

# Biola

SPRING 2008

## Worlds Apart

Most Christians live outside the U.S. They share our beliefs, but the similarities end there.



*A Century of Faithfulness*

**unChristian Interview** — **Alumni Marriage Study** — **Army Therapists**



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# Biola

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## Saying Goodbye

**F**or the past decade, we, the editors, have enjoyed producing *Biola Magazine* so much that there's no easy way for us to write this Editor's Note. This is our last issue. We both will be moving on to other places of service.

Our moves have come at the same time quite coincidentally, or rather we should say providentially since we believe God oversees lives. Rob Westervelt, the editor in chief, has accepted the position of vice president of marketing and communications at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore. Holly Pivec, the managing editor, will be taking over her father's ministry at [FulfilledProphecy.com](http://FulfilledProphecy.com).

For both of us, leaving Biola was a tough decision to make. Biola holds a very special place in our hearts. Not only did we both graduate from Biola, but Rob also met his wife, Melinda (Wixon, '00), at Biola, and Holly's husband, Adam, is close to completing a master of divinity degree at Biola's seminary, Talbot School of Theology. Many of our closest friends are Biolans. We've also had the privilege of interacting with many inspiring Biola staff, faculty, students and alumni who have been featured in *Biola Magazine* over the years.

And we both believe strongly in Biola's heritage and mission. Biola is experiencing exciting times as it enters its second century under the leadership of a capable and godly new president, Barry H. Corey. So, it seems strange to us to be called elsewhere at this moment in Biola's history.

The magazine is being left in competent hands. The new editor in chief, Jason Newell, is a 2002 graduate of Biola and former reporter of four years for the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* in Ontario, Calif. Jason's wife, Megan ('03), also a Biola graduate, has worked in the registrar's office since May 2003, and Jason joined Biola's staff in April 2007. Since then, he has assisted in copyediting and writing many articles for *Biola Magazine* — including four in this issue and also the Fall 2007 cover story introducing President Corey ("New President, New Century"). Those who've read Jason's articles know he's a gifted writer and reporter.

So, while it's hard for us to say goodbye, we're looking forward to being on the receiving end of the magazine — seeing it for the first time when it arrives in our mailboxes, just like you. And being kept informed — together with you — of how Biola is continuing to fulfill its mission of preparing men and women to impact the world for Christ.



**Rob Westervelt**  
(M.A. '97), Editor

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*Biola Magazine* is published quarterly by Biola University's Integrated Marketing Communications department and is sent to alumni, parents, supporters and friends of the University. Biola's mission is biblically centered education, scholarship and service — equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

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# Celebrating the Blessings

I sure enjoyed reading and seeing the past-to-the-present pictures of Biola University. What an awesome way to celebrate the blessings God has bestowed upon the University, including a brand new president to lead the future. You folks have really improved the magazine over the years. Keep up the excellent work for the Lord!

Jocelyn (Motas, M.A. '88) Brunson  
Hastings, Neb.

## Flood of Memories

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the Centennial issue. It brought back a flood of memories. Being the Class of '72 and a Christian education major, I have watched with interest the growth and impact Biola has had as a witness to our Lord and Savior. I am completing 35 years of service with Continental Airlines and continue to seek ways in order to serve Him. My wife, Robin, and two of our three children are serving at North Phoenix Baptist Church, where I am serving as both Sunday school class director and deacon. Our son, Ian, is serving with the 10th Mountain Infantry Division in Iraq. May our Lord continue to bless you as you keep us informed of the "tie that binds."

John Thomas ('72)  
Phoenix, Ariz.

## Great Article!

This evening I picked up the winter issue of *Biola Magazine* and was intrigued, encouraged and impressed by your article on self-publishing. I published my first book, *The God Questions*, with a traditional Christian publisher, and then (for the reasons you cited) decided to self-publish. That went so well that my daughter, Amy (a sophomore at Biola), got involved. She collaborated with me on *Jonah: Responding to God in All the Right Ways*, which came out just two weeks ago. We've sold 450 copies so far.

Hal Seed  
Oceanside, Calif.

## Polygamy a Harmful Practice

I was born in Africa so was interested in Holly Pivec's article on Biola graduate Tokunboh Adeyemo's *Africa Bible Commentary* ("Alumnus Produces First African Bible Commentary," Winter 2008). I was shocked that a woman

author would comment about how an article included in this commentary regarding polygamy "may help Western Christians think about whether practices they forbid are merely cultural preference" and that although the Bible "mostly portrays polygamy in a negative light ... it doesn't explicitly forbid the practice among non-church leaders." Huh?! What of God's institution of monogamy in Genesis and Jesus' continual repeating of that example in the Gospels? Is God's view then "negative"?! Yes it is! And he's *God!* So did Ms. Pivec study the hurtful history of polygamy in our own country among the Fundamental Mormons before making such a foolish statement? And does she not know the emotional and physical damages of polygamy throughout the African and other cultures? Ms. Pivec's comment was naive at best and unbiblical at worst. Thankfully, she acknowledged how harmful female circumcision is — wait, isn't that a cultural thing, too, and not even discussed in the Bible!

Linda C. Brown ('79)  
Boise, Idaho

**Editor's Note:** Holly Pivec did not defend the practice of polygamy. The views shared in the article were those of the scholars who contributed to the commentary. The article on polygamy was written by Isabel Apawo Phiri, of Malawi.

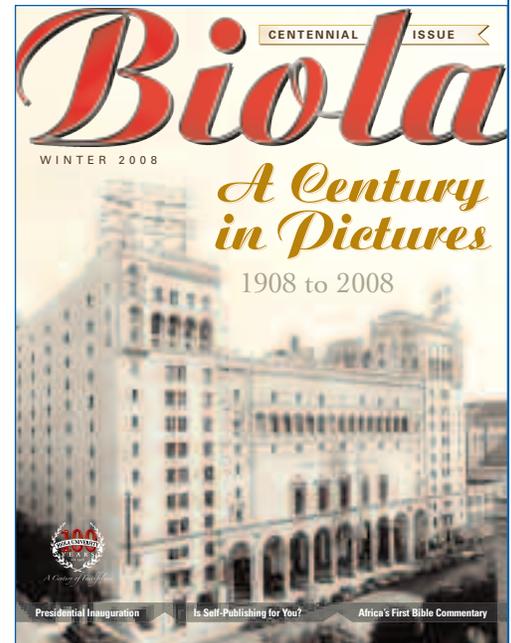
## Inspiring Life

What a beautiful piece on Daniel B. Wallace and his extraordinary efforts to photograph ancient manuscripts of the Bible. This great act of faith, no doubt prompted by God, will serve to preserve Scripture and ensure its accessibility to all until Christ returns! How inspiring to see a life lived, so honoring to God, that Daniel himself can say with assurance: "This is why God designed me." I hope that I too will one day be able to reflect upon my life with those words.

Susan Stribich ('81)  
Long Beach, Calif.

## Boggles My Mind

I am always encouraged when I receive the newest issue of my *Biola Magazine* because I invariably see fellow alumni using their talents, education and skills to joyfully serve Christ throughout the world. Be it teaching music in



Haiti, medical work in Africa, preserving original manuscripts, writing books, or teaching Sunday School, their love for what they do and their desire to be used by God shines. I know that most do not do this for praise, and there are many more out there who will never be featured in the magazine. Of the Biolans I personally know, one just returned from a medical mission to Senegal, another spent her time coordinating Operation Christmas Child, another is a full-time pastor, and many more are involved in teaching in their local churches. When I think of the impact that just these few people have had on literally thousands of lives — and multiply that by the many more faithful who are out there — well, it just boggles my mind to see how God is at work in our world and how he can use us as humble vessels to touch millions of lives.

Cathy (Ingalls, '91) Broker  
Boise, Idaho

Tell us what you think! E-mail [biolamag@biola.edu](mailto:biolamag@biola.edu) or send mail to: Biola Magazine, 13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, CA 90639. Be sure to state "Reader Mail" in the subject line and include your city and state of residence and year of graduation from Biola (if applicable). Please keep your letters to a maximum of 200 words. They may be edited for length and clarity.



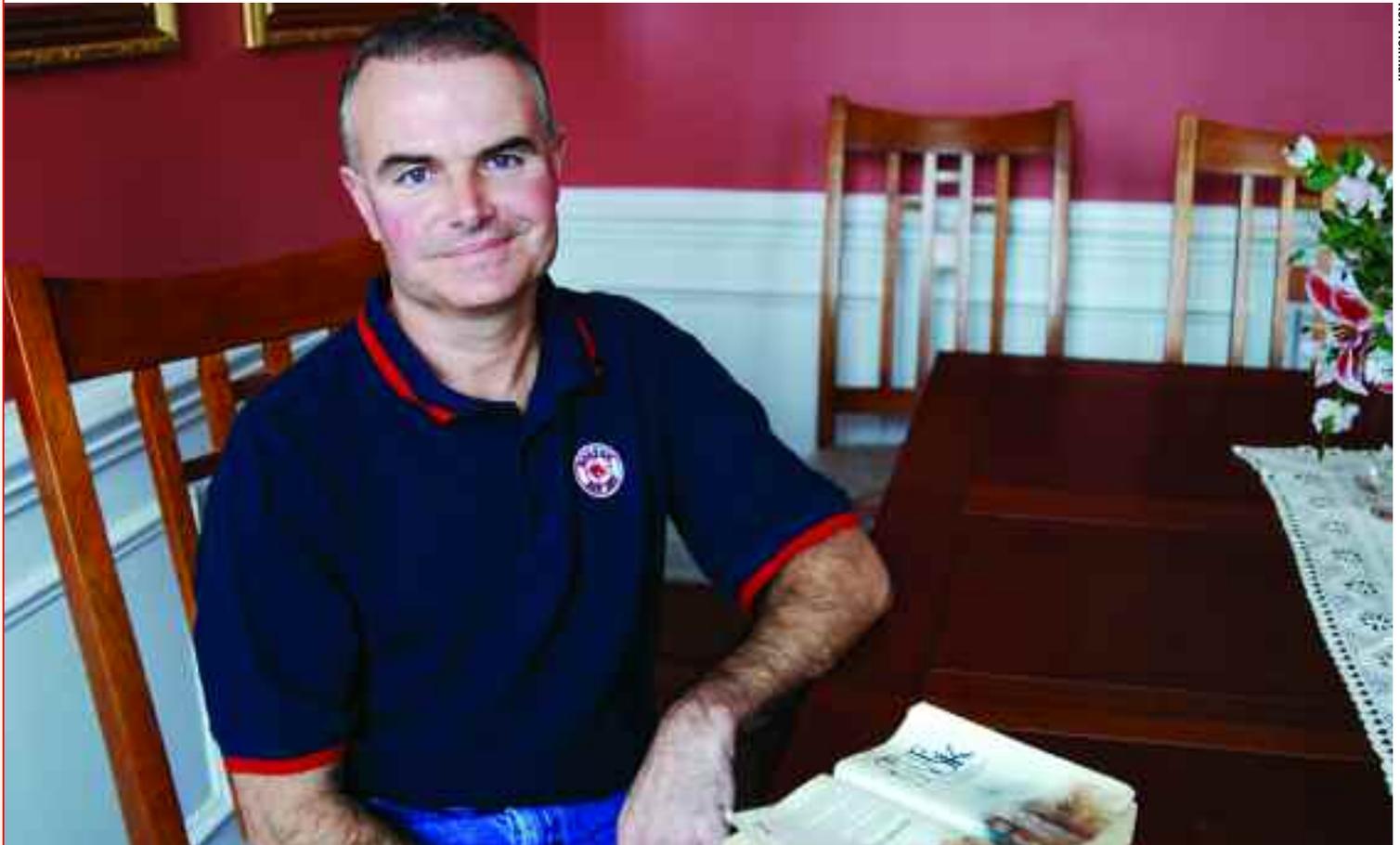
*A Century of Faithfulness*



## 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1!

**J**on Foreman, lead singer of the popular Christian rock band Switchfoot, hoists a birthday cake with 100 candles up to President Barry H. Corey just after the stroke of midnight on Feb. 25, Biola's 100th birthday. More than 1,500 people packed into Chase Gymnasium for the late-night Birthday Bash, which featured a New Year's Eve-style countdown and concert. Read more on page 10.

## The Note Stuck in Jeff's Bible



Kori Hoffman

Jeff, President Corey's childhood friend, sits at home in North Carolina with a Bible that was given to him two decades ago by Corey's father.

I lost touch with Jeff pretty much after high school. When we were boys growing up 10 or so houses apart on Bryn Mawr Avenue in a small Massachusetts town back in the 1970s, we were together nearly every day. Jeff's father was our neighborhood athletics coordinator, organizing touch football games and teaching us how to golf at the local junior high school. During the frequent New England snow days, we'd build extravagant sledding runs and jumps, spending hours in the wonder of gravity as it pulled us down those hills and as we trudged back up, sleds in tow. Jeff and I learned to drive together, talked of girls together, worked for minimum wage at the local steak house together and processed life as teenage boys together. We took our first road trip together as 17-year-olds driving into Boston for a Red Sox game, seeing our heroes up close.

If someone asked me who my best friend was, the answer would have been simple. Jeff was. Our lives were different in many ways. He was from a Catholic family and we were Protestants. Jeff was the oldest child and I was the youngest. I was going to college and he was going to work. But during those childhood years what mattered was a bond of friendship that was precious.

When we graduated from high school in 1980, life took us on different trajectories. For a few years we had limited communication, then our contact with each other just vaporized, not for any particular reason. We each went on with life. But over these 20-plus years since I have heard from Jeff, I have occasionally thought about my childhood friend and what ever might have happened to him.

Then, just last week, in the early days of 2008, I got an e-mail out of the blue from Jeff. Twenty-plus years since I've last heard from him.

He's living in North Carolina now with his wife and two children. He found me. I called him, and we talked about life and all that has transpired in these two-plus decades. It was a wonderful reunion of hearing about the journey of careers and family and lost friends and our timeless devotion to the Red Sox.

Then Jeff asked me if I ever knew my father had given him a Bible. I hadn't. He told me that back in the 1980s my father had sent him a new Bible. One day, many years later, Jeff was going through the Bible and he found a note stuck between the pages, a note my father had written him. He told me during our first conversation in many, many years how much that note from my father had meant. The note read:

*Dear Jeff,*

*I think of you so often and appreciate the friend you have been over the years both to Barry and us. I'm*

*mailing you a book. Whenever you come home at night tired or sometimes not too satisfied with life in general, relax and read a few pages. It will have a soothing effect. Stop in anytime. We always love to see you. You are special in our family.*

*Your Friend, Hugh Corey*

Jeff shared with me on the phone how over-taken he was when he found this note while going through the Bible.

"I guess I left it in there for a reason," Jeff reflected.

I knew that my father had left it there for a reason. The week Jeff contacted me was also the 10-year anniversary of my father's death. I reflected a lot that week about a note passed from the aging Hugh to rising Jeff, just to make sure the Word of God in all of its trustworthiness is grasped by the next generation.

In a small way, this reminder for me on a 10th anniversary from a note stuck in Jeff's Bible was that the truth of God's Word must be passed from one generation to the next. In a much larger way, as Biola celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are remembering that same legacy. I believe this generation of leadership at Biola has a mandate to protect and preserve the centrality and rightful place of God's Word to the students of our University as they learn to integrate biblical faith into their lives as followers of Christ and into their learning as students.

Biola at its center is a place that is marked by a belief in God as the source of all truth. As we look at the granite cornerstone of the first campus of this University — with chiseled words that have weathered time — we see that our commitment to the authority of God's Word has held us firm, and this conviction must remain at the core of Biola's vision to be an exemplary Christian university.

