnic churches sometimes cause members to leave, according to Christerson. But many church members believe that the benefits of diversity outweigh any challenges, he said.

"Most of the people who had left an integrated church were looking for another multi-ethnic church because they had become committed to the idea that God’s kingdom is diverse and, therefore, the church should not be homogeneous,” Christerson said.

**Professor Examines Church Diversity**

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**Faculty Highlights**

**Dr. William Worden** (psychology) was a keynote speaker at the “7th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society,” held in London in July. Worden, a former Harvard professor, is co-director of the “Harvard Child Bereavement Study” and author of a standard textbook on grief counseling, *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy: A Handbook for the Mental Health Professional* (Springer Publishing). *Newsweek* interviewed Worden last March for an article — titled “Children of the Fallen” — about children whose parents have been killed in the Iraq War.

**Dr. Rex Johnson** (Christian ministry and leadership) and a team of educators traveled to Guatemala this past summer — at the invitation of the government — to introduce a public school curriculum based on Christian morality and ethics. The curriculum was developed in 1992 for the former Soviet Union, at the request of their Ministry of Education, to replace Communism as a foundation for morality and ethics. It is now used throughout the former Soviet Union and has also been introduced to Southern Africa. Johnson helped develop the curriculum under the leadership of the “International School Project,” a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

**Dr. Steve Rundle** (economics) spent three weeks in June traveling around China with students from Biola and Gordon College who were studying “Economic Development in Modern China.” The group visited state-owned and privately owned companies, government agencies, universities and think tanks. Rundle also spent three weeks in Grand Rapids, Mich., participating in an economics seminar, hosted by Calvin College, on the topic of Third World poverty. Other participants included Christian economists from the World Bank, Cornell University and Michigan State University.

**Dr. Claire Sibold** (education) is involved in several organizations that seek to develop literacy in the United States. Last May, she presented a paper at the annual convention of the “International Reading Association,” in San Antonio, Texas, on the topic of “Strategic Writing to Support Adolescent and Adult Learners as They Construct Meaning From Subject Matter Texts.” Sibold also serves on the board of the “College Literacy and Learning Group” and as editor of their newsletter.
A Tribute to Jon Campbell

On June 22, God called one of Biola’s faithful supporters home to heaven. Jon M. Campbell (’72) was a dedicated servant of the Lord Jesus Christ who played a key role in spreading the gospel through radio. Even though cancer took his life, the impact of Jon’s service for God’s kingdom lives on.

Jon worked at Ambassador Advertising, which serves and represents Christian radio ministries. Jon’s father-in-law, Al Sanders (’49, ’69), founded Ambassador in 1959 to service The Biola Hour. Later, Insight for Living and Focus on the Family became clients.

Jon joined Ambassador in 1972 and was appointed president in 1989, after serving the agency as its executive vice president. Under Jon’s leadership, Ambassador represented more than 25 of the nation’s leading Christian broadcast entities, including Chuck Colson, John MacArthur, Billy Graham and Franklin Graham, and Joni Eareckson Tada. Jon’s ministry also extended to the boards of the National Religious Broadcasters, the Evangelical Christian Credit Union and Azusa Pacific University. He also was a member of Biola’s School of Business Advisory Board.

Jon met his wife, Peggy (Sanders, ’82), through Biola, and they married in 1970. Peggy served with Jon at Ambassador, joining the firm in 1977 to help launch Chuck Swindoll’s daily radio broadcast. Now, as the vice president of marketing, Peggy is responsible for overseeing the program placement for agency-represented broadcasts and projects. That responsibility includes serving 25 ministry clients (nearly 40 regularly released features) aired on over 1,300 stations nationwide.

Peggy also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for National Religious Broadcasters and is on the board of KSGN-FM, a Christian radio station in Riverside, Calif. She has served on the board of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), which ministers to over 100,000 mothers a year.

Jon and Peggy are examples of how Biola alumni impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ through their vocation, volunteer service and charitable giving. Recognizing God as the ultimate owner of all things, they have used the resources God gave them to generously support Christian ministries. Together, Jon and Peggy established three endowed scholarship funds at Biola, and now Peggy has established a fourth — the Jon Campbell Scholarship Fund.

Even though Peggy created the fund to honor her late husband, she is convinced that Jon would rather that the Lord Jesus Christ receive the glory. Jon once said, “When all is said and done, the ministry we do is not about any one of us — it’s about our heavenly Father and those to whom He wishes us to minister.”

If you would like to make a gift to the Jon Campbell Scholarship Fund in Jon’s memory, or if you would like to establish a new endowed scholarship fund, visit our Web site at www.biola.edu/donations or call (562) 906-4523 for assistance.
Biola and the Bascom-Sanders Clan

Biola Connections Fall ’05

Project Updates

Biola Scholarship Fund

Thanks to God’s gracious provision — and the support of alumni and friends — the 2004-2005 Biola Scholarship Fund goal of $1,726,500 was exceeded by more than $200,000. This is the second year in a row that giving to the Biola Scholarship Fund has exceeded its goal. The 2005-2006 Biola Scholarship Fund goal is $1,981,800. Thank you for your support!