The documents read from 1913, "It should ... be understood that these buildings are not to be a monument to any man nor to any set of men, but are to forever stand solely for the promulgation of the eternal truths of God's Holy Word."

If we get wobbly on the doctrine of Scripture, core underpinnings get knocked loose, and loosened convictions on biblical truth will be the early steps toward institutional drift. Every kind of heterodoxy starts with unfaith-

fulness on the subject of Scripture and in a mischievous hermeneutic of the Bible.

One of the special moments in my early days at Biola was when the chapel speaker asked us to turn to the book of Colossians, and I watched as the students — who filled the gymnasium — dug into their backpacks for their Bibles. So what if students are sitting on the floor with torn jeans and wild hair and sandals, living in a Facebooked, You-Tubed culture?

What gives me hope is that I see students committed to the Bible who don't play fast and loose with Scripture, and they work hard to make God's Word relevant to their culture. This is at the heart of who we are, embedded in our culture and deeply evident in our heritage.

I have great confidence in the students of Biola today who, like generations of graduates before them, will leave here with conviction and with courage that God's Word is Truth and God's Word is transformational.

And we will not be alone. For what is happening around the globe today is staggering as hundreds of millions have made decisions to follow Christ and take God's Word to mean what it says, allowing it to speak into their lives and circumstances with a clarity and authenticity that is fresh and freeing. These believers in places like the Sudan and Indonesia, Brazil and China are standing resolutely on God's Word without suspicion nor picking and choosing which parts to believe.

I got a letter a few months back from Rick Warren. Here's what he wrote to encourage me at Biola: "There's one thing that never changes and that is the truth of God. Now more than ever, our people need to learn ... biblical principles ... to set the standard for building them into great, godly, good and global leaders to impact the world for Christ."

At Biola University, we believe we have the essential moorings in place to keep us from drifting. We believe that as we stay true to these moorings, our future as a leading light in Christian higher education is assured.

Like the note tucked into the pages of Jeff's Bible, reminding him of the validity of God's Word, so must we be focused and determined in doing likewise at this University for this generation of students. Our mission is clear as we provide biblically centered education, scholarship and service, preparing our students in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

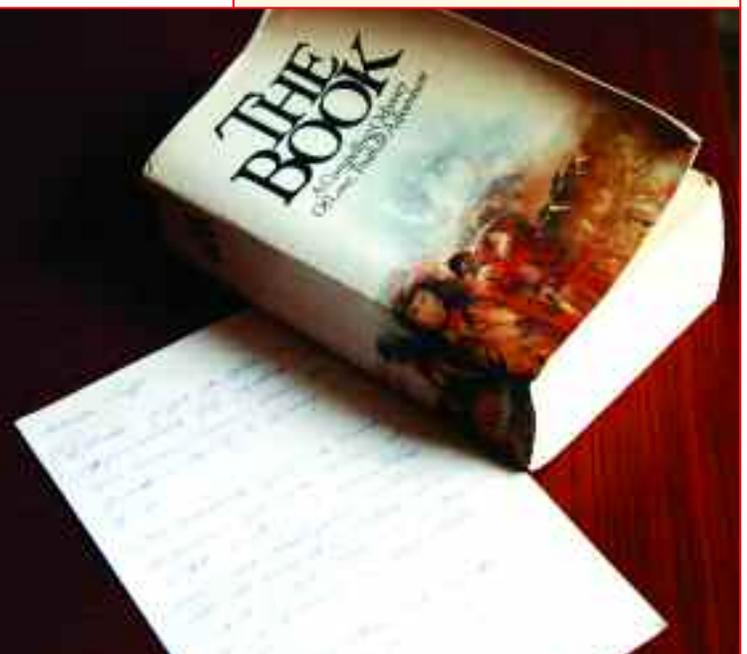
As we do this, we are in fact tucking notes into the lives of the 5,800 students God has entrusted to our care, to strengthen them as they lead lives of biblical authenticity, conviction and courage.

## Barry H. Corey

is president of Biola University. Visit his office online at [biola.edu/president](http://biola.edu/president).



Keri Hoffman



A handwritten note from Corey's father encouraged Jeff to "relax and read a few pages" during tough times.

# Biola Kicks Off Second Century With Legacy Gala, Birthday Bash



Michael Musser

Guests mingle at the Centennial Legacy Gala inside the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

In a year full of elaborate celebrations for Biola's 100th anniversary, a pair of parties on the University's birthday weekend may have taken the cake.

The elegant Centennial Legacy Gala and the boisterous Biola Birthday Bash — featuring appearances from a United States senator and a world-renowned Christian rock band — offered a closing tribute to the University's first century and an exciting start to the next.

The gala, held on Feb. 23, drew more than 600 alumni, staff, faculty and supporters to the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, just steps from Biola's original campus.

Inside the hotel's Crystal Ballroom, artifacts, photos and mementos from Biola's history offered guests an opportunity to reminisce

through the decades. The evening also included dinner, video presentations and performances by opera singer Katie Van Kooten ('01) and Conservatory of Music faculty members.

Three "Legacy Awards" were given to individuals who exemplify Biola's mission of impacting the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sen. John Thune ('83), R-South Dakota, who received the Legacy Award for Professional Excellence, said in a keynote address that Biola must maintain two pursuits in its next century: a pursuit of excellence and a pursuit of wisdom.

"As Biola enters its second century, I hope that Biola will stay true to its convictions, that its convictions will continue to be bold and that the fire of its faith will continue to burn bright," Thune said.

The Legacy Award for Stewardship went to Harold Camp, founder of the President's Circle, a fundraising group made up of individuals who give at least \$1,000 a year to the Biola Scholarship Fund. J. Richard Chase, who served as Biola's sixth president from 1970 to 1982, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership.

At evening's end, President Barry H. Corey highlighted the faithfulness of Biola's past leaders and vowed not to waver from the University's commitment to the Bible.

"This next generation will not deviate from that hope central to who we are," Corey said. "Though the future of Biola may take us in new and imaginative directions, and this has been true for each generation of leadership, I pledge to you that we will not squander our heritage as a robustly Christ-centered university."

On the following night, Feb. 24, the Biola Birthday Bash catapulted the University into its second century with explosions of light, a blizzard of confetti and a concert from one of the nation's top Christian bands, Switchfoot.

More than 1,500 people packed into Chase Gymnasium for the late-night event, which featured hours of live music and a New Years Eve-style countdown to the University's 100th anniversary.

Donning party hats and red beads, the crowd of students, alumni and friends sang along with the music of Switchfoot and opening acts The Myriad and Tyrone Wells.

The highlight of the night came as the clock neared midnight.

As the crowd counted down from 10, Switchfoot lead singer Jon Foreman hoisted a birthday cake in front of President Corey, candles blazing. Corey extinguished them with one big breath, drawing a roar from the crowd. — Jason Newell



Sen. John Thune ('83) received the Legacy Award for Professional Excellence.

# Student Starts 'Film Music Guild'



Film Music Guild students have learned from composers such as Brian Tyler, who scored the new *Rambo*.

**W**hat would a film be without its music? Could Indiana Jones have had the same impact, racing through the Temple of Doom, without his classic theme song cheering him along?

Music makes the movie. It has the power to stir emotions, trigger feelings and is a huge reason why some of the world's favorite films are so memorable.

Successful filmmakers understand that a good film isn't just about actors, directors and script.

"Let's face it, *Jaws* would have never made it as a silent movie," said sophomore film major Hannah Roberts. "Music can make or break movies, and if the video and audio are woven together seamlessly, the result will be spellbinding."

Senior David Martina has a passion for creating music for films. A music composition major, Martina values the classical music education he has received at Biola. But he felt a need for instruction on how to make it in the film industry. He also had friends in the film program who desired to know more about music.

Seeing a need for collaboration between the music and film programs, Martina started an on-campus club last spring, the Film Music Guild, to provide resources for aspiring composers and filmmakers. The Guild has about 15 members. They scored over a dozen projects

last semester, including two independent features, and are pursuing a gig scoring industrial videos for Northrop Grumman Corp., a space/defense contractor.

The Guild has also brought professional composers to campus to talk about their experiences starting out in the industry — like Emmy-award nominated Brian Tyler, who composed music for movies like *Children of Dune* and the new *Rambo*.

And the students have attended events at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Society of Composers & Lyricists and USC's Thornton School of Music — where they've met film music composers like Mychael Danna (*Little Miss Sunshine*), Michael Giacchino (*The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille* and *Mission: Impossible III*) and Mark Isham (*A River Runs Through It* and *Crash*). Some industry professionals have even agreed to assist the Guild, including composer Christopher Young (*Spider-Man 3*) and Randy Haberkamp, the director of educational programs and special projects for the Oscars.

"As far as we know, there is currently no other society for film and media composers at the collegiate level to collaborate with and network with filmmakers," Martina said.

Biola music professor Robert Denham said he's proud of the initiative taken by the students.

"The people who make it in the film industry

don't wait for opportunities to come along; they aggressively pursue them and many times even create them," Denham said.

And film professor Lisa Swain called the Film Music Guild "sheer brilliance." Swain believes the partnerships it's forming will open up avenues for the students.

Biola film graduates have already made significant contributions to Hollywood, like alumnus Scott Derrickson ('89, '90), who co-wrote and directed the 2005 box office hit, *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* — a spiritually themed film that considered the reality of demons.

Roberts said she hopes the Guild will make more of her fellow film students aware of the power of music in film.

"Hitchcock knew that, and I am hoping every Biola film grad walks out knowing that," she said.

The Guild meets on Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Crowell Hall, Room 122. Visitors are welcome.

Learn more at [www.filmmusicguild.com](http://www.filmmusicguild.com).

—Rae Lynn Rucker



"Henry Thomas Sherlock III," the film's lead character, fears crossing the street.

## Students Win Apple Film Festival Award

Apple Inc., the computer company, posted the winners of its 2007 *Insomnia* Film Festival on Nov. 26. The Slingjam Creative Award was given to eight Biola students for their short film, *The Suburban Tea*. Of the 1,917 films entered, their film was ranked No. 7.

For their prize, the students will receive a one-hour private group video iChat with David Barron, the producer of *Harry Potter*, who will critique their film. The students are Josiah Bultema, Laura Falcinelli, Andrew Fisher, Ben Sellick, Jeff Webster, Ian Perry, John Raines and Heather Montanez.

(Watch the film online at [www.apple.com/education/insomnia/winners.html](http://www.apple.com/education/insomnia/winners.html).)

# Trustee's Friends Surprise Him With \$600,000 Gift in His Honor



Michael Musser

Don Bishop (left) planned the special tribute to Bob Thompson (right).

**B**ob Thompson thought the friends he had invited to his home that November evening were there to welcome Biola's president and to talk about how to raise money for a new three-building complex for Talbot School of Theology.

So the longtime trustee thought it odd when people he had not invited showed up at his house. But, as always, he was a gracious host. And he was puzzled when Don Bishop, his friend of three decades, veered from the program. Bishop, who had not been scheduled to speak, stood up and began to talk.

Thompson and his wife, Audrey, would soon learn that Bishop had been covertly working with everyone in the room to publicly honor Thompson for his years of service to Biola.

Bishop had established the Thompson Legacy Fund and, with the help of Adam Morris, Biola's senior director of stewardship and resource development, had sought donations in Thompson's honor.

Bishop presented a check for \$300,000, but said the people in the room had committed to giving \$600,000 toward the seminary project. The amount in the Thompson Legacy Fund now is about \$650,000 and is expected to grow.

Thompson, who has been a trustee for 16 years and has been battling leukemia for a couple of years, was stunned. His children and grandchildren, along with many others in the room, cried.

"I didn't know what he was talking about until he was two-thirds of the way through," Thompson said. "It kind of blew me away. I was overwhelmed. Everybody in the room knew except for my wife and myself. It was a thing basically to honor me, I guess, which was really something."

Bishop said he wanted to recognize the man who has put his heart and soul into the University. Thompson has become part of Biola and Biola has become part of Thompson, Bishop said.

"Bob really does have a servant's heart and he really does care for people," Bishop said. "He has a wonderful relationship with his family and

with other people and with Christ and it just all wraps together. He is what he is. There's no pretense at all."

Thompson and Bishop met more than 30 years ago while attending what was then Whittier Area Baptist Fellowship (now Whittier Area Community Church) in Whittier, Calif. They discovered they were both members of the same country club and Thompson invited Bishop to play golf. It was the beginning of a close friendship that is filled with mutual admiration. Thompson calls Bishop brilliant and talented, "a real thinker." Bishop said Thompson is a humble and giving man who, despite only being 14 years older than him, has become a father figure.

"I don't know of a finer trustee that God has blessed Biola with," Bishop said. "He loves the people, he loves the students. He thinks about Biola all the time."

Bishop recalls Thompson looking for a new purpose after selling his business in 1989, Thompson Lacquer Company — a supplier of automotive paints and body supplies. Shortly after that, Biola invited Thompson to be on its Board of Trustees.

On the evening of the gathering in the Thompson home, there was a sense of electricity in the air, Bishop and Morris said.

"I think part of the electricity in the air was that everybody there knew the circumstances that later that evening he would be surprised," Bishop said. "Nobody knew what size the gift was going to be."

Morris recalled looking at Thompson when Bishop got up to speak. Thompson appeared to be wondering what Bishop was doing, Morris said.

Then Bishop read a letter he had sent inviting people to contribute to the fund.

"The room was awfully quiet and you could see Bob getting choked up and others in the room, their eyes were filling up," Morris said.

Morris said that several people have told him that Thompson is the reason they have a long-term relationship with the University.

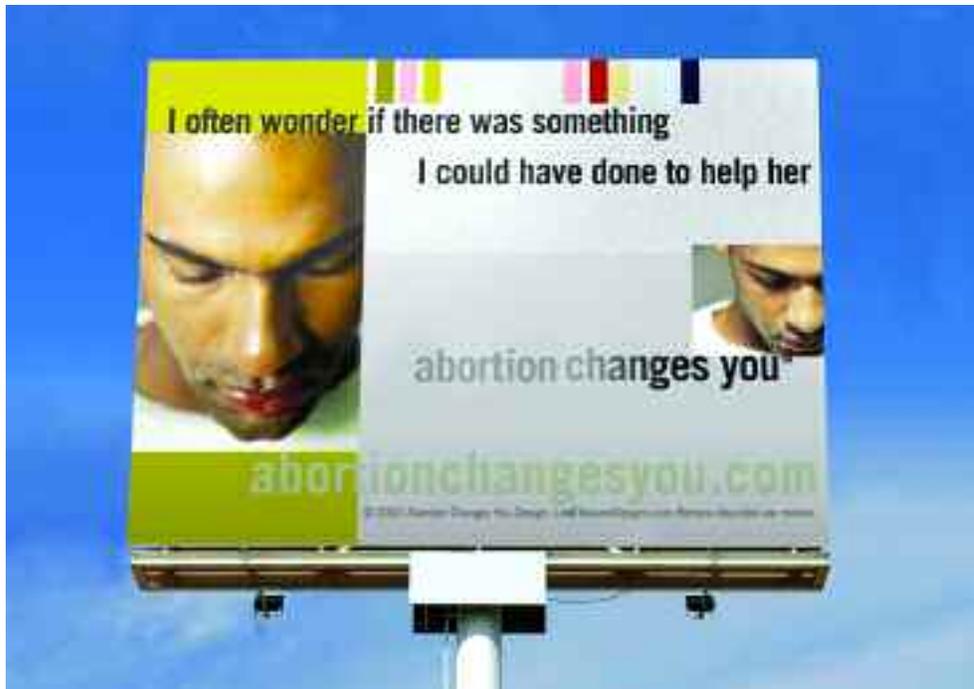
"The people who gave, gave generously and they gave with such willing hearts," he said.

Bishop said Thompson called to thank him about 10 times in the few weeks after the dinner.

"He was thrilled and he said more than anything that he hoped that the focus wouldn't be so much on him as the light would be turned onto Biola and the incredible things they are doing on that campus and the lives they are impacting," Bishop said. — Lisa O'Neill Hill

For information about the Talbot building complex, visit [www.talbot.edu](http://www.talbot.edu)

# Alumnae Attempt to Bring Healing After Abortions



**N**ot long ago, Biola alumna Linda Noble ('79) was leading a small group discussion at her church when a young woman surprised the group with a painful secret.

Though she had attended the church for several years, the woman had never felt comfortable telling anyone about — or been able to experience true healing for — several abortions in her past.

"She had felt for years that even though she came to church, if she shared about her abortion experiences, she would be rejected and she would be judged," Noble said. "So she withheld a lot of herself in community and with God."

It's a situation that is more common than some might realize, said Noble — and one that goes to the core of a new national outreach she's involved with that aims to create awareness about the deep emotional struggles people often face in the aftermath of an abortion.

The "Abortion Changes You" outreach, launched earlier this year by the San Diego, Calif.-based nonprofit group Life Perspectives, seeks to let men, women, family members and friends affected by abortion know they are not alone and connect them with information and support.

Organizers say there's a vast need.

About one-third of American women have an abortion by the age of 45, according to the

Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based organization affiliated with Planned Parenthood.

Many of these women — and oftentimes their boyfriends, husbands, relatives and friends — aren't prepared for the feelings that can surface following an abortion, said Biola alumna Linda Stewart ('01), vice president of education for Life Perspectives, who is also involved in "Abortion Changes You."

"We really want to communicate to anyone and everyone who has been touched by abortion that they're not alone and — for those who are interested — that there are healing resources available," Stewart said.

The centerpiece of the effort is an interactive Web site, [www.abortionchangesyou.com](http://www.abortionchangesyou.com), where visitors can read others' stories, share their own experiences, find advice and get referred to mental health professionals. Some of the content is paralleled in a related book, *Changed: Making Sense of Your Own or a Loved One's Abortion Experience*, written by Life Perspectives president Michaelene Fredenburg, which was scheduled to be released in March.

To create awareness for the outreach, Life Perspectives created a series of advertisements that began appearing online as well as on billboards, in newspapers and in church bulletins around the

country earlier this year. Each features a close-up of a face, accompanied by an actual quote from someone who has been touched by abortion.

"I thought I was helping her," says one. Another reads: "We made the decision together, but I've never felt so alone."

Gary Strauss, a professor at Biola's Rosemead School of Psychology who contributed and reviewed content for both the Web site and the book, said he sees tremendous potential for the outreach, especially online.

"I'm not aware of anything that comes close to what the Web site offers," he said. "Just about anyone who has any possible connection to the abortion event — through whichever relationship — is acknowledged and compassionately addressed."

One of the strengths, Strauss said, is that the materials are firmly grounded in biblical principles without appearing overtly Christian. That opens the door for people who might otherwise be immediately turned off by the site to ultimately experience God's true healing, he said.

Stewart said organizers made a conscious effort to keep the outreach materials and Web site open to people from all faith backgrounds and political perspectives.

"When people are facing a painful process, they can really only start when they feel safe," she said.

Besides directly helping those who have been affected by abortion, organizers also want to help churches become more sensitive to people both inside and outside of their congregations who have been personally affected by abortion, Stewart said.

Through a separate Web site, [www.abortionchangesyouresources.com](http://www.abortionchangesyouresources.com), the group offers information and materials tailored specifically for pastors and church leaders to equip them with tools to reach those with an abortion experience.

"There are so many people in our churches, sitting in our pews," Noble said. "Maybe they've never shared their story. Maybe this can free them to tell their story and find freedom."

—Jason Newell

*Mental health professionals with experience in reproductive grief and loss issues related to abortion can contact the outreach to be listed on the Web site at [contact@abortionchangesyou.com](mailto:contact@abortionchangesyou.com).*

# Rosemead Graduates Care for Soldiers' Mental Health



From left, Rosemead alumni Capt. Daniel Pelton, Joel Mitchell, Capt. Kerith Tarantino, Capt. Mark Baird, Mark Reger, Capt. Katie Kopp and Capt. Jason Stolee at Fort Lewis.

**M**ost soldiers who serve in Iraq are never injured by bullets or roadside bombs. But that doesn't mean they return unscarred.

For about one in five soldiers, the mental and emotional tolls of war require professional treatment — treatment that seven students and graduates from Biola's Rosemead School of Psychology are helping to provide.

At Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Wash., the seven alumni — an unusually large cluster in one location — have worked with a large team of psychologists to screen soldiers for mental health disorders and treat everything from sleep troubles to severe anxiety.

"Some disorders are not unlike what I would have seen in any other clinical setting — just people struggling with stress management and depression," said Capt. Katie Kopp (Ph.D. '08), a clinical psychology intern at the post's Madigan Army Medical Center. "Then there are things that are pretty specific to the military population — people struggling to maintain their relationships or working to reintegrate into their home life once they return from deploy-

ment, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorders."

In their internships, residencies and staff positions the alumni — Kopp, Capt. Mark Baird (Psy.D. '06), Joel Mitchell (Ph.D. '07), Capt. Daniel Pelton (Ph.D. '08), Mark Reger (Ph.D. '01), Capt. Jason Stolee (Ph.D. '07) and Capt. Kerith Tarantino (Psy.D. '06) — have provided a range of services for the soldiers through the hospital's psychology department. (Baird and Tarantino were scheduled to leave the hospital for deployment prior to publication.)

At times, the work involves therapy sessions aimed at helping new veterans readjust to life after war. At others, it includes counseling soldiers who are anxious about leaving for Iraq or family members who are coping with worry.

Psychologists at the post also screen every soldier for mental health problems three to six months after returning from deployment.

"You get to see a variety of soldiers — many of whom are high-functioning, bright, motivated and adjusting quite well to life back at home," said Mitchell, a civilian staff psychologist at the hospital.

In other cases, psychologists face the challenge of treating soldiers who have just returned from Iraq with extremely complicated treatment issues, Mitchell said.

"Given that medicine has progressed as far as it has, soldiers are now surviving injuries ... that would have killed them 10 or 20 years ago," he said. "So, many of the soldiers coming back are coping with both psychological traumas, as well as neurological and other physical impairments."

Baird, who finished a year of residency at Madigan earlier this year, said Rosemead's emphasis on the integration of psychology and theology has been especially helpful at times when patients start talking about issues of faith.

"I don't have the fear that a soldier's going to bring up his spiritual side or how different things are affecting him or her spiritually," Baird said. "I have a lot of confidence going into it, where some others ... who haven't been trained like that are just a little more leery about it."

As the sole research psychologist of the seven, Reger said his work is more focused on developing new treatment options for soldiers. One of his areas of research involves using technology to improve upon the best existing treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, "prolonged exposure therapy," which requires soldiers to imagine some of their difficult experiences in vivid detail, he said.

"The basic idea is that if prolonged exposure therapy works because soldiers emotionally engage with traumatic experiences, then can virtual reality be used in a safe way augmented with standard approaches to improve outcomes?" Reger said.

The high concentration of Rosemead alumni at Madigan is due in part to an Army scholarship awarded to several of them over the past few years. The program pays for a portion of graduate psychology schooling in exchange for four years of active-duty service.

With so many students and graduates in one place, impromptu alumni meetings have been common, they said.

"I see a Rosemead person every day," Baird said earlier this year, before his scheduled deployment. "We laugh about it. Some have really good contact with the professors, so we find out what's going on back there." — Jason Newell

# Volleyball and Cross Country Teams Make It to Nationals



Biola's women's cross country team qualified for the NAIA National Championships for the first time in four years.

**B**iola's volleyball and cross country teams wrapped up their best seasons in recent memory this fall.

The Eagles' volleyball squad posted an impressive 32-8 overall record in 2007 and reached the NAIA National Semifinals, finishing third in the nation. Their record was the best in nearly a decade and ranks as one of the five best in school history.

Junior outside hitter **Meghan (Scheenstra) Warkentin** led the team with 4.17 kills per game and earned nearly every volleyball honor bestowed upon an NAIA player. She was an NAIA First-Team All-American for the second straight season and also earned All-GSAC honors. Junior outside hitter **Jessica Buffum** also was named to the All-GSAC team thanks to 2.91 kills and 2.54 digs per game.

At the national championship tournament, the Eagles cruised through the pool play portion and easily won their quarterfinal game. That set up an all-GSAC semifinal with No. 4 Biola facing No. 1 Fresno Pacific University.

The Sunbirds came into the championships with just one loss — that coming to Biola on Oct. 31. However, the Eagles were unable to repeat the upset and fell to Fresno Pacific — the eventual national champions — in three games.

The awards continued for the Eagles even after their season-ending loss. Warkentin and junior middle blocker **Kristen Peterson** were named to the All-Tournament team. That was

followed by word that **head coach Aaron Seltzer** had earned GSAC and NAIA Region II Coach of the Year honors as well.

The team's success extended off the court as Warkentin and senior libero **Dani Aigaki** were named NAIA Scholar Athletes. In addition, Warkentin and sophomore middle blocker **Kelsey Christoferson** earned First-Team Academic All-District honors as one of the top five volleyball student-athletes on the West Coast.

The women's cross country team qualified

for the NAIA National Championships for the first time in four years, placing 11th overall. The Eagles, who were ranked in the NAIA's Top 10 throughout most of the season, were led by sophomore **Kristin Schmidt**.

Schmidt, who won two races during the 2007 regular season, earned NAIA All-America honors with an 11th place finish at the NAIA Championships to go along with her All-GSAC and All-Region honors. Freshman **Katie Thede** placed eighth at the GSAC meet and seventh at the Regional meet and also earned All-GSAC and All-Region honors.

Head coach **Jonathan Zimmerman** was honored by the GSAC coaches by being named the GSAC Women's Co-Coach of the Year.

On the men's side, the Eagles just missed qualifying as a team to the NAIA Championships, but still finished as one of the fastest teams in school history. Senior **Brian Ball** earned All-America honors for the third time in four seasons with a seventh place finish at the NAIA Championships. Ball also earned All-GSAC and All-Region honors after finishing second in both races.

— Jeff Hoffman



The women's volleyball team finished with their best record in nearly a decade.

# Study Reveals Faith Practices That Can Contribute to Satisfying Marriages



**H**ow is a couple's Christian faith a practical resource for creating a strong marriage? This is the question that Keith Edwards, a psychology professor at Biola, and his graduate students have been investigating over the past four years.

They've conducted two major surveys to date and have presented their findings at national conventions of Christian psychologists, including the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

One aspect of the first study, conducted during the 2003-04 school year, looked at how the divorce rate of Biola alumni compared to a controversial George Barna survey. The Barna survey estimated that the divorce rate among born-again Christians is about the same as other groups — 35 percent. But the Biola study found that the divorce rate among alumni is drastically lower.

"The general idea behind our marriage project is to investigate how Christian couples put their faith into practice within the marital relationship," Edwards said. "We assume that for faith to make a difference in our marriages, what we profess must impact our relationship attitudes and behaviors."

While the church has done a good job of emphasizing that divorce is undesirable, much less attention has been paid to behaviors and attitudes that can lead to growth in marriage, Edwards said.

"We need a practical theology and psychology in marriage that promotes faith in action," he said.

In the first study, Edwards and his students sent questionnaires to a random sample of 400 Biola alumni who graduated in 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995. Fifty men and 50 women from each year were polled. About 189 questionnaires came back, and Edwards said the divorce rate among that group was only about 5 percent. He plans to repeat the study with a larger group of alumni to see if the findings are just as encouraging.

Another key aspect of the study involved conducting hour-long interviews with 80 couples to determine how they express their faith, religious or spiritual practices, individually and together. While a number of faith practices were related to higher levels of marital quality, faith practices in which the partners interacted with one other were the most important, Edwards has found. These included talking with one another regularly about their faith journey, discussing

books and ideas, being challenged by their differences and praying together. Such interactions create a sense of spiritual intimacy that bonds couples together at a deep level, he said.

Edwards also has found that another way faith practices and beliefs impacted marital quality was through marital commitment. Personal commitment to one's spouse was much more important than commitment to marriage as an institution. This means that unresolved conflict or neglect which erodes your connection and commitment to your spouse as a person can put the marriage at risk, even when you strongly believe "God hates divorce," Edwards said.

Another factor Edwards discovered that is impacted by one's faith is what he calls "positive habits of mind." The two habits they studied were a general attitude of gratitude and a willingness to forgive. Higher levels of both of these were related to higher levels of marital adjustment.

In their current survey, Edwards and his students are studying how married partners talk to their spouses when they are unhappy, disappointed, hurting or just need encouragement or support.

"One of the things I see in working with spouses is that they are not good at asking for what they want," Edwards said. "Complaints are often expressed in critical or judgmental ways. The partner invariably reacts in a defensive manner and the conflict escalates. Constructive complaining is a very important skill."

Constructive complaining includes direct and indirect expression of one's need; expression of softer, vulnerable emotions; and flexibility in approaching the spouse, according to Edwards. Showing flexibility means not reacting negatively when a spouse is unresponsive, but instead being persistent in figuring out what his or her objection is and showing that you understand the objection, Edwards said.

Yet, people rated themselves as being less effective at doing the two types of constructive complaining that are most important for marital well-being — expressing softer, vulnerable emotions and showing flexibility when the spouse is initially unresponsive, he said.

"The study has found that a faith that positively impacts a marriage is one that is practical, shared, and in which both spouses are vulnerable and growing," Edwards said.

— Lisa O'Neill Hill and other contributors

# What is one thing you save that most people throw out?

**T**his is the season for spring cleaning, so we thought it'd be fun to ask Biolans what they won't be throwing out. Here's what they said.



## David Toyer ('89).

In my freshman year I started subscribing to *Sports Illustrated*. After reading a short blurb about a couple of college roommates who saved covers, I started saving the covers from each issue, and I have done so to this day. I have every *Sports Illustrated* cover since December 1986 saved in folders by year. When I was at Biola, I used poster putty to put the covers along the ceiling line of my dorm rooms. My eventual goal is to have a sports room in our house where I would have nothing but *Sports Illustrated* covers donning the walls of such a room, and although that hasn't happened yet, I'm still hopeful. And I'm still collecting *Sports Illustrated* covers every week.

## Amy (Phillips, '99) Sotis.

These days I am saving *everything* most people would throw away. Through a ministry at my church, Bethlehem Baptist, in Minneapolis, Minn., I am helping start a thrift store selling all kinds of used goods. We're giving away all our profits to ministry — specifically several international ministries ranging from AIDS orphans to the care of creation in Kenya. We are accepting all kinds of "hidden treasure" and, in fact, that is what our business name is: Hidden Treasures Thrift Store ([www.hiddentreasuresonline.org](http://www.hiddentreasuresonline.org)). We've been saving up our donations for the past six months, and in April we will be open for business. In this case, one person's trash truly is another's treasure.

## Linda (Rickards, '79) and John A. Brown ('78).

We just celebrated our 30th anniversary in January. Our first date was attending "Hark the



Ark" (an evangelistic drama presentation) in the park across from Biola's campus on March 13, 1976. By May, John was not planning on returning to Biola in the fall, and I was headed home to Texas for the summer. The relationship

we only had for two and a half months was put to the test that summer, back when phone calls were rare and there was no such thing as e-mail. With the exception of two trips I took to Boise, Idaho, and his Thanksgiving weekend down at Biola, we wrote letters the old-fashioned way, and every day, for the next eight months, 'til he re-enrolled for the 1977 spring semester. A few months ago, I took the letters out of storage and began typing them up into what will end up being approximately a 300-page, and single-spaced, "tome"! It was amazing to read how we not only worked through our growing relationship via long-distance, but also what we wrote of the then-current political events, the theological debates we engaged in, along with interesting comments about Biola friends and favorite profs. We are so glad we saved these letters.