School of Business Building Matching Gift Opportunity

Over $1 million in gifts and pledges has been given in response to the $2 million matching gift opportunity to help fund the construction of the new School of Business building. News that a friend of Biola has offered to match each gift dollar-for-dollar is encouraging business alumni, parents of students, and other friends of the University to support this building project. To help provide a facility to teach business professionals to pursue business as ministry — and double your gift — give online at www.biola.edu/donations or call 562-906-4523.

on (’72) and Peggy (Sanders, ’82) Campbell are members of the Sanders and Bascom families which have a rich Biola history. To date, nearly 40 members of the Sanders and Bascom families have attended Biola, starting with Burton W. Bascom, Sr., and his wife, Helen K. Bascom, who were among the first students to attend Biola (then the Bible Institute of Los Angeles) in 1910. The earliest Sanders who attended Biola were Joseph and Barbara Sanders, who were classmates of Charles Fuller (’21), who founded Fuller Seminary.

The Sanders and Bascom families were linked by the marriage between Peggy’s parents, Al Sanders (’49, ’69) and Margaret (Bascom, ’48). Al served as the producer, director and announcer of The Biola Hour for over 40 years, and ultimately established Ambassador Advertising Agency to aid in its production. Margaret was the organist for The Biola Hour, and Al first met her in the Biola studio.

Peggy’s brother Jim Sanders (’78) also attended Biola and he, like his sister, works at Ambassador. Jim serves as the vice president of technical services. His daughter Heather Sanders (’01) is also a Biola graduate as is his son Jimmy (’04).

At the heart of the Bascom–Sanders clan are Harry Bascom (’50, ’57) and Alma (Classen, ’47) Bascom. Margaret (Bascom, ’48) Sanders is Harry’s sister. Harry and Alma each came from a family of six siblings. Of those twelve, nine attended Biola, and of the nine, six married spouses whom they met at Biola.

Harry and Alma’s son Ken Bascom (’72) serves as Biola’s director of facilities planning and is responsible for overseeing the construction that takes place on campus. In recent years, Ken has directed the construction of Biola’s new library; Hope Hall, a 450-bed dormitory; the expansion of the Café. His present projects include the Horton Hall reconstruction, and the impending School of Business building.

One interesting bit of trivia: In the 2002-2003 school year, Jimmy Sanders (son of Jim Sanders, ’78) met Daniel Aijian (nephew to Ken Bascom, ’72), and they decided to room together in Emerson Hall the following school year. When Daniel told his mother about it, she said, “He’s probably your second cousin!” Daniel thought she was being silly, but it turned out to be true.
What’s Happening In Higher Education

**Anthropologist Falsified Discovery of ‘Missing Link’**

“It appeared to be one of archaeology’s most sensational finds. The skull fragment discovered in a peat bog near Hamburg was more than 36,000 years old — and was the vital missing link between modern humans and Neanderthals. This, at least, is what Professor Reiner Protsch von Zieten [of Frankfurt University] — a distinguished, cigar-smoking German anthropologist — told his scientific colleagues, to global acclaim, after being invited to date the extremely rare skull. However, the professor’s 30-year-old academic career has now ended in disgrace after the revelation that he systematically falsified the dates on this and numerous other ’stone age’ relics [whose actual dates were much later]. … According to experts, his deceptions may mean an entire tranche of the history of man’s development will have to be rewritten.” The [U.K.] Guardian

**Study Questions Scientists’ Ethics**

“Up to a third of scientists have engaged in ethically questionable practices over the last three years, according to a survey published in [the June 9] issue of the British science journal Nature. The surveyed behaviors range from extremely serious acts such as fraud and plagiarism — which were committed by only a fraction of a percent to 1.4 percent, respectively — to acts that are ethically far more ambiguous, such as ignoring data that contradict one’s theory. … [Brian C.] Martinson [the study’s lead author] … had trouble getting the article published — it was rejected by two prominent American journals, Science and the Journal of the American Medical Association, before Nature accepted it in the form of a ’commentary.’” San Francisco Chronicle

**Selling Out: A Textbook Example**

“James Williams received his letter last fall. ‘Dear Professor,’ it began. The form letter went on to offer him $4,000 for reviewing an introductory history textbook. ‘I thought, ‘That’s an interesting amount of money,’” says the associate professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University. … When it became clear that in order to receive the money, he would have to require his students to buy the book, he backed out. … Interviews with top publishing executives, textbook sales representatives, and professors across the country reveal a pattern of ethically questionable financial arrangements between deans and publishers, of kickbacks masquerading as royalties, even of professors being paid thousands of dollars to adopt a book.” The Chronicle of Higher Education

**College Investigates ‘God’ Term Paper**

“The issuance of a failing grade to a Victor Valley Community College [Calif.] student for submitting a term paper that used the word ‘God’ has sparked an internal investigation by the college. Student Bethany Hauf’s instructor, Michael Shefchik, approved her term paper topic, ‘Religion and its Place Within the Government,’ on one condition: ‘No mention of big “G” gods, i.e., one, true god argumentation.’ Hauf titled her 10-page paper ‘In God We Trust’ and used the ‘G’ word 41 times. As a result she received a grade of F for the paper and a C in the class. … Hauf is being represented by the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative Christian legal foundation.” Victorville Daily Press

**Christian Higher Education on the Rise**

“Recent statistics have shown a nationwide increase in enrollment among institutions of higher education, including Christian colleges and universities. According to the U.S. Department of Education, student enrollment in over 130 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) institutions shot up by 67 percent between 1992 and 2002. … In the 2003 U.S. News & World Report guide to the best colleges, nearly all U.S. CCCU institutions ranked within the top 36 within their respective categories. … Some 47% of CCCU first-year students had an A- or better grade point average in high school, compared to 35% of first-year students in other private colleges, according to the 2000 study by the UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute. Behind these numbers is the ‘conscious effort’ made by Christian schools in the past to raise their academic caliber.” The [San Francisco] Christian Post
Dear Biola Supporter,

My name is Micah Lemon, and I’m a biblical studies major at Biola. Before college the Lord gave me the desire to teach His Word to youth. I knew Biola would give me a firm foundation in the Bible. Yet, I had no idea how I would be able to finance my education. Thanks to Biola’s financial supporters, I was able to get scholarships. Since I’ve been here, I’ve grown so much spiritually. The 50 other guys who live on my dorm floor yearn to serve the Lord. My professors are concerned with my spiritual life and personal struggles as much as my school work. And my classes expand my knowledge of our Lord. Biola’s supporters make it possible for students like me to take part in the community and spiritual development that Biola provides.

Sincerely,
Micah Lemon
Alumni Survey Results, a ‘Rumor,’ and a Cruise

For the more than 2,000 of you who returned Biola’s alumni survey, I want to say thanks and share some of the early data we’ve received from the research. As you may recall, much of the survey dealt with questions about the outcomes of a Biola education, like “If you could begin again, would you attend Biola?” and “How was the quality of instruction?”

More than half of respondents (54 percent) said they would “definitely” attend Biola again, with another 30 percent saying they would “probably” attend Biola again. Regarding the instruction at Biola, 88 percent said it was “quality.” (Kudos to our outstanding faculty!)

The responses to questions about alumni stewardship and giving were also informative. When asked about the percentage of their income that went to churches or charitable organizations, only about 10 percent of the alumni surveyed said “none” or “less than 5 percent.” But over 70 percent of alumni said they give more than 5 percent of their income, and over 50 percent give more than 10 percent of their income. Biola alumni are a generous group!

When asked to describe their giving to Biola, about 8 percent of alumni said they already give (which confirms our statistics). About 24 percent of alumni said they have given to Biola in the past and would consider giving again, and about 13 percent haven’t given but would consider it. So, the total number of alumni who are potential supporters is 45 percent. That’s encouraging. If all these alumni gave, that would put us in the top tier of alumni support to Christian colleges.

We are still tallying the survey responses and will share more data with you as it becomes available.

On another note, this past month I had a conversation with an alumna who said she and a group of alumni friends were sitting around talking when a “rumor” came out. To be honest, hearing about rumors always gets me concerned. But I was pleasantly surprised by this rumor. She said someone in the group had heard that — when most foundations and matching programs are looking for universities to support — they look at the number of alumni donors who give to a university, rather than the total amount given. She said, “If that’s true, then my $20 a year really would make a difference!” Well, that rumor is true. Foundations and the U.S. News and World Report education issue look at the number of alumni who give to identify the health of academic institutions. So, for those of you who were wondering, now you know: your gift can make a difference.

Our young alumni are figuring this out. Last semester, more than 20 percent of our graduating seniors gave to Biola in a dollar amount equal to their year of graduation ($20.05). They gave the money toward the Biola Scholarship Fund and the senior gift project. Now, these alumni are challenging your class to do the same!

I’ve also received a number of e-mails and phone calls asking about the upcoming cruise. So, here’s the scoop. Biola is hosting a cruise to Alaska on July 2 to July 9, 2006, departing from Seattle. Our travel emcee will be Biola alumnus, Rich Buhler (’68, ’90). Biola faculty will lead the Bible study. If you’re interested in attending, begin making plans. We hope to see you on board!

Want your questions answered? Rick would like to hear from you (rick.bee@biola.edu).
See *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* a day before everyone else does!

Special premiere hosted by Biola University
Downtown Disney’s AMC Theatres Complex
All Biolans are invited to attend this red-carpet event!
An alumni reception will follow.

**December 8th**
6 p.m., 9 p.m., and Midnight

To order tickets, or for more information, call

562 · 777 · 4062

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**Alaskan Cruise**

Join Biolans on the *ms Westerdam*, one of Holland America’s newest ships

**July 2 - 9, 2006**

Enjoy exquisite accommodations, gourmet cuisine, five-star services and biblical teaching from Biola speakers.

**Ports of Call Include**
- Seattle (Departure)
- Hubbard Glacier, Alaska
- Juneau, Alaska
- Sitka, Alaska
- Ketchikan, Alaska
- Victoria, British Columbia

For reservations, call Inspiration Cruises & Tours (800) 247-1899

For more information, contact Cindy Hall (562) 777-4047
cindy.hall@biola.edu
Jacque Roberts ('01) works for the California state capitol in Sacramento, analyzing proposed education laws that affect public education from kindergarten through high school. She, along with two other analysts, considers if a policy is something the state could afford, if it supports the governor’s philosophies, and if it’s good for education.

“My job has a lot of pressure, but it’s also rewarding,” Jacque said. “I work with inspirational people who want our kids to graduate from high school with a knowledge base that is going to help them succeed.” Jacque’s career in politics began during her junior year at Biola, when she participated in a semester-long program in Washington D.C. called the “American Studies Program.” During this semester, she had an internship with California State University, Sacramento, called “California Senate Fellows.” This fellowship included a job working for the state Senate. Jacque earned a B.S. in social science from Biola and served as an R.A. in Sigma Chi for two years. She’s finishing a master’s degree in public policy and administration at Cal State Sacramento. E-mail Jacque at: jroberts@ose.ca.gov.