## David Kinnaman ('96), president of The Barna Group.

I saved a tiny piece of the old Biola library. After we graduated, the old cavernous Rose Library was renovated (it now houses Rosemead School of Psychology). So, right before that happened, some roommates and I grabbed a small piece off an interior wall. This memento may sound strange, but to us it was not.



## Clyde Cook ('57, M.Div. '60, Th.M. '61), president emeritus of Biola.

I am saving all the issues of *Biola Magazine*, especially the ones that have a picture of me or Anna Belle.

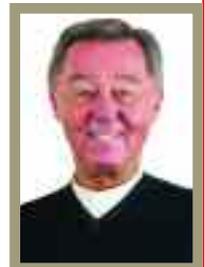


## June Hetzel ('78), interim dean of the School of Education.

I save seed ideas . . . for example, I have a collection of over 200 pages in an electronic file of seed ideas for devotionals. Last year I was able to shape 25 of those ideas into devotionals and sell 25 of those devotionals to book collections published by Barbour Press. I also save seed ideas for children's novels, such as unusual science and adventure articles from the *Orange County Register* newspaper (e.g., remember when a fellow tied dozens of helium balloons to his lawn chair and "sailed" several hundred miles in the air?). Children love quirky, interesting adventures, and I think novels that reveal magnificent facts about nature point them to our Creator.

## Ron Hafer ('61), chaplain of Biola since 1967. He'll retire at the end of this semester.

I don't save aaaaaanything! I toss junk, magazines, old files, etc. This kills my administrative assistant 'cause I toss all e-mails (after I answer them, of course, of course). My wife is the pack rat . . . thus, the bi-annual garage (junk) sale in our neighborhood.

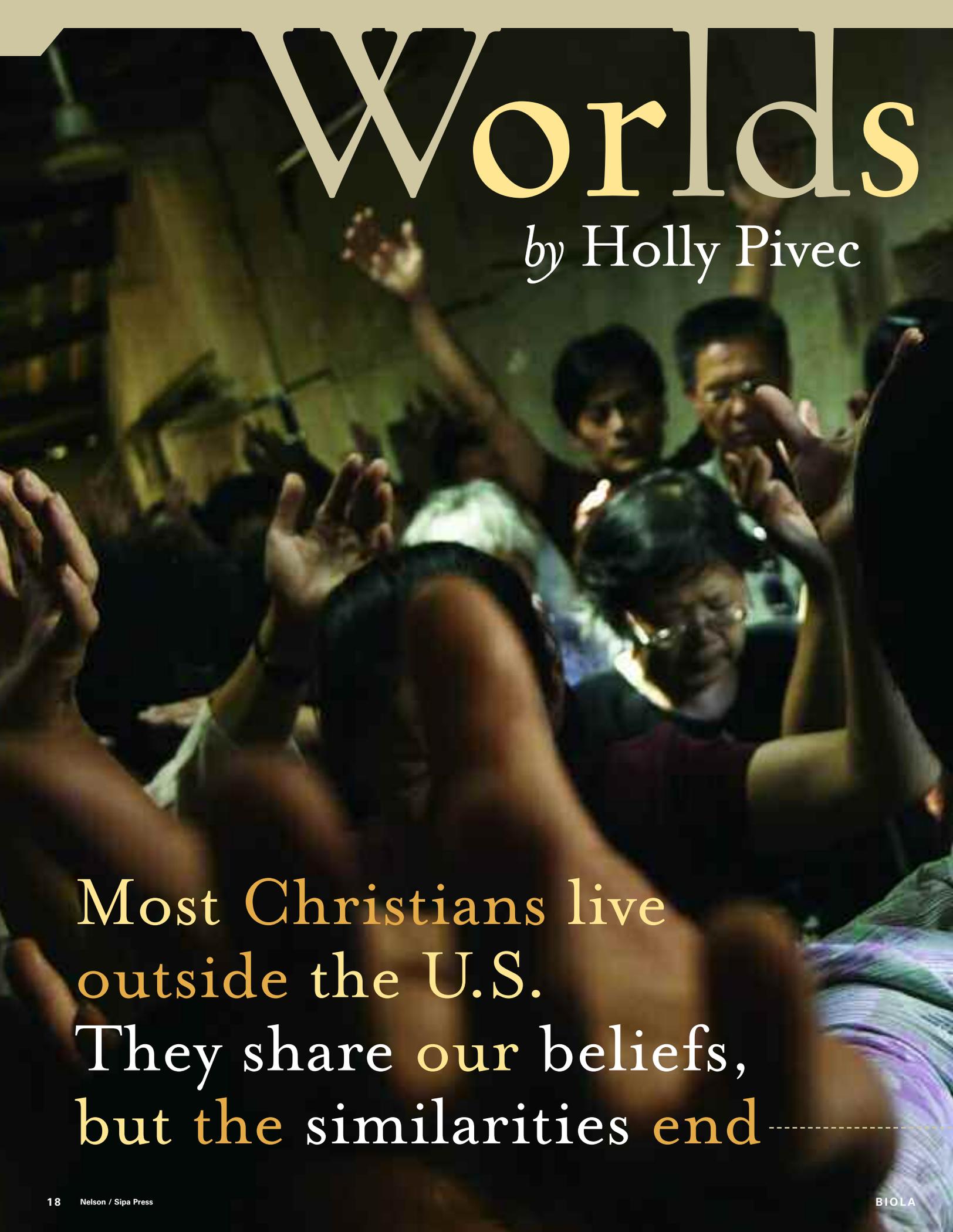


## NEXT QUESTION

What is the worst job you took to help pay your way through college?

Send your submission to [biolamag@biola.edu](mailto:biolamag@biola.edu) or Biola Magazine, 13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, CA 90639.

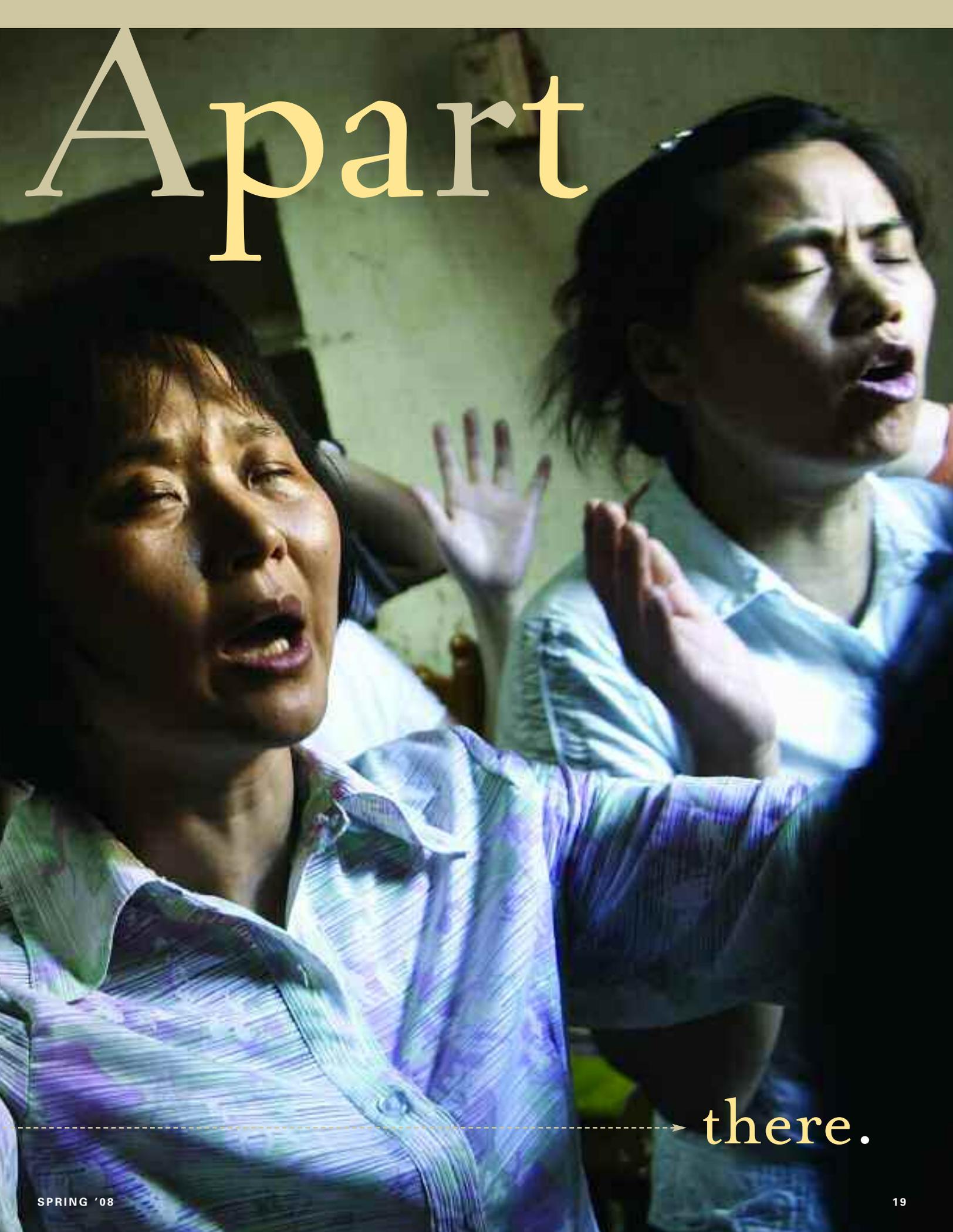
Include "Tell Me This" in the subject line.

A photograph of a diverse group of people in a church setting, with many of them raising their hands in prayer. The lighting is warm and focused on the individuals, creating a sense of community and devotion.

# Worlds

by Holly Pivec

Most Christians live  
outside the U.S.  
They share our beliefs,  
but the similarities end



# Apart

→ there.

# If you think most evangelicals are Western, white and know who Rick Warren is, then think again. The new faces of evangelicalism are brown, black and speak a language other than English.

Evangelicalism is shifting to the global South. Besides being ethnically diverse, the church is seeing a rise in different styles of worship and expression than those found in Western countries.

Stagnant pews in the United Kingdom and United States contrast sharply with the staggering church growth taking place in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 1900, 80 percent of all Christians lived in Europe and North America, according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity. In 2005, just 40 percent did.

When American Christians think of the church's center of gravity, we may think of Colorado Springs, home to more than 100 evangelical organizations, such as Focus on the Family. But the church's new geographical center is sub-Saharan Africa, home to over 90 million evangelicals.

"It's the Southern Hemisphere's turn," said Richard Starcher ('76), a missions professor at Biola. "The Holy Spirit is moving in a big way there."

In America's affluent, post-Enlightenment society, many Christians' big concerns include things like attacks on the traditional family and the secularization of the schools. Yet, other parts of the globe still share much in common with the biblical world — agrarian societies and places of political upheaval and persecution.

As a result, these Christians' daily lives and concerns are worlds apart from our own. To learn more about their challenges, *Biola Magazine* spoke with several Biolans who've lived and ministered in these places.

One of the stories had to be pulled prior to publication, due to concerns about the danger it could pose to the Christians involved. It was about Christian children in an Asian country who are being kidnapped by Islamic extremists and forced to become suicide bombers.

Here are glimpses into the everyday lives of evangelical Christians in four other regions of the world: Africa, the Middle East, Ukraine and China.

## Sub-Saharan Africa: Ethnic Conflict

**T**he U.S. presidential campaign leaves no doubt — American politics can get heated. But in some regions of the world, elections are deadly — as headlines from Kenya show.

Once considered a model African country, a tribal conflict raging

there has resulted in a massive wave of house burnings and hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Violent ethnic conflicts are common in sub-Saharan Africa, where Christians are often killed by other professing Christians, according to Faustin Ntamushobora, a doctoral student at Talbot School of Theology and native Rwandan who works to reconcile tribes.

"They grab machetes or whatever they can find and go and kill their neighbors without any reason — just because someone is not a member of their tribe. It's simply barbaric," Ntamushobora said. He knows firsthand. Ntamushobora, together with his wife and four children, are survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda when, in just three months, up to 1 million people were massacred.

"We spent days hidden under the bed, and we fled, and God spared our lives," he said.

After the genocide, Stan Guthrie, a senior editor at *Christianity Today*, asked how it was possible for such atrocities to occur in a country that is over 80 percent Christian.

Ntamushobora thinks he knows the answer. Africans are converting to Christianity, but they're not being taught how to live it.

"These people are churchgoers, but they're not disciples of Jesus Christ," he said. "There is great need for teaching, discipleship and leadership development."

Christian leaders can't keep pace with the phenomenal growth of Christianity in Africa, according to Starcher, who recently returned from 20 years of ministry there. The lack of teaching has made African Christians vulnerable to cults and harmful sectarian beliefs and practices, Starcher said.

Pastors in Africa sometimes incite conflict by criticizing leaders of other tribes and encouraging violence, according to Ntamushobora.

"In many places in Africa, what the leader does, the followers do, too. If he says kill them, they will go ahead and kill," he said.

Yet, a growing number of Christians are speaking out against ethnic conflict, Ntamushobora said. During the first week of January, Christians from all the churches in Limuru, Kenya — a town about 30 miles northwest of Nairobi, the capital — met to pray and seek mutual forgiveness. And, in July, Ntamushobora will travel to Kenya and Rwanda to train 200 pastors on how to reconcile their tribes, including teaching them skills in trauma counseling and conflict mediation.

Tribal reconciliation is difficult, even for Christians, according to Starcher.

"It's very hard when there's been such violence in both directions and you have whole generations scarred by it," he said.

Starcher saw the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide up close. He made frequent visits to the refugee camps in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) while he was serving as director of the Africa Evangelical Free Church. He said he'll never forget the sight of the camps: Almost as far as the eye could see, there was a sea of blue plastic tarps that the United Nations distributed for shelter.

"That was home for two years for entire families," Starcher said.

Ntamushobora said his heart aches over the ethnic wars that are destroying so many lives. But he thinks they've contributed to the growth of the African church.

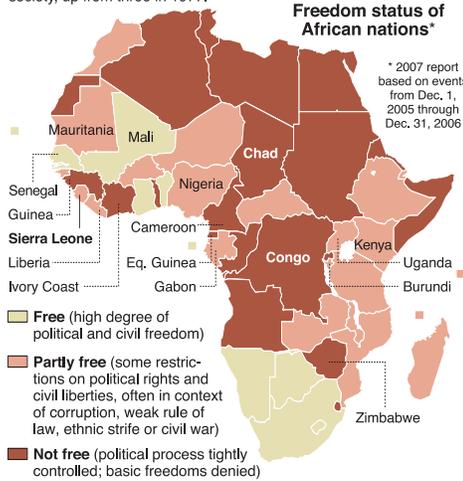
"God has always used difficult times to grow the faith of believers," he said.



Faustin Ntamushobora (above left), a doctoral student at Talbot School of Theology, is a survivor of the Rwandan genocide.

### Africa's state of democracy

Political rights and civil liberties vary throughout Africa, where oppression, corruption and violence often simmer behind democratic facades. Currently, 11 African countries are considered to have a free society, up from three in 1977.



# Top 10 Worst Places for Christians

Each year, Open Doors releases its World Watch List of the top 10 worst places for the persecution of Christians. In 2008, North Korea topped the list for the sixth year in a row. Six of the 10 countries are predominantly Muslim, three are Communist and one is Buddhist.