Kari Ediger, '87) Barron and her husband, Mike, live in Mission Viejo, Calif., where Kari has her own decorative painting business, “Make a Scene.” Kari provides decorative painting services throughout South Orange County and specializes in children’s room designs. She got the idea to go into decorative painting when she was a senior at Biola. She and her Alpha Chi roommate entered a room-painting contest for all the dorms and won first place. “We thought this would be cool to do after graduation,” Kari said. Nine years ago, Kari started her business. She said that the shows on television make decorative painting look easy. “But many people try it and find out it’s not that easy,” Kari said. Some of these people become Kari’s clients. Her husband, Mike, works for the City of Newport Beach. They have a son, Adam (2), and attend Capo Beach Calvary Church in Capistrano Beach. Kari majored in Radio/TV/Film at Biola. E-mail Kari at: makeascene@cox.net.

David Farr ('66) has served for 38 years as a chaplain, for 27 years with the U.S. Army and for 11 years with The Olinger Mortuaries — a group of 15 mortuaries in Denver, Colo. David served as the senior funeral service director/staff chaplain for the mortuaries until he had heart bypass surgery and retired on April 1. He continues to officiate funeral services for the mortuaries, which respond to more than 4,200 deaths each year. Some of the more difficult services to officiate, he said, are after unexpected deaths, such as car accidents, suicides and infants. “It’s a tough environment to work in day after day,” David said. Another challenge, he said, is officiating services for people of other faiths or people with no faith. But David said he has countless opportunities to share his faith. He and his wife of 36 years, Arlene, live in Aurora, Colo., and attend Mission Hills Baptist Church, where the pastor, Mike Romberger ('85, '89), and the pastor’s wife, Jane (’86), are Biola graduates. David and Arlene have three grown sons and three grandchildren. David earned a degree in Christian education from Biola and a master’s of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. E-mail David at: drfarr1@comcast.net.

Dr. Duane Dunham ('59) retired in 1993, from 29 years as a New Testament professor at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Ore. Duane now lives near Portland and preaches at churches, speaks at Bible conferences and runs an annual evangelistic fly fishing camp. He and some of his friends started the camp in 1999. “We thought it would be great to use this tool as a hook for men and boys who might not go to church,” Duane said. Every year, some of the campers give their lives to Christ. Two years ago, the camp’s main speaker was Biola graduate Loren Fischer (’56). Duane and his wife of 52 years, Gail, have four grown children and 13 grandchildren. At Biola, Duane majored in Bible and taught instrumental music for seven years. They attend Grandview Baptist Church in Oregon City. E-mail Duane at: duane@canby.com.

“Ring, Ring.” It’s Biola Connections. We surprised these alumni with a phone call. Who knows, you may be the next alumnus to be featured in “Where Are They Now?”
Advice on Life and Love

Bestselling author and psychologist Dr. Henry Cloud (’87) has spent most of his career helping fix broken people. Recently, Cloud noticed something: some people seem to succeed at everything they do. So, he decided to investigate what these people were doing right, rather than focusing on what others were doing wrong. Cloud learned that successful people invariably practice the same principles. These principles — mentioned briefly below — are detailed in one of his new books, *9 Things You Simply Must Do to Succeed in Love and Life* (Integrity Publishers).

**These nine principles are wisdom.** I believe that, like Solomon said, the commands of wisdom "will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity" (Proverbs 3:2).

"Successful" in the way that I define it does not necessarily mean "successful" in the ways the world often defines it (wealthy, famous, or at the top of their fields). I mean simply that these people are getting from life what they decided they wanted. This could be in the realm of vocation, relationships, spiritual attainment or otherwise.

**The Nine Principles**

1. **Tend to your heart** because your visible actions flow from your heart. Our job is to become aware of what’s in our heart, and then weed out the bad things (hate, pain, fears) and sow the good things (dreams, talents, desires). Many people never achieve their dreams or use their talents because they don’t cultivate them.

2. **Fix, or get rid of, negative things in your life** that are using up space, time, energy and emotions. It’s like weeding your garden. It keeps things healthy and alive. Examples include a dating relationship that is unhealthy or isn’t going anywhere, things you’re paying for that you aren’t using, and time you’re spending that isn’t contributing to your well-being or mission in life.

3. **View your life as a movie.** Before taking any course of action — such as choosing a particular spouse or making a business decision — play out, in your mind, how the script will unfold after that. Do you like the ending? By making wise choices, you can script the life you want.

4. **Do something.** Successful people don’t passively wait for good things to come to them and become resentful when they don’t. They take proactive steps, going after what they want — whether it’s a great spouse or a dream job.

5. **Accomplish great things one step at a time.** Whether you’re trying to lose weight, build a business, build a marriage, raise a child, overcome a pattern, or resolve a depression, it’s done the same way: one brick at a time (or one workout, one conversation, one lunch, etc.).

6. **Hate well.** Decide the things you won’t tolerate in your life (perhaps dishonesty, abuse, disrespect, control and oppression) and then take constructive measures against those things. When you hate well it solves problems, protects things that you value, and stands against the things you don’t want in your life.

7. **Don’t play fair.** This seems counterintuitive, but people who succeed in life don’t go around settling scores. They “run up the score” by doing good to others, even when others don’t deserve it. As a result, they often bring the other person up to their level. They are a redemptive force carrying a good infection wherever they go — infusing relationships, businesses and communities with health.

8. **Be humble.** Many people achieve so-called “success.” But if they are not humble, it gets tarnished by failed relationships, breaches in relationships that are never mended, unresolved battles with business partners, moral collapse and other blemishes.

9. **Upset the right people.** A successful person can’t keep everyone around him or her happy. The key is not to count your critics, but to weigh them. If the controlling, irresponsible or manipulative people are upset with you, then take courage!

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**HENRY CLOUD AT A GLANCE**

**Personal:** Age: 49; Wife: Tori; Kids: Olivia (5) and Lucy (3)

**Education:** Doctorate in clinical psychology from Biola’s Rosemead School of Psychology

**Career:** Co-host of the nationally syndicated radio program, *New Life Live!*, co-founder of Cloud-Townsend Resources; author or co-author of 18 books, including the *Boundaries* series co-authored with Dr. John Townsend (’84).

**Web Site:** drcloud.com
News & Notes

1940s
Clara (Neufeld, ’42) Warkentin celebrated her 90th birthday in June, with her family and many friends. She moved to Dallas, Texas, in June, to a Wycliffe retirement apartment at the Wycliffe Bible Translators and Summer Institute of Linguistics Center in Dallas, Texas. Clara lives near her daughter, Ann, and her grandson, Andrew.

Jim (’47) and Julie (Seow, ’48) McNutt live in Boise, Idaho. Their first ministry to Brazil was in 1950, and they’ve lived there seven times. They made another trip to Brazil in August to “check on their vineyards and enjoy the fruits that remain.” Jim and Julie serve under Unvegatized Fields Mission and Overseas Crusades. They attend Ustwick Baptist Church, where the pastor is Greg Reider (’83), a Talbot graduate.

1950s
Dr. Roy B. Zuck (’53) recently wrote several gospel tracts for the American Tract Society and one for Good News Publishers. Several of the tracts have been translated into other languages. The American Tract Society tracts (sold in packages of 20 for $2.50) are titled, “The Cross: What Does It Mean?” “What is Christianity?” “Is the Bible True?” “How to Find Meaning to Life” and “Praying in Times of Crisis.” The Good News Publishers tract (sold in packages of 25 for $2.25) is titled “Bible Basics for New Believers.” To order the tracts, call (800) 548-7228 (American Tract Society) and (877) 872-2871 (Good News Publishers).

1960s
Jene (’60) and Evie (’59) Wilson have a ministry called “American Family Living,” dedicated to “strengthening the spiritual and moral fiber of the American family” through Christian counseling, seminars and a radio program called “Spread a Little Love Around” on KWVE 107.9 FM and KKLA 99.5 FM. Jene and Evie are producing a record with Ralph Carmichael and his band. They have two sons, Brent and Burt, and four grandchildren. Jene and Evie are grateful that their children love the Lord and serve Him.

Harry (’61) and Nancy Sweet became proud grandparents when their son, Mark, and his wife, Rachelle, had their first child, Isaac. The Sweats also celebrated a family reunion from Aug. 5 to Aug. 7.

Daniel Ducas (’67) and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on March 1, with their daughter, Jalene, in Hawaii. Daniel sold his industrial parts business last year and is learning the joy of not working. His days at Biola helped him through economic highs and lows and to maintain business values of honesty and integrity. He remembers Dr. James Henry (’44) as his favorite professor, after one year of “Western Civilization” class lectures. The Ducas live in Walnut Creek, Calif., and are active at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. E-mail Daniel at: Danno110@aol.com.

1970s
Chuck (’78) and Tami (Castro, ’82) Carroll live in Ovilla (south of Dallas, Texas), with their three high school-aged children: Ryan, Aubrey and Anna. Chuck does health technology consulting and is the CEO of Driscoll Children’s Health Plan in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has played an active part in creating the Alcance Coalition, recently securing over $4 million in grants to expand health access and outcomes for children along the Mexican Border. Tami does interior design, while attending to active teenagers. The Carrolls attend Irving Bible Church and have three children: Jessica (a sophomore at Biola), Jake (a high-school junior) and Jill (an eighth-grader).

1980s
Karen (Sauter, ’81) Wrobbel recently completed her Ed.D. at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation focused on the university-level academic success of missionary kids (MKs) who had all, or part, of their primary and/or secondary education in host country national schools overseas (e.g. French-language public schools in France). Among the research subjects were 13 Biola MK students. Karen and her husband, Paul (’81), were TEAM missionaries for over 20 years, and their ministry focus was missionary children’s education. Karen continues to serve MKs and their families as the MK education consultant to TEAM and as a member of the school board for “Hinkson Christian Academy” in Moscow. She is an assistant professor of education at Trinity International University in Deerfield. Paul is the headmaster at Wheaton Christian Grammar School in Wheaton, Ill.

Keith (’83) and Shawn (Lapp, ’84) Johnson live in Temecula, Calif. Keith has been a banker for 20 years. Five years ago, he started a bank in Temecula with a fellow banker, called “Mission Oaks National Bank.” There are now two branches in Temecula and a third opening in Ontario, Calif. Shawn has been a stay-at-home mom for 18 years and “wouldn’t trade it for anything.” They attend Sunridge Community Church and have three children: Jessica (a sophomore at Biola), Jake (a high-school junior) and Jill (an eighth-grader).