# 01

**North Korea**  
(Communist)

**Saudi Arabia**  
(Muslim)

**3 Iran**  
(Muslim)

**4 Maldives**  
(Muslim)

**5 Bhutan**  
(Buddhist)

**6 Yemen**  
(Muslim)

**7 Afghanistan**  
(Muslim)

**8 Laos**  
(Communist)

**9 Uzbekistan**  
(Muslim)

**10 China**  
(Communist)



Walter Astrada / AFP / Getty Images

Violence stemming from Kenya's January elections has claimed the lives of over 1,000 people.



Family members mourn for Christian activist Rami Ayyad after kidnapers dumped his body on a Gaza City street in October.



## Gaza (Palestinian Territories): Christians Under Siege

In Gaza tonight, Christians will huddle together in homes — singing, worshipping, encouraging each other.

And tomorrow night. And the next night.

“They meet together every night,” said Biola alumnus Tom Doyle (’79), 52, a Middle East church planter from Dallas, Texas. “They are the closest-knit group I have ever met anywhere.”

About 250 evangelical Christians live in Gaza, in a sea of 1.4 million Muslims, according to Doyle, who makes frequent trips to the Palestinian Territories. Caught in the conflict between Hamas and Israel, the Gazans are cut off from the rest of the world.

“Young women train themselves to laugh loudly when bombs go off, so their babies won’t be afraid by the big noise,” Doyle said.



Biola alumnus Tom Doyle, pictured here with a Muslim family, plants churches in the Middle East.

On top of this, the Christian leaders receive frequent death threats, he said. And they’re not idle threats.

Decades of hounding from Islamic extremists has gotten worse since Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in June. One of the Gazan Christians’ own — Bible Society worker Rami Ayyad — was tortured and killed in October. The 32-year-old Ayyad told friends he sensed he was being followed in the days before he was kidnapped. His body — found lying in the street — had stab and gunshot wounds. He left behind a pregnant wife and two small children.

“It looks like the murderers are from a terrorist group, so there is no one to go to for help at this time,” Doyle said.

Persecution plagues Christians living throughout the Middle East. The U.S. Department of State’s 2007 Report on International Religious Freedom highlighted abuses in Gaza and the West Bank, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iraq. Churches are bombed frequently in Iraq, and many Christians there have fled to Syria.

After Ayyad’s slaying, the pastor of Gaza Baptist Church — the only official evangelical church — fled to the West Bank along with the Bible Society staff. The remaining Christians have turned to each other for support.

“They pray into all hours of the night,” Doyle said.

But they don’t just pray for their safety. Their No. 1 prayer is for courage to share the gospel, he said.

And share it they do. They bring food donated by overseas ministries to refugee camps and ask Muslims if they can pray for them. Doyle said he’s peeked during these prayers and seen the Muslims staring wide-eyed in amazement at the Christians. Their personal prayers look much different from the Muslim ritual prayers, according to Doyle.

“The Muslims see that the Christians make a real connection with God,” he said.

In response, the Christians have become sought after for prayer. And they’ve found that Muslims are becoming more open to Christianity

— a phenomenon Doyle is documenting in his forthcoming book, *The Crescent Moon Meets the Cross of Christ*.

About 50 percent of Muslim conversions to Christianity follow dreams or visions, according to Doyle. This lends to a charismatic bent, yet Doyle said the faith practices of the Gazan Christians are a blend of denominational traits.

"They study the Word like Bible churches, they evangelize like Southern Baptists, they worship and pray like charismatics," he said.

And they don't have the luxury to divide over doctrine. American evangelicals often ask Doyle about the Gazans' beliefs — like whether their eschatology is premillennial or postmillennial.

"I say, 'They're just trying not to get hit by missiles,'" he said, adding, "It's amazing how simple your theology gets when you are under persecution. They are one."

## Ukraine: Living Hand to Mouth

**M**ost Americans agree that U.S. health care needs reform. But try to imagine living in a place where it takes a bribe to get treatment and you may have to bring your own surgical gloves and gauze to your operation.

Free health care is guaranteed by the Ukrainian constitution. But, in reality, patients must often bring all their own supplies, according to Mark Saucy, a former missionary to Kyiv (pronounced kee-ev), who now directs Talbot School of Theology's extension site there.

"Your family has to bring meals to you in the hospital or you may not get fed," Saucy said.

Even with treatment there are no guarantees.

"The doctor could be drunk or utterly incompetent. There are just horror stories," he said.

Ukrainian citizens enjoy the most religious freedom of all the post-Soviet states, but they face economic hardship. Even the families who live in Kyiv — the capital city — must have multiple sources of income, according to Saucy. A husband and wife who are both working may make 2,579 *Hryvnia* a month (\$500), he said.

With no social safety net — like health care or retirement — it's hard for Christian leaders to get formal theological training, according to Saucy. It's common for students at the extension site to have to drop out of classes when a family member gets sick so they can get another job to pay the medical bills, he said.

Pastor Andrei Zalischuk — a 37-year-old husband and father of two — had to drop out of



In Ukraine, severe poverty and a broken health care system pose challenges to Christians seeking Bible training.

# Global Christianity: Past, Present and Future

Top 10  
Christian  
Countries By  
Number of  
Christians

00

**In 1900**  
USA  
Russia  
Germany  
France  
Britain  
Italy  
Ukraine  
Poland  
Spain  
Brazil

05

**In 2005**  
USA  
Brazil  
China  
Mexico  
Russia  
Philippines  
India  
Germany  
Nigeria  
Congo-Zaire

**In 2050**

USA  
China  
Brazil  
Congo-Zaire  
India  
Mexico  
Nigeria  
Philippines  
Ethiopia  
Uganda

50

AFP / Dima Gavrish



Talbot School of Theology's extension site in Kyiv allows Ukrainians to earn master's-level theological degrees.

Talbot's Kyiv program to seek another job. Besides training to be a professional translator, he's pastoring a Baptist church of about 45 people.

"Church is a bivocational thing for me. I don't like that, but this is the reality," Zalischuk said.

But he was fortunate to complete a bachelor's degree. For pastors who aren't so fortunate, Zalischuk sets up conferences throughout Ukraine to provide them with non-formal training.

"It was always my dream to receive theological training. I believed that it would help me to be a more efficient minister to the Lord, and I still stick to this belief," he said.

The lack of trained pastors is felt by the people in the pews, according to Saucy. New Christians start off gung-ho about their faith, but aren't taught how to grow spiritually. So, many abandon it.

"The revolving door is very challenging for the church," Saucy said.

Talbot has filled a dark hole for theological training in Ukraine, he said. It's the first seminary to offer Western-accredited theological degrees at the master's level.

The Ukrainian pastors who are enrolled at the extension are very grateful for it, according to Saucy. In the non-accredited seminaries and Bible colleges, unqualified people often are allowed to teach simply because they bring the money to fund their own classes, he said.

"They can teach crazy things that aren't even orthodox or are just based on some guy's personal soapbox," Saucy said. "These people don't have the academic qualifications or knowledge to

enrich the students."

Yet, the Ukrainian Christians approach the study of theology differently than Western Christians, according to Saucy. Western theologians are more rigidly logical, but Ukrainian Christians have an Eastern mentality that embraces mystery, Saucy said. Many Western theologians feel a need to explain the Trinity, but the Ukrainians more readily accept it, he said.

"We love C.S. Lewis. They don't. He's too rational in his Christianity for them," he said.

As for Zalischuk, he still hopes to complete his master's degree one day — when the circumstances of life allow.

"I plan to return, but the answer to the question 'when' depends on too many factors," he said.

## China: Under Surveillance

A Chinese house church service has ended, but the Christians don't leave all at once. They intentionally stagger their departures out — leaving individually or two-by-two.

They don't want to draw attention to themselves.

Religious persecution isn't conspicuous in China, like it is in Gaza and other places, according to Bill Parker, 49, a Biola student, part-time professor and former missionary to China for eight and a half years. When Christians visit China, they often think it's not as bad as the stories they've heard, Parker said.

But the impression you get publicly is quite different from what goes on behind the scenes, said Parker, who asked that we not use his real name.

"The persecution tends to be hidden," he said. "Christians suddenly disappear. Nobody knows where they went."

Because of government eavesdropping, Christians use code words in telephone, e-mail and public conversations, Parker said.



Not that it's illegal to be a Christian in China. But many ways of practicing Christianity are illegal. All Christians are required to attend registered churches. Evangelism is against the law and so is children's Sunday school. Pastors can't teach about the Second Coming.

Plus, all the pastors are required to give the teachings of Bishop Ding, the leader of the official church, whose Christianity is very liberal and political, according to Parker.

"A lot of Christians find the registered churches to be too confining to the full exercise of their faith," he said. "They feel that if they are truly going to be Bible-believing Christians, then they have to go to a house church."

Though illegal, house churches account for the explosive church growth that has occurred in China, and many house churches are part of underground networks of several hundred churches. Some regional authorities turn a blind eye to the house churches, but not all authorities.

To keep from getting caught at a house church, the Christians have to be extra cautious, according to Ann Lee, a Chinese Talbot student who has been part of two house churches in northern China. (She also asked us to use a pseudonym for her since she will return to China.) One of the house churches she attended rented rooms on the upper floors of apartment buildings so the other tenants wouldn't hear the noise from their worship, said Lee.

House churches rarely have more than 30 members. And the

Christians have to be very careful about who they invite to church. They can't risk getting turned in to the police.

"If we feel a person is interested in Christianity and is safe, then we'll invite them to church," Lee said. "It's hard because you want people to be saved, but at the same time you want to protect yourself."

Parker and his wife returned to the United States two and a half years ago, but he still finds it hard to pray in a restaurant. He forgets that he doesn't have to hide his faith.

Parker said he's grateful for the freedom he has in America, but he believes persecution has its blessings.

"Where the church is restricted, that is where the real growth is happening — and the faith is deep and genuine," he said.

## Learning From Each Other

Western Christians are just now getting to know their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. But Saucy said the comfortable lives we lead make us naive about what most Christians' lives are like.

"It would help us to look at their lives and see how our affluence has blinded us to some aspects of God's heart," Saucy said. "Just because they're poorer doesn't mean they're not as smart. They have an experiential relationship with God that we can benefit from." *Biola*



Christians take part in communion at a state-approved church in China. Members of such churches must register with the government and agree to strict limitations on how they practice their faith.

Chinese police burn stacks of religious materials seized from a home in the country's northeastern Liaoning province (below). Seeking religious freedom, many Chinese Christians worship illegally at house churches (bottom right).



# New Book Says Christianity Has An Image Problem

**F**or a growing number of young Americans, Christianity is a dirty word. That's the sobering reality painted by researcher and Biola alumnus David Kinnaman in *unChristian*, a new book that is raising eyebrows both within and outside of the church.

Through hundreds of surveys and in-depth interviews, Kinnaman — president of The Barna Group — found that two in five young non-Christians hold a bad impression of modern-day Christianity. To the vast majority of 16- to 29-year-old outsiders, Christians are defined by what we oppose rather than who we are for, he says. *Biola Magazine* asked him about what it all means.

## Most Christians probably sense that Christianity has an image problem. How bad is it?

The image problem is worse than we imagine. It's getting harder to be a Christian in the American culture. Part of that is because within this up-and-coming generation, they're more negative, hostile, aggressive, frustrated and disillusioned with faith in general — and with Christianity in particular. In our research, we looked for both positive and negative perceptions, and we found that the predominant perspectives that young non-Christians have toward Christianity are negative. Nine out of the top 12 perceptions were negative. The specific ones were that we're known as being hypocritical, proselytizers, anti-sinner or anti-homosexual, sheltered, boring, old-fashioned, too political and judgmental. Another aspect of the image problem is that many young Christians also share these negative images of the faith they follow.

## It's tempting just to blame the way Christians are portrayed in the media. Why is that a mistake?

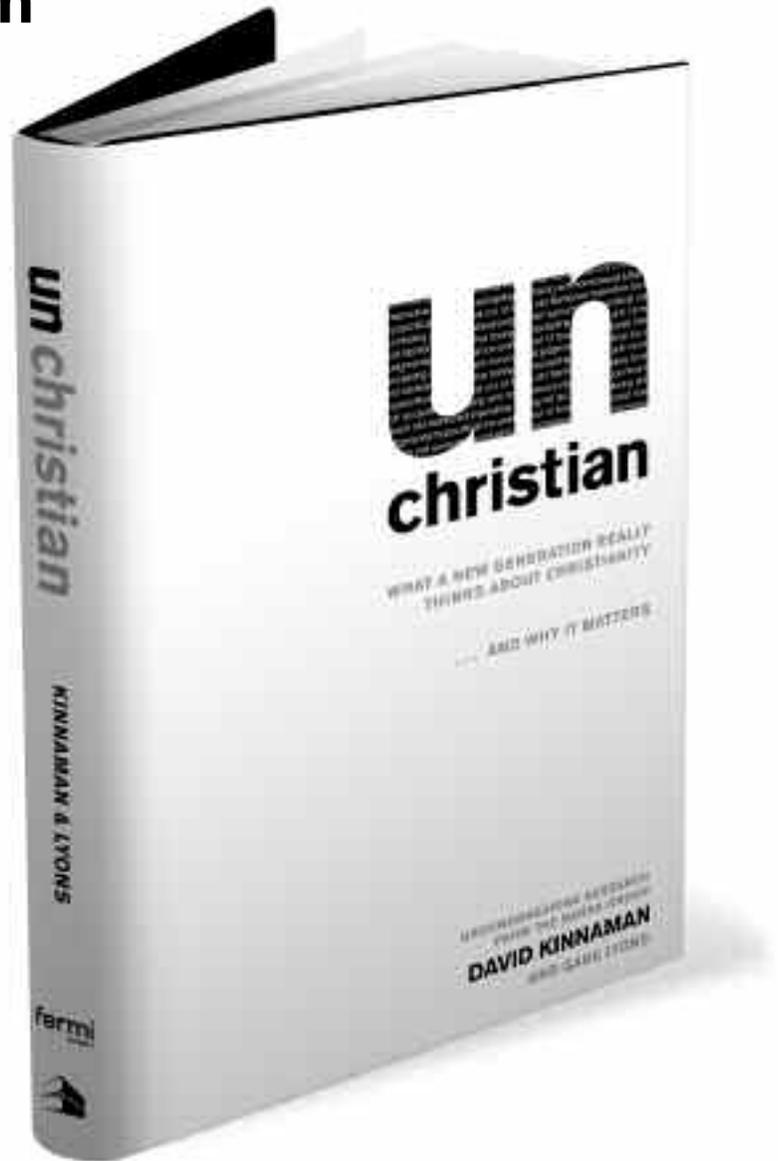
Maybe it's best to look at our own lives: No single Christian makes up his or her mind simply based on media, or Christian media for that matter. All of us, as human beings, are nuanced, interpersonal and smarter than simply being the product of media. Now media certainly have a role, and I don't want to underestimate that at all, but I learned to give people the benefit of the doubt, and more

credit, that their experiences, their relationships and their conversations are very critical in shaping how they feel about Christianity. If you were to sit in my seat for a while and read through the thousands of interviews that we did and hear the stories of people talking about their experiences — it wasn't just their perceptions, but what had happened to them. It was heartbreaking.

## Jesus warned that his followers would be hated. So what are Christians doing wrong?

Scripture says that we will be persecuted and hated for our faith, but that's held in tension

with many other places in Scripture where it says we're to have a good reputation with outsiders. Jesus himself says that the world will know we are his followers based on our love for one another and our unity. Think of it: he's *inviting* outsiders to hold us to account! Our beliefs are not subject to popular opinion, but our love is. This means we should not adjust *what* we believe; the Bible has a very clear teaching on sin; it has a very clear teaching on homosexuality being inconsistent with Christian discipleship. We very much affirm these things throughout the book. In essence what outsiders told us is our approach to upholding those values is un-



Christian. We've gotten so busy defending the fort that we forgot why we built the fort in the first place.