Steve (’88) and Lani Mae (Nishida, ’90) Wisner live in the suburbs of London, England, with their two children: Melanie (9) and Michael (5). Steve works as a senior information technology solutions program manager for his company, Genworth Financial. They are unsure of the length of their stay in England, but feel blessed with the opportunity to live overseas and enjoy the benefits of a new culture without too much of a language barrier.

Pamela D. Bailey (’89) graduated from California State University, Long Beach, in May 2004 with a master’s of arts degree in education, specializing in early childhood. She works for Long Beach Unified School District. She writes, “I enjoyed attending Biola. It was such a blessing to me spiritually and naturally!”

David (’89) and Angela (Tomm, ’91) Toyer live in Tigard, Ore. (a Portland suburb) with their four children. David is a senior project manager for Verizon, and Angela works part-time for a real estate agent. David is also a deacon at Southwest Bible Church, and he and Angela lead a home Bible study.
1990s

Gary ('91) and Karen ('89) Griffith spent the past four years in Scotland while Gary pursued a doctoral degree. As a result, on July 1 Gary received a Ph.D. from Durham University in England. Gary is the academic dean of the United Theological Faculty of the Bulgarian Evangelical Theological Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he has served since 1992. During the summer, Gary and Karen spent a few months back in the United States.

David ('93) and Rachel (Hockett, '93) Snyder celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in Hawaii with their three children: Tony (5), Charlotte (5) and Jack (1). They live in Orange, Calif., and are awaiting the birth of another baby in February. David is a certified public accountant and controller for a company in Newport Beach. Rachel is a stay-at-home mom.

Mesghina G-Medhin ('95) — former director of international students at Biola — is the founder and executive director of International Leadership Training, Inc. (ILT), a non-profit organization that specializes in war trauma recovery. ILT operates in Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea and also equips Christian leaders and community leaders through conferences and workshops. For more information about ILT, contact Dr. Mesghina G-Medhin at: mmedhin@aol.com.

Marriages

Sharon (Holcomb, '78) Rosenberger married David Volponi on May 14, in Groveland, Calif. Her bridesmaids were her two daughters, Joy (20) and Faith (15). The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and are now settling down to married life in Groveland. E-mail Sharon at: angelpalooza@sbcglobal.net.

Adam and Christin (Carr, '00) Turner were married on July 3, 2004. Biolans in the wedding party included Kelly (Hirocok, 'oo) Matlock, and Kirsten Haaland ('oo). The couple lives in Dallas, Texas, where Christin just completed her Th.M. at Dallas Theological Seminary, and Adam teaches in the fifth grade. They are expecting their first child in March 2006.

Alfredo and Robyn (Ferrette, '01) Ferradas were married April 16 in Artesia, Calif., at a private residence. Their children and family served as attendants. The couple honeymooned in Italy and France. They live in La Mirada, were Alfredo works as a production planner, and Robyn teaches in the fourth grade. Robyn completed her master’s degree in May.

Robert and Laura (Oberholtzer, '04) Harmless were married Aug. 14, 2004, in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. The couple lives in Lake Forest, where Robert works for Purpose Driven Publishing, and Laura works for an insurance company.

Andrew Lee ('04) and Helen Woo, of Virginia, were married on June 11 at Cerritos Presbyterian Church in Artesia, Calif. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii. They live in Fullerton, Calif.

Shea ('05) and Elizabeth (Filakouridis, '04) Ramquist were joined in holy marriage on May 30 in Huntington Beach, Calif. Shea and Elizabeth now live in La Habra while Elizabeth studies at Rosemead School of Psychology.

Jeff ('06) and Robin (Kilfoyle, '03) Jennings were married in Laguna Niguel, Calif., on June 11. Biolans in the wedding party included Laura (Bostwick, '04) DeClercq, Joy (Buller, '05) Walker and Brooke Parmelly ('04). The couple honeymooned in Ireland. Jeff serves as college director at the Evangelical Free Church of Laguna Hills, and Robin works as the corporate trainer for Administrative Resource Options in Chicago. They live in Ladera Ranch, Calif., but are planning to move soon.

Births

Dennis ('82) and Luiza Strellman received their first child, Ryan Clay, on July 18 in Ashland, Ore. Dennis graduated in business and was a consultant for manufacturing systems in Silicon Valley. A master’s degree in economic development took him to Russia in 1992, which led to full-time ministry with the JESUS film. Luiza was a Romanian staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ when they met in 2002 at a conference in Hungary. They serve with Campus Crusade for Christ International and the JESUS film among the least-reached nations in Russia. E-mail Dennis at: dennis.strellman@ecci.org.

David and Marlene (DiFeo, '90) Cox announce the birth of their son, Jeremiah Joshua, born six weeks prematurely on Dec. 9, 2004. He joins his two big brothers: Jordan (7) and Braeden (5). In utero, Jeremiah was diagnosed with a cleft lip and cleft palate. Marlene was encouraged to terminate the pregnancy at 24 weeks along because of this and a life-threatening condition she had. Marlene and Jeremiah are doing great. Jeremiah was born with a completely intact palate, and he received cleft lip surgery recently. E-mail Marlene at: coxparty05@optonline.net.

Bill and Valerie (Baker, '93) Hooper joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Bethany Rae, on Feb. 26, 2005. She joins her big brother, Tyler (2). The Hoopers live in Danville, Calif., and Valerie is blessed to be a stay-at-home mom.

Mark and Amy (Stender, '93) Rupsch happily announce the arrival of their daughter, Haven Rebekah, on March 4. Haven joins her big brother, Corbin Mark (2). Before assuming her “stay-at-home mommy position,” Amy served as a program director for Metro Chicago Youth for Christ, in the heart of the city.

Shawn and Sheri (Noble, '93) Ryan were blessed with their fourth son, Kaden Daniel, on July 11. He joins his three big brothers: Dillan (5), Connor (3) and Tristan (1). The Ryans live in Corona, Calif., and Sheri enjoys being a stay-at-home mom.

Ruth (Diamsay, '96) Dignadice and her husband, Jonathan, were blessed with their
first child, Levi Jordan, on April 4. Ruth is a public health nurse for the County of Orange. Jon and Ruth live in Lake Forest, Calif., and minister to youth and college students.

Dan (‘96) and Trixie (Jennewein, ‘97) Howden joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Liesl Juliet, on Nov. 22, 2004. Liesl was welcomed by her big brother, Thatcher (2). The Howdens live in Harbor City, Calif., where Dan is a process control engineer for ExxonMobil, and Trixie is a stay-at-home mom.

John and Julie (Myers, ‘96) Saxton are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Daniel John, who was born March 21, 2005. The Saxtons live in the San Jose, Calif., area, where Julie has just completed her master of fine arts degree in creative writing, and John continues to work as a software engineer at Apple Computer.

Steven Williams (‘96) and his wife, Lisa, are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, ‘02 and welcomed Korea and her older sister, Shelbi Lynn.

John (‘97) and Grace (Bundy, ‘97) Cosby are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Maggie Corine, born on April 1. She joins her older sister, Shelbi Lynn.

Tim and Gretchen (Staffacher, ‘97) Hausman were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Victoria (Tori) Kathleen, on Dec. 8, 2004. Five weeks before she arrived, the Hausmans were moving into their new home in the Eastvale area of Corona, Calif. Tori is an amazing gift from God, and the family feels truly blessed. Gretchen is a third grade teacher at Grapeland Elementary in Etiwanda, and Tim is a computer engineer in Mission Viejo. E-mail them at: ghausman@dslextreme.com. Visit their Web site at: www.hausmans.net.

Jay and Kelly (Jones, ‘98) Myers welcomed the newest addition to their family, Crosby Paul, on March 2. Crosby joins his brother, Emerson (2). They live in Citrus Heights, Calif., where Kelly is a stay-at-home mom, and Jay works for a geotechnical firm.

Casey (‘98) and Kara (Hutchison, ‘98) Overcamp welcomed their first daughter, Elliana Leah, into their family on Feb. 25, 2004. They were married in January 1999 and live in Gresham, Ore.

Mark (‘99) and Ruth (Betia, ‘00) Baquiran are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Kristen, on June 6. Mark works in purchasing for a pharmaceutical company, and Ruth works as a pediatric nurse. The Baquirans live in Santa Clara, Calif. E-mail them at: markn ruth@hotmail.com.

John (‘00) and Kim (Wurfel, ‘99) Briganti happily announce the birth of their first child, Riley Joy, on June 1. John and Kim were married on June 23, 2003, and live in Temecula, Calif. John works as a youth pastor and disc jockey, and Kim teaches in the second grade. E-mail them at: john.and.kim@verizon.net.

James (‘03) and Julie Freeman are proud to announce the healthy and happy birth of their first baby. Ashlynn Joy was born April 18 in Ventura, Calif. Visit their Web site for photos and more information: www.tinyurl.com/6rjug.

Charlotte (Kouttjie, ‘05) Bondoc and her husband, Aris, welcomed Kayla Charisse into the world on June 21, two weeks early. God blessed both mother and daughter with good health.

Greg (current Talbot student) and Steese Koukl are thrilled to announce a new addition to their family. Annabeth Noelle — their cheerful, redhead daughter — was born on Dec. 27, 2004. Greg and Steese took her into their home for adoption two days later. Greg is...
Baby Biolans

Deaths

John Gillespie ('41) died on July 15 at the age of 88. John earned a Bible certificate from Biola in 1941 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Biola in 1986. While attending Biola, he met his wife, Nadine Simons ('41). After graduation, they became independent missionaries to the Alaskan frontier. John started many ministries in Alaska. He and Nadine helped start Youth for Christ in Anchorage, and John also founded Victory Bible Camps for children of the Alaskan interior. In 1952, he founded Artic Missions (now InterAct Ministries) to help independent missionaries work better together. He retired from the directorship in 1987. But, then, John was asked to lead World Missions Fellowship with ministries and children’s homes in Austria, India, Ireland and Japan. At 80 years old, John and Nadine moved back to Victory Bible Camps. There, they served at the camp and in their church. John is survived by his wife, Nadine; sons Stanley, David and J. Timothy; daughter Marilyn Franke; in-laws and grandchildren.