**One root problem seems to be that many Christians lack spiritual maturity.**

Yes, I think there are two major challenges that the Christian community faces. One is just what you're talking about: spiritual apathy and lack of true transformation in the church. About seven out of 10 Americans say they've made a commitment to Christ, but only about one-tenth of those individuals have a biblical worldview. Superficial faith — being Christian in name only without any real heart renovation — is the more significant of the spiritual problems our nation faces. But among those individuals who have a biblical worldview, the primary challenge is spiritual arrogance. So you've got apathy on the one hand, which strips away any kind of life of power and purpose. And then with those who really embrace deep biblical truths, Satan wraps us up with pride and arrogance. We get so busy talking about sin that we never really do anything for those who are affected by sin.

**You stress that you don't want Christians to water down their faith to make it more popular. How do you hope people respond to the book?**

I hope people meditate and consider prayerfully the story of the Prodigal Son. You've got three characters: a loving father, the prodigal and the older brother. My view is that the church, the people who have the most to offer theologically, are most often tripped up by the older brother mentality. We get resentful. Our motivation for serving God gets out of balance. We slowly lose gratitude for what God has done in our lives. And we get into this mode where we imagine loving the sinner but hating the sin. And yet Jesus, in Luke 7, gives a much higher standard than a cliché like "love the sinner, hate the sin." He says that if you have been forgiven much, then love much. We don't understand the depth of gratitude that we ought to display toward God, and in response to that, how we ought to be about the job of restoring those who are broken and hurting around us.

**What was the biggest surprise for you as you examined the research?**

It was really surprising how God opened my eyes to my own spiritual arrogance and apathy. It really changed me as a researcher. I started to understand that the heart of an evangelist is to try to see through someone else's eyes. It doesn't mean that I'm changing my message to fit what that person expects. But you don't understand what a person goes through by telling them everything that you believe. I didn't fully anticipate the depth of hurt, the depth of people's experiences with Christians, and how a thoughtless, human-oriented Christianity damages and destroys people. That compares to a God-oriented, life-of-the-Spirit Christianity that actually pointed people to a deeper life and faith.

**Time magazine, USA Today and CNN have all profiled the book. Why is there such a mainstream interest?**

There are probably many reasons. Cynicism would say it's because they like to find fault with the Christian community, and there's probably some of that at play. I think what's been more interesting to me is we've heard many different people in the media say that it's refreshing to see someone within the Christian community really trying to provide a brutal reality check without losing a sense of hope. It is attractive and disarming when we are transparent and honest about how the Christian community has often failed to live up to what it should be doing in our culture.

**Is there anything you wish you'd included in the book?**

Well, I kept some things out of the book. There was more data available to include. I actually kept some things out because I thought it would come across as angry, youthful arrogance or nitpicking. I'm really glad that I decided to do that. But I think there are other things that the church will have to continue to think about and wrestle through. As much as anything, I don't think it's my job to pound people with data so that they change. I believe it is our collective and individual tasks to listen carefully to the Holy Spirit. He is constantly revealing the ways each of us have been un-Christian, the ways

we've gotten off track, the ways we've missed the heart of what it means to be a living expression of the gospel. And again, if it's becoming harder to be a Christian in America, that just means there are more opportunities to be like Christ in a skeptical and challenging culture.



David Kinnaman ('96) was appointed president of The Barna Group, a Christian research firm in Ventura, Calif., in January 2007. Kinnaman previously served as the vice president.

## How Outsiders See Christianity

### Percent of non-Christians ages 16 to 29

	Christianity	Evangelical Christians
Know of/aware of	N/A	57%
Have bad impression*	38%	49%
Have neutral impression*	45%	48%
Have good impression*	16%	3%

\* percent of those aware of each group

### Percent of non-Christians ages 16 to 29 who said each image describes Christianity "a lot or some"

Anti-homosexual	91%
Judgmental	87%
Hypocritical	85%
Old-fashioned	78%
Too Political	75%
Out of Touch	72%
Insensitive	70%
Boring	68%

## It's Not Just About 'Me and Jesus'



**N**ext time you go to church try not to think about *me* and God. Think about *us* and God instead.

Why? Because that's how the early Christians thought. And it may be the main reason that they triumphed over Greco-Roman paganism in the face of overwhelming odds.

Historians are trained to rely on primary sources before turning to the secondary reflections of contemporary scholars. Consider the following first-hand observations about Christian community from Roman antiquity. We will begin in the fourth century and work our way back to the New Testament.

Our first witness is a real piece of work. His name says it all: Julian the Apostate. His uncle was Constantine, the first Roman emperor who professed allegiance to Christianity. Julian rejected Jesus and converted to paganism. He became emperor in A.D. 361. Julian then embarked upon a mission to turn the Roman Empire back to pagan religion.

Here is an excerpt from a letter Julian wrote to a pagan buddy. Julian recognizes that in his efforts to resuscitate paganism he must first figure out why the Christians have been so successful. His explanation for the rise of Christianity (he calls it "atheism") is crystal clear:

*Why do we not observe that it is the Christians' benevolence to strangers, their care for the graves of*

*the dead and the pretended holiness of their lives that have done the most to increase atheism? When the impious Galileans support not only their own poor, but ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us!*

In Julian's eyes it was Christian social solidarity — not Christian theology — that attracted hoards to the Jesus movement. Monotheism did exert some appeal to persons paralyzed with fear in the face of a multitude of gods and goddesses, spirits and demons. For the most part, however, it was not Christian beliefs that encouraged thousands to endure social ostracization and risk state persecution by joining the Jesus movement, as the church proceeded to spread like a holy fire throughout the Roman world. It was Christian behavior. It was Christian community.

Our second ancient witness, Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (c. A.D. 250), put it like this, in what is our first surviving commentary on the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

*Before all things, the Teacher of peace and Master of unity did not wish prayer to be offered individually and privately as one would pray only for himself when he prays. We do not say: 'My Father, who art in heaven,' nor 'Give me this day my bread,' nor does each one ask that only his debt be forgiven him and that he be led not into temptation and that he be delivered from evil for himself alone. Our prayer is*

*public and common, and when we pray we pray not for one but for the whole people, because we, the whole people, are one.*

Cyprian sure makes a whole lot of that little pronoun "our," which occurs again and again in the Lord's Prayer! I cannot help but get the impression that this towering North African church leader and martyr would have been more than a little bit puzzled by our preoccupation in our churches with Jesus as a *personal* Savior.

The Apostle Paul would have been, as well. Yes, Jesus was Paul's personal Savior. And He is mine and yours, as well. (No Biola professor would dare to challenge that eternal truth!) But Paul just doesn't seem to be as consumed with all this "me and Jesus" stuff as we are in evangelical America.

Again, it's all in the pronouns. In his letters, Paul refers to Jesus as "*our* Lord" — that is, as the Lord of God's people as a group — 53 times. Only once, in contrast, does the expression "*my* Lord" appear in Paul's writings (Phil. 3:8). This speaks volumes about the priorities of the great apostle. Paul's overarching concern in his ministry went far beyond the personal spiritual pilgrimage of his individual converts. Paul's driving passion was to establish spiritually vibrant, relationally healthy *communities* of believers in strategic urban settings throughout the Mediterranean world.

And those Christian communities ultimately turned the Roman Empire on its head — just like Jesus promised they would: "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

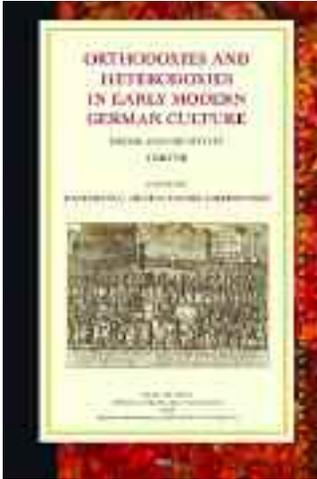
So, next Sunday in church, try to not to think so much about *me* and Jesus. Think about *us* and Jesus instead. Then perhaps the men, women and children in our world will know that we are truly His disciples.

**Joseph Hellerman (M.Div. '84, Th.M. '87)**

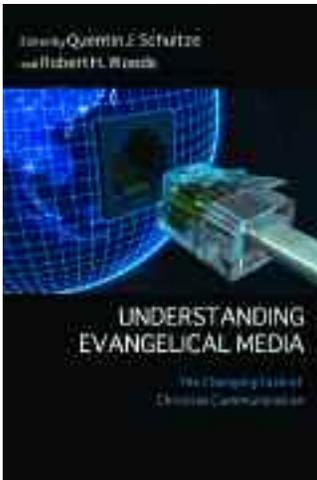
serves as a professor of New Testament language and literature in Biola's seminary, Talbot School of Theology. This article includes portions excerpted from his forthcoming book, *When the Church Was a Family: Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community* (Broadman & Holman).



## Books By Biolans



**Orthodoxies and Heterodoxies in Early Modern German Culture**, Co-edited by Daniel Christensen (assistant professor of world history), Brill, Nov. 2007; This interdisciplinary collection of essays about early modern Germany addresses the tensions, both fruitful and destructive, between normative systems of order on the one hand and a growing diversity of practices on the other. Individual essays address crucial struggles over religious orthodoxy after the Reformation, the transformation of political loyalties through propaganda and literature, and efforts to redefine both canonical forms and new challenges to them in literature, music and the arts.



**Understanding Evangelical Media: The Changing Face of Christian Communication**, Contributions by Michael Longinow (professor of journalism), InterVarsity Press, July 2008; This is the first book to examine the wide-ranging relationship between evangelical Christians and the media in the 21st century. Over 40 scholars and communication professionals wrote 100 thoughtful essays about everything from evangelical theme parks to broadcasting, periodicals, film, comics, podcasting, worship technology, popular and worship music, public relations, video games and video and computer gaming. Longinow wrote a chapter on "Book Publishing," a sidebar on the importance of "bad news" as a prophetic voice within evangelical Christian subcultures and another sidebar on the future of evangelical Christian magazines amid shifts toward digital media in the 21st century.



**Character Makeover: 40 Days With a Life Coach to Create the Best You**, Co-authored by Shelley Leith ('80), Zondervan, Jan. 2008; Embark on a 40-day journey with a personal life coach to develop Christlike character. This book was created for women of all ages who want a character-rejuvenating experience that will inspire them to live out God's unique purpose for their life.



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"In Print" features books by Biola alumni and faculty. Send submissions to: Biola Magazine, 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada, CA 90639. Self-published books must have a back cover endorsement from a known name in the book's field.

## 1960s

**Milene (Barlogio, '60) Radford** retired in 1998 after 36 years of teaching second grade in the public school system of Paso Robles, Calif. She and her husband, Darrell, who owned and operated a print shop, are members of the local First Baptist Church. Milene recently co-authored a book on Paso Robles in the *Images of America* series by Arcadia Publishing Company.

**Randy (M.A. '87) and Jan (Peterson, '76) Kent** just celebrated the 20th anniversary of their call as missionaries to France. [kentsfrance@yahoo.com](mailto:kentsfrance@yahoo.com)

### 1990s

**Tami (Estruth, '90) Boroughf** graduated with her master's degree in nursing education in the spring of 2006 and had the opportunity to present her graduate project at the Sigma Theta Tau Conference in Vienna, Austria, last summer. Tami is a nursing instructor at San Jose State University and works as a pediatric nurse at Valley Medical Center. She lives with her husband, Bryan, in San Jose, Calif.

**Everett W. Purcell (M.A. '94)** authored the book *True Story About the Sign of Jonah: Was the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on a Sunday?* (Xulon Press). In the book, Everett argues that the traditional view of Easter (Palm Sunday, the Friday crucifixion and the Sunday morning resurrection) is not biblical. Everett is an aerospace engineer who attended Talbot School of Theology after he retired from Aeronutronic-Ford. He and his wife, Luverne, live in Santa Ana, Calif., and have three children.



**Julie Cox (Ph.D. '98)** shares her professional insights in the book *Lifting Our Eyes: Finding God's Grace Through the Virginia Tech Tragedy* (Berkley Trade) by Beth J. Lueders. The book tells the story of the inspiring Christian faith of Lauren McCain, who lost her life along with 32 other students and faculty in the largest mass murder in modern U.S. history. It also tells of the survivors — as they struggle to make sense of the tragedy, keep their faith and forgive the killer. One of the insights Julie — a professional psychologist — contributed to the book is that healing or for-

giveness after any type of trauma is never immediate, but always involves a process. Julie said the book has been meaningful to many readers who have also suffered grief. Julie has a private practice in Longmeadow, Mass., and specializes in adult and adolescent counseling and couple therapy. She and her husband, Jim, have two children: Baylee (7) and Caleb (2).

### 2000s

**Charles Mahlangu (Ph.D. '02)** and his wife, Delores, now live in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Charles is principal of Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa. [www.essa.ac.za](http://www.essa.ac.za)

### Marriages

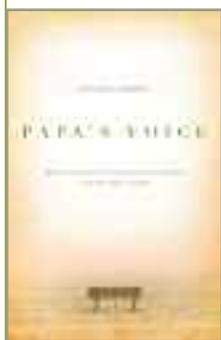
**Lorraine Hanson ('86)** married Kevin O'Keefe on Feb. 18 at Mariners Church in Irvine, Calif., before friends and family, including Kevin's daughters, Heather (16) and Brandi (12). The bridal party included Tamara (Neufeld, '86) Lott, Lori (Sells, '85) Wheeler and Carrie (Hedberg, '87) Carey. Lorraine runs ThinkinBig Communications, a marketing, advertising and public relations firm in Newport Beach, Calif. Kevin runs a small construction company in Costa Mesa, Calif.



**Victor "Spike" Ho ('93)** and Erin Pendergrass were married Sept. 15 in beautiful Pasadena, Calif. Biolans in the wedding party included Erik Brommers ('93), Steven Hendricks ('93) and Jeremy Dodgen ('93). Victor said he's still wondering where the canned ham went after seeing it in his wedding pictures. The graceful couple can be seen swing dancing every Thursday night at LindyGroove in Pasadena.

**Dave Little ('93)** and **Julie De La Ossa ('93)** were married in a backyard ceremony in La Habra Heights, Calif., on Oct. 13. Dave's cousin, Tom Kimber (Talbot student and part-time professor), officiated, and the entire wedding party was made up of Biola alumni, including matron of

Continued on page 32



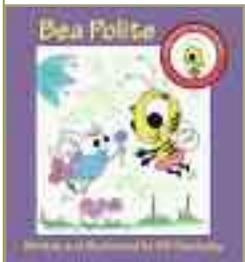
**Charles Brown ('66)** authored the book *Papa's Voice: Rekindling Your Relationship With Papa-God* (WinePress). Charles serves as president of Pathmaker Ministries Inc. For more than 40 years, he has ministered on true spirituality as a pastor, teacher and conference and seminar speaker.

He has a bachelor's degree from Biola, a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry from Luther Rice Seminary. Charles and his wife, Lynne, live in Lincolnton, N.C. They have three children.

**Eloise Harder ('67)** retired Jan. 1, after 34 years in Taiwan working with Morrison Academy through TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission). During those years, Eloise served in various roles: first-grade teacher, principal, admissions director and counselor. She currently lives in Sioux Falls, S.D., and is busy with wedding plans as she will be marrying Edwin Jordan, whom she met in Taiwan back in 1976. Edwin returned to the United States in 1993. They will live in North English, Iowa, after March 29, 2008, where Edwin is pastoring Pleasant Grove Grace Brethren Church.