Earline L. Fleischman ('51) Willis died April 11, after a yearlong struggle with abdominal cancer, at Hillside Retirement Community in McMinnville, Ore. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Dr. David L. Willis ('49, '51), three sons, four grandchildren and her sister, Lorraine L. Fleischman ('47). Earline had contracted polio in 1955 and was partially handicapped for the past 50 years. Despite this, she was active in church life at the First Baptist Church of Corvallis, Ore., during the 37 years the family lived in Corvallis, including serving as missions coordinator, choir member, Sunday School teacher, deaconess, and in many other capacities. Her charming smile and smooth organization were well recognized by her many friends.

Charles William Jacobs ('53) went to be with his Lord and Savior on Jan. 5, 2005, while living in Paradise, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Anna Lois (Gibson, '53), whom he met at Biola; daughter, Karen (Jacobs, '76) Mauldin; sons Steve ('79), Tim, Doug, and foster son, Bill Daniels ('79). He was preceded in death by his son Larry. Chuck was a loving husband and father and leaves behind a family who loved him dearly.

David Harrison ('75) died unexpectedly of coronary vascular disease on Jan. 8, at age 51. David lived in Spokane, Wash., and worked as a housekeeper at Sacred Heart Medical Center. He earned a B.A. from Biola in Christian education. David served in a variety of careers throughout his life, including youth pastor, assistant pastor, custodian, hardware clerk, a caretaker of a town hall, and a wire maker at Honeywell Electronics. He also taught Sunday School and Bible studies, sang in the choir, and served on the deacon board of his family’s church. David loved sports, especially football, and enjoyed supporting his children in their sports, music and other activities. He also supported his wife, Patty, in her service and crafting endeavors. David is survived by his wife, Patty; a daughter, Rachel; three sons, Aaron, Jordan and Ethan; his father, Paul; and three siblings.

Correction

Doris E. Marshburn died April 1. She served as former Biola president Sam Sutherland’s secretary for many years. She is survived by a step-daughter, Norine Mae (Marshburn, '50) Larson and a brother, Duane Wetzler.

UPDATE YOUR CLASSMATES

Don’t be shy! Send in your News & Notes and let your classmates know what you’re up to. It’s easy.

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Please limit your updates to 60 words and include your years of graduation. Death announcements must be submitted by a family member or be accompanied by a photocopy of a published obituary.

Baby photos must be 1 megabyte for digital photos and at least 3” x 4” for print photos.
Hear the word “jealous” and images of an insecure, abusive husband easily come to mind. Indeed, jealousy has caused many difficulties and heartaches in human relationships. So it can be perplexing to come across a passage like Exodus 34:14-15 when reading the Bible: “For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

How could a perfect, loving, patient God call himself jealous? Is God insecure? Does this passage just represent a primitive Old Testament idea of God that is thankfully done away with by the time we get to the New Testament? Maybe this is just a human way of talking about God that should not be taken seriously. Or perhaps “jealous” is a bad translation of a Hebrew word that could allow for a less troublesome English word.

To understand why God would call himself jealous — and even intensify this description by turning it into one of his divine names — we need to see Exodus 34:14-15 in its biblical context. This is also true for the hundreds of other times God declares or displays his jealousy in the Bible. While all human words are frail and limited in describing God, we need to allow God’s verbal revelation to hold the power and meaning he intends for it to have.

“Jealous” is an accurate English word to translate the Hebrew word kāna in Exodus 34. Kāna (as well as the Greek equivalent zēlos) is translated “zeal” or “envy” in other places in the Bible. Zeal is a strong feeling to see something come about. Envy is a desire to gain possession of something that does not belong to you, and it is always sinful. Jealousy is a strong desire for relational faithfulness. Jealousy can be sinful if it is unwarranted or expressed in wrong ways, but it can also be an appropriate and righteous emotion. We don’t usually make a distinction between envy and jealousy, which contributes to the public relations problem jealousy has.

God is righteous and loving when he demands exclusive faithfulness from his covenant people. Because God rightly loves his own glory, and graciously loves us, he demands that we worship and serve him above all. In human history, God is most glorified by the undivided devotion of his redeemed people, and his ultimate jealousy for his glory demands this devotion. If he does not care when we love idols more than him, then he would allow himself to be dishonored and let us settle for less than we are intended to have from life. God’s jealous love demands the best of us and our relationships.

In Exodus 34, God gives Moses the central demands of relating to God as his covenant people — a covenant God compares repeatedly to a marriage. God is the husband of his people and we are his bride. This metaphor intensifies when we get to the New Testament. To worship any god but the true God is spiritual adultery, and any husband who does not care if his wife commits adultery most certainly does not love her.

Right at the heart of the laws of the covenant, God wants his people to know how permanent and exclusive is this covenant relationship. He wants them to realize that he is a personal God who is establishing a personal relationship with his people. As a result, he should be related to as he is — not as a more user-friendly god of their own making.

What a staggering and wonderful truth — that the God who is perfectly self-sufficient (Psalm 50:12; Acts 17:24-25) has chosen to enter into an intimate relationship with his people to the point where he feels jealous anger if we are unfaithful to him! And what a blessed joy to know that — by faith in Christ, the only perfect covenant keeper — we can rest assured that one day we will be presented to our Lord pure and conformed to his image (1 John 3:2-3). Until then, may the God whose name is Jealous be honored through the surprising faithfulness of his bride who is prone to wander.

Erik Thoennes, Ph.D., is an associate professor of biblical studies and theology at Biola University.
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