### 1980s

**William "Bill" Sandusky ('86)** wrote and illustrated a children's book titled *Bea Polite* (Trafford Publishing). Bill dedicated the book to his young daughter, Shaelyn, whom he said needs to be reminded and encouraged daily about her own "Bea Attitudes"!



## Alumni Files *Be Included in Biola's Time Capsule*

**T**ime and memory are funny things! The 100th anniversary of Biola University, and what this place means, seem to be on the mind of many Biola alumni. I regularly hear alumni reminisce about Biola, what they recall doing with friends (much of it mischievous), and the life impact and ministry that a certain professor, staff person or friend had on their lives.

If you have missed the events and celebration during Biola's centennial year, you still have an opportunity to remember your experience and leave your mark for future generations of Biolans.

If you visit the Biola Heritage Room on the main floor of the library, you can see a special display featuring the contents of the cornerstone and time capsule that were buried at the site of the original campus of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and Church of the Open Door. These items — on loan from the Church of the Open Door — are truly a snapshot of the day when the cornerstone was laid. They include several newspapers dated May 31, 1913 (the *Los Angeles Express*, *Evening Herald*, *Examiner*, *Daily Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*). Also included are a *Scofield Reference Bible* dated 1909 and an 1898 copy of the book *What the Bible Teaches* by R. A. Torrey, Biola's first dean. Other items include copies of the *King's Business* magazine from 1911 to 1913 and the original notes of a speech given by co-founder Lyman Stewart at the laying of the cornerstone. It's an amazing glimpse into the



**This opportunity is available to all Biola alumni, and we hope to have an overwhelming response to fill the capsule that will be installed in concrete in a new courtyard on Biola's campus.**

students and culture of Biola in 1913.

A new time capsule is being created on this our 100th anniversary that will mark for history what Biola is and who our alumni, students, staff and faculty are today. You may already have received an invitation to include your message in the capsule to be opened in another 100 years. Your recollections of your Biola experience will be stored in time so that future generations of Biolans can see who came before. This opportunity is available to all Biola alumni, and we hope to have an overwhelming response to fill the capsule that will be installed in concrete in a new courtyard on Biola's campus.

What will the Biola alumni, students and faculty of 2108 look like? My prayer and hope is that while they may dress differently than us and have different study tools and classroom tech-

niques — and maybe no problem finding a place to park on campus — they will share the same heart and passion for God's Word, His Kingdom and His mission.

To take part in this unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, complete and mail in the form contained in this issue of *Biola Magazine*. The time capsule will be sealed and buried at a ceremony at the end of this centennial year.

**Rick Bee**  
( '79, M.A. '90, Ph.D. '01)

*Senior Director of Alumni and Friend Development*



E-mail us at [alumni@biola.edu](mailto:alumni@biola.edu) or call (562) 903-4728.

# Alumni Chapters

## Bringing Biola to You



**D**o you want to stay connected with your alma mater, even though you live outside Southern California? Do you have a desire to reconnect with other Biola grads? If so, then involvement in a local alumni chapter could be the place to begin.

Portland, Ore., chapter leaders David ('89) and Angela (Tomm, '92) Toyer believe that their role — and the purpose of local alumni chapters — is twofold: to encourage alumni to keep connected with Biola relationships and to help alumni and potential students keep abreast of what's happening here.

Local chapters are committed to hosting at least two events each year and, in fact, it was at one of these events that the Toyers' interest in chapter leadership was sparked. According to Angela, chapter events were like a reunion every time.

"We never knew who we might see, and it was neat to catch up with people and see how God was using their lives," she said.

The Toyers' lives are busy ones. David is a project manager with Verizon, overseeing new voice and data systems throughout the United States, and Angela works as a director of PREP4Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides weekly, released time Bible classes for public school students in the greater Portland area. They have four children, all of whom have an interest in attending Biola. But even with schedules that are full, David and Angela continue to demonstrate their commitment to Biola as they devote time to chapter leadership.

For more information on local alumni chapters, or to find out how you can become involved, e-mail [sue.kimber@biola.edu](mailto:sue.kimber@biola.edu).

honor Jessica (De La Ossa, '97) Humes, bridesmaids Jenny (Garland, '95) Oldham, Michelle (Nissen, '94) Danaher and Kristy (Little, '98) Cowell, best man Steve Little ('95) and groomsmen Brian White ('92), Scott Rojas ('93), Jaysen Humes ('93) and Paul McGinty ('94). Dave's daughters, Morgan and Lindsay, and Julie's niece, Jenna Humes, were flower girls. Julie is the director of academic advising and student retention at Biola, and Dave is a financial planner at Eclectic Associates in Fullerton. Dave and Julie honeymooned on Maui and live in La Habra Heights.

**Alicia (Swendler, '00)** married Christopher **Burton** on Dec. 21 in Mesa, Ariz., surrounded by family and friends. Biolans who attended were Javan Hiltbrand ('00) and Jeffrey Hiltbrand ('03). Alicia has been working in the insurance industry for six years, and Christopher works as a staff accountant for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. They live in Gilbert, Ariz. [aliciaswendler39@msn.com](mailto:aliciaswendler39@msn.com)

**Jennifer (Ferguson, '01)** and Jason **Clause** were married at Hastings House in Half Moon Bay, Calif., on June 23, 2007. The couple honeymooned at the Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay. Jennifer and Jason live in San Francisco, Calif. Jason is president of Bravo Marketing in San Francisco, and Jennifer works as a marketing and events manager. [ebbtevents@gmail.com](mailto:ebbtevents@gmail.com)



**Laura (Gieseke, '02, M.A. '06)** and Jim **Correa** were married on Sept. 1 at Paradise Ridge Winery in Santa Rosa, Calif. Biolans in the wedding included Eileen (Kranz, '00) Gieseke and Jennifer Lopez ('03). The couple honeymooned in Maui and Kona, Hawaii. Jim is a police officer with the San Rafael Police Department, and Laura is a teacher at Sun Valley Elementary School in San Rafael. The couple lives in Novato, Calif. [lololucybird@yahoo.com](mailto:lololucybird@yahoo.com)

**Continued on page 34**

# Where Are They Now?



## Appearing on the Oprah Winfrey Show

**Tanya Walters-Billard** ('04) (pictured far right) was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, Jan. 21, for founding the Godparents Youth Organization, which seeks to improve the future of children living in the inner city. Tanya's inspiration for the organization began eight years ago, while she was working as a school bus driver in Los Angeles. When she found out that most of the students she drove were failing their classes, she gave them a challenge to raise their grades. Fifty-four of the students made improvements on their report cards, so Tanya rewarded them with a marine biology cruise. At the end of the trip, a few of the students told her they had never realized there was a world outside their crime-ridden neighborhood. That's when Tanya got the idea to create a classroom on wheels. Since then, her organization has bussed children to civil rights landmarks, national monuments and colleges across 26 states. Tanya told the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, "My goal, when I bring our kids together, is for them to dream again, for them to bring back hope. Because when you have hope, you have determination." Tanya earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership at Biola. She is a widow and is raising her 14-year-old son, Larry, and her sisters' three children, ages 8 to 19. [godparentsclub@msn.com](mailto:godparentsclub@msn.com)

## Studying the New Testament at Yale



**Chris Stroup** ('03) is completing his final year at Yale Divinity School's Master of Arts in Religion program, with an emphasis in the New

Testament. Chris chose to attend a secular school for his graduate work because he wanted to know the questions others are asking about the New Testament. After graduation, he plans to earn a doctorate and then hopes to teach in a secular university. Chris said he wants to teach college students because they're at a time in their lives when they begin to look seriously at their religious views. He said some Christian students don't know how to find answers when they are faced with questions raised in a class that approaches the New Testament from a secular perspective. And other students who don't have a religious background are given unmitigated support for their rejection of Christianity. "I would love to help introduce both types of students to the study of the New Testament and allow them space to ask serious questions about the Bible without fear of humiliation or rejection," Chris said. He earned a B.A. in biblical studies at Biola and is married to Amy (Moritz, '03). Their son, Micah, turns 1 in April. [cs\\_1980@yahoo.com](mailto:cs_1980@yahoo.com)

## Aspiring to Be the 'World's Strongest Man'



**Dan Harrison** ('03) is a top nationally ranked strongman who competes in contests throughout the country. Dan studied music at Biola with the hopes of becoming a professional trumpet player. But he never fully recovered from an injury to his lip muscles when he was 16. He discovered his love for strongman competitions in 2005, after meeting a professional who agreed to train him. The objects Dan lifts include thick logs and cars. One of his goals is to win a "farmer's walk" contest, which involves carrying two objects — one in each hand — for various distances, such as 200 feet. "In the contests I have been in, the weight has gotten up to 370 pounds in each hand!" he said. Dan's hope is to become the World's Strongest Man. When he's not competing, Dan works as an armored truck guard for AT

Systems. Dan said Biola was where he first received the nickname "He-Dan," which is now used by his fans throughout the world. "I also met the greatest friends of my life and learned things that I will never forget about God, life, love, friendship, finding yourself and real strength," he said. You can watch Dan compete on YouTube under "Dan Harrison — Car Deadlift." [daniel.r.harrison@biola.edu](mailto:daniel.r.harrison@biola.edu)

## Merging Two Churches Into One



**John Reed** ('90, M.A. '92) (pictured right) and **Lyle Castellaw** (M.Div. '88) were featured in an article in the *Orange County Register*, Jan. 2, for their unusual decision to merge their two Orange County congregations into one. Before the merger, both the Talbot graduates' churches had been forced to meet in rented spaces in schools and other churches. When John's church, Canyon Hills, finally found a permanent home in Irvine, he proposed the merger with Lyle's Rock Hills Church. They named the new church TerraNova (which is Latin for New Land), and their congregations worshipped together for the first time last Easter — combining John's 180 households with Lyle's 75. So far the merger appears successful. The church reaches out to people who aren't from a Christian background, and it focuses on community service projects, like helping single mothers and needy families. The *Orange County Register* noted that it's far more common for churches to split. But John told the *Orange County Register*, "God is one, and He loves when things come together — and aren't torn apart." John and his wife, Debbie, have three children: Alexis (15), Hudson (11) and Samantha (4). Lyle and his wife, Dana, have three sons: Caleb (14), Tyler (16) and Austin (a sophomore at Biola). [info@ourterranova.com](mailto:info@ourterranova.com)

We surprised these alumni with a phone call or e-mail. Who knows, you may be the next alumnus to be featured in "Where Are They Now?"



**Jonathan "Bean" Huang** ('02) and **Leah Yara-non (Lazaro)** ('03) were married on Aug. 11, 2007, in Fremont, Calif. Pastor Danny Cortez of New Heart Community Church officiated their wedding. Jonathan is an art instructor for at-risk youth and older adults, and Leah is finishing her master's degree in speech-language pathology. They live in Northern California. [beanleah@gmail.com](mailto:beanleah@gmail.com)

Richard and **Lindsey (Higgins, '05) McMahan** were married Sept. 1 at Hessel Church in Sebastopol, Calif. The wedding was officiated by the father of the bride, Stan Higgins ('82, M.A. '84). Biolans in the wedding party included: Kari (McNichols, '06) Baker, Erin Bibelheimer ('07) and current students Hilary Dunham, Jared Higgins and David Higgins. Richard and Lindsey live in the San Diego area, where Lindsey is working on a doctorate of audiology at San Diego State University and the University of California at San Diego. Richard works at a Christian warehouse called G3 Tapes Inc., and is taking online classes toward his bachelor's degree.

**Beth (McConnell, '07) and Justin Brunett** ('07) were married Aug. 11, 2007, in a garden ceremony in Hemet, Calif. Amanda (Ruiz, '07) Bell was the matron of honor, and Matt Dimataris ('06) was the best man. Other Biolans in the wedding party included Dawn (Lynnette, '02) White, Jamie McKay ('07), Amy Westcott ('07) and Ismael Ochoa ('08). Beth works for Hope International University, and Justin is a production assistant for Disney Animation Studios. They live in Fullerton, Calif.

#### Births

Joe and **Susie (Garland, '92) Gietzen** are thrilled to announce the birth of their sixth child,

Genevieve Rose, on May 17, 2007. She joins her big brothers, Joseph (12), Nicholas (11) and Jack (7), and her big sisters, Claire (9) and Meg (4). The Gietzens live in Torrance, Calif., where Joe is a police officer, and Susie is a homeschooling mom. For pictures and updates, visit [web.mac.com/jgietzen1.familycircus8@verizon.net](http://web.mac.com/jgietzen1.familycircus8@verizon.net)

**Arlene (Kho, '92) and James Pellicane** are finally announcing the birth of their sweet daughter, Noelle Joy, born Nov. 30, 2006. She joins her vehicle-loving big brother, Ethan (3). Arlene enjoys speaking, writing and being a stay-at-home mom. Her first book, *Losing Weight After Baby: 31 Days to a New You*, will be available later this year. [www.losingweightafterbaby.com](http://www.losingweightafterbaby.com), [arlene@losingweightafterbaby.com](mailto:arlene@losingweightafterbaby.com)

Kurt and **Erika (Dittner, '94) Miller** announce the birth of their first child, daughter Sonoma Kathleen, on Oct. 27. After a long journey through infertility, they welcomed their "miracle baby girl" through in vitro fertilization. Kurt is director of franchise development for The Tutoring Center, and Erika is a stay-at-home mom after 11 years of employment at Verizon Wireless. The family lives in Foothill Ranch, Calif. [googlegirl43@yahoo.com](mailto:googlegirl43@yahoo.com)

**Shera (Mortimore, '95) and her husband, Philip Schloesser**, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Drew Martin, born on Oct. 16. Shera is a stay-at-home mom after working as an elementary school counselor for six years, and Philip is an engineer. The Schloessers live in Colorado Springs, Colo. [sheralynn@hotmail.com](mailto:sheralynn@hotmail.com)

Tim and **Brandi (Kreutz, '96) Ellsworth** proudly announce the birth of their two children, Claire Tierney, born Aug. 30, 2005, and Cyler Andrew, born April 26, 2007. The Ellsworth family lives in Clackamas, Ore. Tim is the western regional sales manager for Columbiasoft Corp. Brandi works part time from home and thoroughly enjoys being a stay-at-home mom! [brandi@ssofthome.net](mailto:brandi@ssofthome.net)

Chris and **Laura (Hayes, '96) Falin** are proud to announce the arrival of their third child, Caleb

**Continued on page 36**

# From the 60s to our 60s

## THE 60s DECADE REUNION (1960-1969)

JULY 4-6, 2008

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, revisit the Biola campus and relive memories from the 1960s!

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- Swimming*
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- Dorm life*

If you are an alumnus from the 1960s and have not received the informational brochure and registration form by mail, contact Kim Wise in the Alumni Department at (562) 903-4728 or check online at [www.biola.edu/alumni](http://www.biola.edu/alumni).

# Biolans Up Close *‘Teacher of the Year’ Says Love and Laughter Are Powerful Classroom Tools*

**M**ichael Allen Long ('94, M.A. '99) was named California "Teacher of the Year" in November for helping to instill a love of writing in his fourth and fifth grade students at Carmela Elementary School in Whittier, Calif. Many of Long's students come from impoverished homes, and several have lost parents and loved ones to gang violence. *Biola Magazine* caught up with Michael to ask him about his challenging — and inspiring — work.

**I like the curiosity, humor and spunk** of upper grade elementary students. They are just slightly more sophisticated in their thinking than the lower grade students, so they get my jokes.

**One thing that my students see as being a phenomenal talent** is my ability to wiggle my ears, eyebrows and nostrils all at the same time — with no hands, of course.

**I have never met a student who can out-burp me!**

**I still laugh about a time when** my students and I accidentally set scented hairspray on fire. Let's just say that it was a science experiment gone awry. The funny part was when my administrator walked into my room and suspiciously commented on the delicious smell of peach crisp. We all giggled and acted like we had no idea what she was talking about.

## Michael Allen Long At A Glance

**Family** Wife, Traci ('94); Three sons: Nicholas (7), Owen (4) and Aiden (2)

**Education** B.A. in liberal studies and M.A. in education, both from Biola.

**School** Long has taught at Carmela Elementary School for seven years. He's also taught classes at Biola.

**Hobby** He plays the piano every day.

**Favorite Book** *Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls

**The problem of writing failure is colossal.** Experts are baffled by the fact that students who are making gains in reading and other aspects of language simply cannot seem to make the grade when it comes to composition.

**Technology will change,** as will the needs of the job market. The need for competent writers, however, will always exist, increasing simultaneously with the demands of the information age.

**I'd like to see my students develop an ability to** discern truth, recognize political agendas and learn to express their own ideas.

**Because I grew up without a television,** I naturally saw literature as a form of entertainment. My parents taught me that all books begin with an idea and someone knew how to transfer that idea to paper.

**We do not have a television** in our home, and our sons are already developing a healthy appetite for reading and writing.

**My advice to parents** who want to help their kids learn how to write is: Turn off the TV and read! Then have them write about what they read. Start them off with helpful sentence frames such as, "My favorite part of the story was [blank] because [blank]."

**The most difficult aspect of teaching is watching innocent children struggle** with family problems, poverty, sickness or other challenges. Last year one of my students lost his father to a sudden heart attack. I literally cried with him because I saw a scared and hurting young man with a long road ahead.

**One year, I had a downtrodden young man who confided in me** about his home life and financial struggles. He was wearing his only pair of socks and underwear and was embarrassed about his appearance. With parent permission, I took him shopping for clothes. We never told any of the other students, but it sure did make a difference to him in a real and practical way. He began to try harder and he always had a twinkle in his eye. A few years later, he came to tell me that he was in honors classes in high

school and that he wanted to become a teacher because of me. I wish every teacher could experience the joy I felt that day!

**There is a saying an old teacher shared with me** in regard to establishing classroom discipline: "Never let them see you smile until Thanksgiving." Well, I think this is a horrid saying and not only should they see you smile, but your students should see your heart bleed for them as well. Love is the most powerful classroom tool you will ever use.

**I never knew it was possible to have a career that doesn't drain you.** I am energized and renewed daily, thanks to God's grace and His hand in what I do.



Christopher, born Sept. 21. He joins Timothy (5) and Alexis (2). The family lives in Littleton, Colo., where Chris works for KWGN-TV, and Laura stays home and tries to rein in the chaos. [lfalin@gmail.com](mailto:lfalin@gmail.com)

James and **Amy (Jones, '96) Payton** announce the birth of Griffin James, born Nov. 1, nine weeks premature. He weighed just 3 pounds, 9 ounces. Griffin is their first child. He was released from the hospital on Dec. 12, after six weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit. [amy.payton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amy.payton@sbcglobal.net)

**Brett ('97) and Erin (Swift, '99) Kunkle** celebrate the birth of their fourth child, Ella Kathryn, born July 11, 2007. Ella is welcomed by her older sisters, Alexis (13) and Paige (5), and her older brother, Micah (6). Their Chihuahua, Teddy, is still not sure what to make of the new baby. The family lives in Newport Beach, Calif., where Erin is a stay-at-home mom. Brett is studying in Talbot's philosophy program and speaks for Stand to Reason ([www.str.org](http://www.str.org)).

Nathan and **Kristy (Little, '98) Cowell** joyfully welcomed their new son, Micah Kenneth, into their family on Labor Day, Sept. 3, 2007. His big brother, Judah, was also very excited to meet his new little brother. Nathan and Kristy live in Placentia, Calif., where Nathan is a doctor of chiropractic with an office nearby in Anaheim, and Kristy loves being a stay-at-home mom to their two boys.

**Greg ('98, '01) and Kristen (Day, '98) Habbestad** are happy to announce the birth of their son, Toren Hans, on Aug. 29, 2007. The Habbestads live in Fullerton, Calif.

**Jason ('99) and Emily (Kette, '01) Alley** are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, Teagan Noelle, on Sept. 26, 2006. She was born prematurely and weighed just 4 pounds, but God made her strong. Teagan is doing very well now. Jason works at an Internet company based in Flagstaff, Ariz., where the family lives. Emily works at home raising their daughter. They're enjoying living in the forest and experiencing the seasons at 7,000 feet!

They said God has blessed them with a beautiful and peaceful life, surrounded by family and friends.

Jim and **Tiffany (Ang, '99) Kingsley** announce the birth of their third child, Caleb James, on May 28, 2007. Caleb joins his older sister, Emily (3), and older brother, Javan (1). Jim and Tiffany said they are very thankful for their "little surprise" and are adjusting well to life with three kids. Tiffany is a stay-at-home mom, and she and Jim run a home-based custom audio/video business. [tiggerusa\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:tiggerusa_2001@yahoo.com)

David and **Krista (Angstead, '99) Pratchard** joyfully announce the birth of their second baby boy, Carter David. Baby Carter was born Aug. 25 and joins his big brother, Chase (2). The Pratchard family lives in Queen Creek, Ariz. Dave works for Johnson & Johnson in medical sales, and Krista stays at home with their boys. [dkpratchard@yahoo.com](mailto:dkpratchard@yahoo.com)

John and **Julie (Hazard, '00) Heizelman** are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a boy, Braeden Todd, on March 13, 2007. The Heizelmans live in Newberg, Ore. John works for the City of Portland Water Bureau, and Julie works part time as a speech pathologist for the Sherwood School District. John and Julie said they are enjoying all of the blessings a new baby brings!

**Andrea (Hall, '00) and Phil Hoverstock** are excited to announce the birth of their first child, a precious baby girl. Callie Elizabeth Hoverstock was born on Aug. 1 in Zanesville, Ohio. Callie is absolutely beautiful and an incredible joy. She is very attentive to everything that goes on around her. Phil works as a pastor in the United Methodist Church, and Andrea works part time as a pediatric nurse practitioner. [hoverstock@adelphia.net](mailto:hoverstock@adelphia.net)

Gregg and **Aimee (Cooper, '00) Russell** were blessed with a daughter, Eleanor (Ellie) Marie Russell, on Oct. 8. The Russell family lives in Meridian, Idaho. Gregg and Aimee said their lives have been forever changed and enriched by Ellie's arrival.

**Continued on page 38**

## A New Century, A New President



You're invited  
to dinner with  
the President!

In the midst of a hotly contested election year, Biola is enjoying presidential excitement of its own as the University's eighth president, Dr. Barry H. Corey, will be visiting alumni and friends in the following cities:

Denver/ Colorado Springs	April 19
Dallas	June 6
Phoenix	June 7
Seattle	June 20
Portland	June 21

Specific venue details and registration information will be sent by mail well in advance of each event.

For more information, contact [alumni@biola.edu](mailto:alumni@biola.edu) or 562.903.4728.

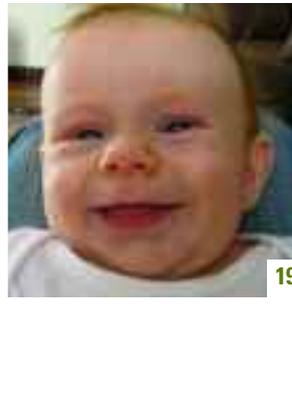


# Baby Biolans

- 01) Abigail Ann Lewandowski
- 02) Braeden Todd Heizelman
- 03) Caleb Christopher
- 04) Caleb James Kingsley
- 05) Callie Elizabeth Hoverstock
- 06) Carter David Pratchard
- 07) Cyler Andrew Ellsworth

- 08) Drew Martin Schloesser
- 09) Eleanor Marie Russell
- 10) Ella Kathryn Kunkle
- 11) Genevieve Rose Gietzen
- 12) Griffin James Payton
- 13) Jack Timothy Green
- 14) Micah Kenneth Cowell

- 15) Noelle Joy Pellicane
- 16) Rosemary Hope Cross
- 17) Sonoma Kathleen Miller
- 18) Teagan Noelle Alley
- 19) Toren Hans Habbestad
- 20) Zoe Emma Stillion





Longtime Biola employee Ken Bascom (left) points at a display of University publications from throughout the decades as President Corey looks on.

## History Comes to Life at Biola's Heritage Room

A new permanent exhibition on campus offers visitors an interactive journey through Biola's rich 100-year history.

The Biola Heritage Room — unveiled in February to coincide with the University's centennial birthday — brings together photographs, newspaper clippings, clothing and artifacts that help to tell Biola's story from start to finish. Visitors are able to get a close-up look at significant documents, watch historic footage on a flat-screen television and even listen to decades-old sermons on an iPod.

For the display, curator Adam Sjoberg ('07) spent months combing through Biola's archives and transforming the room — located in a corner of the library — into a vibrant miniature museum.

Dozens of alumni, staff, faculty and special guests were among the first to see the room at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 22. During the event, professor emeritus Dietrich Buss ('63) and Torrey Honors Institute professor Fred Sanders spoke about Biola's history, highlighting several key events and milestones.

Also unveiled was *Biola University: Rooted For 100 Years*, a coffee-table book that tells the University's story using thousands of photographs dating back to before 1908.

The book is available for purchase through the Biola Bookstore or online at [biola.thebooksmithgroup.com](http://biola.thebooksmithgroup.com). The Heritage Room is open on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jonathan and **Amie (Greenfield, '02) Cross** are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter. Rosemary Hope was born on Dec. 21. She joins her big sister, Providence Joy (1), at home. To see pictures visit [www.crossfamily.wordpress.com](http://www.crossfamily.wordpress.com).

**Jeff ('02) and Christy (Myre, '02) Green** announce the birth of their son, Jack Timothy, born at home on Dec. 20. He joins his big sister, Clara Jill (2). Jeff and Christy live in Bothell, Wash., where Jeff remodels houses, and Christy enjoys staying home with Clara and Jack.

Jason and **Alyssa (Ober, '02) Pahules** are happy to announce the birth of their son, Kelly Sherman, born Sept. 30. The Pahules family lives in Huntington Beach, Calif., where Alyssa is the area director for Young Life, and Jason works in sales for Daewoo International. They said they love little Kelly, but can't wait until he's big enough to join the family surf sessions! [alyo@hotmail.com](mailto:alyo@hotmail.com)

**Angela (Kang, '02) and Jeff Stillion** welcomed the birth of their beautiful daughter, Zoe Emma, on Oct. 1. They are amazed and blessed

by her every day and are excited to watch her grow. [angelakang305@yahoo.com](mailto:angelakang305@yahoo.com)

**Anesse (Kim, '03) and Mitch Lewandowski** joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Ann, on Feb. 4, 2007.

**Andrew ('05) and Hilary ('05) Boone** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Ezekiel, born at home on Sept. 30. They thank all their loved ones and friends who supported them through this time.

### Deaths

**Edna (Juneneman, '54) Keefer** died on Nov. 25. A memorial service was held Nov. 29 at Calvary Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif. Edna is survived by her husband, Robert, who lives in La Puente. Robert can be contacted by e-mail at [elecsport@juno.com](mailto:elecsport@juno.com).

**Steve Shook ('69)** entered the presence of his Savior and Lord on Jan. 19. LeRoy Cook ('69), a long-time friend, officiated at a Christ-honoring memorial service on Jan. 23. Steve is survived by his wife, Helena (Van Rooyen, '68), and two children.

## 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.

### E-MAIL

[biolamag@biola.edu](mailto:biolamag@biola.edu)

### MAIL

News & Notes, Biola Magazine,  
13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, CA, 90639

### WEB SITE

[www.biola.edu/biolamag](http://www.biola.edu/biolamag)

Please limit your updates to 60 words and include your years of graduation or last year you attended Biola.

Death announcements must be submitted by a family member or be accompanied by a photocopy of a published obituary.

Photos must be at least 1 megabyte for digital photos.

Photo inclusion is based on space availability.

Print photos will not be returned.

Your update will appear in the first available issue.

# Nehemiah's Wall Discovered

## Students Touring Israel See the Find Up Close

**Y**ou might not think that something as colossal and as well known as Nehemiah's wall would be hard to find. But this 15-foot thick stone wall eluded archaeologists for centuries — causing some scholars to suggest that it never existed.

But, on Nov. 8, 2007, at a conference held at Bar Ilan University in Israel, Hebrew University archaeologist Eilat Mazar announced the discovery of a 30-meter section of the wall made famous by the biblical account of Nehemiah.

The wall was unearthed in February 2007 in the ancient City of David, just south of the old city of Jerusalem, during a dig jointly sponsored by the Shalem Center, a Jerusalem research institute, and the City of David Foundation, a nonprofit organization for the preservation of the biblical City of David. It was found during an excavation of what Mazar believes to be King David's palace.

What led to the recent identification of the wall was the structural decay of a stone tower on the northern end of the excavation site. The tower — previously believed to have been built in 142–137 B.C. during the Hasmonean Dynasty — was on the brink of collapse. Members of Mazar's team made emergency attempts to prop it up. In doing so, they began an unplanned dig that led to a treasure trove of artifacts hidden underneath the tower.

The artifacts — including arrowheads, pottery, seals and even the bones of two large dogs — were dated no later than the Persian period (sixth to fifth centuries B.C.). This led to the revised dating of the tower and wall to the Persian period — the time that is specified in the Bible for the construction of Nehemiah's wall.

Not all scholars agree with the implications of Mazar's findings. Israel Finkelstein, a professor of archaeology at Tel Aviv University, argues that since the artifacts were not connected to a floor or other structural part of the wall, then the wall could have been built later.

Yet, Richard Rigsby, professor of Old Testament and Semitics at Biola's Talbot School of Theology, rallied to Mazar's cause saying, "Finkelstein is overstating his case. The language he's using is more the language of debate than that of scholarship."

Rigsby attributed Finkelstein's skepticism to a "friendly competition" between the archae-



The discovery of a 30-meter section of Nehemiah's wall was announced late last year.

ologists at Tel Aviv's University and those at Hebrew University.

"They're both trying to win the Super Bowl of Israeli archaeology," he said.

So, Finkelstein doesn't want to concede Mazar's discovery, according to Rigsby.

But after seeing the wall first hand, Rigsby is convinced it's Nehemiah's Wall. He, along with 47 Talbot students and their family members, visited the site in January, during their stay in Jerusalem on the Talbot/Bible Lands Program tour. Though Mazar was not present, the other archaeologists invited the group to see the excavation. After viewing the location where the artifacts were found, Rigsby said that they certainly go with the wall even though they are not attached to the floor.

"The floor where the artifacts were found intersects the wall. It appears to be genuinely Nehemiah," he said.

According to the biblical account, Nehemiah — a Jewish cupbearer to the Persian king, Artaxerxes — wanted to rebuild the bro-

ken wall surrounding Jerusalem after hearing of the plight of the Jews who had gone back there after their Babylonian exile. Nehemiah successfully petitioned the king to allow him to take a leave of absence from his court duties to help them. Despite opposition from the surrounding peoples, he consolidated the disheartened Jewish people into a unified and inspired working force. By God's hand they did the unthinkable — they repaired the wall swiftly, in a mere 52 days.

Thomas Finley, chair of the Old Testament and Semitics department at Talbot, said that for Christians who already believe in the reliability of the Bible the discovery is "not earth shattering, but it shows that we have even more of a historical document in the Bible."

Yet, he admits that he's personally delighted by the find.

"That we have a piece of the wall is kind of exciting," Finley said. — *Adam Pivec*

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